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Thursday, July 17, 2003 hometownlife.com 50¢

Volume 48 Number 8 Novi, Michigan © 2003 HomeTown Communications Network™

Look inside for your
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INSIDE

Festival time!

Novi's annual Music & Motor Fest is just around the corner. This year's event begins next Thursday, but you can find the official program inside this issue of the Novi News.

— special insert

Not much of a joy ride

Steal a car and end up arrested just under a half an hour later. That's what a carjacker did when he stole a car in Novi and found himself in handcuffs in Livonia.

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REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Open the door

Beckway Door offers a variety of options for those interested in adding a twist to their existing homes or those under construction. See what they have to offer.

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Beck gets back on track

■ Road funding reinstated by state legislature

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

After months of rock tossing between the Governor's Office and the Legislature, the Beck Road/I-96 interchange and 16 other of the 34 road projects axed across the state as part of the Governor's "Preserve First," program is back on the boards.

However, it's questionable if any major work on the $46 million project will be completed before the end of this construction season.

That's just fine with Novi City Council Member Mav Sanghvi. "At least it's one year delay instead of the five year delay we were looking at. That's a plus thing," said Sanghvi who kicked off a petition drive four weeks ago to pressure Governor Jennifer Granholm into restoring funding for the project.

Just last week Granholm vetoed a supplemental budget bill that would have restored funding to the 34 road projects started by former Governor John Engler as part of his Build Michigan III program.

That led State Rep. Craig DeRoche (R-Novi) to declare, "Gov. Granholm should not be playing politics with Michigan's roads - but that's exactly what she is doing."

A week later, State Senator Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) was a bit more conciliatory, saying, "After years of preparation, numerous economic investments and a $6 million bond approved by Novi voters, we are just elated that the

Continued on 11

■ Grand River Ave. business owners say times are hard

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

You could call it a short-term loss for a long-term gain.

But business owners are still singing the blues about their loss of revenue due to the Grand River Avenue road improvement project in Novi.

The road-widening project and replacement of the CSX railroad bridge just west of Novi Road affects businesses on Grand River between Beck and Novi Road.

And, now that construction is going at Beck Road, too, just south of Grand River, traffic tie-ups have increased even more.

Mary Catherine Johnson, owner of Gatsby's Restaurant on Grand River Avenue between Novi and Beck roads, said her business is down at least 30 percent.

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Knife-wielding man robs store

■ Police still looking for thief

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Novi police are looking for a knife wielding bandit who robbed a Speedway gas station at 24210 Novi Road, just a half-mile from police headquarters about 3:30 a.m. Sunday.

According to Detective David Molloy, the thief told the store's 18-year-old clerk, "I don't want to hurt you," before forcing her to open the store's register. The woman was frightened, but uninjured in the incident, said Molloy.

He said while the store's final losses haven't been tallied, it appears the robber made off with between $200 and $300.

Molloy said investigators have a surveillance tape and collected some physical evidence.

The suspect was described as a 35-year-old, 5-foot-7, thin black man with a bushy mustache. He was last seen running east on Ten Mile Road wearing a teal-green jacket, with yellow highlights and a green baseball cap with a yellow brim.

Molloy said he didn't believe this latest robbery was related to a series of convenience store robberies in Novi, Commerce Township and Farmington being investigated by the Oakland County Sheriff's Office along with police in Novi and Farmington.

On May 15, a shotgun-toting gunman robbed the Speedway gas station on Beck Road at Pontiac Trail. A month later the same suspect hit the Amoco gas station across the street in Commerce Township.

The gunman, said Malloy, is believed to be responsible for five early-morning convenience store robberies in the area since May.

Anyone with information on any of the robberies should call Novi Police at (248) 348-7100.

Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108, or at pfoley@ht.homecomm.net.

Setting up for a long drive

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

A quartet of golfers hits the links last Thursday morning for the Novi Lions' Club golf outing. From left are Keith Wilson; General Manager of Bob Sellers GMC, Novi Police Chief Doug Shaeffer, Stanley Cup champion (with Toronto) Joe Klukay, and Novi Rotary's Mav Sanghvi.

Schools not affected by Internet ruling

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Like the Novi Public Library, the Novi Community School District does not receive federal funds that are covered by the Supreme Court's ruling that said, "Because public libraries' use of Internet software does not violate their patrons' First Amendment rights, CIPA (Child Internet Protection Act) does not induce libraries to violate the Constitution and is a valid exercise of Congress' spending power."

In other words, only institutions that use federal funding for Internet access must install filtering software in their computers, but according to Jim Fry, Instructional Technology Consultant for the Novi Community School District, Novi Schools have been filtering the Internet in it's school system for quite a long time before the ruling.

"That ruling was basically put in place to help the more poorer school districts to filter the Internet and communications within the buildings in the districts," Fry said. "Novi gets very little of that federal money because we are a high economic area. Receiving federal funds for any thing like that is tied with the CIPA, which says that if you take the money you have to comply with these regulations. So, this court decision did not really affect us because we have already been doing it. We really didn't have to change anything we were doing because we have already invested in it."

The Novi Community School District has been filtering the Internet since the 1994-95 school year, when filtering companies first got started. The district started using the Internet in 1992, a year before the World Wide Web emerged.

"We were starting to use the World Wide Web around 1994 and we saw right away that there were going to be some difficulties and some issues with inappropriate kinds of materials available to the students, so we started working towards filtering," Fry said. "We're filtering for viruses, we're filtering for content and we're

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Japan wins first Kent Cup Race

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Even if they're not sea-faring folks, most people have heard of the annual America's Cup international sailing race.

In a takeoff on this famous race, local members of the American Sailing Institute (ASI), headquartered in Wixom, had the first annual Kent Cup Race July 12 at Kent Lake in Brighton.

Members met at the East Boat Launch at Kensington Metropark on this sunny, breezy morning to compete in 18-foot Interlake boats in this inaugural event.

Like the America's Cup, the boats represented different coun-

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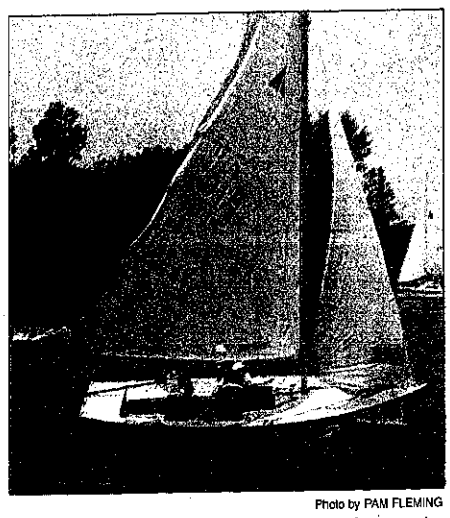

Photo by PAM FLEMING

Sailors in the boat representing Austria came in second in the first annual Kent Cup Race July 12 at Kent Lake in Brighton. Members of the American Sailing Institute, headquartered in Wixom, organized the club event.

Officials moving forward with hospital expansion

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

It will likely be sometime in September or October before St. Johns Health System, the parent group of Providence Hospital, finds out if the legislation that allowed it to move 200 beds to Providence's Novi Campus is constitutional, but hospital officials are still moving forward with plans for a $150 million expansion.

While Ingham County Circuit Court judge James Giddings denied an injunction requested by four suburban and one Saginaw-based health care systems that would have blocked a move by three Detroit hospitals to transfer up to 600 beds to west Oakland County, including 200 to Providence Hospital and Medical Center's Novi campus June 30, he didn't give the trio a green light, either.

"Basically, he said we could do everything up to putting a shovel in the ground," said Rob Casalou, Providence's president.

The state's Certificate of Need commission, acting on the advice of the state Attorney General's office, opted not to vote June 10 on whether or not to block plans by Providence owner St. John's, Henry Ford Health Systems and the Detroit Medical Centers to each move 200 hospital beds from sites in Detroit to Novi, West Bloomfield and Commerce Township, respectively.

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Photo by PAM FLEMING

Representatives from four area companies, including an employee from John Crane Co. in Novi, plus three lucky students from the area will travel to Monterrey and Mexico City July 13-19 for an Automation Alley trade mission. Pictured at a July 2 news conference on the event in Pontiac are, from left, Joseph Melnick of Budzel Long, one of the corporate sponsors of the mission; Congressman Joe Knollenberg; Daniel Bryant, senior, at Lake Orion High School; De'Quesha Petty, sophomore, Pontiac High School; Jeff Nichols, senior, Lake Orion High School; and L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County Executive.

Novi firm sends representative to trade mission south of the border

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

John Crane, a global leader of engineered sealing systems whose sales office is in Novi, is one of four companies that recently sent employees to Mexico July 13 for an Automation Alley trade mission.

The trade mission is officially known as the Automation Alley's Small Business Export Initiative.

Automation Alley is a consortium of technology organizations in southeast Michigan. The Small Business Export Initiative is a program in partnership with the U.S. Department of Commerce to help area companies develop growth opportunities through global partnering.

Crane employees who were scheduled to attend the trade mission are Phillip Shefren, marketing manager; Bill Carmichael, sales director; and Jim Selzer and Andrea Moorhead, sales representatives. The company's headquarters are in Morton Grove, Ill. The Novi location of John Crane International, where Moorhead works, is a sales office.

Three area students were also selected to go on the mission to Monterrey and Mexico City following a competition in which they had to develop a global marketing plan for a product. Students used robots from the FIRST Robotics Team competition as their product.

The local companies and students will attend PAACE, the premier automotive aftermarket trade show, in Mexico.

Other companies going on the trade mission include Bright Solutions, CIGNET and Mack Industries in Troy and USA Switch, Inc.-ASNU in Commerce Township.

Bright Solutions is a leading world supplier of air conditioning service products to the mobile air conditioning, commercial refrigeration and industrial markets. Its products determine leaks in air conditioning and refrigeration systems with a fluorescent dye and a blacklight.

CIGNET was formed in 2002 as a means to bring separate manufacturing division together under one team. It currently consists of Flight Systems, Glastic Corp., Plast-O-Foam and Mold-Right Tool.

Mack Industries serves customers as a full-service prototype computer assisted design pattern, casting and machine supplier.

USA Switch, Inc.-ASNU manufactures and distributes electrical-mechanical parts and electronic transmission parts for autos and light trucks. It is also the exclusive Latin American distributor of the ASNU fuel injector diagnostic and ultrasonic cleaning equipment program.

Oakland Schools is a strategic partner of Automation Alley in the Mexico trade mission. The main objective of the trip is to educate and familiarize students with international trade and give them a "hands-on" experience, according to Dan Austin, interim superintendent of Oakland Schools.

The Global Trade Mission student program is a collaboration between Oakland Schools, Oakland Community College and Oakland County, with support from the Automation Alley Trading Company.

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Weinermobile reported stolen in Northville

By Jennifer Norris
STAFF WRITER

Northville Township resident Gary Pope never expected a rare lawn ornament to be stolen from his front yard early last week.

Pope said his Wienermobile pedal car was taken from his home's flower bed. A reward is being offered for its return.

"It looks just like the Oscar Mayer hot dog in a bun," he said. "It had a little seat with pedals and a steering wheel for kids. It was just a pedal car."

The contraption, he said, had four wheels and was operative.

Pope said he was out of town during the Fourth of July holiday, but believes the Wienermobile was still in place last Sunday as he was mowing the lawn.

"I'm pretty sure I saw it," he said.

On July 9, Pope said his wife, Debra, informed him the Wienermobile was missing.

"I just want it back," he said. "It means a lot to me. I've had it for several years. I found it in a spring cleanup in the city of Southfield. Nobody wanted it, so I took it. They threw it in the trash. I happened to the first on the block and I thought I won a prize."

After noticing the Wienermobile was missing, Pope contacted the Northville Township Police department and an officer visited his home.

Northville Township police chief, John Werth, said a preliminary report was taken and all officers were made aware of the missing item.

"As of right now, we have no leads," said Werth.

Pope said he is distraught by the theft of his Wienermobile pedal car.

"It was a marker," he said. "It was fun to look at it. Anybody who saw it joked right away. It's rare. I've never seen one up to that point."

"It was just a fun thing. I just never thought to chain it to the tree. Who would ever take that? Unless it has more monetary value to it than I had ever thought of. That's a possibility. I've never researched it. I can't picture anybody in Northville having this because it would be like a beacon, being so rare."

Pope said he hopes the police or local area residents can locate and return the Wienermobile.

"It's kind of a bummer," he said. "I'm bummed out about it. I thought it looked cool and I know there wasn't many of them. I was probably one of the few that had one of those."

Pope said he is uncertain if the theft of the Wienermobile was a prank or taken due to its monetary value.

"It may have been very valuable," he said. "I have no idea."

"I just thought it was cool. I'm a collector of car models. It was just another transportation piece. I thought it was neat and I just put it in the yard."

The apparatus, Pope said, was made of fiberglass or heavy plastic and weighed approximately 15-20 lbs.

"I really wanted the police department to know that things were going on in the neighborhood," said Pope. "I'm not looking to send anybody to prison. I just want my Wienermobile back."

Pope said he is offering a reward for the return of the Wienermobile, no questions asked.

"If they dumped it on my lawn, I don't care. I just want it back," he said. "I just really want it back and I don't care how it gets there. Hopefully not in pieces. I just want it back."

Anyone with information or leads on the Wienermobile pedal car is asked to contact the Northville Township Police department at (248) 349-9400.

Jennifer Norris is a staff writer for the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 107 or by e-mail at jnorris@ht.homecomm.net.

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Walsh College recognized by Security Agency

■ Senator Carl Levin slated to present college with certificate from National Security Agency naming it a Center of Academic Excellence

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

As website managers for Novi's business and government communities prepared to celebrate that nation's birthday, federal and private technology experts were spreading the alarm that hackers around the country were planning a "contest" Sunday to disrupt 6,000 websites in six hours.

While no local businesses or agencies reported difficulties with their websites, that's not to say that Internet security isn't a huge issue that's getting bigger.

According to Mike McGill, chairman of Walsh College's business information technology department, while firewalls have all but eliminated casual hackers from business and government websites, the internal threat to company computer systems is bigger than ever. The threats range from employees copying customers' credit card numbers to viruses brought in from home computers on removable media to organized attacks from terrorist organizations.

According to McGill, identity theft is not new. For decades restaurant patrons have "handed their card to a kid they don't know." The problem with the Internet is it's very attractiveness. "It's the quickness of what you can do," said McGill. "Within minutes of getting someone's information, you can spend several thousand dollars."

He noted that while residents have become more concerned with the threat of terrorists immediately following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the biggest concern for most companies is disgruntled employees.

McGill noted that when he was a ranking official at Henry Ford Health Systems, he supervised 250 employees, half of whom had the technical ability to plant "time bombs" that could destroy information databases or release unauthorized information to the Internet.

He said the number of people who could release a company's financial records to the world with a handful of keystrokes is "growing by leaps and bounds."

U.S. Senator Carl Levin is slated to present Walsh with a certification from the National Security Agency naming the college a Center of Academic Excellence during ceremonies at the college's Novi campus July 21.

Teri Takai, director of the states's Department of Information Technology, is expected to release the details of a year-long program that will use Walsh staff and advanced students to beef up security on select state computer systems.

Following the 8 a.m. presentation, Dr. William Maconachy who currently serves as the program manager of the National INFOSEC Education and Training Program of the National Security Agency will discuss cyberterrorism as part of a Walsh College Cybersecurity Workshop. The workshop will also address managing security and privacy issues in business and government.

College officials are also expected to unveil details for a series of seminars on helping police, fire and other municipal officials improve security on their computer systems.

"We're inviting all those who have responsibility for the safety of information in their companies and communities," said Walsh College President Keith A. Pretty.

Pretty noted that although nearly half the information technology professionals questioned in a recent survey said they believed their systems would be the focus of a major attack in the coming year, most companies are prepared to deal with such an event.

Lou Martin, chairman of the Novi Chamber of Commerce, said the threat to websites, "would not have been an issue for us. We don't do secure transactions." However, he added, Internet security will become an issue for the chamber in the future as it moves toward allowing its members to make online payments for chamber luncheons and events.

"There is a price you pay for not being vigilent," offered McGill.

"Protecting the technology infrastructure is essential to our economy and our national security," said Pretty. "That's why The President's National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace was established and why the National Security Agency has designated Walsh College as a Center of Academic Excellence to provide educational programs that protect us from these threats."

Given Walsh's size compared to the rest of the state's college community, McGill said being named a Center of Academic Excellence by the NSA is "huge for us." Noting that most of the work leading up to the designation took place prior to his joining the college in January, he said, "we have a critical mass of staff."

There is no charge for the event, however reservations are encouraged. By e-mail: jbray@walshcollege.edu or phone: (248) 823-1259 or fax: (248) 689-8055. Updates on speakers and workshops will be posted on the Walsh College Web site at www.walshcollege.edu.

Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 108 or at pfoley@ht.homecomm.net.

Novi career counselor finally finds her niche

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

To get a good job, get a good education.

Joyce Fortier, a Novi resume writer and career counselor, would add, "and a good resume."

A certified professional resume writer and career management coach, Fortier has her own business, Create Your Career, in her home near Ten Mile and Meadowbrook.

She has helped numerous area residents — from students to high-level executives — land the job of their dreams.

She has also contributed to 10 career-oriented books, including a collection of advice from career professionals like herself, and has written articles in the past for the Novi News.

Fortier carries the distinction of being a credentialed career master from the Career Master Institute in Kansas City.

A career transition consultant, she sees herself as both a coach and facilitator.

She can assist job hunters by writing a powerful resume and/or cover letter and prepare them for a polished job interview. She can also develop focused job search strategies, a targeted recruiter search and teach them focused Internet techniques.

Fortier will even critique anyone's resume for free. After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, she wrote resumes for no charge for out-of-work pilots.

A 17-year resident of Novi and three-year member of the Novi Chamber of Commerce, Fortier, like most career counselors, wore many hats before donning her current one.

Joyce Fortier

After earning a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Wayne State University in Detroit and a master's degree in business administration from Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, "I was teaching, and I got laid off," Fortier said.

About a year later, she landed a job with General Motors in accounting. The familiar philosophy of "It's-not-what-you-know-but-who-you-know" came into play in this instance.

"I knew somebody at GM that I'd gone to high school and college with, and he got me the interview," she recalled.

She worked in accounts payable at the Big Three automaker for 11 years. But, her heart wasn't in it.

"While I did well, I didn't love it," she said. "I finally figured I had too many years left to work to be unhappy with what I was doing every day."

When difficult economic times forced GM to start offering corporate buyouts, "I was the first in line," Fortier said.

She started teaching adult education in Belleville when she made a discovery that would change her life.

"I realized that while I was teaching them skills to have on the job, they had no skills on how to *get* a job. I decided to do my own workshop for job seekers," she recalled.

DaimlerChrysler has career centers inside the company's plants. Fortier's next venture was working at one of these centers in the Sterling Heights Assembly Plant for about a year.

Next, she served as dean of education at the Academy of Court Reporting in Southfield.

"I incorporated some of my career advice in this job, also, such as proper business dress, interviewing, resume writing and networking skills," she said.

She then returned to work at DaimlerChrysler as a problem-solving trainer.

"Every salaried employee had to have this training," Fortier explained.

Then she went to work for Ford Motor Company, implementing best practices for one of the plant vehicle teams.

She spent many evenings and weekends, however, working on creating her own business as a career counselor.

Fortier said with her varied career experiences, she has something to offer that other resume writers don't.

"A lot of resume writers start out as secretaries. I have the benefit of business knowledge that I can share with my clients. I've always kept my finger on business trends," she said.

In addition to her at-home business, Fortier also taught business management at Madonna University in Livonia for five years. She's been involved solely in her own business for about five years.

"I average five to seven new clients a week," she said. "And my prices are very competitive for the area," she said, which start at about $200 for a resume.

In her experience, she finds many resumes don't show a person's true value. "You need to use specific words that show your key skills. Then add your career highlights and accomplishments," she said.

"What have you done in your last job that you're most proud of? How did you make a difference? That should be on your resume," she noted.

She also believes resumes shouldn't be more than three pages, if possible, and she doesn't use a template or set format.

"Everything I do is individualized to meet the client's needs. It's not a cookie-cutter approach," she said.

Fortier doesn't just take on resume development, however. She also helps clients with e-mail distributions, direct mail and job board placement.

"I will hold their hand through the whole job-search process," she said.

Fortier also focuses on recruiter information, marketing tools, executive biographies, salary negotiation and networking.

Even in the current down economy, "People are getting jobs," Fortier said. "It depends on how active you are in your job search."

The biggest mistake that most job seekers make, she said, is relying too much on the Internet and not enough on networking.

"Tell everyone you know that you're looking for a job," she advises.

The next biggest fatal error is lack of follow-up.

"You can't just mail or e-mail your resume and expect it to float to the top of the pile," she said.

She added that all indications point to the fact that employers are expecting more jobs to be available in the second half of 2003.

"September and October are the busiest months for hiring. Mid-January to mid-March is the next busiest time," she said.

Fortier said she has finally found job satisfaction by helping others do the same.

"I just love what I do because I feel I really make a difference in peoples lives," she said.

For more information about career counseling, check out Fortier's Web site at www.careerist.com.

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Former Novi High performing art students find themselves in a variety of situations

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

So, where are they now? Those talented actors and singers who graced the hallways of Novi High School just a few years ago are starting to leave their finger prints on the society with successful results. Seven former NHS students took time out of their busy schedules to talk of their past experiences, their current lives and their futures.

Submitted Photo

A 2001 graduate of Novi, Maureen Sebastian is currently attending U of M and is studying Theater Performance and English.

Lauren Sorrentino

For Lauren Sorrentino, who graduated from Novi High in 2000, directing is something she enjoys doing more than acting. She currently attends Western Michigan University and is majoring in theater education. After she graduates, she is hoping to come back to Novi so she can work on earning her masters degree form Wayne State University and do some directing at the same time.

"In high school I was in choir and I did theater with Novi Theaters at the Civic Center," Sorrentino said. "I have been in a few productions at Western but now I'm mostly concentrating on directing. Directing is a much different perspective, but it's still very artistic, so it kept my artistic juices flowing. I enjoy having the power of it and it's just a different way to express myself through theater."

Sorrentino has already directed a play called "Habit" through a class called Directing Two.

Submitted Photo

Lauren Sorrentino is a 2000 grad of Novi High and is currently studying theater education at Western Michigan University.

She said that it was a full fledged production and right now she is assistant directing for the Kindleberger Festival in Parchment, Michigan.

"That is just a festival that they do every year and there is a kids show and an adult show, but I've also done some directing in Novi," she said. "I directed a show last summer, so I have done quite a bit of directing, but I'm still learning. I'm going to start my senior year and my degree is going to be more in the educational background of theater. Hopefully I'll be directing kids."

Maureen Sebastian

Maureen Sebastian graduated from Novi High in 2001. She started taking drama during her sophomore year and was in every production after that, which included plays such as "Much Ado About Nothing" and "All in the Timing." She will be a junior at the University of Michigan this fall and is studying Theater Performance and English.

"There were a bunch of productions I was in," she said. "I have been in a bunch of productions at U of M, but most recently I was in the Festival of New Works, which is something from people who are very successful in the business who have graduated from U of M and have gone on to screen writing. I also was Blanche DuBois in "Street Car Named Desire," and I had minor roles in other university productions, such as "Hamlet," and the "Balcony."

Staying busy is an understatement for Sebastian. As she explained, she basically spends all of her time either studying or rehearsing. "I'm trying to do a major in four years, so I take about 18 to 20 credits every semester," she said. "I have class from 9 to 5 Monday through Friday and then I usually have rehearsals Monday through Friday from 7-11 and Saturday from 12-5. So any time that I have really between classes or any time during the week or on the weekends, I'm usually studying for all of my academics."

Sebastian is working on earning a BSA in theater performance and a BA in English. "I try to have some free time just to keep my sanity, so on the weekends I go out sometimes," she said. "Next summer, when I get done with school I plan on going out to Los Angeles and living there for the entire summer. The director that directed me in the Festival of New Works lives there right now and he's making a living off of screen writing and he is a screen writer himself. He has an agent right now who he wanted to introduce me to who wanted to help me out to see if I can get some auditions during the summer so I can have a feel of what Los Angeles is like because that's more so the Mecca for straight actors rather than musical theater."

As far as Novi High School is concerned, Sebastian would love to contribute a lot of her inspiration to Heather McCaig, who is the Drama Director at Novi High. "She is just an amazing woman and I have to credit much of my eagerness to actually go into theater and pursue it to her," Sebastian said.

Matt Hoag

Like Sebastian, Matt Hoag graduated from Novi High in 2001. Many may recognize his voice as an on air sidekick for the Man at Large Show on the 93.1 FM WDRQ radio station in Detroit.

"Every time I come to the radio station I'm on the air, so that's a pretty big production," he said. "I plan on taking this as far as I can go. One day I plan on having my own morning show as an on air DJ."

Hoag started his journey to the radio with three years of choir in high school. He was also in three different musicals including "Music Man" and "Crazy For You." After high school he went to community college for a year, then to The Specs Howard School of Broadcasting in Southfield, which he still currently attends.

"I love Specs Howard," Hoag said. "In high school I had no idea what I wanted to do. All I knew was what everybody wanted me to do, like go to a university and everything, but I didn't want to do that. I tried it and didn't like it and decided to do things my way and it has worked out for the best."

Mike Wahlstrom

Mike Wahlstrom's life is about to take a drastic change for the better. As a manager for the Abercrombie and Fitch company, he will be transferred to California by the end of this summer and he is looking forward to the change in scenery.

Wahlstrom graduated from Novi High in 2000. In high school he was in both, choir and drama and later moved on to Michigan State University where he was part of the Official Acapella group called the Spartan Dischords as well as the Men's Glee Club. Just like another former Novi High graduate named Heidi Fifield, he was also a finalist for last season's American Idol television show.

"I met a great director when I was a sophomore in high school who really persuaded me to take it further and I did," Wahlstrom said. "I have been in numerous musicals all over Ann Arbor and Novi."

Wahlstrom was in "The Sound of Music" for the Novi Theaters, "Man of LaMancha" with the Novi Theaters and just recently played the role of Daddy Warbucks in Annie at the Novi Theaters. At the Ann Arbor Civic Theater, he was in "Who's Tommy."

"The person I went through and auditioned with for American Idol was Ruben," Wahlstrom said. "So I got to meet and hang out with him the whole time. I was in Nashville Tennessee for a week and a half. It was a blast and I'm definitely going to try again. They haven't posted the audition dates but they will probably be at the beginning of October."

Wahlstrom enjoyed working on "Who's Tommy" because The Who wrote the music. "It was a great cast and I got to meet a lot of people in Ann Arbor," he said. "It's a great theater program out there, so that was a lot of fun and the dancing was fun too."

When he moves out to California, Wahlstrom will already know some people out there. "I have a lot of friends

Continued on 8

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LIBRARY LINES

HOURS

The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library is closed on Sunday during the summer. We are located at 45245 W. 10 Mile Road, just east of Taft Road. For more information, call (248) 349-0720.

LAUGH IT UP @ THE LIBRARY

Sign-up is now underway for the 2003 Summer Reading Program, "Laugh It Up @ the Library." The program is for children in the 4th grade and below.

LOL @ NPL

Kids going into the 5th grade and beyond are invited to sign up for "LOL @ NPL." We'll feature awesome programs and prizes throughout the summer.

MEET AN ASTRONAUT!

Ken Cameron, a veteran of three space shuttle missions who logged over 561 hours in space, will talk to kids in the 5th grade and up about what it's like to be a NASA astronaut on Monday, July 21, from 1-2 p.m. He's looking forward to answering your questions, too! Please register in advance in the library's Teen Area.

CRAFT PROGRAMS

We have two craft programs scheduled for Tuesday, July 22. Crafts for children ages 5-6 will be at 1 p.m.; crafts for children age 7 and up will be at 2 p.m. There is a $1.00 materials fee for each 40-minute program. No registration is necessary, but space is limited.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BOOK DISCUSSION

Our new book discussion group for teens going into grades 7-9 meets for food, fun, and a lively discussion of "Stuck in Neutral" by Terry Trueman on Tuesday, July 22, from 4-4:45 p.m. No registration is necessary.

PAWS WITH A CAUSE

Meet a group of "assistance dogs in training" from Paws With a Cause on Wednesday, July 23. These special canines will be at the library at 1 p.m. to meet children age four and up. The dogs will return at 7 p.m. to meet children of all ages. No registration is required for the 50-minute programs.

DROP-IN STORY TIMES

Story time for children ages four to seven will be held Thursday, July 24; story time for two- and three-year-olds will be held Friday, July 25. Each 30-minute session begins at 11 a.m. No registration is necessary.

PIZZA PARTY

All of our Teen Volunteers and all kids going into the 5th grade and up are invited to celebrate the end of summer reading on Monday, July 28, from 1-2:30 p.m. We'll have pizza, games, prizes, and more. Preregistration is required; please sign up in the Teen Area of the library.

MAGICIAN JASON HUDY

Magician Jason Hudy presents an awesome magic show, filled with incredible surprises and astounding balloon animals on Wednesday, July 30. There will be a 1 p.m. show for children age four and up, and a 7 p.m. show for children of all ages. No registration is necessary for the 45-minute programs.

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August 3 golf scramble to help benefit NHS band

■ Trip to Germany among prizes that could be won at fund-raiser

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Anyone who's upset that the Novi Educational Foundation Golf Outing came and went so quickly can now cheer up and break out the clubs once again. The Novi High School Band Boosters will be hosting the First Annual Golf Scramble on Sunday, Aug. 3 at the Links of Novi on 10 Mile Road. Tee time is from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. According to a letter put out by the organization, all the money raised will go directly to the NHS band and there are many ways to contribute.

Cost per person for the golf scramble is $125, but for non golfers, a dinner ticket is $30. Dinner sponsors are $2,000, hole sponsors are $125 and lunch sponsors are $1,000. Lunch will be served prior to tee off.

"We have fund raisers every year for band," Doug Demarois of the Band Boosters said. "We have raffle prizes, Jewelry from Larsons Jewelry in Novi, a two year car lease, a trip for two to Germany and a golf weekend getaway, among other things."

The golf scramble is open to everyone and those needing help finding a foursome can e-mail booster representatives to be fit into a group of other supporters or alumni.

"This is a great annual event for our community," Demarois said. "It's a good way for the community to come back and support the band."

Demarois has been associated with the band boosters for three years now. "This is a hard year for us," he said. "At the Fun Fair in September, we didn't select our own date. It's in conjunction with South Lyon High School and we are desperately trying to make up for it. It cots us close to six figures."

Sponsorships for the event will consist of a gold package, a silver package and a bronze package. The Gold package costs $800 and includes four people playing, frontal vision of their sign, a half page ad in Fanfare Magazine, which is a $125 value, lunch and dinner and five raffle tickets for each person that plays.

The silver package costs $700 and includes a level sign, a foursome for golf, lunch and dinner, four raffle tickets per person and a half page ad in Fanfare Magazine.

The bronze, which costs $600, includes a tee sign, a foursome of golf, lunch and dinner, two raffle tickets per person and a half page ad in Fanfare Magazine.

The golf scramble is limited to 30 foursomes or 120 people. There will also be a silent auction, where a great deal of Detroit Red Wings paraphernalia being auctioned off. Anyone interested in the golf scramble or who needs more information can e-mail Gail O'Connor or Demarois at novibandgolf@aol.com.

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net.

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Photo by LYNNE Garcia

Working hard for the money

Tom Dudek And Al Brodowicz with Navetta Mason Contractors work on the new construction near Novi High School.

City unveils Lakeshore Park improvments

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department officials will be taking the wraps off the first in a series of improvements to Novi's largest park.

Mayor Richard Clark and other city officials are expected to be on hand for a ribbon cutting 11 a.m. Saturday at Lakeshore Park on Walled Lake. At 384 acres, Lakeshore accounts for more than half the city's parkland.

Parks workers have completed renovations to the facility's day-camp building, removed some dilapidate court surfaces and upgraded some pathways. However, the most anticipated improvement at the park, at least among the under five-foot set, has been the new playstructure.

Auler said the new playstructure, which can hold up to 130 children at a time, replaces an aging playground that was built closer to South Lake Drive. The old playground, he noted, did not meet current safety standards and was removed. The new playstructure has 23 distinct play areas.

The improvements at Lakeshore Park were funded through a community development block grant, said Auler. Later this year, the department will be working with the Michigan Mountain Bike Association to improve trails in the park.

Following the ribbon cutting at the park, the department will present Royal Oak's Phil Kaput, The Rhythm Man, on the stagemobile. Kaput will be doing a percussion workshop for kids.

Auler said next summer he hopes to move the city's free concert series from the Civic Center on 10 Mile Road to Lakeshore Park.

Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 108 or pfoley@ht.homecomm.net.

ENGAGEMENT

Hendricks and Cortez

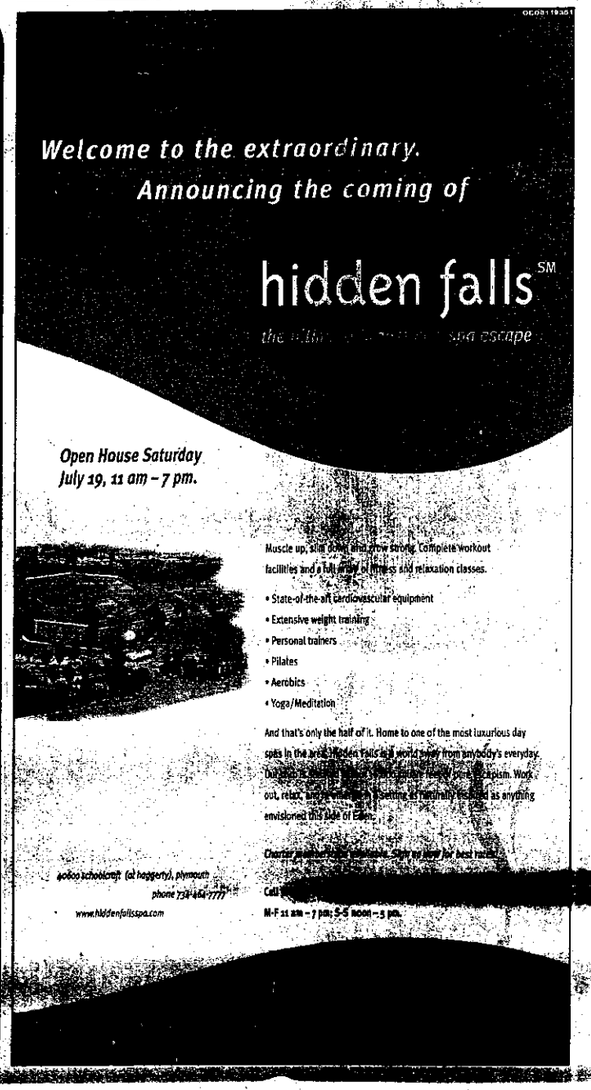
Nancy Kelly of Brighton, formerly Novi, is pleased to announce the engagement of her son, Dan Hendricks, to Lisa Cortez, daughter of Henry and Carolyn Cortez of Cadillac. Dan is also the son of Paul Hendricks of Northville.

The groom-elect is a 1999 graduate of Novi High School and a 2003 graduate of Hope College. He will be attending the University of Hawaii in Honolulu pursuing a Ph.D. in sociology.

The bride-elect is a 1999 graduate of Cadillac High School and is also a 2003 graduate of Hope College.

Lisa will be teaching special education at Central Middle School in Honolulu.

A July 2003 wedding is planned.



POLICE BRIEFS

CAR SHOT: A Novi man told Novi police July 6 that someone shot out the windshield of his 1994 Ford Escort with a pellet gun while the car was parked in front of his Anthony Street residence.

COUNTRY ROADS DON'T TAKE THEM HOME: Novi police stopped a 1995 BMW, driven by a 16-year-old Novi girl, at around 3:15 a.m. July 6 near Nine Mile and Sunrise after the car made an abrupt turn off eastbound Ten Mile on to Border Hill in what appeared to be an attempt to avoid a patrol car. When stopped, the girl and 18-year-old female Novi companion told the officer they were simply taking the back roads home from a party in Whitmore Lake. After detecting the presence of alcohol, police charged the pair with minors in possession. The 16-year-old was released to her father's custody.

MOON OVER NOVI: Police officer reported July 6 that as he pulled into the Mobil Station at Novi Road and Grand River at 1:30 a.m., he spotted a 15-year-old Highland girl dropping her pants to her ankles. The girl told police that she bared her bottom at the station attendant because she had to go to the bathroom and the station attendant told her the station didn't have one. The girl was charged with indecent exposure and curfew violation. Her 17-year-old female companion from Holly was charged with minor in possession.

NO BOOM, BUT YOUTH POPPED: A police officer on bicycle patrol in Old Dutch Trailer Park about midnight July 6 observed two boys running off into the darkness. He later found one of the boys near the corner of Mariga and Ocher. The 17 year-old Novi resident told him he'd run off because he had fireworks. The officer didn't find fireworks on the boy, but he did find a bottle of vodka and a half-pack of cigarettes. He charged the youth with minor in possession of alcohol and tobacco products.

NOISY STOP: Officers reported seeing a 1988 Jeep pickup come to a "screeching halt" on eastbound Old Novi Road at 11:45 p.m. July 5. After a traffic stop, they charged the driver, a 33-year-old Flint man, with OUIL.

JUST ONE, OFFICER: On the way to a fireworks complaint at 10:30 p.m. July 4, police spotted a 2001 Ford Explorer driving erratically on Center Street near Nine Mile. The driver, a 58-year-old Northville woman, claimed to have had only one drink at Mesquite Creek, but she failed the field sobriety test and registered a blood alcohol content of 0.16. She was charged with OUIL and later released on a $100 bond.

STOP SOONER NEXT TIME: Police officers reported July 5 that they stopped a 1987 Volkswagen after it ran a red light on Novi Road at Grand River Avenue and then slammed on the brakes. The driver, a 26-year-old Farmington man, denied having been drinking, but registered a BAC of 0.110. He was charged with OUIL and having open intoxicants in his vehicle.

TRE GRAN BEEMER: Officers reported clocking a 1995 BMW at nearly 90 m h in a 60 mph zone on the I-96 ramp to M-5 at 1:45 a.m. July 10. They stopped the car on eastbound 13 Mile off M-5. After failing a field sobriety test and registering a 0.10 BAC the driver, a 32-year-old Farmington man, was charged with OUIL.

MARIJUANA BUST: Security guards at Pavilion Court Apartments reported seeing a man flee from an attempted car burglary at around 2 a.m. July 10. A patrol officer later stopped a 22-year-old man and charged him with violation of the controlled substance act after discovering he had two grams of marijuana. The man was later released after posting a $210 bond.

TIRES SLASHED: A 21-year-old Novi man told a police officer that someone slashed the tires on the driver's side of his 1998 Ford Contour while it was parked at his Brandon Street home between 10 p.m. July 9 and 12:24 p.m. July 10.

STOLEN CAR RECOVERED: Security guards at Twelve Oaks Mall reported July 10 at 2 p.m. that someone abandoned a 2000 Daewoo at the mall. A Novi detective discovered that it had been reported stolen in Chicago in 2001. The car was missing its ignition locked, but otherwise appeared in good condition.

LONG WAY FROM HOME: A patrol officer stopped a 2003 gray Ford Mustang at West Oaks shopping center July 10 at 10:17 p.m. after clocking it at 60 mph in a 40 mph zone on Novi Road. The driver, a 48-year-old Murfreesboro, Tenn. man, was charged with OUIL after failing a field sobriety test and registering a 0.112 BAC.

NO TURN ON RED: A patrol officer stopped a blue Chevrolet Cavalier on westbound Grand River Avenue east of Novi Road after it made a right turn on a red light at an intersection with a sign prohibiting that. The driver, a 25-year-old Novi man, told the officer, that he had had a "couple of beers" at the Library Grill & Pub, but he registered a BAC of 0.151. The man was charged with OUIL and later released after posting a $100 bond.

HIT TWO AND CALL ME IN THE MORNING: A 57-year-year-old South Lyon woman told a police officer at around 6:30 p.m. July 10 that she fainted on the way home from giving blood. Three witnesses told officers that her 2002 Chrysler came to a stop on westbound Nine Mile near Taft Road and then rapidly accelerated into two power poles. Power lines fell on the woman's car, where she stayed until being freed by Detroit Edison crews.

LOOK, MA, NO WHEELS: A 25-year-old Novi man told police that someone stole the tires and rims from his 2001 Monte Carlo while it was parked outside his apartment sometime before 6:21 a.m. July 10. The man estimated his loss at $3,000. Officer Woloski spotted two other vehicles in the apartment complex missing tires.

MAILBOX PINCHED: A Novi man told police that someone stole his house-shaped mailbox July 9. The man estimated his loss at $75.

WHAT, NO TOPS: Loss prevention officers at Lord & Taylor told police that they detained a 20-year-old Novi woman after watching her remove the price tags from a pair of sunglasses and bathing suit bottoms and then leave the store. They recovered $64 worth of merchandise and the woman was charged with retail fraud. She was released after posting a $100 bond.

THREE OR FOUR WILL GET YOU 100: Police stopped a 2002 Ford Mustang on the eastbound ramp to Interstate 96 off Novi Road at 2:15 a.m. July 3. The driver, a 32-year-old Livonia man, said he'd had three or four beers — the last at JW's Sports Bar — but after he failed a field sobriety test and registered a BAC of 0.159, he was charged with OUIL. The man was later released after posting a $100 bond.

BALLOON 1, WINDOW 0: A Novi man told police July 3 that someone smashed out the upstairs bedroom window of his Hempshire street residence with a water balloon sometime between 6:30 p.m. July 2 and 6:20 a.m. the next day.

CONSTRUCTION SITE BURGLED: A Hazel Park man told police at 1:30 p.m. July 4 that $1,705 worth of tools and materials were stolen from a home being built by Singh Development on Burroughs Street.

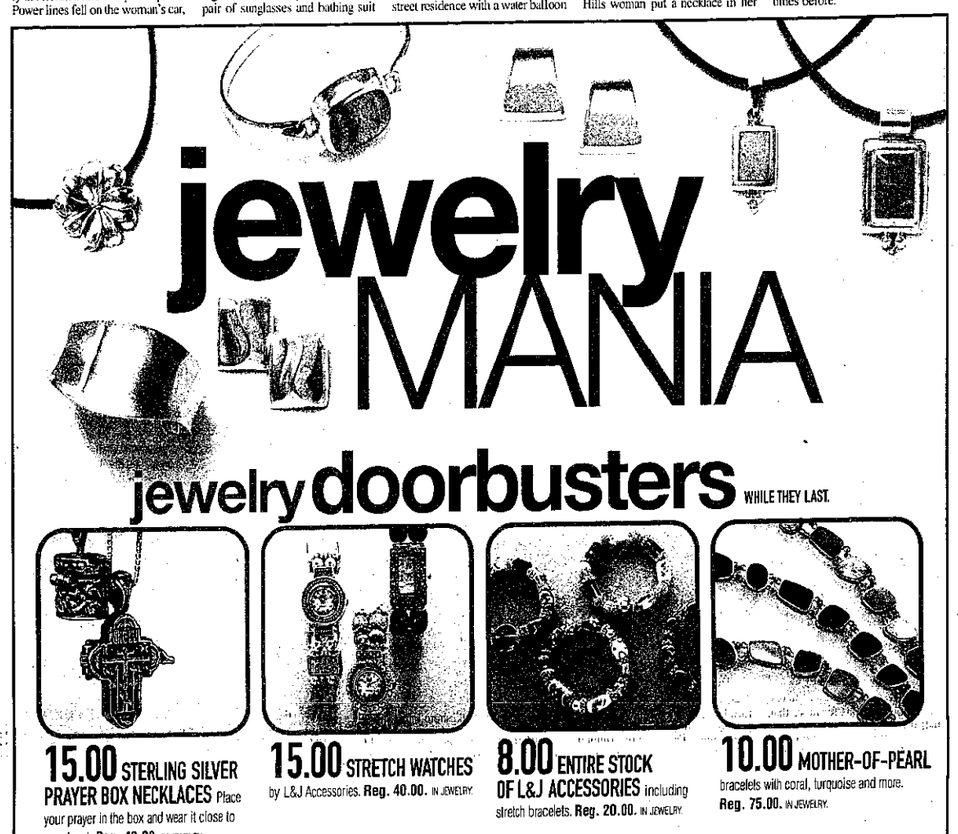
LOCK YOUR DOORS: A Novi man told police that someone stole a CD case, a handheld GPS unit and a cell phone adapter from his unlocked 1998 Grand Am while it was parked in front of his Sutherland Street residence. The man estimated his loss at $625.

STICKY FINGERS: Loss prevention officers at Lord & Taylor told Novi police July 4 that the watch a 53-year-old Farmington Hills woman put a necklace in her pocket and leave the store. They recovered $104 worth of clothing and costume jewelry. The woman was charged with retail fraud and released on a $100 bond.

CAR SHOT II: A Novi man told police that his 1993 Ford Probe was shot with a BB gun outside his Portsmouth Street residence.

CAR SHOT III: A 43-year-old Novi man told police that someone shot out a window in his 1995 Jeep Grand Cherokee with a BB gun while it was parked at his Williams Street home.

TV LIFTED: A 53-year-old Novi man told police that someone broke into a trailer he had stored at Novi Meadows and stole a 13-inch television worth $120. The man told officers this has happened numerous times before.



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FORMER STUDENTS: Where are they now?

Continued from 4

who are already in the entertainment industry in California, so I plan on moving out there by the end of summer and working for Abercrombie and pursuing a career in acting and singing," he said. "I would love to do any kind of performance, television, movies or recording contracts, whatever it is."

Unfortunately, all of his activities have left Wahlstrom very little time to himself, but he doesn't let that bother him. "I have been busy and doing all of those productions have consumed a lot of time," he said. "My job has been lenient, but it's really difficult trying to do these performances while you have a full time job and your going to school. You have to find time for everything. I don't get much free time, but it's well worth it."

> "I loved doing it so much and I loved the group of people. It was something I thought I was pretty good at, but I now I do magic for parties."
>
> *John Kohl*
> *Former Novi High Performing Arts Student*

Jennifer Boueri

Jennifer Boueri is currently double majoring in Psychology and Political Science at the University of Michigan and she is going to law school. She will be entering her senior year this fall and even though her majors are a far cry from her past activities in choir at Novi High, she still enjoys doing some dancing and performing during her spare time.

Boueri graduated high school in 2000 after four years of choir. She is currently in the U of M Women's Glee Club, which she started during her first semester of her freshman year. "Singing was something I wanted to pursue in college," she said. "I have done one musical since I've been in college as well, which was "West Side Story."

Boueri played the role of Rosalia, which wasn't one of the leads. "It's more of a chorus part, but I had a couple little parts here and there too," she said. "It's not a huge part, but it's a good part to have. I did three musicals in high school as well, but that's the only one I did in college."

For the audition for "West Side Story," Boueri had to sing two songs. "One was a ballad and you could sing whatever you wanted," she said. "You only got 16 bars to sing, which are measured. You also have to do a dance audition and if you got called back, you had to do another dance and singing audition. When they posted the cast list, it ended up being 26 hours a week of rehearsal. It was like my full time job. Those rehearsals ran at night after everyone was done with classes."

That semester took a lot of sacrifice in terms her social life, but Boueri didn't let her grades suffer. "You just had to learn to budget your time very well," she said. "I did lose a lot of sleep though. I thought about making performing a career, but it's a little bit of a risky career choice, so I chose to enjoy it as my hobby."

John Kohl

John Kohl, who graduated from Novi High in 2000, has found a unique way to channel all of his performing abilities into magic. He is currently a magician who people can hire for their parties.

"I never really held my aspirations that high for performing after high school," he said. "I loved doing it so much and I loved the group of people. It was something I thought I was pretty good at, but I now I do magic for parties."

Kohl described his magic shows as his own performances. "It's like a performance because I get to make up my own shows and I get to have fun with it," he said. "I go to Miami University and I have one year left. I'm going to graduate with a marketing degree and for after that, I really don't know where I'm going to end up. I think my experiences in high school have helped me tremendously though as far as public speaking."

At Novi High, Kohl was in choir all four years and the Novi Singers his last year. In drama he was in all the musicals and three of the dramas. "There are different aspects of musicals and drama," he said. "In musicals it's a different kind of environment. There are bigger casts so you have a lot more people to share memories with and it's a little bit more of a close nit group because everybody tends to come together more so than drama. You definitely had more things to work on with a musical and all those different aspects come together and you have all these different ways to get to know people a little bit more."

Jen McCracken

Jen McCracken, who graduated from Novi High in 2001, was involved in Novi Choirs all through high school, including Novi Singers. She played Reno Sweeney in Novi's production of "Anything Goes" during her senior year and was also in "Crazy for You," "The Music Man" and "Fame."

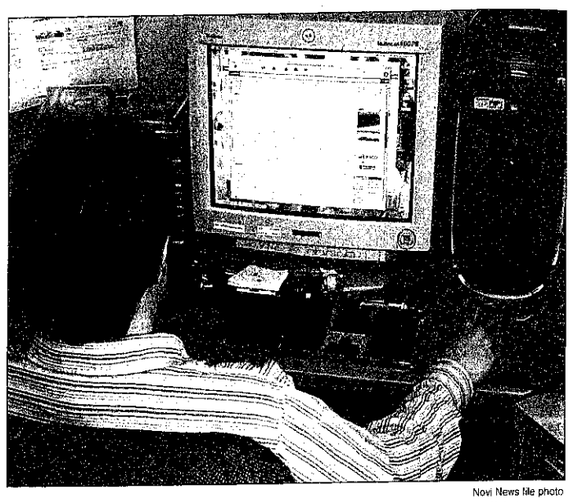
At Central Michigan University, McCracken enrolled in the CMU Concert Choir in May 2002 and took a tour of China with the group.

"We spent 10 days total in the cities of Beijing, Shanghai, and Xian," she said. "The Concert Choir performed in all three cities and did an exchange concert with a Chinese Choir as well."

McCracken was in "The Sound of Music" her freshman year, where she played the role of a nun and "Chicago" this past March, where she played a part of the chorus. She has a music minor and teaches piano lessons through CMU's Community Music School.

"There is no doubt that "Chicago" was my favorite show to perform in," she said. "The Fosse style of dancing was something I had never done before, but proved to be an exciting challenge. The entire cast was extremely talented and definitely gave "Chicago" the movie a run for its money. Although I am an Interior Design major now, I still plan on continuing my involvement with musical theater at CMU. There's a lot of hard work and dedication required to be a part of a University show, but a day never passes that I don't think about my next audition."

Rameez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net.



Novi News file photo

Only institutions that use federal funding for Internet access must install filtering software in their computers.

INTERNET: Novi Schools not affected by recent rulings

Continued from front

checking for a variety of things. A lot of times you will hear people talking about a fire wall, which is literally a wall you put up between the outside world and your inside network. It sits there and watches what's coming in and out, stopping things which shouldn't be coming in, like hackers."

Novi Schools currently uses filtering software called Web Sense, but it has used another product in the past called BESS, made by the N2H2 company. Fry said that both companies will be evaluated once again before the 2003-04 school year starts so that district will have the best possible system in place.

Every night, Web Sense automatically downloads an update of more web sites to the system that it has found to be not appropriate to students. It's literally a very large data base of web sites to check. So, every time a student puts a site into a school computer's browser, it checks it to see if it's on the list of inappropriate web sites. If it is, the system sends a message back to the person who clicked, restricting them from access.

"One method of checking is literally a huge list and another way is also by key words," Fry said. "It's scanning and blocking certain words, but it can't always pick everything up just by key words. Some of the key words run into problems sometimes."

Fry brought up the example of, what if a student wants to look up breast cancer on the Internet? "If you're searching under the word breast, your going to get results anywhere from chicken breast to breast cancer to pornography sites," he said. "The systems have gotten a lot better at recognizing when it's inappropriate and when it's not. It's still not perfect, but it's better."

> "The systems have gotten a lot better at recognizing when it's inappropriate and when it's not. It's still not perfect, but it's better."
>
> *Jim Fry*
> *Instructional Technology Consultat for Novi Schools*

Fry explained that some words are obvious, so they don't need to be reviewed, but for others, there are actual people searching also because human beings can provide more of an intelligent search. He also said that filtering companies set up guidelines or categories for their software.

"On the companies web site, they will list the guidelines they use for the standards they go by for blocking," Fry said. "They all come to the more conservative side, but if it's a questionable word or site, they might block it, but they list their standards so you sort of know exactly where they are coming from."

Filtering software like Web Sense or N2H2's BESS, always allow local override privileges as well. So, if the software is blocking something that the school district doesn't believe needs to be blocked, it can override it. Or, if the software is not blocking something that the district think needs to be blocked, it can block it.

"We don't just have to take exactly what the company is giving us," Fry said. "We can customize it to Novi. We use more of a server program, where we load it on a large server on a computer so all of the Internet access from the district comes through our network and eventually comes to one point. Before it leaves our district, everything is funneled through a machine that is checking the outgoing and incoming activity. We check it all at one central spot so it's filtering everything that's going in and out of the district."

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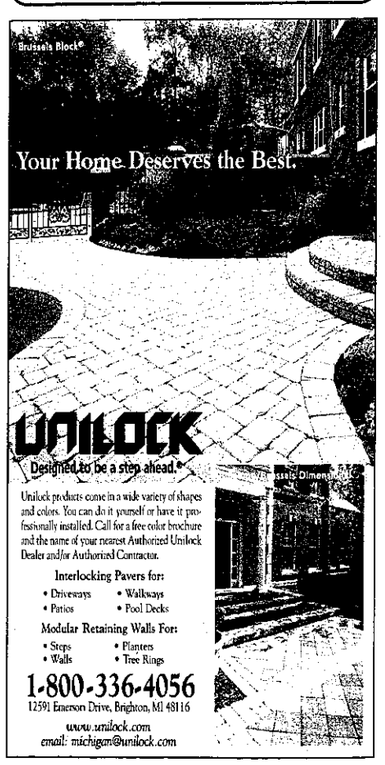

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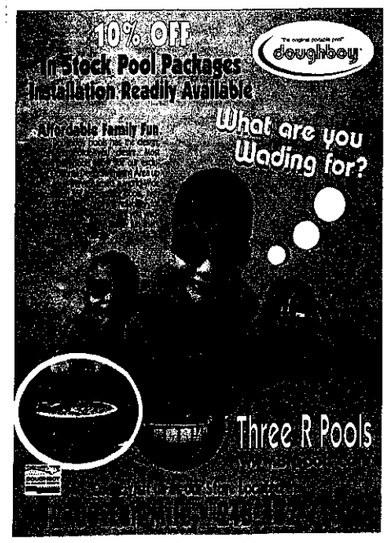

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By DAVID STOWERS

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JAPAN WINS: Race goes well

Continued from front

tries, with the boat representing Japan taking top honors. Crew members were Tamotsu Aritomo of West Bloomfield, Yasuo Fujita and Jun Zhao, both of Novi.

The second place team was the boat representing Austria. The global theme of the race suited members of ASI quite well. Team members included Siegmar Apperl of Detroit, Tai Schultz of Royal Oak and Tom Dalloo of Birmingham.

"This is a very international group," said Mark Hutchins of Plymouth, president of ASI. "We have members from several different nationalities, including Japan, Austria and the Ukraine."

The group also had a scavenger hunt in which sailors found clues on buoys. And the club's annual picnic followed the race.

Hutchins said Interlake boats, developed in the 1930s in Ohio, are used a lot on Lake Erie. They are good boats for beginner sailors.

The institute is always looking for new members, according to Hutchins.

Fred Myers of Canton is a five-year member who started at the age of 79.

"We have members from their teens to their 80s," Hutchins said. "We attract a lot of people looking for something to do," he said. Members do have to be at least age 16 to join ASI and must be 18 to earn a rating to take the boats out as a Level 1 skipper.

Kent Cup Race

The group has boat races every other week. "But, we're basically an educational group," Hutchins said.

The institute has access to 11 slips at the East Boat Launch on Kent Lake, with the boats available to qualified members.

The club has larger keel boats, which have a fixed keel, that are available to members for pleasure sailing in addition to the Interlake boats. The group also has three boats docked at Stoney Creek Metropark in Rochester Hills, and members sail off Jefferson Beach Marina in St. Clair Shores.

The institute has eight levels of instruction for sailors. To achieve a Level 1 rating, sailors must pass a water test and a written test. Membership costs $70 a year plus $130 a year for a Student Sail Pass to use the boats.

People sometimes donate boats to the organization as a tax write-off, too, according to Hutchins.

"We also do community outreach, such as teaching boys and girls affiliated with Big Brothers, Big Sisters and the Huron Valley Girl Scouts," he said.

"There's a group called Sea Scouts in northern Oakland County that we may do something in conjunction with in the future," Hutchins said. "We introduce kids to sailing."

The group offers sailing classes through Macomb County Community College in Warren and Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

The nonprofit organization used to be affiliated with the American Youth Hostel but broke away from this group in 1992. "We've been sailing at Kent Lake since at least the 1960s," Hutchins said.

The all-volunteer club has only two paid employees--a secretary and a bookkeeper--at its Wixom office. "We have maintenance crews, Web masters and marketing people. You're expected to volunteer your time in some way," Hutchins said.

"We work with the Metropark staff on cleanup and maintenance of the boat docks, too," Hutchins added.

Those who would like to come out to watch a race in the area can attend an event ASI members will have in conjunction with the Interlake Sailing Class Association Aug. 11-15 at Portage Lake near Dexter.

"We'll race with members from across the country," Hutchins said.

The next series of sailing classes at Schoolcraft College, titled "The Joy of Sailing," and at Macomb Community College, titled "Basic Sailing," will take place in September.

To register for classes at Schoolcraft College, please call (734) 462-4413. To sign up for classes at Macomb Community College, call (586) 498-4000. Shore School classes meet from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. with Water Classes held at one of the two Huron-Clinton Metroparks.

For more information about becoming a member of ASI, call (248) 624-4030 or e-mail sailasi@comcast.net. ASI also has a Web site, www.sailasi.org.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homecomm.net.

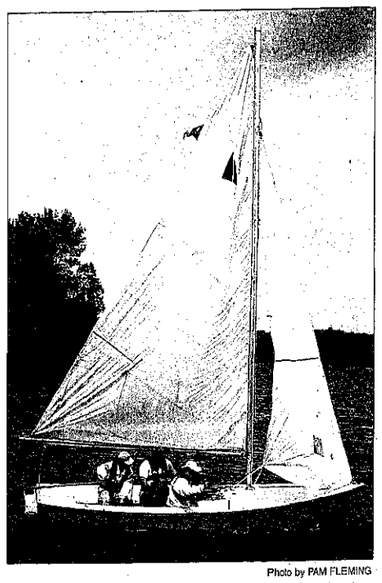

Photo by PAM FLEMING

Sailors in the boat representing Japan display their winning form in the Kent Cup Race. Warm weather and a strong breeze provided perfect conditions for the competition at the East Boat Launch.

NOVI FIRM: Crew sent to old Mexico

Continued from 2

The three student winners the GTM "Exportsmanship Award" were selected to participate in the 2003 PAACE Trade Mission.

Oakland County executive L. Brooks Patterson said the project focuses on three areas in its trade missions: government, business and education.

In the student competition, 150 students from 15 high schools vied for the chance to go to Mexico. "These students will have three days to create a business plan and market that plan on this 'virtual' trade mission," Patterson explained.

"They will be given the opportunity to use their brains and expand their horizons," he said. "These students will get to be up close and personal in the business world in Mexico City."

"[Automation Alley] was formed to make sure Oakland County has meaning to the rest of the world," Knollenberg said. "I'm here to support this global trade mission which is expanding our economy and educating our students.

"For our future to be bright, our commitment to education must be strong," he said.

"International trade is key to our economic survival," Knollenberg added.

"Michigan is the fifth state in the highest total of exported goods. Last year, foreign trade constituted $33 billion with 175 companies," he said. "But business is not just about numbers. Relationships are important. And until two people talk, nothing really happens. Programs like this give small businesses opportunities they otherwise wouldn't have."

"I hope the students bring back stories to share with their fellow students," Patterson said.

"I think this trade mission is a model that should be replicated across the country," Austin said. "We very much appreciate your commitment to education that you have shown by providing these opportunities for young people," he told staff members of Automation Alley.

Corporate sponsors of the Mexico trade mission include Butzel Long, Comerica Bank and Moore Stephens Doerfen Mayhew.

Automation Alley's Small Business Export Initiative is using a $400,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce to start a series of trade missions for area first led by international trade specialists.

The visits are designed to introduce participating businesses to pre-qualified foreign companies to help establish strategic alliances or joint ventures.

A trade mission to Dusseldorf, Germany, in 2001 brought about $2 million in business for 11 companies. A mission to China in 2002 produced business deals totaling about $3 million.

A mission to Hannover, Germany, in March 2003 generated about $3 million to $4 million in new business for the participating companies.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homecomm.net.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Interpreter earns certification (HAS ART)

Izumi Suzuki of Novi recently became the first and only non-Californian interpreter of Japanese to become a state certified court interpreter.

I. Suzuki

Some 40 states, including Michigan, recognize Suzuki's California-based certification. These states make up a consortium of state Supreme Court administrators.

The purpose of the consortium is to promote and develop high levels of court reporting.

"Two cases in our area illustrate what can happen when the justice system uses sub-standard interpreters," said Steve Myers, an associate of Suzuki's. "One error resulted in a murder charge, and another sidetracked an important parental meeting," he said.

For more information about a court interpreters' state certification initiative headed up by Ellen Donohue, e-mail her at e.donohue@msn.com.

Cancer survivor to display art

Providence Center for the Healing Arts in Novi will present "Echo of a Ripple," a show of original paintings and three-dimensional artwork by cancer survivor Tomoko Ogawa this summer.

The public is invited to an artist's reception from 4 to 6 p.m. today at the Nancy A. Fox Art Gallery located in the Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Ave. The show will be on display through Aug. 31.

The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Taubman acquires interest in new center

Taubman Centers, Inc., developers of Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi, has acquired an additional 25 percent interest in MacArthur Center in Norfolk, Va., from Norfolk Place LP, a partnership controlled by Alexius Conroy of Fairfield, Conn. This $45.4 million deal increases Taubman's ownership in the center to 95 percent.

Taubman Centers, Inc., a real estate investment trust headquartered in Bloomfield Hills, owns and/or manages 30 urban and suburban regional shopping centers in 13 states.

Economy still playing catch up

In June, Comerica Bank's Detroit Area Business Activity Index increased to 104, up only one point from May's level of 103. A year earlier, the index stood at 107.

"Year-to-date for the first half of 2003, the local economy is running 3.8 percent below the same period in 2002," said David Littmann, chief economist with Comerica Bank. "June car sales were encouraging, and vehicle output and employment were stable. A dip in steel production, however, offset some of those more positive developments."

Networking breakfast planned

The Novi Chamber of Commerce will offer a new networking opportunity to members at a Breakfast Connection from 8 to 9 a.m. July 24 hosted by the Hotel Baronnette, 27790 Novi Road. Attendees can enjoy a breakfast buffet while they mingle with fellow Chamber members.

To register for this free event, contact the Chamber at (248) 349-3743.

Chamber outing slated

The Novi Chamber of Commerce will present The 16th Annual Tycoon Tee-Off Golf Outing Aug. 13 at the Links of Novi. The event begins at 9 a.m. with a shotgun start for the 18-hole scramble. The $125 entry fee per person includes golf, lunch at the turn, refreshments on the course, and dinner immediately following the tournament.

A cash bar will be available, and contest holes, games and prizes will be included. Sponsors include the Novi Expo Center, Bob Sellers Pontiac GMC and Providence Hospital.

For more information or to sign up for the event, call the Chamber office at (248) 349-3743.

Buyers offered one-stop shopping

Biltmore Properties Corp. and Rock Financial, a Quicken Loans Company, have teamed to bring home buyers one-stop shopping for financing at all Biltmore property locations on weekends.

Biltmore properties include Carlton Forest in Novi, Cherry Hill Village in Canton, Forester Square in Auburn Hills and Barclay Park in Ann Arbor.

These locations now have Rock Financial mortgage experts on site every weekend from noon to 6 p.m.

During the week, potential Biltmore clients can schedule meetings with both a Biltmore representative and a Rock Financial mortgage expert for financing advice.

For more information, call Biltmore at (248) 641-3900 or Rock Financial at 1-800-333-ROCK.

OFFICIALS: Continuing with current hospital plans

Continued from front

Less than a week later, attorneys with Varnum, Riddering, Schmidt & Howlett LLP (representing Botsford General Hospital, Trinity Health-Michigan, Covenant Medical Center, William Beaumont Hospital and Mount Clemens General Hospital) filed suit against the Department of Health, the state Department of Consumer and Industry Services, Henry Ford and St. Johns.

Still, Providence's parent group is confident enough to gamble some $3 million to $5 million in preliminary stage planning. Providence put its first chips on the table more than a decade ago when it began planning what amounted to a hospital without beds at the corner of Beck Road and Grand River Avenue and put the infrastructure in the ground to support a bed wing for the facility.

That eventually led to a 10-year fight with state health officials to open a full-service hospital in Novi and ended last year with state Sen. Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, pushing through legislation allowing Providence and two other health care groups with financially troubled operations in Detroit to circumvent the state's certificate of need process.

That led other suburban hospitals — including William Beaumont, which was denied a certificate for west Oakland — to cry foul and health care watchdogs, like the Novi-based Economic Alliance for Michigan, to warn of skyrocketing health care costs.

Casalou and his allies have countered that health care reimbursement from the federal government and insurance companies has evolved dramatically since Michigan passed it's certificate of need legislation three decades ago and regardless of how much the spend on facilities here, it won't increase how much they're paid.

"We're being very measured and careful," said Casalou. He and his backers have maintained that placing a full-service hospital in Novi is needed to improve area residents' access to medical care and increase Providence's percentage of paying patients.

While risking as much as $5 million on architectural and design fees may cause some eyebrows to raise, Casalou said, "Providence and St. John's People think it's worth it." He noted, "There's a cost of not doing it. Say we win next February or March, then we've lost six or eight months and then we don't get to market on time."

Casalou said he hoped to have preliminary plans for the Novi expansion to city officials by late fall or early winter. Although Providence currently has approval to move 200 beds to Novi, he said the hospital plans to design a facility that could be expanded to serve 300 patients.

He noted that while the property is zoned for office, service and techology — which would allow the construction of a building up to five stories high — the final plans will likely be for something in the three to four story range.

"I don't like tall buildings," he said. The existing main building and adjacent Assarian Cancer Center are both two stories tall.

Given that Providence's long-term plans also call for the construction of a hotel and fitness center on the campus, the golf course there has numbered days. If Providence gets approval this year for the patient tower, the course could drop from 18 to nine holes next summer. However, Casalou said the nine-hole version could stay in place another three to five years.

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FUNDING: Beck back on track

Continued from front

funding for this crucial project has been restored."

Although the state's fiscal year doesn't begin until Oct. 1, Novi City Manager Rick Helwig said that the bond money would be available for use on the project immediately. "We're delighted," said Helwig, "We're still celebrating."

Originally slated to go to bid in March, Helwig said his contacts at the Michigan Department of Transportation have indicated that the contract of the Beck Road/I-96 interchange could still be awarded this year. He added that given the state of the economy, it's possible that significant work could be completed on the project before freezing weather puts an end to the road building season.

In announcing the restored projects, July 7, Granholm said, "The road projects I am recommending today will help create at least 6,000 direct construction-related jobs and thousands of indirect jobs."

Still, Helwig said he thinks completion of the project will be delayed to the spring of 2005. He said the project was originally planned as a two-phase project with the bridge being built just to the west of the existing bridge on land donated by Providence Hospital on the south side of I-96 and 12/Beck LLC on the north side of the expressway this year, and the work on the approach ramps being completed next year.

"I can't give a date certain for the start of construction," said MDOT spokesman Ben Kohrman. He said his agency still has to resolve some right-of-way issues. Kohrman added one the Governor and Legislature agree on the state budget, the bidding process will still take 60 days to complete, although there are some ways to shorten that process.

While saying, "We hope that some part of the construction process will get done this year," Kohrman added, "We don't want a bunch of orange barrels on 96 in the winter."

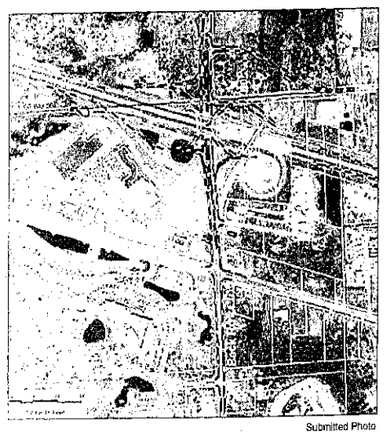
Cutting the Beck Road/I-96 interchange from it's work plan was "not a comfortable decision," said Kohrman. However, he added, "We had to keep our expectations within the funding stream."

According to Helwig, one of the keys to bringing back the bridge and the other 16 projects was the state Transportation Commission's decision at its June meeting in Houghton to authorize the sale of up to $200 million in bonds.

While six of the nine Oakland County project's on Engler's list are back on track for completion, the Wixom Road bridge over I-96 was not one of them.

Helwig called the Beck and Wixom road bridges "bookends." The Road Commission for Oakland County widened Grand River Avenue between the two roads in anticipation of MDOT rebuilding both bridges. "The most important thing," he said, "is that we're maintaining momentum."

Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 108 or at pfoley@ht.homecomm.net.



Submitted Photo

An aerial view of the Beck Road interchange.

Friends host Maybury programs

By Maureen Johnston
STAFF WRITER

In the middle of the main path, a towering maple tree with two equal-height branches appears like a figure with arms outstretched overlooking the main Maybury State Park forest.

The "burnt potato chip tree" stands just a few feet away. Near the start of the forest is a mulberry tree with fresh, sweet, dark and light red fruit.

The dozen participants in last Thursday's "Trees" program hosted by the Friends of Maybury examined individual characteristics of many tree species, creatures and undergrowth. Led by volunteer guide Roger Dyjak, who works at the park as a ranger, the group spent 90 minutes walking paths into the woods, exchanging information, and learning.

"Look at the trees up close, feel it" Dyjak said. "You have to view it as a living entity, not a museum piece."

"Trees are a lot more than you first see."

Friends president George McCarthy, one of the tree tour group, was pleased with the response to the first of the interpretative programs offered by Friends. A presentation on beekeeping followed Saturday. The volunteer group of park supporters put together a program after the state cut funding of regular staff educational offerings.

Tonight, the series continues with Dyjak's presentation on the history of Maybury. The Thursday evening programs, scheduled through August, meet at 7 p.m. at the demonstration building near the park's main entrance off Eight Mile Road. One exception is the Aug. 14 "Owl Prowl," which begins at 8 p.m.

Saturday morning programs start in the same location at 10 a.m. Future topics include leaves, wild animals, live music, spiders, and pet games.

When the walkers in the woods last week came upon the water tower foundations of the former sanitarium on the site, Dyjak touched on briefly the evolution of the park. The area where buildings were demolished 30 years ago has completely returned to forest.

"This looks like it's been here forever," he said. "This is all new growth from 30 years ago." He pointed to the increasing succession of maple trunk diameter, the further from the site.

The leisurely stroll first along the asphalt path, then into the woods was a lesson in tree identification, a rolling exchange of information about the use of different woods, and an impromptu opportunity to listen to birds and watch for flowers. The walkers alternately stopped to listen to Dyjak's descriptions, then looked up close at his subject as the procession moved forward.

Black Walnut, American Elm, Eastern Hophorn Beam, Red Oak, White Oak, Shag Bark Hickory Tree, and Bass Wood were among the tree types that Dyjak pointed out. He showed the group keys to identifying a species include the texture and shape of leaves, twigs, and bark.

The evening had turned sunny and mild after rain off-and-on all day. Other park users walking, cycling and leading dogs passed the tour group.

Walking beneath the canopy of trees turned the walk cooler and shaded. As branches and leaves crowded out sunlight overhead, Dyjak pointed out tree features such as leaf size, distance from the ground and branch height.

From his hours on duty around the approximate 1,000-acre park, the ranger recounted sightings of animals in their natural habitat. He watched a buck on his hind legs pull down the branches of a Staghorn Sumac for a snack of red berries. He offered to flip up decaying logs to reveal salamanders.

"Everything here is interconnected," Dyjak said.

He pointed out a clearing beneath a stand of beech and maple trees for two reasons. The site near post #2 is the best picnic site, Dyjak said.

"If you want to come but watching on a Friday night, this is a good place to do it."

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the home towns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

OPINION

novinews.com

Job only half done

After months of wrangling between the state legislature and the governor's office, the Beck Road bridge is back on track.

The last five months have seen enough politics being thrown around to coat everyone involved with a layer of sludge.

From the first, delaying the project after the city and county spent and committed millions of dollars simply failed the key question is part of Rotary's Four-Way Test — "Is it fair to all concerned?"

Moreover, the intersection was badly designed and unsafe from the day the expressway first cut through farm fields. According to Oakland County's Traffic Improvement Association, between 1995 and 1999, there were 740 collisions at the intersection, resulting in two deaths and 232 injuries.

While Novi residents can now draw a sigh of relief that "their" bridge is taken care of, that doesn't mean we can all nod off in the dog days of summer.

The job is only half done.

Novi City Manager Richard Hellwig correctly noted that the Wixom Road bridge to the west and the Beck Road bridge are "book-ends."

Both intersections serve communities far beyond those that touch Interstate 96.

According to Association statistics, 810 crashes resulting in two deaths and 225 injuries were recorded at the Wixom Road interchange between 1995 and 1999.

Aside from the direct costs to the public, $28.7 million during that five-year time period, there is the question of what it could cost this part of the county if the projects are not completed.

The two roads also serve a growing industrial corridor north of the expressway, and in today's economic climate, the last thing anyone needs is more stumbling blocks.

Over the next few years, Ford Motor Company will be looking to dump excess capacity, and transportation will be one of the key elements in deciding who lives and who dies. Oakland County can ill afford the potential loss of 3,500 top-paying industrial jobs.

We agree with county commissioner Jeff Potter that our legislative delegation needs to make sure that the Wixom Road bridge project is put back in the state Department of Transportation's five-year road and bridge plan and that it is completed on the same schedule as orignally planned.

Photo by LYNNE GARCIA

Splish, splash — we're having a blast

Paul Miron and Tristan Carlson play in the water to cool off from the warm summer day on Wednesday at the Lakeshore Park. See related story, page A6.

GOVERNMENT

Per reader request, we have compiled a list so you can get in touch with your local and regional senators and representatives. Their accessibility allows you as readers to voice your concerns directly and allows them to better represent their districts. If you feel we have missed anyone, contact us at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113.

United States Senate

Carl Levin (D-Detroit)
269 Russell Senate Office Building
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(202) 224-6221
senator@levin.senate.gov
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Lansing, MI 48933
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FAX: (517) 377-1506

Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing)
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East Lansing, MI 48823
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United States Congress

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(202) 225-8171
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17197 N. Laurel Park Drive
Suite 161
Livonia, MI 48152

Governor

Jennifer Granholm (D-Northville Twp.)
PO box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 335-7858

State Senate

15th District
Nancy Cassis (R-Novi)
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
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State House of Reps

38th District
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FAX: (517) 373-5873
craigderoche@house.mi.gov

39th District
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7th Commission
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longc@co.oakland.mi.us

8th Commission
Jeff Potter
1099 Stable Lane
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(248) 437-7597
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9th Commission
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hughcrawford@msn.com

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Raymond Schovers, supervisor
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Commerce - Charter
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Commerce Twp., MI 48390
(248) 624-0110
FAX: (248) 624-5834

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FAX: (248) 347-0577

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1499 E. West Maple Road
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Walled Lake, MI 48390-0099
(248) 624-4847
FAX: (248) 624-1616

Wixom
49045 Pontiac Trail
Wixom, MI 48393-2567
(248) 624-4557
FAX (248) 624-0863

LETTERS

Get Over It

I only have three things to say to Mario Nesr Fundarski's Letter to the Editor last week (*Participate in Politics*; July 10).

1) George W. Bush was elected President in 2000 and probably will win re-election in 2004.

2) Any comparison between George W. Bush's administration and "Nazis, Communists, Monarchists, Socialists and Tyrant conquerors throughout history" only demonstrates the ignorance of the person making that comparison.

3) I still believe misinformed voters like Mario Nesr Fundarski should participate in elections.

Edmund P. Shaheen
Novi

South Lake Drive needs repaving

I don't usually have any desire to respond to a letter to the editor, but as a member of the South Lake Drive Task Force, I must correct some numbers casually thrown out by Chris House.

Please bear in mind that South Lake Drive is a Collector Street for all the side streets on the South side of Walled Lake.

Four thousand to 9000 vehicles per day on South Lake with 85 percent exceeding 25 mph speed limit? Come on, Chris. Aug. 99 count was 8608 vehicles per day — June 2000 West Road Extension (West Park Drive) opens at a cost of a few million. June 2000 count fell to 4979 and October 2000 fell further to 3760.

According to our information from the Police Dept. speed stats are consistent with other local streets and enforcement is strict in response to residents.

As I re-read my minutes from the Task Force, the speed tables, round-abouts and other traffic-calming features were left to the discretion of the engineers, due to the limited road right-of-way in many areas.

Sorry Chris, but in my opinion, in the past few years a lot of City attention and money has been poured into this 1.4 mile piece of local road, and since it can't possibly survive another winter, it's time to repave it ASAP.

Martha L. Hoyer
Novi

Decision has impact on more than one community

I was saddened to read of the Novi Planning Commission's decision to deny the Toll Brothers' barn to Maybury State Park. The decision to keep the barn on the Toll Brothers' development was made way prior to the burning of the barn Feb. 12, 2003 at Maybury Living Farm. The good that has come out of such a tragedy is the uniting of the neighboring communities.

People from Novi, Northville, Plymouth, Canton, Livonia, South Lyon and as far away as Monroe have rallied to raise money for the rebuilding. Novi's own Orchard Hills Elementary was the first to contribute $1,000 to the Northville Community Foundation rebuilding fund. The students read books during March is Reading Month and every time they finished a book the would put a coin in the rebuilding bucket.

Northville Downs donated over $2500. Tonda Elementary fifth graders in Canton donated over $1,000. Kindergartners at Silver Springs Elementary in Northville raised over $1500 through a sale of home made cookies and a classroom store. Salem Elementary in Salem Township raised over $1300 to adopt an animal at the farm.

Maybury Trail Riders along with the Raisin River Riders from Monroe raised over $2,000 to donate with the combined efforts of their annual Pancake Breakfast that was held at Maybury in June.

T-shirt sales sponsored by the group Voices For Maybury Farm (which is made up of members from all the above mentioned communities) have escalated into sales of over a 1,000 shirts. Each sale brings an additional $5.00 to the fund.

Maybury is a Community park for all the surrounding communities If the Planning Commission would change their minds and let Toll Brothers contribute the barn to the Maybury rebuilding they would be displaying a tremendous sensitivity to all the neighboring communities.

Jean Bemish
Northville

Catholic Central project creates disdain

The July 10th Novi News reports the members of the Novi Planning Commission granted final site plan approval for Catholic Central High School. The article, however, does not indicate resolution to the parking situation and indicates that the city council has yet to finalize a decision on the issue of replacement of ash trees.

Catholic Central has not yet even joined our community. They have however, already made themselves unwelcome in my mind, through their misrepresentations - working angle after angle around sports facilities, trees and now parking. If this is the way they are trying to ingratiate themselves, one must wonder what they will be like when they actually reside here!

Those of us who are vested in Novi, as recently and strongly evidenced by our summer tax bills, and who have children attending our outstanding Novi Schools and Parks and Rec programs, have earned certain rights and privileges. CC has not. The residents of Novi depend on the City Council and the Planning Commission to protect Novi's interests first and foremost. I strongly encourage the City Council and Planning Commission to hold Catholic Central wholly accountable to all codes and standards - environmental, ecological, ethical, building and otherwise.

Catholic Central must come into our community fully "self-contained" and "self-sustaining". Any plan contingent on Novi's city or school facilities is simply not acceptable. We must reserve our facilities for the activities of our children, our families and our community — of which, CC is not yet a part.

At the football playoff game last fall at Catholic Central, CC charged for parking in addition to admission for the game. Who ever heard of this at a high school game? What next — we let CC use our lots and they charge us to park in them?

Let Catholic Central demonstrate this "contribution to the community" they claim they will make and over time, they will earn the right to act as vested owners in Novi, with the same rights and privileges current residents have. So far, all CC has earned is my disdain.

JoAnne Pritchard
Novi

Judgeship blocking wrong

Four judges from Michigan have been appointed by President George W. Bush to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals and the two senators from our state are blocking their nomination without even giving them a chance for a hearing. I think that is incredibly unfair to those nominees and potentially disastrous for the state.

Republican leadership in the U.S. Senate has recognized the deepening crisis caused by the actions of Michigan's Democrat senators and recently initiated a discharge petition aimed at forcing the nominations out.

As soon as the Michigan House returns Tuesday, I will join with my state Senate colleagues in introducing a resolution asking for full U.S. Senate action on these four well qualified Michigan judges. My resolution urges the U.S. Senate to take advantage of the discharge petition to bring these four nominees to a vote.

Our court backlogs are growing worse and our judicial system is already suffering from vacancies held hostage by political maneuvers. These four nominations must be considered immediately.

All four of Michigan's seats on the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals are currently vacant. If the Michigan judges aren't confirmed soon, it is possible that the seats reserved for Michigan could end up being filled by judges from Ohio or Kentucky. If that were to happen, Michigan would lose its voice on the court. Our U.S. senators should not allow that to happen.

State Rep. Craig DeRoche
R-Novi

Share your opinions: We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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OTHER OPINIONS

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@ht.homecomm.net

I'm drawn to redistricting

GERRYMANDER: v. — *To divide a geographic area into voting districts so as to give unfair advantage to one party in elections.*

The word arose in 1812, when Massachusetts Gov. Elbridge Gerry devised a legislative map with very strangely shaped districts to benefit his party.

Of all the instincts politicians possess, perhaps the strongest is the urge to gerrymander. For elected officeholders, the process of defining and redefining one's district is tantamount to political life or death. No decently ambitious politician will ever turn down even the slightest opportunity to fiddle the district boundary to yield electoral advantage.

Phil Power

Usually taking place once every 10 years following new census data, the process of redistricting has recently taken on the characteristics of a full-blown cottage industry, complete with "consultants" up for hire, computer wizards, even lobbyists. Part of the complexity has come about as a result of the Supreme Court's "one man, one vote" decision, which requires at least numerical equivalency between districts. Other laws mandate special treatment for minorities and discourage districts lines crossing obvious local government boundaries such as counties and city limits.

In the hands of skilled practitioners of either party, gerrymandering can have a profound effect on the balance of political power. Following the 1980 California census, the Democrat controlled legislature turned a 22-21 congressional delegation into a 28-17 Democratic majority. After the 1990 census, Georgia Republicans astonishingly succeeded in converting a 9-1 congressional minority into an 8-3 majority.

We saw much the same thing in Michigan after the 2000 census. Republican Gov. John Engler and the GOP-controlled legislature managed to liquidate by redistricting three sitting Democratic representatives in Congress. Reps. John Dingell and Lynn Rivers had their districts merged; Dingell wound up winning the primary. Rep. Dale Kildee's district was expanded to take much of Rep. James Barcia's; Barcia retired. And many Democratic voters in Rep. David Bonior's old district in Macomb County were moved into Rep. Sander Levin's, thus creating a safe Republican district for Candace Miller.

So what? Redistricting is intrinsically partisan. Everyone does it when they have half a chance. So why get excited about it?

The answer has to do with congressional redistricting's dirty little secret. The technology of redistricting is now so accurate that virtually every congressional district is either safely Republican or equally solid Democratic. Experts estimate there are no more than 30 truly contested districts in the entire country. This means that the decisive vote takes place in the August partisan primaries, not the general election in November. Who votes in primary elections? The highly partisan, motivated party faithful. In the Republican primaries, the faithful tend to be right wing, Right To Life types, while in Democratic primaries the likely voters are liberals or union members.

The result? The Republicans who win Republican primary elections tend to be more right wing than the average voter, while the Democrats who win primaries are more liberal than the population at large. And the political center, which is where most Americans tend to be the most comfortable, gets squeezed out.

The results? Increasing numbers of alienated voters who wonder why their representatives in Congress are either much more liberal or much more conservative than they are. Worse, incumbents of both parties have no electoral incentive to move toward the center — where most legislative compromises that make government work are made — because they originally gained office by being at the outer edge of their particular party. That's the real reason why highly partisan rancor has become the distasteful and unconstructive standard operating procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives.

What to do about it? Some propose taking the power to redistrict away from partisan legislatures and creating independent redistricting commissions. My old friend, Craig Ruff, a political expert who runs Public Sector Consultants in Lansing, snorts that "Anybody intellectually capable of drawing redistricting maps is almost certainly not a political eunuch." Besides, since most state legislators think that the summit of their own career is election to Congress, getting their grubby hands off the redistricting process is beyond unlikely.

A better approach, according to Ruff, is to enact legislation applying to congressional redistricting the same strict criteria — generally recognized as reasonably fair — for drawing state legislative districts that the Michigan legislature passed a few years back: No districts crossing county lines; one man, one vote; and so forth.

He's right, of course, but I'm not holding my breath until it happens.

Phil Power is the Chairman of the Board of the company that owns this newspaper. He would be pleased to get your reactions to this column either at (734) 953-2047 or at ppower@ho mecomm.net.

Beuter's was more than a business

Bueter's Outdoors in Northville is no more. The fly fishing shop that served as a welcoming beacon to its faithful regulars for nearly a decade has closed.

The doors of the fly tackle shop at 120 E. Main St. have been shuttered for two weeks now and while fly fishing bums like myself can and do hope for a re-opening, it's more likely than not that we've lost a good friend and our version of 'Cheers'.

John Heider

John Bueter will be hissed in the downtown commercial scene as he was both a tireless, enthusiastic promoter of the outdoor sports and organizer of many wonderful events (like the famed September Salmon Camps at his retreat in Baldwin) but he and his shop were also rooted in the community and gave as much to the schools and local charities as they could muster.

During my visits, which sometimes occured three or four times a week (I referred to Bueter's as my second office in downtown Northville) I'd witness a high school club, sports, musical or theater group approach John for sponsorship. Can't say as I know the exact numbers, but I'm willing to bet that more often than not they'd walk away with his patronage.

Ditto for the charitable fundraisers for the Northville Chamber of Commerce or Friends of Northville Parks and Recreation: John would volunteer his time and skills to take winners of raffles or auctions on a fly-fishing float down the Pere Marquette River. These were not easy things to do as the father of three school-age kids and owner of a small business, but I watched him do these enthusiastically and always with the determination that these gestures would mean something positive to the community and act as a promoter of the sports he so relishes. (John let me know on more than one occasion that he'd help gear-up with fly-fishing stuff any of the kids I was mentoring through Northville Youth Assistance).

I know that there are plenty of businesses in Northville where patrons will regulary stop by and shoot the breeze, but most are of the restaurant or bar varieties. What I valued about Bueter's, with the exception of a pot of coffee (a nearby sign reads 'Voted Northville's Worst Coffee: Help Yourself) and some baked goods (often homemade and brought in by regulars) is that it wasn't a restaurant where you'd be expected to buy a drink or meal. It was just a shop that sold flyrods and reels and waders and flies, and all the assorted doohickies fishermen need.

At John's you could, if so needed, grab a seat at the fly-tying table in the rear and for a half an hour or so tell terrible but believable lies of gigantic bass, trout, or salmon from your most recent excursion to a nearby pond, lake or river bearing in mind, though, John's edict that "I believe photos, not stories".

And like 'Cheers', everyone knew your name. If your face crossed the threshold of Bueter's more than three times, John and his crew would call out your name and welcome you to their shop; even if you were just going to use their bathroom, run downstairs to the tailor, or use them as a cut-through on your way to the parkinglot out back.

If your face crossed the threshold of Bueter's more than three times, John and his crew would call out your name and welcome you to their shop; even if you were just going to use their bathroom, run downstairs to the tailor, or use them as a cut-through on your way to the parkinglot out back.

There are many things that I'll miss about Bueter's; some big, some small but add them together and they have the collective weight of a good friendship: a safe, inviting place with friendly faces ready to give advice, tips, congratulations or consolation if success eludes.

A toast, then: Here's to the long, colorfully-lit Christmas garland that Bueter's strung outside the shop and to the Santa hats that would adorn the heads of the elk and antelope mounts inside each holiday season, to the fly-tier's table where John or one of his staff would graciously show you how to tie a fly then give you the fly to take home as a blueprint, to Northville's Worst Coffee, to the photos of regulars with their catches which would be proudly displayed on Bueter's bulletin boards for months, and lastly, for the somewhat hokey but also meaningful farewell that John gave me each time I left his shop: "Be careful out there." he'd say.

Now I get to send that sentiment to him as he begins his business comeback: Know that you have the support of all your regulars and you be careful out there, my friend.

John Heider is the staff photographer for the Northville Record and Novi News. You may reach him by e-mail at jheider@ht.homecomm.net or by calling (248) 349-1700 ext. 106.

Diversity seems the obvious solution

If the emerald ash borer follows the path of Dutch elm disease and chestnut blight before it, in just a few years the will be few, if any ash trees left in Novi.

It's been just a year since the Asian pest was first identified in southeast Michigan, but already individuals and public officials are commenting on the alarming number of dead and dying trees throughout the city.

Phil Foley

There are some who suggest that the thing to do is to cut down all the ash trees, since they're going to die, anyway. The city of Novi recently approved a tree replanting program for Catholic Central High School that exempted the school from replacing ash trees on its property based on that logic.

That seems to make as much sense as using a tourniquet on your neck to stop a bloody nose.

Clearly the genie can't be put back in the bottle once it's out, but doing nothing or out racing the beetle to destruction cheats our children.

Dutch elm disease had been around for more than 30 years when it arrived in this region in the 1960s and within a decade, boulevards in Detroit that had once looked like green-roofed gothic cathedrals were barren strips of concrete. The American elm had been favored by urban arborists and timbermen alike because it was stress-tolerant and fast-growing, producing a tall, straight trunk that fanned out into an elegant vase shape.

They were planted in the thousands along city and village streets, but by the end of the 1970s all that was left was stumps and memories.

Although rare today, the American chestnut was once the dominant tree in eastern forests. However in 1824 an exotic fungus was first noticed among stands of southern trees and the disease marched across the country virtually unchecked at a rate of 24 miles a year until the Chestnut was virtually eliminated from the landscape.

There's no reason to believe the ash will be any different. The question is what to do. The answer, I think, is learn from the past.

Ash trees were first planted in large numbers to replace the decimated American Elms. In a sense, urban arborists planted the seeds of their own destruction.

Planting block after block of the same tree, simply because it grows quick and is readily available pretty much guarantees a moonscape when the next exotic bug or fungus arrives as it inevitably will.

Planting block after block of the same tree, simply because it grows quick and is readily available pretty much guarantees a moonscape when the next exotic bug or fungus arrives as it inevitably will.

Diversity seems to be the obvious solution. We should try to save the trees we can, but for those we can't plant a poplar for ourselves and an oak for our grandchildren.

Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 108 or at pfoley@ht.homecomm.net.

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If your favorite color is pink, you should take notice of kunzite, which is the pale pink to lilac gem variety of the mineral spodumene. Its name comes from George Kunz, the legendary gem scholar and gemologist who searched the globe for new varieties of gemstones. As it turned out, this famous gem buyer for Tiffany's & Company did not have to look very far. Kunzite was discovered in 1902 in the Pala region of California, where morganite beryl was also first discovered. In fact, kunzite is often found in association with morganite and pink tourmaline, other popular pink gemstones that those who appreciate pink should investigate.
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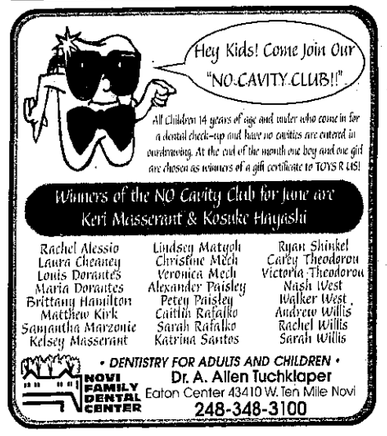

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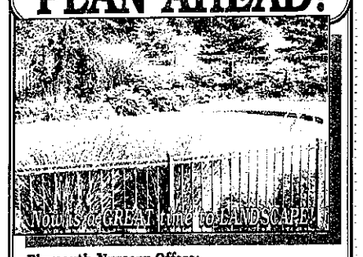

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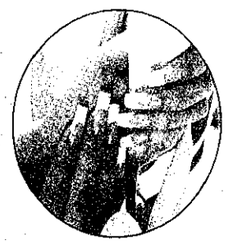

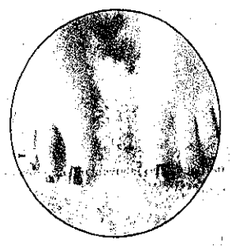
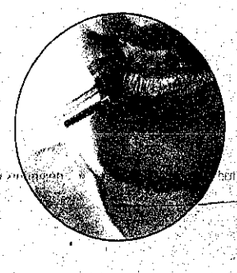

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BUSINESSES: Delays equal less customers

Continued from front

This is the third establishment that her family has started, and they've been in the restaurant/bar business since 1974. "We're a walk-in business, and we've got to generate business every day. I've been here since 1986, and I've never seen it this slow," she said. "Summer is a slow time anyway, but with the construction, it's like a double whammy. We put a sign out on Grand River to encourage people to come in, but they just don't want to fight the traffic," she said.

"We're not getting passing cars to stop. The driveway is passable, but a lot of people don't know that because of the signs. Our regulars are still coming, though," Johnson said.

Bill Chace of Novi said he comes to Gatsby's a couple of times a week. "They have good food here. That's why I keep coming back. But it's hard to get here," he said.

Johnson has a fashion show at her restaurant every Thursday at noon. "It used to be that you couldn't find a parking place in the lot. Today, I probably didn't have more than 15 people in here," she said July 10.

"Even the construction workers are only coming in to eat once in a while," she added. "We have had some construction supervisors come in, have a meeting and order lunch."

"We hope when they reopen Taft that our business will improve," said Kathy Juve, who tends bar at Gatsby's. "That road being closed is killing us."

She said her income is way down due to the construction project. "I thank God I'm married and my husband supports me," Juve said.

Johnson said on April 14 the driveway was blocked for more than three hours. "No one could leave or come in, and no one came in to tell us ahead of time that this was happening," she said.

The driveway was blocked again on May 1 and May 17. On May 22, a main gas line broke, causing the Gatsby's owner to have to close her business at 2 p.m.

"We had another gas line break on Feb. 12 and lost our lunch hour business that day," she added.

State Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) noted Monday following the announcement that Gov. Jennifer Granholm had approved work on the I-96-Beck Road interchange that work on Grand River Ave. was an obvious precursor to any additional roadwork in the Novi area.

"Grand River Avenue was the first area to be involved in the road planning. Improvements have to be made there before work at Beck Road and then Wixom Road can take place," Cassis said.

City of Novi workers have placed signs that say "Access Available to Local Business" at Taft and Beck roads, according to Clay Pearson, assistant city manager. "There are 74 businesses between Beck and Novi Road, and we've placed 4 foot by 8 foot signs that list the businesses," he said.

Pearson said the road widening work is a $5.4 million project and the bride replacement will cost $6.1 million.

"Our business is down over 50 percent," Sally Zdravkovski, owner and operator of Rosewood Restaurant on the south side of Grand River Ave. between Novi and Beck roads.

"We have a lot of regulars who come on Saturday and Sunday. But, we've lost a lot of them now because it takes too long to get here. Now that they've closed Taft Road, our business has gone down even more," she said.

Wilkins Parts & Equipment is a heavy truck and industrial parts company on the north side of Grand River between Beck and Taft Roads.

"We're down over 50 percent," said Tom Creech, owner/operator since 1961. "I've had numerous customers tell me they can't send someone down here because of the time involved. They can go somewhere and have a hose made and be back at the job site quicker. This is the third summer in a row we've had to deal with this," he said.

"We're expecting another full summer of disrupted traffic because of the I-96 and Beck Road project," he said.

"We put the property up for sale, and that's the first question people ask--'What about the Beck Road-I-96 interchange?' This news should change plans people have for this area," Creech.

Creech added that, "We've also maxed out our credit line with the current situation," he said.

"Larger corporations can handle this type of setback, but it's like a major hurricane to a small business. We may not be able to recover. I haven't had a paycheck since November. My wife, Mary Ellen, worked here for 10 years. Now she's working for someone else to make our house payment," Creech said.

"We've been here 28 years, so we have a lot of friends supporting us. But, we're still hurting," he said.

"We've had at least one day when our driveway was closed during lunchtime because they were pouring concrete," Zdravkovski said.

"The city, however, did notify us that the driveway would be closed," she said. "The construction workers have been pretty cooperative about telling us what's going on," she said.

"We only had one incident when the driveway was blocked by a bulldozer, but a supervisor took care of the situation immediately," she said.

Photo by Pam Fleming

Mary Catherine Johnson, owner of Gatsby's Restaurant on the south side of Grand River Ave. between Novi and Beck roads, stands in her nearly empty parking lot last week. She said her business is down at least 30 percent due to the Grand River Avenue construction project.

"The construction workers have helped us out by coming here to eat and taking carryouts. I'd like to thank them and everyone else for their support," she said.

Pearson said the city has done profiles on the business along Grand River Avenue on the local cable access channel to promote these businesses.

"We've had twice-a-month briefings for residents and property owners at the police station. We regret any negative impact on property owners. But, this project is a critical component in the quality of life for people. Once this is done, it will take some of the traffic off of Ten Mile Road," Pearson said.

The Road Commission for Oakland County also plans to widen Novi Road between Ten Mile and Grand River in the near future, according to Pearson.

"There's no question that once the roadwork is completed, it will be like giving birth--we'll forget the pain and reap the benefit of the economic development that will be forth coming," Cassis said.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@hi.homecomm.net.

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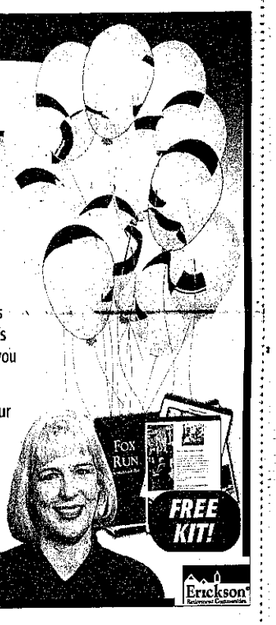

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On Campus

Anneliese Woolford

Novi resident Anneliese Woolford was named to the academic honors list at **St. Mary's College** (Notre Dame, Ind.) for the spring 2002 semester.

Novi residents Todd Foren, Ryan Major, and Vanessa Stone were named to the **Ferris State University** Academic Honors List for December 2002 semester.

Novi residents Lauren Angeski, Jennifer Chidsey, Elisabeth Goodcarl, Katy Hinz, Kimberly Keller, Monica Mull, Rachel Philka, Christopher Stowell, and Amy Walter were named to the Spring 2003 honors list for **Central Michigan University.**

Miami University named Novi residents Emily Barcelona and Conor Sedam to the Spring 2003 Dean's List.

Novi resident Lindsey Root was among the graduates at **Hope College** during commencement exercises, Spring 2003. She graduated with top honors, summa cum laude.

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QuickCARE

Officials concerned over Wixom Road bridge funding

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Although plans to replace the aging Wixom Road bridge over I-96 have slipped from the state's Five Year Road and Bridge Program, Wixom city officials aren't waiting and gnashing their teeth.

"We're big boys. We've done this before," observed City Manager Michael Dorman. "The sky, folks, is not falling. We'll get through this."

Dorman said he's certain that Congress will reauthorize the TEA-21 (Transportation Enhancement Act) this fall at levels higher than Michigan has seen on average for the past six years. If that happens, he said, "A year from now we will stay in line."

Six years ago when State Senator Nancy Cassis started pushing for the project as a state representative, local and state transportation officials agreed on the need to finish the Beck Road Bridge first in order to take pressure off Wixom Road. Already home to the Ford Wixom Assembly Plant, often bill as the largest auto assembly facility under one roof, the corridor between Wixom and Beck roads has become home to scores of small job shops and factories.

Those businesses, said District Eight County Commissioner Jeff Potter, has given Wixom a state equalized valuation 2 1/2 times the Oakland County average. "Wixom has pumped jobs and taxes into Oakland County for 40 years," Potter, whose district includes two precincts in Novi, Walled Lake, Wixom, Lyon Township and South Lyon.

Potter said Wixom is at a "critical juncture." He said it's important for officials in Wixom and surrounding communities to "keep the momentum going."

At risk, said Potter, is the sprawling Ford complex, which employs 3,500 people. Auto analysts have been saying for more than a year that the Number Two Automaker has too much capacity and needs to trim at least four plants from its inventory. Transportation, noted Potter, is one of the key elements in plant expansion and location.

Earlier this year Wixom Mayor Michael McDonald told State Transportation Commission members that 150 heavy trucks use the Wixom Road bridge over I-96 to reach the plant, which builds the Thunderbird, Lincoln Towncar and Lincoln LS and is slated to build the ultra low volume Ford GT supercar.

Potter, who has worked on the assembly line at the plant for 26 years, said the Wixom Road Bridge needs to be replaced to help fuel the economic growth the plant kicked off.

"We don't feel it will help any other community to see development fail here," he said.

Noting that local land owners have donated an estimate $4 million to $5 million worth of real estate for the project and that Wixom city officials have base their road plans on the bridge being replaced, Potter called it a "critical priority for the city" and its neighbors.

He noted that Catholic Central High School recently received the green light from Novi officials to build a new facility on Wixom Road south of I-96. He added residents of most of the communities use his district use Wixom and Beck Roads for a variety of reasons.

"We can't let the legislature take their foot off the pedal, just because Beck Road was a success," he said.

Dorman noted that with funding for the Beck Road project coming from a $250 million pot that included $200 million in bond funding and $50 million in legislative appropriations, it wasn't reasonable to expect the Wixom project to be fully funded.

According to Dorman, the expected price tag for both bridges is $100 million and "there was just not enough money in the pot to spread around in a meaningful way."

However, he said he's certain work will start on the bridge on the original schedule, about a year and a half after completion of the Beck Road project.

Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 108 or at pfoley@ht.homecomm.net.

Talk about a quick trip

■ Carjacking suspect arrested in Livonia less than a half an hour after snatching car in Novi

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

A 26-year-old Detroit man was sitting in Novi Police custody at press time waiting arraignment on charges he stole a Plymouth teen's 2003 BMW X-5 at gun point early Tuesday at the Speedway gas station at 10 Mile and Novi roads, kittycorner from the Speedway station that was robbed Sunday.

According to reports, the car jacking was reported at 12:23 a.m. and by 12:40 a.m. Livonia and Redford police units had the suspect in custody at the corner of Schoolcraft and Merriman in Livonia.

The suspect, said Novi Police Detective David Molloy, originally approached an 18-year-old Plymouth boy and a 19-year-old Farmington Hills man as they stood outside the Plymouth teen's SUV at the Speedway station. "He commented on the vehicle and its wheels, asked whose car it was and then said, 'Gimme the keys,'" said Det. Molloy. To emphasize his point, he poked a semi-automatic handgun in the Plymouth teen's stomach and then pointed it at the Farmington Hills youth's head, saying, "You think I'm joking," according to reports.

> **"He commented on the vehicle and its wheels, asked whose car it was and then said, 'Gimme the keys.'"**
>
> ***Detective David Molloy***
> *Novi Police Department*

At this point, said Molloy, the boys told three Novi girls, ages 15, 16 and 17, to get out of the SUV and the gunman told them to leave their purses behind.

The gunman then got in the BMW and drove north on Novi Road, followed by a white Buick driven by another black man.

The teens had stopped at the gas station to return the Farmington Hills boy to his car and they used that vehicle to follow the duo. However, the lost sight of the stolen SUV and the Buick on I-275 near Eight Mile. The Farmington Hills teen later told investigators he thought he saw the Buick following them earlier when they have been driving west on 10 Mile from Haggerty.

Molloy said this marked the first car jacking in Novi in years. "We rarely get something this violent," he said. He added the suspect has an extensive criminal record dating back to 1991, including burglary, robbery, receiving and concealing stolen property, and uttering and publishing.

He said that while Livonia and Redford police did not recover the handgun when they took the suspect into custody, the did recover several stolen credit cards. One of the credit cards, said Molloy, had been reported stolen in an armed robbery in Wyandotte just the day before. He added the suspect was on parole at the time of his arrest.

Police are still looking for the white Buick, which reportedly made a quick turn down a side street and disappeared into the night as the BMW was being stopped.

Anyone with information about the Buick or its driver can call the Novi Police Department at (248) 348-7100.

Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 108 or at pfoley@ht.homecomm.net.

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SPORTS WRITER
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Chasing Chandler

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Novi stand-out selected to play in 2003 All-Star contest July 26

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

For Novi High School graduate Chase Chandler, getting a chance to play in the 2003 All-Star Football game isn't just an honor, but an opportunity as well.

The game is slated to be played at Spartan Stadium at Michigan State University in East Lansing July 26 with player introductions at 1:35 p.m. and the game starting at 2 p.m. Currently, the East lead the series 12-10 and have won the last two in a row.

Chandler, who was a stand-out quarterback his senior year and a three-year starter at defensive back for the Wildcats, will be playing in the secondary for the All-Star East squad and said he is just happy to be a part of this team.

"Though I spent most of my time on the offensive side of the ball my senior year, I feel comfortable playing defensive back," he said. "It's really cool to be selected to play in this game. A lot of the kids on the rosters are big names and will be playing division-one ball. I think it will be fun to match up against them, and hopefully I do pretty well."

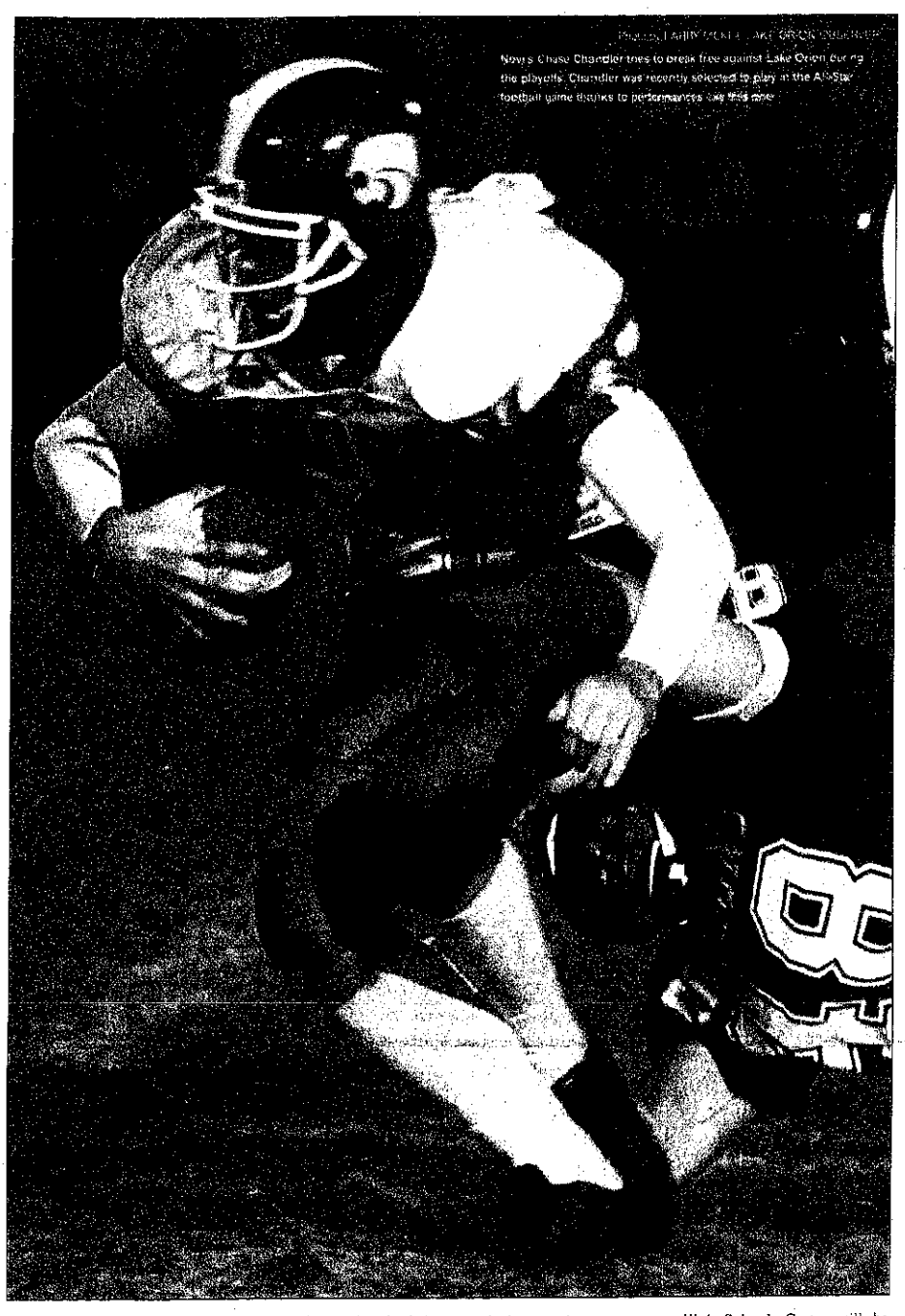
And not only should it be fun, but it should be a learning experience as well. Each and every one of the players on the East and West squads for the All-Star game were standouts on their respective high school teams. Now, they are just part of the average on their squad — an experience Chandler will have when he moves on to play at Albion.

"I think it will definitely give me a chance to see the kind of game I will be playing in college," Chandler said. "These athletes, as a whole, are bigger, faster and stronger than the average in high school. It will give me a good idea of what I'm getting myself in to and what level the playing field is going to be at in college."

Chandler noted that he's excited to play in the contest, and he's happy that his parents, Carl and Sally, as well as his brothers, Brad and Adam, and sister, Abby, will be able to see him play in his final high school campaign.

"Playing this game in front of them will be great," Chandler said. "I've worked hard and they've supported me the whole way. I know they're proud of me. Now that I've made the All-Star team, I know that no matter how I play out there, they'll be happy that I'm there."

It will also be fun to see their son and sibling hitting the field in Spartan Stadium in East Lansing.



Novi's Chase Chandler tries to break free against Lake Orion during the playoffs. Chandler was recently selected to play in the All-Star football game thanks to performances like this one.

"They go to the Michigan State games every year," Chandler said, referring to football. "They think it's going to be pretty cool to watch me play out there on that field."

Chandler noted that he recognizes a lot of the names on the East roster — a team that he's happy to be a part of. In fact, many of the names are those of athletes that he took on his senior year as the Wildcats went on to win their District before falling to Detroit Catholic Central. Joel Malkasion was an All-State wide receiver for Lake Orion, while Marcus Woods was a stellar running back for Farmington Hills Harrison. Then, of course, Walled Lake is well represented with Steve Van Nortwick coming out of Western and Scott Long playing for Central.

"Since the East team is picked out of just a handful of counties, I've read about most of these players in the papers or saw them on the news," Chandler said. "I recognize a lot of them and I look forward to playing on the same team with them. It should be a lot of fun."

One of the names that is on the East roster is that of Milford's Jim Presley — a major rival fpr the Wildcats and a University of Michigan recruit. Unfortunately, an injury will find Presley not able to participate in the contest.

"We were going to play him at linebacker," noted Floyd Carter, the East All-Star head coach and recently resigned head coach of Wayne Memorial High School. Carter will be back on the sidelines as an assistant coach at Livonia Churchill in the fall. "It was an unfortunate thing to happen to him, with his injury and all. But, we are trying to find a way to have him involved somehow, since he can't play in the game."

Chandler noted that he had been looking forward to playing with Presley instead of against him.

Continued on B3

Chandler should have fine game with All-Stars

There's not a whole lot a sports writer can say about an athlete like Chase Chandler — because his actions definitely speak louder than any words I could ever jot down on paper.

Chandler is one of those athletes that brought the complaints just flooding into my email inbox and voicemail system on a weekly basis. The public always demanded to know why I had to mention him five times in one article.

Sam Eggleston

My response, generally, was when a guy like Chandler takes to the field, there's no way you can avoid mentioning him more than a few times. Chandler is everywhere it seems like, and that's from watching on the sidelines. Imagine being a player out on the field and trying to wrangle him in. Not only is he a sleek and slender athlete, he's as slippery as they come too.

Back in my playing days, I would have cursed the very ground a player like Chandler practiced on. I've seen players try to hit him high and I've see them try to hit him low, but all of them end up missing him at one point and time in the game.

And what about when he doesn't have the ball? Chandler has what it takes to cover the best receiver on the other team, and he proved that against Lake Orion and fellow All-Star East player Joel Malkasion as well as plenty of other times as well.

The thing about a player like Chandler is that he feels right at home in the environment he's about to find himself in — with those who were stand-outs at their own high schools. Chandler will be playing in the 2003 All-Star Football game July 26 with players like Dan Farkas, David Chudzinski and Marcus Woods taking to the field wearing the blue and white of the East team. Notables from the West team include guys like Pete Tuccini, Bill Kern and Mark Catlin.

Chandler should not only look comfortable with these guys as teammates, but seem to be right in stride for what his future holds in collegiate-level football. He's not going to sit on his heels and just accept being one of the gang — Chandler is going to be looking to climb above the rest and let everyone knew just what it is he's capable of doing.

I think everyone who has enjoyed watching Chase Chandler play some major high school football over the past few years should make the trip to East Lansing to watch him play his final high school football game — I know I'll be there.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

Stephanie Crawford scores big in Illinois

Novi freshman selected to the Olympic Development Program Pool Team for her age group

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

To be recognized as one of the top athletes in your age group and in your sport must be an extremely gratifying feeling.

Stephanie Crawford, a Novi High School freshman, would know exactly how it feels. Recently, after attending a regional camp in DeKalb, Illinois, Crawford was selected to the United States Youth Soccer Region II Girls' Olympic Development Program Pool Team for her age group.

Crawford, who lives in Novi, is the daughter of Jeff and Libby Crawford.

According to Dianna Jimenez, the Region II Administrator for the Olympic Development Program, "being selected to the regional pool is a major accomplishment."

And there should be no doubt about that. Crawford was selected by regional and national coaches who watched her perform in a variety of situations.

With her selection, Crawford finds herself with the chance to be selected to a future U.S. National team to represent her country in the game she excels at.

At the DeKalb camp, the top 18 players from each of 14 Midwestern states competed for selection to the Pool Team, all under the watchful eye of experienced coaches who were critiquing their techniques, skills and determination throughout the camp. Out of the 252 kids in participation at the camp, only 30 players were selected in each age group.

Now, Crawford will go on to continue her long hours of practicing, working hard and improving her general ability — all while juggling her social life, school work and time on the soccer field which includes playing as a member of the Michigan Hawks Soccer Club under the guidance of Jim Kimble.

"Stephanie will be observed now and in the future for possible selection to a United States National Team," Jimenez said. "Some of these players have gone on to win Olympic Gold Medals in 1996 and are represented on the Woman's World Cup and National Teams."

And that's not all, some of the players who have previously been selected to the Olympic Development Program have also recently played on the inaugural U-19 World Cup team in Canada — a team that finished in first place in recent play.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

Submitted Photo

Novi's Stephanie Crawford comes up and strikes the ball during play this year. Currently, Crawford is a freshman at Novi High School and was recently selected as a member of the Olympic Development Program for her age group.

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Perfection is DePollo's game

A 300 game at age 15, now what's left for Novi's Dan DePollo?

By Brian Doyle
SPECIAL WRITER

At age 15, Dan DePollo did something that almost all of us could never do in a lifetime. On May 17 at Novi Bowl DePollo threw ten strikes in a row to capture the pinnacle of bowling success, a 300 game.

"I had always been hoping for that," DePollo said. "It was just kind of hard to believe at first."

The game took place on a Saturday morning during one of the leagues that DePollo participates in. DePollo was bowling a game with one of his friends on his team, Nick Masters. According to DePollo, just after he threw his final ball he turned and saw his mother, Lynn DePollo walk in the doors.

"I was just walking in the door and they were announcing that someone had just bowled a perfect game," Lynn DePollo said. "He turned around and looked at me and the look was disbelief."

DePollo's previous high score was 257 and he averages around 190. Although the pressure was mounting as the game went on and most of the league surrounded him, DePollo said that he tried to focus just on each shot individually.

"I was trying not to think what I had going," he said. "I was trying to think about going up and throwing a good shot."

DePollo was on the Novi High School varsity bowling team as well, which he made as a freshman last year.

"I was pretty proud of that," Lynn DePollo said.

DePollo said that his time on the school bowling team really helped his game.

"It was different; a different format, more people on the team. I think all the practice I got and the help from coaches really helped me," he said.

At age 15, DePollo has a lot to look forward to with a perfect game under his belt.

"If I could I would like to go pro," he said. "Or find some way of making money from it, either in an alley or at a pro shop."

DePollo may also be able to use his bowling skills to help him finance higher education as well.

"We understand that the Detroit area is ripe with scholarship money for bowling," Lynn DePollo said. "We are looking into tournaments for him."

DePollo said that his parents, Lynn and Kevin, are very supportive of him. According to him, his parents are the ones that have helped him most in his career by supporting him in his leagues and helping him out with equipment.

His parents both enjoy bowling and actually went bowling on their second date. When he was three years old his parents bought him a plastic bowling set which he enjoyed. However, it was at a birthday party when he was seven when he got hooked on bowling.

When he was in seventh grade he found his hook and reached 200 in the same game.

"I actually accidentally found it out," he said, "I found if I threw it on the very right side it would hook in."

That was also the point when his mom realized how good he was.Dan also said that the people that work at Novi Bowl have been very helpful to him.

Photo by John Heider

Bowler Dan DePollo rolls at Novi Bowl in May 2003. DePollo bowled a perfect game at the age of 15 years old.

"Dave that runs the pro-shop has been real good with him," Lynn DePollo said. "Marcy has been just wonderful helping the kids and encouraging them and everything."

While it may be a little ways off, the PBA tour is not an unattainable goal for this fifteen year old Novi High school student. With a perfect game under his belt at his age and more time to grow, the possibility is looming in the future.

"For the last year or so all he's talked about is when he grows up he wants to bowl on the PBA," Lynn DePollo said. "Now that's a possibility."

Brian Doyle is a special writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. Comments can be directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

So what do you want to do today?

■ Bowling provides cool options during hot summer

By Brian Doyle
SPECIAL WRITER

As the summer rolls on and so does the unpredictable Michigan weather there is one sport that you can count on regardless of sweltering heat or summer thunderstorms. Bowling is available rain or shine and is no longer the same mundane sport that many people picture it as.

"Some people have a totally old impression of how it used to be," said Jerry Harris, the owner of Novi Bowl.

Novi Bowl has been able to integrate a slew of fresh ideas into their Bowling Center. Glo-Bowl isavailable on Friday and Saturday nights.

"Glo-Bowling makes it exciting with the music going on and the colored balls that glow," Harris said.

Novi Bowl also plans to start a new "Indoor picnic" in which the weather won't matter and the fun of bowling will also be present.

"We don't have to worry about the weather," Harris said. "There are no ants, no bugs, and no rain."

Despite all the other types of new entertainment out there bowling is still one of the favorite pastimes and ranked number three in a recently compiled list of activities by a nationally recognized news source.

Novi Bowl has a ton of summer specials going on to draw people out to the lanes this year. Mondays are "Bowl Your Brains Out Mondays" where you can bowl as much as you want for a set price. Tuesdays are two for Tuesdays offering two dollar shoe rentals, games, burgers and beer. Wednesday is Roll-a-Bowl Wednesday where you roll to determine how much you pay and also have the chance to win a free game.

"It almost always ends up being less than regular prices," Harris said.

Friday is Family Glo-Bowl which offers glo-bowling for $15/hour. During the week, Novi Bowl also has a special from 9-5 for moms who want to bring their kids in to bowl. The special includes bowling, hot dogs, and drinks for a special price.

"Bowling is still one of the most inexpensive family events that you can do," Harris said.

Coming up in August will be the "Strike Fest" where bowlers can win prizes for throwing strikes in certain situations. A red pin will be thrown into the mix and if it comes up as the head pin and the bowler throws a strike, they will win a prize.

Novi Bowl also hosts many other events. They have been hosts to corporate parties, birthday parties and everything from weddings to Bar Mitzvahs.

"People may not think of their local bowling center to do these things," Harris said.

Novi Bowl also has combined with day-care centers to provide a last minute event in case a planned outdoor event falls through.

"If people have something plan this summer with the weather being how it is in Michigan, don't forget to think about your local bowling center, we can accomadate large crowds almost instantaneously," Harris said.

Novi Bowl also has a lot of summer leagues going on as well. They have traditional leagues as well as youth leagues, tournament leagues, and a 'glo-bowl league' on Tuesday nights.

Novi Bowl doesn't only feature bowling, it also has its own grill which makes pizza, burgers, fries and other food.

So during the summer, sporting fun doesn't always have to be outdoors, bowling is an excellent option that isn't weather dependant.

Brian Doyle is a special writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. Comments can be directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

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NEXT LEVEL ATHLETES

This week, we have athletes that not only have shown they are capable of competing at the next level, but also excelling off the athletic field, which is always something to strive for while playing sports in college.

SCOTT KORTLANDT, a graduate of Novi High School and the son of George Kortlandt and Patricia Kortlandt of Novi, has been named to the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association's Academic Honor Roll for the 2002-03 year. Kortlandt is a member of the men's track and field team at Albion College.

In all, 122 Albion College student-athletes earned MIAA Academic Honor Roll recognition, which covers 18 varsity sports plus athletic training.

An individual making the league's Academic Honor Roll must have earned a varsity letter in a sport and maintained a 3.5 grade point average or better for the entire school year.

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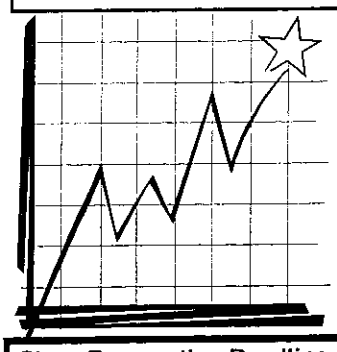

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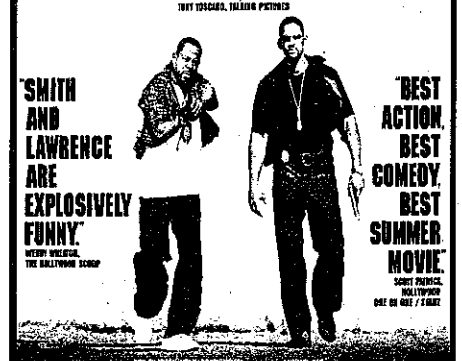

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CHANDLER: Novi grad selected to All-Star game

Continued from B1

"He was one of those players that helped fuel the rivalry," Chandler said. "I think it would have been great to have played on the same team as him, but that's not the way it worked out. He's an impressive player, and I'm not sure they'll have anyone who would have been as good as he was at middle linebacker."

All-Star Football

The players on both the East and West squads will have four days of three-a-day practices and three days of expected two-a-days — all of which finds the squads coming together to learn the plays, become friends and prepare themselves for the final game of their high school careers.

"That's a lot of practice," Chandler said with a laugh. "We're going to have to work out the plays and come up with a couple of different practices. I understand we have to practice that much to get everyone on the same page, but it seems like it might get a little redundant after a while."

And with the possibility of redundancy and most of the players preparing to go to the next level, what are the chances they won't play to their fullest potential?

"I can't see that happening," Chandler said. "With all your family and friends and fans there, just the emotion of the game would push you to play your best. No one is going to hold back, and I definitely won't be. We're all going to be out there to go all out and win."

Tickets to the All-Star game can be ordered at a cost of $8 each with check being sent to Jim Clawson, 21681 Thorofare, Grosse Ile, Michigan, 48138. Make checks payable to MHSFCA and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Or, tickets can be purchased at the gate for $10.

There will also be an All-Star banquet the night before at the Holiday Inn South at 6820 Cedar Street in Lansing. Cocktails will be served at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are $20 per person and can be ordered through Keith Froelich by calling (517) 349-6678.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at segglestON@hi.homecomm.net.

EAST ALL-STARS

Name	Position	High School
Michael English	DB	Detroit Northern
Joel Malasion	WR	Lake Orion
Anthony Jackson	WR	Brother Rice
Lance Johnson	TB	Detroit Murray Wright
DaJuan Warren	QB	Southfield
Quintin McKenzie	ILB	Redford Thurston
Jerry Chester	DB	Trenton
Joe Novak	OLB	De LaSalle
Pierre Walker	DB	Detroit Central
David Chudzinski	K	Belleville
Nick Gildersleeve	QB	Dundee
CHASE CHANDLER	**DB**	**NOVI**
Marcus Woods	TB	Farmington Harrison
Nick Notario	ILB	Monroe
Steve Van Nortwick	FB	Walled Lake Western
Joe Dost	OLB	Reese
Rob Kiefer	P	Allen Park
Scott Long	DB	Walled Lake Central
Tony Mikulic	FB	Notre Dame Prep
Jim Presley	ILB	Milford
Terry Mitchell	WR	Port Huron
Murray Percival	FB	Our Lady of the Lakes
Leython Williams	ILB	University Liggett
John Neely	DB	U of D Jesuit
Antoine Weible	DL	Mt. Clemons Clintondale
Pat Flannery	G	Oxford
Bryan Norburn	C	Dearborn Edsel Ford
Nick Fincher	T	Mt. Clemens Chippewa Valley
Antoine Terrell	DL	Trinity Catholic
Josh Beisher	G	Capac
Kenny Schmidt	DL	Waterford Mott
Dan Farkas	DL	Plymouth Canton
Tom Ahearn	T	Bad Axe
Al Voikos	T	Sterling Hts. Henry Ford II
Mike Sheldon	C	Royal Oak Kimball
James Blair	G	Detroit Pershing
Patrick Clark	DL	Detroit Catholic Central
Jake Long	T	Lapeer East
Kevin Bombrowski	OLB	Grosse Ile
John Rehberg	TE	Livonia Stevenson
Kim Thompson	WR	Detroit Country Day
Josh Powell	TE	Wyandotte Roosevelt
Kamel Hazime	DL	Dearborn Fordson
Henry Love	OLB	Wayne Memorial

WEST ALL-STARS

Name	Position	High School
Pete Tuccini	DB	Marquette
Aaron Lawler	WR	Flint Carmen-Ainsworth
Dave Weber	K	Heritage
Brian Jackson	P	Lansing Sexton
Chris Smith	DB	Holt
Isaac Brown	TB	Bridgeport
Kirk Williams	WR	DeWitt
Garret Bushong	TE	Ionia
Roman Starr	WR	Ravenna
Mark Catlin	QB	Lowell
Justin Gardner	WR	Kalamazoo Central
CJ Van Wieren	QB	Holland West Ottawa
Tim McDaniel	DB	Muskegon
Jordan Dickerson	DB	Battle Creek Central
Lee Marana	FB	Ishpeming Westwood
Preston Jones	TB	East Lansing
Jared Dell	FB	Mendon
Andy Gilde	ILB	McBain
Lee Hackley	WR	Byron Center
Jeff jansen	ILB	Jackson
Ryan Strehl	DB	Mattawan
Kyle Nelson	ILB	Durand
Tyson Mengel	TB	Sparta
Justin Ulberg	ILB	Allendale
Eric Tunney	ILB	Whitemore-Prescott
Nick Carlson	OLB	Traverse City West
Trevor Schuyltz	DL	Battle Creek Harper Creek
Victor Doman	ILB	Whitmore Lake
Chris Vandalsen	C	Jenison
Mike Larson	DL	Norway
Joe Perri	G	Muskegon Catholic
Jacob Henige	G	Chesaning
Isaac Nerat	DL	Menominee
Kurt Buhlman	G	West Branch Ogemaw Hts
Justin Hartig	T	Charlotte
Jason Gunderson	C	Milan
Bill Kern	T	Brighton
Brandon Zukoff	T	Grand Blanc
Dave McManaman	G	Haslett
Erik Schumacher	OLB	Beal City
Joe Staley	TE	Rockford
Jeff Mackey	DB	Bay City Central
Demetrius Russell	DL	Grand Rapids Union
Bubba Gritter	DL	Grandville

Hart gearing up to compete as a senior

By Brian Doyle
SPECIAL WRITER

If you attend even just a few sporting events at Novi High School, chances are you've seen Mike Hart on the field/court before.

Hart played for Novi's varsity football, basketball, and baseball teams last year and is looking to return for his senior year in those three sports. Hart not only participates in each of those sports, he is at the center of them.

Hart split time as Novi's quarterback last year and was also Novi's ace pitcher. He is looking forward to the final three seasons he has at Novi where he will again be playing quarterback and pitcher but will also be either Novi's starting power forward or center on the hardwood.

"When I look at (the next year), it seems like its going to be great," he said.

Hart returned earlier this week from a baseball tournament he took part of along with his team, the Novi Knights. A three week football camp also just got underway for Novi that Hart is taking part in.

Hart is coming back at the quarterback position after sharing time with recent Novi graduate, Chase Chandler who is headed to Albion to play football. Hart is looking forward to the upcoming year and will also have junior Kevin Cislo trying to earn time at the quarterback spot.

"I'm excited to have him out there," Hart said, "He knows the game very well."

Hart is also excited about many of the players that will be coming back to the team.

"Most of our defense is coming back, I'm excited about that," he said.

Hart is also looking forward to running a new style of offense in which he hopes to put more points on the board than last year.

"I have one year under my belt and I am hoping for a good year," he said, "I want to have a lot of fun, and win quite a few."

While football is up next for Hart, he also has basketball and baseball coming up in the near future.

It was during basketball season in his sophomore year in which he earned his nickname, Birdman.

"Some of the seniors on the varsity team, thought I kind of played like Larry Bird, shot the ball like him and worked hard like him," he said, "The guys up in the stands have their own little symbol, it gets me going."

Hart is also excited about the upcoming season in basketball and his surrounding players. Novi is coming off of two-straight district titles, but also two-straight defeats in regionals, which is motivation for Hart.

"Losing two-years in a row is inspiration in itself," he said.

Hart will also be coming back after a very strong year in baseball this past seuson. Hart was Novi's top pitcher and completed his first full year on varsity last year, after missing a good amount of his sophomore season with an injury.

"I was very happy with my season and our teams season," he said, "Everybody contributed to win and played their part."

Similarly to basketball, Novi baseball has lost in the same situation each of the last two years. They fell to Northville in districts in both 2002 and 2003.

"It was hard to take," Hart said.

Hart said that he enjoys playing in three sports at Novi and likes each for its competitiveness.

"I love the competitiveness of each sport and how you focus on one game," he said.

As Novi's top pitcher and returning quarterback, Hart's arm is obviously very talented. He said, he first learned of it when the people he was playing with made comments to him.

"Everyone started saying, 'you've got a great arm, you should do something with it,'" he said.

Hart said that occasionally, playing three sports can be a challenge and staying on track can be tough. Of course, Hart also has to balance academics with the three sports.

"Every once and a while I'll get fatigued and my mind will go elsewhere, I've just got to stay focused," he said, "It can be pretty tough, coming home from a long day of school and practice and just wanting to lounge around."

Hart hopes to be able to play either football or baseball at the next level in the future. He has been going to football camps and said that at a University of Michigan camp, a Ball State coach seemed very interested. Hart said that if given the opportunity, he would love to play at a division one level, but will play anywhere he can.

"I'd like to go to division one, that'd be my first option," he said, "I'll go anywhere just to play."

Hart is also possibly considering becoming a history teacher.

"I like history a lot, maybe I'll be a history teacher," he said, "Other than that I don't really know."

Hart also mentioned the military as something if sports don't work out.

As for now, Hart will be busy enough in the future with football, basketball and baseball and will be a central part to each of those teams.

Sports Shorts

Open and Lap Swimming

The Recreation Center at Hillside Pool announces open and lap swimming during the spring on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. and Friday 6-7:30 p.m. and Saturday from 3-4:30 p.m.

The cost is $3.00 per person, regardless of age. Please pay the lifeguard and bring correct change. Dates and times are subject to change. Cancellations will be posted on the Recreation Center doors.

Softball/Baseball Private Lessons and Training

Total Baseball will help players, ages 6-18, improve their game. Instructors include Oakland University coaching staff, Big 10/MAC All-Conference softball/baseball players, former professional players and college/HS coaches. Pitching, hitting and fielding are the lessons available and are by appointment only. The fees for the lessons start at $35 per 1/2 hour or five private lessons for $160. Space is limited. For more information, or to register, call (248) 668-0166.

Searching for records

Novi High School is currently looking for any information regarding a possible record for a single game, single season or a career dating back to the opening of the school. Records can be proven with old newspaper articles, end-of-season reports or scorebooks as documentation.

Anyone with this information should contact the high school via mail by sending the documentation to: Novi High School, 24062 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan 48375, Attn. Julie Fisette, Athletic Records.

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Worship Service 11 a.m.

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770 Thayer, Northville
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Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon
Church 349-2621, School 349-3610
Religious Education 349-2559

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Church School 10 a.m.
248-348-7757
Minister: Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt
Minister of Music: Patrick Kuhl

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Phone 349-1175
Sunday 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Sunday 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist
11 a.m. Sunday School & Nursery

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Worship Services 8:00am 9:15am 11:00am
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44400 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-349-2345
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Fr. John G. Buddie, Pastor
Fr. Paul Ballen, Associate Pastor
Parish Office: 349-8847

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248-474-0584
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Daniel Cave, Pastor

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Traditional Service - 9:00 A.M.
Contemporary Service - 10:30 A.M.
Meeting at Novi Civic Center
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For information regarding rates call
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ENTERTAINMENT

Sam Eggleston, (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 seggleston@ht.homecomm.net

'28 Days Later' a unique style of film

Think twice before heading off to England

By Sam Eggleston
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

There's a bunch of things that I think everybody should know if they plan on visiting England any time soon, and all of this information came directly from the source that is Danny Boyle's "28 Days Later," which is a movie that hinges not only on the edge of weird but crosses that particular line at times as well.

The first thing in my guide to England is a chapter on not going off and thinking it a good idea to rescue some cute little chimps from a research facility. Yeah, they don't look like they enjoy being locked in those little glass cages, but I can guarantee you that it's better than the alternative.

And, by chance, you know someone who is deciding to go out of the tour group and do such a thing, make sure you're a bicycle courier that gets hit by a car and stuffed in a locked-up hospital room while you enjoy your unconsciousness.

Of course, your tour of England will then go right to the dogs as when you wake up, presumably about 28 days later, you find that all but the entire population has turned in to a group of zombie-like creatures that would like nothing more than to either make you into one of them or eat you while you scream and kick in agony. Doesn't sound like a lot of fun, does it?

Well, it wasn't a lot of fun for Jim either. He's the main character in Boyle's flick, and his life just hit the fan - - and let's not forget that he probably didn't have the best life in the first place, considering he was a bicycle courier that gets hit by cars on occasion. Not only does he wake up in a deserted city we like to call London, but he eventually finds himself being chased by a priest that looks like he's got a bad case of the munchies, and then finds out his parents killed themselves *to avoid being infected like all* the other zombie creeps out there along with a slew of other bad things that happen to him throughout.

Now, if you happen to find yourself in the same boat as Jim, you should know a few things about the "infected."

The first thing is that no matter how confident you are in your hand-to-hand fighting abilities, you don't want to get any where near these buggers. They have an ability to projectile-vomit their infected blood onto you. If it gets in your eyes, mouth and presumably your nose, you'll become one of them in a matter of 10 to 20 seconds. And, that's not the only reason to stay out of their reach — if they bite you, consider yourself a soon-to-be arm-waiving maniac with blood red eyes that wants nothing more that to chew on the next non-infected person your senses can pick up.

Secondly, if you find a nice little secure place to hole up with plenty of stuff to eat, no windows, a re-enforced door and lots of drinking water (preferably in bottles, because I wouldn't want to be on the receiving end of some infection-contaminated water), then just stick around there and wait it out. About a month later, the infected will, hopefully, find other things to do besides try and eat you.

And third, if you do decide to wander about for kicks, make sure you never, ever holler out "Hello" in a room full of apparent dead people. I can pretty much assure you that there is a flesh-eating, grunting, infected piece of garbage sleeping in there and just waiting for some poor sap to yell out and give away his or her presence. That marks certain doom in any situation, and not just in England. If there are dead bodies strewn about, do not stand around yelling at the top of your lungs. Keep your mouth shut and continue on your tour of jolly old England!

Courtesy Photo

Jim is not a happy camper. Not only was he hit by a car while doing his job, but he was knocked out cold for 28 days. And, to top things off, he wakes up to find the entire island of England was infected with a nasty virus while he was out and now everybody wants to eat him or infect him too. Talk about a nightmare.

This movie, to say the least, is a little creepy, but it's nothing that hangs on the edge of the scariest movie ever made. Instead, it lets the hair stand on your arms a little, makes you jump once or twice, and keeps you watching to see what happens next.

Viewers will have to take in mind that "28 Days Later" is a direct import from England, and thus not made in the styling that we as Americans have become accustomed to. Nevertheless, it's a decent flick and one that I would opening suggest to anyone who wants to see a zombie movie or a horror-movie that doesn't involve a group of teenagers that have awakened some super ancient evil that likes to feast on teenagers and the occasional adult.

Though definitely not a movie to bring the kids to, "28 Days Later" not only kept me interested, but will make a fine addition to my DVD collection when it comes out in that format.

Oh yeah, and for those who are considering visiting England any time soon, I think this movie makes a bold statement that other filmmakers don't want to touch on: Don't go to their little island! At least here in America, the monsters basically stick to camp grounds and nightmares, or on some far-off-the-beaten-path road that only a bunch of kids would go down.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

WWE SmackDown plays Detroit's Joe Louis Arena

This August 19, pick up that favorite reclining chair and toss it aside! It's time to witness WWE the way it's intended to be seen — live — and at Joe Louis Arena. The feuding, chair-throwing, body-slamming, name-calling phenomena called WWE SmackDown will rock Detroit's Joe Louis Arena 7:30 p.m. August 19. Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 19.

The superstars of WWE will bring the drama of SmackDown, the top-rated UPN show, center stage at Joe Louis Arena where local fans will have the rare opportunity to be part of the live television audience. If you haven't witnessed the action of WWE live - - you don't know what you're missing!

Tickets ($15, $20, $30 and $45) for WWE SmackDown go on sale at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 19 at the Joe Louis Arena and Fox Theatre box offices, and Hockeytown Authentics in Troy (without service charges) and all Ticketmaster locations, including Marshall Field's. Charge by phone to Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover at 248-645-6666 or purchase online at www.OlympiaEntertainment.com or www.Ticketmaster.com . For information, call the Olympia Entertainment event hotline at 313-471-6606 or visit the Olympia Entertainment Web site at www.OlympiaEntertainment.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Sam Eggleston, (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 seggleston@ht.homecomm.net

Thursday, July 17, 2003

THE SCREEN BEAT

By Brian Renner
THE MOVIE INSIDER

Coming to theaters this weekend is romantic comedy **"How to Deal"**, the story of 17-year-old Halley Martin, who has been convinced that the whole concept of true love is overrated. "Halley's parents are recently divorced. Her sister's getting married, and she's convinced they're not in love at all," explains the film's star, pop-singer Mandy Moore. Moore adds that Halley's best friend Scarlett, "with whom she made a pact that they were not going to fall in love, betrays her and falls head-over-heels for a new guy. So, that solidifies Halley's view on love - it doesn't exist." But when a tragic event in her life leads to a romantic encounter with a young man, Halley realizes the possibility that true love can lie in the most unconventional places. Allison Janney (NBC's "The West Wing") plays Halley's mother Lydia and Peter Gallagher ("Mr. Deeds") plays her father Len. "How to Deal" is a New Line Cinema release and rated PG-13 for sexual content, drug material, language, and some thematic elements.

Action-comedy sequel **"Bad Boys II"** tracks narcotics detectives Mike Lowery (Will Smith) and Marcus Burnett (Martin Lawrence), who are investigating an ecstasy ring in Miami. They're inadvertently led to a major conspiracy involving a vicious ring leader, whose ambitions to take over the city's drug trade have ignited a bloody turf war. Meanwhile, Mike and Marcus' personal and professional relationship is threatened when Mike begins to develop feelings for Marcus' sister, Syd (Gabrielle Union). Unless they can separate the personal from the professional, the bad boys are in danger of blowing the case and endangering Syd's life in the process. "Bad Boys II" is a Columbia Pictures release and rated R for strong violence and action, pervasive language, sexuality and drug content.

Check out Brian Renner and his gang at www.themovieinsider.com to find everything you want to know about what's going on in Hollywood today.

British comedian Rowan Atkinson ("Mr. Bean") stars in spy spoof **"Johnny English"** as an accident-prone agent on a mission to rescue Britain's crown jewels, and save the country from a conniving Frenchman Pascal Sauvage (John Malkovich). It turns out Johnny may be in over his head, but his dedication is unmatched - especially after he meets double agent Lorna Campbell (Natalie Imbruglia) and discovers that falling in love makes saving the nation even more exciting. "Johnny English" is a Universal Pictures release and rated PG for comic nudity, some crude humor, and language.

Next week
Video-game-based action/adventure sequel **"Lara Croft: Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life"** (PG-13), third installment of the popular kid-agents series **"Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over"** (PG), and based on best-selling novel, true story **"Seabiscuit"** (PG-13).

Video and DVD
Sweeping epic **"Gods and Generals"** charting the early years of the Civil War and how the campaigns unfolded from Manassas to the Battle of Fredericksburg. This prequel to the film, "Gettysburg", explores the motivations of the combatants and examines the lives of those who waited at home. "Gods and Generals" is a Warner Bros. Pictures release and rated PG-13 for sustained battle sequences.

Also released to video and DVD. After taming the Wild West in the comedy "Shanghai Noon", Chon Wang (Jackie Chan) and Roy O'Bannon (Owen Wilson) are back in **"Shanghai Knights."** Together Wang and O'Bannon wreak havoc in Victorian-era London while trying to foil a royal assassination plot. "Shanghai Knights" is a Touchstone Pictures release and rated PG-13 for action violence and sexual content.

DVD
"hack//SIGN Vol. 3: Gestalt" (NR), "365 Nights in Hollywood" (NR), " Andromeda: Season 2 Vol. 5" (NR), "Andromeda: Season 2 Vol. 6" (NR), "Fairly Odd Parents: Abra Catastrophe" (NR), "Friends: The Complete Fourth Season" (NR), "Laurel Canyon" (R), "M*A*S*H: Season Four" (NR), "Pinocchio" (2002) (G), "Sailor Moon: Season One" (Uncut) (8-DVD Set) (NR), "What's Up Tiger Lily?" (NR), and " White Lightning" (PG).

For more information, please log on to The Movie Insider at www.themovieinsider.com. Please direct any questions, comments, and/or feedback to brian@themovieinsider.com.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Michigan's most eligible singles are being sought statewide

Attention Michigan singles 21 years of age and older — The opportunity to be a part of a brand new upscale, sophisticated and professional Michigan publication featuring eligible singles is coming to a close. Due to an overwhelming response, the deadline for single bachelors and bachelorettes to apply for consideration in "Michigan's Top 100 Most Eligible Bachelors/Bachelorettes" magazines has been extended to July 31, 2003. Nearly three million singles live in the state of Michigan alone and the search is on for the premier representatives of Michigan's most eligible men and women.

There are no costs involved for singles to participate. To be considered, submit an application on-line by logging on to the respective websites, 100bachelors.com or 100bachelorettes.com . Those applying should also include a recent photograph with their entry by July 31, 2003. You must be a Michigan resident, legally unmarried and at least 21 years of age.

Those chosen will receive a full-page custom biography and a professional photograph in the magazines. "Michigan's Top 100 Most Eligible Bachelors and Bachelorettes" magazines will hit newsstands this September and sell for $24.95 each. Pre-orders are now being accepted on-line at a special half price rate for a limited time only. Log on to 100bachelors.com or 100bachelorettes.com.

Emagine sets Canton plans into motion

Emagine Entertainment, Inc. announced July 1 that it is moving forward with its plans to open an 18-screen state-of-the-art theatre in Canton Township, Michigan. Located in the area's most prolific commercial corridor, the 88,000 square foot facility will feature the latest technology in projection and sound equipment.

Emagine Canton will feature 3,800 seats. In addition, the two largest auditoriums, with 500 seats each, will contain 130 over-stuffed luxury seats with 56" row spacing. All auditoriums will be handicap accessible and equipped with hearing impaired listening devices.

The 22,000 square foot dramatic lobby will host a full service concession stand offering all popular movie-going fare including hot fresh popcorn served in popcorn buckets, real butter, soft drinks, candy, nachos, and pizza plus specialty items including stuffed pretzels and gourmet chocolate.

Emagine Canton is planned for the south side of Ford Road, just east of Lotz Road, one mile east of I-275, and directly across from a new Sam's Club and Wal-Mart.

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CITY OF NOVI
NOTICE OF ADOPTION
ORDINANCE NO. 03-171

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Novi City Council has adopted Ordinance No. 03-171, an Ordinance to add Article VII to Chapter 2 of the City of Novi Code of Ordinances to require persons making applications for reviews, approvals or other beneficial grants from the City to defray the costs and expenses of the City for reviews reasonably required to respond to such applications.

The provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, July 7, 2003. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. prevailing local time.

(7-17-03 NN 69856) MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

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Another Day at the Farm

It's a dirty job, but the ravenous red wiggler is up to the task, as worms turn manure into fertilizer

By Jeff Klinkenberg
ST PETERSBURG TIMES

As the traffic rumbled by and a jet descended toward Tampa International Airport, John Rowles told me to point my ear at terra firma. At first, I heard nothing. Then I heard the slightest of gurgling sounds, a whisper, if you will, of wet movement.

Worms were eating cow manure. They were eating cow manure as if it were a gourmet meal prepared by Julia Child.

What I was hearing was the passage of manure through the ever-efficient innards of millions of worms.

It was another day at the CRM Worm Ranch in Dade City, Fla., another day of hard-working worms going about their business of turning smelly manure into something odorless and good for soil.

"Those suckers know how to do it," Rowles gushed, proud to be called a worm man. In a 1-acre greenhouse, he and two partners supervised the toil of nearly 2-million voracious red wigglers.

Rowles was giving me a tour of the ranch. He and his friends haven't made their fortunes yet, but they're confident they will when the rest of the world catches on. The reason? There's gold in what their worms can do with 12 tons of manure a week.

"It's amazing to watch," Rowles said. "You put a load of manure into their bins and at the end of day it's pretty much gone."

What's left, after the worms add their own digestive enzymes to the mix, is what more refined professionals call "worm castings" – poop. It's a powdery material, like ground coffee, and pretty much smells like old-fashioned dirt. Gardeners add it to their soil as a concentrated and organic fertilizer – and, if they're smart, get out of the way.

Rowles, 42, is appreciative of the worms' efforts. "I like these buggers," he said.

Unlike the robust garden variety earthworms, his wigglers are about as long as a toothpick and as thick as angel-hair pasta. They may be small, but they're hungry. They eat half their weight in manure and garbage every day. If you've got as many as the CRM Worm Ranch has, Katie bar the door.

Potential is what has worm ranchers all over the nation a little starry-eyed. In some places, red wigglers by the tons are let loose in landfills to clean up the soil. Even chicken, pig and dairy operations use worms to take care of smelly public relations problems. And of course the worm byproduct can be sold to gardeners.

"If you have worms in your yard, what does that tell you?" Rowles asked. "It tells you that you have a healthy yard. You probably have good, productive soil."

In Florida, worm ranching is a relatively new industry, and Rowles said that "The message we want to get out is that worm castings are as effective as chemicals without any of the dangers.

"Pesticides are kind of like drugs. They promote plant growth, but it's only temporary and their use can have a bad long-term effect.

Worm castings are more like vitamins. They help the health of the soil on a long-term basis and it's natural."

Rowles has watched worms having sex. All he will say is, "It's really gross. And they really go to town when the moon is full."

Within hours of amore, it almost seems to him, baby worms are emerging from eggs, hungry. In three months, the babies are grown up and looking to sow a few wild oats of their own.

There is no shortage of manure in Florida, among the nation's biggest cattle states. Dairy farmers typically are eager give it away. They carry it to the CRM Worm Ranch by the truckload. Rowles and other workers amble among the 300 rectangular bins and dump manure. They are careful to step away from the resulting feeding frenzy. Afterward, another rancher collects poop-laden soil and dumps it into a cylinder. The cylinder, actually a filter, separates the poop from the worms and the soil. The worms and soil can be returned to their rightful bins; the poop is piled into a veritable mountain.

The droppings are shoveled into plastic boxes and bags for later sale. CRM is in the process of selling its products to nurseries and gardeners, and citrus growers are poised to start using it.

Rowles does his best to comfort the worms. He keeps their bins at a comfortable temperature, about 70 degrees, and provides water and all the manure they can handle. As a treat, he feeds them dessert: pages from the morning newspaper.

"No nutrition," he said, "but plenty of fiber. And they love it."

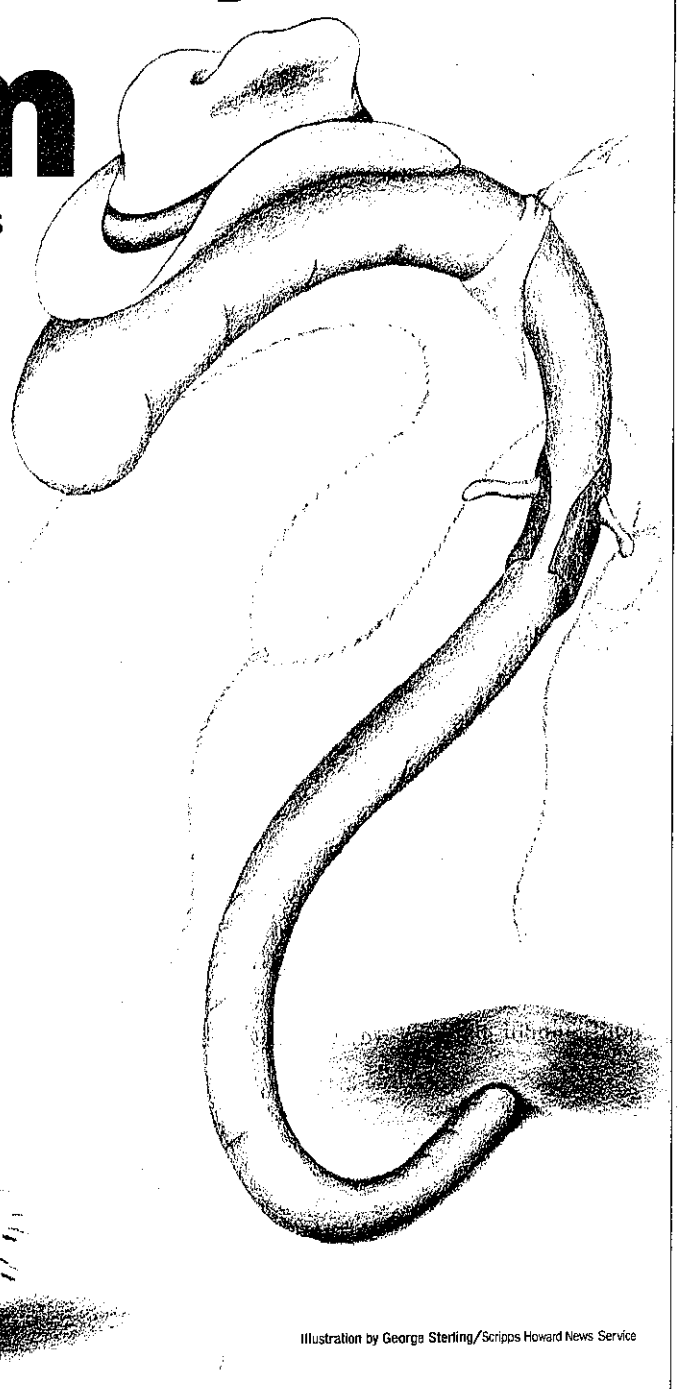


Illustration by George Sterling/Scripps Howard News Service

Photo by Gary Lawson/Scripps Howard News Service

Each saddle comes with Mitchell's own stamp.

Brand recognition

Texas saddle maker leaves a lasting impression

By Michelle Kann
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

For cowboys from the 6666, Triangle and Waggoner ranches, their shopping destination for custom-made saddles lies in the heart of Throckmorton, Texas.

Robert Mitchell, owner of The Saddle Shop, said many working cowboys prefer the handmade saddles produced at his store. "The quality and the looks are better. The way they fit the horse and if they are good, you can sit on them comfortably," he said.

The smell of steer-hide leather and oil greets cowboys as they step into the business. Photos of bull riders line one wall while silver and gold buckles of all shapes and sizes hang across the large room.

A sign written in marker states "Deposit required on all custom and special orders."

Even though a cowboy must put his money down during the order, he won't be riding it anytime soon. "We are two years behind in saddles," Mitchell said.

This self-taught saddle maker spends between six and 10 days cutting, stretching and hammering each saddle. The detailed process isn't quick.

"We are lucky if we get two in a month done," Mitchell said. "I'll start two or three at once and then after about a week I'll work on just one a time. I'll get to a point where I'll just finish one before starting the next."

Despite the wait, the cowboys keep coming.

"All the big ranches come here," Mitchell said. "They basically know what they want. They may have a saddle they like and we look at that and take the measurements. We also have a book we can show them. But the majority knows."

Besides designing saddles for working cowboys, Mitchell also makes winning saddles for area ranching competitions.

For the last two years, his symbol has been branded on the winning saddle awarded at the Texas Ranch Roundup, which pits cowboys from all area ranches against each other in a variety of competitions.

Mitchell's saddles are practical. His saddles are not designed for prancing in parades. They're tough and dependable, ready for ranch conditions.

"I don't make any that are real fancy. They can get pretty fancy, like ones that are just silver," Mitchell said. "Most of these saddles are for working cowboys. Mitchell doesn't use any measurement tools while working on his products. He cuts out the leather using patterns he designed. Once the leather is hammered to the frame, he strokes his hand across it feeling for any roughness.

He finds an uneven spot and cuts it with a knife. Then he feels the saddle again.

"I do it that why because I taught myself," Mitchell said. "I don't know if that's right or not, but that's the way I do it. I do everything by eye so not one is identical."

The starting price for a saddle is $1,900. "I'm not the highest, but I'm not the cheapest, either," Mitchell said.

Mitchell said he'll keep making saddles for the rest of his life.

"I just like building saddles, that's it," he said.

Some illuminating fun for all ages

By Dick Youngblood
MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL STAR TRIBUNE

John Gill claims his business has gone to the dogs. That's actually a salutary development, given that dogs (and cats) accounted for 85 percent of the $3.5 million in sales his company recorded in 2002.

Now, however, the business also is headed for the golf course, and the result is that Gill's sales could more than double this year.

Some explanation might be useful here.

Gill, 55, is founder of Sun Products Inc. in Eden Prairie, Minn., a company that sells brightly flashing, impact-and motion-activated toys for man and beast.

The product line – most of it enclosing lithium batteries, mini-circuit boards and light-emitting diodes (LEDs) – includes blinking, hard-rubber balls for street-hockey enthusiasts and similarly flashing chew toys for dogs and cats. Oh yes, and a line of glow-in-the-dark balls sized for pets both large and small.

Now, Sun Products has come up with the Twilight Tracer, a regulation golf ball that blinks seven times a second for five minutes so that it can be located in the gloom of dusk or pre-dawn.

Selected as best new product of the year at last fall's PGA Expo, the Tracers retail for $10 to $13 apiece, depending on the size of the purchase. It went on the market in October and produced $500,000 in sales by year's end. By then it was in 1,000 stores, headed for a projected 5,000 outlets in 27 countries by summer.

The upshot: Tracer sales are expected to reach or exceed $3 million this year, with pet products adding another $4 million or more. Along with less than $500,000 in hockey products, Sun Products sales are projected at upward of $7.5 million in 2003.

We might credit Scott Olson, inventor of the in-line skate and founder of Rollerblade Inc., for inspiring all this entrepreneurial hustle.

"I saw him on Rollerblades one day," said Gill, a commercial real estate broker at the time. "He was carrying a hockey stick, but of course there was no puck. So I started thinking about making one for the in-line skating market."

That was 1990, at the height of the in-line skating craze. Gill raised $200,000 to start his company.

Then Gill teamed up with an injection molding company and developed the Hot Puck, a hockey puck with built-in roller balls. Later he added the Z-Ball, a latex product with zero bounce to simulate a puck's action in street-hockey games.

It was all pretty mundane stuff – until Gill decided to help out all those budding NHL stars whose playing time on unlighted rinks was limited by early winter darkness. He came up with the Pulsar Puck, a blinking piece of hard rubber that solved the problem. Unfortunately, it was pricey and didn't sell well, so it was taken off the market in 2000.

Photo by Tom Wallace/Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune

John Gill

By then, however, he had spotted new opportunities. First came the Fireball, a blinking ball designed to replace the tennis balls that kids were using for street hockey. The product had a comparatively limited market – until Gill was confronted with yet another unexpected opportunity.

"I asked my sister how her kids liked the Fireball," he recalled. "She said they liked it fine – but that the dog liked it even more." Then a buyer for a Canadian chain of discount department stores sent in an order, along with a personal request for a half-dozen of the balls – for his dog.

When the FedEx delivery man made a similar request, Gill figured he had as much of a market survey as he needed. He repackaged the ball as the Fetch & Flash or the Pounce & Glow and began courting the 50 million owners of more than 230 million dogs and cats.

With the addition of such products as flashing rubber bones, glow-in-the-dark Frisbees and glowing balls, his pet products soon could be found in 14,000 pet stores, discount chains and other outlets.

With Wal-Mart's recent decision to double the number of Sun Products on its shelves, Gill figures pet-product sales will be up 35 percent this year from the $3 million in 2002.

Meanwhile, the Twilight Tracer, its electronics coated and encapsulated by durable polyurethane, promises to outpace pet products very soon.

Gill is already dreaming about the next opportunity.

'Responsible' shades cost plenty of money

By Scott Barancik
ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Consumers with a conscience have many ways to spend their money today. They can invest in mutual funds focused on socially responsible corporations. They can sip "fair trade" coffee picked by farmers guaranteed a reasonable return on investment.

Or, thanks to Specs2C of Hollywood, Fla., they can wear eyeglasses made from naturally felled trees in the Ecuadoran rain forest. That is, if they have 400 or so greenbacks to spend.

Company owner Craig Caplan said his SOL-Seeds of Life line of glasses are handmade in Ecuador not only from fallen trees but from petrified wood, bamboo and seeds. He purchases the materials from several tribes, he said, including the Waorani. Another line is made with exotic woods from around the world and manufactured in Japan.

"What we're doing is giving these natives an alternative source of income, as opposed to cutting lumber and destroying the rain forest," he said.

But do consumers really care that his glasses are made from organically grown materials? Or purchased from rain forest dwellers?

Not in St. Pete Beach, said Chuck Eubanks, owner of Elegante Eyewear. Most of his customers are northern snowbirds. Many favor the look of the company's bamboo models.

"They buy it," he said, "because it's exotic, Florida and unique."

Food

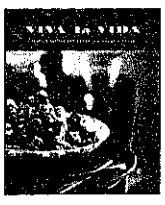
'Viva la Vida' brings out South America's best

By Karola Saekel
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

In the wonderful bouillabaisse of ethnic cuisines that have come to our shores in the last couple of decades, nuevo Latino is one style that hasn't trickled down from restaurant fare to home cooking (in non-Latino households) nearly as much as many of the other regional approaches.

It's no big surprise, considering that there are far more books on various Asian cuisines and the foods of the Mediterranean than there are of the second half of the Americas.

But Rafael Palomino, a successful East Coast chef, is spreading the nuevo Latino gospel in "Viva la Vida" (with Arlen Gargagliano, Chronicle Books, $24.95).



It is an attractive book in many ways. The unfussy layout and taste- tempting color photographs by Susie Cushner first draw readers in. The recipes will make them want to get into the kitchen.

Peru is represented by papas a la huancaina, an intriguing dish that tops cooled, boiled, sliced potatoes with salsa mixed with crushed saltines, evaporated milk and spices, all served on lettuce leaves. It's definitely not your Fourth of July potato salad.

Skipping to Brazil, skewered shrimp is bathed in a marinade of garlic, olive oil and Caipirinha, that country's national rum and lime cocktail. The grilled shrimp is served with a dipping sauce made of more of the rum concoction (you might as well sip a little while you prepare the grill), mixed with mango nectar and pineapple juice.

Fruit juices and nectars, all easily found in U.S. markets, play key roles in many preparations, and for ingredients that are less common, Palomino thoughtfully suggests acceptable substitutions. If you can't get to an ethnic market for aji mirasol or aji amarillo, two Latin ground chile powders, he directs you toward cayenne.

Palomino draws on memories of his Bogota childhood as much as he does on his American restaurants' menus. There is lechon asado, crispy-juicy roast suckling pig that is the traditional centerpiece of his family's Christmas dinner, and such simple dishes as arroz moro, the Palominos' version of rice and black beans, made both colorful and delicious with green onions, corn kernels, diced tomato and roasted garlic, all seasoned with a sazon spice mix (or cumin if that's not at hand).

Viva la vida translates to "long live life," and Palomino's easy-to-follow recipes carry the promise of a very palatable, as well as long and healthy, life.

ANTICUCHOS DE POLLO (CHICKEN BROCHETTES)

(Serves 6 to 8)

Rafael Palomino adds a special touch to these by using peeled sugarcane as skewers. He serves them with Peruvian potato salad.

2 cups mango nectar
2 tablespoons ketchup
1 teaspoon chipotle puree (see Note)
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
2 pounds skinless, boneless chicken breasts (preferably free-range), cut into strips about 1-x-4-1/2 inches

Light a fire in a charcoal grill or light a gas grill. Soak 6 to 8 wooden skewers in water for 30 minutes.

In a large, shallow bowl, whisk the mango nectar, ketchup, chipotle puree, oil and Worcestershire sauce together. Add the chicken and let sit for 15 minutes. Drain the chicken and weave each strip onto a skewer by moving the skewer up and down as if it were a needle. Grill for 3 to 5 minutes on each side, or until opaque throughout.

Serve hot or at room temperature.

(Note: For chipotle puree, empty 1 can chipotles en adobo into a blender or food processor; blend until smooth. Leftovers can be stored, covered, in the refrigerator up to 6 months.)

food network

Homemade ice cream

Most homemade ice cream recipes often end with the general instruction to "freeze in an ice cream maker according to the manufacturer's instructions."

For the creamiest ice cream, however, take care not to over-churn the batch in the machine. Ice creams with a high proportion of cream can get over-whipped and develop a grainy, almost waxy texture.

Churn the ice cream until it has about the same consistency as soft-serve ice cream. Then transfer it to the freezer to finish freezing.

Susan Huff, founder of Headfirst Farms Food Co-op, prepares an order in the garage of her St. Petersburg, Fla. home.

collective harvest

In a double garage turned food co-op, 27 families find nourishment just they way they like it: organically

Kya Belcher, left, writes a check to Headfirst Farms, Karyn Pippenger, second from left, while Jennifer Pierson-DeWald plays with Tayge Belcher, 7-months, and daughter Emma DeWald.

Story By Janet K. Keeler ■ Photos By James Borchuck ■ St. Petersburg Times

The daikon radishes are causing the biggest stir at Headfirst Farms.

They're whiter than those you see at most grocery stores, where the Chinese radish often goes spotty and limp from neglect. These are firm specimens with carrot-like countenance and slightly spicy attitude. Did we mention how white they are?

"Look at these," says Susan Huff, organic food evangelist. She hoists a bundle in the air. "They are amazing."

What's more amazing is the counter-culture world that Huff, 41, has created in the double garage of her St. Petersburg, Fla., home. Wee ones in Birkenstocks, stay-at-home moms, grandmothers, artists, students and one triathlete find their way to Huff's garage – Headfirst Farms – to pick up bimonthly shares of naturally grown, chemical-free organic fruits, vegetables and dairy products.

The 27 families nourished by Huff's organic offerings and ebullient spirit might be better described as a food-buying club than a co-op, an alternative eating and buying concept that flourished in the 1970s. Each pays $25 to $35 twice a month for a share of food delivered by an organic food supplier and whatever bounty might be gleaned from Huff's impressive backyard garden.

Occasionally, plump, pampered chickens are for sale, but at 8 pounds Huff says they're mistaken for small turkeys and she has asked the farmer to breed them smaller because their $17 price tag is too high. Milk from an organic dairy comes in glass containers; a layer of cream floats at the top.

In the middle of the city, Huff, her contractor husband, Ron, and son Matson, 7, live on about an acre. Raised beds sprout beans, tomatoes, parsley, cilantro and spinach, among other things. A pond skirts the property. If one can use the word "tidy" to describe compost, it would be appropriate here. No offensive smell, and just a few flies buzzing.

Huff uses the commercial kitchen of a local restaurant to make soups such as carrot, sweet potato with kale and white bean, along with hummus, tabouli and chunky, seed-filled bread. She can't make enough Mid-Day Munchies organic granola. At $6.95 a pound, it sells fast.

"This is my greatest blessing," Huff says. "All these families are eating organic food.

Children are invited to the backyard garden to pull a carrot out of the ground. You know what the moms are thinking: sure beats the weary grocery store mantra "don't touch," "put that back," "no, no, no." There is no serene Buddha in Aisle 4 like there is tucked into a flower bed at Headfirst Farms.

A food-buying club is a group of people, often a neighborhood or a community of like-minded folks, that pools resources to buy food from a cooperative food warehouse. There is no retail outlet. The food is delivered to someone's house and divvied up.

In the case of Headfirst, the food comes from Albert's Organics, which has a distribution warehouse in Winter Haven, Fla. David Kelso, an Albert's sales rep, says that food-buying clubs represent about 20 percent of the company's business in Florida. And that number is growing.

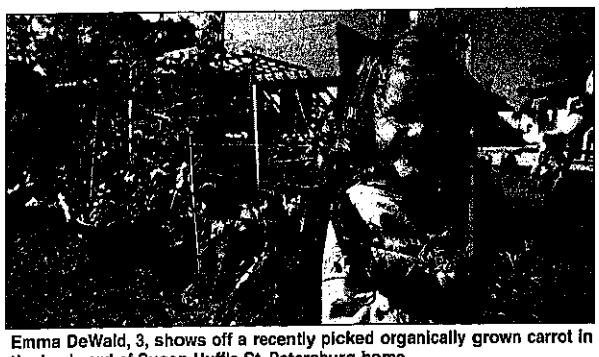
The group gets a list of availability and prices the day before delivery and must order a minimum of $175 worth of food. Besides fruit and vegetables, Albert's carries eggs, milk, cheese and meats.

Most of the people in food-buying clubs get delivery weekly or bimonthly, Kelso says. The minimum amount of the product is set by Albert's; for instance, buyers might get a 20-pound case of Roma tomatoes or 10 pounds of daikon radish.

On this day, the Headfirst Farms family got lettuce, wax beans, kale and sweet potatoes from Huff's garden in addition to beets, daikon, eggs, apples, pears, roma tomatoes, squash and eggplant from Albert's. Additional buys were juice, butter, milk and Huff's prepared food.

Headfirst is different from other food-buying groups and not just because of its founder's unwavering fervor. Headfirst is a non-profit organization that helps fund children's gardening programs. Huff also runs seminars on biodynamic gardening, a non-chemical agriculture movement akin to holistic medicine

"Some people think it's all airy-fairy, but it really makes sense," she says.



Emma DeWald, 3, shows off a recently picked organically grown carrot in the backyard of Susan Huff's St. Petersburg home.

Tasty iced tea made easy, plain or fancy

SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Drinking iced tea is a good way to reduce one's personal consumption of soft drinks, which are a large calorie category in the American diet. Even non-caloric but very sweet soft drinks have been shown in some research studies to be counter-productive in weight-control or weight-loss eating plans.

Now, Nestea has an easy way to prepare iced tea with brewed-tea flavor – new Unsweetened Iced Tea Liquid Concentrate is packaged in a plastic bottle. It's the first of its kind, offering an unsweetened option for tea-drinkers and the sugar-sensitive.

The concentrate is packaged in an easy-to-measure and easy-to-pour iron plastic, 16-ounce bottle. Just pour, add cold water and ice. No more powdered tea or tea bags to fuss with.

One bottle of the concentrate makes up to 4 quarts of beverage. There are measuring guides on the package. Suggested retail: $1.99 for a 16-ounce bottle. For more information, go online and visit nestea.com.

Here are some serving suggestions:

■ **Cheery Cherry Tea:** Combine 1 cup water, 2 tablespoons maraschino cherry juice, 2 tablespoons of unsweetened iced tea concentrate and 1 teaspoon lemon juice in a tall glass. Add ice cubes and garnish with a cherry. One serving.

■ **Strawberry Lemonade:** Place 3 tablespoons of strawberry jam, and 1/4 cup iced tea unsweetened concentrate in a small, microwave-safe pitcher. Microwave on high for 15 to 30 seconds or until jam has melted. Stir in 1-1/2 cups water and 1 tablespoon lemon juice. Fill 2 glasses with ice cubes; divide tea mixture between glasses. Serve with strawberry garnish or a lemon slice. Makes 2 servings.

■ **Orange Tea Spritzer:** Combine 2 cups orange juice, 2 cups chilled club soda, 1/2 cup sugar, 1/2 cup iced tea unsweetened concentrate in small pitcher. Serve over ice with orange wedges for garnish. 4 servings.

■ **Chai Tea:** In medium saucepan, combine 2 cups water, 2 cups whole milk (or skim), 1/2 cup iced tea unsweetened concentrate, 1/4 cup sugar, 2 cinnamon sticks, 8 whole cloves, 4 black peppercorns, 1/4 teaspoon ground cardamom. Heat over medium heat until boil. Reduce to low; simmer 5 minutes. Strain; serve hot or cold. 4 servings.

■ **Chocolate Chai Tea:** Follow previous directions for chai tea and stir 3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder into hot chai tea mixture until combined.

TECHNOLOGY

Bringing your movies to life

FINE LIVING NETWORK

Pointing a video camera at your kids or your friends is as easy as pie, but how do you make home movies that you'll actually want to sit down and watch?

A few basic concepts and techniques can help you take your raw footage and craft it into a short video that will make the most of the precious memories you catch on tape.

A professional video editor working in Boston, Christo Tsiaras has been in the business for two decades and has cut everything from feature films to television commercials. He offers the following ideas for creating home movies that you'll want to watch again and again:

• Shoot a lot. Tsiaras likes to keep his camcorder rolling and his still camera clicking, especially on trips and during special family gatherings. The way he sees it, you just can't shoot too much raw footage.

FINE LIVING

• Capture moments. Keeping those cameras rolling is the way to capture all of life's special moments. When Tsiaras went to Martha's Vineyard with his family, he wanted enough good footage to create something nice, so he pointed his camera at his daughter whenever she was having fun.

• Keep the highlights. After four days, Tsiaras returned to Boston with a great deal of footage and started sorting through it for the best moments. The little 30-second and one-minute clips that he found were the real highlights of the vacation.

• Keep it short. According to Tsiaras, brevity really is the key to a successful home movie. Nobody wants to sit and watch hours of unedited footage, but everybody loves slick and quick highlight reels that show all the best moments set to appropriate music.

Americans love to videotape everything, but sitting down to watch hours of unedited videotape can be a daunting proposition, and for many video editing is the answer.

Tsiaras offers this basic primer for turning your raw home videos and movies into polished productions:

• Make use of music. Tsiaras sees music as an easy way to add emotion and energy to your amateur production. If you have a long segment, set it to an appropriate piece of music. You'll be surprised how good it will look with the music complementing the images.

• Pare down that raw footage. When shooting, you can keep the camera rolling so that you'll catch unexpected moments. But once you edit, you should throw out a lot of what you shot and just keep the key shots. The shot might only be a couple of seconds long, but it will highlight the moment rather than losing it in the midst of duffer footage.

• Experiment with effects. Don't be afraid to experiment with visual effects. For example, Tsiaras suggests that if you have video or film of a loved one who has died, you can use slow motion video combined with an emotional piece of music for a very moving effect.

• Less is more. A long running time is not the goal in editing. It's all about hitting those great shots, matching the right music and making it fun. Tsiaras suggests three or four minutes as a good total length.

Once you understand the basics of video editing, you might want to move on to slightly more advanced techniques. Tsiaras offers even more techniques and ideas for editing your home footage:

• Create a story. Instead of editing your footage in a simple documentary "fly-on-the-wall" style, Tsiaras recommends trying to use editing to create a narrative story. Boil down your raw footage to all the interesting shots, and begin assembling them in an order that tells an entertaining tale.

• Manipulate time and sequence. The beauty of editing is that you don't have to use the footage in the order you shot it. Editing not only lets you compress time by discarding boring footage, but it also lets you rearrange the sequence of shots, so you can make the scenes tell whatever story you want.

• Add effects. As you begin to build your story, you'll probably come to points where you think you need a little something extra to add emotion or laughs. These are good spots to put in visual effects like wipes and pans, or eye-catching techniques like quick cuts. You might even want to shoot extra footage to add to your made-up story.

• Make it fun. Don't be afraid to play around and try strange things, like seemingly unrelated cutaway shots or bizarre visual effects.

To learn more

■ Beginner's Guide to Digital Video Production: www.videomaker.com

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

E-mail popularity rises

By Clint Swett
SACRAMENTO BEE

Widespread use of e-mail is only about a decade old, but already it is more popular than the phone as a business communications tool, according to a recent report.

A survey conducted by the Meta Group showed that 80 percent of business people preferred e-mail to phone calls for general business communication, and 74 percent said being without e-mail would be more of a hardship than losing phone service.

Those surveyed preferred e-mail because they could easily communicate with multiple parties, they could communicate more quickly, and there was a written record of their communications.

But Meta officials emphasized that phone conversations remained valuable because they helped add context and nuance to communications that are often lacking in e-mail.

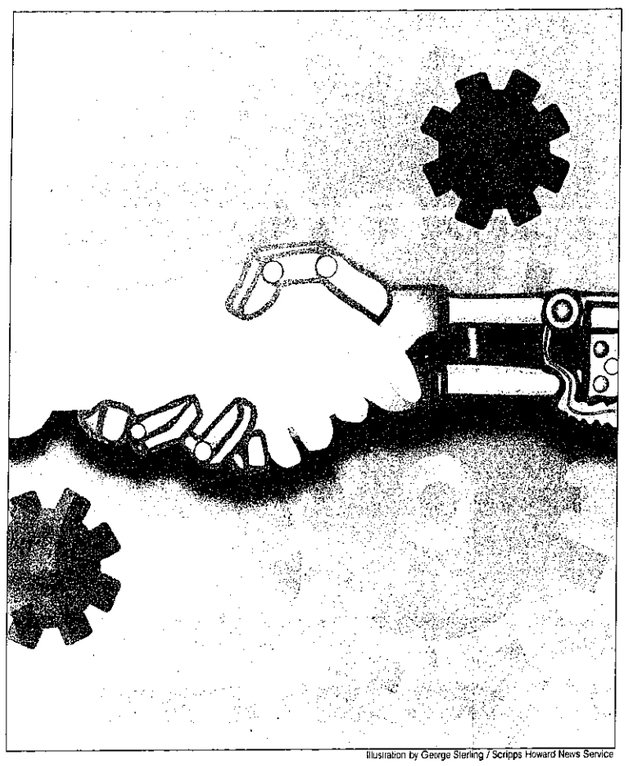


Illustration by George Sterling / Scripps Howard News Service

CO-EXISTING IN THE WORKPLACE

As factories are automated, many jobs evolve rather than disappear

By Vicki Lee Parker
RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER

As odd as it might seem, Alexis Ramos is looking forward to the day when his job is replaced by robotic equipment.

For the past two years, Ramos has arrived at the General Shale brick manufacturing plant in Moncure, N.C., at 6 a.m. He then spends the next seven hours stacking about 22,000 bricks into a packaging machine.

The work is tedious and painful. It has to be done quickly to keep up with the clanking, rotating machine as well as the swift pace of the dozen other men who work on the packaging line.

"It's a heavy job," said Ramos. "You get tired."

Starting in October, Ramos and his colleagues will no longer have to spend their days hunched over, loading and unloading bricks. Instead, many will have only to push buttons and operate robotic arms that stand 8 feet high and stretch 6 feet wide and will grip, lift and move the bricks.

Others will be reassigned to less strenuous work in the plant. Depending on their new assignment, some will earn more money, but others could earn less. However, no workers will lose their jobs, said regional production manager Charles Smith.

"It will be better for everybody," Ramos said. "There will be less people getting injured."

General Shale began implementing automation in this plant six years ago, starting with its kiln-loading process. The company spent $800,000 for four robotic arms used to load thousands of bricks onto a kiln cart.

The packaging line is the last department in the 67,860-square-foot plant to be equipped with automated equipment. Once it's completed, annual production will increase 50 percent to 90 million bricks per year.

When automation was first introduced in 1970s, mainly at automotive plants, workers feared for their jobs.

Although job losses still occur, automation is now used mostly to relieve workers who perform repetitive, strenuous or unsafe jobs, and to create faster and more efficient production. Employees often assume new responsibilities or shift to other positions.

Pharmaceutical companies also are relying more on automation to speed up production and increase the quality of results.

At GlaxoSmithKline, the British drugmaker that has one of its two U.S. headquarters in Research Triangle Park, N.C., "we have the more obvious (robotic equipment) replacing human activity," said Paul Domanico, vice president of technology development biology.

"We also have software that takes steps that humans used to take. The software is designed to think about a product in an automated way. As a result, instead of scientists looking at 10 pieces of data in an hour, they can look at 10,000 pieces in an hour," Domanico said.

Automation lets scientists do more with less sample material at a much faster rate, said Steve Haneline, an investigator with GSK's Discovery Genetics Division.

It also reduces human error.

Just a year or two ago, scientists spent hours dispensing material from test tubes. Today many of those applications are performed by machines able to drop samples smaller than a pinhead in just seconds.

It frees scientists to do what they were hired to do, Haneline said.

"Now they spend more time at their desk analyzing test results."

Although automation does create opportunities for some people, it inevitably will continue to displace certain workers as companies look for ways to increase production at lower costs, said Charlie Duncheon, former president of the Robotic Industries Association, an Ann Arbor, Mich.-based trade group that represents manufacturers and users of robotic components.

Still, companies today rarely buy automation simply to reduce labor, Duncheon said.

"If they just want to eliminate labor, they go to China."

Most companies invest in automation to be able to compete in the global market.

"Either they invest in robots and maintain a factory in the U.S., or have no factories at all," Duncheon said. "I think it's better to have an automated plant with some workers than to lose the factory altogether."

Robots on the rise

The use of robotic equipment continues to spread into numerous industries, said Charlie Duncheon, former president of the Robotic Industries Association, an Ann Arbor, Mich.-based trade group that represents manufacturers and users of robotic components.

In the 1980s, automation moved into the electronics industry. In the early 1990s, it became common in the semiconductor and health-care industries. More recently, robots and automated machinery are being used by service, laboratory research and food-processing companies.

Duncheon said companies use robots for cake decorating, packaging frozen foods, planting farm seeds, building electronic circuit boards, retrieving merchandise from warehouses, slaughtering poultry and meat, and cleaning fish.

"The issue is not 'Can the robot do it?'" said Duncheon, who also owns San Jose-based Adept Technologies, which manufactures and sells robotic equipment. "But 'Can it be justified by the price?'"

Total 2002 sales of robotic equipment for manufacturing in the United States increased 6 percent from the year earlier to 10,896 units worth more than $836 million, according to RIA. That's down from a peak in 1999, mostly because of the economic slowdown that has hurt many manufacturers.

The RIA defines robotic equipment as machinery that is reprogrammable and able to perform two or more tasks, such as picking up widgets and welding.

The price of such equipment has decreased over the years as the technology has improved. About 20 years ago, a complete robotic system would cost about $250,000, Duncheon said. Today, a faster, more efficient and simpler system would cost about $100,000.

Robot operator Hershey Monroe is surrounded by moving robotic arms as he keeps an eye on the brick cutting and stacking robots at the General Shale plant in Moncure, NC. General Shale is planning to spend millions later this year to upgrade the robotic capabilities of the brick making plant to increase its capacity.

Photo by Harry Lynch / Raleigh News & Observer

GAME REVIEWS

★=Poor ★★★★★=Excellent

Tao Feng: Fist of the Lotus

Genre: Fighting
Platform: Xbox
Publisher: Microsoft Game Studios
ESRB Rating: T for Teen

★★½

Microsoft's brawler, Tao Feng: Fist of the Lotus, would be a recommended buy if it didn't suffer from an extreme case of shallowness — a fault difficult to spot when you begin play.

After all, it has all the game modes common to fighting games (story, tournament, survival, etc.), it has a huge number of moves and playable characters and a well-developed presentation with splendidly animated characters and fully interactive 3-D environments — all hallmarks of premium fighters like Virtua Fighter, Tekken and Dead or Alive.

But just as it may surprise you to learn that houses have fists, making a great fighting game and making a game that looks like a great fighting game can be two different things. The high combo variety doesn't seem so excellent once you learn that you need only a handful to overcome your computer opponents' crummy intelligence. And most combos are real finger twisters, courtesy of a cumbersome control scheme.

To make up for lack of skill, computer opponents gain advantages in cheuper ways, such as when a switch in camera angle turns your retreat into an attack, usually resulting in your character stepping into a punch — or worse.

Plus, when you're done with Tao Feng, you are done with Tao Feng. Finish the game's story mode with a character, and you'll use him no more — he is grayed out and no longer selectable. That leaves you with few options other to grab a friend and start brawling.

But when you grab that friend, you might want to grab another game, too. Great fighting games are easy to pick up and play, but leave room for mastery. The merely average Tao Feng is only halfway there.

Apex

Genre: Racing
Platform: Xbox
Publisher: Infogrames
ESRB Rating: E for Everyone

★★★

I have to admit, when I first saw the cover for Apex, I wasn't thrilled. With a glut of racing games already flooding the gaming world, I wasn't going to be easily impressed with another variation of the same idea. However, something in the simplicity of this title kept me playing longer than any racing title I've played in a while.

It was nice to see a game in which no prior understanding of cars is required to build a decent racing team. In choosing cars for racing or new cars to develop, the important options were pretty basic, limited to the speed and handling of the car.

Tire choices and suspension options come into play later, but that's after you're already hooked and dying to build a tighter and faster ride.

Once you pick a team name and a logo (and some of the logos were very cool), you're ready to start at the bottom of the racing world and work your way up.

Newspapers will hold media-friendly publicity stunts that pit you against other up-and-comers, and a victory can translate into much-needed publicity (and resulting income) for your young team.

The more money, the better cars you can build. The better cars get you a bigger name, and more publicity and more money. I think you get the point.

The actual racing is decent but nothing amazing.

After a few tracks you'll have a basic feel for the car, and once you learn to use the race map to run a well-planned race, you'll be racking up trophies in no time.

Gamers who enjoy the dynasty-building aspect as well as the action of solid racing will have a good time with this game, while hardcore racing fans may become bored quickly due to a lack of sophistication.

— Jonathon Boho, Kelly Martin,
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

HOME & GARDEN

Illustration by Mark Giaimo / Scripps Howard News Service

New home NIGHTMARES

Homeowners at odds with builders when construction defects show up

By Marcha Ginsburg
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

Sandy Skipper-Lopez thought she was living the American dream when she stepped into her brand new three-bedroom home in Madera, Calif.

The 1996 purchase slipped out of dreamland when Skipper-Lopez noticed cracks and heard popping sounds and other unexplained noises in the 1,800-square-foot, $120,000 house. It became a nightmare when she realized the roof was coming loose, that bolts were improperly installed and that cracks had appeared in the home's support structure.

The local builder called them settling problems, she said.

When she complained to the state contractors licensing board, two building inspectors were sent out, she said. One told her it was out of his usual jurisdiction. The other became angry and said she was taking on the builder, Skipper-Lopez said.

When she decided her only option was a lawsuit, the builder promptly filed a countersuit, she said.

That's when Skipper-Lopez joined other new homeowners around the country to form what is believed to be the first national advocacy organization for buyers of defective new homes.

Skipper-Lopez said such advocacy groups are needed to fight a powerful industry that generally has lawmakers, agencies and inspectors on their side. Builders know the cost of litigation to the consumer might be more than the impact of the defects or a countersuit, so many homeowners simply back off, she said.

"It's a lot of stress, and that's why we came along," said Skipper-Lopez, who is now national director of Homeowners Against Deficient Dwellings, based in Kansas City, Kan.

HADD is not alone. During the past two years, other advocates — through books and online — have advised new homeowners to prevent problems by taking action before the home is built.

Since it started in 1997, HADD says 10,000 problems from across the nation have been reported to it. The group, represented in 25 states, says California, Texas and Missouri have the most complaints.

Most of them, according to a recent HADD poll, include faulty foundations, leaky windows and roofs, mold and use of unlicensed contractors.

The group connects homeowners with home buyer resources, offers preventive tips, tracks the most common defects and lobbies states to strengthen legislation and licensing board enforcement.

Among the new missionaries for protecting buyers of new homes are Jeff and Susan Treganowan, who know about flawed new homes because they used to market them.

As sales agents for new homes, the Las Vegas couple saw plenty of loopholes that builders used to distance themselves from responsibility for their newly constructed houses. When one builder used a completely dishonest marketing program in 1999, Jeff Treganowan said, he and his wife quit.

In 2001 the Treganowens wrote "The Ultimate Homebuying Guide" to make new home buyers aware of problems that can occur in the construction of a home. "We're not out to say every builder is bad, but a lot of bad things can happen if you're not watching," said Treganowan.

During a research visit in Northern California, the Treganowans did random surveys in new home developments. What they learned, Treganowan said, is that most people didn't watch over the process or often didn't even check to see if the builder was licensed.

Most buyers didn't know the difference between a completed home and one merely "certified for home occupancy," which is a legal term for the builder to use. It means the home is livable but not finished, he said.

That's when shortcuts can also take place, with little recourse for the buyer after occupancy.

To learn more

A number of online services are available for buyers wanting to guard against defects in their new homes. Here's a sampling:

■ Homeowners Against Deficient Dwellings. Advice on investigating builders, homeowner conflict resolution, buyer's guide and background information on proposed legislation. **www.hadd.com**

■ The Miller Law Group. Information on mold, construction defects, options and time limits on pursuing claims, details on California legislation affecting pre-litigation settlements. **www.constructiondefects.com**

■ National Association of Home Builders. Consumer section with basics on home buying. www.nahb.org

■ Alan and Denise Fields, authors of "Your New House." Guidelines for signing a new home contract. **www.windsorpeak.com**

Tips for avoiding troubles

There are a number of ways buyers of new homes can gather information to protect themselves before and during construction, according to building experts and consumer advocates:

■ Check civil complaint records at the county courthouse to see if the builder has been involved in litigation over defective work.

■ The Better Business Bureau also keeps records of consumer complaints.

■ Find out if the builder has the required insurance and ask for evidence of liability insurance.

■ Have purchase documents reviewed by an attorney who specializes in construction defects.

■ If there are already occupied homes in the subdivision, ask the resident buyers about the builder's response to complaints.

■ As the home construction moves along, be on the job site as often as every week and inspect details of the actual building.

■ Use a qualified home inspector for regular inspections.

Crack a book or three before starting project

By Dan Vierria
SACRAMENTO BEE

Landscaping projects require a bit of homework for the best results. These recently published books may inspire ideas and help circumvent costly problems.

"Dig This" by Kate Anchordoguy (Sasquatch Books, $19.95)

Save yourself aches and pains, plus some cash, by reading "Dig This!" by landscape contractor and designer Anchordoguy. Based on 25 years of experience, Anchordoguy admits mistakes she made early in her career in hopes you'll avoid similar traps when landscaping your yards. Honesty such as "Don't be fooled by the outrageous prices charged by (a few) greedy contractors: low voltage lighting is child's play to install" is sprinkled throughout.

Crude black and white illustrations deliver useful information. Its practical information may prove much more valuable than a pretty face.

"Lawn Bible" by David R. Mellor (Hyperion Books, $16.95)

Lawn is king in Mellor's "Lawn Bible." Mellor is Fenway Park's master groundskeeper and ensures that Boston Red Sox players are diving for balls in lush turf. His book addresses all things in lawn care, including a super-cool chapter on mowing patterns (like ballparks) into your home turf – plaids, stripes, wave patterns, checkerboards, diamonds and others. Keeping in mind his East Coast expertise, Mellor thoughtfully recommends contacting local sources, like your cooperative extension office, for the best grasses for any particular area of the country. He also spins some fish tales – such as finding eight bass on the Fenway outfield after a particularly heavy rainfall before one Opening Day.

"Landscape With Roses" by Jeff Cox (Taunton Press, $27.95)

Roses, often grouped in formal rose gardens, are perfect partners for perennials in mixed beds and borders, says Cox, author of "Landscape With Roses." Cox, host of HGTV and PBS gardening programs, and photographer Jerry Pavia demonstrate the versatility of roses in modern gardens with numerous suggestions, lists of perennial companion plants, fetching color combinations and uses for groundcover and climbing roses. Nor does he forget the formal rose garden. Cox has suggestions for buying roses and information on rose care, including pruning.

Photos by Brad Garrison/Scripps Howard News Service

Julie Hansen gives walls at Parmer's Fine Furniture in Redding the look of leather. After covering the wall with tissue paper, she adds tinted glazes and manipulates them with a sponge to create a textured appearance.

Faux finishes mimic stone, leather, fabric

By Laura Christman
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Julie Hansen's livelihood is based on deception. She can turn walls to stone, transform humdrum bookcases into shabby chic antiques and change plastic laminate countertops into marble surfaces.

But it's all fake.

Hansen, 53, owner of Faux Finishes in Redding, Calif., uses painting techniques to give walls, furniture, countertops and pillars the look of stone, fabric, leather or other materials. Faux (which means false) finishes are created by applying a combination of tinted glazes and then using different materials to add depth and pattern to the glazes.

"You are creating an illusionary texture by manipulating the glazes," Hansen explained.

"If you love color and want dimension, it is fabulous," said Nancy Phillippe of Phillippe Bros. Painting & Decorating in Redding, which also does faux finishes. "It's absolutely breathtaking when done correctly."

Cheesecloth, herringbone fabric, plastic sheeting, tissue paper, waffle-weave kitchen towels, and other items can be used to add a textured look to glazes.

When interest in faux painting took off several years ago, do-it-yourselfers were quick to pick up a sponge and start blobbing walls. Hansen said a common mistake was selecting colors with too much contrast. As a result, she said, many people think of faux finishes as having a very harsh appearance.

Hansen painted a set of columns with a marble look.

She aims for subtle. She uses soft, neutral colors. Finding the right color is the key to a successful job, Hansen said. Sometimes it takes her an hour to tint a glaze the exact hue she wants. "You have to be careful. There's a whole psychology to color," she said.

Glazes are used rather than paint because they are translucent. When different colored glazes are applied to walls, they will combine to make new colors.

In some cases texture is added before putting on glazes.

Phillippe said a plaster-type product can be applied and then sanded or left rough. It gives walls a rich, European look.

Hansen recently created a faux leather wall by applying tissue paper over the wall and then putting on glazes. The end result has the appearance of aged leather.

Faux finishes are an alternative to wallpaper. They add interest but don't have wallpaper's precise repetition – which can get tedious, Hansen said. And if you grow tired of the look, it's easy to paint right over it.

Faux finishes can help with the high, blank walls found in many new homes. "People buy a new home with all white walls and immediately start trying to fill it all up," Hansen said.

She said a faux finish can lessen the need for so much artwork on walls and enhance the art that is there. "It adds a lot of visual interest. It creates this feeling of depth and warmth," she said.

Hansen said it's not necessary to do a whole house, or even an entire room, in a faux finish. A faux-finish wall can be set off nicely by walls painted in a solid color.

Sometimes it might be less expensive to do the real thing than the faux technique, she said. For example, changing an ordinary kitchen countertop to one with a faux stone surface, is a big job.

Phillippe said not many people are aware of the potential of faux finishes. She said a faux finish can be used to update the look of paneling. It also can cover damaged walls and, in some instances, go right over wallpaper.

"It's really an inexpensive way to cover bad walls and change the look of the home," Phillippe said.

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

SMALL BUSINESS

Not many things strike fear into the hearts of our nation's dauntless small-business owners. Their fortitude in the face of unexpected challenges is legend.

Neither wars, nor the weariness of waging free enterprise in a waning economy instill great fear in them.

But recently, a nightmare posing as a fairy tale appeared out there in the electronic forests of the World Wide Web and sent chills up the spines of entrepreneurs everywhere.

On closer examination, just as Little Red Riding Hood discovered, the thing possessed big, big teeth that did more than make a pretty smile.

Tucked neatly under thick quilts of finely-woven Internet rhetoric was not an ailing, kindly grandmother, but a well-camouflaged pack of big insurance companies, surrounded by hungry labor unions and a passel of special-interest groups licking their chops to gobble up even more of the dollars that small businesses are being forced to pay for constantly rising health-insurance premiums.

Those little firms that do manage to provide health insurance for their employees pay on average 17 percent more for health benefits than their large corporate counterparts. NFIB has found that only 10 percent of firms with fewer than 50 employees offer a choice of health plans.

Eight-out-of-10 companies with a workforce of 5,000-plus offer more than one plan.

No wonder American small businesses today name health-insurance costs as their single most threatening concern.

They know a Big Bad Wolf when they see one and they're raising a cry for Congress to come to their rescue by allowing associations to offer competing health insurance that will keep the circling pack at bay.

As designed, Association Health Plans (AHPs) would save the typical small-business owner between 15 percent and 30 percent on health insurance and provide coverage for as many as eight million currently uninsured Americans. It would be a significant start toward easing the plight of the 41 million Americans who lack coverage today.

Out there in cyberspace, the Big Bad "Insurance" Wolves howl opposition to any idea that might reduce their bulging revenues, and they're especially fearful of AHPs, which would drive competition into the health-insurance market and level the playing field for small employers.

Unable to convince the public to join its caterwaul, the pack resorted to cloaking its politics beneath an e-sweepstakes vacation to Washington, D.C. that triggered anti-AHP faxes to Capitol Hill.

According to the Associated Press's June 25 article, "Foes of health care bill offer vacation sweepstakes," the pop-up ads read, "Complete the form below to send a free fax to Congress and be automatically entered in the America Speaks Sweepstakes." Once that deception was exposed, the game disappeared.

But, adding insult to injury is the fact that small firms, through their outrageous premium payments, unintentionally fund such propaganda.

Tired of being preyed upon, Main-Street business owners recently convinced the U.S. House of Representatives to approve AHPs.

Hopefully they can count on the Senate to help save the legislation from those big, big teeth.

Jack Faris is president of NFIB (the National Federation of Independent Business), the nation's largest small-business advocacy group. A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB represents the consensus views of its 600,000 members in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals. More information is available on-line at www.nfib.com.

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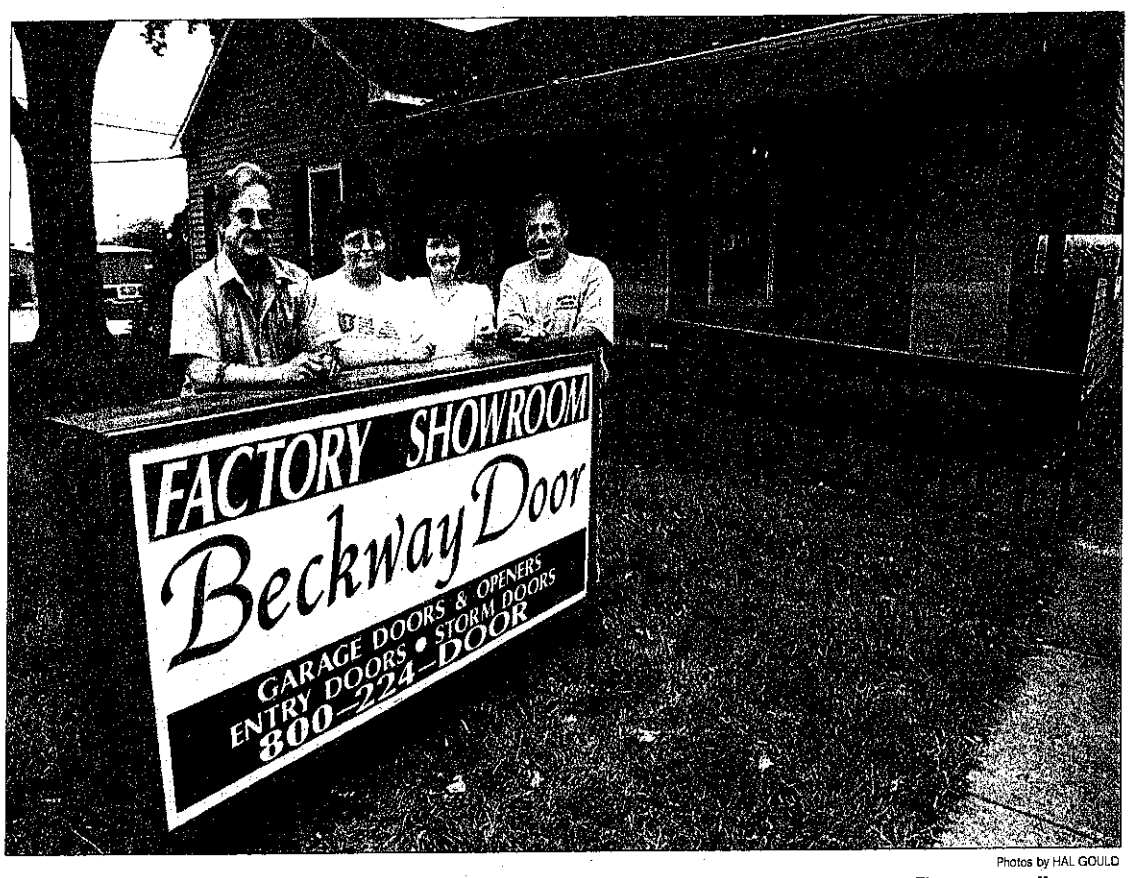


Photos by HAL GOULD

Dan Work, Cathy Gallagher, Faye Williams and Andy Becker stand in front of the Beckway Door Factory Showroom. The company offers an extensive line of garage doors and openers, entry doors, storm doors and much more.

Unlock a world of possibilities with Beckway Door

By Elizabeth Heer
SPECIAL WRITER

Whether installing doors for builders in new home construction, upgrading to a better quality door, or just replacing old, worn out doors for homeowners, Beckway Door in South Lyon has the keys to success — top quality, good selection, good price, and excellent customer service.

Beckway Door offers an array of selections to choose from in entry doors, from standard steel doors, stainable steel, fiberglass, to oak or mahogany doors. Custom wood doors can be made to order for customers, and a line of carriage house doors is a popular option that Beckway can provide. Storm doors can be added to cut down energy costs and protect doors from the weather.

When it comes to garage doors, quality and safety count. Stanley, Amarr, and Taylor are well-known brands that Beckway carries. The Chamberlain Liftmaster garage door openers sold and installed by Beckway are available with chain drive, belt drive, or screw drive with operating powers ranging from one-third to three-quarter horsepower. All products come directly from the manufacturer, not a distributor, which means Beckway Doors can pass on the pricing advantages to their customers. Andy Becker, owner of Beckway Door, points out that the products his company uses are of better quality than most.

"We don't use a light gauge steel door. All our doors are heavy 24-gauge steel, a better quality product," he said. "And we offer all our builders and homeowners a life-time warranty on garage doors, which covers the panels, tracks, rollers, and springs."

Homeowners might want to consider insulated garage doors, which help keep the house warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. Andy also notes that insulated doors provide a quieter operation.

Garage doors all receive a professional safety check by Beckway's technicians. "We are very careful to use only products with a large margin of safety. Our garage doors, for example, are available with a pinch-resistant panel design that helps to keep children safe from getting fingers pinched in between the door panels when it moves. All our garage door openers are equipped with safety eyes. We will also run a customer's door opener through a safety test to make sure they are running properly," Andy said.

Beckway Door offers customer service far beyond just installing new doors. "Sometimes if the aluminum needs replacing around garage doors, we'll tackle that, or we'll remove a center post in the garage in order to put in one large door. We'll do small construction jobs, such as putting in new headers, if needed."

For those who prefer natural light, Beckway can install windows in a garage or an entry door. Large selections of windows are available to match a home's existing windows, and even leaded glass windows can be installed for the traditional look.

"We precheck all our jobs, especially with the builders, starting with the rough-in. We work hand-in-hand with our builders, and especially enjoy dealing with the builder who cares about quality."

Andy says that estimates and ideas are freely given, and his company can also handle insurance work. "We will come to your home and offer suggestions and help guide you in choosing the color and style of your new door," he said. Besides the traditional colors of white, brown, almond, gray, sandstone and hunter green for garage doors, entry doors can come prepainted in 30 to 40 different color options.

Beckway also supplies doors for the business and industrial community. Overhead doors, curtain doors, and security doors can be custom installed by Beckway Door.

Expanding on the commercial market, Beckway has recently opened the door on a new venture — steel buildings of all sizes, from small business outbuildings right up to the large industrial complex needs can be ordered and installed. "We also cater to the small agricultural market, and can provide customers with small barns and horse arenas."

Beckway Door has been an authorized installer for Sears' products since 1978 when Andy Becker began the business out of his Farmington home. Since that time his family-owned company has grown to include 13 employees, including Faye Williams, his longtime office manager. The business and showroom is located at 505 E. Lake Street in South Lyon where customers can find examples of entry, garage, and storm doors, as well as door hardware on display. An expansion is in the works for 2004.

Beckway Doors serves communities in Washtenaw, Oakland, Livingston, and Wayne Counties.

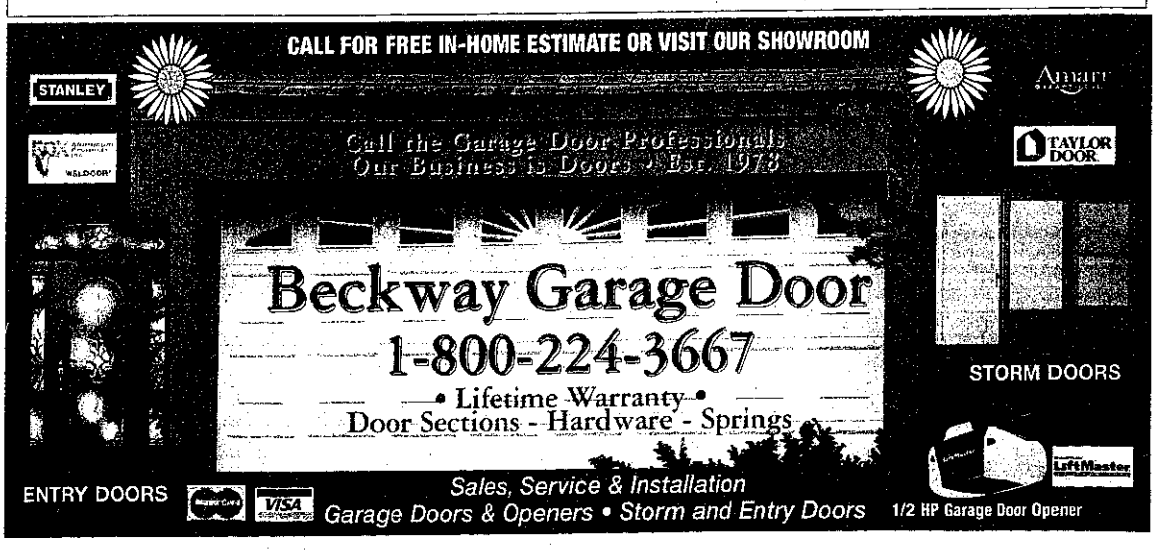
Andy Becker and his wife, Barbara, have made their home in Brighton for the past 16 years with their daughters, Jamie, 14, and Kelsey, 10.

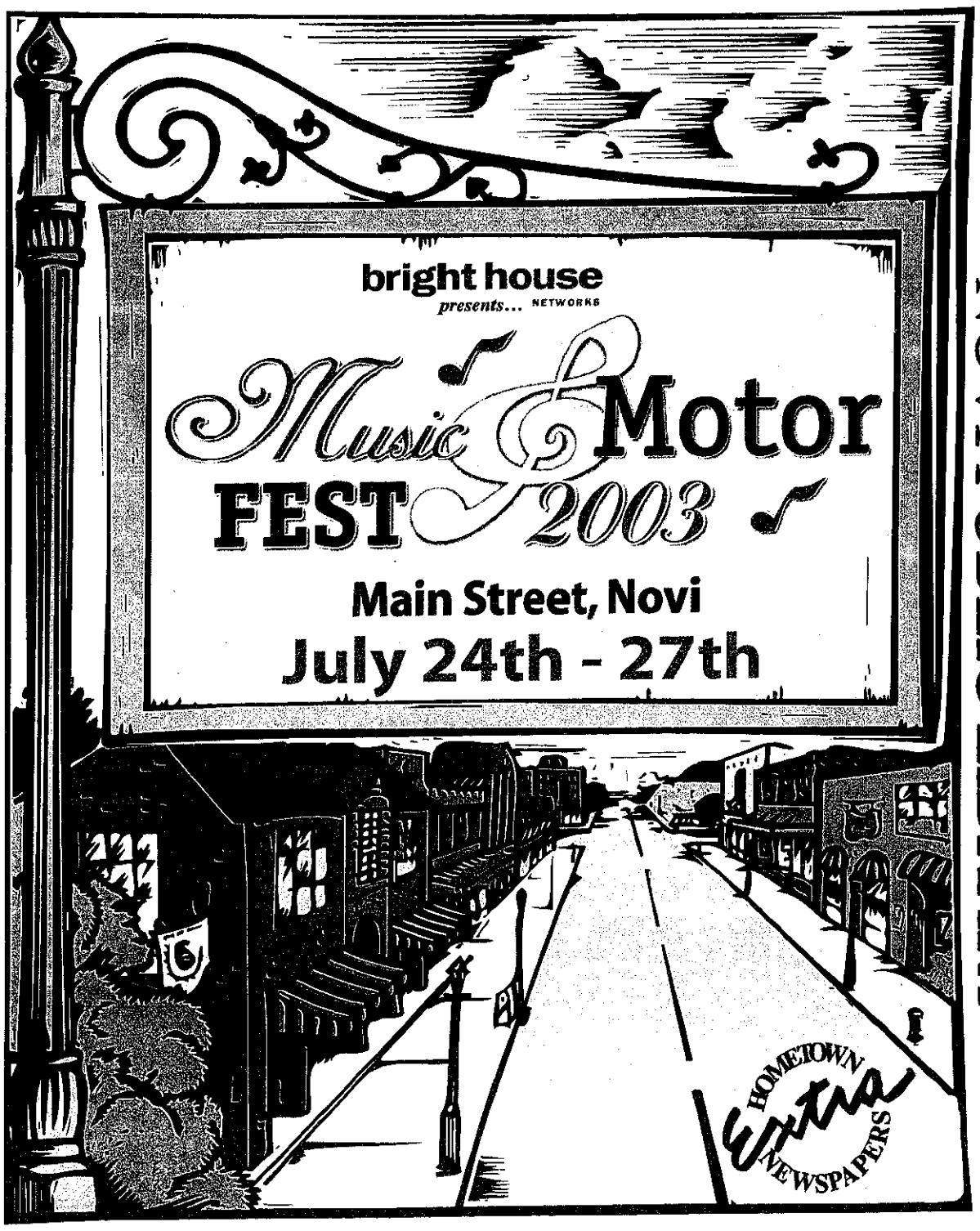
Beckway Door looks forward to working with you in the future.

Beckway Door installers Ted Lamothe and John Newmyer install a garage door in Green Oak Township last weekend. Beckway door works with builders constructing new homes and homeowners who need to replace doors and windows.

DETAILS

Beckway Door, specialists in garage and house entry doors, sells and installs top quality steel and wood doors with satisfaction guaranteed. Beckway also supplies steel buildings for homes and businesses. Visit the showroom at 505 E. Lake Street in South Lyon, open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call toll free at 1-800-224-DOOR (1-800-224-3667) for more information and free estimates.





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Music and Motor Fest rolls into Novi once again, celebrating 16 years of fun

It's just too much fun to stop. That's what the organizers of the annual Music and Mortorfest will tell you. For the last 16 years they have put on Novi's annual community festival and if you've never attended, you're missing out. Mark you calendars for July 24-27 and plan to be on Main Street in Downtown Novi for great music, classic cars, carnival rides, great food, friends and fun.

Main Street takes on a whole new appearance that weekend. Streets lined with commercial and food vendors, car dealers, beverage stations, musical acts, carnivals, classic cars, you name it. If it's fun to see and do, it's there! And there is something a bit different this year as well; the musical acts are all free of charge. Brighthouse Networks, the festivals major sponsor, is providing acts starting on Thursday afternoon and running through Sunday evening free for your enjoyment!

Those acts include The Sun Messengers, Stewert Francke and Gary Puckett and the Union Gap. Gary's super group from the late '60s and early '70s produced such hits as "This Girl is a Woman Now", "Over You", "Woman, Woman" and the two number one hits "Young Girl" and "Lady Willpower." Gary Puckett will be appearing on Saturday night July 26th right in the middle of Main Street. It's a show you won't want to miss!

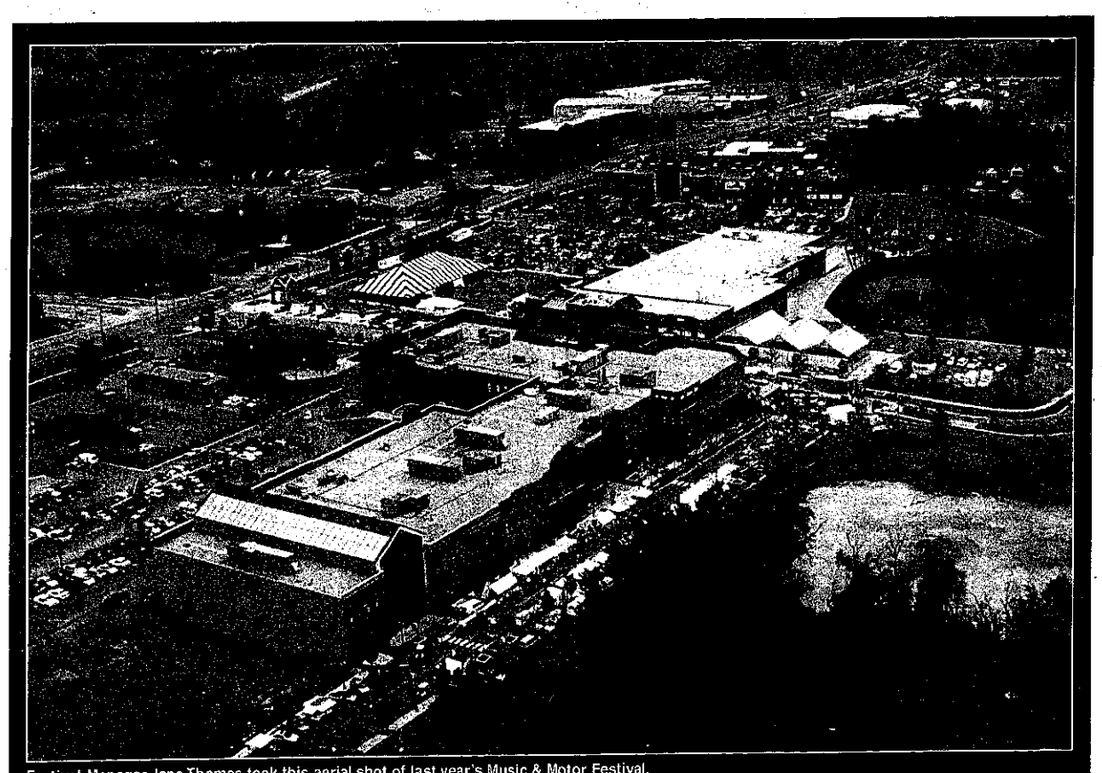
There will be plenty of other free entertainment throughout the weekend as well. You'll be able to check out the complete schedule of events in the Official Guide to the Music and Motorfest, published by Hometown Newspapers, or simply call our office at (248) 349-1950.

As many people know, this is truly a community event. All of the proceeds go right back to the city in various forms. Many community groups use this event as a major fundraiser for their own groups and everyone who works there is a volunteer. That is where many of the thank you's come in. It's the citizens of Novi that make this event possible. From the many corporate sponsors who contribute their time and dollars to the City itself, which lends an overwhelming amount of support for the last 16 years that this event is possible. We all couldn't enjoy it without your support. For that, we thank you.

New for the 2003 festival are a special attraction sponsored by the Detroit Pistons, an expanded family area and a special appearance by the original Bozo the Clown! There will be many popular events returning as well. We couldn't have this festival without the Classic Car show and the granddaddy of all Cruises, the Annual Grand River Cruise on Sunday evening!

We are putting the final touches on what promises to be the best festival Novi has ever seen. We hope you join us! In the interim, mark you calendars for July 24-27 and visit our Web site at www.musicandmotorfest.com for more information. We look forward to seeing you!

One of the festival's organizers, Pat Webb can be reached at (248) 349-1950.



Festival Manager Jane Thomas took this aerial shot of last year's Music & Motor Festival.

Variety of musical acts highlight the festivities

By Grace Blum
SPECIAL WRITER

Did you know that in 1968 Gary Puckett sold more albums than the Beatles? Yup, its true, and you can see this phenomenal artist Saturday night, July 26, at the 16th annual Music & Motor Fest.

"We have a number of different music acts this year," said Bob McCann, president of the Music & Motor Fest. One of McCann's responsibilities is booking the music acts each year for the festival. McCann works with Brighthouse Networks, the major sponsor of Novi's annual Music & Motor Fest. Brighthouse Networks (formerly Time Warner Cable) has been a major sponsor of the festival for the past several years, but it has graduated to becoming *the* major sponsor of the event.

Since the birth of Music & Motor Fest, McCann believes that about 25 national recording artists have performed at the festival. And that doesn't even begin to include the number of local artists and bands that have been a part of the event.

"It's great entertainment that is all free. This will be the first year that all the musical acts have been done for free," McCann said.

On Thursday evening, the Sun Messengers, a local, jazzy rock band, will take the stage. The Sun Messengers is the house band of the Palace of Auburn Hills. "They're a fun band and a great group of guys," said McCann.

The 80s Band, brought in by radio station 106.7 The Drive, will be the main performance on Friday night. Said McCann, "The band is a tribute to the 80s music."

The main artist of the festival, Gary Puckett, will take the stage Saturday evening. "He had many hits in the late '60s and early '70s," McCann said.

And finally, the Music & Motor Fest will end with Stewart Frankie, a big local artist in the metro-Detroit area, performing Sunday night.

"It's all for fun, charity and the community. The Music & Motor Fest committee is a non-profit organization, so everything is given back to the community," said McCann.

The Sun Messengers (above left) and Stewart Franke (above right) will both play at this year's Music and Motor Festival

THE SUN MESSENGERS

William Elijah - Trumpet, Vocals
Termon "Tipp" Hayes - Bass, Vocals
John "T-Bone" Paxton - Trombone, Vocals
Dan Mayer - Guitar, Vocals
Russ Miller - Saxophones, Flute
Arthur "Speck" Colden - Keyboards, Vocals
Terry Thunder - Drums, Vocals
Rick Steiger - Baritone Saxophone, Band Leader

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Legendary clown offers rare public appearance

By Grace Blum
SPECIAL WRITER

Two words: Baskin Robins. Interested? Then venture on down to this year's Music & Motor Fest Ice Cream Social because the company that boasts of 31 flavors is providing ice cream for the event.

On Saturday, July 26 from 12 p.m.-3 p.m., kids of all ages can have some fun at the ice cream social held in the Kid's Fair area. Along with a wide assortment of ice cream flavors, festival visitors can participate in doughnut-dipping, which features pastries from Dunkin' Donuts.

And while you are filling up on ice cream and doughnuts, why not get a little entertainment from Bozo the Clown. Art Cervi, who is the original Bozo the Clown, will make an appearance during the ice cream social. He plans to take the stage at around 1 p.m., and his sidekick, Gary O'Brien, will be joining him.

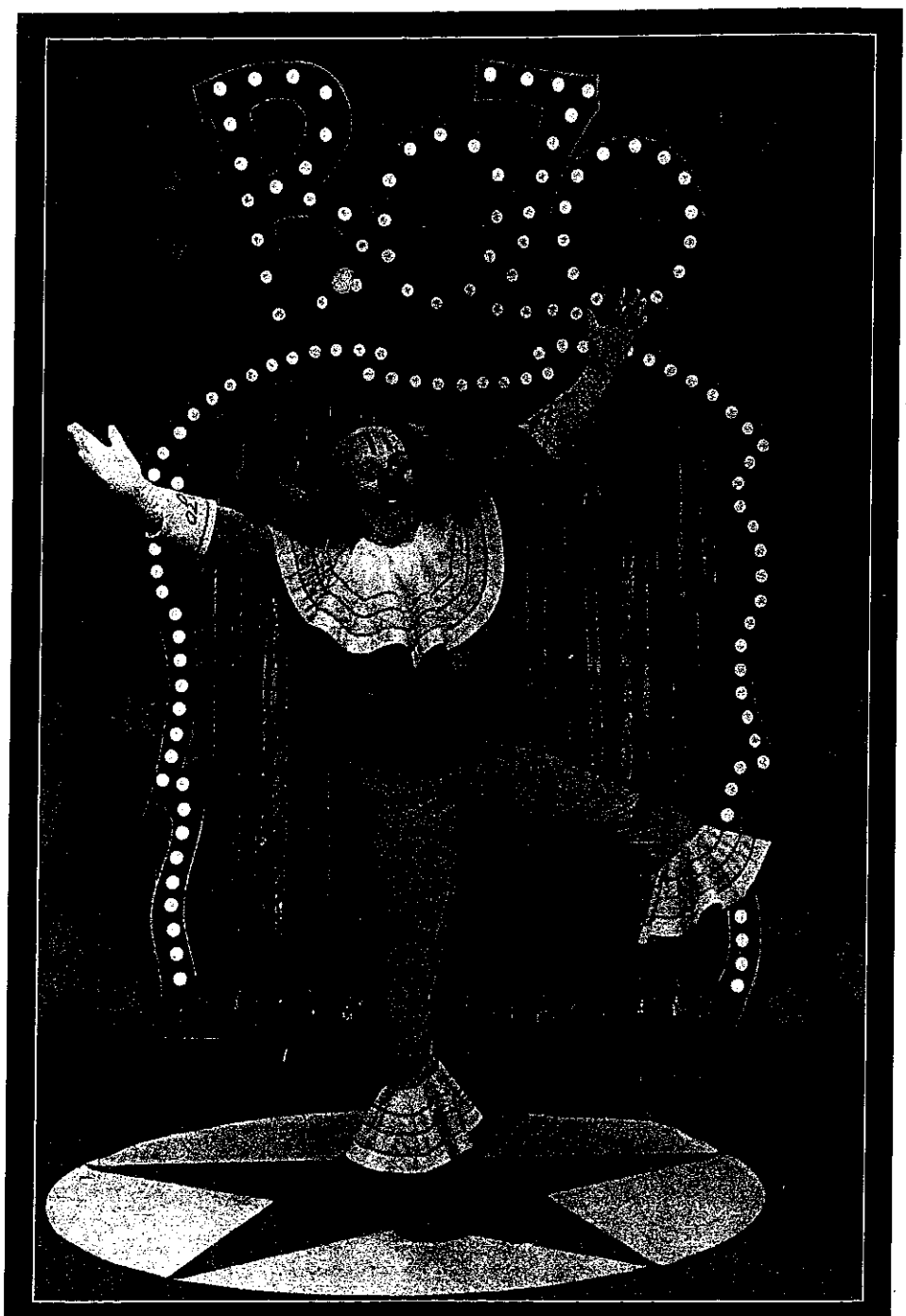
"He's going to make a very rare appearance, which he doesn't usually do," Cervi said, referring to Bozo the Clown. This will be Bozo's first appearance in five years.

If that still doesn't tickle your fancy, then here's one more reason to come to the Ice Cream Social, an 18 wheel, 53-foot-long Pistons hoop-fest trailer. "Its a mobile interactive basketball experience," said Pat Webb, director of the ice cream social.

The trailer will feature games to play on the outside of the trailer and a mini Pistons hall of fame on the inside.

Besides all that, kids can fish in the trout pond (each fisher will go home with a goldfish), have their faces painted, climb the rock wall and enjoy the big Road Runner trailer, which features interactive video games.

For fun, food and laughter, make sure to stop at the Kid's Fair area Saturday afternoon. It will be an experience that will not too quickly be forgotten!



Novi resident Art Cervi, the original Bozo the Clown, will take the stage at 1 p.m. Saturday at the ice cream social.

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Popular antique appraisal returns to festival

By Grace Blum
SPECIAL WRITER

Virginia Fournier is going on 40 years of being an independent antique appraiser. She has been involved with appraisals at road-shows, festivals, fairs...you name it, and she's probably been there to appraise items. She started collecting antiques and her interest in them rapidly grew. Soon, she began reading books about antiques and appraising them and taught herself the art of appraising antiques. Fournier has taken classes at Greenfield Village to further her knowledge of antique appraising.

"I love it," said Fournier. "I get to see things people don't normally see. Very interesting things. Very beautiful things. And its a constant enjoyment for me."

Fournier use to have two antique stores, but it became too much to keep up with. Now she handles estate sales and appraises antiques at various events.

"I've met a lot of interesting people and seen things I've never seen before," Fournier said.

On Saturday, July 26 from 12 p.m. until 4 p.m. Fournier will be at Novi's Music & Motor Fest to appraise antiques. This is the second year for the antique appraising, and the first year for Fournier to be the appraiser at the festival.

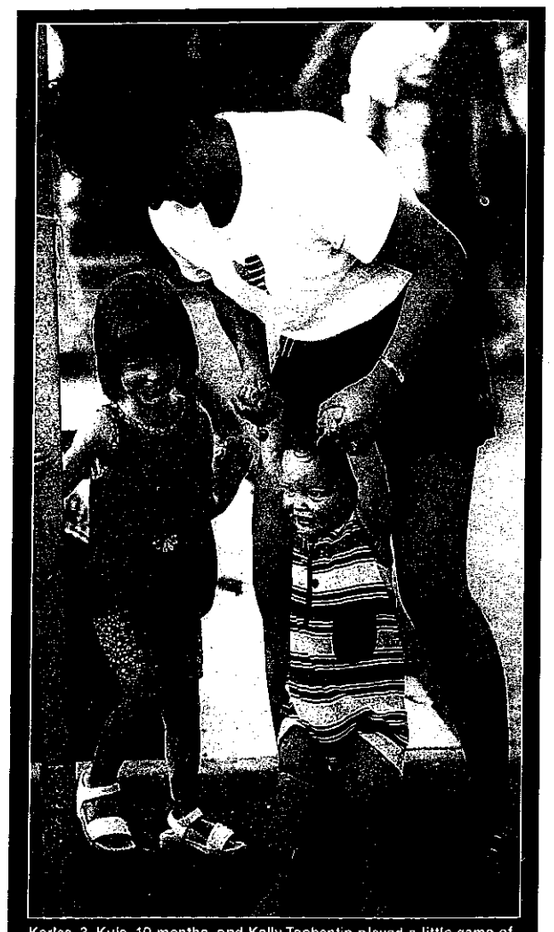
"This time it will be outside, weather permitting," said Cindy Kopczynski, a member of the Music & Motor Fest committee, of the antique appraising. "We had a fair response the first year and hopefully we'll have a good response this year."

The cost of the antique appraisal is $3 an item and Fournier will not be appraising jewelry, watches, books or oil paintings.

"Hopefully people will be cleaning out their attics and come across an item they want to know the value of," Kopczynski said.

If you can't make it to the Music & Motor Fest, then contact Virginia Fournier at (248) 887-5100 if interested in having an item appraised.

The band Spittin' Boogie performed Friday evening at last year's Music and Motorfest on the Time Warner stage.



Karlee, 3, Kyle, 10 months, and Kelly Techentin played a little game of tag during their Friday evening visit to the 2002 Music and Motorfest. The Techentin's were visiting from Northville.

Can always use volunteers

By Grace Blum
SPECIAL WRITER

Interested in volunteering for the 17th annual Music & Motor Fest on July 24-27? The festival committee desperately needs volunteers. Whether working for the entire event, or for just one hour, all volunteers willing to be cruisers for the festival are greatly appreciated.

"We really appreciate people coming forth and volunteering," said Dodie Varhol, director of volunteers for Novi's Music & Motor Fest. "I want to make a plea – we really need more cruisers."

Cruisers can be called the backbone of the Music & Motor Fest. They are people within the community of Novi who volunteer their time for the festival. And service groups are community people that volunteer to do the beverage gardens or tents. Service groups of past year's have included Novi Newcomers, the Lions and the Lionesses.

"Everything we put into the event comes back to the community in one way or another," said Varhol.

Cruisers do anything from preparing and setting up for the festival, manning the work stations for the crowds and passing out information about the festival. People of any age can volunteer to be a cruiser and the festival's office will attempt to place cruisers at the station they would prefer to work at.

"We use cruisers for anything and everything," Varhol said.

And Varhol was quick to say that if someone outside of the Novi community would like to be a cruiser, then contact the festival's office because the committee would love to have as many cruisers as possible.

"Cruisers are great and we appreciate anybody who gives us even an hour of their time," said Varhol.

For those interested in becoming a cruiser for this year's Music & Motor Fest, contact the festival's office at (248) 437-9759. Expect to fill out an application and then you're an official Music & Motor Fest cruiser. It's as simple as that!

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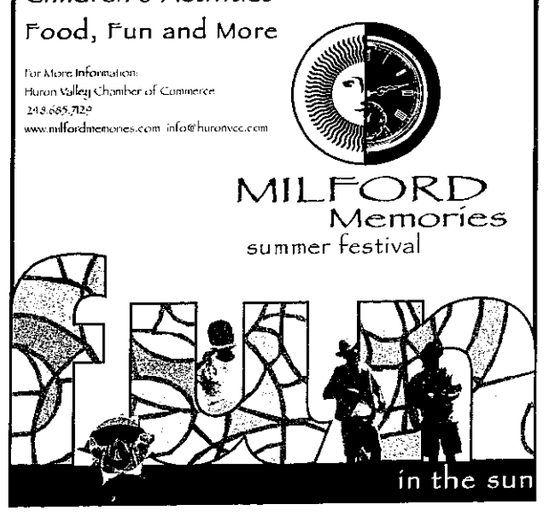

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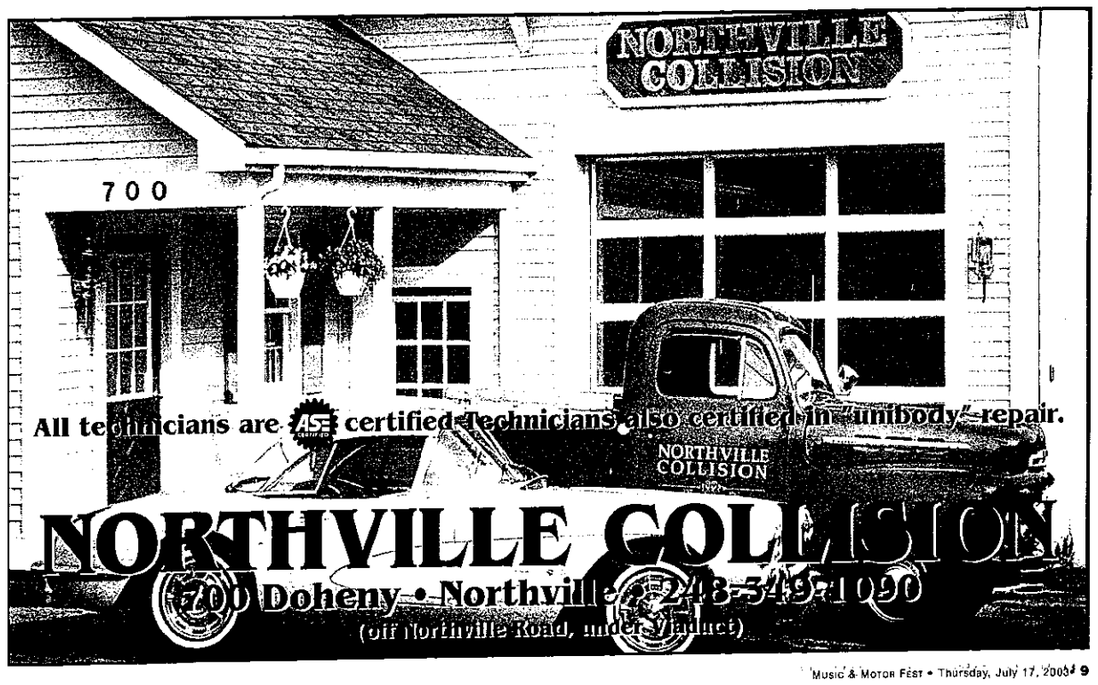

Music & Motor Fest • July 24– 27, 2003
Schedule of Events

THURSDAY, JULY 24

4:00 p.m. ..... Information Booth Open

5:00 p.m. ..... Carnival Opens
V.I.P. Reception for Sponsors, Media and Special Guests

7:00 p.m. ..... Ribbon Cutting by Mayor
Festival Area Opens
Performance by **The Sun Messengers** on the Brighthouse Networks Stage
No Admission Fee - All Ages Welcome

midnight ..... Entertainment Area Closes

FRIDAY, JULY 25

11:00 a.m. ..... Information Booth Open

3:00 p.m. ..... Live Band **Terry Stevenson** Road Runner Stage(t until 6:00 p.m.)
Beverage Garden Open Sponsored by Michelob Ultra
"Chow on Main" TasteFest Open
Vendor Exhibits Open (until 10:00 p.m.)
Carnival and Kids Fair Area Open

6:00pm ..... Adult Karaoke finals on Bright house stage until 8:00 p.m.

6:30pm ..... The Drive Pit Crew-Live Broadcast with Steve Black (until 8:30 p.m.)

8:00pm ..... **That 80's Band**
Brought to you by 106.7 The Drive on Brighthouse Networks Stage
Free Admission All Ages Welcome

10:00pm ..... Vendor Exhibits Close
Information Booth Closes

1:00am ..... Entertainment Area Closes

SATURDAY, JULY 26

9:00 a.m. ..... Brighthouse Networks 5K Run/Walk @ Novi Town Center

10:00 a.m. ..... Information Booth Opens
Vendor Exhibits Open (until 10:00 p.m.)

11:00 a.m. ..... "Chow on Main" TasteFest Open
Beverage Garden Opens (Sponsored by Michelob Ultra)
Performance by the Sports Club of Novi Dancers on Road Runner Stage
Carnival & Kids Fair Area Open

noon ..... Ice Cream Social (until 3:00 p.m.)
Brought to you by Baskin Robbins and Michigan Milk Producers in the Kids Fair Area
Donut Dipping by Dunkin' Donuts in Kids Fair Area
Antique Appraisal (until 4:00 p.m.)

12:15 p.m. ... Performance by the Just for Kicks Dancers on the Brighthouse Networks Stage

1:00 p.m. ..... Bozo The Clown on Road Runner Stage

2:00 p.m. ..... Performance by the Whistle Stop Cloggers on the Road Runner Stage

4:00 p.m. ..... **Plan B Band** on the Road Runner Stage (until 8 p.m.)

6:00 p.m. ..... Live Broadcast 106.7 The Drive (until 8:00 p.m.)

6:15 p.m. .... Novi Parks & Recreation Softball Tournament (until 10:15 @ Power Park)

7:00 p.m. ..... Entertainment Area Opens

9:00 p.m. ..... **"Gary Puckett"** Brought to you by Brighthouse Networks Stage
Free Admission All Ages Welcome
Fireworks Show at Dusk

10:00 p.m. ..... Information Booth Closes
Vendor Exhibits Close

11:00 p.m. ..... **Plan B Band** on the Road Runner Stage

1:30 a.m. ..... Entertainment Area Closes

SUNDAY, JULY 27

8:00 a.m. ..... Car Show Registration

9:00 a.m. ..... Softball Tourney Resumes @ Power Park

10:00 a.m. ..... "Chow on Main" TasteFest Opens
Information Booth Opens
Vendor Exhibits Open
Car Show - No Admission Fee - All Ages Welcome
Sponsored by the Novi Expo Center - Classic Car registration fee: $15

10:30 a.m. ..... Softball Tournament Continues @ Power Park
Carnival & Kids Fair area opens

12:00 p.m. ..... Beverage Garden Opens (Sponsored by Michelob Ultra)

1:00 p.m. ..... Petting Farm and Butterfly Habitat (until 4 p.m.)

4:00 p.m. ..... **Doug Deming & the Jewel Tones** on the Road Runner Stage
Car Show Trophy Presentation

5:00 p.m. ..... Car Cruise on Grand River

6:30 p.m. ..... Performance by **Stewart Franke** on the Brighthouse Networks Stage
No Admission Fee - All Ages Welcome

8:00 p.m. ..... Information Booth Closes

9:00 p.m. ..... Festival Closes

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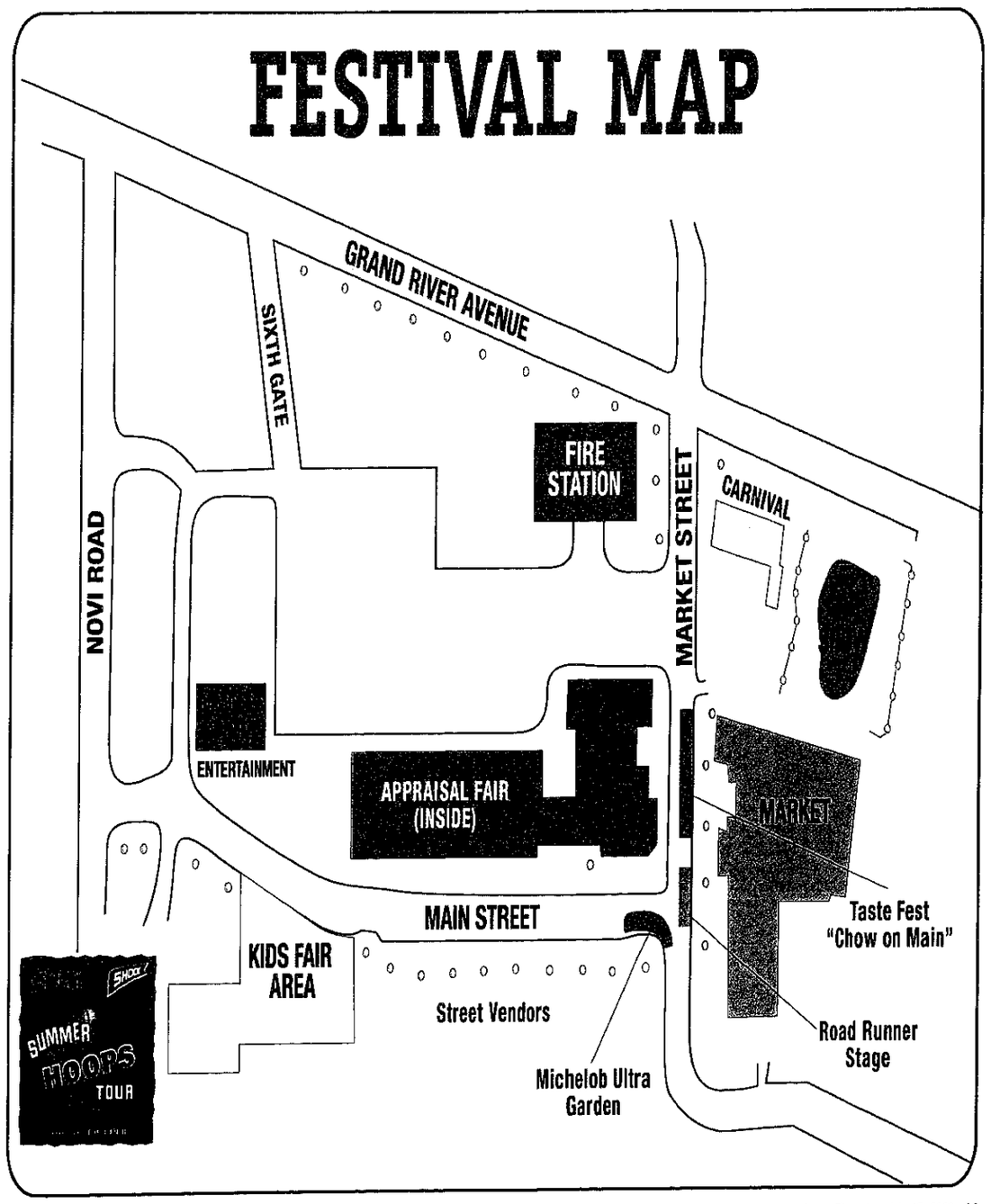

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(Thanks to all of you who joined us after this printing)

Nearly 300 vehicles featured in Car Show

By Grace Blum
SPECIAL WRITER

The sound of muscle cars revving up and zooming by can be heard in Novi on Sunday, July 27 at the 16th annual Music & Motor Fest Car Show.

For those interested in cars, this is a must-see event. Art Cervi, director of the Car Show, predicts that 200-300 cars will be on display this year. This will be an increase from last year's car show of a little over 200 cars. "We are excited and looking forward to an even bigger and better day than last year," Cervi said.

And D.J. Boogie Brian will be at the event, spinning tunes to pump some lively fun into the atmosphere.

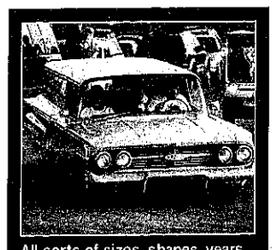
Flyers and ads have appeared all over Novi to publicize for the car show. "Most of the cars are from this general area, within a 35-40 mile radius," said Cervi.

After the show, various trophies will be handed out for each car class or category. This year, Cervi is hoping to include a Mayor's Trophy, which is always well-received by the crowd because it has nothing to do with the category of the car. "The mayor just picks a car that he likes and then gives the owner a trophy," Cervi said.

Always one of the main events at the festival, the Car Show attracts a large crowd. This will be the second year for the car show at its new location on Main Street and Cervi is hoping for a larger outcome of people.

After the car show, the vehicles cruise down Grand River for an evening car parade. Cervi said the cruise is always a popular event with the festival's crowds.

"Its a fun day that appeals to all ages." said Cervi.



All sorts of sizes, shapes, years and colors of cars showed up to the '02 Novi Music and Motorfest to be part of its classic car show.

Mark Tucker of Brighton polishes his Buick Regal Friday night at the Novi Music and Motorfest car show.

Merchants pitch into festivities with glass game

By Grace Blum
SPECIAL WRITER

Eight to nine merchants on Main Street are sponsoring the Glass Pitch game at the carnival for the 16th annual Music & Motor Fest in Novi. The merchants contributed nearly $2,000 for the game.

Brian Larsen, liaison man for the merchants and the Music & Motor Fest, said, "The group of merchants (on Main Street) formed because we were all suing our landlord." Larsen is also on the Music & Motor Fest committee.

The Glass Pitch game involves throwing a dime on a dish. If the dime lands on the dish, the winner can take home the dish. Beer mugs, wine glasses and an assortment of other glass dishes will all be available for festival goers to take home if their coin lands on a dish. The $2,000 contributed for the game was used to purchase the dishes. Larsen said that any left over money from the sponsorship will go directly to the Music & Motor Fest fund.

"Anybody can play the game at any age. There's no skill required," said Larsen. Which is the main reason why the Main Street Merchants decided upon sponsoring the Glass Pitch.

"Its something new that interests everyone," Larsen said of the carnival game.

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Larsen explained that the sponsorship would not be called the Main Street Merchants because not all of the merchants participated in sponsoring the game. Instead, each merchant involved will be listed out for viewers to see.

As for the Music & Motor Fest, Larsen commented that families from Novi and Northville should make a point to partake in the festivities. "Its a community event, so we need people from the community to be a part of the festival," said Larsen. He also hopes that crowds for the festival will be on the increase this year since the festival has seen a decrease in participants in the last few years.

"Get everybody down here and make this thing a success," Larsen said.

Novi MainStreet's north-south section is crowded with hungry visitors seeking treats from the many restaurants offering their goods during the 2002 Music and Motorfest.

A taste fest and karaoke - what could be better?

By Grace Blum
SPECIAL WRITER

Hungry? Want to sample a medley of food for an inexpensive price? For those interested in tasting some of Novi's best restaurant food, be sure to make a stop on Market Street, south of Grand River Avenue, and come prepared to walk away with a full tummy.

The second annual Taste Fest Chow on Main of Novi's Music & Motor Fest will take place July 25-27, starting Friday at 3 p.m. In case you miss the event on Friday, the come back either Saturday or Sunday starting at 11 a.m. to sample from restaurants like Grady's American Grill, Papa Vinos and Kowalski. Or you could simply come all three days and get your fill of some great, mouth-watering munchies!

"The Taste Fest involves local restaurants that come into the festival and let people sample their food," said Lori Kapelczak, Director of the Taste Fest.

Grady's will be offering their hamburgers and grilled chicken sandwiches.

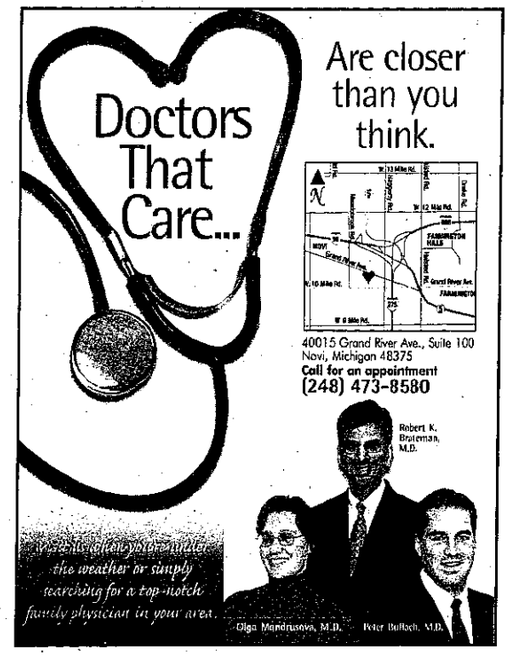
"Everybody coming to the festival can taste the food. Its fun for all," Kapelczak said.

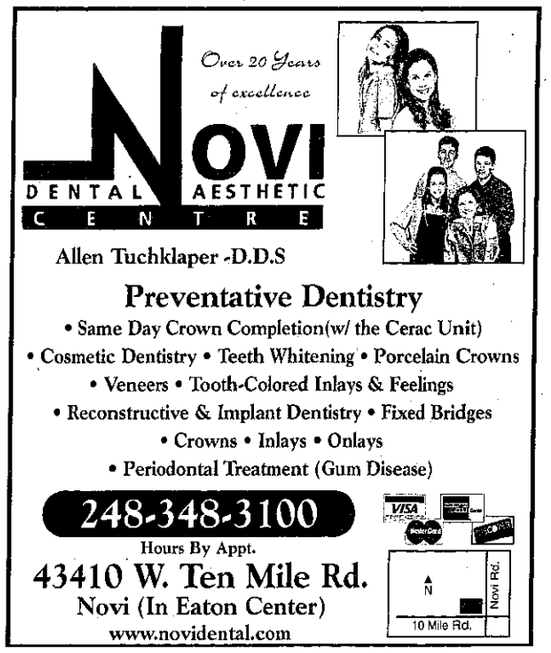
Karaoke contest

The hunt is on. Radio station 106.7 The Drive and Zodiac Entertainment are searching high and low for karaoke finalists to compete in this year's Music & Motor Fest Karaoke Contest, which will be held Friday evening, July 25. Currently, singers can try-out for the contest through the radio station, and if a person's lucky, then he or she will move on to the next round. And that next round is singing at the Karaoke Contest.

Come back the following night to view the fireworks display.

Guitarist Dave Parker of Rocky and the Rollers entertains the crowd under the big tent during Friday night's Music and Motorfest





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