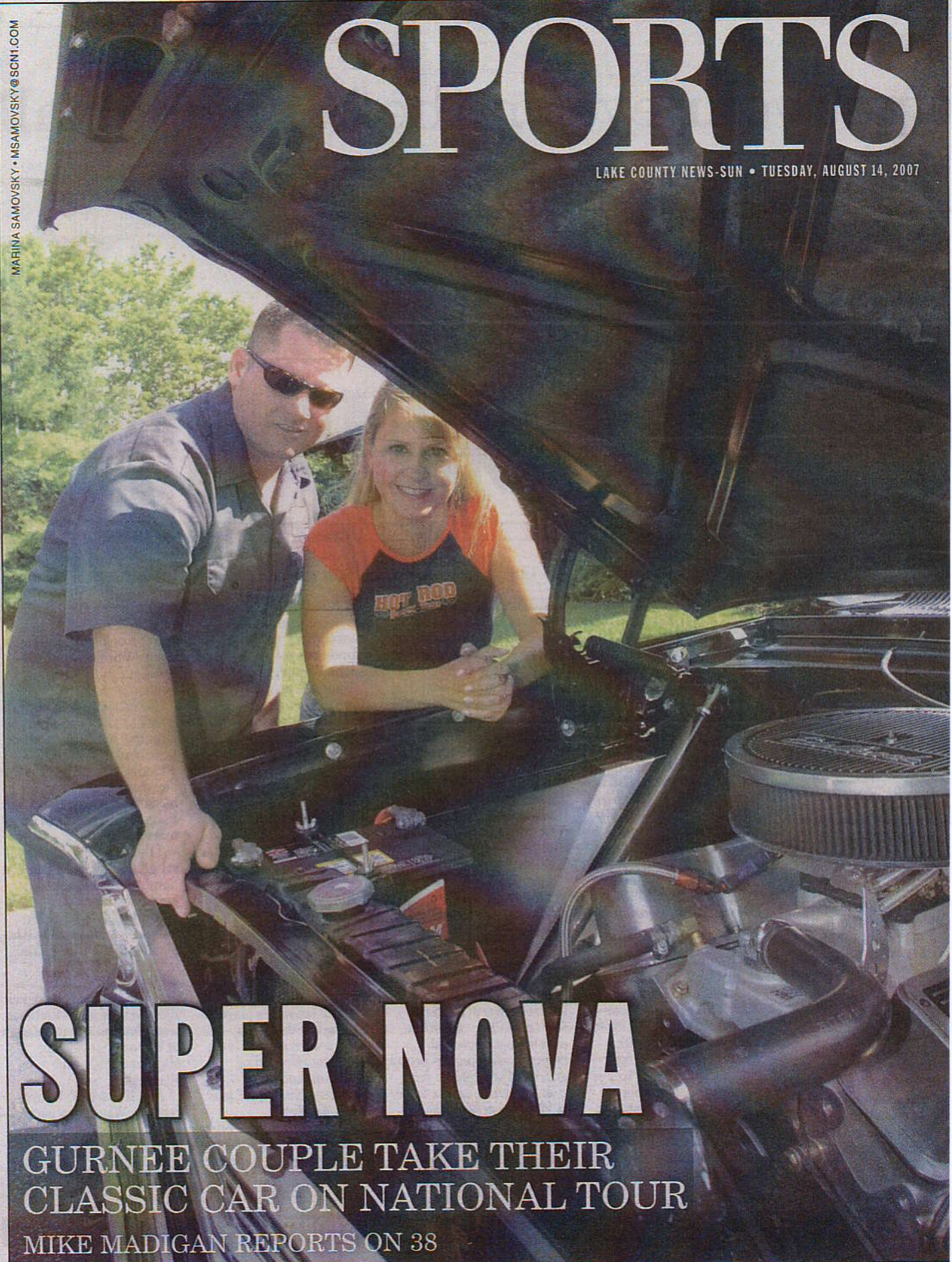


SPORTS

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SUPER NOVA

GURNEE COUPLE TAKE THEIR CLASSIC CAR ON NATIONAL TOUR

MIKE MADIGAN REPORTS ON 38

◆ Dave and Amy Dayton have completed 3,162 miles of the Hot Rod Power Tour in their restored 1967 Chevy Nova, purchased in 2005.

HOT ROD MAGAZINE POWER TOUR

Wheels of fortune



Gurnee's Dave and Amy Dayton bought this 1967 Chevy Nova on eBay in September of 2005 and have driven it extensively on the Hot Rod Power Tour. MARINA SAMOVSKY • MSAMOVSKY@SCN1.COM

Gurnee couple doing more than just spinning their tires

By Mike Madigan
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-SUN

When Dave Dayton saw the 1967 Chevy Nova for sale on eBay, he knew it was the perfect car for his wife, Amy, so he pulled together the \$3,500 and bought it.

Then, the real fun began.

By the time Dave and a few of his friends got done with it, the classic muscle car had a new engine, a rebuilt transmission, heights and suspensions, a new exhaust, new tires and wheels, and with a sparkling new paint job.

All in all, Dave put about \$17,500 into the car he purchased for \$3,500.

And he'll be the first to tell you it was well worth it.

"My wife wanted a Mustang, but I'm an old-school guy," said Dave. "I wanted

her to have something different."

The Chevy Nova was manufactured by General Motors for just for just two years — 1966 and 1967. So, when this model was found for sale in Milwaukee, he knew it was the kind of car he had been looking for.

"I've always thought it was a great make, so when I searched eBay and saw it, I thought I could put the work into to make it nice for Amy and me.

"And with a little help from my friends, we took it one step at a time, he said. "I've always liked hot wheels. I have '67 and '68 Camaros, as well."

New "old" car in tow, the Daytons joined the Hot Power Tour sponsored by Hot Rod Magazine. They drove their car to 7 cities in 7 states in 7 days, starting in



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A side view of the Dayton's pride and joy.

Cleveland and ending in Little Rock, Ark.

It was an incredible experience," said Dave of the tour. "It was so much fun. We hope to be part of it every year. I just wanted to build a car that everyone can appreciate."

The publishers at Hot Rod Magazine liked the car so much that it will be featured in the November issue of the magazine, and also will be a "month" in the magazine's 2008 Hot Rod calendar.

And if you're thinking that the car is just for show ...

think again.

Amy drives it regularly around town (they live in Gurnee).

"Amy drives it every day. It's her car to do with as she wants," said Dave. "We take it to cruise nights at various locations throughout the month including the McDonalds in Lombard and Mundelein."

The Daytons are currently in the middle of building a 1,600 square-foot garage to house their cars, so it's possible that more vintage automobiles are in their future.

If there are, you can bet they will be models made in the late '60s or early '70s.

"I've always had hot wheels, especially muscle cars from the '60s and early '70s," said Dayton. "They just don't make cars like that anymore."

BY THE NUMBERS

POWER TOUR '07
HOT RODS ON TOUR
Some Car Models

- 1932 Ford
- 1939 Chevy pickup
- 1948 Chevy pickup
- 1955 Lincoln
- 1963 Chevy II
- 1964 Chevy Chevelle
- 1966 Oldsmobile 442
- 1967 Chevy Nova
- 1968 Ford Mustang
- 1968 Mercury Cougar
- 1970 Chevy Camaro
- 1970 Ford Torino
- 1970 Chevy Monte Carlo
- 1975 Plymouth Road Runner

DAVE DAYTON'S
'67 CHEVY NOVA

FACTS & FIGURES

- Purchased September of 2005 on eBay from person in Milwaukee
- Engine — 385 small-block Chevy, built by MPG Racing Engines in Highland Park
- Transmission — 700R4 overdrive
- Wheels — American Racing wheels and tires from Goodyear in Gurnee
- Steering — Rack and pinion steering, along with disk brakes from Heidt's Hot Rod Shop in Wauconda
- Paint — Paint and bodywork by Lew Tyche Bodyshop in Park City

HOT ROD MAGAZINE
POWER TOURSEVEN CITIES,
SEVEN STATES

- Cleveland, Ohio
- Kalamazoo, Michigan
- Racine, Wisconsin
- Springfield, Illinois
- Evansville, Indiana
- Memphis, Tennessee
- Little Rock, Arkansas

TRIVIA PURSUIT

- The ARS license plate on the Dayton's 1967 Chevy Nova is a reference to ARS Promotions, which is a company for car enthusiasts. The Web site is www.arspromotions.com.