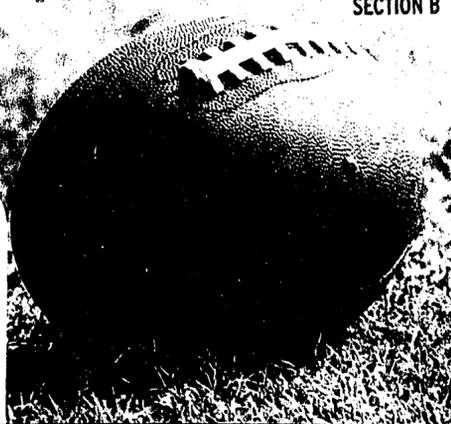


FORD ARTS, BEATS & EATS

SPECIAL SECTION

FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

SECTION B



THURSDAY
August 26, 2010

HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

Volume 55
Number 14

\$1.00

NOVI NEWS

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NOVI NOW

Police concessions

The Novi City Council approved \$48,000 in wage/benefit concessions from the Novi police command group Monday to help the city with meeting a \$1.1 million cost reduction target that is a part of the 2010-2011 budget.

The 12 union members agreed to wage and benefit cuts of \$4,000 per person, with the new contract expiring in 2013.

All employee groups were approached and asked to consider voluntary concessions to avoid the possible elimination of jobs, and the command group is the first to do so. They also are one of the few groups to not have an expired contract and be in negotiations.

Link project begins

The long-anticipated Novi Road "link" construction project is underway. The project includes the widening of Novi Road to five lanes from approximately Main Street to south of the U.S. Post Office, connecting to the completed widening at the 10 Mile and Novi roads intersection. To enhance Novi Road to the five line profile, the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) will construct a bridge over the CSX railroad tracks.

The City of Novi and the RCOC invite all community and business members to an information meeting from 8-9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 15 at Gus O'Connor's, 42875 Grand River Ave. (at Main Street) in Novi to hear first-hand:

- Project timeline
- Roadway closure/detour information
- Marketing/PR tips, Don Tanner of Tanner Friedman
- Communication venues

If you cannot attend, visit cityofnovi.org and click on the Novi Road "Link" project icon to receive e-construction news. For more information, contact the City of Novi Community Relations Office at (248) 735-5628.

See our online images

You can see staff photographer John Heider's photos in print in the Novi News and Northville Record, but don't miss his videos of the Super Gardener, a young moth rancher and the Novi girls state soccer march. His photo galleries feature the Farmers' Market, Buy Michigan Now Festival, the Michigan Art Institute's open house, Novi High's Band Camp and much, much more.

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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kickin' the heat

Collette Boyd, 3, kicks a soccer ball tossed to her by her dad, Jared, while the two visited Novi's Lakeshore Park last week.

Novi mayor asks county to keep Tri-party program

Repairing Grand River remains top priority

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Novi Mayor David Landry is pleading once again with Oakland County commissioners to refrain from cutting the Tri-party program for road funding.

In July 2009, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson proposed eliminating the program completely, but the board of commissioners opted to reduce funding instead.

Landry said he is concerned the essential program could once again be on the chopping block in 2010, calling the situation "maddening."

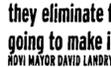
"If the county is going to have jurisdiction over the roads then they have to step up in partnership with the city and do their part," he said. "All we are asking for is to stay part of the partnership."

The budget for the Tri-party program last year was \$1 million each from the county, the road commission and from local governments, a far cry from the \$2.25 million that was budgeted in 2008.

Bill Bullard, chairman of the board, said he expects no changes to the program in the 2010 budget. But that could change depending on revenue projections.

"What will happen when the board considers the budget in September no one knows," he said.

"Grand River is the perfect example. Everyone in Novi recognizes that it needs to be fixed but the county keeps pushing it off, and (if they eliminate funding) they are going to make it more difficult."



NOVI MAYOR DAVID LANDRY

"But I think (this program) is a high priority."

Landry noted in a recent letter to Bullard that since 1985 more than \$4.75 million in Tri-party funds has been used on roads in Novi.

The funds also are being used currently to improve Novi Road between Grand River Avenue and 10 Mile Road. The project calls for the widening of Novi Road to five lanes and adding a bridge over the CSX railroad tracks. It is set to begin in September.

Another main thoroughfare in the city, Grand River Avenue between Novi and Haggerty roads, is under the jurisdiction of the county and support is needed to make improvements.

"Grand River is the perfect example," Landry said. "Everyone in Novi recognizes that it needs to be fixed but the county keeps pushing it off, and (if they eliminate funding) they are going to make it more difficult."

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MEGA grant helps retain Novi business

Metalsa chooses expanding in Novi over Kentucky

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

The city of Novi was in danger of losing one of its high-tech businesses to another state.

But thanks to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation that now appears unlikely.

Metalsa, the world's top supplier of structural components for light and commercial vehicle markets, received approval from the Michigan Economic Growth Authority board last week for a state tax credit valued at \$1.9 million over seven years to convince the company to expand in Michigan.

Ara Topouzian, economic

development director for the city, said Metalsa also received tax incentives to relocate to Kentucky, but the MEGA grant prevented that.

"In Metalsa's case (the grant) was a retention expansion tool of sorts," he said. "But it's also an important tool because it helps us bring new businesses here. It gives the incentive to the company to want to come here, not just Novi but Michigan as well."

"The greater picture is we are

establishing new businesses in the state and new jobs."

Metalsa has 6,300 employees worldwide and nine currently work in a sales facility in Novi. The MEGA grant includes the addition of 65 jobs at the company with the potential to create an additional 65 indirect jobs.

The grant also calls for local participation but that has yet to be determined. Topouzian said in the past the city has waived fees or provided money

for job training among other incentives.

"It's a safer incentive for the community and state because if the company does not follow through with the agreement it becomes null and void," he said.

This is approximately the 12th MEGA grant the city of Novi has received in the last five years.

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City home to two of state's best schools

Deerfield, Novi Woods among top 1 percent

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

The Michigan Department of Education announced its top schools last week and two Novi schools appeared in the top 1 percent in the state.

Deerfield Elementary came in at 99.77 percent and Novi Woods Elementary at 99.2 percent. Novi High School

was in the top 1.2 percent with a mark of 98.8 percent. Superintendent Pete Dion said everyone involved in the district is responsible for the strong showing.

"It's all about good teaching and a good partnership with our parents, community and businesses," he said. "It's the priority on teaching and learning we give our staff and



Dion

the support parents give the educators in our district that makes us successful."

Three other Novi schools posted scores in the 90 percent range — Parkview (97.91), Village Oaks (94.92) and Novi Middle School (92.19). Orchard Hills came

Please see **SCHOOLS, A14**



INDEX

APARTMENTS	C4	CROSSWORD PUZZLE	C5	REAL ESTATE	C2
AUTOMOTIVE	C6	HOME & SERVICE	C4	SPORTS	B1
CAREER BUILDER	C1	OPINION	A12	BUSINESS	A11

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Novi family reaps benefits from Yatooma Foundation

Non-profit helps children cope with loss of a parent

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

His three children two years ago, he didn't know where to turn. His wife Mary had just died after a four-year battle with

breast cancer, and Sekuloski was left to pick up the pieces. But with the help of the Yatooma Foundation for the Kids, Sekuloski's transition to

being a single parent has been smoother than expected. "It's been very instrumental in helping the children cope with all the stuff that was going on around the house," he said. "They have been very good to us and always there when we ask."

The Yatooma Foundation has been around since 2003, and helps families struggling with the loss of a parent in numerous ways — from helping with bills to providing gifts during the holidays and more.

On Aug. 11, the foundation held an event at Novi Bowl for nearly 150 children, their families and supporters. Sekuloski and his son Atanas, 13, attended the event and bowled with another single parent and her two children.

He said being with all the people helped take his mind off the struggles. "Sometimes you just need someone to listen to you," he said. "When we find ourselves in groups like that it helps to have someone you can relate to and sympathize with."

Norman Yatooma, founder and president of the foundation, said the goal is to get everyone together and forget for one night about what is going on in their lives. For the Sekuloski family, it has helped for longer than that.

Sekuloski said they have provided him and his children, who also include Eliana, 19, and Alexander, 15, with various forms of aid, including helping him pay for going back



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Novi resident Trajche Sekuloski and his son Atanas, 13, took part in the Yatooma Foundation for the Kids bowling event at Novi Lanes on Aug. 11. The Yatooma Foundation helps families cope with the unexpected loss of a parent.

to school and counseling. And because of the impact it has made on his life, Sekuloski wants to eventually do the same for others. "I made a promise to myself that when I get on good financial ground I will give back to the foundation," he said. For more on the Yatooma Foundation for the Kids, visit www.forthekidsfoundation.org.

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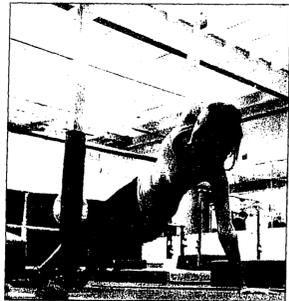
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Jordanne Dasily takes part in the fitness boot camp.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Rachel Deneau and other students look part in the high-impact, circuit-based system managed that day by "Biggest Loser" runner-up Michael Morelli.

"Biggest Loser" runner-up and Michigan native Michael Morelli, top, yells at Sports Club of Novi trainer Jimmy Varner during a fitness boot camp run by Morelli on Aug. 7. Morelli, who trains with Varner, ran the high-intensity circuit fitness workout based on participants hitting a series of stations for about 45 seconds of workout followed by 15 seconds of "rest."

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Webber brings charisma to new position

Former South Lyon principal named academic administrator

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

One of the most important roles of the assistant superintendent academic services is getting to know the needs of the students in the Novi Community School District. And judging by the background of R.J. Webber, the district's new hire, that should not be an issue.

Webber, who comes to Novi after 12 years in South Lyon (including the last three as principal at South Lyon High School), is known for his passion for education and ability to interact with students.

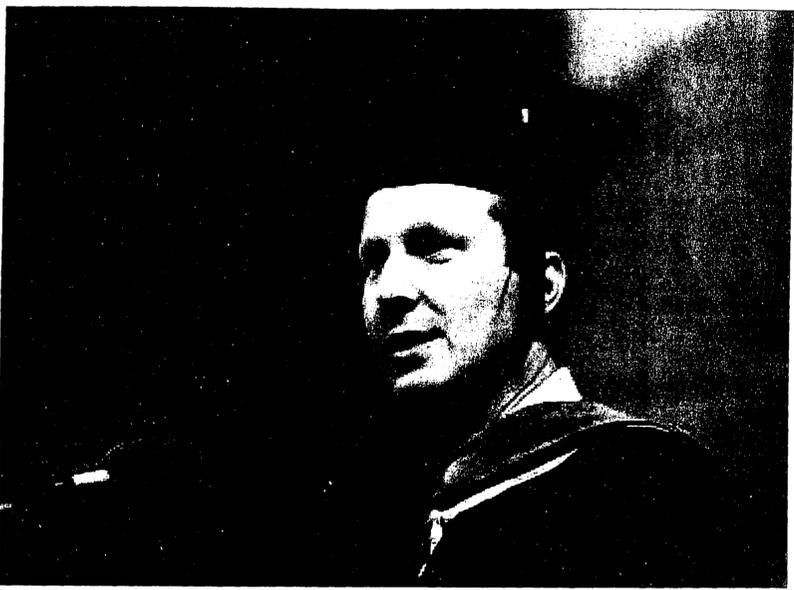
As the principal at the high school and in his previous position as principal at Millennium Middle School, Webber was constantly in the classroom and created an environment of mutual respect by getting to know nearly every student on a personal level.

While the move to the board office will be different than being in a school, he doesn't see it changing who he is. "I need to be out in the buildings," he said. "I need to get out and see what Novi is about and get an idea of what is going on in the district."

Webber planned on staying in Novi until he was told about the job in Novi in July. During the interview process he got to know more about the district and was hooked.

"I felt this could be a very good opportunity for me to push my own comfort level and learning," he said.

Novi Superintendent Pete Robinson Swartz, M.D., and



R.J. Webber, pictured here speaking at the South Lyon High School graduation ceremony, was hired as the new assistant superintendent of academic services in Novi.

FILE PHOTO BY MAL GOULD

Gail Credit and Bob Schram retire.

"It's important for him to get his feet firmly established so when the new superintendent comes in it's not interrupting the business, which is teaching and learning," he said.

Webber credited many of his colleagues in South Lyon for his success and said leaving the district was not an easy choice. He will stay on full-time until Sept. 3 to help the high school transition before starting in Novi.

Dion said what stood out to him about Webber was his experience, interpersonal skills, passion and training with curriculum.

He also felt Webber, 40, would be a good bridge between the outgoing administrators and the three new superintendents set to join Novi next year when he

"I am extremely thankful for the years given to me in South Lyon, but I am also looking forward to a whole new chapter of learning," he said.

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NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS

Back-to-school check-ups Aug. 29
Has your child had his/her back-to-school check up yet? Reach Out and Read Michigan is partnering with Henry Ford Medical Center-Farmington Pediatrics to offer free back-to-school check-ups. Children are encouraged to bring their favorite teddy bear or stuffed "Friend" to the event to receive a physical from a Henry Ford nurse or physician. Parents and kids also will receive information about the importance of reading. No appointment is necessary. Pediatrician Beth Robinson Swartz, M.D., and nurse Claudia DeRain, from Henry Ford Medical Center-Farmington, will hold the clinics from 2-3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 29 at Borders Books & Music store in Novi, 43075 Crescent Boulevard. There is no fee, and no appointment is necessary. To learn more, visit www.reachoutandreadmich.org.

NOVI ON CAMPUS
Scholars program offers students the opportunity to get a head start on scientific research and their college careers. The program is designed to meet the needs of interested students from a variety of backgrounds, providing accessible, yet challenging research opportunities.

Washington University
Emily Ma of Novi participated in the Summer Scholars Program in biology and biomedical research at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

Ma, who was one of 22 summer scholars this year, will be a freshman at the university when the fall semester begins Aug. 31.

The seven-week Summer Scholars program offers students the opportunity to get a head start on scientific research and their college careers. The program is designed to meet the needs of interested students from a variety of backgrounds, providing accessible, yet challenging research opportunities.

Spring Arbor University
Charles Ross from Novi was granted a degree (psychology) during commencement exercises on Saturday, May 15.

Kristin Hoffenbacher of Novi (Junior, English-education) was named to the spring 2010 Academic Honors List, which recognizes full-time students who have received a grade point average of 3.7 or higher for the semester. Part-time students must receive a 3.7 GPA for the semester and carry a cumulative 3.7 GPA.

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- SYLVIA RECTOR, DETROIT FREE PRESS, APRIL 2010

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- MOLLY ABRAHAM, DETROIT NEWS, JUNE 2010

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Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968
email: HTWobits@hometownlife.com
View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.com



CYNTHIA ANN DORNBACK
Age 51, Aug. 20, 2010. Funeral was Aug. 23rd at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi. Donations: Michigan Humane Society. Online condolences: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

RONALD E. "ROMEMO" HUGHES
Age 52, of Holly died Tues. Aug. 17, 2010. Memorial services will be held at 12 Noon Sat. Aug. 21, 2010 at the Dryer Funeral Home, Holly with Pastor Patricia Harto officiating. Visitation will be from 10-12 PM on Sat. Ronald was born in Howell on Apr. 24, 1958 the son of the late Duane and Evelyn (Bitter) Hughes. He is survived by his daughters Rhonda, Angela, Karen, and Rochelle; son Little Ronnie; sisters and brothers, Sharon, Deana, Leonard, Delia, Cydette, Paulita, and Melanie; Aunt D.D.; fiancée Lisa and her daughter Brittany; and many, many friends. Memorial donations may be given to the family. www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com

DONALD R. BIDWELL
Of Ft. Myers, Fla. and Pittsburgh, Pa., formerly of Plymouth, Mich., died peacefully at home on Monday, August 16, 2010. He was 83. Don lived the life to the fullest, establishing a successful contracting business, traveling to all parts of the world, and charming those he met along the way. Don also served in the Navy during WWII. He is survived by the love of his life Barb McCormick of Ft. Myers, Fla. and Pittsburgh, Pa., his loving children Jennifer (Tom) Bidwell, Melinda (David) Olson, Donald W. Bidwell, his grandchildren Jessica (Sam) Zimbarbe and Donald R. Bidwell, his great granddaughter, Ceia Jean Zimbarbe and a bounty of wonderful friends. He is also survived by three sisters, Avis Van Sickle, Ardith Kelly, Doreen Van Orsdale, Ann Polan; and three brothers, Calvin (Reta), Duane (Mary), and Gary (Carol) Bidwell. A Celebration of Don's life will be held at 1:00 p.m. Sunday August 29, 2010 at Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice. Family and friends may sign the guest register by visiting dignifiedmemorials.com. Affordable Cremations, A Dignified Alternative is in charge of arrangements.

LARRY J. BRAUN
Age 56, passed away, August 20, 2010. He was born on May 10, 1954, in Ann Arbor, son of the late Lawrence and Patricia Braun. He is survived by his beloved children, Alissa (Kevin) Bouze, Ryan Braun and Laura Braun, his siblings, Gary (Judy) Braun, Denny (Gerri) Braun, Lon (Judy) Braun, Harold Braun, Jan (James) Gordenier, Bruce (Beth) (Colie) Cole and Patricia Braun. He is also survived by his loving grandchildren, Emma, Landon, Logan and Jasmine. He was preceded in death by his son Jason, his parents Lawrence and Patricia and two brothers Ron and Jim. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, August 24th from 10:00AM-1:00PM at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon. Funeral services will be conducted on Tuesday at 1:30PM at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to Huntington's Disease Research, HDSA Center of Excellence 1-317 Medical Education Building, Iowa City, IA 52242. Online guestbook at www.phillipsfuneral.com

MARY O. CARPENTER
August 17, 2010, age 83. Funeral was August 20 at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi. Interment at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Online condolences at: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

JOSEPH D. COSENZA
Age 80, Aug. 19, 2010. Funeral Mass will be held Aug. 30th, at 10am St. Joseph Catholic Church, South Lyon. Graveside services in the Great Lakes National, PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon.

JIMMY T. CRESMEN
Age 71, of White Lake, August 20th, 2010. Memorial service will be held on Saturday, August 28th, at 3pm at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Union Lake. PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon.

GENE B. CUSHING
Age 88, died August 12, 2010. Mr. Cushing was a draftsman with Ford Motor Company for 37 years prior to his retirement. He was in the US Army during WWII and a member of the Masons. Beloved husband of the late Wilma Cushing. Loving father of Mark (Barbara) Cushing, Kerry Cushing, Taryn Krizanich and Coleen Warren. Also survived by 8 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. The family will receive friends, Saturday, August 28, 2010 at the North-Sassaman Funeral Home, 19091 Northville Road (at Seven Mile) Northville from 1PM until time of memorial services at 3PM. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions to Special Olympics would be appreciated.

MAY YOU FIND COMFORT IN FRIENDS

PAULINE IWANCIW
Age 91, passed away, August 20, 2010. A private graveside service will be held at Glen Eden Memorial Park. Arrangements entrusted to PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon.

BERTHA JOHNSON
Age 95, of South Lyon, formerly of Westland, Aug. 17, 2010. A funeral service was held Monday Aug. 23 at the Cross of Christ Lutheran Church. Arrangements entrusted to Castlerine Funeral Home, Inc. of South Lyon.

BERT FRED KROLIK
A long time resident of Milford, died on August 19, 2010, at the age of 70. He is survived by Nancy, his beloved wife of nearly fifty years, and daughters, Debbie (Greg) Holinski, Sharon (Joe Smith) Floreno, Cathy (Jeff) Stocker, Krulik, grandchildren, Heather (Carl) Bolin, Jennifer (Josh Taylor) Beard, Michele Floreno, Kristen Holinski, Matt Holinski, Holly Beard, and Joe R. Smith, great grandchildren, Madeline and Ethan Bolin, a sister, Phyllis (Jim) Gandor, a brother, John (Cindy) Krolik and many dear friends. Funeral Services were held at Lunch & Sons Funeral Home, Milford, on Monday, August 23, 2010, with burial in Oakland Hills Cemetery, Novi. For further info please phone 248-584-6845 or visit: www.lyncfuneraldirectors.com

FRANK MERL LUCAS
Age 83, of Highland Twp., July 30, 2010. Private family memorial services will be held at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly on August 27th, 2010. Condolences may be left at: www.lyncfuneraldirectors.com

TODD CORRELL
Age 50, of White Lake, passed away, August 22, 2010. Please contact PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME at (248) 437-1616 for visitation and funeral service arrangements.

GLENN E. DEIBERT
89, passed away after a brief illness. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Rae Annette. In 2005, Glenn was born and raised in rural Michigan, and loved the farms, horses, gardening, hunting, and fishing, all his life. He played numerous sports, learned piano, and loved vocal music. He attended Michigan State Univ., studied criminal justice, and played football. WWII interrupted college; he trained in AZ, then served in Italy, a Captain with the Army. He and Rae married shortly before he shipped out. Glenn returned home to finish college, then law school (Wayne State, Detroit), and spent a career with Ford Motor, rising to head of plant production world-wide. He raised his family in Northville, MI, where he was on school board, was president of Optimist Club, helped with Boy Scouts, sang in and directed the choir at St Paul's Lutheran. He sang in the Ford Chorus and in Barbershop groups. In retirement he and Rae visited every State, plus Europe and Japan. They settled in Mesa AZ, near their children and grandchildren. Glenn joined choirs at Ventures Out and Broadway Christian, and his charitable work, a life-long effort, never ceased. He is survived by 3 daughters, Kris Ramsey (Cecilia), Colleen Beyer (Longmont, CO) and Loraine Richardson (Newport, RI), and one son, Glenn (Tempe, AZ). There are 11 grandchildren, all of whom share his love of music, sports, nature, and charitable activity. Please send any gifts to Sunshine Acres, Mesa AZ.

OBITUARY POLICY
e-mail your obit to: HTWobits@hometownlife.com
Or fax to: 313-496-4968
Attn: HTWobits
For more information call: Char Wilson 586-826-7082
Liz Keiser 586-977-7038
The first seven "bullet" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. Additional lines will be charged at \$3 per line. You may also elect to have your obituary printed for an additional cost of \$25. Online condolences may be included at no cost (example: American flags, religious symbols, etc.)
Deadline: Tuesday at 10am for Thursday service
Obituaries received after this deadline will be placed in the next available issue.



Jeff Gleithill of Great Lakes Landscape and a crew of two help plant dozens of different flowers and plants in the Fuerst Gardens. The garden has been completed and is open to the public.

Fuerst gardens bloom thanks to community partnerships

The gardens designed to mimic the two barns that once stood in what is now Fuerst Park are in full bloom and open to the public. A \$45,000 donation from the Novi Parks Foundation helped create the two gardens which measure 30 x 50 and 40 x 60 in size. They are filled with more than 50 different types of plants and flowers, mostly perennials. David Beschke, city of Novi landscape architect, said a park visitors are already picking up on the size and location of the gardens as paying homage to the Fuerst family. "It speaks to the heritage of the barns and the farm that was once there," he said. "It's a totally barrier-free area and a nice area for people to visit." The only thing missing from the gardens right now is a sculpture that will go in the middle. Beschke said that should happen in the coming months. Members of the beautification commission and Novi High School students will help maintain the gardens which are located near the high school's south parking lot by the amphitheater and old Novi Township Hall.



Josh Isrow of Warren moves soil around the dozens of different plants and flowers in the Fuerst Gardens on Aug. 19. The garden area is just south of the amphitheater and the old Novi Township Hall.

District but was not being used. The district traded property to the city so the gardens could be created in that location. The property the gardens are located on was owned by the Novi Community Schools. nmuelier@gannett.com (248) 437-2011 ext. 255

Last four performances slated for ethnic comedy at Andiamo

There are only four performances left for Steve Solomon's smash-hit one-man show "My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm In Therapy" to Novi's Andiamo Theatre. Performances will take place tonight through Sunday at the theatre at Grand River Avenue and Market Street. Solomon masterfully weaves different dialects and crazy characters into his stories. These tales take on a life of their own as he recounts memorable moments from his past and makes witty observations on timely topics. Audiences will meet Uncle Willie, Stuttering Cousin Bob, Demented Cousin Kenny, Steve's new therapist Cousin Sal (and Sal's parole officer) and a myriad of astounding characters we know, love and tolerate from our own families. Each character is brought to life on stage by Solomon using his gift for creating witty dialects and wacky sound effects that only add to the hilarity of each story. Variety says "Steve is Alan King, Billy Crystal, a smidgen of Don Rickles and George Carlin all thrown in," while WOR Radio calls the show "an hour and a half of laughter, hysterical funny!" Having headlined throughout the United States and Europe for more than years, Solomon's stories relate to the wacky side of the human condition. Literally hundreds of thou-

sands of people have seen this award-winning show. This is a "don't miss" evening of hilarious comedy at its very best. Spend an evening with Solomon in his quest to defend himself against those people whose sole purpose in life is to add chaos to his. Performance times, individual ticket prices and dinner-and-show package prices for "My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm In Therapy" are as follows: Thursday, dinner and show package, \$79.95, show only \$30 at 8 p.m.; Friday, dinner-and-show package \$89.95, show only \$35 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, dinner-and-show package \$89.95, show only \$35 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, dinner-and-show package \$79.95, show only \$30 at 5 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the Andiamo Novi Theatre box office, by phone at (248) 348-4448 (theater box office) or 1-800-745-3000 (Ticketmaster) or online at www.ticketmaster.com. The Andiamo Novi Theatre is located at 42705 Grand River Ave.

Steve Solomon will finish up his two-week run of "My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish, and I'm In Therapy" today-Sunday at the Andiamo Theatre. For performance times and ticket prices, call (248) 348-4448. Dinner-and-show packages are also available.

Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstoenegannett.com; by fax to (248) 685-2892; or by mail to Church Events/Novi/Novi, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

Church of the Holy Family
Location: 24505 Meadowbrook Road
Contact: (248) 349-8847 or visit holyfamily-novi.org
Mass Schedule
TIME/DAY: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.
Sunday: 9 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; 7 p.m. Tuesday; 5 p.m. (English); 6:30 p.m. (Spanish) Saturday
Holy Days: 9 a.m., 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.
Reconciliation: beginning 9 a.m. Saturdays or by appointment
Crosspointe Meadows Church
Location: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 669-9400, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Monday-Thursday or visit www.crosspointe-meadows.org
Sunday Worship: 11:15 a.m.
Bible study classes: 10 a.m. for all ages
Details: Nursery and older children programs available. Worship blends traditional and contemporary elements resulting in a multi-generational worship experience.
Detroit First Church of the Nazarene
Location: 21260 Haggerty Road, north of Eight Mile Road
Contact: (248) 348-7600 or visit dcnazarene.org
Experiencing God Study
Date: begins Aug. 29
Details: A 12-week study by Henry and Richard Blackaby and Claude King. It focuses on deepening one's relationship with God by knowing and doing God's will. Each week there are five lessons to be completed on your own, followed by participation in a small group discussion. Cost for workbook is \$12.
Contact: (248) 348-7600
Sunday Schedule: 9:15 a.m. Worship service with Praise Band, children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 10:15 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments; 11 a.m. Traditional worship service, Children's Church, Youth Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 6 p.m. Evening Service, Children's Program, Youth Worship Service
Tuesday Schedule: Tuesday 9:30-11:15 a.m. Women of the Word Bible Study with childcare available for through age 5; 6:45 p.m. Ladies Evening Bible Study; 7 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study
Wednesday Schedule: 5:30 p.m. Family Meal, \$4 per person, \$12 per family; 7 p.m. Children's Caravan, Club 56, Bible Study, Quilting, Adult

Classes, Youth Blast
Thursday Schedule: 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group; 7 p.m. Tae Kwon Do
Women of the Word
Time/Date: 9:25-11:15 a.m.
Details: The W.O.W. Tuesday Ladies Bible Study welcomes you to their study of the Book of Exodus. There is a \$15 registration fee, which includes interdenominational study materials. Childcare will be available in the morning for children through age 5.
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Location: 34567 Seven Mile Road, Livonia
Contact: (248) 442-8822 or www.nwhepo-center.com
Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross
Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 427-1175 or churchoftheholycross.com
Sunday Worship: 7:45 a.m., 10 a.m.

Sunday School and Nursery Care: 10 a.m. Worship Service
Alzheimer's Support Group
Time/Date: 10 a.m. second Saturday of month
Faith Community Presbyterian
Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-2345 or visit faithcommunity-novi.org
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. First Baptist Church of Northville
Location: 217 N. Wing
Contact: (248) 348-1020
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesdays
Men's Bible Study: 9 a.m. first Saturday of every month
Please see CHURCH, A9

Your Connection to Worship

Milford

- LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH**
501 Pleasant Valley Road - Brighton, MI 48114
810-227-3113
9:30 a.m. Communion Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
Rev. Dale Hochstadt, Pastor
www.lordoflifec.com
- CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**
PRESB. & HOL. - No. Synod
620 General Motors Pk., Milford
Church office: (248) 684-0895
Regular Sunday Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Junior High - Sunday Service 9:30 a.m.
Monday Evening 7:00 p.m.
The Rev. Richard E. Papp, Pastor
- FIRST BAPTIST OF MILFORD**
VISITORS WELCOME!
130 Detroit St., Milford • 684-6685
Pastor: Steve Swartz
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. - Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Youth Hours & Bible Study: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 15, 8:45-9:15 a.m.
Rev. Pastor: Steve Swartz
- SOUTH HILL CHURCH, S.B.C.**
1200 South Hill Rd., just south of downtown Milford
(248) 684-5900
www.southhillchurch.com
Sunday School 8:15 a.m.
10:00 Worship 10:15 a.m.
Contemporary Worship Service 12:00 a.m.
Children and Youth Groups: Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Call our current email group: dsl@shc.org
- WEST HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH**
11168 S. Henry Ridge Rd., Milford, MI 48360
248-887-1218
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Bible Ministries: 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday: All Ages: 7:00 p.m.
- MILFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
238 N. Main Street, Milford MI (248) 684-2805
Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School age 1 thru 5th grade @ 10:00 a.m.
Nursery care available @ 8:00 a.m.
Rev. John Harris, Pastor
A heritage of area worship since 1858

Highland

- HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH**
2200 Harvey Lane Rd. (248) 867-4556
Contemporary Service
9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. Sundays
Morning Bible Study & Breakfast
2nd & 4th Sundays at 8:15 a.m.
3rd-6th Sunday Youth Tuesdays 7-8 p.m.
Pastor: Nick Puffer
- NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**
120 Blain St., Highland
off Milford Rd., 2-7/8 miles N of M-59
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study Wed., 7:00 p.m.
Youth Night - Wed. 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.
688-7283 or 687-4568
- HIGHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
600 W. Livingston Rd., Highland, MI 48357
248-887-1311 • www.humc.org
Sunday Worship 8:00, 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.
Kids Church 8:45 & 10:30 a.m.
Youth Night - Wed. 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Rev. John Adams, Trevoxy, Gloria A. Wad, Greg & Lori

New Hudson

- NEW HOPE - A Unitarian Universalist Congregation**
5765 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI 48165
Phone 248-711-1144
Sunday Celebration of Life Service 12:30 a.m.
Rev. Suzanne Paul, Minister
Website: http://www.newhopeuuc.org
- NEW HUDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
4570 Grand River Avenue - New Hudson MI 48165
(248) 437-4212 - Gerald S. Hester, Pastor
Sunday School & Bible Class - 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
www.newhudsonuuc.org

Northville

- NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN**
Experience Life Each Week
Sunday Worship - 8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School and Children's Programs
www.northville.org
41355 Six Mile Road
248-546-9030
- FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE**
4000 Six Mile, Northville
777 West 8 Mile Road - 8 Mile and Six Mile Road
Worship Times: 8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m.
Memorial Day - Labor Day 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Dr. Steven A. Boag, Senior Pastor
Rev. Jeff Sturgeon, Associate Pastor
www.funorthville.org
- WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
4000 Six Mile, Northville
248-374-7400
Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. Service
www.wardevangelical.org
www.warduuc.com
7907 AM 66: The Village West Station
- OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH**
WEDNESDAY LITURGIES - Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
Church 348-2821, School 348-2810
Religious Education 348-2559
Rev. Denis Theroux, Pastor
- FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE**
201 S. Orchard Rd., Northville, MI 48179
Worship & Church School - 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.
Youth League Prog. - Wed. 8:15 - 9:30 p.m. (MI 48179)
Rev. Dr. Scott Miller, Senior Pastor
www.fpcnorthville.org

Livonia

- FELLOWSHIP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Services held at:
Saint Andrew Episcopal Church
16300 Hubbard Road - Livonia
South of Six Mile Road
Adult Sunday School 10:15 a.m. through 10:30 a.m.
Children Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Dr. James H. McGuire • Nursery Provided

White Lake

- WHITE LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
600 Madison St. between Maple & Grand River
Livonia, MI 48150
(248) 587-4554, Deborah V. Kent, Pastor
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Adult Bible School 10:00 a.m.
Kids Church 8:45 a.m.
The "Privity Church" Established 1855

South

- St. John's Episcopal Church**
A church that cares, the people of St. John's
574 S. Shedd Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334
734-453-0190
Services on Sunday mornings at:
248 MI. - Eastwood (248) 485-1100
692 MI. - Eastwood with Contemporary Music
1550 MI. - Eastwood with Traditional Music

Westland

- GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**
9 Mile & Meadowbrook
Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod
Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
will resume September 13
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Monday 7:00 p.m.
Thomas E. Schroeder, Pastor - 349-2565
- NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
14871 W. Ten Mile Road - Novi, MI 48375
Sunday Worship 9:45 a.m.
Rev. June M. Smith, Pastor
248-340-2852
www.umcnovi.com
"Loving God, loving each other and loving our own values"
- CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY**
24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48375
Weekend Hours
Saturday, 8 a.m. (English) & 9:30 a.m. (Spanish)
Sunday, 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.
Fr. Timothy Hogan, Pastor
Rev. Pastor Mercedes
Parish Office: 349-8847 • www.holyfamilynovi.org
- HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL**
40700 W. Ten Mile Rd. • 248-427-1175
Sunday Worship 7:45 am & 10 am
Healing Service Wednesday 11:45 am
Rev. Ann Webber, Pastor
holycross@sigmail.com
- OAK POINTE CHURCH**
50200 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi
Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m.
Sunday 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
Casual, contemporary service
Phone (248) 912-0043
www.oakpointe.org

South Lyon

- CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN**
(Mission Synod)
Pastor: Steve Swartz
437-8810 • 486-4335
Grandview Rd. at 10 Mile
Summer Worship 9:30 a.m.
- Fellowship Evangelical Presbyterian Church**
2220 Pontiac Trail, South Lyon (at 14 Mile Road)
Contemporary Worship, Bible-Based Messages
Sunday School 11:00 a.m.
Retiree Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
South at 8:30 a.m.
Rev. David Brown, Pastor
248-437-2222 • www.fepchurch.org
- The Church of Christ**
21860 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon, MI 48178
248-437-3585 • www.southlyoncc.org
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Praise and Worship
Wednesday Midweek Ministries 7 p.m.
Rob Colloff, Pastor
- FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH**
10774 Nine Mile Road
Rev. M. Lee Taylor • 449-2582
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m. & 8:30 p.m.
South at 8:30 a.m.
- SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH**
22183 Pontiac Trail (at Grandview and 10 Mile)
10 a.m., Sunday Celebration
Pontiac Trail and 9 Mile (at Grandview and 10 Mile)
Nursery & Children's programs
Office 248-486-4400
www.solidrockbible.org
- FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
640 S. Lafayette St., South Lyon, MI 48178
Sunday Worship: 8:15 a.m., and 10:00 a.m.
Nursery Provided
Rev. Robert Sandra Wilbabe
southern@stratus.com
- BIBLE BELIEVERS CHURCH**
60 S. Lafayette St., South Lyon, MI 48178
Sunday 10:30 and 1:30
Thursday 7:00 p.m.
Mike Ragan, Pastor
734-347-1953 pastor cell
Old fashioned preaching
- FAMILY LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH / A/G**
6345 W. 9 Mile Road 437-1472 • www.familylifec.com
Sr. Pastor Joseph R. Tabak
Sunday Christian Education 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Christian Education and Family Time 7:00 p.m.
- CROSSPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH**
28930 Wixom Rd.
Wixom, MI 48393
8:30 a.m. - Sunday morning at:
1620 MI. - Eastwood (248) 485-1100
Rev. Kenneth Warren - 866-521-2021
www.cpcwixom.com

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Driver, passenger arrested after stop

Novi police arrested two people at 1:56 a.m. Aug. 21 after stopping a vehicle on 12 Mile Road west of Meadowbrook Road for speeding.

According to the police report, an officer on patrol in the area paced the vehicle traveling 55 mph in a 45 mph zone and observed the car nearly strike the curb.

When he approached the car after stopping it, he could smell a strong odor of intoxicants coming from inside, police said. The driver admitted to drinking at a Novi bar and failed field sobriety tests, police said.

A preliminary breath test registered a blood alcohol content of .21 percent, police said. The legal limit for adult drivers in Michigan is .08 percent.

During the stop, the officer explained to the passengers they could get a ride to a local business, but the rear passenger started to cause a disturbance, police said.

She shouted obscenities at the other officers who arrived on the scene and was eventually arrested for disorderly conduct, police said.

The driver was arrested for operating while intoxicated and taken to the Novi Police Department where he was

issued a citation and released when sober, police said.

Car broken into at apartment complex

A Novi woman had her Ford Focus broken into and several items stolen from it while it was parked near the Mainstreet Village apartments on Fountain Park Drive overnight on Aug. 22.

The woman said she thought she locked the doors to her car that night but there was no sign of forced entry.

Stolen from the car was her driver's license, iPod, numerous bank and credit cards, two wallets and \$20.

Police have no suspects.

Unknown suspects vandalize Hummer

A Novi man had his Hummer H3 damaged, found on blocks and the sound system taken from it while it was parked at his home on Sagebrush overnight on Aug. 23.

According to the report, a window was broken to gain entry to the vehicle and the locking lug was used to remove the chrome wheels valued at \$3,000.

Also taken from the car was a sound system valued at

\$1,500.

The damage to the window is estimated at \$500.

Police have no suspects.

Golf clubs stolen from garage

Nearly \$2,000 worth of golf equipment and apparel was stolen sometime between July 22 and Aug. 15 while it sat in the garage of a home on Kings Pointe.

The victim, a 50-year-old man, said he took the clubs from his car when he took it in to get repaired and when he went to put them back in the car they were gone.

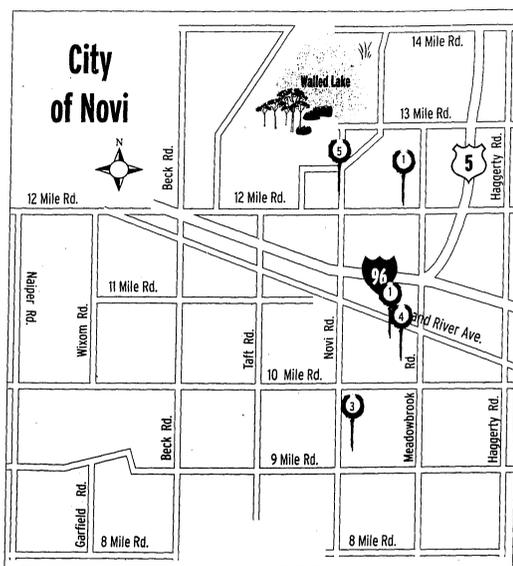
He said he doesn't know who might have taken them and police have no suspects.

Patron arrested

A 20-year-old man was arrested at 1 a.m. Aug. 16 for causing a scene at Tin Fish restaurant at Twelve Oaks Mall, police said.

Novi police were providing extra patrol in the area due to an appearance by Sean Kingston when an officer observed the man being escorted out of the business.

The man continuously shouted profanities at employees and at one point tried to reenter the business, police said. He then made his way to the car but was



stopped by the officer, police said.

The man told him that he would not arrest him and tried pulling away several times while the officer attempted to put handcuffs on him, police said. Once in

handcuffs he refused to walk toward the police car, police said.

He smelled of intoxicants and admitted to drinking, police said. A PBT registered a BAC of .07 percent at the police station, police said.

He was issued a citation for disorderly person and minor in possession of alcohol by consumption and released after posting bond.

Compiled by staff writer Nathan Mueller

Notice to Bright House Networks Cable Customers

On September 29th the following channels will move within our Standard Cable Service

Shop NBC will move from channel 81 to channel 39

TV Guide channel will move from channel 78 to channel 66

For more information on Bright House Networks programming, please call 877.885.8318 or visit our website at www.brighthouse.com.

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City of Novi Public Hearing Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers Novi Civic Center at 4315 W. Ten Mile Road to consider:

Case No. 10-034 39500 Grand River Ave
The petitioner is requesting a variance to install an 80 SF wall sign on the south elevation of the Mercedes-Benz Dealership located at 39500 Grand River Avenue. The property is zoned B-3 and is located north of Grand River Ave and west of Haggerty Rd.

Case No. 10-038 27776 Novi Rd
The petitioner is requesting a variance to install an additional 47 SF wall sign on the east elevation of the Art Van Furniture store located at 27776 Novi Road. The property is zoned RC and is located north of I-96 and west of Novi Rd.

Case No. 10-039 49251 Grand River Ave
The petitioner is requesting a variance to install a 7'-4" high pole mounted changeable copy sign in addition to the existing signs at the Auto dealership located at 49251 Grand River. The property is zoned B-3 and is located south of Grand River and east of Wixom Rd.

Case No. 10-037 26132 Ingersoll Dr
The petitioner is requesting variances to install a revised sign package including (4) oversized business center signs with (4) tenant names and an oversized clock tower sign on several locations at the Novi Town Center site. The property is zoned TC and is located south of I-96 and east of Novi Rd.

Case No. 10-038 25100 Novi Rd
The petitioner is requesting the following variances on behalf of the property owner to address non-conformity that would result from the additional highway easement for the new railroad bridge on Novi Rd and requests for relocation of an existing sign as a pole sign and a temporary sign for 18-24 months. The property is zoned I-2 and is located east of Novi Rd and south of Grand River.

Case No. 10-039 24460 Novi Rd
The petitioner is requesting the following variances on behalf of the property owner to address non-conformity that would result from the additional highway easement for the new railroad bridge on Novi Rd and allow relocation of existing signage. The property is zoned I-2 and is located east of Novi Rd and south of Grand River.

Case No. 10-040 26346 Novi Rd
The petitioner is requesting the following variances on behalf of the property owner to address the reduced visibility for existing non-conforming signage that would result from the additional highway easement for the new railroad bridge on Novi Rd. The property is zoned I-1 and is located west of Novi Rd and south of Grand River.

Case No. 10-041 1254 East Lake Dr
The petitioner is requesting six (6) variances for the construction of a new home located at 1254 East Lake Dr. Applicant is requesting a ten (10) foot front yard setback variance, a 22.06 foot rear yard setback variance, a north side yard setback variance of ten (10) feet, a south side yard setback variance of 5.29 feet with a total aggregate variance of both side yards of 15.29 feet, and a lot coverage variance of 15.1%. Property is zoned R-4 and located east of East Lake Dr and north of New Court. The existing house is to be or has been demolished. The Board granted this request in April 2006.

Case No. 10-042 28650 Tuft Rd
The petitioner is requesting a use variance to allow outdoor storage for a concrete crushing operation. Property is zoned I-1 and is north of Grand River and east of Tuft Rd.

Case No. 10-043 1181 West Lake Dr and Case No. 10-044 1185 West Lake Dr
The petitioner is requesting use and dimensional variances to allow construction of a shared garage across the property line dividing two separate parcels of land in the front and side setbacks as well as side and rear setback variances for proposed porch additions to 1185 West Lake Dr.

Case No. 10-045 43771 Grand River Ave
The petitioner is requesting a use variance to allow outdoor storage for several adjacent parcels at 43771 - 43831 Grand River Avenue. The property is zoned TC-1 and is located south of Grand River Ave and west of Novi Road.

Case No. 10-046 44650 Eleven Mile Rd
The petitioner is requesting variances to add a new 2 car attached garage to an existing residence with an existing 2 car attached garage requiring a variance to exceed the 850 SF limit on accessory use. Property is zoned R-4 and is located north of Eleven Mile Rd and east of Tuft Rd.

Bond was set for Hobson at \$10,000 and at \$5,000 for Moore. Both were given 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. curfews and ordered not to go back to Twelve Oaks Mall.

Germaine Daun Hobson
Wallace Dante Moore

Novi police informed the other local departments to be on the lookout, and the men were eventually apprehended by Livonia police on eastbound I-96 in Inlster.

Woloski called Livonia "the big catcher's mitt" for the city and praised them for their quick response.

"It's great when communities can work together and help each other out and put bad guys in jail," he said.

All of the cars allegedly broken into by Hobson and Moore were locked and they used a screwdriver to punch the locks, police said. Still, Woloski advises people to keep electronics out of sight, even the cords.

Bond was set for Hobson at \$10,000 and at \$5,000 for Moore. Both were given 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. curfews and ordered not to go back to Twelve Oaks Mall.

nmueller@gannett.com (248) 437-2011, Ext. 255

Published: August 26, 2010

2 arrested for allegedly stealing from cars at mall

BY NATHAN MUELLER STAFF WRITER

A pair of Detroit teens were arrested Monday evening by Novi police following a rash of vehicle larcenies in the parking lot at Twelve Oaks Mall, police said.

Germaine Daun Hobson and Wallace Dante Moore, both 18, were arraigned Tuesday and charged with five counts of larceny from auto and one count of attempt breaking and entering with damage. The larceny charges are five-year felonies and the attempt breaking and entering with damage charge is a two-and-a-half year felony.

The two men allegedly stole radios, speakers, iPods, navigation systems and various other electronic items.

According to Novi police Officer Brian Woloski, he was dispatched to the mall to take a report from a victim when another call came in saying the suspects were fleeing in a red Pontiac Bonneville.

Novi police informed the other local departments to be on the lookout, and the men were eventually apprehended by Livonia police on eastbound I-96 in Inlster.

Woloski called Livonia "the big catcher's mitt" for the city and praised them for their quick response.

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nmueller@gannett.com (248) 437-2011, Ext. 255

STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, August 26, 2010 hometownlife.com



Brian Sole's Great Lakes Taiko Center, at 43000 W. Nine Mile Road in Novi, specializes in Japanese drumming.

Follow the beat of different drummers at Taiko Center

Tell us about your business, including types of services and/or products you feature.

The Great Lakes Taiko Center offers instruction, education and entertainment through Japanese taiko drumming. Japanese taiko drumming is a form of ensemble drumming from Japan which first gained world wide exposure from the Onogozu drummers (currently named KODO) in the 1970s. We offer classes, individual instruction and all types of performances centered around taiko drumming.

How did you first decide to open your business?

My wife and I began playing taiko drums with some friends several years ago just for fun. Word began to spread and performance requests began to come in (even though we were not advertising). We realized that we were the only group of our type in Michigan and that there was a potentially strong market for this type of entertainment so we decided to turn it into a business.

Why did you choose this area?

Since our business is based in Japanese culture, we wanted to be located in an area where there is a high concentration of Japanese families and businesses.

What makes your business unique?

We are the only business in Michigan which offers instruction and professional performances in Japanese taiko drumming. All of our drums are from Japan and our

instructors (my wife and I) were also trained in Japan.

How has it changed since you opened?

We haven't been open for very long, but our student base has been steadily growing and we are planning to add two new classes in September. Word of our performing group is also spreading and our performance schedule has been filling up quickly.

Do you have a funny tidbit or story about your experience as a small business owner to share with our readers?

In May we were rehearsing for an event at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center in Dearborn. During our rehearsal, there happened to be a film shoot going on for "Salvation

Oakland County offering business workshops

Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to attend seminars offered by the Oakland County Business Center. Business Basics workshops are now offered in the evenings on alternating months. Seminars are held in the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road (west of Telegraph), Waterford. For pre-registration and location specifics, visit oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783.

August FastTrac Listening to Your Business Workshop

The day-to-day responsibilities of running your own business leave little time to focus on long-time vision, goals

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

@hometownlife

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Cooper-Standard revenue up

Novi-based Cooper-Standard Holdings Inc., the parent company of Cooper Standard Automotive Inc., reported sales for the second quarter of \$628.4 million, an increase of 40 percent over the second quarter of 2009. The company posted year-to-date sales of \$1.22 billion compared to \$0.85 billion for the first half of 2009.

The company posted net income for the quarter of \$637.8 million compared to a net loss of \$349.3 million in the previous year. Both years were impacted by significant accounting adjustments. In the second quarter of 2010, the company benefited from one-time gains, including cancellation of debt income, resulting from its reorganization proceedings, and in the second quarter of 2009, the company recorded significant impairment charges relating to intangible assets.

Cooper Standard reported its fourth consecutive quarter of double-digit adjusted EBITDA margins. The company's adjusted EBITDA for the second quarter of 2010 was \$73.8 million, an increase of \$42.1 million from the second quarter in 2009. Year-to-date, adjusted EBITDA increased to \$147.5 million, up \$100.4 million from the same period in the prior year.

During this quarter, Cooper Standard successfully launched production in all product groups across all regions including: Audi (A1, Q7), Chrysler (Jeep Grand Cherokee), Ford (Fiesta), General Motors (Cadillac CTS Coupe, Heavy Duty Silverado), Peugeot (308 Sedan) and VW (Jetta, Polo, Sharan).

FRIMO to open new \$5 million technology center

Wixom-based FRIMO Inc., a division of the FRIMO Group, a provider of manufacturing systems for high-quality plastic components for the automotive and other industries, is opening a new TechCenter within its North American headquarters in Wixom.

The facility, which becomes fully operational in September, is a state-of-the-art customer support facility designed to meet the demands of the company's automotive interior customers and customers in other industries.

The new FRIMO, Inc. TechCenter will provide tooling and production facilities for a complete range of processes used to develop interior products such as instrument panels, door trim, consoles, headliners, seats, headrests and more. Technologies on site will include rapid prototyping, polyurethane processing, thermoforming, laminating, edge-folding, right through to flexible trimming, scoring, punching, and joining/adhesive bonding of plastics.

The new center hosts an array of specialized equipment, including a state-of-the-art PU/RELine polyurethane spray system as well as polyurethane rigid and semi-flexible foam-in-place metering equipment and tooling; FlexTrim router process equipment and fixturing; invisible air bag scoring equipment and fixturing; EcoForm and VarioForm thermoforming machinery and tooling; JoinLine infrared welding equipment and more. It also features two secure trial test bays for customers to run pre-production prototypes to ensure confidential, quick and trouble-free launches.

The TechCenter is managed by Lee Hodson, who recently joined FRIMO Inc. as Director of Advanced Development, and is staffed by 15 engineers, process technicians and customer support personnel.

FRIMO, Inc. plans on officially marking the opening of the center with a customer event at its headquarters, located at 50685 Century Court on Oct. 7. The program will comprise of an opening ceremony as well as a plant tour, a broad range of technical presentations and live product demonstrations.

BAT assistance Sept. 30

Novi's Business Assistance Team (BAT) continues to assist eligible small business located in Novi with their business practices from 9-9:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 30 at the Novi Civic Center.

The mission of BAT is to identify small and medium sized businesses within the Novi community that would benefit from the business and planning experience the team is able to offer.

The goal is to provide knowledge, guidance and useful tools for these businesses to utilize in order to maintain and grow their business in an effective and efficient way. There are no sales involved with this assistance.

The specific types of assistance the team can offer includes:

- Sounding board for potential ideas
- Reviewing existing business plans
- Marketing, advertising, (social media) public relation advice
- Networking within the community
- SBA financing/loan options

Please RSVP no later than Sept. 23 by contacting Sarah Marchioni at (248) 347-0580 or smarchioni@cityofnovi.org.

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Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor
Grace Perry,
Director of Advertising

OUR VIEWS

Consolidation
 Is now the time to combine Novi, Northville school districts?

Michigan has 550 public school districts ... and two of the best in the entire state are right here. (We won't waste time here proving that fact. But, if you doubt it, just take a look at the results of annual tests like MEAP and MME and you'll see where both Novi and Northville rank.)

Both districts' superintendents — Northville's Leonard Rezmierski and Novi's Pete Dion — will be leaving at the end of the 2010-11 school year, which may make this an opportune time for consolidation.

Let's take a look at the situation beginning with similarities between the two districts that are worth noting.

• Per-pupil state aid is \$8,204 for Novi; \$8,539 for Northville.

SCHOOL DISTRICT REORGANIZATION

The sections of the Revised School Code and State School Aid Act that address this issue are contained in the Michigan Compiled Laws under MCL 380.11a, 380.12, 380.701 - 380.703, 380.851 - 380.976 and 388.1620(10).

Consolidation:

School consolidation is a process used to merge two or more existing districts into a new district. This process can be initiated by the affected boards or the school electors in each district, and it must be approved by the school voters in the affected districts. New school board members would be elected to govern the new district. (MCL 380.851 to 380.871)

Two or more adjoining intermediate school districts can be consolidated to form a single intermediate school district. (MCL 380.701)

consolidating, but it's worth exploring.

It will save taxpayers money as administrative costs will decrease.

The consolidation of transportation, resource sharing and one headquarters are other examples of cost-savings.

The idea of consolidation is by no means new. Although there have only been two in Michigan in the last decade, the state had well over 7,000 districts at one time. The 1964 School District Reorganization act brought that down, and the number has been around 550 for the past 40 years.

In December 2004, Northville resident Tom Watkins, who at the time was the state's superintendent of public instruction, wrote a paper at the request of Kathleen Straus, president of the State Board of Education. In "Structural Issues Surrounding Michigan School Funding in the 21st Century," he presented at an alternative to consolidation:

"One option that could be mandated legislatively is the creation of 'joint operating agreements' (JOA) that have a school district or ISO assume responsibility for administrative services for surrounding districts. This eliminates duplication of administrative costs that may be re-directed to teaching and learning. The JOA concept is borrowed from The Detroit News and Detroit Free Press that combined administrative operations for cost efficiency but retained distinct editorial and news functions. Similarly, local districts have the potential to combine payroll, transportation, curriculum development, special education, data systems, and other business functions while maintaining separate identities."

According to Watkins, a study was done in the mid-1990s that demonstrated an annual county-wide savings of up to \$10 million — but it was never implemented.

"Why?" asks Watkins. "Could it be that power, control, politics and adults trump teaching, learning, students — not to mention taxpayers?"

If one looks at just the financial aspect of consolidation, it appears to be an easy decision. But, as is usually the case, there are many other factors to consider. To that end, superintendents Dion and Rezmierski have both agreed to sit down with the Novi News and Northville Record on Sept. 16 to discuss the issue and the future of the two school districts.

There is no quick answer to the question of consolidation — but in this current economy, we believe it is worth exploring.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Are you looking forward to the end of summer?



"I typically don't ... my favorite seasons are spring and summer because we then turn into our nine months of cold and gray."

Greg Pope
 Wyandotte



"I am because the kids go back to school - and yet not because there are so many things to do in the summer when the weather's nice."

Alison Gunderson
 Livonia



"No way. We have too much fun getting out with all the parks and stuff."

Ashley Veltes
 Northville



"No, I enjoy it too much and not having to wrap myself in three blankets."

Kirk Noble
 Novi

LETTERS

Can collection kudos

I would like to thank all the people who participated and attended the Girls Under-18 Class A Patch Northern National Softball Tournament at Ella Mae Power Park. I would like to give a tip of the hat to Mr. Derek Smith, president of Metro Detroit Amateur Softball Association, and Mr. Bob Lawson, umpire-in-chief.

Mr. Smith allowed me to set up my collection stations for Michigan returnables. Mr. Lawson and his umpire staff provided additional nondeposit cans. Those cans along with other nondeposit cans were earmarked for the recycling container located at the Recycling Center next door to the Novi Department of Public Works facility. All cans and bottles that were collected were part of the grand total of \$73.40 that was sent to www.homesforourtroops.org/goto/visitinghis-torians.

Not all this money came from cans and bottles. I did receive some donations from people after they read the sign on my back or the sign on the collection container that I would roll around the complex. A grateful mother gave me a donation after I came to the aid of her daughter's car with a set of jumper cables that one of the fathers used to get her car started from his.

All the pull tabs from the cans will be given to a mother whose son undergoes kidney dialysis treatments. The tabs are used to reduce the cost of the procedure. I collect the tabs year-round, and they are not limited to beverage containers; any can that has an aluminum pull tab can be donated. I invite you to go to the above website and learn about Homes For Our Troops and consider a donation in any amount.

Jack E. Leeds
 Novi

Don't answer 'pirate' calls

Received 23 "pirate" calls, 14 of them "private" and nine "Michigan" or "Massachusetts" or some other non-identifying ID. During the same period,

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

E-mail: cstone@gannett.com
 Read or comment online: www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com.

Are your daily activities repeatedly interrupted by phone calls that, when you finally get to the phone and pick up the receiver, you get either silence, which one may perceive as a rude waste of time or even a threat, or you get asked for money, probably by your credit card number?

We call them "pirate calls," because they fly under the false flag of "no name received" or "private caller" on the caller ID.

They are anything but private. If asked, the caller may cheerfully explain that it is just a call center "identification." Maybe, even if they give you a number to call back, you can't really know whether it is a scam center, a so-called "baiter room." Therefore, we have adopted a policy of never responding with money or credit card number and rarely even picking up the phone for any non-identifying ID calls.

In the first half of August, we received 23 "pirate" calls, 14 of them "private" and nine "Michigan" or "Massachusetts" or some other non-identifying ID. During the same period,

we received only five honestly identified legitimate calls. With 82 percent of calls being "pirate," please excuse us if we don't run to the phone and answer you. Just leave a message on the answering machine, and we can call you back. Don't expect our politicians to remedy the abuse of caller ID; they are among the "pirates."

Bent and Renee Bowling
 Northville

Health care in America

There are people who say "it won't kill me." They put up with bunions, cataracts, hearing loss, etc. These people are Americans who have no health insurance. They put up with the pain and discomfort. They would get it fixed, but money is short. They save money to keep the car running. They pay their bills, and they know what they have won't kill them.

There are other people — like the woman who found a lump in her breast, or the man who quit smoking five years ago and now has a cough he can't get rid of, or the people whose feet swell up when they stand too long and they know their heart isn't working too right. They have no health insurance, and what if they get that first test and it's bad? Better not to know, so they just worry and pray.

Then there are fund-raisers! "Humpty Dumpty fell off the wall, so come eat pizza and they'll give 10 percent of your bill to help put Humpty Dumpty back together again. Come eat pizza and help!"

But the worst is the jar on the counter at party stores, restaurants, etc. with a picture of a child, young mother or father, and a young note that says, "Please help ... You know the rest of the note."

Health care in America. It won't kill me! Please, God — not cancer! Fund-raiser, 10 percent will help. Help fill this jar. Only in America!

Mary Klann
 Northville

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

The following are excerpts from readers participating in our online forum for discussing issues. In Your Voices. Find more comments or join the discussion on the Web at hometownlife.com.

Novi: Two men arrested for larcenies at Twelve Oaks

And just who is going to be around to enforce that curfew? Their parents? NOT.

Nice catch (again), Livonia PD. Keep that catchers glove ready.

11987olds

Another one of Detroit's finest heading out to play. I don't understand why Detroit's youth can't realize that they're not wanted in the suburbs and just STAY OUT! They already got Southfield anyways... why Novi?

Curfew? Really? Why go to the trouble of catching them only to basically set them free? At 18, they are adults. A curfew is a punishment for a child. Guaranteed, these

young men will be in trouble again within 72 hours.

Board to decide on pay-to-play amount Thursday night

\$350 to play high school sports is outrageous though. When I was in high school (99-03), people were upset when it went from \$0 to \$75 annually. The football team likely won't have 75 kids willing to pay \$350 each to stand on the sidelines while the opponents carry a 40-man roster.

Raising gate fees is a good idea. No need to punish the programs by cutting out student-athletes who can't afford it. I'm sure the fans can afford \$1-2 more per game. If the teams suck, the fans won't be as inclined to come out. Depending on the opponent, the 'Cats get 2,500-4,000 fans (more often the latter), so that'd work great.

chrismaverick

online at hometownlife.com

NOVI COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Hometown Weeklies | Thursday, August 26, 2010 (NN) A13

More: For a complete listing of local and regional events, see the Novi Calendar online at www.hometownlife.com.
Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstone@gannett.com by fax to (248) 349-9832; or by mail to Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

LOCAL EVENTS

Summer Sidewalk Music Series

Time/Date: 4-7 p.m., Saturdays June-Aug. Aug. 21: Billy Brandt & Sarana Verlin; Aug. 28: Big Boss Trio featuring Barb Payton

Location: at Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountainwalk in the center roundabout by Lucky Strike
 Details: Free concerts and art. ArtsNovi will have 4 artists selling work and doing demonstrations each week. Bring a chair! Aug. 28: Big Boss Trio featuring Barb Payton
 Contact: Twelve Mile Crossing (248) 348-8762

Kenneth Horigan book signing

Time/Date: 3 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 28
 Location: Borders Books, 43075 Crescent Boulevard, Novi
 Details: Kenneth Horigan, a lifelong Michigan resident, is a Veteran and POW of World War II. He's recently had a book published through Strategic Book Publishers, NYC. "Coffin Corner" is an account of his personal experiences as a soldier and POW in German occupied Austria during World War II. Stalag 817.
 Contact: (248) 347-0780

Sunset Jazz @ Fuerst Park

Time/Date: 7:30-9 p.m. first Wednesdays
 Location: Fuerst Park, southeast corner of Taft and 10 Mile roads
 Details: Free live jazz -- bring a picnic basket and make it a date night. Sept. 1 - Sheila Landis & Rick Matie
 Contact: ArtsNovi@yahoo.com or Facebook ArtsNovi

Free Varicose Vein Screening at Providence Park Hospital in Novi

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 25
 Location: The Providence Park Outpatient Center is located at 47601 Grand River Avenue at Beck Road. Enter the campus off of Grand River Avenue and come to the main entrance of the Outpatient Center.

Details: Do you or your family suffer with varicose veins and the discomfort they cause? If so, please plan on attending this free screening. You will learn what types of treatment are available for Varicose Veins including surgical procedures, compressive stockings, sclerotherapy and laser ablation. The free screening will be conducted by Comprehensive Vascular Care, P.C. Dr. Kevin Nolan, Dr. William Oppat, Dr. Tamer Boudar.
 Contact: (248) 424-5748 to schedule the time of your screening.

Rock Financial Showplace

Location: 46100 Grand River Avenue, Novi
 Contact: (248) 348-5600
 Michigan Antique Arms Show
 Time/Date: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday Sept. 11; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 12
 Details: Adults \$6; members and children under 12 free. This is the largest antique arms collectors show in Michigan. Antique and modern arms and accoutrements, part and accessories, as well as other related merchandise. The show also features historical displays and presentations.
 Contact: (517) 676-4160 or www.michiganantiquearms.com
 Brides Day Bridal Show
 Time/Date: noon-5 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 12
 Details: Admission \$9. This popular bridal event has fast become a bride's first choice for finding everything she needs for her special day, plenty of exhibitors, prizes, fashions, fun and more.
 Contact: (888) 900-Expo, www.thebridalexpo.com
 Michigan Gun & Knife Show
 Time/Date: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 25; 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 26
 Details: Admission \$6. Anyone under 18 years must be with a responsible adult to attend this show.
 Contact: (517) 676-4160 or www.michiganshows.com
 Fall Camper and RV Show
 Time/Date: 2-9 p.m., weekdays; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday; 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 6-10
 Details: The Michigan Association of Recreation Vehicles and Campgrounds present an expansive event featuring all types of recreational vehicles, parts and accessories, camping information, on-site RV financing and RV rentals. Adult admission (ages 13 and up) is \$8, senior admission is \$7, and children 12 and under get in free. Discount entry coupon available on website.
 www.marva.org
 Health, Beauty & Fitness Expo
 Date: Oct. 16-17
 Details: This exclusive event is looking to collaborate with businesses in the Detroit Area to endorse the only expo designed to inspire and encourage individuals to embrace a life of health, beauty, wellness and fitness. The Health, Beauty & Fitness Expo allows exhibitors and sponsors the opportunity to exhibit and promote to a large segment of the population. The purchasing power of health, beauty and fitness consumers is an ever-growing market. Attendance for the show is expected to be thousands during the two-day event. The Health, Beauty & Fitness Expo will feature 150 exhibitors and a wide variety of demonstrations, seminars and speakers offering information a variety of topics, and it's a free event for the public.
 Contact: For general information about The Health, Beauty & Fitness Expo or to inquire more about sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities visit the website at HealthAndBeautyExpo.net or call (866) 625-6161.

American Legion Post 19 Monthly Meeting

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., third Tuesdays
 Location: Rock Financial Showplace, Grand River Avenue between Taft and Beck roads
 Details: Comrades and fellow veterans, please join these monthly meetings; attendance is needed to maintain and grow the Post.
 Contact: Commander Dennis Strikulis (248) 378-7841 or dstrikulis@tmr.com or Service Officer Paul Erickson (248) 344-7193 or perrick@ol.com

MSU Extension

Location: MSU Extension Tollgate Education Center, 2815 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi
 Contact: (248) 858-0887; smithn@oakgov.com; www.msue.msu.edu/oakland

Evening in the Gardens - Putting Your Garden to Bed the Right Way

Time/Date: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 31
 Details: Gail Morrell will share her passion for garden maintenance. She will discuss those important chores that can make your fall clean up easier. Cost is \$20 per person.

Free Admission

Health & Beauty FITNESS EXPO

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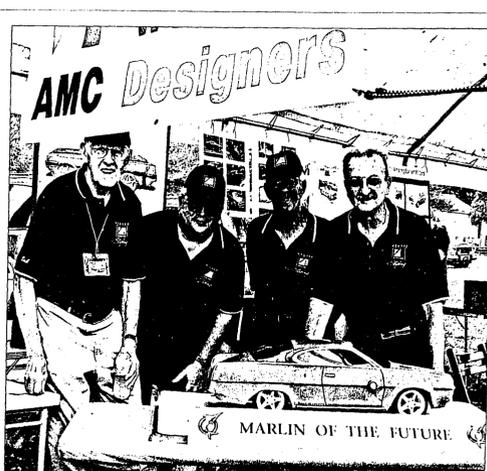
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Clay model displayed

(From left) Former American Motors Corporation employees Bob Bristow, Frank Pascoe, Keith Goodnough and Vince Geraci showed off their clay model of the 2011 American Motors Marlin concept car at the 2010 AMO International Show and Convention at Greenpark Park in Livonia on Aug. 14. Pascoe said the model was a hit among many people asked if it was going to be put into production.

Novi Chamber of Commerce

The Novi Chamber of Commerce is an active, progressive chamber offering a variety of events, educational programs, an enhanced Web site, and involvement with local charities.

Novi Farmers' Market & International Street Fair

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sundays, through Oct. 31
 Location: Main Street, between Grand River Avenue and Novi Road
 Details: An open-air market featuring fresh and tasty produce, gorgeous plants and flowers, yummy baked goods, honey and jam, sensational crafts and works of art. Presented by the Novi Chamber of Commerce, Bright Green Networks and the Toasted Oak Grill. Face painting and artists. List of vendors available at www.novifarmersmarket.com.
 August 29 Market Day featuring: Asian vegetables, sweet corn, scallions, cucumbers, green beans, eggplant, parsley, basil, bunch onions, cherry tomatoes, potatoes, lettuce, rhubarb, spinach, broccoli, radishes, turnips, mushrooms, strawberries, cher-

Novi Rotary Club

Time/Date: Noon every Thursday
 Location: Novi Methodist Church, 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
 Details: Lunch is \$10 at meeting. Visitors welcome. Check Web site for speaker information; noviro-tary.org.

Novi Toastmasters Club

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., every first and third Tuesday
 Location: Novi Civic Center, Activities Room, 45175 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375
 Details: Novi Toastmasters is a community-based club which is part of Toastmasters International. Our diverse group provides a mutually supportive atmosphere in which all can develop and refine their public speaking and leadership skills. Our members also have fun while building confidence in day-to-day communications and mentoring toward professional and personal excellence. Guests are welcome - and bring a friend. Visit www.novifreestohost.us.
 Contact: Linda Kreuter at PR@novifreestohost.us.
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 Location: Novi Civic Center, Activities Room, 45

NOVI COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Blood drive

Detroit First Church of the Nazarene is sponsoring a Red Cross blood drive from 3-5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 1. Call Taylor Dickey to reserve an appointment at (248)737-7263. The church is located at 21260 Haggerty Road, Northville.

Youth Toastmasters Club

A new Toastmasters club will meet for eight one-hour sessions within the next few months.

Toastmaster members basically present short speeches to be peer critiqued during the meetings. Organizers are looking for enthusiasm and a positive hardworking attitude from dedicated young adults ages 11-18. The first meeting will be an information session.

Call or e-mail Pooja Singhi for more information: (248)-996-3253 or asinghi@yahoo.com.

Thomas Lynch to speak at Novi Public Library

Renowned author Thomas Lynch will be the guest speaker at the Friends of the Novi Public Library's 50th Jubilee Celebration on Friday, Oct. 8 from 6-9 p.m. at the Novi Public Library. Lynch, National Book Award Finalist, will discuss "Apparition & Late Fictions" and his highly anticipated November 2010 release, a collection of poems, "Walking Papers". Both books will be available for sale and Lynch will do signings.

Lynch has read and lectured at universities and literary centers around the world and has appeared on C-SPAN, MSNBC and The Today Show. His essays, poems and stories have appeared in The Atlantic and Granta, The New York Times and Times of London, The New Yorker and Paris Review and more. His work was the subject of PBS Frontline's film documentary, The Undertaking, which aired nationwide in 2007 and won the 2008 Emmy Award for Arts and Culture



Wish You Were Here

A group from Oak Pointe Church took the Novi News to a children's camp in Amman, Jordan to teach and show God's love. Pictured (from left) Eron Powers, Plymouth; Deb Stecher, Novi; Kristie Reeves, Novi; Ernie Minissale, Novi; Brian Izard, Northville; Shannon Hill, Plymouth and Joe Snyder, Novi.

Documentary. A second documentary, Cathal Black's film, Learning Gravity, produced for the BBC, was featured at the 2008 Telluride Film Festival. Lynch, a longtime resident of Milford, has been a funeral director there since 1974.

This year, the Friends of the Novi Public Library celebrates 50 years of volunteer service to the library and Novi community. In April 1960, a small group of citizens founded Novi's first library. The Friends is a non-profit group of dedicated individuals committed to supporting the Novi Public Library in a variety of functions. The 30+ members assist the Library through volunteer work, book sales, fundraising activities, sponsoring special programs, speakers, events, and scholarships.

This event is open to the public. Cost to attend is \$10 and includes the presentation by Lynch and book signing, refreshments, strolling exhibits, live music by world musician Ara Topozuzian, a silent auction and a one-year mem-

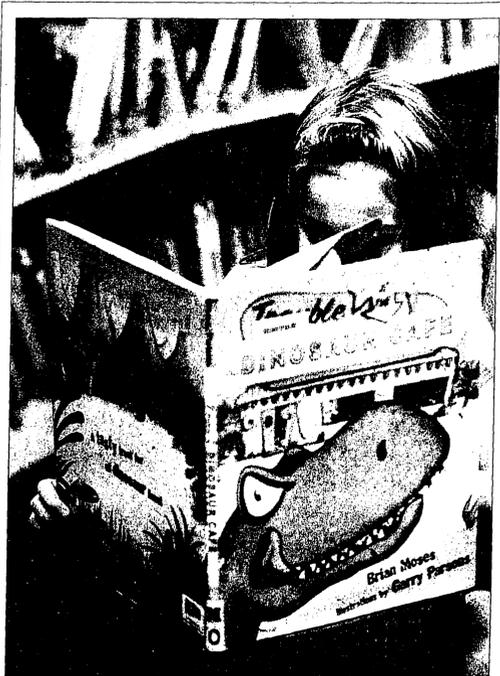
bership to the Friends of the Novi Public Library. Current friends members are encouraged to attend free of charge. Contact friends@novilibrary.org for advance membership or more information.

Wanted: Vacation photos!

Take a copy of your Novi News along on your vacation and we'll publish a photo of you and your travel companions in the paper with the headline: Wish You Were Here. Just be sure to include the newspaper in your photo.

Send your photo in a jpg format to estone@gannett.com. Identify everyone in the photo (first and last names) and tell us where they live. Tell us when the photo was taken and where. Tell us what was special about your trip, if you wish. Include a daytime phone number so we can contact you if necessary.

Then look for your photo in the newspaper and on our Facebook site under WISH YOU WERE HERE!



Reading time

Mara Sclabassi, 6, reads a book at the Novi Library on Aug. 12. Sclabassi was at the library with her sister and nanny.



Rotary helps out

Lee BeGole, former Novi Police chief, gets some computer tips from Jaclyn Kochis, director of Development and Public Relations for Michigan Paralyzed Veterans. Also assisting is Julie Farakas (right), Novi Library director. All three are members of Novi Rotary Club who are helping promote computer classes for seniors at the new Novi Library computer lab. Jaclyn has been appointed computer education coordinator for Novi Rotary Club and Lee BeGole is celebrating 50 years of membership as a charter member of the club.

E-MAIL NEWSLETTERS hometownlife.com

Senior Health & Living Expo

Friday, October 15, 2010 • 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oakland Community College - Orchard Ridge Campus 27055 Orchard Lake Road, Building H, Farmington Hills, MI

If your business or organization serves seniors, you'll want to be a part of this exciting event!



Your Exhibitor Package Includes:

Print Advertising

One-quarter page black and white ad or one full page ad (color option available) for your business will appear in the accompanying special section publishing Thursday, October 7, 2010, in the Observer & Hometown Newspapers and Sunday, October 10, 2010, in the South Oakland and Birmingham Eccentric.

Web Presence

The Senior Fall Expo special section will be featured on HometownLife.com, which receives upwards of 1 million page views per month!

Exhibitor Listing

You'll be featured on the center spread of our special section plus newspaper promotion during September and October.

Expo table plus two chairs

Use your space for giveaways, food demonstrations and promotional materials. Electrically available on a first come, first served basis for an additional charge.

Food

Two complimentary boxed lunches for exhibitors.

Special Section Promotion

The Senior Health & Living Expo will be promoted in all of our trusted, local newspapers:

- Birmingham Eccentric
- Canton Observer
- Farmington Observer
- Garden City Observer
- Livonia Observer
- Milford Times
- Northville Record
- Novi News
- Plymouth Observer
- Riverton Observer
- South Lyon Herald
- South Oakland Eccentric
- Berkley, Clawson, Farmdale, Huntington Woods, Royal Oak, Pleasant Ridge, Southfield
- Westland Observer

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SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE A1

in at 85.64 percent and Novi Meadows at 77.2 percent. Dion said rankings like these show that Novi is "one of the finest places in America to raise a family." However, just because the district has historically been recognized as a top school district, Dion is not going to stand pat.

"You can't hang your hat on one hook," he said.

Cathy Farris, PTO president at Novi Woods Elementary, said she was concerned about her special needs child transitioning into the district from Livonia but it has been "phenomenal."

Two of her four children are at Novi Woods, and Farris had nothing but praise for the staff who work one-on-one with students and communicate regularly with parents.

"We have great teachers and teamwork and all of the extras that go into it," she said. "The education they give is great."

The rankings released by the state are based on test scores and are part of the recent Race to the Top legislation.

At the top of the list in metro Detroit is Hoover Elementary in Livonia.

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Wed., Sept. 1.....4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

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Longtime school bus driver impacted lives of many

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Judy Coolman touched many people in her lifetime. But none were more important to her than children. Coolman, who died on Aug. 16 at the age of 73 after a fight with cancer, not only raised six children, but also impacted the lives of many more during her 30 years as a bus driver with the Novi Community School District.

retired for over 10 years and still was in close contact with many of the families and they came and spent time with her. Judy Coolman moved to Novi in 1967 with her children and began driving a bus in Novi in 1970. She was admired by her children for her strength and determination, raising six children on her own and refusing to take help. "My mom was the American dream," Tom said. "This was the land of opportunity and my mom became very successful. Even supporting and raising six kids, my mom always helped other people. She donated blood, she made food and she bought school supplies for



Judy Coolman was a bus driver with the Novi Community School District for 30 years.

other kids." Coolman also was a lifelong friend to many. She met Violet Bradley when they attended grade school together in Ferndale, and four years ago the two became neighbors at Fox Run in Novi. They went to dinner nearly every night together, and Bradley said she would have never moved there without Coolman.

"I'm going to miss my friendship with her the most," she said. Coolman is survived by her children Mike, Tom, Bob, Theresa Ronald, Gail Gandy and Judi Glenn. She also has several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A memorial service in her honor is set for 11 a.m. Saturday at Fox Run Performing Arts Theater in the Belmont Clubhouse. A lunch will follow the service.

nmuel@annett.com
(248) 437-2011 ext. 255

NOVI NEWSMAKERS

Farrell one of the best

Southfield-based Collins, Einhorn, Farrell & Ulanoff announced that five of its attorneys, including Novi's Clay Farrell, have been selected for inclusion in the 2010 edition of The Best Lawyers in America® 2011 as being among the best attorneys in their respective practice areas. Farrell concentrates his practice on multi-party, complex litigation, including litigation in the areas of environmental torts, product liability, toxic torts and emerging claims. The University of Detroit Mercy School of Law alum's trial experience spans more than three decades and includes approximately 100 cases to verdict. He serves as national coordinating counsel for a number of corporate clients. Farrell has served as a director on the board and as an officer of a lawyer's professional liability insurer.



Farrell

Allstate recognizes area entrepreneurs

Allstate Insurance Company is recognizing local Allstate agency owners for outstanding customer service and business results in 2009. Oakland county area Allstate agents were awarded either the Inner Circle, Chairman's or President's conference awards for various levels of achievement. Chairman's Conference Award: Professionals in this category were honored for high standards in customer satisfaction, customer retention and profitable business growth. This group represents 9 percent of Allstate Insurance agents nationally to reach this level of achievement, based on sales for auto, property and power sports insurance. Locals named were Bruce Faber and Eric Semer of Novi and Scott Sharp of Walled Lake. The President's Conference Award is a prestigious designation that recognizes 13 percent of agents nationally who demonstrated high standards in customer satisfaction, customer retention and profitable business growth in 2009. Locals named were William Harb of Novi, Kelly Weaver of Walled Lake and Skip Sampson of Wixom.

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SECTION B (NN)

SPORTS

THURSDAY, August 26, 2010 hometownlife.com

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Linebackers, running backs are returning core for Novi squad



First-year varsity football coach Todd Pennyuff tosses the ball to a halfback as Novi High practices on Aug. 17 in preparation for its first game on Aug. 27 at home.

New head coach looks to put program back on track

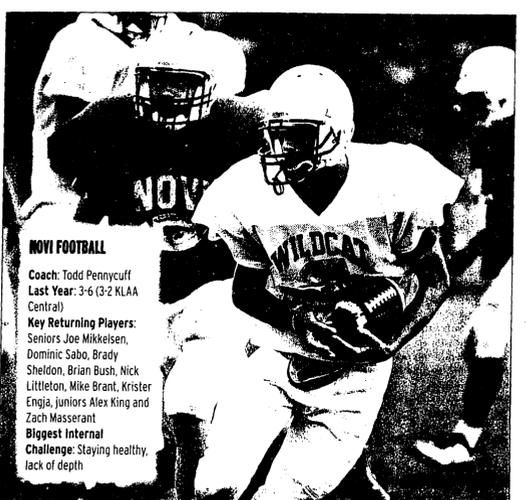
Novi's gridiron heroes are back in action, fully recovered from the injury-plagued 2009 season and ready to start building a strong program under first-year coach Todd Pennyuff. After spending three years as head coach of a new South Lyon East team, Pennyuff returns to his roots in Novi, where he is also a teacher. With 28 players graduated from last year's 3-6 squad, he immediately has his work cut out for him with the Wildcats.

However, several core pieces remain from last year, namely the defensive line and running backs.

"We are very pleased with the kids we have out playing. They're the hard workers," Pennyuff said.

Senior Mike Brant will be a clear leader on offense, returning 380 all-purpose yards of production from last year. In 2009, Brant had 293 yards on 59 carries -- an average of 32.6 yards per game -- while leading the team with five touchdowns. He also gained 87 yards in the air on five catches, largely due to his powerful legwork after the catch.

Senior Dominic Sabo also looks to build on a solid 18.8 yards-per-game average from last fall in which he gained 150 rushing yards on 52



The Novi High School varsity football team hits the field to practice on Aug. 17.

NOVI FOOTBALL

Coach: Todd Pennyuff
Last Year: 3-6 (3-2 KLAACentral)

Key Returning Players:
Seniors Joe Mikkelsen, Dominic Sabo, Brady Sheldon, Brian Bush, Nick Littleton, Mike Brant, Krister Engja, Juniors Alex King and Zach Masserant
Biggest Internal Challenge: Staying healthy, lack of depth

Golfers swinging for repeat trip to state finals

If there's one thing Novi's girls golf team isn't short on, it's experienced upperclassmen.

The Wildcats return six of the seven players they sent to the program's first-ever state meet visit last fall. There are a total of nine juniors and seniors vying for the six or seven starting positions, plus three talented underclassmen.

"We have a good core of players returning and some new ones that show promise," coach Debra Harris said. "We've got some freshmen on the bubble for that sixth and seventh position, giving the juniors and seniors a run for their money."

Harris, who enters her 18th season at the helm of the program, said the team's core five are expected to be seniors Megan Henry, Brooke Collins, Alyssa Miller, Victoria Tomkinson and junior Kathleen Koomen. All five, along with junior Jessica Tally, got valuable experience at last year's state meet.

"I feel we've got girls with experience coming back," Harris said. "I'm really hopeful we can have a shot at the league this year. South Lyon and Northville will be tough. South Lyon East is getting better."

Henry (shot 99, 87) and Collins (103, 106) are the only two returning players who competed in both days at the state meet, but are also expected to lead Novi this season. Splitting the team's final two spots at the state meet, the other four girls were able to get experience on the big stage; something Harris hopes will transition over and make them stronger this season.

"They did a lot more this summer than they've ever done before," Harris said. "Megan Henry played a lot of tournaments. Alyssa Miller has made great progress on her game. Brooke Collins has improved, shot 45 in tryout rounds."

In their one-day appearances at the state meet, Koomen shot a 106, Miller a 116 and Tomkinson a 117.

There are five student-athletes fighting for the final two spots in the rotation. Tally, who shot a 120 at the state meet, has strong competition from sophomore Allie Krick, senior Kaitlin Hogan and freshmen Lauren Cojell and Hannah Wagenberg.

"Once we get playing in competition, (Tally) usually rises to the occasion. I'm looking forward to Allie Krick stepping in. Lauren and Hannah are right there with similar or better scores," Harris said. "Kaitlin has improved. She's hoping to work into that sixth man. She's hoping to be part of that six."

Harris will use tomorrow's two invitationals in Hartland and Grosse Ile, as well as Monday's Lady Maverick Invitational at Prestwick Village in Highland, to select her lineup for Tuesday's dual opener at Livonia Stevenson and Wednesday's 9 p.m. dual meet against South Lyon at Riverbank Golf Club.

"I think we're going to be very competitive," Harris said. "The biggest challenge will be getting some of the upperclassmen into tournaments because there's no room to put them there."

Third-year program stocked with experience
Field Hockey moves up to Division 3

Novi's field hockey program won a division title in its second season (last year) and now a strong core of third-year players look to turn their experience into more victories in a tougher division.

After finishing 2009 with a 6-0-2 record in Division 4 (7-4-2 overall), the Wildcats hop into Division 3 with the likes

of the Washtenaw Whippets (Chelsea and Manchester united), Dearborn Edsel Ford, East Grand Rapids, Cranbrook Kingswood and Grosse Pointe North. Washtenaw dropped down from Division 2, while the other schools were all Division 3 last season.

Coach Amy Kilgore has developed Novi's program from the start, and several of her youngest players are now seniors looking to have one last, memorable season.

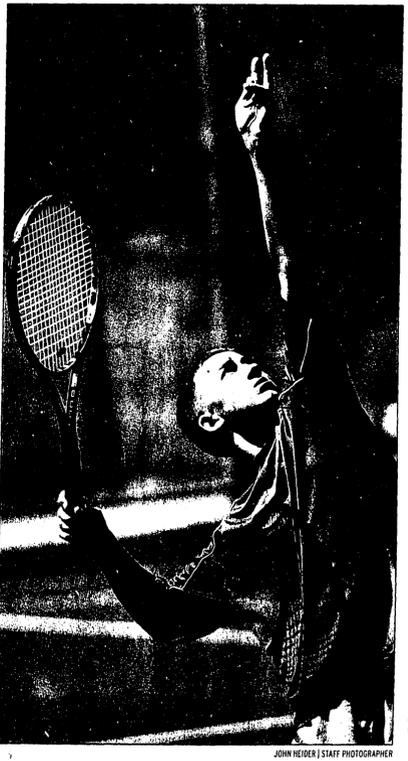
"The team is returning 13 players from last

year, so there are a lot of experienced players coming back," team manager Tom Pollard said.

Leading the large core of returnees are seniors Tin Farnon and Nikki Greenhalgh, both which earned All-Division honors last season.

Farnon is a co-captain whose three years of experience make her a vital part of Novi's defense.

"Very quick player, she transitions the ball from defense to offense very quickly," Pollard said.



Novi Wildcat Jason Carless serves during an Aug. 18 scrimmage.

Wildcat netters return strong doubles core

Novi's boys tennis squad returns a strong core, with eight players back from last year's team that finished fifth at the state finals.

The Wildcats will have a lot of familiar faces throughout the doubles ranks, but the quartet of singles players could be one of the youngest four in the area. Sophomore Pavan Rao will lead the team at one singles, while sophomore Jason Carless moves up from two doubles to play two singles. Freshmen Michael Chang and Andrew Ying will round out three and four singles, respectively.

"They're on the team because they're very good players. They're not freshmen in terms of their tennis ability. They played USTA (U.S. Tennis Association) for a number of years," coach Jim Hanson said. "It'll be a learning process for all of them. I think it's important to just be patient and work hard in practice."

Rao will have the toughest task as the Wildcats' top mark. He went 19-10 and advanced to the state quarterfinals at three singles last year.

"I think he'll do a nice job. He's got the opportunity to play the other schools' best players," said Hanson, who enters his 17th season with Novi.

Carless went 24-6 at two doubles last year, advancing to the state semifinals after winning the KLAAC and regional titles in his flight.

The Wildcats' veterans will fill the top three

FOOTBALL
FROM PAGE B1

carries. Junior Mike Jocz should return to the receiving corps after gaining 118 yards on eight catches last season, an average of 14.8 yards per catch. Juniors Derek Ince and Scott Kempa are battling for Novi's quarterback role. Senior Kyle Edwards was also in the race, but Pennycuff said he is more valuable as a wide receiver and defensive back. Edwards and senior Brian Bush are expected to step up into important roles this season after seeing limited time last year. Bush used the handwork gained from his time with the basketball team to lead the football team with four interceptions last fall. Edwards filled in as a running back with five yards on two runs last season, while both also contributed with punt returns on special teams. "We've got the kids that we want out," Pennycuff said. "We got guys who are going to have to play both sides of the ball." The Wildcats have the benefit of an established defensive line to start the season. Junior Alex King leads Novi's defense after an impressive sophomore season where he was third in unassisted tackles with 24, first in assisted tackles with 45 and 17 ahead of his teammates with 69 total tackles. He also had two sacks and a forced fumble. After packing on 15 pounds in the offseason, King promises to be a force this fall. Also returning to the defense are seniors Kristier Engle (32 tackles, five unassisted), two forced fumbles), Nick Littleton (31 tackles, nine unassisted), Joe Mikkelson (26 tackles, 13 unassisted), Brady Sheldon (21 tackles, 11 unassisted) and junior Zach Masserant (17 tackles, four

unassisted; two sacks). "Our two inside linebackers are returning," Pennycuff said of King and Engle. "They've established themselves from the get-go." The Wildcats spent last Thursday participating in a four-team, split-series scrimmage at Dearborn with Livonia Franklin, Dearborn and Saline. Although two schools would team up at a time to compete on different series with the other two schools, it gave Novi's squad a chance to analyze itself before the season opener 7 p.m. tomorrow at home against visiting Farmington Hills Harrison. "We saw some good things and we saw some things we need to improve on," Pennycuff said of the scrimmage. "We're just going to get better from week to week. Every day you try to get better from what you're doing the day before." Part of the transition from former coach Tab Kelleppour to Pennycuff is a smaller roster (44 players compared to 72 last season), which means the Wildcats will have a similarly sized sideline cast as their opponents and coaches will also be able to play closer with each individual student-athlete. "Our biggest challenge will be staying healthy, we don't have a lot of depth," Pennycuff said. Although Novi returns several key players, other KLAAs teams return even more, such as the Wildcats' baseline rivals, Northville, who Pennycuff sees as an instant threat in the KLAAs Central Division title race. "I got Northville, they're probably the best team," Pennycuff said. "I see them being a very strong opponent in the division and in the KLAAs."

Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and former Novi News staff writer.

TENNIS
FROM PAGE B1

doubles flights. Seniors Nathan Feroq and Greg Richard return to one doubles after going 27-3 in the same position last year. They were named All-State players after winning the KLAAs and regional titles, and advancing to the state semifinals. "Our team this year, we do have experience, but we're also young," Hanson said. "It's nice to have our own doubles team back this year." The two and three doubles flights are still being battled over between four veteran players. Juniors Bill Bell and Andrew Cho, who went 24-7 as state finalists and KLAAs champions at four doubles last year, split to partner with two other players. Bell is teaming with senior Alex Brizard, who was a state quarterfinalist at 21-8 in the four singles flight last season. Cho is paired with senior Chaitanya Kanitkar, who went 28-3 as a state semifinalist at three doubles last year. "Brizard and Billy wanted to play together. You have to want to play together and trust each other," Hanson said.

Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and former Novi News staff writer.



Novi Wildcat Andrew Ying plays in a scrimmage match on Aug. 18 at Novi Middle School's courts.

NOVI BOYS TENNIS

Coach: Jim Hanson
Last Year: 10-1 (5-0 KLAAs Central champion), Regional runners-up, tied for fifth at state finals
Key Returning Players: Sophomores Pavan Rao, Jason Carless, seniors Nathan Feroq, Greg Richard, Alex Brizard, Chaitanya Kanitkar, juniors Bill Bell and Andrew Cho
Biggest Internal Challenge: Developing young singles players
right in line with their abilities. "They're very close, there's not much difference between them. We definitely have some depth," Hanson said. "I've been pleased with how those kids have improved since last year." The "Cats look to have an edge in this season's baseline battle with a consistently strong Northville squad. The two teams finished side by side in the division, conference, region and 10 points apart at the state meet. The Mustangs finished 11th in Division 1 last year, but lost their doubles lineup and all four singles players to graduation. However, Hanson said Plymouth Salem returns 11

"We've got kids with experience in doubles. We're going to need contributions from everyone." There are four different pairs battling for the four and five doubles positions. Seven of those eight student-athletes played junior varsity last year, and the other is a freshman. Juniors Steven Kovacs and Brandon Sanders are competing with senior Harsha Gotur and junior Matt Pilat as the eldest two pairs, but sophomore Jon Thompson and freshman Kevin Xu, and sophomore Nishant Kakar and junior Vedant Ram, are also



Novi High School varsity soccer head coach Brian O'Leary, right, watches as his squad goes through a practice on Aug. 18. The Wildcat soccer team opened up its 2010 campaign on Aug. 20.

Novi kickers start season off strong

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT
NOVI BOYS SOCCER
Coach: Brian O'Leary
Last Year: 12-6-5 (3-2-5 KLAAs Central), District and Regional champions, lost to eventual state champion Birmingham Brother Rice in the state quarterfinals
Key Returning Players: Seniors Jon DeLeon, Jon Hart, Brian Herron and junior Chase Jabbori
Biggest Internal Challenge: Inexperience at the varsity level
A postseason run to the state quarterfinals ended last season with a loss to the eventual state champions, Birmingham Brother Rice. This fall, Novi returns 10 players from that team, including much of their defense and also leading scorer Chase Jabbori. The Junior had seven goals and nine assists last year, a decline from his freshman season because opponents often put two defenders on him. Senior captains Jon DeLeon, Jon Hart and Brian Herron are expected to be forces on defense, with DeLeon helping the transition game onto offense as a midfielder. With eight student-athletes graduated from the 2009 squad, the Wildcats had some big holes to fill, namely in the mid-field and with a goalkeeper — a task senior Wes Smith has taken on this season. "Our biggest challenge at the start of the season will be our inexperience at the varsity level," coach Brian O'Leary said. "With only 10 returning players, that means one of my starters and all of my subs will be playing varsity high school soccer for the first time." "This is quite a challenge because in club soccer they ever do it play against kids their own age and rarely do they face entire teams of players that are older, faster, bigger and stronger." With seven players moving up from junior varsity and two freshmen joining the squad, O'Leary enters his 14th season with a question mark similar to that of several other KLAAs Central Division teams. Northville, Plymouth Salem and Livonia Stevenson have all had strong teams the past two years as well, but just like Novi, they have also graduated key talent off the field. "Our division in the league this year is wide open because so many teams lost a lot of seniors and are younger this year and thus inexperienced," O'Leary said. "It is probably the toughest division in the entire state with Northville, Salem, Stevenson, South Lyon and us all having their sights on doing well and in the order we finish is anybody's guess at this point." Novi found themselves third in the division last year after a series of intense defensive showdowns with the Wildcats with a 3-2-5 division record (12-6-5 overall).

Senior captains Jon DeLeon, Jon Hart and Brian Herron are expected to be forces on defense, with DeLeon helping the transition game onto offense as a midfielder. With eight student-athletes graduated from the 2009 squad, the Wildcats had some big holes to fill, namely in the mid-field and with a goalkeeper — a task senior Wes Smith has taken on this season. "Our biggest challenge at the start of the season will be our inexperience at the varsity level," coach Brian O'Leary said. "With only 10 returning players, that means one of my starters and all of my subs will be playing varsity high school soccer for the first time." "This is quite a challenge because in club soccer they ever do it play against kids their own age and rarely do they face entire teams of players that are older, faster, bigger and stronger." With seven players moving up from junior varsity and two freshmen joining the squad, O'Leary enters his 14th season with a question mark similar to that of several other KLAAs Central Division teams. Northville, Plymouth Salem and Livonia Stevenson have all had strong teams the past two years as well, but just like Novi, they have also graduated key talent off the field. "Our division in the league this year is wide open because so many teams lost a lot of seniors and are younger this year and thus inexperienced," O'Leary said. "It is probably the toughest division in the entire state with Northville, Salem, Stevenson, South Lyon and us all having their sights on doing well and in the order we finish is anybody's guess at this point." Novi found themselves third in the division last year after a series of intense defensive showdowns with the Wildcats with a 3-2-5 division record (12-6-5 overall).

Girls cross country squad balancing strong lineup

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT
The girls cross country team is used to going the distance on the track, but the talent is in place for the Wildcats to challenge for a postseason run as well. Novi returns a talented core highlighted by sophomore Jackie Mullins, who set the school record in the 5-kilometer run as a freshman last year in 18 minutes and 27.9 seconds. She set the record at Regionals, which took place at Huron Meadows Metro Park in Brighton. Mullins leads a strong team that also has a core of four seniors. Brooke McMahon sixth-year head coach Marsha Reid. "Bridget and Alyssa have come in and looked strong. There's four or five freshmen that, in practice, are keeping up with them." Freshmen Keri McMahon, Victoria Cortez, Kar Grandstaff, Karissa Koomen and Christa Schaefer are expected to be immediate factors at varsity meets. "I have a lot of freshmen who are probably going to contribute," Reid said. "The potential is there. We definitely yelled more as a team and have a different focus than last year." "They've done a nice job training," said

Smith's runners light on experience

Young cross country squad to defend several invite titles.

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT
NOVI BOYS CROSS COUNTRY
Coach: Robert Smith
Last Year: 5-0 KLAAs Central champions, Kensington Conference champions, Oakland County runners-up, 10th in state
Key Returning Runners: Seniors Joe Schubring and Brett Giampa
Biggest Internal Challenge: Inexperience - two-thirds of the roster consists of first-year runners with only one year of experience
before a postseason run resulted in third-place Regional and 10th place state meet finishes. "The KLAAs has proven to be the top league in the state for cross country. Almost every year since 1996 the KVC and now the KLAAs have produced the state champion team or the state runners-up," Smith said. "Northville looks like the team to beat this season. They return a very solid lineup." Novi's team has been getting into the swing of things with 8 a.m. runs at Maybury State Park and Cass Benton (their home course) in Northville, and around the streets of Novi. The Wildcats race into competitive action 9:30 a.m. Saturday at Island Lake State Park when they attempt to defend their title at the South Lyon Invitational. Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and former Novi News staff writer.

EARLY SUCCESS

The team is off to a strong start for the 2010 campaign after defeating Ann Arbor Huron 2-1 last Friday and then sneaking three victories out of the Grosse Pointe Soccer Invitational Saturday. The Wildcats defeated Dearborn 2-0, Grosse Pointe South 1-0 and Ann Arbor Skyline 3-1 to bring Novi's record to 4-0-0 early in the season. "The first contest against Huron was close, as the Wildcats were outshot 11-0, but had a 6-5 shots-on-goal advantage." Junior Chris Park took a first-half corner kick and hit junior Phil Soong in the middle with a Huron defender. The ball popped out to junior Dan Lumley, who played it back into the middle of the goalmouth and Soong one-timed it into the goal for a half-time lead. After Huron tied the game in the sec-

CROSS COUNTRY
FROM PAGE B2

its best lineup forward to compete in an increasingly tough division. "Our division has gotten significantly harder, Northville and Salem definitely, Salem graduated one senior last year. They were the only team that beat us in a dual meet format. Northville has several key seniors returning," Reid said. "Hartland, who qualified for states as a team last year, has been moved over to our region. We're a hard region to get out of for the state meet." Mullins was the only Wildcat to qualify for the state meet individually last year after the team fell short at Regionals. Novi was 10th at the state meet in 2008, Reid said. "I think a lot of girls who went a year before as a team are a little bit hungrier," Reid said. "When push comes to shove, we'll see who comes out on top." The Wildcats will get their first taste of competition 4:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Mustang Invitational at Cass Benton Park in Northville. Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and former Novi News staff writer.

FALL 2010 HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY SPORTS SCHEDULES

NOVI WILDCATS FOOTBALL		GIRLS GOLF	
8/27	Farmington Hills Harrison	All meets at 3 p.m. unless noted	
9/2	@ Walled Lake Western	8/27	8 a.m. @ Hartland JV Invitational (Hartland Glen)
9/10	@ Livonia Stevenson	8/27	9 a.m. @ Fred Appleyard Invitational (West Shore)
9/17	@ Plymouth Salem	8/30	9 a.m. @ Lady Maverick Invitational (Prestwick Village)
9/24	South Lyon East	8/31	@ Livonia Stevenson
10/1	South Lyon	9/1	@ South Lyon (Riverbank)
10/8	@ Northville	9/8	@ South Lyon East (Links of Novi)
10/15	Kensington Crossover	9/10	Northville (Cattails)
10/22	Carman-Ainsworth	9/14	@ Plymouth Salem (Fox Hills)
		9/15	Livonia Stevenson (Cattails)
		TBA	South Lyon (Cattails)
		9/22	8 a.m. @ Oakland County (Pontiac Country Club)
		9/23	South Lyon East (Cattails)
		9/25	9 a.m. @ Bedford Invitational (Bedford Hills)
		9/27	@ Northville (Tanglewood)
		9/29	Plymouth Salem (Cattails)
		10/5	TBA @ Kensington Conference Championships
		10/7	TBA @ MHSAA Regionals (Tanglewood)
		10/15-16	10 a.m. @ MHSAA States (EMU's Eagle Crest)
VOLLEYBALL		FIELD HOCKEY	
All matches 7 p.m. unless noted		All games at 4:30 p.m. unless noted	
8/24	5 p.m. Novi Quad (Brighton, Chelsea, Mariani)	8/24	@ Dexter
8/28	8:30 a.m. @ Dakota Invitational (Elite Sports Center)	8/26	@ Farmington
9/8	4:30 p.m. @ Milford Quad (Lakeland, Milford, Saline)	8/30	@ Detroit Country Day
9/14	@ Livonia Stevenson	9/9	Ann Arbor Pioneer
9/23	South Lyon	9/16	Cranbrook Kingswood
9/30	@ Northville	9/18	Dearborn Edsel Ford
10/7	Livonia Stevenson	9/18	10 a.m. @ East Grand Rapids
10/14	@ South Lyon East	9/18	1 p.m. @ East Grand Rapids
10/16	8:30 a.m. @ Beast of the East Tournament (Elite Sports Center)	9/23	7:30 p.m. @ Grosse Pointe North
10/19	Northville	9/28	Washtenaw Whippets
10/21	@ Plymouth Salem	10/30	@ Cranbrook Kingswood
10/23	9 a.m. @ Conference Tournament (Canton)	10/31	4:15 p.m. @ Dearborn Edsel Ford
10/28	Association Crossover	10/14	4:15 p.m. @ Washtenaw Whippets
		10/16	4:15 p.m. @ Grosse Pointe North
		10/18	4:15 p.m. @ Mercy
BOYS SOCCER		EQUESTRIAN	
All games at 7 p.m.		All meets 7:15 a.m. at Huron Valley	
8/20	Ann Arbor Huron	Equestrian Club in Milford unless noted	
8/24	Pinckney	9/1	10 a.m. @ Mini-Meet
8/26	Canton	9/11	@ Meet #1
9/1	Brighton	9/18	@ Meet #2
9/7	@ Plymouth Salem	9/25	@ Meet #3
9/9	@ Livonia Stevenson	10/2	TBA @ MHA Regional (Shiawassee)
9/14	@ South Lyon	10/14-17	TBA @ MHA State Championship (Midland)
9/16	South Lyon		
9/17	Grosse Pointe North		
9/21	Northville		
9/23	Plymouth Salem		
9/28	Livonia Stevenson		
9/30	South Lyon		
10/5	@ South Lyon East		
10/7	@ Northville		
10/11	Kensington Crossover		
10/13	Association Crossover		
BOYS TENNIS		FOOTBALL	
All meets at 4 p.m. unless noted		All games at 7 p.m. unless noted	
8/24	8 a.m. @ Rochester Invitational	8/27	Dearborn Fordson
8/31	Northville	8/28	@Hudsonville
9/1	@ South Lyon East	9/10	Inkster
9/2	8 a.m. @ Ann Arbor Pioneer Invitational	9/17	Divine Child
9/8	South Lyon	9/26	1 p.m. DeLaSalle (Boys' Bowl)
9/9	@ Plymouth Salem	10/1	@University of Detroit Jesuit
9/11	8 a.m. Novi Quad (Cranbrook Kingswood, Grosse Pointe South, West Bloomfield)	10/10	2 p.m. @Brother Rice
9/14	Livonia Stevenson	10/16	7:30 p.m. @Orchard Lake St. Mary's
9/16	@ Saline	10/23	TBA @Prep Bowl
9/21	Crossover vs South		
9/23	Crossover @ North		
9/25	8 a.m. Novi Invitational (Ann Arbor Huron, Birmingham Brother Rice, Troy)		
9/28	Crossover vs West		
9/30	4:10 p.m. @ Detroit Country Day		
10/2	TBA @ Conference Tournament		
10/5	TBA @ Association Tournament		
GIRLS SWIMMING		CROSS-COUNTRY	
Brother Rice, Troy		8/28	10:30 a.m. @Lansing Catholic Central (Invitational)
9/1	6 p.m. Marian	9/1	4 p.m. Mustang Invitational
9/1	6 p.m. Farmington	9/11	10:30 a.m. @West Bloomfield (Invitational)
9/11	9 a.m. @ Laker Invitational (West Bloomfield)	9/13	4:15 p.m. Orchard Lake St. Mary's and DeLaSalle
9/16	6:30 p.m. Plymouth Salem	9/18	12:00 p.m. @Holly (Invitational)
9/23	6:30 p.m. @ Livonia Stevenson	9/20	4:30 p.m. @Brother Rice
9/30	6:30 p.m. @ South Lyon East	9/25	11:30 a.m. Catholic Central Invitational
10/1-2	TBA @ Oakland County Championships (Waterford Matt)	9/26	4:30 p.m. University of Detroit Jesuit
10/12	6 p.m. Grosse Pointe South	10/9	10:30 a.m. @Catholic League Championship
10/14	6 p.m. Northville	10/16	10 a.m. @Sturgis (Invitational)
10/21	6 p.m. Walled Lake Northern	10/23	11 a.m. @Catholic League Championship
10/29	TBA @ Division Meet-Diving	10/26	4:30 p.m. @Operational Friendship Championship
10/30	12 p.m. @ Division Meet	10/29	4:30 p.m. @State Regional Championship
11/5	TBA @ KLAAs Conference Meet-Swim & Dive	11/6	TBA State Championship
11/6	TBA @ KLAAs Conference Meet-Swim & Dive		
BOYS CROSS COUNTRY		SOCCER	
All meets at 4 p.m. unless noted		All games at 7:30 p.m. unless noted	
8/28	9:30 a.m. @ South Lyon Invitational (Island Lake State Park)	8/21	10 a.m. @Balconi Invitational
9/14	South Lyon (Cass Benton Park)	8/31	7 p.m. @Clarkston
9/17	TBA @ Spartan Invitational	9/3	4 a.m. @Divine Child
9/21	@ South Lyon East	9/7	Orchard Lake St. Mary's
9/24	@ Anchor Bay Invite	9/9	Brother Rice
9/25	9 a.m. @ Walled Lake Western Invitational (Gilbert Willis Park)	9/14	7 p.m. @DeLaSalle
9/28	Northville (Cass Benton)	9/16	7 p.m. @University of Detroit Jesuit
10/5	@ Plymouth Salem	9/21	@Notre Dame Prep
10/9	TBA @ Oakland County Meet	9/23	Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard
10/12	Livonia Stevenson (Cass Benton)	9/28	5:30 p.m. @Brother Rice
10/21	4:30 p.m. @ Conference Meet	9/30	DeLaSalle
10/29	TBA @ MHSAA Regional	10/5	University of Detroit
11/2	4:30 p.m. @ Lakeland 9th & 10th Invitational	10/18-23	TBA State Districts
		10/26-30	TBA State Regionals
		11/3	TBA State Semifinals
		11/6	TBA State Finals
GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY		TENNIS	
All meets at 4:30 p.m. unless noted		All games at 4 p.m. unless noted	
9/1	4:30 p.m. @ Mustang Invitational (Cass Benton Park)	8/21	@Forest Hills Central Tournament
9/11	TBA @ KLAAs Cross Invitational (Willow Metropark)	8/24	Detroit Country Day
9/14	South Lyon (Cass Benton)	9/25	Saline
9/17	TBA @ Spartan Invitational	9/28	8 a.m. @Grand Blanc Invitational
9/21	4 p.m. @ South Lyon East	8/30	@Brother Rice
9/25	9 a.m. @ Walled Lake Western Invitational (Gilbert Willis Park)	9/1	Cranbrook
9/28	Northville (Cass Benton)	9/11	8:30 a.m. @Saline Invitational
10/5	@ Plymouth Salem	9/16	@DeLaSalle
10/9	TBA @ Oakland County Meet	9/18	8 a.m. Catholic Central Invitational
10/12	Livonia Stevenson (Cass Benton)	9/21	Ann Arbor Pioneer
10/19	TBA @ Oakland County Meet	9/23	@West Bloomfield
10/21	Livonia Stevenson (Cass Benton)	9/27	@Ann Arbor Huron
10/21	@ Conference Meet	10/2	TBA @CHSL Tournament
10/29	TBA @ MHSAA Regional	10/4	Grosse Pointe South
11/2	4 p.m. @ Lakeland 9th & 10th Invitational	10/8	TBA State Regional Finals
		10/15-16	TBA State Finals

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Catholic Central taking one step at a time

Division I state title defense isn't even on his mind at this point

BY SAM EGGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

With decades upon decades of experience under his belt as the head coach of the Catholic Central Shamrocks, Tom Mach has gotten good at several things: Winning state championships, training football players and, of course, dealing with the media.

That's why Mach's teams always know that when they open up the fall preview section of any paper, no matter how well the sports writer knows their coach, they are only going to be reading the same things that their coach preaches to them each and every day at practice—one game at a time.

"The first goal is to win the first game and get that experience, then to get better each week," says Mach when asked about his season goals. "We're coming in with a little less game experience than the kids did the year before."

Last year the Shamrocks were simply unstoppable. They piled up a 14-0 overall record as they cruised unhindered to the state championship. They put up a 4-0 mark in the Catholic High School League. They relied on defense to do the dirty work while the offense put up enough points to win, no matter who the opponent was.

Last year was a unique group of young men that blended well with good talent," said Mach, who openly admitted last season that his backfield was one of the most talented, if not the most talented, he had ever coached. "This year we're working on the same premise of teamwork and hard work."

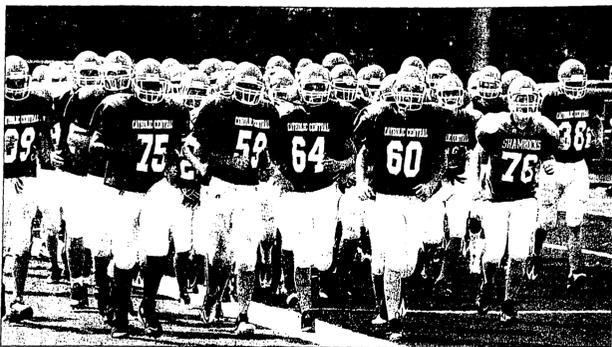
"The first goal is to win the first game and get that experience, then to get better each week."

TOM MACH, CC football coach



Catholic Central head football coach Tom Mach prepares for another Shamrock fall season during this Aug. 20 practice at their Novi field.

Leading by example will be tenacious linebacker/running back Justin D'Agostino, while tight end George Darany will make a fine target and offensive linemen Brandon Tammaro



The Catholic Central Shamrocks run a lap during an Aug. 20th practice as they prepare for their fall 2010 schedule.

CC FOOTBALL

Coach: Tom Mach

Last Year: 14-0 overall, 4-0 CHSL, Division I State Champions

Key Returning Players: Justin D'Agostino, George Darany, Andy Erickson, Justin Messner, Andrew Nelson, Brandon Tammaro, Nathan Wilkins

and Nathan Wilkins hope to make plenty of big holes to the end zone. Greg Voutsos is also back from last year as a receiver and defensive back. Also seeing time in the backfield will likely be returners Andrew Nelson, who also plays in the defensive backfield, and Justin Messner, who also patrols the defense as a linebacker. Joining them this year are: J.D.

Field (WR), Mike Birney (QB), Pat McCarthy (WR/DB/K), Gerald Perreault (WR/DB), Randall Hamlin (WR/DB), Mike Shields (WR/DB), Kyle Cooper (QB), Matt Longe (WR/DB), Neck Ebrat (WR/DB), Brandon Sullivan (WR/DB), Dan Vigi (RB/DB), Jeff Suge (RB/DB), Aaron Hess (WR/DB), Alex Kozlovski (RB/DB), Charise Berend (WR/DB), Patrick Collins (RB/DB), Michael Walukas (WR/DB), Vincenzo Demaria (RB/DB), Brendan McCleary (TE/LB), Stone Monarch (DL/RB), Trent Wisener (WR/DB), Michael Schultz (RB/LB), Anthony Darkangelo (RB/LB), Loui Diponio (RB/LB), Scott Bryne (TE/DB), David Racey, WR/DB, Evan Andreski (WR/DB), Kevin Beazley (TE/LB), Nick Holton (OG/LB), Josh Carolin (WR/DB), Clay Behrman (RB/LB), Brett Gardner (OLB), Wyatt Shallman (RB/DB),

Anthony Provagna (C/DT), Matt Schertzer (RB/LB), Marshall Hart (G/LB), Andrew Breugh (G/DE), Vaughn Wesley (G/DT), Domenico Giovanni (T/DB), Connor Lemko (G/DT), Chris Bachert (OG/DE), Matthew Golin (OT/DT), Samuel Vaitkevicius (G/DE), Dan Mixer (OL/DL), Mark Becker (G/DT), Robert Coe (OL/DT), John Lawless (G/DE), Jake Widmer (OT/DE), Garret Wiska (C/DT), Patrick Wolfer (OT/DT), Andrew Edillo (OG/DT), Jordan Gates (C/DT), Mike Mosley (OL/DL), Marco Tanarelli (OL/DL), Brendan Hannah (OL/DL), Robert Ault (TE/DE), Matthew Doneth (TE/DE), Kevin Parker (WR/DB/K), Dylan Weil (WR/LB), Bob Green (TE/DE), Armen Neresian (DT), Ian Mular (DT) and Jamal Jasser (TE/DE).

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News.

Shamrocks tennis brings back loads of experience

Standout Joe Dube' to reprise role as first singles star

BY SAM EGGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

No one is going to argue that Detroit Catholic Central is the team to beat in the Catholic League and, perhaps, the state this season.

Of course, they don't have to look far to make that decision: Returning for yet another campaign at No. 1 singles is the amazingly tough Joe Dube'. On one hand, it's hard to believe that Dube' is a senior, considering he's been the underclassman standout for the past three years. On the other, it's hard to believe he's back yet again for the Shamrocks, mostly thanks to his outstanding record of 60-2 and earning a trip to the state finals in the toughest

flight each of the past two years.

A little farther down the line-up, Eric Chisari catches the eye of the tennis fans out there. Guidi, a junior, is the returning state champion from No. 4 singles last year. This season, however, he's stepped up a flight to play in three singles.

Willy Willson and Kevin Hodges, last year's No. 2 and No. 3 singles players, respectively, have teamed up this year and will be playing at No. 1 doubles for the Shamrocks this year.

"This group of young men are hungry to win a team state title," said coach Joe Stafford. "They have committed themselves to improving their skills in the off-season

and ready to get a quick start this season."

A sign that's rather unsettling to fans of the Shamrocks this year stands ready to play at No. 2 singles. Freshman Michael Dube' will be looking to show that his brother's success is all about good genes as he hopes to help make it a one-two punch this year.

Playing for singles for Catholic Central this year is Michael Trupiano, a sophomore, while senior Tim Hoffman will be playing at No. 5 singles.

Playing at No. 2 doubles will be senior Greg Pilchak and freshman Peter Harris, while seniors Brandon Kosinski and Derek Mumaw team up at three doubles to help the Shamrocks to their goals.

At four doubles, senior Zach Wisniewski and junior Matt Hermiz will be teaming up, while seniors Joe Muscat and Kevin Weganka will play at five doubles.

"We have a lot of juniors and seniors on this team with a lot of varsity experience," said Stafford.

The key this year for the Shamrocks will be playing, and defeating, every team on their schedule who has them circled as the team to beat to prove their prowess on the court. With that in mind, the Shamrocks are going to treat each game like it's their most important.

"We do not underestimate anyone," said Stafford. "We expect Novi, Rother Rice and the Ann Arbor schools to be

CC TENNIS

Coach: Joe Stafford

Last Year: 7-2-3, Catholic League Division I champs, MHSAA Regional champs

Coach: Brian McNeff

Key Returning Players: Joe Dube' (No. 1 singles), Willy Willson (No. 1 doubles), Eric Guidi (No. 3 singles)

Biggest Challenge: Winning a state title

tough competition. We have been focusing on playing smart and playing together. We understand that it is going to take a complete team effort from everyone in the program to accomplish our goals."

The Shamrocks have already started their season off on the right foot, winning the Forrest Hills Central Invitational last week with 21 points. Taking a tie for second were Forrest Hills Central and Forrest Hills Northern and East Grand Rapids, each with 15 points.

In seven of the eight flights played, Catholic Central made it to the final and won six of them.

"This tournament was a strong start to our season," said Stafford, who is in his eighth season as head coach. "We played some of the best teams from the west side of the state. It was a good early season test for us and I am proud of the way we competed."

Flight winners included Michael Dube', Guidi, Trupiano, Willson and Hodges, Kosinski and Mumaw and Wisniewski and Hermiz.

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News.

Core returns from championship team Shamrocks soccer focus: Teamwork

Staying healthy key to squad this season Team without superstar player this year

BY SAM EGGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

After 38 years of coaching at Catholic Central High School, Tony Magni is no stranger to having coached a lot of boys.

"This year, however, he's going to have to coach a lot of boys and all at once."

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks cross country team boasts nearly 80 hurriers on this year's squad.

"Our numbers are close to 80 boys on the team," said Magni. "Should be fun training all those boys."

Magni's idea of fun might be a bit of a nightmare for some coaches, but Magni has a unique way of looking at things compared to most. Maybe that's one of the reasons he was able to train so many athletes last year and still win a Division I state championship?

"This year, he will have plenty of returning talent from that team that will not only help lead his massive squad, but will be the core of their attempt to win the Catholic League and make a run at defending their state title."

Coming back from last year's title team are Andrew Garcia-Garrison, Austin Zebrowski, John-Paul Zebrowski and MacKenzie Boyd.

CC CROSS COUNTRY

Coach: Tony Magni

Last Season: Division I State Champions

Key Returning Players: Andrew Garcia-Garrison, Austin Zebrowski, John-Paul Zebrowski and MacKenzie Boyd

Biggest Challenge: Staying healthy

Danny Davard, Sergio Troiani, Steven Turzewski, Mark Buzzy, Brian Carlson, Matt Carney, Jacob Connell, Preston Fely, Patrick Folk, Cole Forfiniski, Gunner Gail, Evan Hicks, Joseph Hudson, Ryan Hurley, Mark Karabadjikian, Christian Kuzdak, Nicholas Lanzetta, Sean Larson, Jack Malinowski, Jeremy Moniz, Brad Nelson, Brian Nordstrom, Joe Obarzanek, Mitchell Oleski, Dominic Russel, Liam Schilling, Alex Slavsky, Collin Smalley, matt Solarz, Kule Thompson, Andrew Toloff, Mitchel Vitez, Nathan Wilson, Eric Zughaib, Joey Abeska, Kevin Belanger, Liam Burke, Joey DeMaria, Bryan Ducolos, Ben Ebaugh, Jake Furrnoga, Blake Games, Michael Higgins, Steven Katojase, Gabriel Kokoszka, Nathan Lawra, Jy Mansfield, Nicholas Merruci, Sean McGowan, John Mulcahy, Ryan O'Connor, Nicholas Pettengill, Matthew Pochowicz, Zach Racine, Neil Robinson, Simon Shanks, Jay Silberski, Sean Stanners, Alec Tarnacki and Collin Thompson.

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Novi News and Northville Record.

CC SOCCER

Coach: Joe Nora

Last Year: 11-4-3

Key Returners: Alex Lang, Mike Tolkaec, Gino Pulice, Jon Malecke, Dominic Salinas, Ryan Majsak, Billy Riga, Andrew Bock, Garrett Biddinger, Josh Gage, Christian Burke and Kenny Hintz

Biggest Challenge: Playing as a team

It's a strange roster the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks boys soccer team is handing out this year. Glaringly missing is the name Josh Gatt.

"That's right. He finally graduated and is chasing the professional soccer dream in Europe these days."

While there's no one denying that the Shamrocks are going to miss Gatt and all his capabilities, coach Joe Nora admits that his graduation will require the soccer squad to change their strategy a bit.

"The key will be playing as a team and everyone contributing everyday," said Nora, who is in his eighth year at Catholic Central.

"We put a lot on Gatt's shoulders the past few years, so we'll have to learn how to compete as a collective unit across the board."

It's not as though the Shamrocks don't have the ability to play with everyone on their schedule this year. Their talent base alone is impressive, let alone the experience of the returning players. Alex Lang, Mike Tolkaec,

Gina Pulice, Jon Malecke, Dominic Salinas, Ryan Majsak, Billy Riga, Andrew Bock, Garrett Biddinger, Josh Gage, Christian Burke and Kenny Hintz are all back this season and most of them were constant names on the stat sheet last year.

"We have some experienced returning players and some skilled new players," said Nora. "We're starting to gel, and it's nice to see."

The Shamrocks, who unexpectedly bowed out of last year's playoff early, will still have quite the schedule throughout the regular season. They're not too worried though.

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News.

Volleyball team has postseason potential

Most of 43-win squad returns

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

Nine of 14 girls return from last year's KLA A Kensington Conference champion volleyball squad at Novi, promising similar success this fall.

As Julie Fisette enters her 19th season as Novi's volleyball coach, her team will look to improve on a 43-9 record that included a 10-0 Central Division run and district championship.

"We look very, very good. I definitely think this team is state final material," Fisette said.

The Wildcats return a very strong core of players from a squad that finished 11th in Class A last year.

Senior outside hitter Erica Robb led the team in kills last year, while senior setter Laura Subject led the team in both aces and assists for each of the past two years. Junior middle blocker Katie Enright led the team in blocks and was second in kills last year.

"There's a lot of upperclassmen that are coming back," Fisette said. "They look great. I'm really happy with them. We're very strong. We play great together. It looks like they've always played together."

Junior setter Anna Lu setting, junior middle blocker Victoria Rose and senior libero Erin Hoomaian are also expected to play much more prominent roles this season after coming in off the bench much of last year.

"We had a great summer turnout and we will start off very experienced and talented," Fisette said. "Bringing it all together to play as one will be our first hurdle to overcome."

One of the biggest improvements Fisette said in the offseason was from senior outside hitter Savannah Green, who came on with a defensive role late last season.



JOHN HEDGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A Novi varsity volleyball player practices with her team as they prepare for the fall 2010 season.

"I think Savannah Green has come back this season and will probably take over my outside hitter spot," Fisette said. "Now she's come in and she's strong at the net and her defense has improved and her hitting is strong."

A handful of varsity newcomers are also expected to add athleticism to Novi's squad.

Junior outside hitter Lesley Harrington, junior middle blocker Alyson Ryan, sophomore outside hitter Kacey Sheldon and sophomore Carrie Subject move up from the junior varsity squad, while freshman outside hitter Isabelle Glancy comes in from the middle school.

"Isabelle Glancy is very strong. Great outside hitter, his right," Fisette said. "They all have the Novi way; great attitudes and fun on the court."

Green, Harrington, Sheldon and Glancy will work the outside hitter position vacan-

NOVI VOLLEYBALL

Coach: Julie Fisette

Last Year: 43-9 (10-0 KLA A Central champions), Kensington Conference runners-up, District champions

Key Returning Players: Seniors Erica Robb, Laura Subject and junior Katie Enright

Biggest Internal Challenge: Teaching newcomers the strategic habits, such as who to pass to in different situations

cy left by graduate Allison Hoomaian, while Ryan and Rose fill the middle blocker role left by graduate Julia Thomas.

"I'm really impressed at how we're already playing Novi ball. We're focused and I'm just looking forward to a great season," Fisette said. "I think Salem is probably a big menace and South Lyon's supposed to be real good this year. Stevenson's a real scrappy team and Northville's rebuilding, which doesn't mean they won't be good."

Fisette said White Lake Lakeland and Livonia Churchill — who finished last season 10th and 12th, respectively, in Class A — will be threats for the KLA A crown, but she's also looking at the big picture, with state title competition coming from Farmington Hills Mercy and Bloomfield Hills Marian, who finished 15th and first. Of the four, all but Livonia were in the Class A semifinals last November, and Marian won the state title over Portage Central.

"Overall around, you're already looking at Mercy and Marian," Fisette said. "Our program looks very solid again."

The Wildcats started the season last Tuesday with a Novi-hosted quad meet against Brighton, Chelsea and Marian. The team will be in action 8:30 a.m. Saturday in the Dakota Invitational at Ellis Sports Center.

Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and former Novi News staff writer.

Novi tankers return young, successful core

New diving coach hired to develop program

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

A freshmen-led resurgence spurred Novi's girls swim and dive team to a fifth-place finish at last year's Division I state finals.

With seven of eight individual state qualifiers returning, the Wildcats are on pace for another strong season under newly assigned interim head coach Eric Lynn.

Lynn, who is the boys' coach and served as the girls' assistant the past two years, took over the team last Monday for Scott Teeters, who turned over the position Aug. 1 after three seasons as head coach with Southfield Public Schools, where he teaches during the day.

A familiar face to the program, Lynn will also have assistants Ken Stark and Chris Capuano returning this fall, adding in a seamless transition. The program also hired former Oakland University and Southfield-based Detroit Country Day School coach Ingrid Mayer on Monday to work with Novi's growing diving program.

"Adjusting to a new head coach was my big concern, but it's not a concern anymore. Getting our divers to score at leagues meets more (is my main concern now)," Lynn said. "There's a lot of talent and a lot of experience. We're looking to transition them into points."

A young group of divers consisted of all sophomores and freshmen last year. A year older, the Wildcats will look to sophomores Rachel Aepelbacher, Jillian Odum and Lauren Harrington to continue building the diving portion of the team. Aepelbacher had a team-best 307.5 score in the 11-dive KLA A Kensington Conference meet and Odum had a team-best 184.72 score during the six-dive dual meets. Both variations dive from 1 meter.

The performing divers will join a strong core of Novi swimmers led by sophomore Andrea VanderMey, the defending state champion in the 100-yard backstroke. VanderMey was impressive in several events last year. In addition to her personal best of 56.07 seconds in the 100 backstroke, VanderMey swam the 200 freestyle in 52.93 seconds, 200 individual medley in 2:06.52 and the 50-yard backstroke in 26.51 seconds.

Fellow sophomores Maranda Buha, Kelsey Shurmur and Kara Berg also return state meet experience to the squad. Buha's strengths were in the 50 free (23.99), 100 free (33.73), 100 fly (57.87) and 200 IM (2:16.46). Shurmur was strong in the 100 free (59.87), 200 free (2:02.90), 50 fly (27.01) and 100 fly (1:02.13). Berg was a freestyle specialist, with times of 24.97 seconds in the 50 free and 56.88 seconds in the 100 free.

"They're looking small, but they're looking strong. All the key components are still there," Lynn said. "Right now, I'm feeling pretty confident. I think we should be good."

Becca Berman leads a strong group of seniors. She had solid times in the 50 free (24.99), 100 free (55.03), 200 free (2:00.56) and 100 fly (57.91) last season, but Lynn also credited her as one of three senior swimmers who really stepped up a notch in the offseason.

"Becca Berman really did and she was already outstanding last year," Lynn said. "Abby Glenn made some huge improvements."

Although Glenn didn't qualify for last year's state meet, she had times of 28.20 in the 50 free, 2:07.28 in the 200 free and 5:37.91 in the 500 free. Lynn also credited senior Jacque Carless for her hard work in the offseason. A state qualifier in the 500-yard freestyle in 5:23.81, Carless also is a regular in the 100 free (59.60), 200 free (2:02.30) and 200 IM (2:24.92).

"The team's looking pretty good, coming in pretty strong right now," said Stark, in his eighth season as Wildcat assistant. "We lost a little bit of depth from last year. Our experience should help carry us through this season."

Stark also expects senior state qualifier Maralyn Buha and seniors Sarah Sultana and Rachel Park to put in strong performances this season. Like her sister and Berg, Madalyn Buha focused on the 50 free (24.50) and 100 free (57.23) events.

Both Lynn and Stark see last season's top Central Division teams repeating as the biggest competition this year.

"I think they're looking pretty tough. The usual suspects will be in the mix; Stevenson, Northville. I expect them to be strong," Stark said. Lynn added, "The main focus is going to be on Northville and Stevenson. South Lyon is looking real strong."

After winning both the division and Kensington Conference last year, the Wildcats hope to edge out Northville and Livonia Stevenson again this season. The team will host off 6 p.m. Wednesday when they host Bloomfield Hills Marian — the only team that handed the 6-1 Wildcats a dual meet loss last season.

"We should be able to get a fair assessment of how we look," Lynn said of the meet.

Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and former Novi News staff writer.

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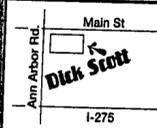
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