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MONDAY
APRIL 12, 1993

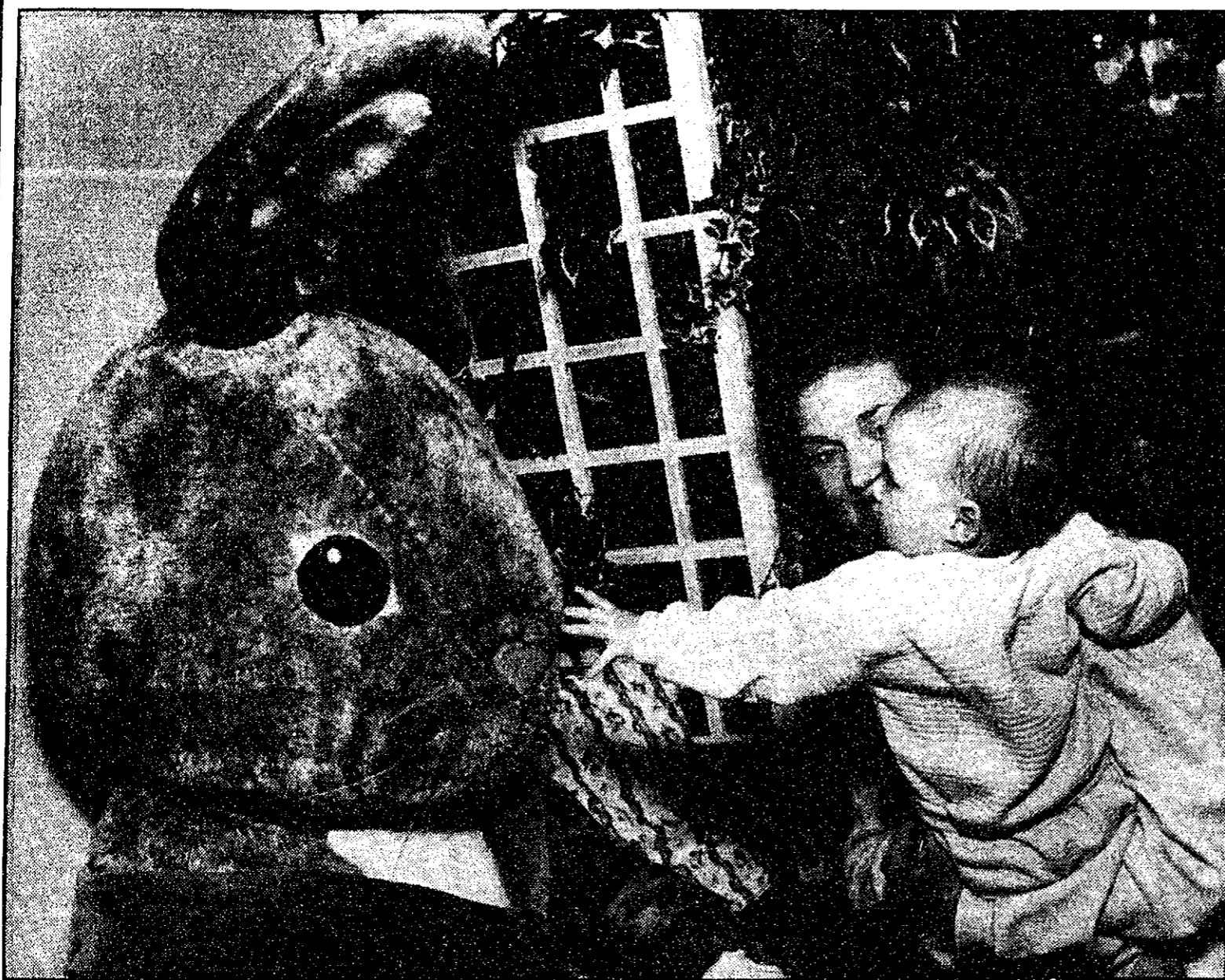
Volume 37
Number 99
One Section
12 Pages plus Supplements

NOVI NEWS

Opinions THE PEOPLE GET THE GOVERNMENT THEY DESERVE / 4A

Dining A LOOK AT INTERNAL MEXICAN COOKING / 5A

Sports NOVI SOFTBALLERS DOWN SOUTH LYON / 7A



4-12-93

Checking out Peter's nose

Peter Rabbit was in Novi last week at Twelve Oaks Mall, meeting with local youngsters and finding out about their wishes were for the Easter holiday. Samantha Koss, 1, decided it

would be more appropriate to give Peter's nose a good firm squeeze. Mother Autumn holds Samantha up so she can get a good grip.

Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

Proposal will reform taxes, schools' aid

By RANDY COBLE
Staff Writer

Michigan's voters will decide if they want to overhaul the state's system of school financing when they cast their ballots on a new plan June 2.

The ballot proposal was passed by the state legislature on March 31, and is vigorously supported by Gov. John Engler. Its major features include:

■ Raising the state sales tax from 4 to 6 cents per dollar, and constitutionally reserving that money and state lottery proceeds for school funding;

(Nothing in the plan guarantees that the state's general fund would cover any funding shortfalls districts may incur once those monies are exhausted, however. Some observers consequently label the plan a version of the "Lotto scam," where the state guaranteed revenues from the lottery would go to education, and then proportionally reduced its general fund contributions to local school districts.)

■ Capping yearly property tax assessment increases at a maximum of 5 percent;

■ Providing a one-year delay before an owner has to pay taxes on a property's new tax assessment figure (the idea being to provide an opportunity to appeal assessments

■ Michigan's 440,000 community college students will pay higher tuition — perhaps for reduced programming — if state budget trends continue. The story is on page 2.

before paying taxes on them);

■ Reducing millage rates to a base of 18 mills (from a current average in school districts of about 35), with an absolute cap of 27 mills;

■ Requiring voter approval for any millage above the 18-mill base;

■ Guaranteeing each district a base per pupil spending figure of \$4,800 per year, linked to yearly changes in revenue growth;

(Districts that levy the 27-mill maximum next year — likely to be the case in Novi — will be guaranteed their current per-pupil figure plus a 3-percent increase. For Novi, that means about \$7,013 per pupil for the 1993-94 school year.

According to published figures, some 244 school districts would see their millage rates drop by 16 mills or more; 200 would see a drop of 10-16 mills; 81 districts would see a

Continued on 2

Science for kids means learning's lots of fun

By CRISTINA FERRIER
Staff Writer

Tollgate's summer science program — a series of hands-on science experiments for kids age 7-13 — was such a success last year that it's back for an encore.

The program gives kids a chance to learn by doing while they meet "real, live scientists" who work for universities and various industries.

And the cost is comparable to the cost of many regular daycare programs.

"This is a science exploration program," said organizer Denise Seipke, who works with Tollgate in cooperation with the Michigan State University extension programs.

"It allows them to explore through a variety of hands-on means with real live scientists. Last year we had volunteers from Wayne State, Oakland Community College, Microbot Industries, the Department of Natural Resources and the Metro Beach Nature Center. We hope to also have someone from

"We ate lunch with scientists from eight different departments (13 total). They ate with the students and during lunch they talked about careers in their fields. The kids were so excited to be eating with real, live scientists."

Denise Seipke

Eastern Michigan University this year, as we've been working quite closely with them."

And in the course of last year's week-long sessions, students explored computers and robotics, made videos, built rockets, and used a microscope to do water purity studies.

They also dissected owl pellets, which was one of the highlights of the program.

"An owl pellet looks like a little gray egg," Seipke explained. Owls eat small birds and mammals, then regurgitate the inedible animal parts in the form of these pellets.

"When you open them up you

Continued on 2

City obtains land purchase option

Novi has obtained an option to buy 64 acres of land at the corner of Nine Mile and Napier roads for \$745,000. The city has until April 30 to exercise that option. According to the deal worked out between the seller and Novi City Council, it will also receive a donation of 41 acres.

The total 105 acre parcel will give the city the land it needs to develop ballfields for Novi Youth Baseball, which will begin playing there as the summer season begins next year.

Novi Parks and Recreation Director Dan Davis said landowner Peter Stanaj signed the option shortly after the council voted to revise the

purchase agreement late last month. The revision was to reduce the amount of land being purchased at the location from the full 105 acres to 64. Stanaj promised he would donate the remaining 41 acres. By donating the land rather than selling it, he will be eligible for a tax deduction for the \$272,000 value of the 41 acres.

Davis said environmental and percolation tests will be taking place over the next two weeks. He hopes to have results ready for the council by its April 19 meeting.

If all goes according to plan, the city would be-

gin the site planning process and put out bid specifications for site work in May, Davis said. Once the land has been graded, Davis said he believes two seedings could be accomplished this year, one in August and another in early October.

With that done, the ballfields would be ready for play in the summer of 1994. The parks department could install backstops, restrooms and the parking lot either this year or early next year. They will be relatively minor projects, Davis said.



Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

Gas spill

Novi firefighters were searching Thursday afternoon for the source of an apparent gas spill in the Rouge River. Firefighters searched the drain pipes in the vicinity of Grand River near Flint Street and checked three manholes. Two were dry but a third was found to have a mixture of gasoline and water flowing in it. Pictured is Novi Firefighter Jim Morris as he climbs

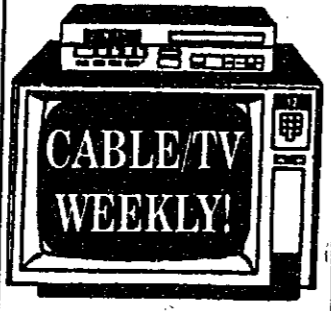
out of a pipe that allows the Rouge to flow under Grand River. Gasoline found in a storm sewer at the site was flowing into the river from that drainpipe. The amount of gasoline involved, as well as its source, had still not been determined as of presstime.

inside

CALENDAR	2A
CLASSIFIEDS	9A
COLUMNS	4A
DINING	5A
EDITORIALS	4A
NOVI BRIEFS	3A
POLICE NEWS	3A
SPORTS	7A

NEWS/SPORTS349-1700
ADVERTISING349-1700
CLASSIFIEDS349-3024
HOME DELIVERY349-3627

WHAT'S INSIDE?



Community Calendar

Today, April 12

City Council: The Novi City Council will meet at 8 p.m. in the council chambers of the Novi City Center.

Health tests: Community EMS will sponsor blood pressure testing and cholesterol testing in the Novi Civic Center from 7:30-9 p.m. in conjunction with the Novi City Council meeting.

Library Board: The Novi Library Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi library building.

American Business Women's Assoc.: The Novi Oaks Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association will meet at Country Epicure Restaurant on Grand River. Social Hour is at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. followed by a general membership meeting. Cost is \$15.

Tuesday, April 13

Band rehearsal: The Novi Concert Band rehearses at 7:30 p.m. in the band room at Novi High School. For more information on the group, call manager Warren Ledger at 348-2955.

Camera Club: The Novi Camera Club meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center. For more information, call Hugh Crawford at 349-5079.

Wednesday, April 14

Lions Club: The Novi Lions Club will meet at Kim's Gardens at 6:30 p.m. for dinner followed by a meeting.

Seniors potluck: The Novi Senior Social Club will gather at noon in the Novi Civic Center for their monthly potluck luncheon.

SPARK: The Society for the Preservation of American Racing Knowledge, the all-volunteer support organization for the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America, meets at 7 p.m. at the Novi Expo Center. The meeting is open to anyone interested in supporting the Hall of Fame and Museum.

Youth baseball: The board of directors of Novi Youth Baseball meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center. The meeting is open to the public.

Golf Clinic: Bavarian Village Ski and Golf is offering a free pre-season golf clinic from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at their store in Novi Town Center south of I-96 on Novi Rd. Dennis Prebe is the golf pro and instructor. Bring your clubs and comfortable shoes.

Community colleges face unclear future due to state

By TIM RICHARD Staff Writer

Oakland Community College chancellor Patsy Fulton said her board is considering increasing tuition as much as 10 percent — \$4 a credit hour on the current base of \$41.

McDowell's Schoolcraft, in northwestern Wayne County, is studying a \$3 increase to \$43.

Fulton said OCC gets only 24 percent of its operating funds from state aid, 37 percent from property taxes, and a hefty 39 percent from tuition.

The state's funding formula visualizes the 29 community colleges getting 50 percent from state aid, 25 percent from property taxes and 25 percent from tuition.

Why? What's going awry in Lansing? The presidents blamed.

Flat state aid. The college got \$233 million (adjusted this year, Engler's two-year budget proposes \$233 million for 1994-95).

"We've never had such a prolonged (bad) period," said Jackson CC president Clyde LeTarte. Members of the House and Senate appropriations panels listened especially carefully to LeTarte because he is the Republican nominee in a special House election to fill a vacancy.

Property tax cuts. Last year the Legislature froze assessments. The new school reform proposal on the June 2 ballot would cap assessment growth but not college costs. It promises a 3 percent boost to kindergarten through 12th grade schools but nothing more to community colleges.

Retirement costs. State budgets have shifted more of these costs to

the colleges without providing matching dollars.

Fulton said OCC's costs rose by \$4.5 million from \$12.7 million in 1991 to \$17.1 million.

As employees leave, she said, at least half aren't being replaced.

Statewide, said Tom Bernthal of the Michigan Community College Association, health care and retirement costs are rising \$10.4 million this year.

"There is a new mandated program without funding this year — we must report to each high school the academic status of each student," Bernthal said.

For nearly two decades, the state gave Wayne County Community College a subsidy on top of state aid because voters steadfastly refused to

levy a local property tax.

Only after the Legislature voted to cut the \$7.3 million subsidy did WCC voters approve a millage. WCC includes Detroit, the two Redford school districts, Wayne-Westland, the east side and downriver suburbs.

Engler wants to use the recovered \$7.3 million elsewhere in the state's \$8 billion budget. Community college leaders, however, say it should be spread around the two-year colleges.

But Ken LaSalle, WCCC's vice president for administration, asked that his college be given \$2.3 million for one year only to cover "transition" costs. "There may be a cash flow problem," he said.

LaSalle said WCCC had cleaned house by reducing the full-time workforce by 100, turning over six of

Tollgate offers science for children

Continued from Page 1

can sometimes find up to three whole skeletons, and if you are very careful you can even put the skeletons back together," she said.

"We've found shrews, small birds, mice and moles. The pellets contain bones, hair, beaks, cartilages and sometimes you find caterpillar larvae." The pellets range from the size of a robin's egg to the size of a chicken egg, depending on the owl.

"Of course, the ones we use have been fumigated," Seipke added. "The way we don't have any germs. Usually with city and suburban kids the first fear is of germs."

It also eliminates the possibility of finding a live beetle in the pellet, as sometimes bugs will crawl into the pellets as they lie on the ground or a barn floor.

During the last week, after the sessions are over, participants in the program are given the opportunity to join in a field trip to Michigan State University for a day.

"Last year we toured the cyclotron lab," Seipke said. "We saw a video of how it works, then we had a tour of the lab."

"We also toured the Children's Garden and saw some very large structures covered with flowers. And we went into the Engineering lab and used the CAD (Computer Aided De-

sign) programs."

But the best part of that field trip was lunch, Seipke said.

"We ate lunch with scientists from eight different departments (113 total). They ate with the students and during lunch they talked about careers in their fields."

"The kids were so excited to be eating with real, live scientists."

Seipke said she has already been contacted by several of the parents who acted as chaperones on that trip.

"They've all told me how much fun they had and that they want to chaperone again," she laughed. "I don't know who enjoyed it more, the kids or the chaperones."

Because of additional outside funding, Seipke said, the cost of this year's program has been dropped to \$80 per session.

If you are interested in volunteering or signing up for the program, contact Seipke at 347-3860.

All sessions meet at Tollgate, which is located at 28115 Meadowbrook Road in Novi.

There are five separate week-long sessions, each meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$80 and some scholarships are available.

Sessions for age 7-9 are scheduled for July 5-9 and Aug. 2-6. Sessions for age 9-11 are July 12-16 and July 26-30. And a session for age 11-13 is set for July 19-23.

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Voters to decide fate of state's tax plan

Continued from Page 1

2-10 mill reduction; and 41 districts would see rollbacks of 2 mills or less. Novi currently assesses 29.2 mills for general operations.)

Categorical expenses — state contributions to employee Social Security and retirement payments, transportation and other operating costs — would be shifted to local school districts.

(The state would continue to provide money to districts for special education — some \$260,000 next year in Novi's case.)

State "recapturing" of funds from wealthier districts, as well as the entire in-formula/out-of-formula funding system for districts would be eliminated.

Most observers seem to agree that the school financing system in Michigan needs to be reformed, but some question if the ballot plan is the best way.

Some claim that the plan will raise taxes on the average individual: the sales tax increase and keeping property tax deductions on federal income tax returns don't offset the property tax cut. Others argue it will be a net tax cut for individuals in Michigan.

Engler's administration officials argue that position. According to estimates from the state treasury department, the plan would produce a net gain of \$775 million. In the following year, that figure would drop to \$178 million, according to the department, but would rise to a total of \$400 million by 1998.

Winning awards is the easy part

Life would be a breeze, if all we had to do was impress the judges of excellence in journalism contests. The Novi News has won 12 state and national awards for outstanding community journalism this year. In addition to earning the General Excellence Award from the Michigan Press Association, your hometown newspaper has also won two national awards from the National Newspaper Association and two more from Suburban Newspapers of America. The toughest judges of all, however, are you — our readers. Our secret to success? Give the people of Novi the type of paper they have come to expect, and impressing the judges will be easy.

theNOVI NEWS

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Marijuana found during traffic stop

Novi police stopped a 19-year-old Novi man for a traffic violation April 5 and found marijuana in the driver's possession.

According to police reports, the suspect was driving south on Boshuan north of Ten Mile shortly after midnight. When officers stopped him they asked what was in a brown sack sitting on the passenger seat and the suspect opened it to show three unopened cans of beer.

An officer noted that the suspect, who did not smell of intoxicants, had slurred speech and very bloodshot eyes. The officer asked him if he had smoked any marijuana and the suspect said he had not smoked it "for a while."

After a series of sobriety tests, police arrested the suspect for operating under the influence of narcotics.

The officer noted the children while on routine patrol and went into a video store to look for the mother because the children were crying. As he was questioning several people in the store, he saw the mother enter the car and drive away.

The officer noted that the small child, who was estimated at 1 1/4 years of age, was standing and not in a child safety seat. He further reported that he watched as the woman again parked the car and left the children alone in the car for approximately 10 minutes.

The officer contacted Oakland County Protective Services, which assigned an agent to the case.

Police News

ASSAULT: Novi police are investigating assault and battery charges against a 20-year-old woman who allegedly injured her sister in a fistfight April 3.

Police noted numerous cuts and bruises on the victim's face. The fight was reportedly due to an ongoing dispute between the two sisters. The suspect reportedly lived with the victim at one time, but the victim evicted her due to physical fights.

The victim told police she wishes to press charges.

Citizens with information about the above incidents are urged to call the Novi Police Tip Line at 349-6887.

Novi Briefs

Short of uniforms: Uniforms are in short supply for all of the Novi High School bands — marching, symphony, jazz and concert. Former band students can help them out. Some past members of the band have forgotten to return all or part of their uniforms, creating the shortage. By taking the time to return them, former band members will help benefit current musicians.

Meadowbrook Cleaners, located in the Novi-Ten Shopping Center at the intersection of Ten Mile and Meadowbrook roads, will accept all band uniforms and direct them to the appropriate people. Those who want to return uniforms need only to drop them off there during business hours; no questions asked.

NHS joint concert: The Novi High School choir will join the Detroit Osborn High School choir and the Rackham Symphony choir in a special joint concert Sunday, April 25.

The three choirs will boast hundreds of voices as they perform at Novi High School's Fuerst Auditorium at 3 p.m. that day. They will perform works by Leonard Bernstein and Ludwig Van Beethoven. The public is invited to the special event.

New members needed: The Novi Community Education Advisory Council is looking for new members. Each member serves for a 3-year term. When that term expires, the school board has the option of reappointing that person, if the council member would like to be considered for reappointment, or through a process of interviews by the Community Education Advisory Council, may make recommendations for the appointment of another person who would like to serve.

Accordingly, the council will be accepting names of persons who would be interested in serving so that recommendations can be made to the Novi school board at a future meeting.

The purpose of the council is to assess and identify needs, interests, resources and problems within the community, and to set objectives and priorities and establish programs to meet those needs.

Contact Clara Porter, Director of Novi Community Education, if you are interested in serving on the Advisory Council. Call 344-8330, ext. 13.

Planners OK new sub plat plan

By RANDY COBLE Staff Writer

The Novi Planning Commission gave a thumbs up to the plan for a new subdivision at its April 7 meeting — a small subdivision with big lots.

Commissioners voted unanimously to recommend that the Novi City Council give preliminary plat approval to the design plan for Warwick of Novi.

The seven-lot subdivision's proposed location lies on the north side of Nine Mile Road between Taft and Beck roads.

Warwick's layout calls for seven lots on a 4.76 acre site. The area is zoned R-1, the city's largest residential lot size classification. All of the lots on the Warwick site must be at least one half acre in size (21,780 square feet), and have 120-foot widths from their 30-foot setback lines. The Warwick site meets those requirements.

The matter has come before the commission before, but has been delayed because of concerns members expressed over the plan's minor intrusion into city-regulated wetlands.

The plan calls for one lot to be placed in a wetland area, which is prohibited by city ordinance. For the Warwick design to be approved as it stands, the council would have to grant a variance.

The wetlands permit, however, was not part of the commission's public hearing on the preliminary plat approval on April 7. (There are no regulated woodlands on the site.)

The commission's recommendation hinges on the council's granting the variance. Commission Chairperson Kathleen McAllen excused herself from participating in the Warwick matter, as she is a real estate agent, and is involved with the property.

Mark Friedman appeared before the commission, representing Progressive Development, the firm which owns the Warwick site land. He said that the plan provided for an overall density of 1.47 lots per acre (the maximum permitted density under city ordinance is 1.65 lots per acre).

The wetland areas to be filled are those required for the subdivision's one roadway, sidewalks and public utilities lines. Most of the wetlands on the park, he said, will be preserved in a park-measuring some 128 acres.

Water Resources Specialist Susan Tepatti was the point person for the commission on this issue. She said that the wetlands that are part of the Warwick site — some 2 acres — are part of a larger wetland. That wetland, measuring about four acres together, extends north in Meadow Park subdivision.

Since it is part of a larger wetland, Tepatti continued, it is subject to city ordinance. However, the developer's request for a wetlands permit doesn't have to go before the commission or council, she added, due to new ordinance.

A wetlands permit may be issued administratively — by JCK or the city's Planning and Community Development Department — Tepatti said, provided that the wetlands to be filled in don't exceed 300 cubic yards or 10,000 square feet.

The wetlands to be filled in on the Warwick site total about .08 acres, she said — some 3,325 square feet. The areas to be filled include those for the cul-de-sac, sidewalks and one driveway to an individual lot. Therefore, the wetlands permit can be issued administratively, Tepatti noted.

A variance from the council is still required, however, to plat into the wetlands as the Warwick lot calls for, she added. The site's lot lines were revised last month to minimize wetland fill, Tepatti noted.

Friedman said that the plan called for plating into a wetland area in order to cross a ditch to provide driveway access to one lot on the site.

"There's no wholesale filling to be done," Friedman said, and added that his company wanted to preserve whatever areas didn't need to be eliminated.

Tepatti said that she and other city consultants could not yet issue a wetlands permit to the site. They would not issue a wetlands permit until final plat approval in any case, she added, but additional concerns needed to be addressed.

Among them were the size and configuration of the driveway and home of the lot that will plat into the wetland, she said.

Other concerns included the fact that the developer had not yet submitted a wetlands permit application; needed to include a wetland buffer zone of some 25 feet in width to the plat; develop a platting plan — to provide an enhanced wildlife habitat; and to have the plat wetlands filled in preservation easements.

In other matters concerning the proposal, Planning Consultant Bran-

Map by JUANITA LITTLE

Pending resolution of the city's water return, however, the homes on the site may have to use wells until they are permitted to tap into the line when it is built. Using wells would require testing and permits by the Michigan Department of Public Health.

"Water main permits are being greatly restricted," said JCK's Fred Belschner in a report to Progressive Development on the subject. "The City of Novi makes no representation or guarantee that applicant will be able to secure the necessary permit for construction of the main."

Blumh said that if the storm water removal system Warwick plans to tap into along Nine Mile Road is not available when the developer wishes to begin construction, the plan will have to be revised. It must allow for on-site storm water detention in that case, he said.

The matter now moves onto the city council, which will have the final word on the tentative preliminary plat plan.



Monthly Allergy Tip

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S. Lyon Herald	437-2011
Novi News/Northville Record	349-1700

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Opinions

4A MONDAY April 12, 1993

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As We See It

Don't consider noise issue to be closed

We should all recognize that no one likes to work evenings and weekends in the first place. We'd all pretty much like to be able to work our regular 40 hours a week and head off to the peace and quiet of our own homes.

This is not intended to discount the concerns of homeowners who have complaints about the noise created by late night or weekend construction work, only to point out that we all have the same goals. So when work is going on at odd hours, it is usually because there is some kind of "need." Still, a business crisis at Construction Company A shouldn't be allowed to become a sound level crisis for residents in Subdivision B.

When Novi City Council adopted its noise regulation ordinance March 29, it struck a good compromise. It limited construction work to the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. That's a wide range, and then the council added some exceptions. The government will be allowed to do emergency work outside those hours, to do projects like repairs to water mains. It can also grant permission to firms for late and weekend work if there is a public emergency of that type. Individual homeowners will still be able to go out and swing a hammer at their own houses during those off hours. Finally, construction companies will be allowed to continue work even during those hours if there is no occupied dwelling located within 1,000 feet of the site.

The last provision was the most controversial, and it left several residents walking away from the council

Incumbents to run unopposed?

"The people get the government they deserve."

It is an old saying, but it is as pertinent today as it ever was. What it means is simply that if the people, if even a few individuals, don't like what the government is doing or how it is operating, it is up to them to take action to correct it. If they don't, then who will?

In the end, if those who are dissatisfied do not actively oppose the government policies they are unhappy with, then the government will in essence have their tacit approval.

It is clear to us from our recently completed reader survey about teacher salaries that there are a good number of people in this community who are indeed unhappy with the operation of the Novi Community School District. Some 54.6 percent of respondents said the step scale increases handed out to teachers in the recent contract negotiations were out of line. And 42.3 percent said even the base pay increases were too high. Keep in mind that salaries make up 85 percent of the school district's budget. Further, there were some downright angry comments included in the responses.

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

STATE SENATE Jack Faxon (D) 2844 Darren Ct. Farmington Hills, MI 48018 (810) 571-7372 State Capitol Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 373-7888 OAKLAND COUNTY COMMISSION Kay Schmidt (R) 2810 Summit Novi, MI 48077 (313) 449-0099 STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES U.S. House of Representatives (R) J. William Knollenberg (R) 30833 Northwest Hwy. Suite 214 Farmington Hills, MI 48334 (810) 851-1366 U.S. SENATE Carl Levin (D) 1880 McManus Bldg. 477 Michigan Ave. Detroit, MI 48226 (224) 620-5020 DONALD RIEGLE (D) 1850 McManus Bldg. 477 Michigan Ave. Detroit, MI 48226 (224) 224-4822

Dancin' with who brung us



Phil Jerome

I've been thinking a lot about history lately. Or, if not history, at least longevity. The reason: One of my responsibilities as executive editor for this year is to chair the sesquicentennial planning committee for The Livingston County Press — one of the six newspapers which comprise the HomeTown Newspapers group. A sesquicentennial, in case you've forgotten, means 150 years. And, quite frankly, the fact that the LCP, as it is known in Howell, has been around 150 years totally astounds me. Just think of it. One hundred and 50 years!

That means the LCP was around before Teddy Roosevelt charged up San Juan Hill. Before Henry Ford invented the automobile. Before the Wright Brothers launched the first airplane at Kitty Hawk. Before Albin Doubleday invented baseball or James Naismith invented basketball. Before the Civil War. Before Abraham Lincoln was elected president. A very long time. Of course, the County Press is not the only paper in our group which has been around a long time. Almost all the papers in the HomeTown group are more than a century old.

Second oldest — at 125 years — is The Northville Record, the oldest weekly newspaper in Wayne County. Next come The Millford Times, the oldest newspaper in Oakland County at 122 years. Then come The South Lyon Herald and The Brighton Argus — both 113 years old this year.

The baby of the group is The Novi News, a real youngster at a mere 37 years old. That's still old enough to make it

older than the City of Novi, but it pales in comparison with the other newspapers in this group — virtually all of which are older than baseball.

All of this creates in me a sense of awe... and an incredible sense of responsibility and perhaps even a lot of trepidation. After all, as the 49-year-old head of the editorial department, it is my responsibility to make sure our papers continue to exist/thrive/prosper for at least another 11 to 13 to 16 years or whenever it is that I finally head off for retirement.

Fortunately, I think the path has been pretty well established — just make sure our newspapers continue to do the things they did that brought us this far to begin with. As Darel Royal, the former Texas football coach, would have said: "We're gonna dance with who brung us."

And who brung us? First and foremost, service to our communities and the people who live in these communities. Covering city councils and school boards. Covering Mothers Clubs and Garden Clubs. Covering Girl Scout cookie sales and Lions Club White Cane sales and VFW poppy sales.

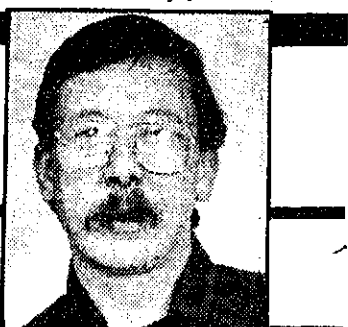
Covering churches. Letting people know when Good Friday and Easter and Christmas services are held. Carrying birds, engagements, weddings and obituaries — the milestones in people's lives.

And, of course, providing a forum for spirited debate on topics of importance for the improvement of the communities. Writing editorials which help identify and provide focus for the issues. Offering an op-ed page for the community to sound off through guest columns or letters on the same issues, regardless of whether or not their viewpoints agree with our own.

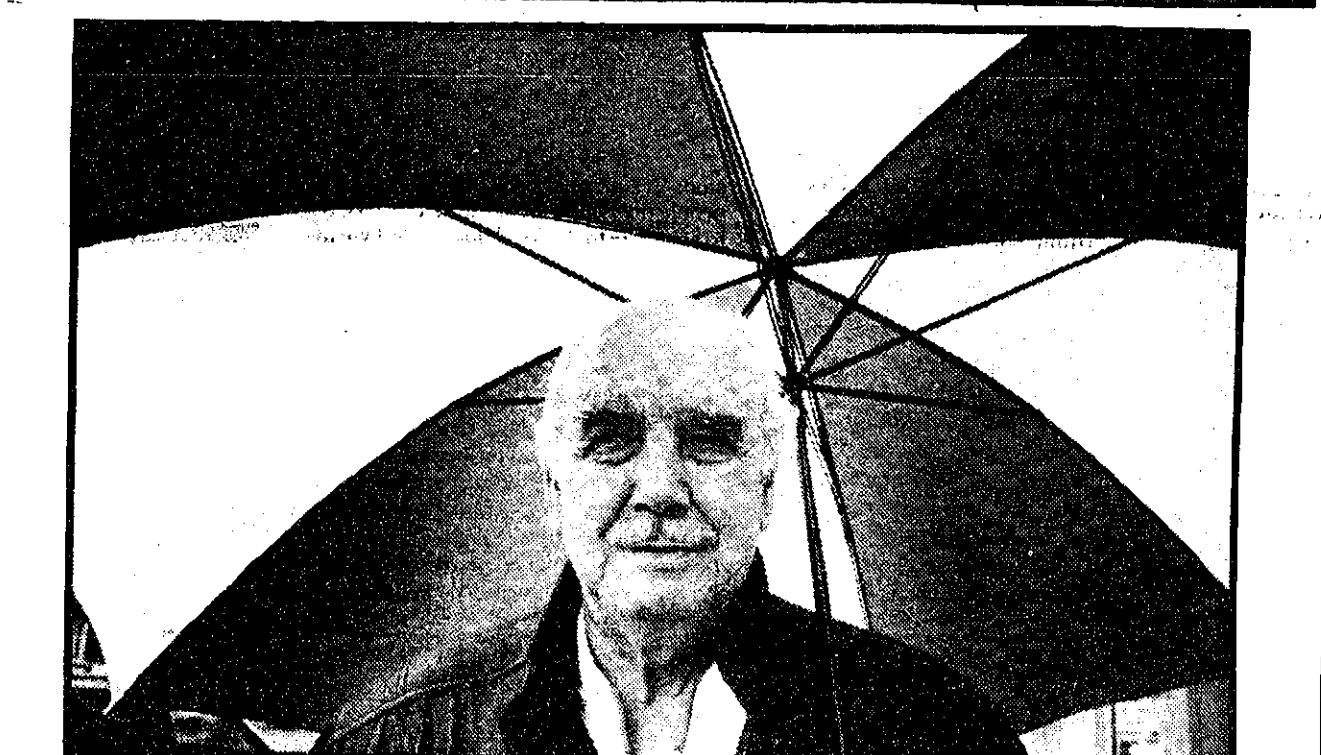
Doesn't sound that difficult, does it? I'm feeling better already.

In passing

By Hal Gould



Clyde Haines of Northville in the downtown area last week trying to stay dry.



'Umbrella weather'

Raises out of step with city



Rick Byrnes

I've always been able to settle the simple issues pretty quickly. Ketchup should be refrigerated. Pancake syrup should not. Toilet paper rolls should tear over the top, not up from the bottom.

But on the harder questions I can't make up my mind that easily. Abortions? Gun control? I've heard the arguments from each side, and can find nuggets of truth in both. Which leaves me undecided.

Then along comes this flap over the Novi teacher salaries. Although the school board agreed to a contract that gave the teachers increases of 3.75, 3.95 and 4 percent over the next three years, closer examination revealed that teachers gaining seniority and graduate education could earn raises of 12, 15, even 19 percent from one year to the next.

On the one side you have people who say the teacher's union is greedy, pushing through raises that exceed those of the private sector. On the other side are those sympathetic to the teachers who feel they are worth the hefty raises. Well, on this one, my mind is made up. The argument is not over the value of teachers. If the only criterion for determining one's salary was one's value, I, for one, would be a lot better paid, and so would teachers. If the question were one of value, teaching would be among the highest paying professions, right up there with doctors.

Here's why. The Novi school district, according to its own figures, spends about \$6,600 per pupil (the state says it's \$6,800, but that's another story). The average home in Novi is valued at \$150,000, and therefore pays something like \$2,200 in taxes to the schools. You'd have to be living in a \$450,000 home in Novi to be breaking even on just one kid in the schools. Do the math. If you've got two or three kids in the schools, you're really soaking the district.

So who does keep our schools solvent? Commercial and industrial development, that's who. Places like Twelve Oaks, Delwal, and the Expo Center pay five and six figures a year in property taxes just to pay for all you freeloaders who whine and call yourselves "taxpayers." And they don't feed additional children in to the schools at \$6,600 a pop.

I'd estimate that in more than half of all the letters that we receive in this office, the writer declares himself a "taxpayer," as though bestowing such title upon him or herself elevates him or her above the great unwashed.

Well, I've got news for you. Unless you have no kids in the schools, you haven't earned the title. You're a tax liability. The district is losing money just by having you and your progeny around. Here's why. The Novi school district, according to its own figures, spends about \$6,600 per pupil (the state says it's \$6,800, but that's another story). The average home in Novi is valued at \$150,000, and therefore pays something like \$2,200 in taxes to the schools. You'd have to be living in a \$450,000 home in Novi to be breaking even on just one kid in the schools. Do the math. If you've got two or three kids in the schools, you're really soaking the district.

So I'm sure you're aware, though, there aren't any simple answers like that. It was easier to figure out what to do with my towel paper.

HomeTown News 349-1700 Rick Byrne, Copy Editor

Eleanor & Ray Heald/Wine

Med wine is perfect for Easter

Subtleties of books frequently give the biggest clue to the contents. In the late 1980s, The Mediterranean Diet by Carol and Malcolm McConnell, (W.W. Norton & Co., New York) got us thinking with their subtitle, Wine, Pasta, Olive Oil, and a Long Healthy Life.

Late last year, The French Paradox and Beyond, by Perdue, Marlon, and Shoemaker, (Reynolds and Reynolds, California) triggered the same reaction with the subtitle, Live Longer with Wine & the Mediterranean Lifestyle.

There's probably no better time than Easter to take a broad look at a classic Mediterranean diet. The specific Mediterranean focus is Greek food and wine for an authentic Easter menu. There may be no better authority on the subject of Greek feasting than Diane Kochilas who has authored The Food and Wine of Greece (St. Martin's Press, New York, 1990).

Kochilas grew up in the United States, but now lives in Athens. She was in the United States earlier this year for the 1993 International Conference on the Diets of the Mediterranean at the Harvard School of Public Health.

The optimal, traditional Mediterranean diet consists of the following foods in decreasing quantities consumed daily — breads and grains, including pasta, rice, couscous, polenta and bulgur; fruits, vegetables, beans for other legumes and nuts), cheese, yogurt and other dairy products, olive oil and olives.

Following the Mediterranean tradition, one to two glasses per day of wine can be enjoyed primarily with meals. Again in decreasing amounts — fish, poultry and eggs and sweets are eaten a few times per week. Lean red meats are consumed a few times per month.

"Wine is a custom during meals in some Mediterranean countries," Dr. Dimitrios Trichopoulos, chairman of Epidemiology, Harvard School of Public Health said. "Drunk in moderation with meals, it reduces risk of coronary disease about as much as the regular taking of aspirin." Asked if the Mediterranean diet might be just as healthy if wine were removed Trichopoulos said, "I don't think so."

With this positive intro, let's look at some Greek wines to accompany Kochilas' menu suggestions. Because Southeast Michigan has a significant Greek population and a number of fine Greek restaurants, it also has one of the largest selections of Greek wines.

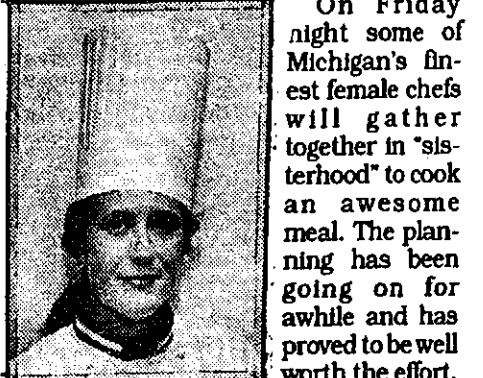
More than half of Greece's vineyards are in the Peloponnese area producing more than a third of the country's wine. By far, the best wines here are red and from the Nemea region. The principal Nemea producer is a cooperative using the name Hercules.

The Naoussa region (west of Thessaloniki) in northern Greece has the best red wines and those produced by J. Boutari and Son top the list. Boutari is an established producer making wine in modern facilities in several appellations throughout Greece.

WINE SELECTION OF THE WEEK For Greek wines of quality, the nod goes to J. Boutari & Son for three wines all priced at \$7. 1991 Boutari Kritisina, a delicious, easy-drinking white wine; 1990 Boutari Naoussa, a very dry, flavorful red that will harmonize with lamb; and 1990 Boutari Nemea, that is full and robust, but with soft tannins to pair it well with spinach pie.

Chef Mary Brady

The finest female chefs display their skills



Tom Vitale, President of the Gourmet Club at Schoolcraft, asked me to be the coordinator of the event. Naturally, I was very honored and accepted in a split second. Little did I know...

FOOD CREATIVE DINING

Mexican haute cuisine

Restaurateur offers his sumptuous Mother's Day fare

By ORLANDO RAMIREZ Copy News Service

Mother's Day is the busiest restaurant day of the year. Poor moms, you're likely to say, the only day of the year they get out from behind the stove.

In fact, it's poor chefs because the logistics of planning for the Mother's Day holidays require strategies that might baffle George. Colin Powell.

Take Chef Reed Groban, for example. As the executive chef for the Scottsdale Princess in Arizona's Valley of the Sun, he oversees four restaurants and expects to serve more than 1,800 people on Mother's Day.

If Groban's restaurants were just any restaurants, the task might not seem so daunting, but two of the Scottsdale Princess' restaurants are world-renowned. The Marquessa, which features Catalan and Basque cuisines, is one of two AAA Five Diamond restaurants in Arizona and was listed second overall in the latest Zagat guide.

La Hacienda is a free-standing Mexican ranch house located on one of the Scottsdale Princess' 450 acres. Groban describes the menu there as "interior colonial Mexican food," meaning the kind of cuisine one is more likely to find in Mexico City and the central parts of Mexico rather than the Tex-Mex or Sonoran style prevalent in the United States.

The two other restaurants under Groban's charge are Las Ventanas, an informal grill, and The Grill at the TPC, located in the clubhouse of the TPC-Stadium golf course.

"I came up through the school of hard knocks," said Groban, 39, originally from Cincinnati. "I'm basically self-taught, having worked in kitchens all my life."

"His training has served him well since he has come up with innovative menus that draw from the best of Spain, Mexico and Southern Arizona.

The Catalan food served at the Marquessa is indigenous to the northeast section of Spain that draws on French, Italian and Spanish influences.

"I'd call it a Mediterranean cuisine," he said. "It's an offshoot that leaves a lot of people open for a lot of influences. We try to stay true to the local flavors, but we incorporate local ingredients, too."

"On the one hand, Basque cooking is heartier, more robust and not as much influenced from the Italian side."

At La Hacienda, the menu is based on Mexican cuisine. Groban, who toured the restaurants and kitchens of the interior of Mexico looking for recipes, said the food there "is more continental in some respects, but very authentic."

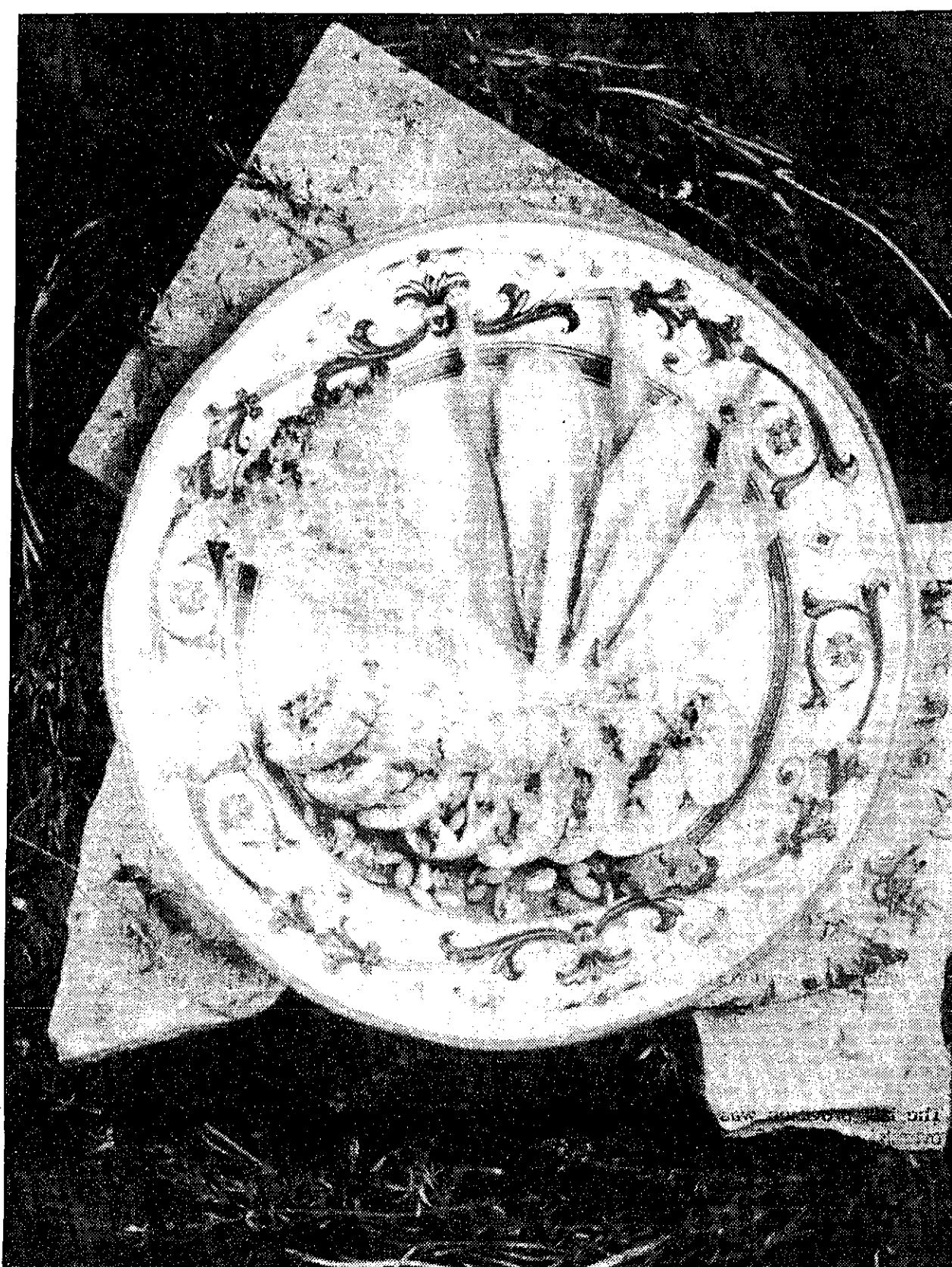
For Mother's Day, Groban plans to serve the following dishes at a buffet brunch. He said that Mother's Day is a lot of work, but planning is the key to a successful day. At the Scottsdale Princess each restaurant has its own chef and kitchen.

"Quality stays in the restaurant," he said, describing how the self-management of each area leads to greater pride among the staff and better quality control when it comes to the end product.

Despite the sophisticated presentations, Groban said, "the dishes are very easy to digest. There seems to be a lot of steps, but it's not really that involved."

Take the Grilled Lamb Chops served at the Marquessa. The chops are simply grilled, but it's the addition of the Roasted Tomato Aboli, Green Sauce, Escalivada and Spanish Tortilla or one that is not to be confused with a Mexican corn or flour tortilla that makes the dish exceptional.

"The Cheese-Stuffed Chicken Breast is perfect for a Mother's Day brunch."



Cheese-stuffed chicken breast with tomato carrot sauce is a creation of chef Reed Groban.

Marinated olives: 1 cup albanese olives, 1/2 cup calamata olives, 1/2 cup olive oil, 2 teaspoons minced garlic, 2 teaspoons pimiento (Spanish pepper), similar to paprika. Yields 4 servings. Toss all ingredients together and chill until ready to serve.

Marinated Cheeses: 1 cup olive oil, 10 garlic cloves, 2 rosemary stems, 1 tablespoon red, green and black peppercorns, combined. 10 ounces assorted cheeses, cut into different shapes (le Gouda, sage derby, asi cheese, maciengo, etc.). Yields 4 servings. Heat olive oil and add garlic and cook until garlic is light brown in color. Re.

Tapas of Meats, Cheeses, Olives and Tortellini Salad: 4 ounces sliced serrano ham, 4 ounces sliced chorizo, 4 ounces hard salami, 4 tablespoons marinated olives (recipe follows), 8 tablespoons marinated cheeses (recipe follows), 8 tablespoons tortellini salad (recipe follows). Yields 4 servings. Arrange ingredients on plate in decorative fashion and serve with some slices of crusty bread.

Serrano ham, which is similar to Italian prosciutto, is ubiquitous in the Iberian Peninsula. If you can't find serrano ham at a gourmet shop, Smithfield ham is a good substitute, the chef says. For Mother's Day, Groban suggests serving a flute or two of dry champagne with the tapas to wet the appetites of your guests for the feast that follows.

The salad, "Mixed Greens Little Italy," is refreshing and palate cleansing. Bursting with baby romaine, arugula, belgian endive and frisée lettuces. Pink, yellow and red taredrop tomatoes, and shaved fried artichokes enhance this course.

Next, Chef Lorraine Platman of Sweet Lorraine's in Berkley, and soon Ann Arbor, will present "Eurasian Risotto," mixing Indian, Oriental and Continental European influences in one dish. A blend of basmati rice, coconut, Thai peppers, shiitake and leeks served in a papad basket and garnished with smoked tiger shrimp. Yum!

For the main entree, Chef Mary Brady of Diamond Jim Brady's in Novi, (that's me), and Chef Kelli Lewton of the Two Unique are featuring "Roasted Pheasant American Bistro." Roasted pheasant, savory sausage wrapped in cabbage, a wild mushroom ragout, and pencil green and white asparagus finish the dish. Earthy and sumptuous.

Laura and Chef Denise Caurdy of Too Chez will work together on this. Denise is also in charge of a melting pot bread basket that is the most incredible ever imagined. It will focus on five ethnic breads. Being a bread lover, I'm really anxious to taste the final product.

Finally, Chef Carol Calder-Delzner, of Opus One, has an incredible dessert in store. A chocolate pot brimming with hazelnut and chocolate mousses will finish the dinner. Throughout the meal Madeline Trifon, Sommelier of the Rattlesnake Club, will pair wines with the courses. I hope she'll save some for us. Well, have I got your taste buds going yet? Hope so. Tickets are available by calling 462-4422. Go ahead, use your charge card. Part of the price is tax deductible, a beautiful booklet with the recipes of the food served is included and a raffie drawing for prizes will be held. Best yet, all proceeds will help fund the Culinary Arts Scholarship Fund. Each chef will describe her course and mingle after the dessert is served. Think hard about joining us. This is a chance in a lifetime for you and your help can mean the chance for a better future for someone worthy of it. See you there.

The Refrigerator Door

MICHIGAN'S GREAT WOMEN CHEFS: On April 16 at 7 p.m., the Schoolcraft College Gourmet Club will present "A Salute to Michigan's Great Women Chefs." Northville's Chef Mary Brady is coordinator for the event which raises scholarship money for the school's culinary arts students. The five-course dinner, with wine, champagne and hors d'oeuvres, will highlight the talents of Chefs Denise Caudy (The Chefs), Carol Calder Deiner (Opus One), Carolyn Haskins (The Townsend Hotel), Kelli Lewton (2 Unique), Laura Merglewski (Acadia), Lorraine Platman (Sweet Lorraine's Cafe) and Chef Brady. The wine will be coordinated by Master Sommelier, Madeline Trifon of the Rattlesnake Club. Also participating is Lizzie Burt of MedSport.

Cost for the fund-raiser is \$75 per person. For tickets, call 462-4422.

LES AUTEURS CLASSES: The Les Saisons/Les Auteurs School of Cooking will present the following classes during the month of April.

April 15, Seafood Preparations with Master Chef Jeff Gabriel; April 20, Best Recipes of Madisons with Chef Dave Rice and Chef Ralph MacLoe of Les Auteurs; April 24, Classical Italian, with Chef Michael Berrend of Les Auteurs; April 27, The Fresh Cuisine of Kyia's with Chef Brian Gallagher of Kyia's.

Classes are \$25 each, or \$65 for a series of three. All recipes, tastings, and a glass of wine are included in the fee. Call (313) 545-3400 for more information.

KITCHEN GLAMOR CLASSES: Nov's Kitchen Glamor store hosts a series of drop-in classes Tuesdays at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. during the next several weeks. The fee for most of the classes is \$3. With all of the classes, recipes are provided free, and there will be small portion tasting. Everyone is welcome.

Kitchen Glamor is located in the Novi Town Center. Call 380-8600 for more information.

OLIVE OIL HOTLINE: If you've ever wondered about the "heart-healthy" benefits of olive oil, call the International Olive Oil Council hot line. The hot line is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, Eastern time. Call 1-800-232-6548.

AMERICAN HARVEST OPEN: Schoolcraft College's American Harvest Restaurant is open for weekday lunches for only a couple more weeks. The on-campus restaurant, which features gourmet specialties prepared by Schoolcraft's Master Chefs and Culinary Arts students, is open to the public from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Friday's meal is a buffet. Cost is \$8.25 per person. For more information, call 462-4488.

KNOW THE FOOD PYRAMID: Want to know what you should eat to stay healthy? The Food Guide Pyramid, beyond the Basic Four, a new brochure, helps answer this question. The brochure condenses the information from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) booklet "The Food Guide Pyramid" and features the new food guide graphic on the elements of a healthy diet. The brochure was developed by the Food Marketing Institute in cooperation with the USDA. For a copy, send a check or money order for \$1 payable to the Superintendent of Documents, to Consumer Information Center, Department 159-Y, Pueblo, Colo. 81009.

RECIPES WANTED: A new feature is appearing in the Creative Dining section of this paper. Known as HomeTown Cooking, it will feature recipes contributed by readers. With that in mind, we'd like to take this time to ask that anyone with a recipe that they'd like to share with all their neighbors in the Northville/Novi area please send it, along with your name, address, and phone number, to HomeTown Cooking, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167.

Any recipe will do. Perhaps you have a dinner-time favorite, or a recipe for bread that's been passed down through your family for generations, or maybe just a good, fast work-night cost-cutter. Send it in, and we'll feature it on these pages.

FOOD GUIDE: Bring on Healthy Food Choices! Oakland County Health Division has updated the American Red Cross Food Wheel for healthful eating. The revision is the work of the Health Division's registered dietitians. The colorful one-page handout features plenty of fruits, grains and vegetables.

Are you confused about fats? Where are they hidden? How do you make trade-offs? The new Food Wheel will show you how. A special section describes fat serving sizes.

The guide is based on the new U.S. Department of Agriculture and Human Services Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the American Cancer Society recommendations. The daily plan is easy to follow. It shows suggested numbers of servings from each food group for different ages.

For your free copy, if you're an Oakland County resident, send a self-addressed stamped (29-cent) business envelope to: Food Wheel, Materials Center, Oakland County Health Division, 27725 Greenfield Road, Southfield 48076.

GOT A QUESTION? CALL THE HOTLINE: Have you ever wondered if some of the leftover food in your refrigerator is safe to eat? Or have you been puzzled over directions in a recipe? What's safe to take to a picnic?

"Ponder no more," said Sylvia Treitman, home economist for the Oakland County Extension Service. The Food and Nutrition Hotline is ready and willing to answer all of your food-related questions. "We are all ready with the very latest USDA recommendations," said Treitman. So if you haven't "called" for a while and are unsure of what to do, just give them a call 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at 858-0904.

"The Refrigerator Door" is a list of coming events and short notes about food and drink. If you have an event planned or a brief announcement you would like included here, send it care of this newspaper, 104 W. Main Street, Northville, Mich., 48167. Photos or other artwork is welcome.

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Read ... then RECYCLE

HomeTown Newspapers encourages readers to recycle their newspapers

Try Mexican for Mother's Day treat

Continued from 1

Remove from marinade and cook over hot charcoal to desired temperature. Serve with roasted Tomato Aioli, Potato Tortilla and Escalavida.

TORTELLINI SALAD
8 ounces two kinds of tortellini, cooked and chilled
4 cloves garlic, minced
2 ounces olive oil
4 sundried tomatoes, julienned
2 ounces Spanish chorizo, julienned
2 ounces manchengo cheese, grated
Pepper and basil to taste
Yields 4 servings.

Combine all ingredients and chill. Sundry tomatoes and manchengo are salty, so adjust seasoning with pepper and basil if desired.

DESERT HONEY GLAZED SALMON
4 (6-Oz) salmon filets
Salt and pepper to taste
1/4 cup honey (preferably saguaro honey)

3 teaspoons brown sugar
1 1/2 cups black beans, cooked with onion and pork
1/2 cup chicken stock
2 ounces sour cream
2 ounces buttermilk
Yields four servings.

Season salmon filets with salt and pepper and place on broiler to make grill marks across salmon. Remove from broiler and reserve.

Preheat oven to 375 F. Heat honey and brown sugar until sugar is dissolved. Cover salmon evenly with this mixture and place in oven and cook salmon to desired doneness. Translucence is preferred with salmon.

While salmon is cooking, heat black beans and chicken stock over medium heat until smooth in texture. Combine sour cream and buttermilk and put in squeeze bottle.

Take black bean sauce and pour over half the plate, then place line in middle with squeeze bottle through length of middle of black bean sauce, alternating directions with point of knife.

Place hot salmon on angle to sauce, touching sauce with parts of salmon fillet. Garnish salmon with zest of lemon and lime and fried tortilla strips, if you desire, for contrast.

MARQUESA GRILLED LAMB CHOPS
1/2 teaspoon cracked pepper
1/2 teaspoon salt
12 lamb chops, frenched
3 ounces Green Sauce (recipe follows)

Yields 4 servings
Rub cracked pepper and salt on lamb chops, then place in Green Sauce and marinate for 24 hours.

Preheat grill to 375 F. Grill lamb chops for 10 minutes on each side, basting with Green Sauce.

Remove from grill and let rest for 5 minutes. Serve with Green Sauce.

Remove from marinade and cook over hot charcoal to desired temperature. Serve with roasted Tomato Aioli, Potato Tortilla and Escalavida.

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untill onions are translucent. In a small bowl, beat eggs with salt and pepper. Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in large skillet until very hot. Add potato mixture combined with eggs into skillet and stir rapidly, using a rubber spatula. (You want to scrape sides of skillet as if you were making scrambled eggs, making sure eggs are pushed toward center of skillet.)

GREEN SAUCE:
1/2 bunch chopped parsley
8 cloves coarse chopped garlic
16 ounces olive oil
Yields 4 servings.
Combine all ingredients and reserve. Refrigerate after making this simple marinade.

ROASTED TOMATO AIOLI
3 roasted Roma tomatoes, pureed
1 cup olive oil
Dash kosher salt
1/2 bunch fresh rosemary
2 egg yolks
1 teaspoon dijon mustard
1 teaspoon fresh garlic, ground
Juice from large lemon
Yields 4 servings.
Cut Roma tomatoes in half and place in half of olive oil and kosher salt. Place on wire rack in 250 F oven for 1 1/2 hours. Skin tomatoes, puree and reserve.

Heat remaining oil to 250 F on stove top. Add rosemary so that it infuses with oil and remove, then cover oil from stove and allow it to cool. Take egg yolks and whisk as if you are making hollandaise sauce and slowly add remaining oil until you have mayonaisse consistency. Add remaining ingredients and chill.

OYSTER ARTICHOKE BISQUE WITH OYSTER CROUTON
1 small onion, chopped
6 cloves peeled garlic
Pinch saffron
2 shallots, minced
20 artichoke hearts
10 shucked oysters, freshly purchased and chilled
1/2 cup butter
1 quart chicken stock
1 pint heavy cream
Salt and pepper to taste
Yields 4 servings.

Saute onion, garlic, saffron, shallots, artichokes and oysters in butter. Slowly add chicken stock and reduce by 1/2. Add heavy cream and simmer for approximately 10 minutes, then remove from stove and puree in blender until smooth and adjust seasoning.

Service suggestion: Take whole fresh artichoke that has been steamed and pull petals and arrange around outside of bowl. Add bisque and sprinkle lemon pepper across top and finish with w fried oyster croutons.

All recipes are by Reed Groban, executive chef of the Scotsdale Princess resort, Scotsdale, Ariz.

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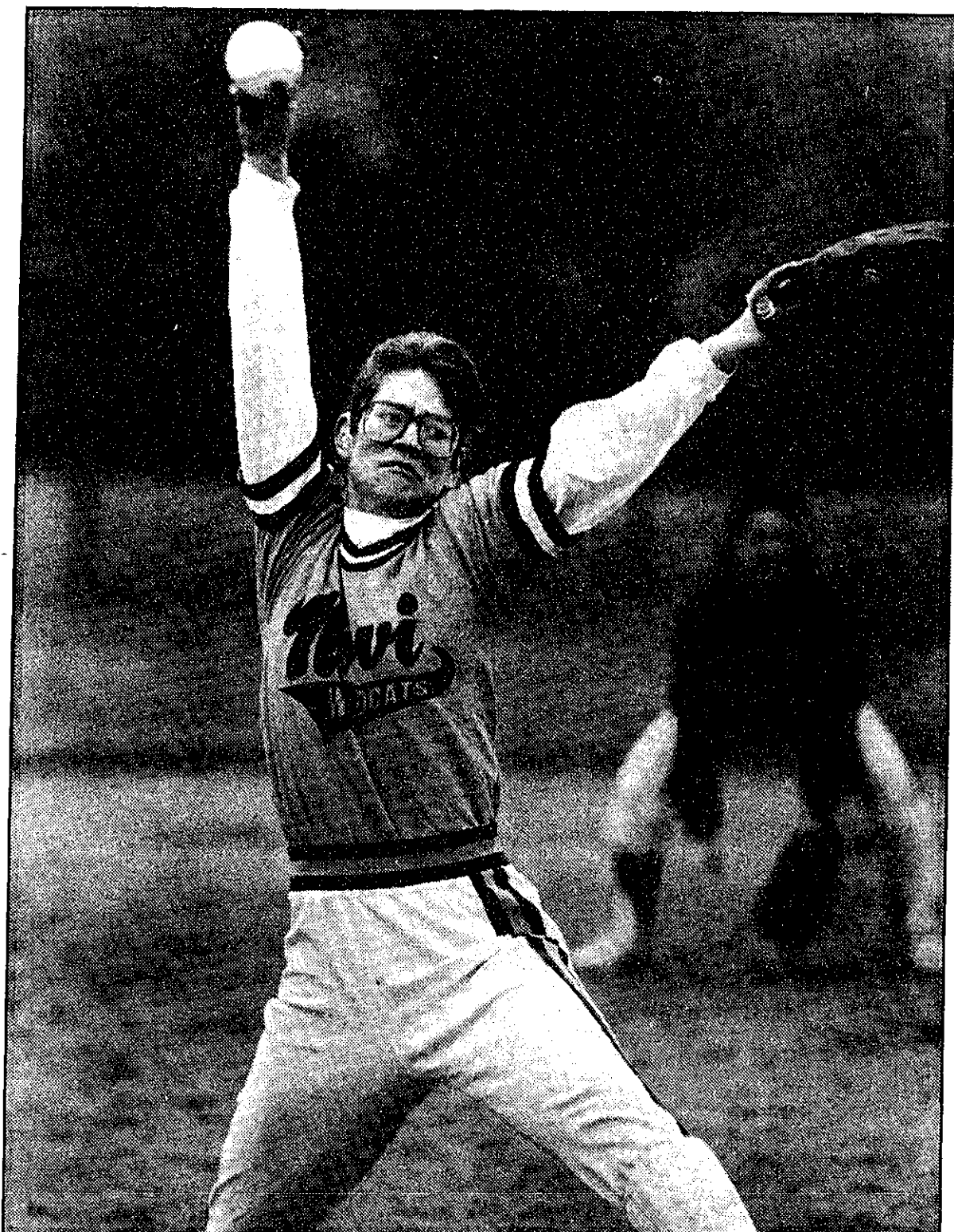
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Julie Swineheart delivers a pitch Tuesday in a practice game with West Bloomfield. Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

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Softballers sweep South Lion at home

By SCOTT DANIEL Sports Editor

Excellent pitching carried the Wildcat softball team to a double header sweep of South Lyon Wednesday at home.

Novi limited the Lions to just four runs in the two games. Julie Swineheart opened the twinning on the mound while Erin Bjerk pitched game two.

Wildcat coach John Peace praised his two hurlers. He said they were aided by solid defense in the field. "I think we will be a lot more consistent on defense this year," Peace commented. "We were knocking them down and making the throws."

Novi limited the Lions to just four runs in the two games. Julie Swineheart opened the twinning on the mound while Erin Bjerk pitched game two.

Swineheart faced 26 batters in the game. Peace said his team usually wins when 29 or fewer batters are faced. "That usually means you're holding them down to a few runs per game," he added.

Christine Edwards had to hits for Novi. Game two was a tale of two big innings for the Cats. Novi scored five runs in the first and sixth innings.

South Lyon once again opened the scoring. Two runs came across on a triple off of Bjerk. Runners had reached base on an error and walk. The Lions lead didn't last long. Shaw began the bottom of the first with a flyout. South Lyon then put

"I think we will be a lot more consistent on defense this year. We were knocking them down and making the throws."

John Peace
Softball coach

was followed by an RBI double from Katie Shaw. The Wildcats went on to win 4-2.

Swineheart dominated on the mound. She went the distance while allowing only three hits and three walks. The junior struck out eight Lion batters and surrendered only one earned run.

Bjerk cruised through the rest of the game. She gave up two hits and walks while striking out five. Novi made five errors in the game, but Peace said they didn't hurt.

Bjerk helped herself at the plate with two hits and two RBIs. Johnson added a pair of hits and RBIs as well. Peace said his club got timely hitting Wednesday, something they weren't able to do much last season. "The thing that impressed me was that they got hits with runners on base," he said. "We would get 10 hits a lot of times last year but none of them were timely."

Novi, 2-0 on the season and in the Kensington Valley Conference, resumes the season a week from today against Northville.

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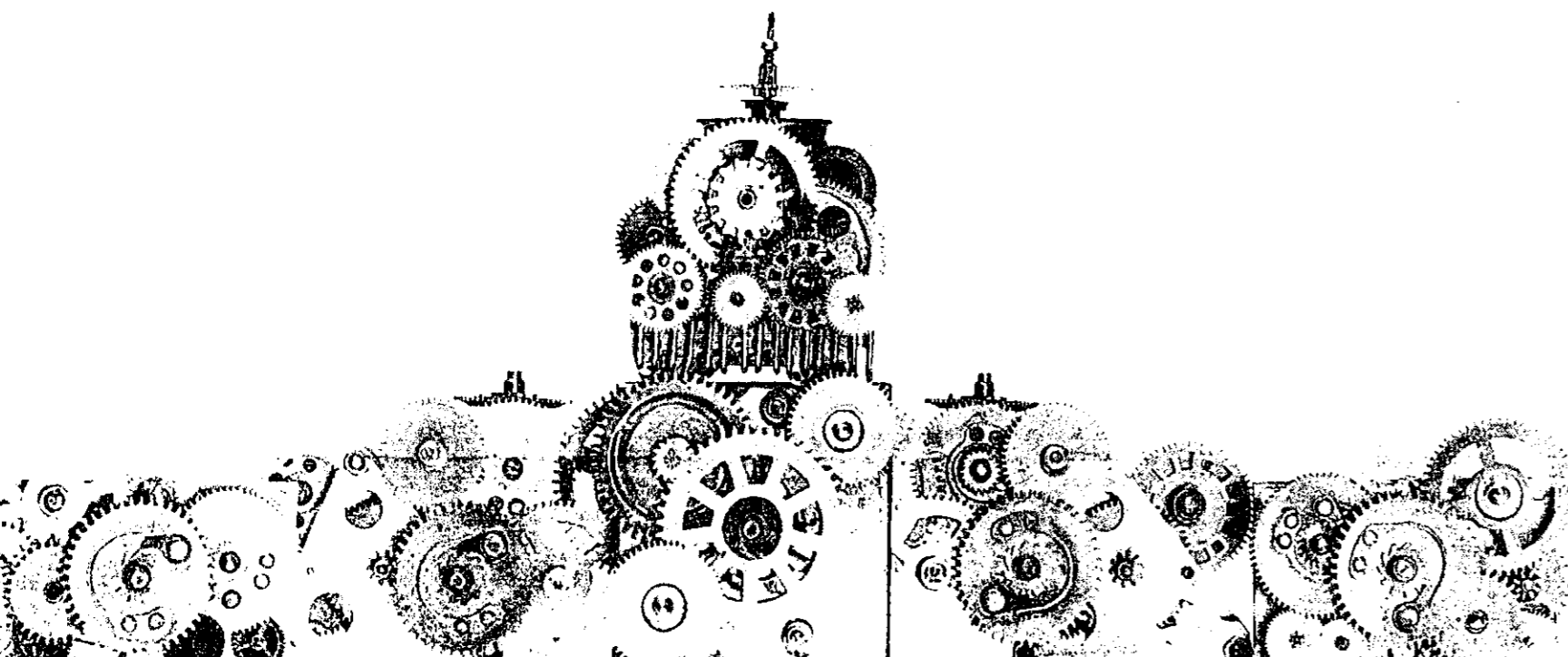
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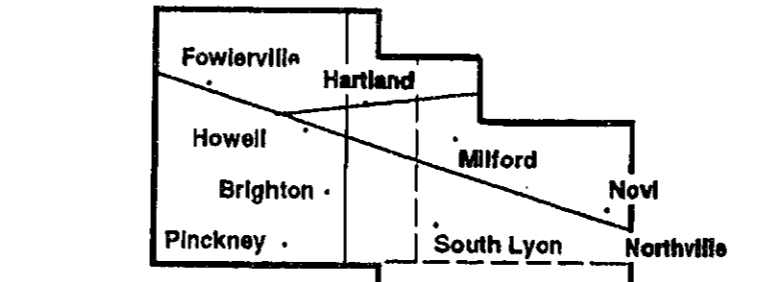
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Deadlines: Friday 3:30 p.m. for Monday Green Sheet
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Index:

Personal	Living Quarters to Share	090
Free	Antiques	091
Happy Ads	Buildings & Halls	092
Political Notices	Office Space	093
Special Notices	Vacation Rentals	094
Blingo	Land	095
Car Pools	Storage Space	096
Card of Thanks	Wanted to Buy	097
In Memoriam	Time Share	098
Lost	General	099
Found	Arts & Crafts	100
Real Estate For Sale	Antiques	101
Outstate (Homes for Sale)	Buildings & Halls	102
Lakeland Homes	Office Space	103
Duplex	Vacation Rentals	104
Condominium	Land	105
Mobile Homes	Storage Space	106
Horse Farms	Wanted to Buy	107
Farm, Acreage	Time Share	108
Homes Under Construction	General	109
Lake Property	Arts & Crafts	110
Northville	Antiques	111
North	Buildings & Halls	112
Vacant Property	Office Space	113
Out of State Property	Vacation Rentals	114
Industrial, Commercial	Land	115
Income Property	Storage Space	116
Real Estate Wanted	Wanted to Buy	117
Cemetery Lots	Time Share	118
Montage/Land	General	119
Open House	Arts & Crafts	120
	Antiques	121
	Buildings & Halls	122

Ann Arbor	040
Brighton	041
Dexter	042
Eastland	043
Farmington	044
Fowlerville	045
Howell	046
Huntington	047
Highland	048
Howell	049
Linden	050
Milford	051
New Hudson	052
Northville	053
Novi	054
Oak Grove	055
Pinckney	056
Plymouth	057
South Lyon	058
Stockbridge/Unadilla/Gregory	059
Union Lake/White Lake	060
Webberville	061
Whitmore Lake	062
Wyom/Walid Lake	063
Genesee County	064
Ingham County	065
Livingston County	066
Oakland County	067
Shawwassee County	068
Wayne County	069

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