



Thursday, June 17, 2004 hometownlife.com 50¢
 Volume 49 Number 3 Novi, Michigan © 2004 HomeTown Communications Network™

Look inside for your
GREEN SHEET
 Classifieds

SPECIAL SECTION



Attorney Guide
 Tips for finding an attorney, legal term definitions, silly laws still on the books - it's all here!

CONGRATULATIONS!

And the winner is...
 Mike Bellanti of Milford is the winner of HomeTown Newspapers' Best Dad contest and will receive four box seat tickets to the June 27 Detroit Tigers game. Bellanti was selected based on an essay written by his 8-year-old son, Andrew. Look for Mike's story in next week's edition.

OBITUARIES

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 Marian L. Watts, 56
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VOTERS SET RECORD

Both millage proposals pass overwhelmingly

By Ramez Khuri
 STAFF WRITER

Administrators, teachers and everyone else associated with the Novi Community School District can stop biting their finger nails now, and crack open a bottle of champagne. No, not because of the recent Detroit Pistons successes, but because something happened on Monday, that most were hoping would.

An unofficial record 4,240 voters turned out and overwhelmingly passed two millage renewals and one new millage to help the school district combat a \$4.3 million deficit.

Of that amount of voters, almost 81 percent voted to pass the two renewals and almost 65 percent voted to pass the new millage. Now, Novi is able to save many educational programs and some jobs in the district.

MILLAGES

The two millage renewals, both for 10 years, will generate over \$20 million. The first renewal is 18.00 mills on non-homestead property; the second renewal is an authorized levy of 5.49 mills against homestead (residential) property. Although the district is authorized to levy 5.49 mills, it will only levy an estimated 3.8 mills in 04-05. (Currently the district has an authorized levy of 5.49 mills.) The average cost to a homeowner with a market value of \$200,000 will be \$380 per year.

The new recreation millage is .98 mills and would generate \$1.9 million. The average cost to a homeowner with a market value of \$200,000 will be \$98 per year.

Also, on the same ballot, school board candidate incumbents Julie

Incumbents retain school board seats

By Ramez Khuri
 STAFF WRITER

For at least one more year, the Novi School Board of Education will look the same, as incumbents Julie Abrams and Bruce Bagdady retained their seats after Monday's election. Both are now set for four more years of decision making.

The two ran against three challengers - Mario Nesr Fundarski, Dennis O'Connor and Katie Raeon. Bagdady received the most amount of votes with an unofficial total of 2,450, with Abrams finishing second with an unofficial total of



B. Bagdady

1,862. O'Connor was next with an unofficial total of 1,384, then Raeon with an unofficial total of 1,160 votes. Fundarski was fifth with 322 unofficial votes.

"I am so happy," Abrams said. "I appreciate mostly the overwhelming support of the entire community, and this victory means that my decisions on school matters were well received. I'm going to continue to be an advocate for students and a strong supporter for staff and administration."

"It's such a comforting feeling to know that you're trusted by your fellow citizens," said Abrams. "I think that's what gives me the strength and the fortitude to go forward. I couldn't be happier, so onward for another four years."

Abrams, who just finished her



J. Abrams

continued on page 2

continued on page 2

New sub signals new era in Novi

Land awarded to Sandstone finally being developed

By Pam Fleming
 STAFF WRITER

The black eye that Sandstone left on the City of Novi may finally be healed.

Liberty Park, a new subdivision to be developed by Pulte Homes, will be built on the north side of Novi on property the city awarded to the developer Sandstone Associates following a lawsuit settled in 2002.

"We believe this will be one of the premier communities in Novi," said Kevin Christiansen, Land Department, Pulte Homes in Royal Oak. "Pulte wants to become part of the community."

At the June 7 city council meeting, members unanimously approved the final site plan for the first phase of Pulte Land Development Corporation's Liberty Park in north Novi.

Phase One in the project will be a



SOURCE: City of Novi

Andiamo's coming in January

Restaurant partnering with comedy club

By Pam Fleming
 STAFF WRITER

An agreement was scheduled to be signed sometime this week establishing a partnership between the Second City comedy club and Andiamo's Italian restaurant to open a \$7 million restaurant and entertainment complex at Fountain Walk shopping center in Novi.

Although local news reports late last week stated that an agreement had been signed, the deal actually wasn't scheduled to be completed until Wednesday or Thursday of this week, according to Joe Vicari, CEO of the Andiamo Restaurant Group in Warren. The restaurant chain operates eight Italian restaurants in the Detroit area.

"We hope it will be signed sometime this week. We're almost there," Vicari said Monday.

The two-story brick and glass building will offer 25,000 square feet, a 250-seat theater, 300-seat banquet hall and 250-seat bar and restaurant.

Bars will be available on both the first and second floors. "The bar on

continued on page 3



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Little drummer boy
 Tommy Agnella, 5, seems to be getting into his drumming groove during a visit to the rhythm station at last Saturday's Kid's Fair. See more photos on page 7B.

Novi's planning director submits resignation

Evancoe's move follows city council budget tensions

Kim Kovelte
 STAFF WRITER

After his position was nearly eliminated last month, David Evancoe submitted his notice of resignation as Novi planning direc-

tor last June 8.

According to Richard Helwig, city manager, Evancoe's last day will be June 25 but will remain on payroll until mid-July.



D. Evancoe

"I was surprised to receive his resignation," said Helwig, noting that "extensive recruiting efforts" will be under way soon. An

interim or acting director will serve until the position is filled.

"We haven't started the process yet," Helwig added. "We'll get through the transition fine and my office will supply extra back-up support."

Evancoe declined interview Monday, but a letter of resignation was circulated to city department heads on June 9.

"While a few may rejoice at my decision, the vast majority of those who have come to know me and work with me will attest, to the accomplishments made during a

difficult period of transition from a consultant-based to an in-house planning services model," Evancoe wrote.

"They will affirm that I have served in a respectful and professional manner. Good will and a sense of partnership with those who reside and invest in Novi has largely replaced the frustration and negativity that existed previously."

"I am proud to have been a part of your team in bringing about this transformation."

continued on page 3

Rev it up a notch
Green Sheet Classifieds

PUBLIC SAFETY

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

Construction season in full swing in Novi

Local railroad crossing repairs to cause closures

By Pam Fleming

Motorists patience will be tested over the next few years in the Novi area as almost \$63 million dollars worth of road construction projects swing into gear.

The City of Novi staff will keep residents up to date with regular postings at city hall, local cable Channel 13 and at www.ci.novi.mi.us.

The city held two 2004 Road Construction General Information Meetings June 10 at the Police Department Training Center to inform residents and business owners about important road closings and road work to be aware of in the near future.

Those fielding questions included Nancy McClain, city engineer; Chris Pearson, assistant city manager; and Sheryl Walsh, community relations director.

Upcoming projects include:

- I-96/Beck Rd. interchange
- Novi Road/Grand River Avenue intersection
- Meadowbrook Road reconstruction
- Novi Road/Ten Mile intersection
- Eight Mile and Haggerty Road/J-275
- CSX Railroad also recently informed that city that it will be doing grade crossing repair in Novi requiring additional road closures.

The Road Commission for Oakland County and CSX have settled on the following schedule:

- Ten Mile Road east of Novi Road starting June 21 for about a week.
- Nine Mile Road east of Novi Road starting June 28 for about a week.

Motorists are asked to follow the posted detours.

RCCOC is widening the intersection at Novi Road and Ten Mile to five lanes in all directions and improving traffic signalization. Utility work associated with these improvements has started, and the project construction contract will be awarded in early July, with work to begin later that month.

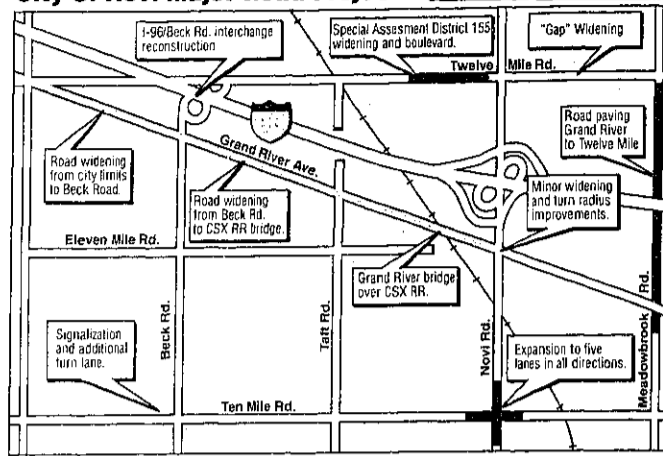
Paving should be completed by November 2004, with full project completion expected by June 2005.

Reconstruction of Meadowbrook Road from Twelve Mile Road south to Grand River Avenue is currently in the design process. Improvements will widen the roadway to a continuous three-lane section. Construction should start in mid-summer 2004 and be completed this year.

Ten Mile Road is being repaved from Ten Mile Road to Grand River Avenue. Construction is anticipated to begin in mid-summer 2004 and be completed this year.

"We have these roads as well

City of Novi Major Road Projects



and try to put ourselves in your shoes," Clay Pearson, assistant city manager, told those attending one of the recent construction update meetings.

"This slate of road projects is very impressive," he added.

In November 2000, Novi residents approved a \$18.395 million road bond to fund improvements. Additionally, that bond money leveraged \$44.6 million in matching funds for these same improvements. This means a total of \$62.99 million in road work is scheduled in Novi over the next few years.

The city is funding \$6 million of the Beck Road and I-96 interchange. Construction on this

Magic makes father's day

Basketball star gives Town Car to dad for 70th birthday

By Pam Fleming

There's no doubt about it: Earvin "Magic" Johnson, famous former Michigan State University and Los Angeles Lakers standout, still has the magic.

"You're what makes the world go, the state of Michigan go, and we really appreciate it. Plus, my father and two brothers are UAW members."

The superstar came to the Wilson Assembly Plant Friday for a very special reason — to give his father, Earvin Johnson Sr., a 2004 Lincoln Town Car for his 70th birthday.

Johnson presented the car to his dad at the plant.

"Usually, it's the father who buys their son a car," he said. "But, I'm proud to be able to give my dad a Lincoln Town Car."

Lincoln Mercury and Johnson formed a multi-faceted marketing and advertising relationship last year. "Lincoln and Earvin Johnson both stand for style, sophistication and a spirit of generosity," said Darryl Huzar, president, Lincoln Mercury. "Today, we're pleased to participate in an event where we're

Magic makes father's day

giving back to someone in the family."

"I'd like to thank the whole Lincoln Mercury center for making the best car in the world. Thank you for letting me be a part of you," Johnson said.

"You're what makes the world go, the state of Michigan go, and we really appreciate it. Plus, my father and two brothers are UAW members."

Johnson said that no matter who wins the National Basketball Association Championship series, he's a winner either way.

"Either my team wins, since I'm a part owner of the Lakers, or my state wins," he said.

"Dad, you helped me from the time I was a baby to a little boy to a young man and now to a man. This is my way of saying thank you," Johnson said to his father.

Johnson comes back to Michigan on a regular basis to visit family and friends. He said being able to give his father a new Town Car meant the world to him.

"Especially being at home, being here at this plant. This is the best car in the world. To be able to come in the plant and give it to him where the real people are who make this thing go, it's a truly blessing to me and my family," Johnson said.

"I'm able to give my father the one gift he's always wanted, and that's a Town Car, so I'm happy. I know how much this car and this situation today means to my dad. I wouldn't be Magic. I wouldn't be Earvin Johnson without his guidance. I wouldn't be who I am today without my dad."

Johnson said his father worked at the Fiedler Body Plant in Lansing area for more than 30 years. His brothers have worked at the same plant for 30 years and 27 years, respectively.

"I understand the hard work that these people put in each and every day to support themselves and their families," he noted.

The Wilson Assembly Plant builds the Lincoln Town Car, Lincoln LS, Ford Thunderbird and Ford GT. The plant, which houses 15 miles of assembly line, opened in 1957 and employs 2,300 people. Johnson also visited the Navigator plant in Detroit on Friday.

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



Photo by Ron Myers

'Name the Park' Contest extended

This miniature golf course in Ohio, designed by Fairway Golf in Sturgis, Mich., is similar to the one Jeffrey and Theresa Wainwright plan as part of their family fun park in Novi. The Wainwrights are extending their "Name the Park" Contest through the end of June. Entries can be mailed to Name the Park Contest, P.O. Box 435, Novi, MI, 48076, or e-mailed to namethepark@comcast.net by the end of June. If an entry is selected, the winner will receive various free passes to the park.

COURT SENTENCINGS

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for June 1, 2004:

- Douglas Allen King — Felony assault.
- Michael David Gionfrida — Operating under the influence of alcohol/per se, third offense (felony); driving while license suspended.
- Michelle Marie Knoll — Operating under the influence of alcohol/felony offense; alcohol in container in vehicle.

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for June 2, 2004:

- Leandra Bradley — Uttering and publishing.
- Eugene Carlton Payton — Stealing property, receiving and concealing over \$1,000 but under \$20,000; failure to display license upon demand.
- Alan Granger Lumbkwan — Excessive sentence enhancement/felony or subsequent offense.
- Hart Eric McKeliff — Hearing and charging, third degree; controlled substance possession of marijuana.

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for June 3, 2004:

- Jonathan Anthony Demont — Larceny from a motor vehicle.
- Michael Lloyd Smith — Two counts breaking and entering a vehicle to steal over \$1,000 but under \$10,000; two counts breaking and entering a vehicle to steal property over \$200 but under \$1,000.

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for June 4, 2004:

- Timothy Andrew Miller, Jr. — Financial transaction device.
- Justin Scott Donnelly — Delivery/manufacture of marijuana.
- Donald Clifford Mayville — Fraudulent document by contractor.
- Brian James Machesney — Accept after the fact to a felony.
- Kenneth Jerome Calhoun — Enhancement/felony offense.

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for June 4, 2004:

- Brian David Hartunian — Five counts possession child sexually abusive; five counts computer/using.
- Cynthia Renee Dickey — Unlawful use of a motor vehicle; sentence enhancement/third offense.

Two counts unlawful delivery/accept; two counts of stolen property; receive/conceal a motor vehicle.

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for June 4, 2004:

- Timothy Andrew Miller, Jr. — Financial transaction device.
- Justin Scott Donnelly — Delivery/manufacture of marijuana.
- Donald Clifford Mayville — Fraudulent document by contractor.
- Brian James Machesney — Accept after the fact to a felony.
- Kenneth Jerome Calhoun — Enhancement/felony offense.

Two counts unlawful delivery/accept; two counts of stolen property; receive/conceal a motor vehicle.

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for June 4, 2004:

- Timothy Andrew Miller, Jr. — Financial transaction device.
- Justin Scott Donnelly — Delivery/manufacture of marijuana.
- Donald Clifford Mayville — Fraudulent document by contractor.
- Brian James Machesney — Accept after the fact to a felony.
- Kenneth Jerome Calhoun — Enhancement/felony offense.

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A public hearing meeting to consider this request will be held at 11:15 am on Thursday, June 24, 2004. The meeting is at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Written and signed approvals or objections will be accepted into the file if received prior to the scheduled meeting. Please address all communications to Denise Anderson at the City of Novi Building Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48076.

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BUSINESS

Pam Fleming, business reporter (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 pfleming@nl.homecomm.net

Verizon celebrates a decade serving Novi

By Kim Baker
SPECIAL WRITER

The Verizon Wireless store in Novi is celebrating its tenth anniversary, and they have things to brag about.

Joyce Jalbert has been manager at the Novi store for two years, following seven years at the Pontiac (formerly Bloomfield) location and she has seen many advancements at the Novi location.

"I think our biggest change is our customer base has grown," she says. "Novi is the largest store in the district so we have quite a few customers. We usually see anywhere between 200 and 225 people a day and our staff has doubled since we first opened this location. Currently we have 23 employees."

Included among those employees are technicians that offer support and service to existing customers.

"There are only a couple stores in the district that have technicians at the stores - Southfield, Westland and ourselves," Jalbert says, "so cus-

tomers come to see us not only for new activations and upgrades but for reasons like 'hey, I dropped my phone in a bucket of water and it's not working. Can you help me out?'"

New accessories that offer wireless customers high-speed internet access, known as "IX sales," have caused great change among Verizon stores. Novi's being chief among them.

"We are a high data store because we are kind of in an affluent or business area," Jalbert explains.

"What we sell most of at this store is data cards," Jalbert says. "They are little PC cards and they fit into a PC slot on your computer and this data card - they call them air cards - as a modern to your laptop and you're accessing the internet remotely, and not tethered to any phone or device."

The other high-speed internet device the Novi store sells a lot of is the PDA (Personal Digital Assistant), which is like a palm pilot

with internet access. "All the PDAs (we sell) are a phone and a PDA so you can do multiple things on that. Some of them are palm-based and some are Windows-based. It's a customer preference," says Jalbert.

All Verizon stores have seen big changes since they first opened. At first, Jalbert says, "There was just one bar of phones in the middle of the floor. We had no inventory hanging on the walls so you couldn't just come in and pick up a car charger, you would have to wait and talk to somebody about purchasing one. Now it's more of a customer friendly atmosphere."

Kim Baker is a University of Michigan-Dearborn journalism student and a Novi News intern. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 109 or kbaker@nl.homecomm.net.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi Verizon Wireless employees Doug Bath, left, and David Cain check out the text messaging capabilities of the Samsung model A650.

TECHNOLOGY CHANGES

Verizon as a company has expanded their product line over the past decade thanks to new technology and feature availability.

"When I started nine years ago, we only had analog phones, no caller ID, there was no free long distance, the phones barely stored numbers," says Jalbert.

Six years ago caller ID was the big deal. (Now) all the phones we sell come with color monitors, you can access the mobile web from your phone, you can do text messaging and download your favorite ring tone."

One of Joyce's favorite technological advances is the headset. First introduced three years ago in Verizon stores, they've been popular from the beginning.

"All my employees and myself wear one for convenience," said Joyce. "We believe in it wholeheartedly. As I am bobbing about the store and I have my headset on and I get a call, all I have to do is open up my phone and then I am talking."

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EDUCATION

Ramez Khuri, school reporter (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 rkhuri@nl.homecomm.net

Second-year science teacher's passion shows

■ Middle School's Lily Stojanov earns Feature Teacher for June honors

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

It seems as though it doesn't matter how long a teacher works

for the Novi Community School District, sooner or later their talent is going to shine and be recognized. That happened sooner, rather

than later, for Novi Middle School Seventh Grade Science Teacher Lily Stojanov. In just the second year of her teaching career, she has made such a positive impact on her students, that a few of them took it upon themselves to nominate her as Feature Teacher. Their effort paid off, as they got their wish.

Stojanov said that working with the seventh grade age group is what she likes the most. "The kids are just so much fun because you never know what they're going to say or do," she said. "I always liked science and I always liked working with students in seventh through 12th grades, so I figured I could combine the two and teach science to students."

In her second year in college, Stojanov visited a classroom to see what teaching was like. She enjoyed it so much that she decided to stick with it. The rest is history and Novi Middle School is happy she did.

"I knew since my second year in college that I wanted to be a teacher," she said. When asked what her most memorable moment in her young teaching career was, she replied, "This is it, being picked for this article."

As a student growing up, Stojanov attended Novi Schools. She didn't have one specific favorite teacher growing up, but she did believe they were all very good. One aspect of her job that probably wasn't the same to her teachers while growing up is

the amount of time she has to actually teach. "Being able to have time for everything is pretty tough," she said. "We have a lot of paperwork and we need more time to teach. There are so many things that take teachers attention now, like state and government mandates. It's pretty tough to have time to do what you want to do in the classroom."

Still though, Stojanov does her best, which apparently is working for her students. After they move on to the eighth grade, she hopes they remember her as a kind, patient person from whom they learned a lot about science. "I wouldn't change anything about teaching," Stojanov said. "It's good the way it is."

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@nl.homecomm.net.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

As student Maggie Check, right, looks on, Novi Middle School teacher Lily Stojanov takes a look at a slide of water fleas under the microscope.

WHY SHE WAS PICKED

Our teacher, Mrs. Stojanov should be outstanding teacher of the month because she is the most superlative science teacher ever. She makes science awesome, it is fun and now our favorite subject. We also love her personality, she is really smart and kind. She loves to laugh and she is so hilarious. Mrs. Stojanov enjoys answering all of our questions we may have, no matter how difficult they may be. In class we do a plethora of interesting labs and projects, such as making flubber and mixtures. Mrs. Stojanov is always nice to everyone and we all love her. She brightens our day up like a sun in the morning and afternoon.

She challenges us so we get a fulfillment of science. Although we get homework every day, science is still one of our favorite subjects. This year has flown by because of our amazing teachers, especially Mrs. Stojanov. She is awesome and we are positive you would think so too. She particularly deserves this award; she is the greatest teacher we ever had!

Taylor Vento and Mary Howell

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Schoolcraft College announces graduates

The following students from Novi graduated from Schoolcraft College at the end of the winter 2004 semester:

Paul Fred Ansara, Shirley Kay Aschvanden, Sherry Kay Bellis, Kathryn Grace Beller, Corrie Ann Berger, Michele F Cameron, Shelley M Cosby, Mark Anthony Gillen, Lori Ann Harris, Debra Lynn Hirschfeld, Ruth Carol Hoon, Loreta Anne Houseworth, Bryce Wayne Kidder, Bryce Wayne Kidder, Kimberly Marie Kovces, Kimberly Marie Kovces, Justin Douglas Lebeck, Juhon Lee, Gabriela Mandrita, Michele Karen Nance, Noeen Lisa Rosin, Courtney Anne Schniers, Robert William Senecal, Debra Spellman, Barbara Lynn Stump, Ross Jack Wagner and Man Hei Woo.

Compiled by Ramez Khuri

LILY STOJANOV

- School: Novi Middle School
- Grade: Seventh
- Subject: Science
- Years teaching: Two
- Years in Novi Community School District: Two
- College: Madonna University
- Spouse: Dan
- Children: Lara, 9; Jorde, 7
- Interests: Exercise, taking trips with her family and reading



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Tues., Wed., Sat. 9:30-5:30
Open Sunday 1-5

VISIT OUR IN-STORE CLEARANCE CENTER

*All previous sales excluded. Offer not valid with any other promotional offer.

Celebrating Colonial era

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Carol Mulhall and Jill Glomb's fifth grade classes at Novi Meadows had a lot of fun last week doing a different activity each day that involved the Colonial time period of the country.



Novi Meadows Fifth Grade Teachers Carol Mulhall and Jill Glomb pose in Colonial Time clothes for their of the colonial period and they did a colony project on either Nov 17 or 18. The girls learned about what they ate and how they ate. We also did colonial games and school days. Students had an assimilation

of the colonial period and they did a colony project on either Nov 17 or 18. The girls learned about what they ate and how they ate. We also did colonial games and school days. Students had an assimilation

Storyteller looks for tale's spirit, rather than morals

Orchard Hills students entertained by Laura Pershin Raynor

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Students at Orchard Hills Elementary School received a healthy dose of diverse culture last Thursday when Storyteller Laura Pershin Raynor came visiting.



Laura Pershin Raynor spins yarns for Orchard Hills kids.

As well as being a storyteller, Raynor is also a children's librarian at the Ann Arbor District Library. She has traveled to many schools in the area and will be one of the featured storytellers at the National Storyteller Festival in Tennessee this year.

Students witnessed three stories during her visit, one from Russia, one from China and one from the Appalachian Mountains. "I love to tell folk tales and stories from my own family," she said. "My hope is that the kids will listen to those stories, enjoy those stories, be interested in the cultures that those stories come from and then eventually re-tell them. So much of that re-telling and that practicing of the oral language is about reading, writing and communication skills."

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ON CAMPUS

Novi resident John Fleming has been named to the Dean's List at Western Michigan University for spring 2003 semester. John is the son of Thomas and Irene Fleming.

Novi residents Joseph Belter, Stephen Chang, Pratyusha Devarakonda, Erik Jamieson, Laura Kemps, Jennifer MacDonald, Garvin McDevitt, Samiha Miralifard, Suraj Ramachandran, Christopher Rodgers, Darin Styles, Frank Zhu, Jaime Harden, Hannah Irwin, Shantel Kosterka, Douglas Lundberg, Kang Li, Jennifer Mehl, Daniel Ping, Brennan Quennessville, Neil Rao and Bo-Qiang Xiao have been awarded the Regents Merit Scholarship from the University of Michigan.

Novi residents Andrew Curtin and Jennifer Metcalfe have been named to the Academic Honors List at Ferris State University for winter 2004 semester. Vicki Speyer has been named to the Dean's List for the second semester of the 2003-04 school year at Hope College. She is the daughter of Robert and Cecilia Speyer of Novi and graduated from Northville High School.

Novi residents Justin Chiang, Michael Garback, Derek Granzow, Peter Kobylarek, Andrew Laskowski, Kirk Safford, Alexander Wang, Karen Anderson, Andrew Capayeva, Kyrstin Chamnell, Matthew Hawkins, Petr Krahulik, Nicholas Sullivan, Bradley Steele, Brian Swift, and Riggar Zahar were named to the Dean's Honor List for winter 2004 at the University of Michigan College of Engineering.

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NOVI TOWN CENTER. MOVIE GUIDE. JACKIE CHAN. Around The World In 80 Days. SPECIAL OFFERS. COUPON

CITY OF NOVI. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Novi Planning Commission will hold a meeting on Wednesday, June 23, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. in the City of Novi Council Chambers, Novi, Michigan.

NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2004/2005 BUDGET. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 22, 2004 at 7:30 o'clock p.m. at Oak Village School, Northville, Michigan, the Board of Education of Northville Public Schools will hold public hearings to consider the district's proposed 2004/2005 budget.

CITY OF NOVI FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 04-033. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Master Spas of Novi is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow placement of a tent for a spa tent sale in the store's parking lot located at 25875 Novi Road, Suite 130 (City Center Plaza). The sale dates are June 25 through June 27, 2004.

RESPECT THE EARTH... RECYCLE! DENISE ANDERSON TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY (248) 347-0415

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CITY OF NOVI. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Novi Planning Commission will hold a meeting on Wednesday, June 23, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. in the City of Novi Council Chambers, Novi, Michigan.

FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 04-034. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Multi Building Company, Inc. is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow placement of a construction field office trailer to be placed on Lot 106 in the Midway Park Estates subdivision located at 48420 Eight Mile Road west of Beck Road.

HEALTH

Hot topics in women's health

By Elaine Horowitz
PROVIDENCE NURSE NAVIGATOR

Most people would agree that we are faced with many challenges and choices when it comes to our health. Trying to maintain a healthy lifestyle in these busy times requires dedication and hard work. We are all being told to eat right, exercise often, have regular check-ups and keep a lid on stress.

While it may be good to jumpstart weight loss with a well-balanced diet, it is often unrealistic to be able to maintain a restrictive diet for long periods of time. In fact, while most people can lose weight when they fall back into their old habits. Think instead in terms of small, meaningful lifestyle modifications. Cut down on portion size, eat less fat-laden foods, make fresh fruits and vegetables. Make better choices.

Resources can help manage health. Too often, people only think about their health when something's wrong, and sometimes not even then. We've all seen it: Uncle Joe who hasn't been to a doctor in 20 years. Your friend who keeps eating those greasy burgers and fries, despite having gained several pounds.

Ernie Horowitz, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years.

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GUIDELINES

The American Cancer Society recommends the following screening guidelines: Annual clinical breast exam and mammogram for women, beginning at age 40. Between ages 20 and 39, clinical breast exams every 1 to 3 years. Self breast exam monthly, beginning at age 20. Women with a family history of breast cancer should begin screening with their healthcare professional.

Osteoporosis is the next big issue that we should all be concerned about. Our bones are constantly being built up and broken down in a process called "remodeling." Through most of our life, this happens at a fairly constant rate. However, after menopause, our bones do not rebuild at the same pace and eventually small losses in bone density can occur. Not everyone will lose enough bone mass to cause fractures, but we are all at risk. Since peak bone mass is achieved in our 30s, taking in adequate amounts of calcium and getting regular, weight-bearing exercise are things we should be doing.

combined, cancer, especially breast cancer, remains on everyone's mind. The risk for developing breast cancer increases with age. According to the American Cancer Society, approximately 77 percent of women with breast cancer are age 50 or older at the time of diagnosis. Although having a first degree relative (mother, sister or daughter) with breast cancer raises your risk of developing it, most women with breast cancer do not have any family history of this disease. Other risk factors include starting monthly periods before age 12 or

menopause after age 55, obesity, alcohol use, physical inactivity and long-term postmenopausal estrogen use. While making some lifestyle changes may help in your overall quality of life, early detection and treatment is the best defense against breast cancer. Having regular check ups and establishing an open line of communication with your healthcare professional is essential to maintaining your good health.

Elaine Horowitz can be reached at Providence, a member of St John Health, at 1-800-806-2229



Short-term stays that leave long-term impressions at Sunrise Senior Living

At Brighton Gardens of Northville we understand that taking a vacation, a business trip or a much needed break from your caregiving routine can be a challenge for anyone caring for a senior loved one. That's why you should consider a short-term stay. It's also an option for seniors needing extra assistance after a hospital stay. Our short-term stay program offers caregivers peace of mind when quality, senior care is needed.

At Brighton Gardens of Northville we offer fully furnished private suites, three delicious meals daily including snacks, personalized assistance and care, as well as stimulating activities, housekeeping and scheduled group outings. Visit or call Brighton Gardens of Northville today, to learn more about our short-term stays.



Brighton Gardens of Northville 734-420-7917 15870 Hagerty Road Assisted Living, Alzheimer's Care www.sunrisenursing.com

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Great Times Right at Home!

June Gardening Sale!

Jumbo Geraniums 6" Pots Buy 5, Get 1 Free. Specialty 4 1/2" Pots Up To 50% Off. Combination Baskets & Specialty Plants Up to 50% Off. Perennials 15% Off. Impatiens Baskets Buy 2 Get 1 Free. All Birdbaths, Windchimes, Statues & Patio Decor 25% Off. Conifer Gardens 50% Off. Pond Plants 40% Off.

Dinser's Flowers and Greenhouse. 248-349-1320. 24501 Disner Dr. • Novi. 1/2 Mile West of Beck just off Ten Mile. OPEN 7 DAYS. Retail and commercial accounts welcome.

LIFESTYLES

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

ENGAGEMENT



Ponder & Fleming

Jim and Lynda Ponder of Northville, announce the engagement of their daughter Melissa Lyne Ponder to

Gavin John Fleming, son of John and Margaret Fleming of Liverpool, England. The bride-elect is a 1997 graduate of Northville High School. She graduated from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 2001 with a bachelor's degree. In 2004 she graduated from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor with her master's of social work. The groom-elect earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in 2003 and in 2003 graduated from the University of Michigan Law School. He is employed with the firm of Jones Day in Chicago. A July 2004 wedding at St. John's Chapel in Plymouth is planned.

OBITUARIES

Carol L. Crawford

Carol L. Crawford of South Lyon, formerly of Northville, died at Haven Valley-Saint Joseph in Commerce on June 8. She was 79. Mrs. Crawford was born in Litcher, La. on December 21, 1934 to Gilbert E. and Beatrice A. Linette Whitney. She was married to Thomas Ray Crawford on November 15, 1957. Mrs. Crawford was a homemaker and member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in South Lyon. In addition to her husband, Mrs. Crawford is survived by children, Karen (John) Madson, Wis., and Melissa (John) Ponder of Houston, Mich.; a sister, Susan (Stephen) Olson of Bloomfield Hills. She is also survived by siblings, Jean Gonzalez of New Orleans, Mary Raymond of Baton Rouge, Marie D'Rocke of Litcher, and Joseph (Crown) of Metairie, La. Timothy

Whitney of Baton Rouge, and Wayne (Myra) Whitney of Pueblo, Colo., and 5 grandchildren. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Gilbert and Randolph. A memorial service was held June 11 at Caserline Funeral Home in South Lyon with the Rev. Father Kenneth M. Chase of St. Joseph Catholic Church officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, Great Lakes Division, 18515 W. 12 Mile, Southfield, MI 48076 or the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Foundation, 18831 West 12 Mile Road, Lathrup Village, MI 48076-9906.

Marian L. Wats
Marian Wats of Novi died June 9, 2004. She was 56. Her family and her husband filed her life with happiness. She was loved very deeply by

BIRTH

Nicholas James Todorov

Brad and Michelle Todorov of Northville are proud to announce the birth of their son, Nicholas James Todorov. He was born April 12, 2004 at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor, weighed 7 pounds and was 20 inches long. Proud grandparents are James and Margaret Harlow of Wayne, and Michael and Lynda Todorov of Northville. Proud great-grandparents are Hazel Berry of Westland, Stella Todorov of St. Clair Shores and Bennett and Ruth Luce of South Lyon.

SENIORS

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

SENIOR CALENDAR

Thursday 6/17

9:30 a.m. Line Dance*
9:30 a.m. Travel Meeting
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sunday Shop Open noon
12:15 p.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Bridge*
1 p.m. Beginners Line Dance

Friday 6/18

9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
9 a.m. Panera Bread
10 a.m. Body Recall
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sunday Shop open noon
12:30 p.m. Lunch
12:30 p.m. Bingo
12:30 p.m. Clogging*
12:30 p.m. Dupt. Bridge

Monday 6/21

9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
10 a.m. Body Recall
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday Shop Open noon
12:30 p.m. Lunch
1 p.m.-3 p.m. Pinocle
2 p.m.-3 p.m. TEA
6:30 p.m. Clogging

First Day of Summer

Tuesday 6/22

9 a.m. Panera bread
9 a.m.-11 a.m. Computer Class-Beginners
9:30 a.m. Line Dance*
10 a.m. Asian Pacific
11 a.m. S. Wishes; Mike M. noon
12:30 p.m. Lunch
12:30 p.m. Bingo held in activities room
1 p.m.-3 p.m. Computer Class-Windows
1 p.m.-3 p.m. Dance

Wednesday 6/23

9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Massage Therapy
10 a.m. Body Recall
10:30 a.m. Quilting
11 a.m. Blood Pressure
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sunday Shop Open noon
12:30 p.m. Lunch
12:30 p.m. Clogging*
Ficeworks/Michigan Princess Trip

*Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45173 W. Ten Mile Road, Phone (248) 347-0414.

Got an announcement you'd like to make? Send it to us and we'll let everybody know! Weddings, Engagements, Anniversaries, Births, etc. - Send a picture, too!

Novi News, Cal Stone, editor
104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167
Call (248) 349-1700 for more information.

SPOTLIGHT: ALLERGY & ASTHMA

Presented by Michael S. Rowe, MD, F.A.C.P., C.C.R.I.

BE ACTIVE WITH ALLERGIES

When managed effectively, asthma and allergies do not need to slow your down or prevent participation in your favorite activities. As our society becomes more sedentary and more obese as a whole, it's more important than ever to make physical activity a part of your daily life. Having asthma is not a good excuse to be a couch potato. Before exercising or playing a sport, warm up properly with a few minutes of stretching and light jogging. Always cool down after exercise with some stretching and light jogging. On high pollen counts, consider your symptoms, and adjust your activities accordingly. Take yourself extra frequent breaks, drink plenty of fluids, and keep your inhaler with you. Exercise is an important activity for everyone, including those with allergies. Though exercise will not cure your condition, it will help you feel your best physically and mentally. For an appointment, call ALLERGY AND ASTHMA CENTRAL PARTICIPATION in your favorite location. We provide monitoring care for your allergy and asthma problems, utilizing the latest treatments and medications. Our office is conveniently located at 24210 Karlov Blvd., Ste. 130, Novi.

PKA (Advanced) asthma and allergy services include: swimming, walking, hiking, and sports requiring short activity breaks like hiking and light jogging.

ALLERGY AND ASTHMA CENTRAL PARTICIPATION
www.allergyinfo.org

LET'S TALK WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN GEMOLOGIST

SETTING THE TABLE

When shopping for a diamond ring, bear in mind that, whatever the shape, the gemstone must be cut well in order for its full beauty to emerge. The better the cut, the greater the diamond's sparkle and brilliance will be, and the greater the value. Begin assessing the cut by observing it through top light (table), check to see that the diamond seems to sparkle across the whole gemstone when seen from this angle. Also check the symmetry of a round diamond by looking at the table edges. The lines of the facets should be straight, regular, and parallel to each other. The table edges should form a regular octagon, and they should also meet in sharp points. Diamond, as well as other precious gem purchases, should always be handled by a qualified gemologist. Weinstein Jewelers of Novi, with 3 generations of experience, provides our customers with skilled, courteous, personalized service, and our outstanding selection of stones. We will be hosting a free Diamond Seminar in our store on July 15th at 7:30pm. If you are interested, it is by RSVP only 25 seats available. RSVP due no later than July 30th. This is a wonderful event to learn all about diamonds. Here at 41999 Grand River Ave. (248-347-0303), we are here for all your jewelry and gemstone needs. PS: In general, diamonds cut with smaller table top facets are more fire while those with larger tables exhibit more brilliance.

WEINSTEIN JEWELERS

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is pleased to offer **\$40 Women's Haircuts (includes Blowdry)**

Book today with one of our senior stylists to receive this special rate. Men's haircuts also available for \$30.

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Students must present current I.D. upon appointment check-in.

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248-465-7700



Pep for the Pistons
Fans of all ages gathered at Fox Run Retirement Community on 12 Mile Road for a pep rally in support of the Detroit Pistons last Thursday. Fox Run resident Ernie Bolgarelli gets into the spirit with a Ben Wallace wig and thunder sticks. Don't laugh - it worked. Detroit thrashed the L.A. Lakers, 88-68, in Game 3 of the NBA Finals and took the league crown Tuesday night, 100-87.

SENIOR RECREATION

Wear those Patriotic Colors!

Join us on Wednesday, July 14 here at the Novi Senior Center at 12:00 pm for lunch, laughs, music and prizes! We will celebrate July 4 just a few days early with our Stars and Stripes Picnic lunch party which will consist of chicken, potato salad, baked beans and dessert. We'll listen to lively music and enjoy the company of both old and new friends. Cost will be \$5.00 per person and you will need to reserve your spot now!

Please stop by the center at 25075 Meadowbrook Rd to sign up if you would like to attend but remember, seating is limited so don't wait and miss out on the fun!

Macinac Island

Have you always wanted to stay at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island but never had the chance? Well, now you do! Novi Senior Center is taking reservations for our four day trip to the Island from October 12 - 15. Cost is \$560.00 for Novi residents (double room) and \$570.00 for non-residents. Accommodations at the beautiful Grand Hotel and includes baggage handling, taxes and tips.

along with the deluxe motor-coach. You will have a full breakfast each morning at the hotel and a five-course dinner at night in their wonderful dining room. Sound good? Stop in and get the flyer and pay your deposit and prepare for an awesome trip!

Continue to watch right here in the Novi News for day to day happenings at the Novi Senior Center along with our special events, educational speakers, trips and programs. There is something for everyone!

Rachel Zagaroli is the recreation coordinator for the Novi Senior Center. She can be reached at (248) 347-0414.

FATHER'S DAY SALE!

Prices Good Through JUNE 27, 2004! See Store For Other Great Deals!

ORLIMAR \$99 3-TIME PLAYED FAIRWAY WOOD OF THE YEAR ON PGA TOUR

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• Hot marketing face
• Tour performance shape
• Low center of gravity
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SPALDING TOP FLITE XL GOLF BALLS
• 18 BALL PACK

SALE PRICE \$69

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• Style #53012 • Regular price \$100.00

SALE PRICE \$49 NIKE GOLF ATHLETIC SHOES CLOSEOUT
• Mens style #183999 • Ladies style #192097

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• With graphite shafts

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• 5 models to choose from

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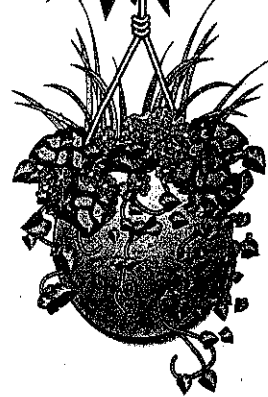
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Are we dreaming?

The HomeTown Newspapers All-Area Tennis and Golf Dream Teams have been announced. Check to see who was named as the best of the best.
— Pages B2 and B3



First success

The City of Novi's first Kid's Fair earned a very positive response from the community Saturday. See photos from the Parks & Recreation event.
— Page 7B



My Handyman

Dayn Benson, owner and president of the local branch of My Handyman, hires professional workers with years of experience to get the job done right.
— Page 8B

One man doesn't lose the contest

If there's one thing I don't like to do, it's hurt feelings. Yet, sometimes, I manage to do that.

It came to my attention recently that my last article on Novi's baseball team indicated that the entire loss fell on junior Billy Morrison's shoulders. Technically speaking, it did. It goes on his record as a loss, thus he took the "brunt" of it. Literally speaking, it did not.

In an attempt to shift focus away from the actual game in which



Sam Eggleston

Salem defeated Novi to end the Wildecats' season. I touched on it and went in what I felt was a fairly smooth motion. It was not.

Instead, I left out some detail that I

most definitely should have touched on. Billy was hardly the only player at fault in the game. Others were unable to hit the ball, errors were committed, mistakes were made, bad decisions were apparent and so on and so forth. I'm not going to sit here and name names as I don't feel that's appropriate at this time.

Instead, I'm going to talk about one name: Billy Morrison.

He's a quality kid and a great athlete. Like the pitchers who have come and gone before him at Novi High School, I fully expect Morrison has basically his choice of colleges to attend to play the game he excels at.

He throws a variety of pitches, including a sweet split-finger, and has the height and strength that collegiate-level coaches are no doubt salivating over even now. He's a future college baseball player and I'm not shy to say I expect it to be in Division I.

I've talked about the seniors and the guys who are graduating. I've talked about a variety of things, but I haven't really talked about Morrison.

I could give you a variety of reasons as to why I haven't, but most of them would be just rambling to the majority of you. Instead, I'm going to just say that Billy Morrison is the kind of player that deserves a ton more ink than he received, but how do you highlight one player on a team of All-Stars?

Come next year, the field will have thinned greatly. I expect Morrison will be the number one pitcher in Novi, if not the Kensington Valley Conference. He's going to pick a college probably this fall and sign during the early recruiting period and will go on to bigger and better things.

A loss to Salem, I assure you, will be the furthest thing from his mind. Billy Morrison is destined to be one of the best pitchers ever to leave from Novi. His future? I couldn't say, but I wouldn't be surprised if it is further than I've mentioned here in this column.

I would just like to take this paragraph to say that I hope Billy and his family understand that I intended no slight in my last article. The loss was far from Billy's fault yet it still ended up being on his shoulders.

A quality kid. A quality student. A great baseball player. Billy Morrison is far from being talked about in the Novi community and the Novi News is far from being that last paper that is going to be printing out tales of his accomplishments.

Great job this year, Billy. Don't let one game or one article by a thoughtless old sports writer keep you down. Neither are that important in the larger scope of things.

SPORTS & MORE

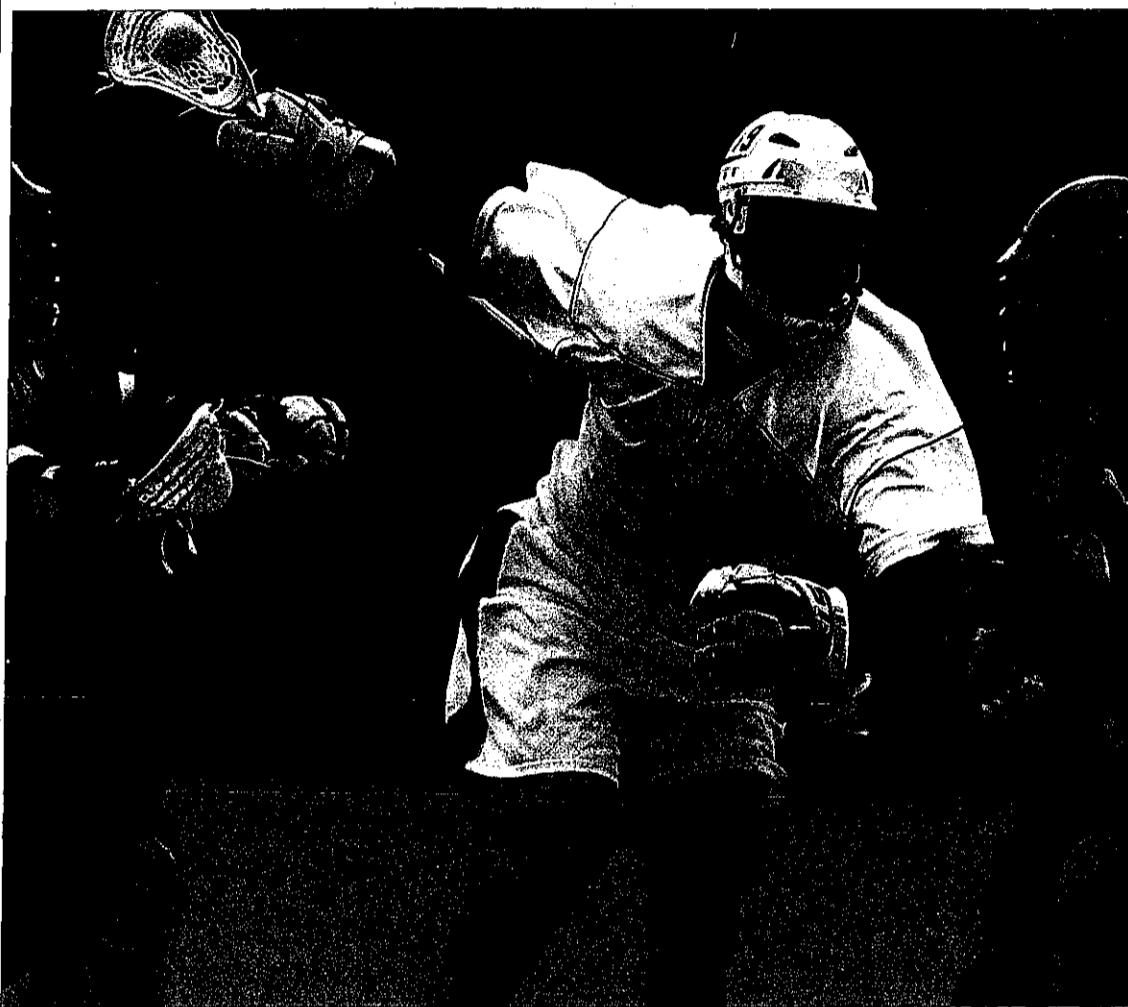
B-1

NOVI NEWS

hometownlife.com

Thursday, June 17, 2004

SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS



Courtesy Photo

Pat Muston, shown in white, was an All-America East selection for his play in the America East Conference. He and his brother, Brad, will work side-by-side to teach lacrosse at their newly assembled Lacrosse Training Centers. Brad Muston is currently the head coach at Novi High School for lacrosse and Pat will join him next season as a member of his staff.

Muston brothers open Lacrosse Training Centers

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It seemed like a natural step to take for Brad and Pat Muston.

They learned the game of lacrosse, played it in middle school, high school and at the Division I collegiate level and now they hope to teach it.

Brad is familiar with that portion of the game. He has coached at South Lyon High School in the past and last year at his alma mater of Novi High. Pat, on the other hand, recently graduated from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County where he was an All-America East selection for his play.

"On the north side, up by Birmingham and Bloomfield, they've got some pretty good lacrosse camps," Brad said. "There's nothing like that in this area and they basically have a monopoly up there. We wanted to bring it closer to home."

And, of course, make it bigger and better. The brothers,

along with Jeff Blackledge, have assembled a company called Lacrosse Training Centers. The goal? To teach kids the fundamentals of the game.

"Normally, someone drops a ball and lets the kids beat each other with sticks," Pat said. "We want them to learn the basics of the game before moving on to the more advanced tactics."

The company will begin with lacrosse camps, hosted at Schoolcraft College on Haggerty Road between Six and Seven Mile Road. As they get more interest, the trio will bring out coaches from the Virginia Military Institute, the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and even former players from the east coast. The list they are planning to offer includes a slew of talented and knowledgeable lacrosse entities.

"They're interested to see what lacrosse is like in the Midwest," Brad said of those who will be teaching at the

"Normally, someone drops a ball and lets the kids beat each other with sticks. We want them to learn the basics of the game before moving on to the more advanced tactics."

Pat Muston
Lacrosse Training Centers Instructor

Lacrosse Training Center camps. "Getting the guys out here has been pretty easy because Pat and I have a good

relationship with them. They're pretty excited about coming out."

And the Muston brothers are excited to have them. Their Lacrosse Training Centers is the first of its kind in Michigan and will focus primarily on camps this summer before trying to find a more permanent, indoor venue for the winter months.

Pat said that nice thing about lacrosse as a starting sport for a lot of kids is the fact that it doesn't cost very much.

"It's rather inexpensive," he said. "Inexpensive and a lot of fun. Around here, a lot of kids have a hockey background. That's an expensive sport. Hockey is great too, because it's an easy transition from that to lacrosse."

One of the reasons the Muston brothers decided to open up their training center was because of the fact that lacrosse is growing in leaps and bounds in Michigan.

In the high school ranks, the sport was club throughout Michigan. Starting next year, it

will be under the umbrella of the Michigan High School Athletics Association. The MHSAA is the governing body for almost all athletics in Michigan high schools.

"The sport is definitely expanding," Pat said. "There needs to be something out here for the leagues and for when the season is over. Instead of doing nothing, this will allow the lacrosse players to have a place to go and work on their game. Hopefully, we can make this thing take off."

More information is available at the Lacrosse Training Centers website at www.lacrossetrainingcenters.com. The forms to register for the camps, as well as the dates and times, are also available there.

The camps are open for children in first grade through their senior seasons.

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.

Josh Buck

Senior
Football

Once again, Buck is getting his name in the paper. Though the season is long behind us, he is getting accolades — once again — for his ability on the football field. Recently, Buck was named to the All-Star football team by the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association. He will play at the stadium at the University of Michigan July 24. Look for more information coming soon.



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Kristi Timar

Junior
Soccer

She's one of those players that you can always expect to perform, and Timar didn't disappoint as she and her fellow Wildecats put on quite a shot in the District tournament before bowing out to Northville. Timar was named to the All-District team as well as the All-Regional team thanks to her ability on the soccer field. Was anything else expected from this top-notch player?



BEST OF THE BEST

2004 All-Area Golf Dream Team

Andrea Fillipps
Senior
Northville

- All-Western Lakes Association
- Top-five finish at Regional
- Three-year starter on varsity with three trips to the state finals
- Helped lead team to second place in state
- Co-Northville Most Valuable Player
- Fourth in WLAA overall
- 45.18 nine-hole and a 92.25 18-hole average



golfers in the state. She'll be back next year, which will be a great asset for the team. That top-10 finish at the state kind of spurred her on and hopefully it put the fire back in her belly."

Allison Grant
Junior
Northville

- Tied for second overall in Western Lakes Activities Association tourney
- All-Western Lakes Activities Association
- Maintained a 46.58 nine-hole average and a 92.85 18-hole average
- Season low score came on a 36 against Salem



Northville's Most Improved Golfer

- Helped lead team to second place in state
- She is such a great athlete
- Northville coach Trish Murray said, "She has the competitive edge because of her experience playing other sports. That really helped. She was used to getting pushed around and pushing back. I've got a feeling this little one might be able to play college golf. She has the desire and has an absolutely beautiful swing. It's very natural and powerful too."

Laura Vaughn
Senior
Novi

- All-Kensington Valley Conference
- 47.8 nine-hole average
- 92nd fifth in the KVC
- "Laura was a steady player all year," Novi coach Deb Harris said. "She played well and was a big part of the success that our team had this year. Laura is a great leader on and off the golf course and is very coachable. We're going to miss her now that she has graduated and it has been a pleasure working with her over the years."

Therese Juthage
Junior
Northville

- All-Western Division
- Top-10 finish at state finals
- Helped lead team to second place in state
- Three-year starter with three trips to the state finals
- 45.5 nine-hole and an 88.88 18-hole average
- Best nine-hole match was a 39 and best 18-hole was an 83



"Therese has a lot of experience for being just a junior," said Trish Murray, the Northville coach. "She had an incredible finish at the state meet. She was in the right place and the right time and set herself up to be one of the top-10

Layne Scherer
Senior
Northville

- All-Western Division
- Four-year starter on varsity with three trips to the state finals
- Helped lead team to second place in state
- Co-Northville MVP
- 42 nine-hole and an 85.6 18-hole average
- Best nine-hole match was a 40 and best 18-hole was an 81
- "How do I sum it all up in one line?" Northville coach Trish Murray said.
- "Looking back over the four years she has played for me, I always think about what a balanced player she is and how dedicated she has been. She's a thinker too. She thinks her way around a golf course and rarely makes a bad shot."



Mustang Layne Scherer chips out of the rough near the 12th hole of MSU's Forest Akers golf course during last Friday's MHSAA girls' golf state finals competition.

Player of the Year

"Being a senior and a four-year letter winner for the Mustangs helped make Scherer into one of the top golfers in the area and beyond.

"The underclassmen really look up to her," Murray said. "She really rubbed off on them."

Even the other coaches have noticed the kind of player Scherer has developed in to.

"The other coaches came up to me and tell me what a nice young lady she is and how nice she is," Murray said. "She's extremely well-mannered. Through I'd like to take credit for that, I can't. That all starts at home."

And other coaches have noted her unselfishness as well. At the WLAA league meet, Scherer shot an 86 (43-43), which was more than she was hoping to get.

"She came up to me and said she didn't play well and then added that she was excited about how well the team did," Murray said. "Other coaches commented on how a lot of players wouldn't even think along those lines. Not many kids out there, aside from the Northville ones, are as much of a team player as Layne is."

great, yet she turned it around on the second nine. She came back strong both times on her second nines, so I would definitely say that her mental game is very strong."

Adrienne Downing
South Lyon

- Finished second overall in KVC
- All-KVC
- Nine-hole average of 45
- Shot season-low 37
- Qualified for State meet by finishing in second-place tie at Regional tournament
- "Adrienne was our most consistent player," Lions head coach Tegan Higgins said. "She was someone we could count on all year long for low scores. She led her team well. She made a statement this year by going to the State tournament and by finishing in the top three of the Regional. She definitely made herself stand out as one of the best players in the state. She is very consistent with her iron and her drives are very long."

Melissa Mihalic
South Lyon

- Second team All-KVC
- Nine-hole average of 47
- Shot a season-low 40
- "Melissa is a very hard worker," Lions head coach Tegan Higgins said. "She puts a lot of pressure on herself, and she definitely goes out there focused for every match. Her strengths lie in her mental game. She had a couple times at both the Pre- and Post-KVC, where her first nine was not

Milkovich said. "Her highest score in nine-hole matches was a 46. She's competitive and she's mentally tough. She doesn't let herself get too high or too low. She keeps the ball in play and is smart enough to get herself out of trouble when she is in trouble. She doesn't take too many chances, and she's usually somewhere around the green."

Emily Tucker
Lakeland

- Finished third overall in Kensington Valley Conference
- All-KVC
- Nine-hole average of 42.8
- 18-hole average of 88
- Combined with teammate Emily Tucker to place first with 76 at Hartland Best Ball Tournament
- Lindsay is very consistent
- Eagles' head coach Tom

Nine-hole average of 45.3

- 18-hole average of 86.5
- Qualified for State tournament, where she shot season-low 78
- Combined with teammate Lindsay Pipkin to place first with 76 at Hartland best ball tournament
- "Emily worked really hard this year," Eagles head coach Tom Milkovich said. "She had a great pro working with her. She saw him at least once a week, and that's one of the reasons that she came on at the end of the season. Her confidence was really high at the end of the year after working with him. She has a long ball and she's got a good iron game."

All Area teams are picked by Sam Eggleston and Stan Frank. Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Novi News and the Northville Record. Stan Frank is the sports writer for the Milford Times and the South Lyon Herald.

TOP AREA TENNIS STARS

2004 All-Area Tennis Dream Team

Brian Schubert
Milford

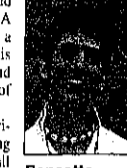
- Individual champion at No. 1 singles for third consecutive season in Kensington Valley Conference
- Finished runner-up at Regional tournament for third consecutive season
- Advanced to State quarterfinals for third consecutive season
- Registered 21-2 overall record
- Went 10-0 in KVC

opposed to staying back and waiting for the other guy to miss, whereas before he was constructing a point from the baseline.

"I thought he was really impressive as a high school team player. A lot of guys that are as good as Brian are just not going to buy into the whole high school team thing. They're going to win their matches and be done with it, but Brian was all about the team. He was real supportive of his teammates."

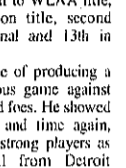
Brian Bensette
Senior
Northville

- WLLA champion
- Helped team to WLLA title, Western Division title, second place in Region and 13th in Division I
- Bensette is the kind of player that a team can build around. A leader, a strong tennis player and capable of winning against a variety of playing styles are all aspects of Bensette's time at Northville. He has proved himself to be competent on the court as well as off and was an integral part of the success Northville enjoyed this year. His will be a tough role to fill come next season.



Jon Lee
Senior
Northville

- Helped team to WLLA title, Western Division title, second place in Regional and 13th in Division I
- Lee is capable of producing a quick and furious game against the most talented foes. He showed his moxy time and time again, taking on such strong players as those that hail from Detroit Catholic Central and Novi as well as his play in the conference this season. Being a senior, Lee was looked to as a leader and an example for the few underclassmen on the Northville squad. As one of eight seniors, he was also looked to as a friend and a steady player that could be counted on. He excelled in every aspect of



Brett Hawthorne
Milford

- Registered an 18-3 overall record at No. 2 singles
- Went 9-1 in Kensington



Two of Novi's top players were selected to the 2004 All-Area Tennis Dream Team. Both are top-notch players and both fit right in with their peers who also made the list of the best of the best. LEFT: Prasanna Venugopal played in one of the toughest flights this year in the KVC and came away with a 12-10 record. RIGHT: Suraj Ramachandran finished out his senior stanza with some impressive play.

Suraj Ramachandran
Senior
Novi

- Earned a 17-9 record at number one singles for Novi
- Helped squad to second place in the KVC, third in Regional and 12th in Division I
- Lost in state finals to eventual champion, John Pelton of Midland
- Ramachandran is a name that has become a household term in the tennis ranks of the Kensington Valley. Two years as a number one singles player and four total years on varsity have helped make Ramachandran a player to be remembered. His record against some of the best players in the Detroit Metro area helped solidify him as a force to be reckoned with through his senior stanza as well as his entire high school career.



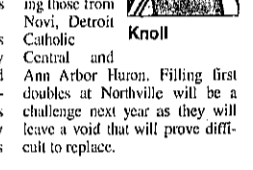
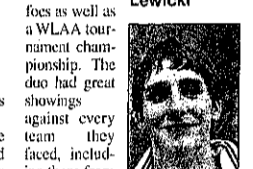
Prasanna Venugopal
Junior
Novi

- Earned a 12-10 record in his second season at two singles

they beat such strong duos as Aji Daneshwar and Chris Atallah of Catholic Central and Jake Izenberg and Zach Froelich of Ann Arbor Greenhills. Though Kotby graduated to bring an end to the remarkable time these two spent on the court, Fetters will return next season to no doubt be one of the top players on the Novi tennis squad in his senior year.

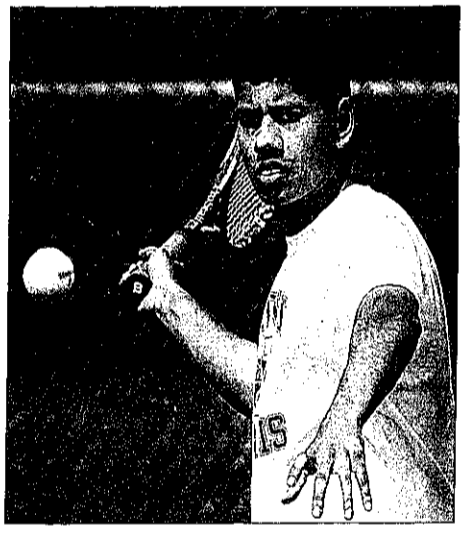
Matt Lewicki, Senior
Jackson Knoll, Senior

- WLLA Champions
- Helped team to Western Division title, Western Lakes Activities Association championship, second in the Regional and 13th in Division I at the state finals
- This duo made a point of making examples of nearly every team they faced throughout this year. The WLLA practically dropped and bowed at their feet as they cruised through with little trouble to claim a regular-season victory over their conference foes as well as a WLLA tournament championship. The duo had great showings against every team they faced, including those from Novi, Detroit Catholic Central and Ann Arbor Huron. Filling first doubles at Northville will be a challenge next year as they will leave a void that will prove difficult to replace.



Richie Fetters, Junior
Jeff Korby, Senior

- Put together a 19-5 mark this season
- Helped team to second in the KVC, third in the Regional and 12th in Division I at the state finals
- KVC Champions
- What else can be said about this doubles pair other than wow? They came, they saw, they conquered nearly every foe they faced together as the most productive doubles team at Novi. Together, they earned a 19-5 mark on the year as



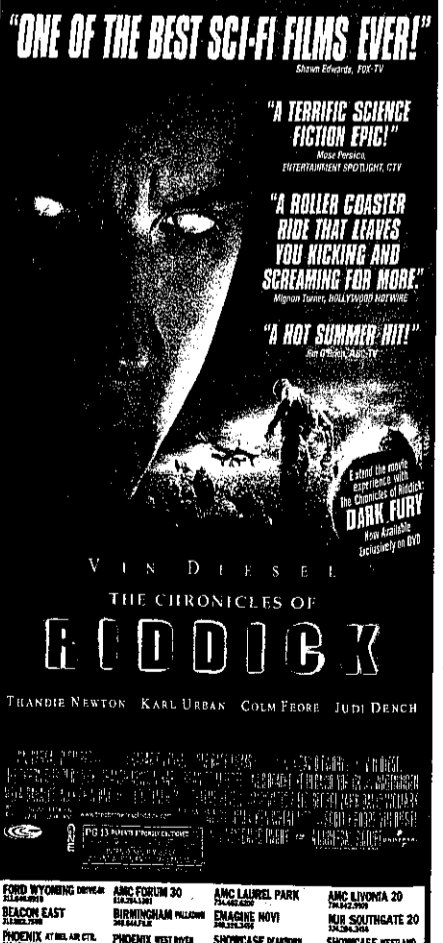
Photos by JOHN HEIDER



Novi's Laura Vaughn tees off on the second hole of Novi's River Bank golf course during a match in mid-May against Ann Arbor Huron.



Novi's Laura Vaughn tees off on the second hole of Novi's River Bank golf course during a match in mid-May against Ann Arbor Huron.



Novi's Laura Vaughn tees off on the second hole of Novi's River Bank golf course during a match in mid-May against Ann Arbor Huron.

Detroit Jaguars suffer first loss

The Detroit Jaguars minor league soccer team suffered their first loss of the season last week-end with a disappointing 3-2 loss to the extremely powerful Chicago Cobras.

Detroit, 4-0 going into the weekend, came out a bit flat in the first half and wasn't able to fully recover from the 2-0 deficit at halftime.

"I think it took us almost the whole first half to realize that we could actually play with them," said head coach Laura Fedrigo. "It wasn't until halftime that we started to calm down. It is fairly intimidating for a first year team to play against a team where we have been watching four or five of their starters playing on tv for the last few years."

Chicago came out strong by high pressing all over the field, leading to a number of turnovers and early chances. The Cobras capitalized with two great goals in the first half.

The Jaguars turned it around in the second half, when Jes Hupe finished a penalty just eight minutes in.

The Cobras countered with a goal just three minutes later, but the Jaguars wouldn't back down. They hit the post four more times in the half and finally capitalized when stellar forward Therese Heaton finished a ball from the corner.

"It was a tough loss, but also a good gauge for us and the rest of the season. We will be more prepared the second time around," commented Fedrigo.

It's All-Star time!

Last year, the East squads split the Classic in their games against the West. The girls earned a 7-3 victory to even the all-time record out at 2-2. The boys fell 10-7 to put the record at 3-1 in favor of the East.

Comprising the West will be players from Brighton, Hartland, Fowlerville, Pinckney and Howell while the East will have players from Novi, Northville, Milford, Lakeland and South Lyon.

The softball game is slated for 5 p.m. June 22 at Hartland High School. The baseball game will be played June 23 at the same place and time.

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AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

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When we asked Novi elementary students....

What are you going to do during summer vacation?

...here's how they answered!

**Ms. Copling
2nd Grade
Orchard Hills**

Melissa - I am going to travel somewhere but we don't know where yet.

Yoshi - I am going to travel to New Jersey.

Nick - I am going to be going to Chicago to visit the Sears Tower and museums and visit with my mom's friends.

Kristen - I am going to Cedar Point in Ohio with my cousins.

Mark - I am going to my grandma's house to catch frogs and paint rocks. I like to do that.

Chesca - my whole family is going to the Philippines.

Adam - I going to Port Austin to the beach there, but I don't know who is going with us yet.

Ariana - my cousin is getting a pool and we are going to be swimming in it all night because I am spending the night there.

Meliana - I am going to go to church camp with my friends.

Jessica - my whole family is going to New York to see my dad's friends.

Jason - I am going to my grandma's house in Farmington to spend the night.

Julia - We're not really going to do anything

Sparsh - I will go to India and do some shopping. I will go on a plane and bring my things.

Matt - I hope I go to Florida so I can go to Disney World and Wonder Works. Also Universal Studios so I can go on so many roller coasters like Space Mountain and Splash Mountain and making up a roller coaster.

Dana - I don't know where I am going for summer vacation.

Callie - I might go to Florida, or I might just stay home. It would be fun either way.

Kara - I am going to Maryland. I can't wait because I just moved from Maryland five months ago. I can't wait!

Maybank - I'll be away. I am going to go to Traverse City.

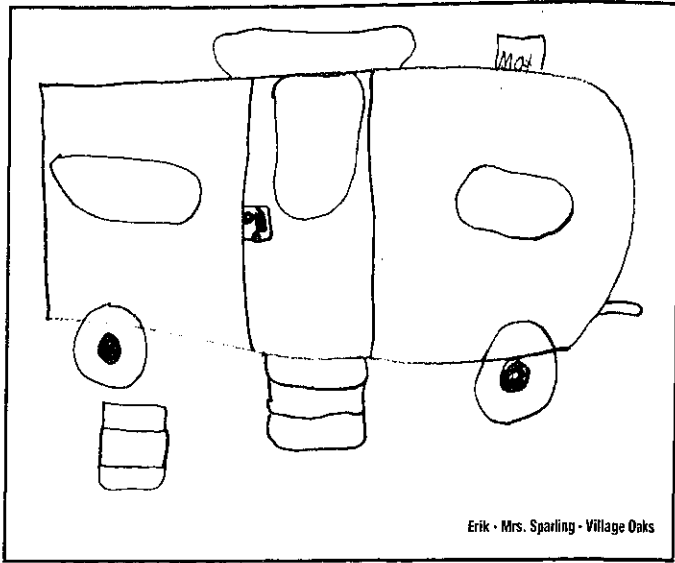
Hannah - I might go to a summer camp. My mom decided for me to go there. I think it's going to be lots of fun.

Stephane - I might go to Mexico for summer vacation.

Nicolette - I might go to California.

Kailey - I'm going to be in the 4th of July parade. And on June 13 I'm going to my friend's birthday party. And of course I'm going to do a lot of swimming at the Novi Sports Club and Plum Hollow. Plus play with my friends.

Autumn - I'm going to be in the 4th of July parade. And on June 13 I'm going to my friend's birthday party. And of course I'm going to do a lot of swimming at the Novi Sports Club and Plum Hollow. Plus play with my friends.



Erik - Mrs. Spurling - Village Oaks

Janifer - I am going to go to Massachusetts for about two weeks.

Jacob - I'm going to Cedar Point with my family.

Katherine - I am going to England. That is where I am from. Also, Hilton Head, South Carolina. I am going to Camp Detective, horse riding and sports camp. I will also play with friends and relax. I can't wait till summer!

Sunny - I am going to Six Flags! We will have so much fun. But if we're not going, then we'll go to Cedar Point. I can't wait till summer vacation!

Berstone - I am going to Macinac Island and I am going to 2 water parks.

Kate - I'm going to play with my friend Nicole Colbert in her great pool!

Katherine - I'm gonna be traveling the entire East Coast of the U.S. in June. And in July-August, my baby-sitter Gigi is going to take us to the Novi Sports Club! And that's pretty much my summer!

Rita - I'm going camping with my friend Frederick. After camping, we're going to China to visit my grandma and grandpa.

Collin - I am going to go to Cancun and have a fun summer. And I will have sleepovers.

Lisa - I'm going to go to summer camp. I went to summer camp last year and it was really fun. I might be going to South Carolina to visit my cousin, aunt and uncle. My cousin is 14 years old.

Phillip - I will probably go to Makinaw. Makinaw Island is known to me by a judge sheep on every street. Visiting parts of Michigan is very fun!

Bobby - I'm going to my cottage and robot camp.

Milly - I'm guessing that over the summer, I'm not going to have a lot of fun, except maybe if you call bike-riding fun. My parents are considering going camping, but I hate the bugs and the drenching grass! But maybe I'll go to awesome summer camps and meet new friends.

Toshiki - Having fun going to a trip to Roanoke, VA to play with old friends.

Rena - I am going to try as hard as I can to learn Greek. Also some summers I go to a family reunion. My favorite part about summer vacation is I can play outside a lot.

Rohan - Me and my family look forward to go to India on a plane. I'm excited to go because in our house in India, we have a dog named Crunchy. I can't wait until summer break.

Kristina - I'm going to write a story about a lamb that can fly with my friends.

Jolo - I will get my squirt guns out and shoot people. Also I will go in the pool.

Ferdinand - I am looking forward to reading and playing with my friends.

Ashley - I will go swimming, have a summer party with some of my friends. Some of my friends and my mom's friends that we don't see often might come over. We even will probably go to a famous landmark in another state!

Yoko - I am going to Japan to see my grandma and grandpa.

Gi Young - I'm going to Lava Lava Island Camp with my friends! I can't wait!

Takumi - I go to Japan for period of time. I want to see my friends and teacher.

Brandon - I'm going to hang out with my friends. And I'm going to summer camp.

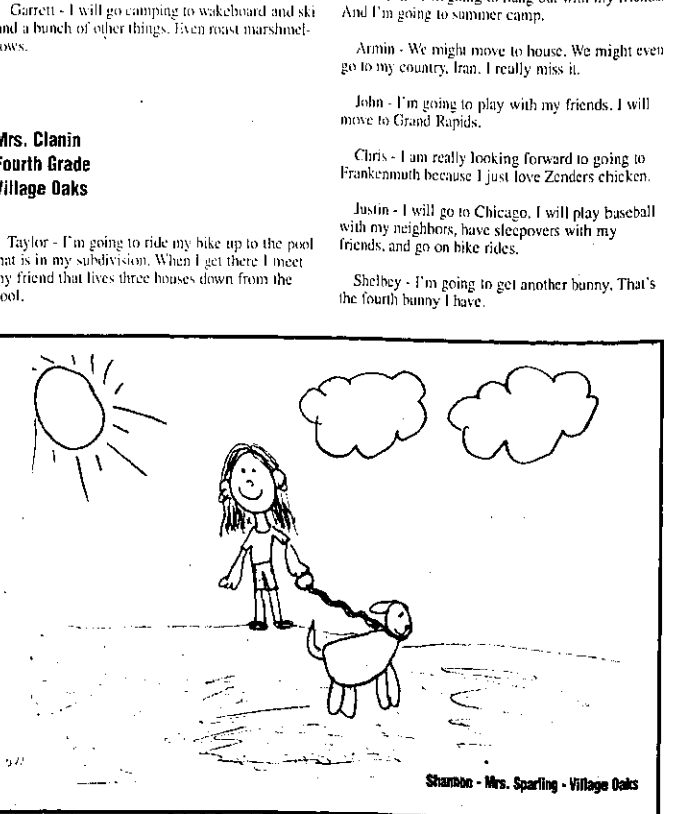
Armin - We might move to house. We might even go to my country, Iran. I really miss it.

John - I'm going to play with my friends. I will move to Grand Rapids.

Chris - I am really looking forward to going to Frankenthumb because I just love Zenders chicken.

Justin - I will go to Chicago. I will play baseball with my neighbors, have sleepovers with my friends, and go on bike rides.

Shelby - I'm going to get another bunny. That's the fourth bunny I have.



Shannon - Mrs. Spurling - Village Oaks



Robert - Mrs. Spurling - Village Oaks

Sho - I'm probably going to visit Japan.

Kelly - I am going to go to my grandma's cottage with my friends. And I'll be packing boxes to move.

Katie - I'm going to teach my angel fish to follow my finger back and forth and up and down.

Anthony - I am going to go to Disneyworld this summer! I am going to go on rides, beaches and all kinds of things. I hope it isn't too hot!

Robert - In the summer I will sell my house. It will be an open house. I hope it gets sold.

Unknown - Every year, my grandpa rents a houseboat, but this year he is going to rent two for more people. I'm really excited to see my cousins. Sometimes I don't get to see them because one houseboat isn't enough room. But not this year!

**Mrs. Spurling
Fourth Grade
Village Oaks**

Mikael - I'm going to Branson Missouri for my sister's dance competition. I'm looking forward to going because we don't take many vacations. That is why I am excited.

Elyssa - I'll be going camping up north in Ludington! Every year I go with my dad, sister, step-mom, step brother, and dog! A few other families go too. We swim in the river that leads to Lake Michigan and at the beach cafe there they have the best cotton candy. Yum! From our pop-up to playing cards with the people we go with, I can't wait to go camping!

**Karen Smith
Kindergarten
Deerfield**

Tamara - I am going to Germany to go on the water slide.

Kaitlyn - I am going to California.

Spencer - I am going to the Disney Cruise Line.

Madhumita - I will go to Canada.

Unknown - I went to my aunts house and we play lots of games and we play Uno.

Samantha - My summer goals for the Sports Club of Novi Gymnastics... 1. To get my back handspring back tuck. 2. Back handspring on beam. 3. Gaint on bars.

Shannon - I'm going to N.C. I will stay with my grandma and grandpa. I want to play with my dog, Maggie.

Brad - I want to go to France.

Jordan - I want to go to Camp Invention.

Fernanda - I want to go to 6 Flags again! It is the best.

Alison - My family and I are renting 2 cottages. My grandma and grandpa, aunts and uncles, and cousins from my dad's side of the family are going to be there! My intermediate family owns a boat and my uncle owns a wave runner! I get to ride them both, how fun! I can't wait!

Erik - I'm looking forward to going camping.

Cacey - I'm excited to go to Cedar Point this summer. Every year my family and my cousins go to Cedar Point. My mom and me and my cousins go on the bigger rides and my brother and my aunt and my little cousins go on the smaller rides. I have gone on every single big ride there. I love to go to Cedar Point. I can't wait till next year.

Brett - I'm going to Disney World. I can't wait to go on all of the rides. I also can't wait to go to the water park.

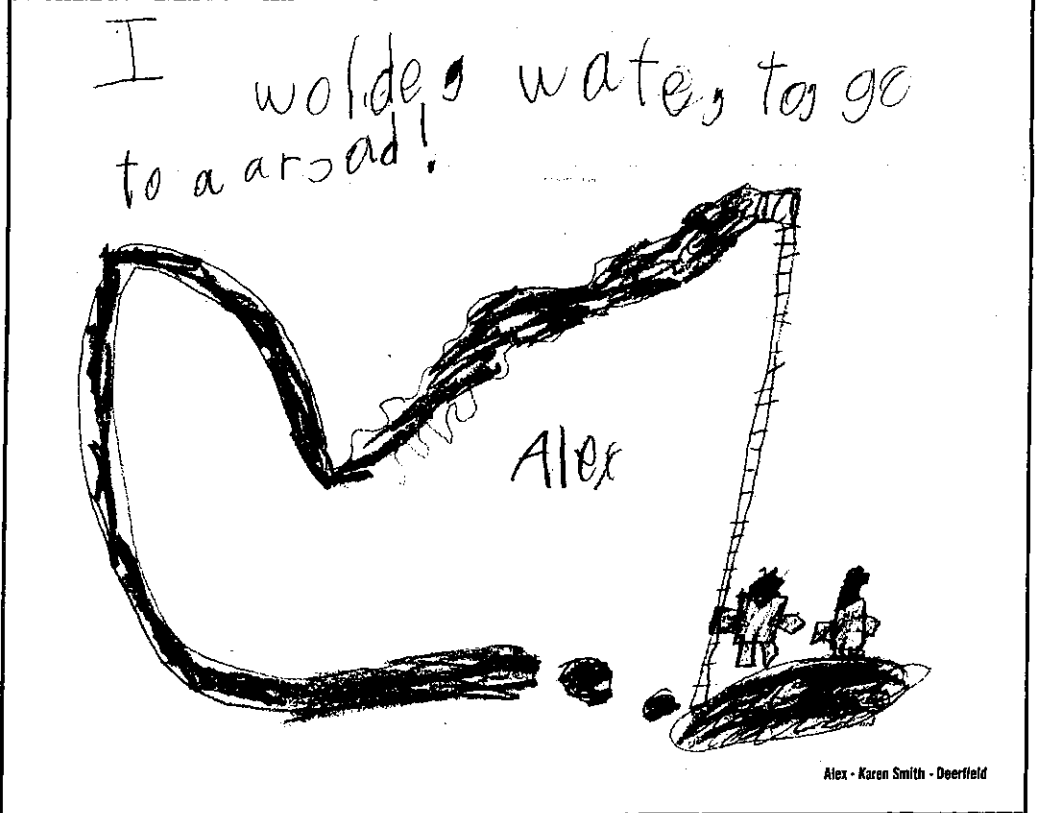
Colleen - Things I will look forward to this summer. 1. My birthday July 5. 2. My papa, aunt, and uncle are coming in June with a R.V. 3. When I go to my cousins to have sleepovers when my parents are out of town. 4. Going to basketball camp in July.

Ryan - I want to go the Grand Canyon in Arizona to see the Colorado river and to take a donkey down to the bottom.

Rafael - This year I am going to south Dakota. I am going to Mount Rushmore to see the president's faces.

Andrew - I can't wait for summer because we're going to Philadelphia. Our hotel is near the 2nd biggest mall in the U.S.A. We're also going to see the Liberty Bell. I can't wait!

Austin - My mom, my stepbrothers, my stepdad, and I are going to Islands of Adventure! This is an amusement park in Orlando, Florida. I'm riding a roller coaster called Dueling Dragons.



Alex - Karen Smith - Deerfield

Sonia - I like to go to the playground.

Heather - I want to go to the pool.

Unknown - I want to go to the beach and dig my friend.

Kamryn - Busch Gardens.

Jeffrey - I want to go to China.

Unknown - I'm going to Ohio.

Unknown - I'm going to Cedar Point on summer vacation.

Connor - I want to go to MGM.

Heather Stewart
Kindergarten
Deerfield Elementary

Yoon Hee - I am going to Florida and I am going to have lots of fun and go swimming.

Jack - I am going to play basketball.

Dylan - I am going to England and I might go to Cedar Point.

Joshua - I'm going to go to Yellow Stone. We are going up the cliffs and in the pool with our friends! We are going to go in a car on the way

Sanjana - I am going to India and Florida.

Raveena - To the park half day, but I like the park a lot!

Gina - To the pool.

Paul - I am going to Chicago and see my aunt Kelly.

Unknown - I am going to England to see my nanna and granddad. I will have fun!

Summer - I am going to go on vacation with my cat and dog.

Leah - I hope I will not get stung by a bee. I will get to go to Cedar Point. At Cedar Point I will go on the Iron Dragon and the indoor ride.

Chris - I will go camping because I like to roast marshmallows.

Chase - I will go to Arizona and live there.

Unknown - I will celebrate my birthday. I like it a lot.

Neha - I am going to swimming class and to the park. It is going to be fun.

Max - I am going to Germany. I am going with two other families. The Adams hooked it up on the computer. It will be fun.

Yoriko - I am staying home but I am going to the pool. Also, I will play with my friends. I will play with my baby brother and sister too.

Abrigali - I am going to Mackinac Island in July. I'm going with people that work for my dad at B.D.'s Mongolian B.B.Q. We are going to have lots of fun at Mackinac Island. I love Mackinac Island. One time when I went to Mackinac Island, my dad, sister and I went for a bike ride, and when we rode our bike, I got mud all over my back. Mackinac Island is fun!

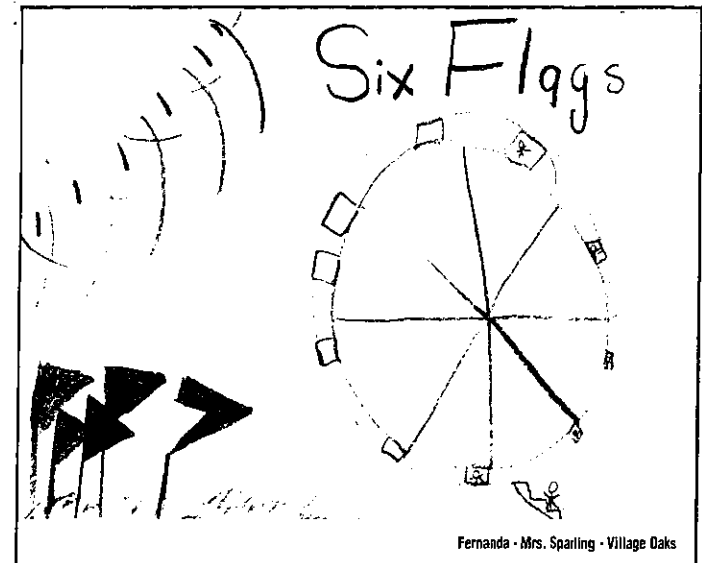
Eric - I want to sell some of my Yu-gi-oh and Pokemon cards. I also want to watch ESPN sports and play machine pitch baseball. I also want to have sleepovers and go swimming in my next door neighbors pool. I hope it will be a great summer!!

Evani - I would sleep in and watch ESPN in the morning. In the afternoon I'll play lots of sports like basketball, soccer, football and more. In the night, maybe I'll get invited to one of my cousin's house and have a sleepover. I hope it never ends.

Allyson - I am going to Las Vegas in the summer for vacation. I am going in the car. My mom is going on the airplane. Maybe my grandma is going with my mom. Or my uncle Jeff. If he cannot come my aunt Mellane might come.

Rachel - I can't wait until summer because we're going to Chicago! My dad and brother are going to the sports hall of fame. In Chicago we're going to the American Girl doll factory. We're also going to a house by the ocean. There is a pool and hot tub. I hope we have fun!

Stephanie - I am going to Florida on my summer vacation. I am going to Disney World too. We might see my cousins and their parents. I hope it is a fun and exciting trip to Florida. PS - I hope we go by airplane.



Fernando - Mrs. Spurling - Village Oaks

because we're going to have a new baby.

David - I am going to Beijing to see the Great Wall of China.

Emmanuel - I am going to stay home and swim in the swimming pool.

Yusuke - I am going back to Japan with my family to see my grandmother and my grandfather and my friend.

Vivay - I am not going anywhere. I am just going to stay at CARE because my parents both work.

Seiya - Everyday I am going to go to the pool to cool off.

Jeremy - I am not going anywhere but I am going to swim in my pool at my house.

Patrick - I am going to go swimming and go putt-putt.

Robbie - I will be going to "Kids Camp"

Emily - I am probably going to Kentucky to the horse park for my summer vacation. My family is going with me.

Colter - I am going to Colorado. I am going fishing and I am going to see my cousin. I might be there for 2 or 1 week. Then my cousin is coming here.

Brendan - I might go to Boston this summer. I will play kid pitch baseball for the Giants. I would like to go to Vans Skate Park. I might go to the Total Sports batting cages at 30 mph.

Derek - I might go to my cottage.

**Mrs. Stevenson
Third Grade
Parkview**

Dakota - I am going to go to a concert and going camping.

Jordan - I am going up north.

Andrew - Stay at home!!!!!!!

Maureen - I am going to Ohio. After I come back and play with my friends, then we go to the Sports Club to swim.

Ryan - I am going to play baseball.

Sam - I am going to try to read all of the Harry Potter books. Oh, and I am going to Boston!

Keegan - I am going to hang out and play with my friends and maybe travel out of town to California or Toronto!!

**Hanci Dutkiewicz
Third Grade
Parkview Elementary**

Matt - I'm going to Maine.

Drew - I am going to stay home most of the time and go swimming.

Kelsey - My grandma and grandpa are coming up from Florida. I'm going to six or seven day camps. I can't wait for summer!

Alan - I am going to Florida.

Damon - Play on my trampoline and riding my bike.

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Novi News

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Don't drive away with more than your budget can handle

Automakers continue to woo would-be car buyers with generous rebates and low interest financing on many popular trucks and cars.

They're also courting recent college graduates with attractive manufacturer incentive programs that include cash rebates, deferred payment options and no down payment plans. Ford, for example, offers grads a \$400 cash rebate, no money down, and 120-day deferral payment on many of its models.



Mary Davis

Toyota, Saturn, and Scion are offering similar incentive programs for some of their models. Generous as these incentives are, they should be used only after consideration of financial obligations and goals. Student loans, rent and utilities can quickly gobble up an entry-level salary leaving little money to save, or pay off credit card debt. Graduating students have an average of \$20,402 in combined education loan and credit card balances, according to recent studies. The average number of credit cards per college student is 4.25. Given this level of debt, it's not surprising that personal bankruptcy filings are growing fastest among people 25 years of age and younger.

If you're contemplating buying a new car, consider postponing your purchase until you're comfortable enough with your finances to save regularly in addition to paying your other bills. (You may also want to give some serious consideration to buying a late-model used car.)

The following are some goals you may wish to accomplish before you make your purchase, whether new or used.

Create a budget

Before you can think about buying a car — or anything else for that matter — you've got to know whether you can afford the monthly payment. A budget will give you an understanding of the money coming in and going out of your bank account each month. Begin by listing all sources of income and then list your fixed expenses. Your fixed expenses remain the same from month to month; examples of these would be rent, utilities and student loan payments. Next, list all of your fluid expenses, such as entertainment, clothes, dry cleaning, haircuts, etc. Now subtract your fixed expenses from your income. The money left over — your disposable income — is what you can theoretically use for a car payment. Remember, you'll want some cushioning in your budget — money left over every month that you know you won't have to use to cover expenses. It's difficult to break the cycle of living paycheck to paycheck once you've begun.

Pay off your credit card debt

If you're saddled with credit card debt, set a goal for when you want your debt paid off, and figure out how much you have to pay each month to reach your goal. Have the money automatically deducted from your paycheck each month and deposited in a separate account. Don't use the account for anything else except to pay off your credit cards.

Establish an emergency fund

Once your credit card debt is paid off, you'll want to start building an emergency fund that's equal to at least three to six months' worth of living expenses.

Improve your credit

Interest rates, auto insurance premiums, apartment rent, and even certain employment opportunities are all influenced by credit. If you don't know your credit score, order your credit report as soon as possible. You can order credit reports online from all three credit reporting agencies — Equifax (www.equifax.com), TransUnion (www.transunion.com) and Experian (www.experian.com). A single online credit report costs about \$9. To get both your credit report and your credit score, you'll pay about \$13. If your score is below 750, resolve to improve it by paying your bills on time and living within your means.

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League. Send questions to "Your Money Matters" c/o the Michigan Credit Union League, P.O. Box 8054, Plymouth, MI 48170-8054, or mcd@mcul.org.

Advertorial



Dayn Benson, owner and president of the local branch of My Handyman, hires professional workers with years of experience to get the job done right. He also requires employee drug testing and often hires pros with 15 to 20 years of experience.

My Handy solves problems

By Annette Jaworski
SPECIAL WRITER

HOME MAINTENANCE LIST

- Taking care of a home takes continuous maintenance, have you remembered these spring chores?
- Gutter and downspout cleaning and repair
- Inspect exterior caulking
- Power washing exterior surfaces that need cleaning
- Repair drippy faucets
- Repair siding
- Brick and tile work
- Install screens for windows and screen doors
- Fix door jams, hinges
- Fence repair
- Wood repair
- Painting exterior doors
- Install locks and deadbolts

And painting too!
To compliment their services, My Handyman now has added indoor painting to their list of repair and maintenance skills.

"It's really taken off, mainly it was by customers' request. We've had enough people asking about it," said Dayn Benson, owner and president of the local branch of My Handyman.

It made perfect sense for them to include painting in their repertoire, since they're capable of handling all those other miscellaneous tasks that somehow seem to crop up. They can complete the job from start to finish, because they can repair that drywall or fix the crown moulding at the same time.

Jack of all trades

My Handyman provides a one-stop shop where customers can get five different trades with just one visit. No need to call several tradesmen.

"In one visit we can do multiple tasks, such as fix drywall, minor plumbing or electrical, put up those shelves and clean the

lock up and they're gone," said Brueger.

Professionals only

Benson also realized that frequently the handyman trade lacked a level of professionalism. He decided to change that with the opening of his business. He's careful in selecting and coordinating employees with the appropriate talent and skills.

"We hire a lot of guys with 15 to 20 years of professional experience. We screen them and require a drug test," he explained.

For an added sense of security, My Handyman employees wear uniforms and drive a company truck. They're also geographically located throughout many local communities, and are often residents of the local neighborhood.

"We're different. We're different than the guy with the station wagon and a ladder," he added.

Benson believes in the simple courtesies of cleaning up after jobs as well. Most people are so happy with the results and relieved that their problems are solved, they wonder why they've waited so long.

Michael Brueger of Mercedes Benz in Ann Arbor was impressed at the level of professionalism he experienced when using My Handyman. He admits, that he doesn't have the time or skills for those projects, for example, some finish carpentry work they completed in his home. It's a relief to have someone with the proper skills that can be trusted.

"He's got professional help that takes care of all the things I need them to do. They're the kind of people you can let in your home, you know when they're done, they'll clean up,

of year, they can tackle those warm weather tasks like installing screens on windows and doors as well as make sure those gutters are clean.

My Handyman can handle repairs for homeowners and commercial businesses in western Wayne, Livingston, Washtenaw and Oakland County. Charges are by the hour. Small jobs don't lend themselves to estimates; however they can give you an idea about the cost of most routine chores. Call (877) MyHandy, (877) 694-2639 or visit their website at www.myhandyman.com.

Benson notes they do more than repairs; think of them for routine chores. In fact, this time

lock up and they're gone," said Brueger.

Benson is proud to note that one of their technicians was a national finalist for Mr. Handyman of the Year, Mike Morton. It's a prestigious honor for the local franchise that Morton was in the top 1 percent of all technicians nationally; judged on customer satisfaction, prompt arrival and experience. The Mr. Handyman franchise was also recently featured on a segment of the Oprah show.

Benson notes they do more than repairs; think of them for routine chores. In fact, this time



Mike Morton was named as a national finalist for Mr. Handyman of the Year. It's a prestigious honor for the local franchise that Morton was in the top 1 percent of all technicians nationally; judged on customer satisfaction, prompt arrival and experience.

"To Do" List Out Of Control?

One call does it all with My Handyman.

On time. Done right.™

INSIDE OR OUTSIDE, MY HANDYMAN CAN TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING ON YOUR "TO DO" LIST.

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REPAIR

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\$25.00 OFF

When you hire My Handyman for 2 hours (or more) of work in your home, we will take \$25.00 off the total service amount.

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248-486-9305 or 800-770-4099

We have 16 convenient locations in the Metro Detroit area.