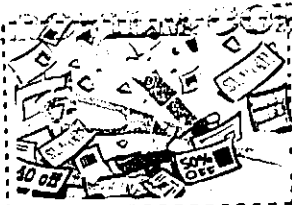


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CLASSIFIED SECTION B



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## Register for O&E tourneys

Registration continues for the annual Observer & Eccentric Hometown Media golf tournaments starting with women's event, which is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 26 at Livonia's Whispering Willows.

The 36-hole medal play men's event follows Sunday, Sept. 2 at Livonia's Fox Creek and Monday, Sept. 3 at Whispering Willows golf courses.

Entries for the men's tourney, limited to the first 120 golfers, close at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 27. The entry fee is \$95 (does not include cart). To participate, you must have a USGA index handicap (maximum of 20).

The men's event also includes a 17-and-under boys junior division. The entry fee is \$49.

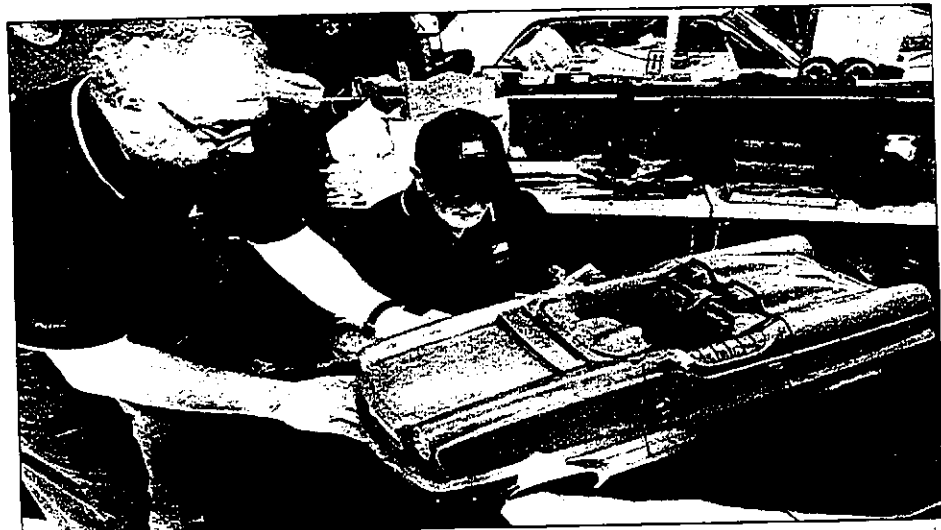
You can register in person at Whispering Willows, located at 20500 Newburgh Road, just south of Eight Mile. (Checks should be made payable to T.J.W., Inc.)

For more information, visit [www.golflivonia.com](http://www.golflivonia.com); or call (248) 476-4493.



## Lions tickets

Enter our Facebook contest for a chance to win two tickets to see the Detroit Lions take on the St. Louis Rams Sunday, Sept. 9 at Ford Field. If you want a chance to be in the stands the first game of the regular season, go to [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com) today. Share the contest link with a Facebook friend and get five extra chances to win if they also enter the contest. The winner will be selected at random Sept. 5.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Frank Roscoe, left, and Vincent Geraci ready their clay, scale-model on an American Motors concept car called "The Metropolitan" inside Wrenchers in Novi - a classic car restoration business on Grand River Ave.

## Automotive retirees prove they've still got it

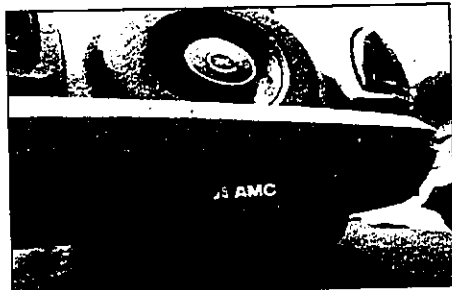
### Team continues to design and create together

By Lonnie Huhman  
Staff Writer

In a back room at Wrenchers automotive restoration shop a group of retirees have proven that once you got it as a team you will always have it.

The shop is located on Grand River in Novi. Since the start of the year the team composed of Chrysler/American Motors Corp. retirees Vince Geraci, Bill St. Clair, Bob Bristow, Keith Goodnough, Frank Pascoe and Felix Derose has been working on an updated model of the Nash (or Hudson Metropolitan).

This car was manufactured during the



Close-up details of the group's AMC Metropolitan show the detail in the clay model.

mid-1950s and early 1960s. It was a smaller or subcompact type of car that had some speed yet was fuel efficient for the time.

The remake made its debut at the AMC Motor City All Family get-together at Greenmead in Livonia on Aug. 19. Geraci said they have taken an icon vehicle and updated it in today's standards (one being

Please see CREATE, A2

## Cassis will not campaign for special primary

Nancy Cassis indicated Tuesday morning she will not actively campaign for the congressional seat in the special primary election Sept. 5.

The former state senator from Novi sent e-mails to local newspapers clarifying her comments from an earlier television show discussing the primary election for the new 11th District, in which she ran a write-in campaign against Kerry Bentivolio. Bentivolio won that election Aug. 7 and will face Democratic winner Syed Taj in the Nov. 6 general election.



Cassis

Cassis will be listed on the ballot in the special primary election Sept. 5 for the current (soon to be former) 11th District, along with Bentivolio, Karolyn Cavanagh, Ken Crider and Steve King. This election was scheduled by the governor's office after Thaddeus McCotter resigned July 6. The winner in that election will face lone Democratic candidate David Curson of Belleville in the general election Nov. 6. The winner will complete McCotter's term through the end of the year in the old 11th District.

"Much has been made of my comments from earlier this summer on *Off the Record* in which I stated that if I did not win the 11th District primary I would withdraw from the special election," Cassis said. "I would like to clarify that, at that time, I made the remark in the context of only two filed candidates and for one to withdraw would save taxpayers the \$650,000 expense of a special election. That all changed when three more people from Livonia filed to run. Thus my name is on the ballot along with four other Republicans and one Democrat.

"So today I want to make it clear that I will not actively campaign for the special election on Sept. 5. The voters will go to the polls, see the names that are on the ballot, and our democratic process will work itself out as it has done for over 200 years in our great nation.

"It is time to lay our differences aside and work to get our Republican ticket elected in November starting with Mitt Romney."

Absent in the e-mail was any endorsement of Bentivolio in the new 11th District race.

## Novi devoting over \$800,000 toward parking lot repair

By Lonnie Huhman  
Staff Writer

Over \$800,000 of infrastructure improvements, including work at the Novi Ice Arena, were approved by the Novi City Council. Construction is scheduled to start in September and is expected to be done this season.

The council awarded a construction contract to local company Nagle Paving for the 2012 Parking Lot Improvements project at the Ice Arena, Ella Mae Power Park, Fire Station L and Police Headquarters. Nagle was the lowest bidder at \$818,066.

Novi City Manager Clay Pearson said these work projects will be taking care of existing infrastructure at a number of city facilities. Pearson said the dollar amount did increase from what was previously anticipated because more reconstruction is necessary.

He said it was determined during the design phase that the project costs would likely exceed the budgeted amount and that some work would be phased and completed in a future year.

According to the city report, the rehabilitation for all nine parking lots was bid together since there is similar work involved at

each location, which could involve complete pavement removal and replacement to minor patching and repairs. If needed, drainage improvements will also be completed in some locations.

This project is included in the Fiscal years 2011-12 and 2012-13 Capital Improvement Program in the budgeted amount of \$996,760 for construction and engineering. The total budget is spread over two fiscal years.

Of that total, \$81,046 was awarded for design engineering and in addition \$83,727 was also recommended for award to OHM

for construction engineering services, which was approved making the total contract awards in the amount of \$982,839.

In other decisions, council members approved a proposed amendment to the consent judgment in the Adams vs. City of Novi case. According to Pearson, the case was originally filed in 1998 and settled by allowing Adams Outdoor Advertising to install an additional sign along the I-96 corridor.

According to the city report, the judgment has been amended once previously. The proposed second amendment would allow Adams to increase the

height of one of its signs by 20 feet.

The new agreement states the sign would be converted to digital on the eastbound side, with a static sign on the westbound side. In exchange, Adams would remove one of its other sign structures completely and would convey its easement for the removed sign to the City of Novi.

Council member Andrew Mutch said usually companies want to add signs. But, because this agreement has one coming down, he thinks this is a positive compromise.

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# Fraudulent McCotter petitions may also have been submitted in '08, '10

By Ken Abramczyk  
Observer Staff Writer

It appears Thaddeus McCotter's campaign fell short of signatures to nominate him in previous congressional campaigns, indicating the alleged signature fraud may extend prior to this year's congressional race. Four staffers — Don Yowchunang, Paul Seewald, Mary M. Turnbull and Lorraine O'Brady — were charged with a total of 13 felonies and 21 misdemeanors in connection with petition signature fraud this year.

Attorney General Bill Schuette indicated at a press conference on Aug. 9 in which he announced the charges that the staffers likely did the same thing in 2008, using 2006 signatures. Schuette did not issue charges for 2008, he said, because the statute of limita-

tions ran out. At least two media organizations have analyzed the nominating petitions provided by Practical Political Consulting of East Lansing and reported that McCotter fell short of the 1,000 required validated signatures to run in 2010. One of them, the *Detroit Free Press*, found that McCotter's campaign did not obtain the minimum signatures in 2008.

Practical Political Consulting, which provides voter lists for candidates, had in its possession McCotter's nominating petitions between 2002 and 2010, which were obtained by several news outlets, including the *Observer*. The petitions exceeded 800 pages in length.

Jim Daggy, a data architect with Practical Political Consultants, said he completed a "curious flip-through" of the documents, but had not completed a formal analysis of the documents. He found white spots near dates where it appeared that White out had been used at the election year at the top of the petition.

The *Free Press* found that 2002 and 2004 petitions had few duplicates, but in 2008, at least 67 of the 177 petition pages submitted were either copies or had been doctored by cutting and pasting dates from other documents onto the petitions. In 2010, at least 73 of the 167 pages turned in were duplicates, which would have invalidated more than 1,000 of the signatures. In 2012, both the cut-and-paste and duplicate tricks were used.

Daggy was surprised at what he called the "progressive brainzness" from 2006 to 2008. "I can spot visual red flags and there were white spots or

White out and some records never had any background color," Daggy said, indicating that those were photocopies.

A message was left with former McCotter spokesman Randall Thompson. Repeated attempts to contact McCotter have been unsuccessful since his resignation on July 6. In a statement after the charges were announced on Aug. 9, McCotter thanked the attorney general and his office "for their earnest, thorough work on this investigation."

Joy Yearout, spokeswoman for Schuette's office, said the office had obtained the electronic copies of the petitions. Yearout said the office wasn't anticipating additional fraud charges from the new information as the statute of limitations has passed.

"We are reviewing the information, and we could present this information in court to present a pattern of behavior," Yearout said.

Yearout said the investigation continues and that more interviews are being conducted. "If we find other laws were broken, we could file additional charges later," Yearout said.

McCotter was not charged. On Aug. 9, Schuette said his office "did not have specific, direct evidence of his involvement."



McCotter

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## CREATE

Continued from page A1

that according to their design model this Metropolitan would be able to fit on a Fiat 500 wheelbase). What used to be their jobs is now purely a hobby and reason for them to go to the shop and create as a team.

The work on the model, which is one-fifth to scale of the actual car, began with Geraci and St. Clair taking the original look and redesigning it on paper. From there Bristow used his engineering know-how and made it a feasible possibility. It's then that the rest of the team sculpts it out of clay and changes it into a finished model.

"It's actually quite a bit

of work and takes a crew to get it done," Geraci said. "But most of all, it's a creative process. We all have an artistic bent and would hate to lose it."

They have done this before a couple years ago when they remade the Marlin. It's become a great way to stay busy and catch up.

"Old buddies will stop by and we will talk about old times," a smiling Pascoe said of the past year working on the model. "It keeps our minds and hands busy."

He said it's the same atmosphere as the old work place. The shop fills with laughter at times and serious design discussion the next, all in the goal of creating a unique re-imagining of a classic automobile.

# Seeing Purple

## Notorious criminal gang said to have hung out at local business building

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Joel Johnston is a pro at cutting hair. On a recent Thursday afternoon, he was giving a haircut to Matt Thomas of Novi, a senior at Eastern Michigan University.

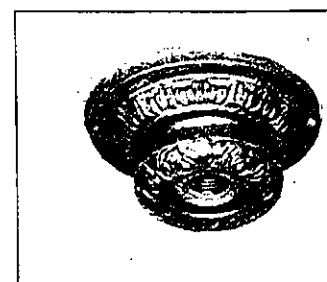
Business has been solid at JJ's Barber Shop, on Meadowbrook just north of 10 Mile in Novi. Johnston's dad, James, known as JJ, started the business.

The younger Johnston recently moved his Novi barber shop (there's also one in Troy) around the corner from 10 Mile into a building on Meadowbrook. He became a property owner rather than leasing.

What makes the Novi barber shop special is its purported ties to Detroit's notorious Purple Gang of criminals, who are said to have used it as a dance hall.

"We're still waiting to find the money," Johnston said, pausing in the building's basement, "not the body. If walls could talk, a better story, I'm sure."

He visited Mill Race Historical Village in Northville to check on the Novi property, and was referred to the Detroit Public Library for newspaper accounts from the 1910-45 era when the Purple



Some of the few remnants of Johnston's building to its past are these brass light fixtures attached to a plaster ceiling, now covered by a more modern drop ceiling.

dated 1929. He acknowledges stories of locals are his "only hard emphasis" of the criminals congregating. The building's exact age is unknown, but Johnston estimates it's from the 1920s.

Three chandeliers, two smaller and one large, were removed by the earlier owner, Johnston said. He hasn't sensed any ghosts. "I have heard people say they think it is haunted. Not that I've seen or heard," said Johnston, 40.

He's pleased to put the building to honorable use, noting barbers and bartenders hear many stories from their customers. "Really, Jesus is the answer to a lot of situations we find ourselves in," said Johnston, a Christian who worked 12 years as a youth pastor.

**Wants to learn more**  
Customers are "intrigued" although the history isn't shared in a big way. Johnston would like to learn more from community elders about the building's history, "a story that could shed light on the history. The history of greater Detroit

is so rich." Older people are dying and their knowledge of history is lost, he said. He's been cutting hair since age 16 and has son Josiah, 16, working as an apprentice. "It's definitely cool with the history," the teenage son said. "It looks like you think it would."

Joel Johnston's dad retired from the business but returned and is cutting hair in Nashville, Tenn.

JJ's Barber Shop in Novi can be reached at (248) 477-0010.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joel Johnston, co-owner of Novi's JJ's Barbershop at 24300 Meadowbrook Road, believes that its building used to be tied into the organized crime family in Detroit — the Purple Gang. Other businesses in the area have mentioned that they believe it was part of a speakeasy and brothel complex at the northeast corner of 10 Mile and Meadowbrook back in the '20s. Here Johnston is in his basement which was said to be linked by tunnel to the building right on the corner of 10 and Meadowbrook - to avoid potential raids by the coppers.



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**Community Office:**  
101 N. Lafayette  
South Lyon, MI 48178  
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Mon - Fri 9:00 - 5:00 p.m.

**Editor:**  
Cal Stone  
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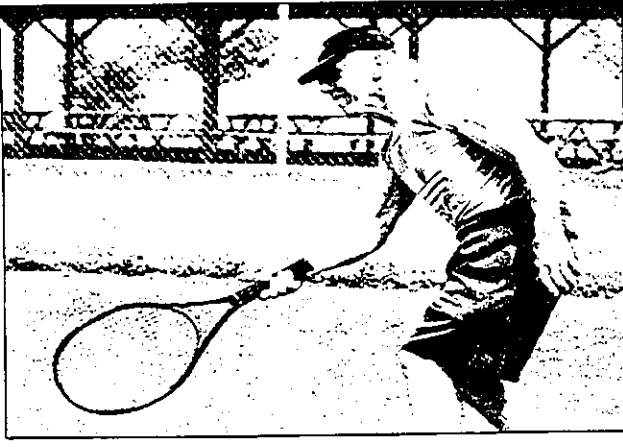
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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi resident Bob Sechler hits the courts of Rotary Park on Aug. 8. Sechler had brought with him a battery powered tennis ball to practice his swing and was working on his serve as well.



Passages

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BISHOP, JOHNNY J. Age 67, passed away August 16, 2012. He was born on May 19, 1945, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, son of the late John and Wilma Bishop. Johnny was an avid fisherman, a loyal University of Oklahoma football fan and enjoyed NASCAR. He was a loving and devoted husband and father and was the world's best grandpa. He is survived by his beloved wife, Linda; his loving children: Michael, Jeff & Melanie, Chris & Stephanie, Bryan & Karen and David Bishop; his adoring grandchildren: Justin, Bradley, Sunny Dawn, Brittany, Josh, Brandi, Danielle, Adam, Katie, Davey, Zach and Little Izzy; his loving great grandchildren: Adrianna, Nathan, Maurianna, Natalie, Myah, Jayden and Maliki; his brother Bobby Bishop and his sister Sharon Crawford. Visitation will be held on Monday, August 20, from 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, August 21, at 11:00 a.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon, Mich. Guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com



KILLEBREW, AUSTIN LEE Age 19, of Commerce Township and a 2012 graduate of Walled Lake Central High School, died on August 18, 2012. He lived his life to his fullest potential and his happiness and laughter was an inspiration to many as he lived with cerebral palsy. He leaves his parents, Mark and Shelley Killebrew, his sister, Mary Katherine, and brother, Jonah; grandparents, Bobby and Janet Killebrew, aunts and uncles, Lydia (Ray) Jechorek, Kent Killebrew, Cindy (Larry) Nebbett, Richard (Donny) Igna, and Lynne Hall; cousins, Kyle Killebrew, Chelsea Nebbett, Diane Igna, Ryan and Kelly Killebrew, Erin and Jack Hall; godmother, Sandy McBride and many, many dear friends. A funeral liturgy was held at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Milford, on August 21, 2012. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in his name to Walled Lake Central, Department of Special Services or to Ronald McDonald House. For further information please phone Lynch & Sons, Milford, at 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com



MUIRHEAD, ROBERT HARLAN "RED" Of Milford, died August 15, 2012 at the age of 82. He was a brick mason for 65 years. Beloved husband of Barbara, father of Linda (Gordon) Grossman, Donald (Shelby), Tom (Cathy), David (Sandy), Grandfather of 7, great-grandfather of 5. Also leaves many loving extended family members and dear friends. A Memorial Service will be held at Milford Presbyterian Church, 238 N. Main Street, Milford on August 25, 2012 at 11 a.m. The Rev. Anne Schaefer, officiate. Memorials may be made to Residential Hospice of Madison Heights or Milford Presbyterian Church. For further information contact Lynch & Sons Funeral Directors at 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

CARSON, RAYMOND Age 89, passed Aug. 18, 2012. Visitation Aug. 21 at Phillips Funeral Home, funeral Aug. 22, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Phillips Funeral Home Online Guestbook: philipsfuneral.com



LaROQUE, SYBLE G. Age 96, of Livonia, previously a longtime resident of Northville, passed away August 18, 2012. She was born March 12, 1916 in Ebra, Minnesota daughter of Albert and Margaret (Peavey) Murray. She was united in marriage to George "Sully" LaRoque in 1939; and they spent 52 years together until his death in 1991. She was very dedicated to her country; during WWII she worked in the Willow Run Bomber plant helping with the war efforts. She loved going to the Northville Memorial Day Parade; she rarely missed a parade. Syble was a very hard worker besides her fulltime job as a Nurses Aide she was also a seamstress. After retiring in 1986 from Detroit Receiving Hospital, she enjoyed the challenge of a crossword puzzle and traveling all over the US with her family. Syble is survived by her children, Dennis (Myra) LaRoque of Tennessee and Linda (Greg) Schuyler of Livonia; her grandchildren, Nicky (Tom) Ross, George LaRoque, Tracy Daley, Dana (John) Bucaro, Brandon LaRoque, Travis Schuyler and Greg (Laura) Schuyler; eight great grandchildren; her dear friends Thomas and Fran Kroll; and many loving nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband; her daughters, Mavis Nitzel and Connie Bell; her sons, Reggie LaRoque and Jerry LaRoque; and seven brothers and sisters. Memorial contributions may be made to Faith Bible Church, 34541 Five Mile Rd., Livonia 48154.

HEIDT, ELSIE M. Age 91, lifelong resident of South Lyon, passed away August 19, 2012. She was born July 15, 1921 in Detroit, MI to Charles and Anna Marie (nee Rossow) Schmidt. She was united in marriage to Raymond C. Heidt on September 27, 1947; and they spent 51 loving years together until his death in 1999. Elsie is survived by her children, Carl (Sue) Heidt and Carl (John) Heidt; her sister, Evelyn Grabarski; 5 grandchildren; and 3 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, and her brother Donald Schmidt. Visitation will be held Friday, August 24, 2012 from Noon until 1 p.m. with a funeral service at 1 p.m. at Casteline Funeral Home, Inc., 122 W. Dunlap, Northville. Pastor Thomas Lubeck from St. Joseph's Lutheran Church will officiate the service. Mrs. Heidt will be laid to rest next to her husband at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia. In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate memorial contributions to St. Joseph Mercy Hospice, c/o Office of Development, P.O. Box 995, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF YOUR LOVED ONE

Court dates set in petition fraud case for former McCotter staffers

By Ken Abramczyk Staff Writer

A preliminary examination was set for Sept. 27 for one of Thaddeus McCotter's former staffers accused in the signature fraud involving the Congressman's nominating petitions.

Mary Melissa Turnbull, 58, of Howell appeared for a pre-exam conference Thursday in front of Judge Dennis Drury in S2-4 District Court in Troy. The court set Sept. 27 as the preliminary examination date at the request of Turnbull's defense attorney, Robert Kostin. Turnbull, a district representative, faces two charges: one count of conspiracy to commit a legal act in an illegal manner, a five-year felony; and one count of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail.

O'Brady stood mute before Magistrate Dennis Eppler and a plea of not guilty was released on a \$1,000 personal bond. Don Yowchuang, 33, of Farmington Hills faces 17 charges: 10 counts of election law forgery, a five-year felony; one count of conspiracy to commit a legal act in an illegal manner, a five-year felony; and six counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail.

Paul Seewald, 47 of Livonia faces 10 charges: one count of conspiracy to commit a legal act in an illegal manner, a five-year felony; and nine counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail. Also charged Wednesday in 16th District Court in Livonia with five counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail.

O'Brady, Yowchuang and Seewald are each scheduled for a pre-exam on Sept. 18 and a preliminary exam on Sept. 20 in 16th District Court.

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette alleges that these four members of McCotter's Michigan staff were involved in a deliberate fraud involving a pattern of copying and altering petitions in order to qualify the five-term congressman for the 2012 primary ballot. Schuette revealed examples of petitions that were allegedly manufactured electronically by transposing signatures collected in previous election years onto 2012 nominating petitions.

CITY OF NOVI, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF OFFICIAL PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Clerk's Office will conduct a Public Accuracy Test of the Optical Scan tabulating equipment to be used for the Special Election to be held on Wednesday, September 5, 2012. The test will be conducted at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, August 29, 2012 at the Novi City Clerk's Office, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48275.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer program used to record and count the votes cast at the election meets the requirements of the law. This test is open to all interested parties. For further information, contact the Novi City Clerk's Office at 248-347-0456.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, MMC, CITY CLERK

Advertisement for ER DMC featuring a large image of a fork and knife and the text 'We'll get you home before others get you in. E.R. Walt Times at hvsh.org For directions visit hvshER.org'.

Advertisement for DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital with a photo of a group of people and the text 'Our hospital is "Huron Valley-Sinai" Sunday, September 9th - visit hvsh.org/openhouse for details!'.

Advertisement for DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital with the text 'THE EXPERTISE OF THE DMC DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital at Commerce and Commerce in Commerce 1 William Carls Drive - Commerce, Michigan 48382 248-937-3300 - www.hvsh.org'.

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Loud House Party 1 The Novi Police responded to a loud party complaint, which led to the arrests of nine teenagers for underage drinking.

On Aug. 2, police went to a home on W. Le Boist Drive regarding a loud party. Upon arrival the police reported the party was noisy and they could hear it from five houses away. The officers observed what appeared to be underage individuals inside the home drinking liquor.

Much of the noise was coming from the back deck, so officers went around and found a group of teenagers. A hand full admitted to drinking while the rest, 15 of them, were not and this was verified by a breathalyzer test.

Those arrested ranged in age from 17-18. Property Destruction 2 A window at the Novi Commons office building was damaged by an unknown suspect.

Novi Police responded to the complaint at 43000 Nine Mile Road on Aug. 2. The police reported stated someone had shattered the glass window that separates the lobby with the reception desk. It further stated there were no objects thrown or found in the area. It's believed the suspect caused the

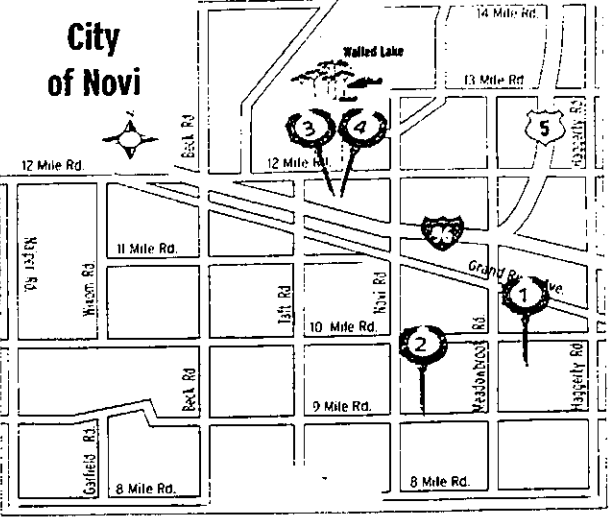
Stolen Property 3 A New Hudson woman had her wallet stolen while at Twelve Oaks mall. On July 31, the 29-year-old woman told police that she was in Journey's kids shoe department buying shoes for her son when it went missing. She said she had placed her purse near her, but when she went to pay she discovered the wallet inside the purse missing.

All security also took a report and the woman canceled her debit card in response.

Drunken Driving 4 A phone call by an off duty police officer led Novi Police to arrest a drunken driver.

On Aug. 9, the caller told police that there appeared to be a drunken driver at Twelve Oaks mall. The police later caught up with the driver on westbound I-96, just west of Novi Road. The caller stated seeing the driver erratically driving on northbound I-275 and nearly struck a guard rail.

The police asked the man if he had anything to drink, which he said he had several glasses of wine at a friend's house over an hour before. However, they could not smell intoxicants because



of the strong odor of cologne. After having trouble with field sobriety tests, which included turning incorrectly during the walk and turn portion, he was given a breathalyzer. He was arrested after it came back with a .114 blood-alcohol content. Compiled by staff writer Lonnie Humman

Your Invitation to Worship

A large grid of church advertisements for various denominations including Lutheran, Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, and Episcopal churches across different Novi neighborhoods like Brighton, Milford, Highland, Livonia, Plymouth, Northville, New Hudson, and Walled Lake.





## Novi once again home to a Dressbarn store



Dressbarn's Novi Town Center location is slated to open on Aug. 24.

By Cal Stone  
Staff Writer

Women who were disappointed when the Dressbarn store in Novi's West Oaks shopping center closed five years ago will have a reason to cheer: a bigger and better version is opening tomorrow in the renovated Novi Town Center plaza.

"We have been wanting to be a part of the Novi shopping district for many years now," said Martha Langdon, district manager for the chain. "We are extremely excited about our new store."

The former store was only a "Misses" with sizes 4-16, but the new one carries those as well as sizes up to 24. The 6,500 square feet will be managed by Maria Garwood and will employ eight to 10 people. Store hours are 10 a.m.

to 9 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays and 11-6 on Sundays.

The chain has been around for 50 years and is based in Suffern, N.Y. The next closest store to Novi is in downtown Farmington.

"Novi is a great opportunity and a great market," said Langdon. "We love to get new customers. It's going to be a beautiful store — a prototype. It's a whole new design that people haven't seen before in the Detroit market."

Dressbarn is part of the Ascena Retail Group, which also includes Maurices and Justice clothing stores. The trio includes over 2,500 stores with revenues over \$2.8 billion. There are currently 840 Dressbarn stores with plans to open 20 to 30 more per year. The company opened a Woodhaven store one year ago and recently



Dressbarn employee Maria Garwood, left, welcomes store manager Martha Langdon to her Novi Town Center location. Dressbarn, with more than 35 stores in Michigan, will be opening up shop in the Town Center, just north of Walmart, on Aug. 24.

### RUE21 OPENS

A new rue21 fashion store has opened in Novi Town Center. The store offers a broad assortment of the newest emerging fashion trends in apparel and accessories for girls and guys with a wide selection of styles, always available for their fashion-conscious customers.

"We are excited to welcome rue21 to our growing collection of fashion stores at Novi Town Center," said Jim Clear, NTC general manager. "Their commitment to great values on the latest fashions is a very desirable combination for shoppers today." The address is 26056 Ingersoll Drive; phone (248) 449-8326. The store will be open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. More information about rue21 stores can be found at www.rue21.com.

remodeled its Shelby Township store.

"Our mission is inspiring women to look and feel beautiful," said Langdon. "We just try and real-

fashions and really great prices." According to the company's website (www.dressbarn.com), Roslyn Jaffee opened the first store in Stamford, Conn. in 1962. "At a time when women were wholly underrepresented in the workplace, Roslyn dared not only to work, but also to launch a new era in women's fashion. Designer label wool pencil skirts, sheer blouses, flares, furs, and leather coats were all the rage. And Roslyn offered her customers the very latest in women's designer styles. A year later the second Dressbarn store was opened. Soon after the inception of the business, her husband Elliot joined Roslyn and together they built the business as well as a reputation for quality, style, value, and customer service."

ly do that with everything we do — fashions, associates, customer experience. That's really what we're all about — providing a great environment for women. Great

## New tenants come to Twelve Oaks Mall

Twelve Oaks has been busy adding merchants this year, with seven new stores already open, and another on the way.

The Art of Shaving, Marlee's by Tapper's, Windsor, and Cool Cuts 4 Kids join three other popular stores that have all opened their doors since early 2012: Soma Intimates, Dry Goods, and TUMI. Offering supremely comfortable, high-quality undergarments, sleepwear, and active wear, Soma Intimates can be found in the Lower Level Sears Wing. Dry Goods, a trendy new fast-fashion destination from the family-run Von Maur department store chain, is on the Lower Level near Center Court. TUMI, an international brand of premium travel, business, and lifestyle accessories, can also be found on the Lower Level near Center Court.

The Art of Shaving, open this month, is a best-selling men's brand that started a revolution in men's grooming. The store features the highest quality shaving products in order to offer men an indulgent grooming regimen from a masculine and luxurious shopping environment. The Art of Shaving is in the Lower Level Lord & Taylor Wing.

Located Upper Level Center Court, Marlee's by Tapper's is a new concept in jewelry and accessories, with a focus on creating an innovative shopping experience designed to enhance and celebrate a woman's style. Marlee's offers a wide selection of jewelry, handbags, hats, scarves, wraps, belts and other accessories, some with local roots, and other pieces discovered while the store's founders, Marla Tapper Young and Leora Tapper, were traveling the world to find the perfect items for their new store.

"We want to make sure that everything we have available for sale is one that Marla or I would like to own personally," Leora said. Established in 1950, Windsor is a family-owned business dedicated to fostering a shopping environment that celebrates a woman's unique personality. Windsor creates products that fit the life and work styles of today's junior and contemporary woman. Styling a fun, distinctive wardrobe is easy to do at Windsor, which sells fashionable tops, bottoms, and skirts as well as accessories, shoes, and even formal and prom dresses. Windsor is found in the Sears

Wing on the Lower Level. And for the young ones, now open in the Lower Level Sears Wing is Cool Cuts 4 Kids, the first store in Michigan from this hair care-for-kids chain. Combining fun, convenience and a kid-friendly environment, Cool Cuts features two entertainment zones complete with the latest and greatest technology to occupy and entertain. From video games and movies for the kids to cool haircuts and great hair care products for the entire family, Cool Cuts strives to make every haircut fun for kids and easy for parents.

Also adding to the line-up of retail options at Twelve Oaks is Spritz Designer Fragrances. Some of the brand names offered are Burberry, Evisgari, Carolina Herrera, Calvin Klein, Dolce & Gabbana, Ed Hardy, Giorgio Armani, Hugo Boss, Lacoste and more. Spritz will open in the Upper Level JCPenney Wing in the fall. Twelve Oaks Mall is a major regional shopping center, located on the northeast corner of Novi Road and I-96. Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Visit www.shop12oaksmall.com for more information.

### NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Xspect Solution leases in Wixom

Signature Associates has negotiated the lease of 16,356 square feet of industrial space at 28700 Beck Road, Wixom.

David Giltner of Signature Associates represented the tenant, Xspect Solution, Inc., an affiliate of Wenzel. The new facility will demonstrate area for the machines. They will be selling and servicing. The location was chosen for its main road exposure.

### NOVI NEWS BRIEFS

#### Reading rewarded by Paradise Park

The Novi Public Library once again conducted a successful Summer Reading Program in 2012. This year, however, there was more incentive than ever for children and teens to complete the Summer Reading Game as those who did so were offered a fun experience at Paradise Park.

This year's program registered 1367 children who read for 29,172 hours, a substantial increase over 2011. Known as "Read to Me," "Dream Big," or "Own the Night," depending on the participants' ages, the program offered children and teens the opportunity to earn prizes at various junctures along the way to completion of their reading goals; those who finished the requisite number of hours were given a free book, were entered into a grand prize drawing, and were invited to spend time at a special finale party at Paradise Park.

The library also offered a number of programs to entertain and delight its

youthful patrons. There were crafts, movies, entertainers such as Baffling Bill the Magician and scientist/comedian Steve Belliveau, as well as a Wacky Olympics for the younger set, and performers such as Joel Tacey to augment the always-popular tie-dye activity, a Glow Party, and other programs for tween and teen patrons. The culminating event for all age groups was the chance to go to Paradise Park and ride go-karts, play laser tag and mini-golf, and try out the climbing wall and trampoline, after which they could enjoy pizza and a drink, all donated by Paradise Park owners Jeff and Theresa Wainwright.

Novi Public Schools partnered with the library to promote summer reading. Students were encouraged to read and keep track of their time spent reading, take Accelerated Reading Tests at the library to document their progress, and turn in their reading lists at the beginning of the new school year in exchange for a reward.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Theodore Ross, 100 years young, was one of the many Novi residents honored in an Aug. 16 gathering at the Novi Senior Center. The center's Rachel Zagoroff and Tori Hegin gathered life information on about 30 dozen residents aged 85 or over. Ross, born in 1912 in Hartford, Conn., was the senior among the seniors.

### Reception Package

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Independence Village of White Lake  
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## SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

Attorneys J.B. Bleske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security Disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear personally at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bleske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bleske has written a book for attorneys about the

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Enjoy refreshments, door prizes, and a free house warming gift just for stopping by.

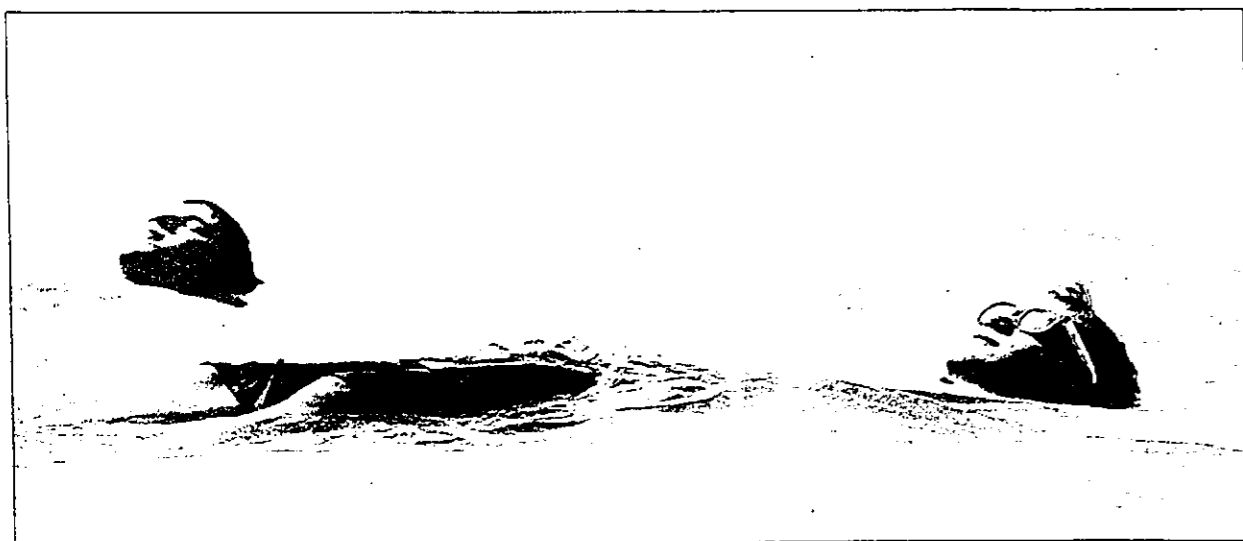
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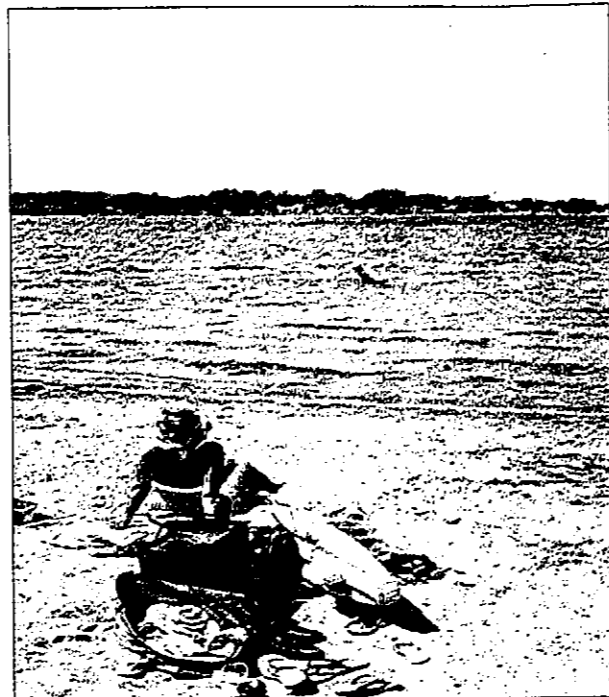
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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jeff Weber, 17, right, and Alex Raean, 18, enjoy a cooling lie-down in the waters of Walled Lake on July 24. The pair were visiting Novi's Lakeshore Park that day - and even though it didn't get above 90 - that day, the water was still inviting.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Visitors to Novi's Lakeshore Park on July 24 found inviting waters, blue skies and temperatures that didn't peak 90. The park's beach, located at 601 S. Lake Drive along the south shore of Walled Lake - is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. and is free for residents of Novi.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kennedy Error, 6, leaps across the floor of the Novi Library on July 26 during its own version of the Olympic Games. In this relay race event, kids had to do a variety of pool attire, including flippers and then dash across the room and back. Other events included a balloon toss into five olympic rings, and competitors got to make their own medals at the end of the day.



CHUCK MURDOCK

Northville Parks and Recreation held a family campout on Aug. 11 with 12 families at Maybury State Park. The Friends of Maybury held a horseshoe throwing contest and supplied prizes for nine lucky winners. Shown (l to r) are Addy Royston, Trevor Royston, Jay Overholser, Tyler Nagy, Jacob Nagy, Mosi Jones, Joey Nagy, Karon Zirker and Zat Kroff.

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Sat., Aug. 25.....9:30 a.m.-noon  
Tues., Aug. 28.....4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Camp Lakeshore campers and counselors engage in a round of dodge ball on Aug. 13.

These photos and others in photo galleries at hometownlife.com are available for purchase. Contact Web Editor Larry Ruehlen at lruehlen@hometownlife.com.

**Dr. Ayman Daoud**  
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*Ayman Daoud, M.D. is a long time resident of Canton and has practiced Internal Medicine for over 15 years. Dr. Daoud, is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and has worked and trained at various medical centers including the University of Michigan, Detroit Medical Center, and Henry Ford Hospital.*

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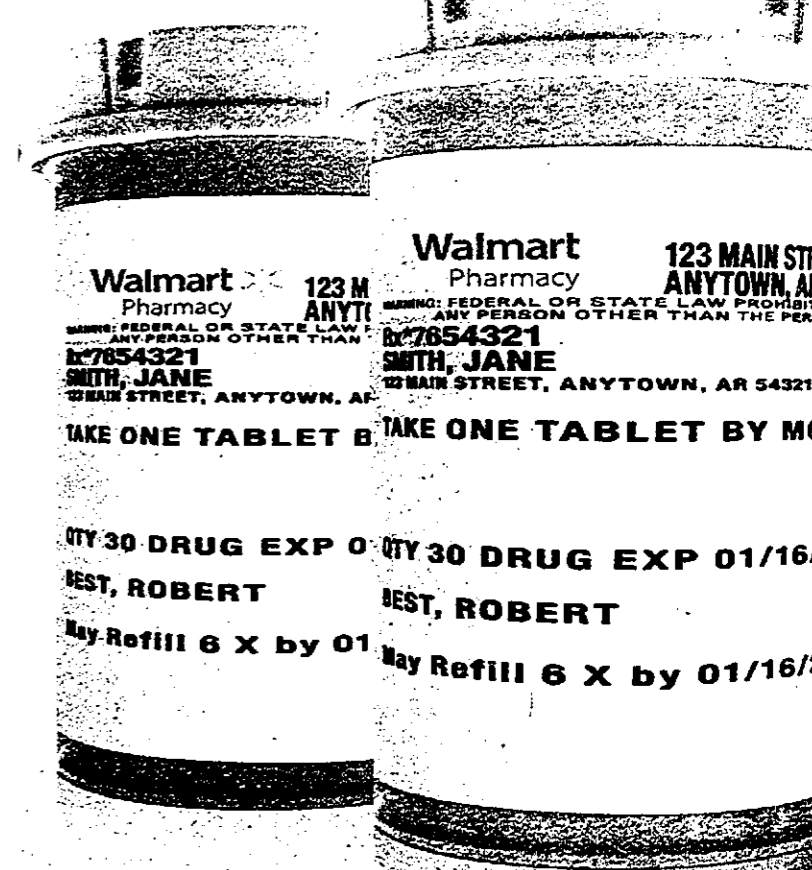
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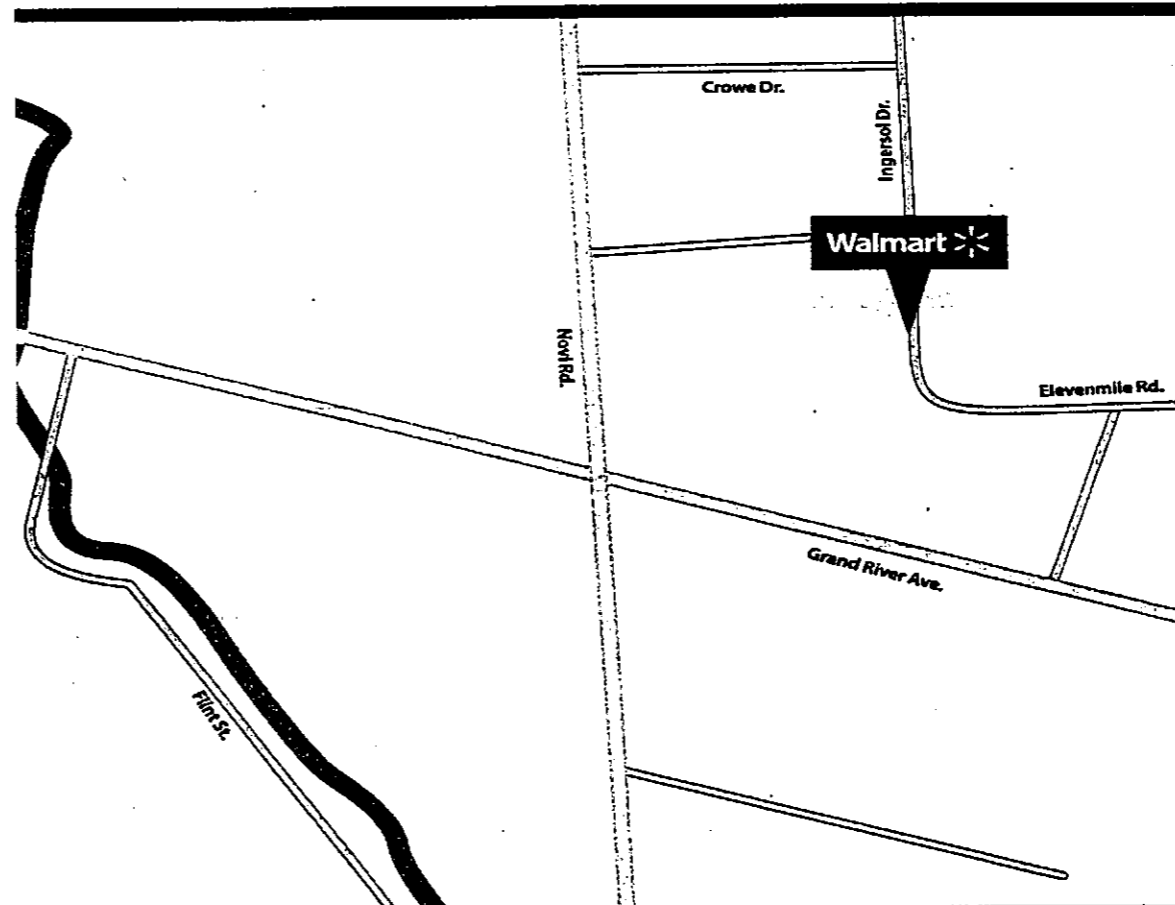
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\*The Prescription Program includes up to a 30-day supply for \$4 and a 90-day supply for \$10 of covered generic drugs at commonly prescribed dosages. Prices for some drugs covered by the Prescription Program may be higher and may vary in some states. Restrictions apply. Visit [Walmart.com](http://Walmart.com) or see your Walmart Pharmacist for details.

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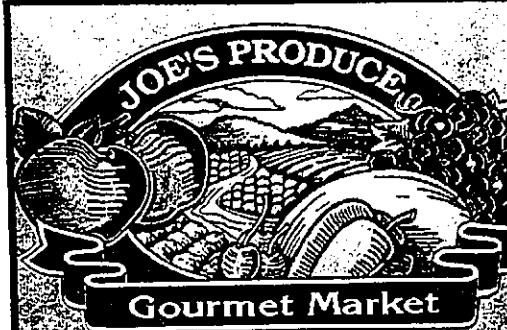
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Back-To-School Cupcake! PB&J Deliciousness! \$2.99 ea., Joe's Mini Cupcakes \$4.99 12 pk., Trail Mix or Triple Berry Granola Bars \$2.99 per 3pk. A great Breakfast or Lunch Snack

Joe's Fresh Roasted Coffee 'All Flavors & Blends' \$8.99 lb. Save \$1.00 lb., Have you experienced Joe's Fresh Roasted Coffee at our coffee bar? Here at Joe's we roast our coffee beans daily so that you can experience the perfect brew. Stop by Cuppa Joe's Cafe for a Sweet Deal on a tasty cup of Java \*\*Coffee and a fresh baked Muffin\*\* \$1.99, \*\*Small Coffee is 99¢ everyday\*\* Gourmet Coffee Gift Pack \$39.99 Gift boxed and ready to be delivered to the gourmet coffee lover in your life. Send them the freshest coffee in town.

Everyday GOURMET Pecan Crusted Chicken \$7.99 lb. Save \$1.00 lb., Sesame Chicken \$7.99 lb. Save \$1.00 lb., Turkey Loaf \$4.99 lb. Save \$1.00 lb., BLT Pasta Salad \$3.99 lb. Save \$1.00 lb., Gorgonzola Cole Slaw \$4.99 lb. Save \$1.00 lb.

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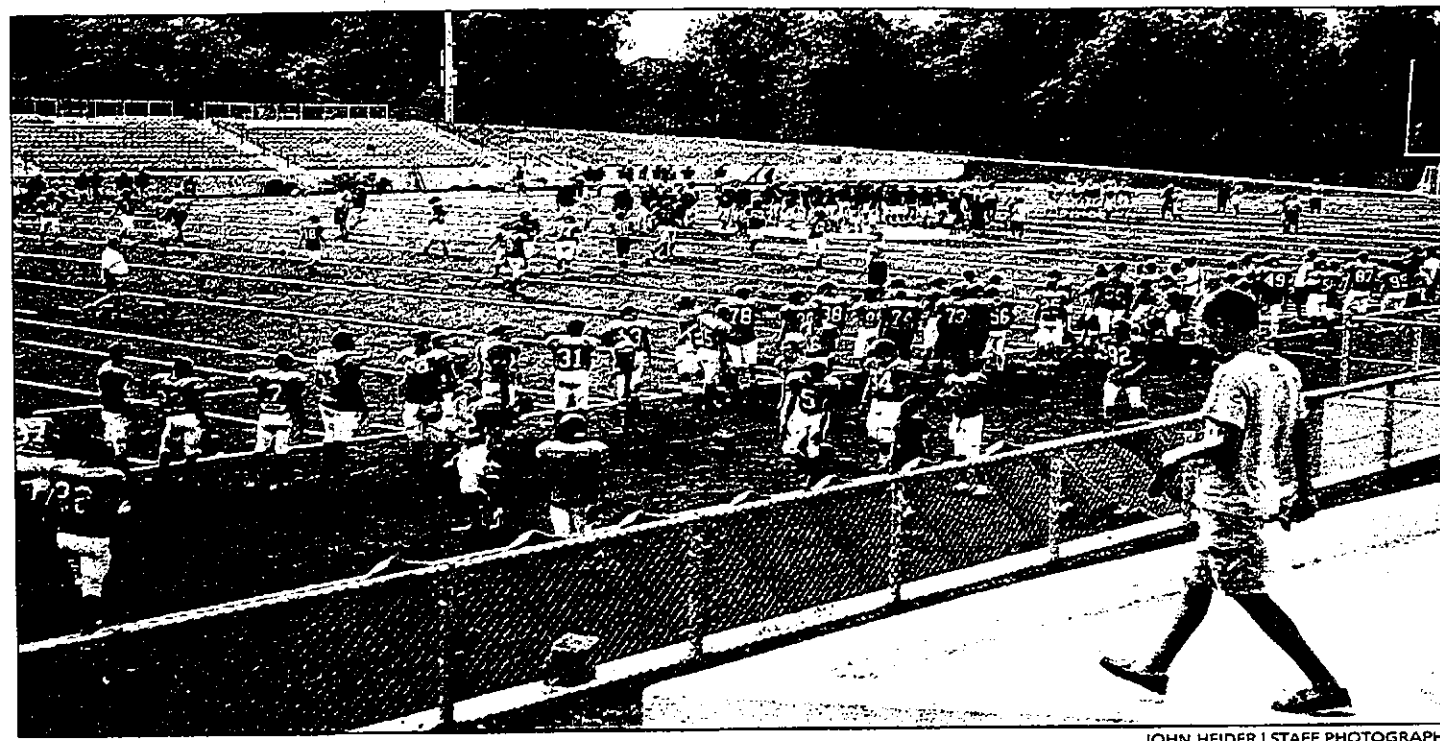
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SECTION B (NRNN) THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2012 HOMETOWN WEEKLIES HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

INSIDE: CLASSIFIED, B11-14

SPORTS

CEL STONE, EDITOR cstone@hometownlife.com (248) 437-2011 EXT. 237 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The Mustangs scrimmage at Ann Arbor Skyline High's field on Aug. 17.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shamrocks march with same goal in mind

By Sam Eggleston Correspondent

If there's one thing you can always be certain of in pre-season high school football, it's that Tom Mach isn't going to change what the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks are striving toward as season goals. First and foremost, the Shamrocks will be looking to win the Catholic High School League Central Division title, followed by the Catholic League Prep Bowl Championship. After that, they'll look to qualify for the state playoffs and work to win and advance from there.

Numbers could add up to big success for Mustangs

By Sam Eggleston Correspondent

Taking a quick gander at the Northville football roster for 2012, you're going to notice one thing right away — it just keeps going and going. That's because this year there are 183 football players in the entirety of the program: 54 freshmen, 46 junior varsity and 83 varsity players.

NORTHVILLE FOOTBALL

to follow the lead of their top returning players as they build on the foundation that Ladach's teams have constructed over the past few seasons. Returning for 2012 on offense are quarterback Joey Hewlett, running back and receiver Colin Bailey, receiver Sean Conway, the entire offensive line and receive Brad VanHulle.

ON TAP

The Northville Mustangs football team will kick off the season when they host Lakeland tomorrow at 7 p.m.

Jack Henderson, Kevin Bak, Robby Parks, Jomi Ogunfidimi, Matt Shaw, Paul Behr, Robert Perraino, Matthew Pirone, Abhi Narsinghia, Chris Rinaldi, Nate Prieb, Aaron Kowalczyk, Thomas Huber, Chandler Casey, Colin Bailey, Sam Tacconelli, Joel Booth, Greg Cole, Keishiro Iwasaki, Chris Markatos, Peter Chew, Ian Rowan, Evan Wieland, Connor Keady, Austin Rogers, Gerald Williams, Chris Komourous, Tyler Gordin, Jake Cheslik, David Borwick, Lee Moore, Adam Kwiecinski, Zach Toftiski, Tyler Caffee, John Stroud, Patrick Hannah, Ryan Roberts, Zach Graham, Jack Johnson, Kyle Skillman, R.J. Holloway, Alex Carson, George Hoy, Drake Wolter, Greg Stewart, David Moorman, Evan Schriener, Dimitri Angelas, Kevin Piowar, Jason Grewe, Colin McDonough, Jack Fischer, David Hornshaw, Takuo Chiyu, Spencer Maize, Jack Washburn, Jack Blackhurst, Jeremiah Hoover, Mike Haugen, Mitchell Bell, Will Hartnagel, Bryce Hall, Kyle Brenner, Handsome Glover, Bradley Merlo, Brad VanHulle, Grant Miller, Brandon Patrone, Sean Conway, Cooper Bates, Caleb Bier, Aime, Koshiro Iwasaki, Jon Wines, Duncan McKee, Peter Fontana, Zach Wilds and Kellan Flanagan.

That's been Mach's focus in all 37 of his years at the helm of the football program. Coming off a 12-2 record last year that found the Shamrocks ending their season with a loss in the state finals, the squad is no doubt looking to come into 2012 on a high note.

"This year's team has been working extremely hard all off season and it has resulted in the development of a true family atmosphere amongst our squad," said Mach. "We attribute this to the positive presence of our seniors and their leadership qualities." Some of the seniors of note this year are Wyatt Shallman, a running back and defensive end who has committed himself to the University of Michigan. Also at running back is defensive back Will be the speedy Anthony Darkangelo, while the offensive and defensive lines will be anchored by Derek Edwards, David Houle and Brandon Malinkowski will be forces in the linebacker slot. More than likely will play at fullback and running back, respectively. The Shamrocks will likely be running the ball, the traditional Catholic Central route to the end zone, despite the fact that they went to the air much more than normal last year. The 2012 quarterback graduated, however, and the team will likely be back to controlling the ground game. Mach said this year the CHSL schedule will be packed full of talent once again. "The Catholic League looks to be extremely tough and talented, so winning against our traditional rivals will once again be the top challenge for 2012," he said. One early-season positive of note has been the play, which has "gelled" in the early week. The team, however, has a big hurdle to clear this year — a fairly inexperienced crew. "We return relatively few players with previous starting experience, so while we feel good about the players that have stepped up at this point, we lack real game experience," said Mach. But what the team lacks in experience, they make up for with desire and dedication — plus they are looking forward to playing as the underdogs a little this season. Brother Rice has been picked as the CHSL front runner by the majority of the pundits out there while DeLaSalle will continue with their first-rate football with quarterback Shane Morris driving the offense. Mach also noted that Orchard Lake St. Mary's will again be a tough opponent and University of Detroit Jesu it is an up-and-coming program that will challenge any team they play.

Young Wildcats looking to improve this season

By Chris Jackett Correspondent

Although the seniors will lead Novi's football team this fall, many will be stepping into starting roles for the first time alongside a young core of Wildcats. Following a 4-5 campaign in 2011, the Wildcats have a new line of wide receivers and a brand new quarterback in senior Ryan Caputo, who will make his debut at the position tonight against former KVC rival Brighton.

NOVI FOOTBALL

ON TAP

Novi's football team (4-5 in 2011) jumps into the thick of things 7 p.m. tonight by hosting former KVC rival Brighton (8-2 in 2011) in the season opener for both teams. The team will then travel to White Lake Lakeland (4-5 in 2011) 7 p.m. Aug. 30. "Brighton's very good and it's going to be a battle," Novi coach Todd Pennycuff said. "Lakeland has everybody back."



A Novi Wildcat varsity football coach watches as players practice proper tackling skills during an Aug. 20 session.

ON TAP

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks football team is slated to be in action when they host Detroit Cody in the season opener tomorrow at 7 p.m. before visiting Toledo Whitmer at 7 p.m. next Friday.

Please see NOVI, B2

NOVI

Continued from page B1

New coach puts reserves at center stage

as both the top running back and an inside line-backer... "On defense, we're really counting on Lucas Buck," said Pennyuff...



Lesley Harrington makes a return for the Wildcats during a match in 2011.

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

After ending the season in a tough five-set district championship last season... The Wildcats, who went 41-6-1 in 2011, will be led into battle by former White Lake Lakeland coach Jen Novli...

ON TAP

Novi's volleyball squad (41-6-1 in 2011) starts the new school year off with a pair of tough tournaments. The 'Cats were scheduled to visit the Farmington Hills Mercy Tournament yesterday and the Macomb Dakota Invitational 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

Tankers focused on improving, gaining experience

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

As a coach, you expect that there's a fair amount of trading hard work for a bit of complaining from the athletes being put through the paces... "Our biggest challenge will be to keep our focus throughout the whole season and maintain that hard work ethic," said McNeff...

NORTHVILLE GIRLS SWIMMING

looking to follow the lead of their top returners as they lead both vocally and by example. Catherine Cui, Briana Schoenek, Emily Butler, Lia Nagata and Grace LaFreniere are all back for their senior season while Sarah Lohman, Lauren Jarzembowski and Andrea Meister come into their junior year looking to help pave the way to success...



Mustang Catherine Cui helped the Mustangs in 2011 and made it to the state finals meet.

The Mustangs did bulk up their freshman class with 31 newcomers... Northville will be in a very tough Central Division this year with Novi and Stevenson returning some strong swimmers...

and team growth first. "I didn't give the team too many goals this year," McNeff said. "The only thing that I expect out of them is to come to practice and work hard every day and do every thing that we do: If they do this then the results will take care of themselves."

ON TAP

The Northville Mustangs girls swimming and diving team will next be in the pool when they compete in the Ann Arbor Huron Invitational a week from today. The 2012 Northville Mustangs swimming and diving roster includes: Erin Aquino, Arlexis Branson, Tess Breuch, Riley Bruen, Natalie Burford, Olivia Burrows, Emily Butler, Lily Chen, Madeline Chen, Sungui Choi, Melissa Clawson, Megan Conner, Megan Cragel, Hannah Craig, Hanna Cruz, Catherine Cui, Sarah Cullen, Elle Curtis, Palig Demirjia, Sonny Demirjia, Kristina Denniston, Jena Drago, Loren Evans, Natalie Filipowicz, Maria Gutowski, Shaan Hayes, Elizabeth Hetu, Chandler Hilton, Elizabeth Horn, Emily Iverson, Pooja Ippa...

Mustangs look to improve on successes

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

The Northville Mustangs volleyball team isn't planning on resting on last year's successes, which included a 40-15-4 record and the first district playoff victory in a decade. Instead, the squad, coached by Amanda Yalkin, is looking to use a slew of returning players to help them build on the foundation that last year's team put in place. "Our biggest challenge will be finding the right mix of players for success," said Yalkin, who has been coaching volleyball in Northville and elsewhere for 13 years. "We have depth, experience and the possibility of making it out of districts."

NORTHVILLE VOLLEYBALL

Knickerbocker, Cassidy Minghine, Olivia Landis, Symone Abbott and Isabel Fabacher. "We have many returning players with court experience," said Yalkin. The team will be using that experience to help bring the other players up to speed as they look to reach their individual daily, weekly and season goals as well as the team daily, weekly and season goals. Other members of the team are juniors in Coach Chloe Kipple, Rachel Zwodny and Julia Colasanti and sophomore Makenna Strunk. The road ahead is full of tough teams that will be looking to knock the Mustangs off course. On the schedule this year are four of the toughest teams in the area in Novi, Canton, Salem and Stevenson.



Mustang Taylor Young looks to block a Hartland Eagle's shot during an Aug. 2011 meet.

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Three years ago, a talented group of freshmen slipped into the pool at Novi High School and made an immediate impact. Now, they're seniors. After finishing 11th in Division I last fall, the Wildcats are in another three-way battle within the KLA Central Division with Northville and South Lyon. Seniors Andrea VanderMey, Maranda Buha, Kara Berg, Dana Morgan, Kelsey Shurmer, Janice Burnett and Rachel Aepelbacher, along with sophomore Malloy Buha, are expected to lead the way. However, VanderMey, an All-American candidate as an All-State 100 backstroke and 200 individual medley swimmer, may be sidelined with injuries most of the season after she was hit by a drunken driver July 12. Second-year Novi coach Annette VanderMey, who is also Andrea's swimmer, said Shurmer and Maranda Buha have stepped up to fill the gap as best they can.

NOVI GIRLS SWIMMING

"If (Andrea can't return), we will need other team members to step up and fill these large gaps in the lineup," Annette VanderMey said, noting that other key swimmers are injured. "Two other senior leaders are part of what we affectionately call our 'MASH' unit. Keegan Shurmer will re-focus her events this season, giving up the distance to shorter races to help her shoulder pain, along with Maranda Buha limiting her practice yardage to help herself heal." Shurmer was a state qualifier in the 100 butterfly and Maranda Buha was All-State in the 50 freestyle. Along with Andrea VanderMey, all three were key relay team members, too. All-American backstroke Malloy Buha will help carry the load along with backstroke state qualifier Morgan and sprinter state team member Burnett. Aepelbacher, who has earned All-American diving consideration, is lead-

ON TAP

Things in the pool won't hear up until 4:30 p.m. Aug. 30 when Novi's swim and dive squad heads to Grosse Pointe South.

South. Always a fast meet and hope to get our girls thinking fast right from the start. Marian and Birmingham Groves are two other match-ups that will test our depth this season, as well. VanderMey is hoping the new core of freshmen can have the immediate impact her daughter's group of 14 had three years ago. "We also have the strongest freshman class coming in since this group of seniors arrived on the scene," Annette VanderMey said. "Key freshmen to look out for are Alexandra Cortez, Lauren Kim, Dana Kilponen, Ava Bianchi and Elizabeth Glenn as they prepare to take over the reigns of Novi swim and dive to provide depth to our program. The league, as always, will continue to show strength at all levels - local, county and state - so that makes for very tough dual meets. "We are graduating the strongest senior class to go through Novi High School. Should be a great year, as these 14 seniors want to go out and leave their mark!"



Some of the Novi varsity swim team waits for the clock to tick down before leaving on another lap during their Aug. 17 practice. From bottom are Alexandra Cortez, Lauren Kim, Janice Barnett, Dana Kilponen, Meagan Cortez and Allie Tschirhart.



Novi's Andrea MacDonough helps the field hockey team in a game in 2011.

New head coach navigates team into higher division

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Youth seems to be a common issue for many of Novi's athletic squads this fall, but the field hockey program is still young itself. Now in the program's fifth season, inaugural coach Amy Kilgore has taken half a step back to a varsity assistant role while her husband, Kevin Kilgore, who coached JV for the past three years, assumes the varsity head coach role. With just four seniors returning and three of five student-athletes with national playing experience graduating, the Wildcats will have their hands full as they debut in Division 2 after winning Division 3 last season. "We have great senior leadership and a strong group of juniors, so we should fare well," Amy Kilgore said. "We also have

NOVI FIELD HOCKEY

two goalkeepers with no varsity experience. Playing a vital role in this season's trio of transitions will be the remaining two national players, junior Megan Paul and Lauren Brown. "Megan Paul will play in the backfield and Lauren Brown will anchor the forward line," Amy Kilgore said. "Both girls played field hockey year round and have improved dramatically on an already strong skill set." Also looking to make an impact are senior Stephanie Eiler and junior Lizzy Malear. "Stephanie Eiler is a senior captain with great leadership. She will anchor the backfield," Amy Kilgore said. "And junior Lizzy Malear will continue to hold the midfield this year. Last year, as a sophomore, she started at center

ON TAP

Novi's field hockey team will jump into their tougher contests 11 a.m. Saturday with a double-header at East Grand Rapids and a 4:30 p.m. Tuesday battle with powerhouse Ann Arbor Pioneer on the road. mid, a job usually maintained by a senior. To have her back at center mid and just a junior will be a huge asset for us." With the new division, the new head coach and his squad will see a large contingent of tough teams from the likes of Saline, Academy of the Sacred Heart and Detroit Country Day. "Our toughest match up this year will be against Division 1 and perennial powerhouse Ann Arbor Pioneer," Amy Kilgore said.

Young Wildcats look to return to state title form

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Accustomed to success, Novi's pompon squad has a challenging feat ahead of them this season. After winning back-to-back state titles and High Kick titles two and three seasons ago, the 'Cats finished as runners-up at both the events last year. Now, third-year coach Erin Bartos, in her fifth season with the program, will try to get the girls

NOVI POMPON

back on top despite returning just seven varsity squad pompons. "Varsity only has seven returning members, so all seven are crucial to this team," Bartos said. "I have coached all of them in past seasons and a few of them I have coached all four years since their first year on the junior varsity team." The Garden City squad that upended the Wildcats in com-

petition last fall after several challenging attempts in prior seasons will provide the toughest competition once again. "This group of girls has become accustomed to winning," Bartos said. "The seniors are ready to be leaders on this team and hope to end their pom careers just as they came on to the program, as champions." "Our biggest challenge this season will be our team's inex-

perience. Having only seven returning varsity team members, our team is very young and does not have varsity level competition experience." Bartos said last year's JV coach, sister Elyse Bartos, is now a varsity assistant coach during her third year with the program, which will help with the transition to varsity for several of the younger Wildcats. "We have a great incoming group of girls from our

junior varsity team, which was coached by the current varsity assistant coach, Elyse Bartos," Erin Bartos said. "Last year's JV team won the JV state championships as well as the JV High Kick Championships. They are strong competitors and are looking for another undefeated season on the varsity team this season." The Bartos sisters have also brought on Maria Hernandez as a first-year varsity assistant coach with Novi's program.

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