

Calling all cooks

This year, we're planning something special for the holidays and we need you to help. For the first time ever, we're putting together a special collection of holiday recipes to be inserted into our Nov. 14 newspapers. We'd like to include your special Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Year's recipes and share them with the rest of our readers. To sweeten the pot, all submitted entries will be entered into a special drawing where three lucky chefs will each win a \$50 gift certificate to the restaurant of their choice. Entering is easy. Send your unpublished, original recipe to Candy Parent, HomeTown Newspapers, 323 E. Grand River Ave., Howell, MI 48843 or e-mail it to cparent@ht.homecomm.net. Be sure to include your name, phone number and complete address. We won't publish your address or phone number, but we need them in case you win. You may also include a photo of yourself, how you prepared the recipe, or how it fits in with your family. If you'd like to include a photo of yourself or your creation, we'd welcome that as well. Note that not all recipes will necessarily be published, but all will be entered in the drawing. Published recipes will include the name and city or township of the chef. You may enter as many original holiday recipes as you'd like before Oct. 18, 2002. Winners will be drawn Oct. 23, 2002. So don't delay. Share your recipes today.

Novi's Plan Review Center under fire

City Council questions awarding of two new employees

By Victoria Sadlocha STAFF WRITER

Members of Novi's city council began questioning the viability of the city's plan review department, sparking performance-based controversy with those involved.

Whether or not the newly-created department is meeting conceived expectations is on the mind

of city officials, center employees and members of the city council who think it may be time to pull the plug.

The center, originated by Novi City Manager Richard Helwig, began operating earlier this year and was created with the intention of placing the responsibility of reviewing developers' site plans with city employees instead of city-retained contractors.

The importance of the project is tied to reducing the city's reliance on outside consultants - one of Helwig's main priorities for Novi.

Another originally defined goal of the center was to provide developers with reliable input of their site plans in a timely manner.

Questions of the center's performance first sprang up during the city manager's annual performance review.

Novi City Councilman David Landry cautioned Helwig that his project was going to be under the microscope. Since then, the suggestion to add two woodland technicians as full-time city employees has further fired-up the circulating uncertainty.

Novi City Councilwoman Laura Lorenzo feels the council needs to take a close look at the center before allocating city funds to hire two new employees. She is not sure investing more money into the center is prudent.

For starters, Lorenzo said the

"The center is still in transition, but making a lot of progress. We're not making hamburgers at a fast food joint."

Clay Pearson Novi assistant city manager

center is behind in its work. "If you look at the numbers, we are way more than 30 days behind on some projects," Lorenzo said. "The site plan manual says we will turn documents around in 25 days."

Lorenzo's second concern is with the actual cost of hiring two new woodland employees.

She said the council was told it would cost about \$112,000. And,

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Get in the spirit!

Above: Novi High School's Homecoming Court is immersed in spirit week. Pictured are Nicole Blaszczyk-10th grade; Chad Thurman-11th grade; Becky Dominick-12th grade; B.J. Chaklos-10th grade; Ayme Sayers Moran-12th grade; Crystal Corte-12th grade; Allie Karalcz-9th grade; David Carnegle-9th grade; Darren Guffey-12 grade; Shannon Shrader-12th grade; Ashley Surles-11th grade; Mike Allie-12th grade; Eric Van Tassel-12th grade; Dave Benton-12th grade.

Right: Some Wildcats get into garb for Old Jersey Day on Tuesday. Pictured are Megan Szalony-9th grade; Tim Kaba-12th grade; Lisa Orneklan-12th grade; Drew Hunt-12th grade; Lindsay Blaszcak-11th grade; Beth Mallo-10th grade; Eric Van Tassel-12th grade.

Monday's spirit week theme was Disney Day; Wednesday was Hawaiian Day; Thursday's is Class Color Day and Friday is Green and White Day. The pep assembly is on Friday at 12:45 p.m. and the parade will start at Holy Family Church on Meadowbrook Road, heading south to 10 mile and then on to the high school.



Photos by Ramez Khuri

Residents question repaving

Neighbors speculate on council member Lorenzo's role

By Victoria Sadlocha STAFF WRITER

There is nothing in the world like hearing the beeping of a cement mixer backing up or scratching your initials in freshly poured concrete, right?

Well, some residents living on Novi's Galway Drive disagree.

They are not happy with their newly paved neighborhood street at all.

The reason? They say their street wasn't in poor condition, didn't need repaving and they were certainly not happy with the inconvenience they endured while the resurfacing of the Taft and Eight Mile roads thoroughfare was completed.

Furthermore, some residents on the street are alleging the only reason Galway from Daleview to Windermere was included in the 2002 Neighborhood Repaving Program is because Novi City Councilwoman Laura Lorenzo lives on the street and pushed to have it included.

"I think it's pressure from Laura Lorenzo," said Linda Hullman, Galway Drive resident. "I live next door to Laura Lorenzo council member and from the gathering of conversations that we (Galway residents) have had overheard from the city or we have talked to people in the city, it was kind of a push by Laura so that the whole portion of the street was done rather than just a little bit of it."

Hullman is under the impression only the "bad spots" were supposed to be repaved and not the entire portion.

"All of our neighbors are pretty upset. I think you could talk to anybody on this street and they will say they were all inconvenienced by something that was supposed to be an improvement for us," she said. "We didn't need it, we didn't want it and it is just a huge boomboggle and just a tremendous waste of taxpayer money."

"That is totally false and totally ludicrous," Lorenzo said.

The councilwoman said first of all it seems strange that a group of residents would complain about having their streets repaved and second of all the decision was administrative based on a city-generated evaluation system.

"I can accept differences of opinion," Lorenzo said. "But if this is a personal attack, then that is a totally different story."

Lorenzo adamantly said she had nothing to do with her street being paved and warned Galway residents making such outrageous accusations better get the definition of slander and libel ready because they are going to need it.

continued on 24



L. Lorenzo

Grand River bridge funding up in the air

Engler's cuts may hamper work over CSX tracks

By Victoria Sadlocha STAFF WRITER

A gubernatorial veto of \$24 million in federal funds directed at the Critical Bridge Program has left the fate of the city's Grand River Avenue Bridge reconstruction project in question.

The funding exclusion is part of the fiscal year 2003 Transportation Budget bill signed by Gov. John Engler Oct. 1.

The city was notified recently that the cut may extinguish funds earmarked for the reconstruction of the crumbling bridge routing traffic over the CSX railroad tracks.

Novi City Assistant Manager Clay Pearson said if the city loses funding, improvements to Beck Road will be affected as well.

"This is a story that will have a happy ending," Pearson said.

Pearson said right now the indication is the cut may not affect Novi's project because funds were dedicated such a long time ago.

The funds have been obligated for the Grand River Avenue bridge replacement since at least 1993, Pearson said.

The assistant city manager said city officials are working closely with State Rep. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) and Sen. Bill Bullard Jr. (R-Highland) to confirm the long-standing funding will remain in place so the State of

Michigan may award the construction contract in December.

The city had planned on demolition of the bridge at the end of this year, with reconstruction work starting construction season 2003.

The Road Commission for Oakland County had also approved the bridge reconstruction in its budget along with widening Grand River Avenue to five lanes from the CSX bridge to Beck Road.

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Keep weekend warriors healthy this Saturday

Providence and NCCU team up with nine-month health series

By Phil Foley STAFF WRITER

You don't have to be a member of the Grind Line to find yourself having an unpleasant and expensive conversation with an orthopedic surgeon. Failing to warm-up for a weekend softball game or saving a buck by getting low-quality sporting equipment can

lead to a trip to the emergency room.

Dr. Michael Montico, a sports medicine specialist at Providence Hospital, and Patrick Coimtois, the hospital's athletic coordinator, will be at Novi's Rotary Park from 10 a.m. to noon Oct. 19 to discuss how to avoid recreational sports injuries in the first in a series of health fairs sponsored by Providence and the Novi Community Credit Union.

The credit union and hospital, said Tony Musu, the credit union's marketing director, have agreed to partner over the next nine months for a series of health fairs that will focus on a wide

variety of health issues. Musu said he and hospital officials hope to help separate myth from reality on a number of health questions that have gained prominence recently. Some of the topics scheduled for future fairs will include heart disease and cancer.

Dr. Howard Schubiner will focus on Attention Deficit Disorder when Novi Community Credit Union and Providence Hospital host their second health fair Nov. 14 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at the Novi Public Library, 45245 West 10 Mile Road. Schubiner will examine how ADD affects adults as well as children.

Joining the hospital and credit union for the sports medicine health fair will be members of the Novi Rotary Club who will provide hot dogs and other snacks at Rotary Park which is located off Nine Mile Road at 22220 Roethel, east of Novi Road.

For more information call Musu at (248) 348-8500, ext. 303

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Animal tranquilizer use investigated

By Victoria Sadlocha and Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITERS

Members of the Novi Police Department began an investigation earlier this week to find out exactly how a Novi High School student obtained a form of animal tranquilizer he used to get high, police said.

There is a certain focus of the investigation, but will provide details at a later date.

The department was notified early in the day on Oct. 15, one of the students had possibly injected the drug that day.

Police later identified the tranquilizer as Acepromazine.

Novi High School principal Jennifer Cheal said one of the school's administrators notified emergency of the student's condition.

Shaeffer said the school employee noticed the student was acting very lethargic and also notified the police department's school resource officer, Jerrod Hart.

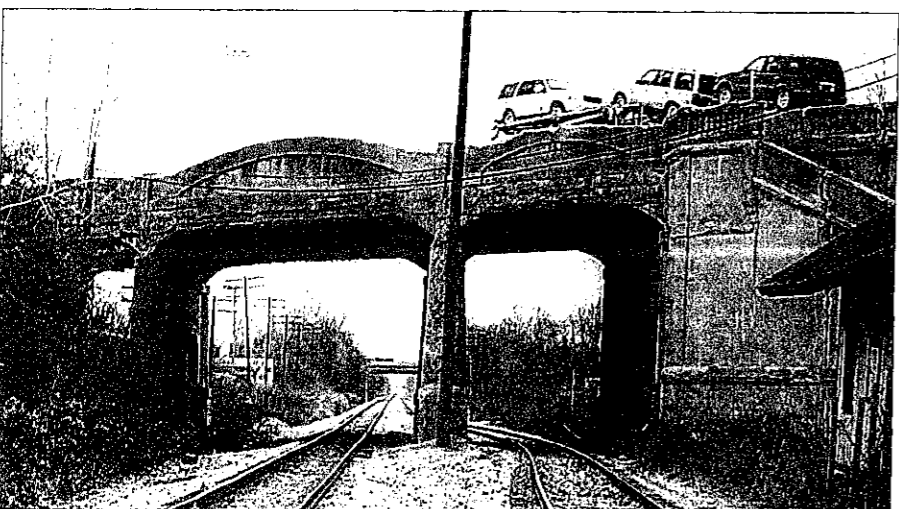
"Obviously the school employees are very in tune with their students' behavior," Shaeffer said. Officials said the male student was transported to Huron Valley Hospital for observation.

Cheal said the student is fine. Shaeffer said it is not believed at this time the boy used the drug

as a suicide attempt, but rather for recreational drug use.

It is believed the tranquilizer is commonly associated with horses.

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Traffic goes over Novi's Grand River bridge in this 1999 Novi News file photo.

Photo by John Heider

Funds: Grand River Avenue bridge repair up in air

continued from front

Engler stated in a press release, "I believe Michigan must expend its federal-aid bridge funds where

they will have the most benefit for motorists - on the high-level state trunkline system."

The bill, signed into law by Engler, provides more than \$3.1 billion

for improvements on the state trunkline system, local road and bridge projects and public transportation services.

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Police Report

Car burglar

A 33-year-old Livonia resident was arrested last week, after she attempted to steal a kitten valued at close to \$1,000. On Oct. 9 at about 1:30 p.m., Twelve Oaks Mall security and Novi police were notified a woman walked out of the store with a Himalayan kitten on sale for \$879. The pet store owner told police the woman asked to hold the kitten and then started walking around the store, looking at kitten supplies.

According to the report, as she approached the front of the store, she took off with out paying. The owner said she then went out of the mall into the parking lot, dropped the black and white kitten near a pole and ran to her car. The woman was arrested by Novi police after being caught by Twelve Oaks Mall security guards.

Count much?

A 41-year-old Livonia resident was arrested earlier this week for drinking and driving after he went speeding through the city, slurred his speech and was unable to count backward from 72 to 50. A Novi police officer noticed the man driving westbound on Grand River Avenue at about 2:15 a.m. on Oct. 14. The police man's radar indicated the 1988 Cougar was traveling 81 mph in a 50 mph zone. The vehicle then turned on Meadowbrook Avenue and continued to speed, traveling 60 mph in a 40 mph zone before being stopped by police. According to the report, as the officer approached the vehicle he smelled a "strong odor of intoxicants coming from the vehicle and noticed several empty beer bottles on the passenger side floorboard." The man told police he was running out of gas so he was rushing to the gas station. The officer asked the Livonia man to exit the vehicle and perform field sobriety tasks.

Party Mobile

Three underage parties were arrested last week after a Novi police officer found them with drugs and alcohol in their car. The officer noticed the party car near Haggerty and Eight mile roads on Oct. 11 at about 8:30 p.m. and stopped the driver after noticing the front passenger was not wearing a seat belt. As the officer approached the car, he noticed two of the passengers were acting suspicious while the third passenger was bending down trying to hide something under the seat. After talking to the vehicle occupants, the officer found out they had stuffed a blue marijuana bong under the passenger side seat. The 19-year-old female Novi resident told police she and the 22-year-old Commerce male and 19-year-old Novi male had all smoked three bowls before getting in the car. She also told the officer she had drunk two beers. All three were arrested and taken into police custody.

Plan Review: Novi's center under fire

continued from front

after taking a closer look into field-related salaries, she feels the expenditure will likely ring in at about \$136,806.

Additionally, Lorenzo feels the center is not meeting its cash-revenue-generation goals.

"Management indicated based on what we spent and what we saved as far as in-house versus consultants was about \$65,000," said Lorenzo. "I look at it as we saved \$65,000 but that doesn't cover \$136,806."

The department's performance and negative comments against it frustrates Novi City Engineer Nancy McClain.

"It is my opinion that it is a little hard to catch up on anything if you don't have anybody to do the work which is the point we are now at. And I feel a lot of that is due to not receiving any guidance as far as whether to have woodlands techs or to have consultants back in May," she said.

McClain said the department suffered a big blow when the city's landscape architect, Lauren McGuire, submitted her resignation at the end of September.

The city engineer said effective Oct. 2, the department will no longer have an in-house landscape architect, will have a part-time woodlands tech and two interim consultants basically handling all reviews along with the help from the city's forester and planning director.

"It has just gotten to the point where something just has to be done," McClain said.

"I agree they are working their tails off," Lorenzo said. "The whole system was poorly managed."

"We had one planner that wasn't reviewing plans and we then had Linda Lemke (the city's landscape architect consulting firm) leave, but we had about a month-and-a-half notice," said Lorenzo. "I know the planners are doing the best they can. I do not know how much the administration has been pitching in. That is in my opinion why we are where we are."

Novi Assistant City Manager Clay Pearson said since the center was in January without staff, "We will be doing the best we could in-house."

Pearson said two planners left and Linda Lemke & Associates

announced it was closing in December 2001, leaving the city with extra work.

"The system is still young," Pearson said.

He said changing decades of past utilization of outside consultants is challenging.

"The center is still in transition, but making a lot of progress," Pearson said. "We're not making hamburgers at a fast food joint."

Pearson said city management recognizes some changes need to be made and are dedicated to keep things moving.

Helwig said he will also be dedicating more time to the endeavor now that the Sandstone settlement talks have diminished, something that monopolized his schedule in prior years.

Novi City Councilman Craig DeRoche feels enough time has been given to base a negative evaluation.

"The councilman questioned, would you continue to go to a doctor who wasn't performing up to par because he or she had only been practicing for nine months?"

"My reaction to the plan review center is it is clearly under-performing at this time, and I think when you're in a hole you need to stop digging. So I don't see why we would commit to hiring two new city employees at this time," DeRoche said.

"We are two-and-a-half years into a new administration and one-and-a-half years into a system designed for government employees to replace private sector solutions. The process has not worked yet, and I would expect results or changes to be made by spring or summer at the latest."

Although the whole idea of bringing all of the city's business in-house went against his instincts, DeRoche said he wanted to give city management a chance.

"We opened up, we tried something new for the city, but at some point you have to say we tried it and it didn't work," Lorenzo said. "I don't think we have the luxury of waiting."

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Novi's Plato's Closet owner Gina Wells checks out some of the wares available at her used clothing shop in West Oaks Mall. She holds a pink Babe sweater (\$25) and a Forever 21 skirt (\$8). The shop opened Oct. 8.

National franchise brings teen fashion bargains to Novi

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Second-hand shops have been around almost since Adam and Eve decided the matching fig leaf look wasn't working, but a new shop in Novi is putting a new wrinkle in the time-honored concept.

After nearly two months of buying "gently worn" teen fashions, Gina and Paul Wells opened the doors on the area's first Plato's Closet.

What makes the Wells' second-hand store stand out from others is that it doesn't look like one. It's hard to distinguish Plato's Closet from one of the upscale teen stores in the nearby shopping centers and malls, until you look at the price tags.

According to Gina Wells, the average price for clothing and accessories in the store is less than \$9. She said that's about 70 percent less than new.

"I wish they had one of these when my kids were young," she laughed.

Plato's Closet is one of the franchise concepts offered through Minneapolis based Winmark Corp. The corporation's other franchisees include Play It Again Sports, Once Upon A Child and Music Go Round.

Each of the concepts is based on reselling brand-name items in a clean, brightly lit environment with contemporary signage that fits in well with retailers offering new merchandise.

Wells' first friend about Plato's Closet from her daughter, who lives in Ohio "We've always been big into thrift shopping," she said. She said she found items sorted by brand name, size and color to be very appealing.

"It's always fun to get more for your money," she said.

While the Novi Plato's Closet is the first of its kind in the area, it may not be the last. "We'd actually like to have a couple more and become a multi-unit franchise," Wells said.

Her husband, Paul, is regional vice president with a national self-storage company, and they

both have entrepreneurial backgrounds.

Wells said they opted to go with a franchise rather than simply open their own store. "They have the expertise. They have the formula to be successful. They have done the leg work," she said.

Wells said she and her husband chose Novi for their first store because "The 12 Oaks area is a regional market; it gets a lot of traffic; and a lot of young people like come here."

Still, after close to two months of watching cash flow out as they created inventory, Wells said it's

"been a little nerve wracking."

But despite missing the back-to-school rush, Wells said, "it's been going good. The response has been good."

Located at 43440 West Oaks Drive, between Toys R Us and Subway, Plato's Closet is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

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

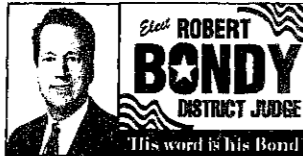
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PROFILE: Novi Coalition That Cares

As long as there are young people, there will be a drive to explore and experiment and that's why the Novi Coalition That Cares exists -- to channel that drive into directors that are productive and safe.

The coalition was formed six years ago after several Novi residents became alarmed by a Oakland County report that indicated alcohol, drug and tobacco use among local teens was slightly above the average for the county and six states.

According to Beth Beller, one of the driving forces behind the coalition, the group draws on the resources of local police, schools, business people and service clubs like Lions and Rotary to steer local youth away from substance abuse.

"I'm very impressed with the numbers," said Bob Steeh, Novi's director of community education and a member of the coalition's executive committee. "Substance abuse has been on a steady decline."

However, coalition members cautioned that

it's a never ending process.

Every year, noted Beller there's a new generation of adolescents looking to fit in, looking to find their place in the world. This year Novi was one of 11 communities selected by the Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to be evaluated on the effectiveness of its Title V Community Prevention Grant Program.

Several studies in recent years have shown a disconnect between D.A.R.E. programs offered at the fifth grade level and the frequency of substance abuse among junior high and high school students in the same school district.

Coalition member Tony Musa said he believes that's because a substance abuse program can't be a one-shot, quick fix thing. "It's got to be an on-going process."

That's why he and his colleague at Novi Community Credit Union, Brenda Bleiskis, have committed to providing the coalition with marketing and fund raising support.

Last year, noted Steeh, Novi saw participation in its after school program plummet from 1,200 kids to 150 when grant money ran out and the program switched from free to \$8 a day.

Musa said he's looking to raise \$10,000 to \$15,000 this year to support coalition initiatives.

Among the coalition's programs in the works is a spring break brochure to offer parents tips on how to keep their teens safe.

According to Beller, the most important thing the coalition does is keep a wide range of community resources focused on youth needs.

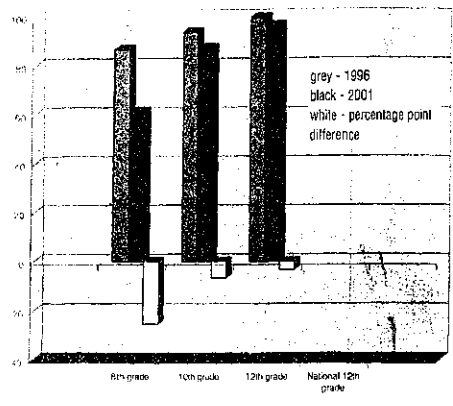
"Schools can do some things," she said, "but there are some things only parents can do, others that one law enforcement can do, and still others only the community's leadership can tackle."

To join the coalition's effort, call Beller at 248-347-0372.

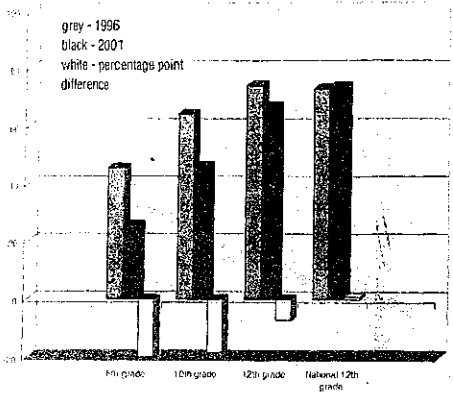
Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or by e-mail at phfoley@home.comcast.net.



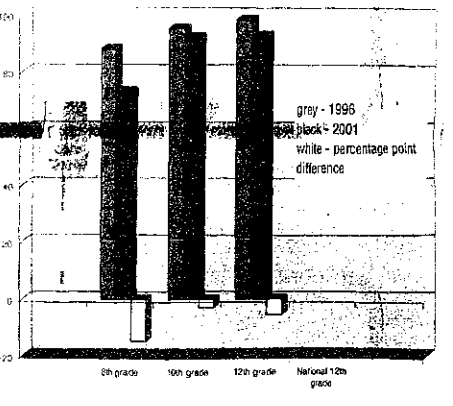
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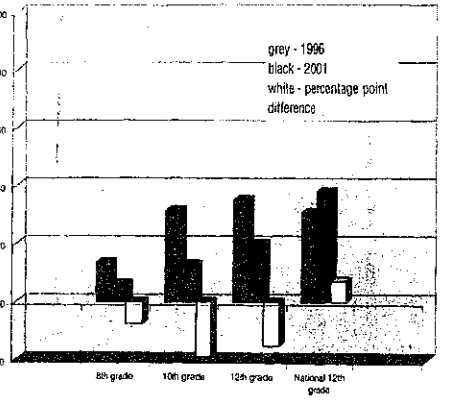
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NOVI PAST YEAR USE OF MARIJUANA



Alex Parvana (left) Adam Dreisbach and Alex Zurek set up for a game of pool at the Novi Ice Arena during a session of Novi School's after school program for middle schoolers, the PT Club. It's one of the programs that Novi Coalition That Cares helps support.

THOSE INVOLVED

There are many businesses that have been involved by donating time or materials or food to events or meetings for the Coalition:

- Novi Youth Assistance
- City of Novi
- Novi Parks Recreation and Forestry
- Novi Community Schools
- Novi Ministers Association
- Congressman Knollenberg's Office
- Novi Police Department
- Parents
- Young Life
- Novi Rotary Club
- SADD
- Oakland County Health Department, Office of Substance Abuse
- Local Color
- Michigan Public Health Institute
- Brighton Hospital
- Senior Citizens
- Cherry Blossom
- Johnson's Press
- Allegria Print and Imaging



From the left, co-treasurers Tony Musa and Brenda Bleiskis, president Bob Steeh and Beth Beller are among the more than 30 members of the Novi Community Coalition That Cares, a group dedicated to preventing youth alcohol and drug abuse. Dana Minock serves as secretary and Mary Watson is vice president.

The Novi Community That Cares Coalition exists to enhance substance abuse prevention and intervention strategies. Through education, awareness and community involvement, the Coalition is working to improve the quality of life in the community.

Mission Statement
Novi Coalition That Cares

The DanCentre

at
The Sports Club of Novi

presents
Intensive Russian Ballet Program

Taught by Sergey Rayevskiy, formerly of the Kirov Ballet and Olena Kyotk founder of Ballet International of the Ukraine

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- Novi Civic Ballet Company Auditions, Sunday October 27th
- Complementary Drama & Musical Dance Classes, Thursday October 24th

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www.thesportsclubs.com

German auto supplier doubles Novi space

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Five years ago SCA Schucker, a German manufacturer of adhesive equipment for the auto industry, was a one-man operation in Novi. Today it employs nearly 20 people and is about to double its floor space.

Last month the Farmington Hills-based Friedman Real Estate Group represented SCA Schucker in negotiating an eight-year lease on 17,878 square feet of industrial space at 46815 Magellan Drive. Steve Kim, who was part of the team of Friedman brokers that put the deal together, noted that "while most companies are downsizing, they are growing exponentially."

According to Kim, SCA Schucker is a dominant player in its segment of the automotive market in Europe. Here, he said,

Ford Motor Company, is the firm's largest customer, but "in today's economy you can't serve just one company and location is key."

Kim said Novi is ideally suited for serving the traditional Big Three research and development centers in Metro Detroit.

Scott Potter, SCA Schucker's purchasing manager, said the firm plans to move from its current home at 40230 Grand River between Haggerty and Meadowbrook roads to its new Magellan Drive location Dec. 15.

Potter said the company's Novi location is predominantly a sales and service location, with just a small amount of local manufacturing. He said the bulk of the company's products are manufactured in Bretten, Germany, a suburb of Stuttgart, where the firm was founded by Joseph Schucker in 1986.

"While most companies are downsizing, they are growing exponentially."

Steve Kim

Friedman Real Estate Group broker

Potter attributed his firm's growth in North America to "customer service." He noted, "We offer free service on the equipment for the first year, not many other manufacturers do that."

According to David Green, Friedman's vice president of brokerage services, one of the significant aspects of the Schucker deal

is its length. Green said there is currently a lot of sublet space on the market in the one year to 18 month range. "We're seeing a lot of tenants renege for short terms," said Green, adding, "There is a fear of marking long-term commitment in uncertain times."

He said his firm is looking to see leasing activity pick up sometime in the middle of next year. Observing that that auto makers haven't signed any major new contracts in quite some time, Green offered, "at some point the auto companies are going to have to let some R&D and prototype contracts to stay competitive with the Asians."

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

Wixom Clerk Kirby joins IIMC program

By Aileen Wingblad
SPECIAL WRITER

Wixom City Clerk Linda Kirby, CMC, was recently accepted as a member of the Master Municipal Clerk Academy Program of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC).

Kirby is one of 56 active municipal clerks in Michigan who have been received into the program. Currently, of the 10,300 members of the IIMC, some 15 percent have qualified for the academy status.

The academy is a professional organization for certified municipal clerks who continue their involvement in education through various programs including leadership in national and state associations, attendance at conferences and seminars, professional writings and other accomplishments.

"I am honored to welcome Ms. Kirby as a member of the Master Municipal Clerk Academy," said IIMC President Pierre Page. "She is dedicated to municipal service and an inspiration to our profession."

Kirby has been an employee of the city of Wixom since 1988. A member of the IIMC since January 1991, she has served as City Clerk of Wixom since July 1999.

But he added, he's not concerned because, "we have a very good committee." For more information on the chamber call (248) 624-2826.

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

Lakes Area Chamber loses executive director Sturm to bank

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Visitors to the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce will be seeing a lot more of Chamber President Chuck Smith over the next few weeks.

After 12 years as the chamber's executive director, Janine Sturm locked the doors to the chamber's office on North

Pontiac Trail in Walled Lake for the last time Oct. 4.

"She just received an offer she couldn't refuse and we couldn't match," said Smith. He said Sturm was approached by representatives of 5/3rd Bank to manage one of their local branches.

Strum is now the banking manager at 5/3rd's White Lake Bank Mart, located in the

Farmer Jack store on M-59 in White Lake Township.

The Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce has about 560 members in Wixom, Walled Lake, Union Lake, Wolverine Lake, Waterford Township, White Lake Township and Commerce Township.

Smith said, "We'd like to fill the vacancy as quickly as possible," but he added he's not sure

how long it will take. He said the just placed ads for the position.

In the meantime, he said, "We have a great administrative assistant." Smith added he plans to spend a lot more time in the chamber office until a new executive director can be found.

I guess if you want to be president then, you got to do what

you've got to do to get the job done," he said.

The chamber, he said, is in the midst of planning for its first major charity event — a dinner-dance slated for Feb. 1 at the El Dorado Country Club — to benefit the chamber's high school scholarship fund and the cardiac care fund at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital.

"This is a big event for us," he



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Calendar of Events

Annual Health Expo
DATE: Friday, Oct. 18
LOCATION: Grand Court, Novi, 45182 West Park Drive
TIME: 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
DETAILS: Offering flu shots, blood pressure, hearing and cholesterol screening, bone density and blood glucose testing. Various health seminars will be held at different times throughout the day.
PHONE: For more information call Andrea Cooper, Marketing Director, 248-669-5130.

White Lake Township Business Association's Annual Halloween Rite
DATE: Friday, Oct. 18
LOCATION: Nichols II, 6665 Highland Rd., Westland
TIME: doors open 7:30 p.m., buffet dinner 8:30 p.m., costume registration 8:30 p.m.
DETAILS: dj/musical provided by Rick Jefferys Entertainment, costume contest \$100 grand prize sponsored by Weldon Electric Company, \$45,000 per person.
PHONE: for more information, call (248) 975-8017.

Fastpitch Softball Clinic
DATE: Sunday, Oct. 20
LOCATION: Doug Gillis Pitching School and Softball Academy, 28025 Oakland Drive, Wyom
TIME: noon-3 p.m.
DETAILS: free, open to all players, coaches and parents, no reservations or registration required, bring glove and bat.
PHONE: (248) 449-7357

Lakes Baptist Church Special Speaker
DATE: Sunday, October 20
LOCATION: Lakes Baptist Church, 309 Decker Rd., Walled Lake, (north of 14 Mile).
TIME: 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
DETAILS: Pastor Alexander Timoney, of Kroy's Temple, Russia will be starting from God's working in the churches of the former Soviet Union. Public is invited to attend. A staffed nursery will be provided.
PHONE: Lakes Baptist Church, (248) 624-2908.

Master Ballet Class
DATE: Sunday, Oct. 20
LOCATION: Dancecentre at Sports Club of Novi
TIME: begin: 1-2:30 p.m., intJads: 2:30-4:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Classes are being taught by Sergey Rayevsky. He is a graduate of the Kroy Academy of Ballet.

PHONE: (248) 725-8850 for more information.

Creative Expo 2002
DATE: Wednesday, Oct. 23 and Thursday, Oct. 24
TIME: 4-10 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Expo Center
DETAILS: Thousands of metro Detroit professionals are gearing up for one of the Midwest's premier events for buyers and sellers in the communication arts industry. Tickets to Creative Expo 2002 are \$12 in advance and \$20 at the door. Seminar tickets are \$75 in advance or \$90 at the door. For ticket information and expo updates, including a list of current exhibitors and seminar schedules.
CONTACT: please visit www.highlights.com or call Big Idea at (248) 458-5500.

Secretary of State Mobile Offices
DATE: Wed., Oct. 23 and Thurs., Oct. 24
LOCATION: Novi Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook Rd.
TIME: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
DETAILS: provides all of the services found at any Sec. of State office. Driver licenses and license plates can be renewed/bring I.D. and proof of insurance.

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Morning Connection
DATE: Wednesday, Oct. 23
LOCATION: Oak House Clubhouse & Senior Center, 2045 E. West Maple Rd., Ste. D-405 (in the Commerce Place Complex), Walled Lake.
TIME: 8:30-9:30 a.m.
DETAILS: Join us for a continental breakfast! Use this opportunity to network with local businesses!

Arthritis Self-Help Class
DATE: Wed., Oct. 23 & 30 and Nov. 6
TIME: 12-30-2:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook, Novi
DETAILS: \$20 per person, \$5 companion rate; register by Oct. 16
PHONE: (248) 347-0421

Octoberfest
DATE: Friday, Oct. 25
TIME: 6-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Ginnar Mettala Park (off Maple Rd., between Beck and Wixom roads)
DETAILS: Bring your family and friends as we celebrate the German tradition under the tent! The Rittenlander's german band

will entertain us during the Fall Festival. Fee includes admission, brat, potato salad, chips, 1 beverage (soda / beer / or wine) music, yodeling, dancing and fun! Inclement weather - moved to Wixom Community Center, 49015 Pontiac Trail, Must pre-register. Tickets available at City of Wixom Parks and Recreation, 49015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom, cost is \$12 per person.
PHONE: For more information call (248) 624-2850 or check web site www.cityofwixom.com.

Novi Theatre Production of The Legend of Sleepy Hollow
DATE: Friday, Oct. 25, Saturday, Oct. 26 and Sunday, Oct. 27
TIME: Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Stage
DETAILS: all seats reserved-\$10 in advance, \$12 at the door.
PHONE: (248) 347-0400.

City of Novi Tricks and Treats Halloween Festival
DATE: Saturday, Oct. 26
TIME: noon-4 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: For ages 12 and under, \$5/child (includes moon-walk, magic show and games), pizza and potato dinner-\$11, pumpkin launch-3:30 p.m., lots of fun activities including a magician, and a kids carnival.
PHONE: Parks and Recreation, (248) 347-0400.

Halloween Party
DATE: Saturday, Oct. 26
TIME: 7-10 p.m.
LOCATION: All Star Gymnastics, 22515 Heslip Dr. (off 9 mile, 1 block E of Novi Rd.), Novi
DETAILS: 6 years up and older. Must pre-register. Pizza and drinks provided. Cost: \$15.
PHONE: (248) 380-5330

Aplastic Anemia Foundation of Michigan Boot Scootin Benefit
DATE: Saturday, Nov. 2
LOCATION: Wixom Community Center, 49015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
DETAILS: Celebrating our 10 year anniversary, tickets purchased before Oct. 26, \$10.00 each, after Oct. 26, \$12.00 each, all proceeds will be used toward helping patients and families deal with the devastation of aplastic anemia and other bone marrow failure diseases.
PHONE: (248) 669-1585.

Competitive Cheer Try-Outs
DATE: Sunday, Nov. 3
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: All Star Gymnastics (22515 Heslip, off 9 Mile, east of Novi Road)
DETAILS: All Star Gymnastics is holding try-outs for the MECA cheer squad. Both girls and boys in sixth thru 11th grade are welcome.
PHONE: Call (248) 380-5330 to sign up or for more information.

Induction Seminar by Welduction Corporation
DATE: Friday, Nov. 8
LOCATION: Wynulham Garden Hotel, Novi
DETAILS: The seminar will include technical sessions and videos covering various induction applications and heat treating systems. Attendees can also tour Welduction's manufacturing and commercial processing facility.
PHONE: To register or for more information, call Welduction Corp, (800) 798-3042 or (248) 735-2800.

Quick Date
DATE: Nov. 12
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: 5th Avenue Ballroom, 25750 Novi Road, Novi
DETAILS: Meet 10-15 new people for 5 minutes each. It's fast-paced, fun & exciting! Pre-registration is required.
PHONE: Call (517) 552-0673 or www.quickdateinfo.com

Walled Lake Western High School Performance of "Les Miserables"
DATE: Nov. 15-17 and Nov. 22-23
LOCATION: Walled Lake Western High School, 600 Beck Road, Walled Lake
DETAILS: Friday and Saturday shows, 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinee-2 p.m., Tickets are \$16 (\$10 for seniors, opening night only) and are on sale now.
PHONE: (248) 956-4578.

Novi Library Bookmobile
DATE: Nov. 19 and Dec. 17
TIME: 11:30 a.m.-noon
LOCATION: Novi Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook, Novi
PHONE: (248) 347-0421, Mon-Fri, 9-4 p.m.

OH-GOING
Motorsports Hall of Fame "Art of Racing" Exhibit
DATE: thru Dec. 31
LOCATION: Motorsports Hall

of Fame, inside Novi Expo Center at 1-96 and Novi Road.
TIME: open 10 a.m.-5 p.m., seven days a week, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday thru Sundays after Labor Day.
DETAILS: \$4/adults, \$2.00/seniors, \$2/children Special exhibit of original paintings by many of the paintings are available for purchase in the Hall of Fame gift shop.
PHONE: (248) 349-7223

Oakland County Health Division Expectant Parent Classes
DATE: ongoing series
LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple, Walled Lake
TIME: 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
DETAILS: Classes will be taught by Public Health Nurses. Topics will include childbirth preparation, labor and delivery, care of the newborn baby, breastfeeding, bottle-feeding, information about keeping children safe, and caring for them when they are ill. Cost is \$25.00.
PHONE: (248) 858-4003, or (888) 350-0900 ext. 84003

Oakland County Health Division Breast-feeding support sessions
DATE: ongoing series
LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple, Walled Lake.
DETAILS: Information covered includes pumping, solving common problems associated with breastfeeding, taking care of mom, growth and development of the breastfeeding infant including: growth spurts, starting solids, and weaning.
PHONE: 248-858-4003 Or toll free, 1-888-350-0900, ext. 84003.

Novi Toastmasters
DATE: First and third Tuesdays of the month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile, Novi
TIME: 7-8:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills, voice your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.
PHONE: For more information, call Colleen at (248) 685-9226.

Send calendar items to Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48168 or e-mail to cstone@tl.homes.com.net.

County offers local entrepreneurs tips for business success

The Oakland County Business Center located at the Oakland County Executive Office Building, 1200 N. Telegraph, in Pontiac is offering four seminars for small business owners and entrepreneurs in November. The sessions will kick off Nov. 7 with **How to Start a Business** from 9 a.m. to noon at the business center. The \$30 fee includes a copy of the book, **Starting a Business in Oakland County** book published by the Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services. To register and for directions call (248) 858-0783, Autonation Alley, Plainfield, MI 48078.
LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple, Walled Lake
TIME: 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
DETAILS: Classes will be taught by Public Health Nurses. Topics will include childbirth preparation, labor and delivery, care of the newborn baby, breastfeeding, bottle-feeding, information about keeping children safe, and caring for them when they are ill. Cost is \$25.00.
PHONE: (248) 858-4003, or (888) 350-0900 ext. 84003

Futurecasting Your Business Success: Cash Management Strategies of Top Performers from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Nov. 14 at the Oakland County Information Technology Center, 1200 North Telegraph Road, Building 49 West Pontiac.
Call (248) 858-0783 by Nov. 11 to register. There is a \$20 fee for the seminar.
TEAM SBA, a roundtable session that gives small business owners a chance to meet counselors who can help prepare their loan request for the bank, will be offered at the business center from 9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m. Nov. 14. TEAM SBA is comprised of a banker, an federal Small Business Administration loan officer and a business consultant. There is no charge to attend, but pre-registration is required with the SBA at (313) 226-6075.

Pledging entrepreneurs can learn How to Write a Business Plan from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 21. This workshop is for small business owners who are developing a plan to serve as their road map to success. Fee is \$40, which includes all materials. Call (248) 858-0783 for directions and registration.

The business center is part of Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services (PEDS). For more information on services available through PEDS, visit agency's Web site at www.co.oakland.mi.us

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Council looks at budget amendments

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

City of Novi employee salary modifications and new fire equipment top the list of first quarter budget amendments approved by members of the city council last week.

During Novi's Oct. 7 meeting, council members voted unanimously to approve the 2003 fiscal year and amendments, allowing for the new equipment purchase and routine employee compensation adjustments.

The majority of the changes are for the administrative salary adjustments for 53 staff, implemented July 1, 2002, not includ-

ing adjustments for the city manager or city clerk positions, said Kathy Smith-Roy, City of Novi finance director and treasurer.

Additionally, the personal services section of each department's budget was completely updated including all personnel changes and insurance adjustments through Aug. 31, 2001.

Smith-Roy said this is a common practice whenever the city has major changes to the personal services section of the budget; therefore, while most of the personal service categories have been changed for the administrative salary adjustments and related benefits, the following items were also included:

- Staff changes (i.e. a building inspector and a sergeant retired, and the newly hired staff are at a lower rate, and are not eligible for longevity; a firefighter was on disability and still receiving certain benefits and is no longer on the city's payroll; the weighmaster position was moved from the DPS department to the police department)

- The worker's compensation rates were received after the budget was adopted, and this amendment reflects the new rates (a decrease from the prior year for certain categories - police, fire, etc.)

- Benefits changes have been updated (i.e. single individual is

married during the period, etc.)

The first quarter amendment also allows the fire department to acquire a Genesis Hydraulic Rescue Tool System from Howell Rescue Systems.

The \$20,775 system will replace the department's present "jaws of life," which is around 15 years old.

The acquisition was not a planned expenditure for the 2002-2003 budget, but Novi City Manager Richard Helwig said the appropriation should be approved by members of the Novi City Council because the request was for state of the art equipment, much superior to what the city has.

Novi Fire Chief Arthur

Lenaghan said the department had the opportunity to use the approved equipment for two days and found it was twice as powerful as the department's current equipment and took the side of a car off in about four minutes.

Smith-Roy said the first quarter budget amendment, including the salary modifications and fire equipment purchase, will have no impact on the General Fund fund balance because of the health city's General Fund contingency account.

Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or at vsadlocha@ht.homecom.net.

New Optimist Club formed to serve area community

A group of Northville and Novi community members have announced they have formed the Optimist Club of Northville- Novi to conduct positive service projects to benefit area youth and community.

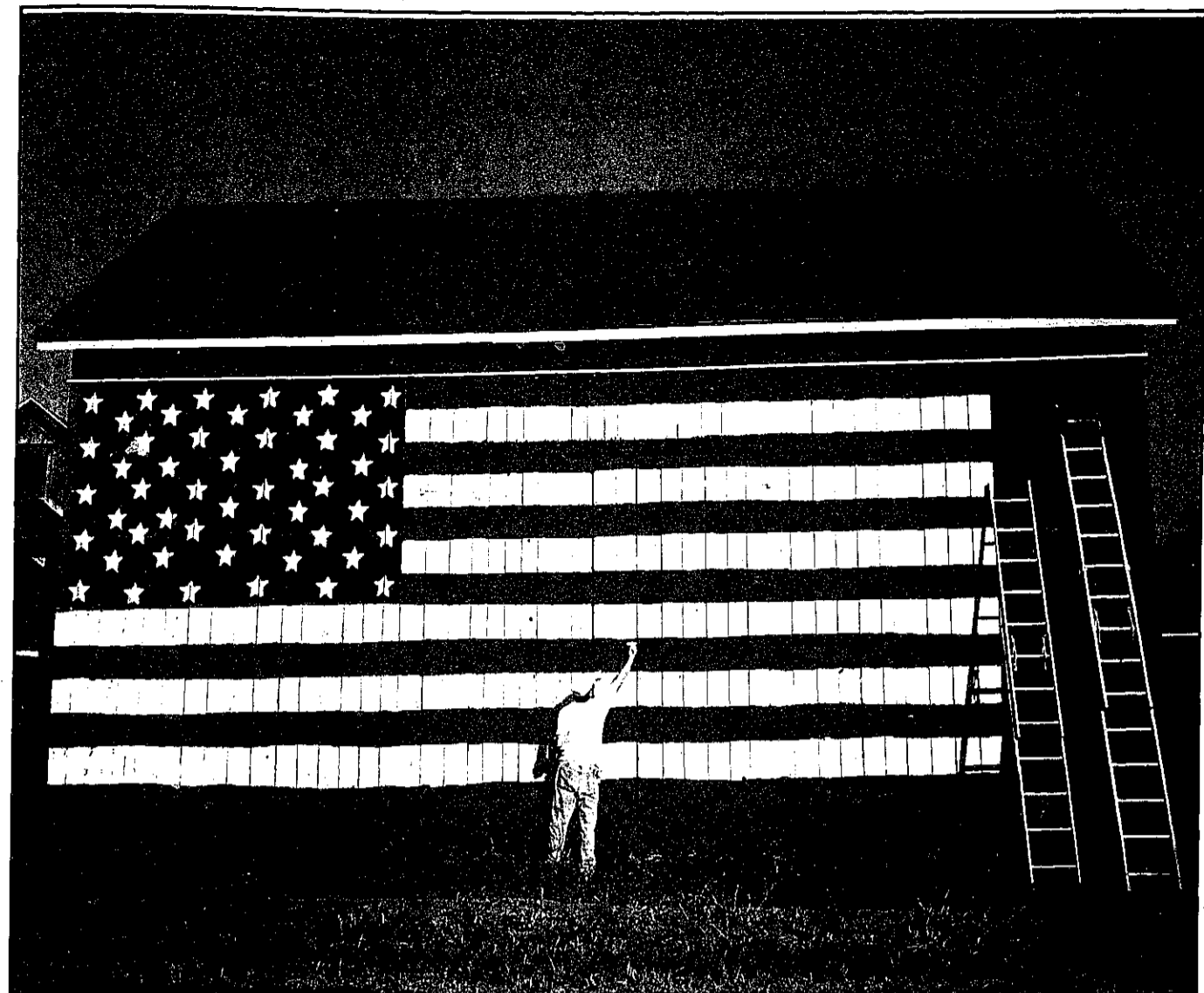
The Optimist Club of Northville- Novi is affiliated with Optimist International, one of the world's largest and most active service club organizations.

With more than 150,000 members in 4,200 Optimist Clubs across the United States, Canada, and other nations, Optimist Clubs conduct a wide range of positive service projects reaching more than six million young people each year.

Major Optimist programs include substance abuse prevention, the Optimist Oratorical Contest, the Optimist Essay Contest, the Communications Contest For the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, Youth Appreciation Week, the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships, and many others.

Officers elected to lead the Optimist Club of Northville- Novi during its first year are Sally Neer as president, and Craig Swolish as secretary-treasurer. Club vice-presidents include Charlene Burbary and David Combs. Elected to the board of directors were Chris Andrews, Rochelle Guzack, Gary Kowalski, Michael Nadolski, Scott Taylor, and Karen Watkins.

The Optimist Club of Northville- Novi will meet the 4th Thursday of the month from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at MacKinnons Restaurant located at 124 Main Street, Northville.



Novi Hilton hotel changes name, not service

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

The jackets on the front desk staff will change and the signs out front will change, but service won't when the Novi Hilton officially becomes the Sheraton Detroit - Novi on Jan. 1.

That's the word from hotel manager Debra Schultz, who said the hotel's parent company owns the Sheraton name, so it's simply a

case of switching from one reservation system to another.

Located on Haggerty, just north of Eight Mile Road, the seven-story, 240-room hotel was built as a corporately-owned Hilton in 1985 and purchased by White Plains, N.Y.-based Starwood Hotel & Resort Worldwide Inc. in 1997.

Starwood owns, manages or gets franchise fees from more than 750 hotels in 80 countries. Starwood brands include

Sheraton, Westin, St. Regis, W Hotels, Four Points and Luxury Collection.

Schultz, who has managed the Novi hotel for the past three years, said she doesn't believe switching from the Hilton to Sheraton brand will have much impact since "most of our business is driven by location."

However, she added, the Starwood Preferred Guest program provided through Sheraton hotels has a lot to offer guests.

In addition to seeing gray jackets on the staff and a Sheraton "S" at the top of the hotel, Schultz said guests will see completely renovated rooms by the first of the year. The hotel began a \$2 million room renovation project in January and so far 88 rooms on two floors have been completed. One completed, said Schultz, all the hotel's guest rooms will have high-speed Internet access.

The hotel offers 17,000 square feet of meeting space, an indoor pool and a fitness center. DaVinci's Market and a lounge, the Sparta's Lounge.

The hotel employs 130 people.

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

Wixom picks Howard for DPW director position

By Aileen Wingblad
SPECIAL WRITER

After a several month search, the city of Wixom has a new Department of Public Works director.

Michael Howard, a former Director of Planning and Development for the city of Walled Lake, was officially welcomed to the position by Wixom city council members Oct. 8, who approved his appointment by J. Michael Dornan, Wixom

city manager.

"He's a candidate that rose above all others during the recruitment and hiring process," Dornan said. Howard fills the vacancy created July 31 with the resignation of former DPW Director Michael Pinski, who relocated to Hillsdale, Michigan.

Along with his experience with the city of Walled Lake, Howard has a background in CBI (Central Business District) development and maintenance,

community planning and senior planning in both the public and private sectors in various cities throughout Michigan.

A Redford Township resident, Howard holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Land Use Planning and is currently pursuing a Master of Science degree in Geography with an emphasis on Land Use Planning.

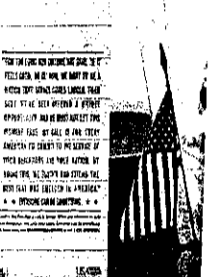
"I'm excited about working in Wixom. It is a great community that is really progressing," Howard said. "At the forefront,

I'll be working on making sure the grounds and maintenance will be properly kept up to reflect the progressive image of the city. His very challenging and exciting to work in this type of environment."

Greg McCaffery, director of the Department of Public Services for the city of Wixom, added that he's very pleased with Howard's appointment and looks forward to working with him.

"There are a lot of maintenance issues that the DPW director oversees that I have had to take over in the interim. We have construction activities and a lot of projects that get either tied down or moving in the fall that require a coordinator, such as the Leaf Project and the Joint and Crack (road repair) project," McCaffery said. "This is a busy time of year."

Howard's starting salary is \$60,000, in line with the 2002/2003 budget. He began work Oct. 9.



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- SHARON (PG-13)
- GARYSON (G) 12:00, 12:50, 2:50, 5:10, 7:20, 8:35 FRISAT 11:45
- WHITE OLIVER (PG-13)
- GARYSON (G) 12:10, 1:30, 4:45, 7:00, 8:20 FRISAT 11:40
- THE TRANSPORTER (PG-13)
- 12:00, 2:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:40 FRISAT 12:00
- WHEELS OF ATTRACTION (R)
- GARYSON (G) 12:05, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45 FRISAT 11:45
- ROCKAWAY (R)
- 11:40, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50
- RED DRAGON (R) 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20 FRISAT 11:50
- SWEET HOME ALABAMA (PG-13) 12:00, 1:15, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10 FRISAT 11:30
- MY GIRL FAT GREEN WEDDING (PG)
- (SAT/SUN 10:30) 12:30, 2:40, 5:00, 7:10, 9:15 FRISAT 11:20

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SWOCC opens new studio for public access television

■ Cable Commission goes all-digital in 10,000 sq. ft. studios

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

It's a brave new world for cable casting in Novi and it's all digital. Members of the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission (SWOCC) shipped a piece of obsolete video tape Oct. 8 to open the doors to its new studios.

Located just east of Farmington Road on Nine Mile Road, the 10,000-square-foot one-time auto body repair shop more than triples the amount of space available to produce local government and public access programming on the Time-Warner cable television system in Novi, Farmington and Farmington Hills.

City council meetings, said Caren Collins, SWOCC's executive director, are by far the most popular programs on cable systems' public access channels. According to Collins, there's a city official in just about every community where city council sessions are cable cast that has a story about seeing residents sitting in the audience with coats over their shoulders.

In Novi local government meetings are air over cable channel 13.

SWOCC chairman Jerry Ellis said the new studios are the latest step in a journey that began two decades ago in what is today the Farmington City manager's office. For the past 13 years SWOCC has called a former fire station on Research Drive home.

Ellis said the \$1.5 million in renovations to the building, including broadcast equipment, have been a year in the making. He said the result is a state-of-the-art studio, the rival of anything available at any commercial station in Metro Detroit.

Eric Angott, SWOCC's video operations manager, said the new studios give the commission the ability to do things it's never been able to do before — such as offer call-in programs, do voice overs, and digital editing. He added the studio can also transcribe and duplicate all the major videotape formats.

This means if someone decides to use their own equipment to produce a public access program SWOCC can cablecast it.

Ellis noted that since taking over playback operations last year, SWOCC has cablecast nearly 2,300 programs on its access channels.

Novi City Council Member Lou Cordus said SWOCC gives Novi residents the ability to stay better informed about the activities of local government as well as giving "people with different passions" the ability to express themselves through the commission's public access Collins said any resident of Novi, Farmington Hills or Farmington is welcome to use SWOCC studios to produce their own cable programs. She said SWOCC's 13 member staff offers free classes in all aspects of television production.

SWOCC operates on a \$400,000 annual budget that comes from a portion of the franchise fees paid to the three cities by Time-Warner and an access grant that amounts to 1 percent of the cable company's gross revenues in the three communities, said Collins.

For information on SWOCC classes and the availability of air-time, call (248) 473-2800.



Eric Angott, video operations manager at the Southwest Oakland County Cable Commission, demonstrates some of the features of the commission's new control room. The new studio offers local residents and government officials a whole new world of possibilities in cable programming, including call-in shows.

Proposal 02-1: Do you favor straight party voting?

By Karl Kling
HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

A measure which passed the state House, state Senate and was signed into law by Gov. John Engler is now before the voters.

This November, Michigan voters will decide if Public Act 269 of 2001 was indeed a well-written law that warrants passage. The set will become law if Proposal 02-1 receives the majority of votes cast, which would be "yes" votes.

"It's one of those confusing bills," said Oakland County Clerk G. William Caddell. "If you support straight party voting, then you vote no. If you want to eliminate straight party voting, then you vote yes."

Other than the confusion over wording and intent, much of the controversy surrounding the issue is whether or not people's time is more valuable than their right to choose candidates from one party in one fell swoop.

"I don't agree with all aspects of the proposal," said Highland Township Clerk Mary McDonnell. "I do not think the big advantage of eliminating straight party voting is, I believe that should be an option."

Organizations such as Pro-Voters believe that the option to click one lever to cast a ballot in numerous races often leaves people

with the impression that their voting is complete. Often left unmarked are ballot proposals and non-partisan races.

"With the straight party voting it's a lot easier on the voter and the clerk," said Caddell. "If the proposal passes, voters will have to seek out each individual office which could stimulate longer lines at the polls. On the other side, you really should know who or what you are voting for."

Longer lines seems to be a consensus result among local clerks with the passage of Proposal 02-1. With voters having to work their way through the ballot, along with new provisions on filing a challenged ballot, poll workers will have additional time-consuming duties.

"I think that it's going to lead to a lot of frustration and anger at the polls," said McDonnell. "We'll have to train our precinct workers to point out the changes, because the workers usually take the brunt of these decisions."

While the right to cast a ballot for candidates from one political party seems to be at the forefront of the debate, another issue creeping its way into the conversation is the challenged ballot.

A person whose name does not appear on the registered voter list signs an affidavit signifying that they are actually a registered voter

and reside within the district where they intend to cast their ballot. Their ballot number will actually be written on the ballot (some locations will use a pencil, while others said they use red pens which isn't detectable by the scanner), with the number blocked off with correction tape or other materials and fed through the vote counting machine.

In situations where a recount is necessary, those "challenged" ballots will be removed and checked thoroughly to determine if the ballot is a legitimate vote. Such entries leave certain clerks with an uneasy feeling.

"This leaves the door open for fraud," said South Lyon Clerk Julie Zenke. "Our workers are already very busy, and if the proposal passes we'll deal with it, but there are too many things wrapped up in the same proposal."

Colleen Schwartz, Milford Township clerk and a member of the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks, believes that fraud is an improbability due to the protections that are in place.

"I fail to see where election fraud can happen," Schwartz said. "There are certain safeguards and certain requirements that individuals would have to pass through. If the vote is questioned, then those ballots can be reviewed."

Pamela Johnson, Lyon Twp. clerk,

is not as confident in the system. "I think (fraud) will happen," she said. "There are not enough safeguards and they are not tightened down enough."

However, Johnson is of the opinion that if measures are taken to ensure a fluid voting process which weeds out fraud, then she would like to see the current system scrapped for a version similar to Oregon's where their entire election is conducted through the mail.

The majority of area clerks were in agreement that the entire bill hasn't gained their full support, but individual points have merit.

"The thing about this proposal is that the straight party voting has risen to the highest level of scrutiny," said Caddell. "There are five other provisions that are real good. Do you throw the baby out with the bath water though?"

The measure was seemingly written in response to election problems, particularly those highlighted in the Florida presidential vote in 2000.

Schwartz, standing by her organization's decision not to take a stand either against or in favor of the ballot proposal, doesn't believe the bill will overload a failed system, since the system is as solid as it gets.

"Michigan has one of the best voting systems in our nation," she said.

Rather than taking the word of

PROPOSAL 02-1

A referendum on Public Act 269 of 2001 — an act to amend certain sections of Michigan Election Law, Public Act 269 of 2001 would:

- Eliminate "straight party" vote option on partisan general election ballots
- Require Secretary of State to obtain training reports from local election officials
- Require registered voters who do not appear on registration list to show picture identification before voting a challenged ballot
- Require expanded canvass if presidential vote differential is under 25,000
- Require ballot counting equipment to screen ballots for voting errors to ensure the accurate tabulation of absentee ballots
- Permit voters in polls to correct errors
- Provide penalties for stealing campaign signs or accepting payment for campaign work while being paid as a public employee to perform election duties.

A "yes" vote allows the law to be approved and enacted. A "no" vote keeps the straight party voting format and does not permit any of the above changes.

Source: House Fiscal Agency Analysis

"This will give them the best idea of what the proposal is all about," she said.

Karl Kling is editor of the *Milford Times*. He can be reached for comments at (248) 655-1307 or by e-mail at kkling@ht.hometown.com.

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Complaint filed against 52-1 candidate Starnes

Novi printer labels matter an "oversight"

By David Aguilar
STAFF WRITER

A Highland resident has filed a campaign finance complaint against 52-1 judge candidate Sara Pope Starnes, alleging that the 13-year Oakland County assistant prosecutor has received "illegal contributions" from a Novi-based printer.

That printer, however, has labeled the matter an "oversight" and said Starnes this week made current what had simply been a delinquent campaign materials account. Starnes herself called the complaint a "sad attempt to turn this campaign negative."

Steve Pitzer, a Northville attorney who has both assisted and consulted financially to 52-1 candidate Robert Bondy's campaign, filed the official complaint against Starnes with the Michigan Secretary of State's office via U.S. mail Wednesday, Oct. 9.

Pitzer said the complaint was filed on his own behalf and was neither pre-approved or prompted by either Bondy or any member of his campaign staff. Within his complaint, Pitzer has alleged that Starnes was allowed to leave unpaid Johnson Printing Services bills totaling \$24,960. Those bills were

assumed by Starnes prior to the Aug. 6 primary election, Pitzer said, and at some point dated as far back as May 8 of this year, nearly 120 days past the date of the original invoice.

He said such generous payment terms were not made available to other 52-1 candidates who sought similar services from Johnson Printing Services — notably Bondy and previous 52-1 candidate and Novi attorney Matt Quinn.

Quinn said he did not request from Johnson Printing Services any payment terms other than 30 days.

Furthermore, Pitzer said such terms constituted a violation of Michigan Compiled Law 169.204, which considers such acts "illegal contributions in the form of a loan from a corporation by obtaining discounts or favorable payment terms not available to others."

Such terms have given Starnes an unfair campaign advantage, Pitzer said. By filing the complaint, Pitzer said he sought only a "level playing field for both candidates concerning the printing of campaign materials."

It just seems odd that what amounts to be a \$25,000 loan was not available to us," Pitzer said. "I also find it odd that someone who is supposed to uphold the law and who is running for an elected position is protected the law is either ignoring or ignorant of it."

validity of his complaint. She said filing it was tantamount to political chicanery.

"This complaint is about who is best qualified to be district court judge," she said. "This race is about issues. I refuse to get into a campaign of insults and non-issues."

Furthermore, Starnes said payment terms are dictated by the printer.

"I don't have any control over a private business owner. If (Pitzer's) complaint is that they don't like my (payment) terms were, that has nothing to do with me... there is nothing illegal there. I receive a bill each month, and I pay it," she said.

Wendy Anderson, Starnes' chief political consultant who negotiated Starnes' printer payment terms, said that during the past 20 years she has utilized Johnson's printing company extensively on behalf of many of her candidate clients. She said the official complaint is little more than political hazy-making.

"I think (Pitzer) is just trying to create a cash-flow problem for Sara," Anderson said of the filed complaint. "I don't think it's an issue. We were never given anything from JPS. If he was that concerned about it, then he should have simply asked for 120 days."

Anderson said the complaint bespeaks of how much work Bondy's campaign has yet to do. "I think he needs to find an issue that sticks and hasn't

found one yet," she said. Starnes agreed.

"How a candidate runs their campaign is reflective of how they will be as district court judge," she said. "Let's get back to the issues — who is best qualified to be district judge?"

Johnson said whatever payment terms Starnes has enjoyed from his printing company to date are also available to Bondy's campaign.

However, with only three weeks remaining prior to the Nov. 5 general election, Pitzer said such a gesture offers little practical consolation.

"It's nice to run up bills and not have to pay them for months and months," Pitzer said. "I think it's odd that someone who is being touted as the 'law and order' candidate is outside the scope of the law herself, either inadvertently or by ignorance."

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Cartoonist shows craft is serious fun

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Parkview Elementary School in Novi was treated to an hour and a half of fun on Oct. 10, when Neal Levin brought his cartooning workshop to the school.

Students listened to him explain that drawing cartoon characters is not as hard as one would think. He then drew pictures of some of his characters and took suggestions from the kids as to how to improve them. The students also got a chance to draw some of their own characters as well.

"I began doing this after I finished high school," Levin said. "I didn't do it professionally at that time, but I teach these classes mainly for a living. I go to different school every day in a lot of the school districts around the area. I teach one or two classes a day."

Levin teaches cartoon shops to elementary and middle school children to help them learn basic cartoon drawing skills. He has taught over 54,000 students in approximately 30 school districts in metropolitan Detroit since 1988. Some of the districts include Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham, Brighton, Clarkston, Novi, Lake Orion, Farmington, Plymouth-Canton, Rochester, Royal Oak, South Lyon, Walled Lake, Troy, Warren, Uica and West Bloomfield.

When I was a kid, I wished I was more talented in drawing. I liked to do some drawing on my own time, but I didn't think I was that good as a child.

Workshops are generally held at individual school buildings and last an hour and a half. Students may sign up for a single session or, in many cases, they may continue to enroll once or twice a semester for several years. No previous experience is required and students at any level are able to demonstrate finished drawings by participating in simple activities and games.

"Kids who are interested sign up and I return to the same schools either once a year or up to three or four times a year sometimes so I can see how they're progressing," Levin said. "The most important thing I think is the kids might not come to my class thinking that they could draw very well, but usually after one session most of them think it's easier than it looked at first. If they can accomplish something that they are happy with, that's great. They usually see finished results right away, which is the nice thing about cartooning. It's relatively simple. I think a lot of kids just love cartoons and it's a good way to motivate them to draw things that they like."

Levin taught himself how to draw and has created over 500 original cartoon characters that he uses as models and inspiration for his classes. He has been doing this for 20 years. Students are encour-

aged to express their own individuality by personalizing and creating their own characters as well.

"One of the great things about cartooning is that you can do it anywhere. All you need are pencil and paper," Levin said. "Drawing cartoons is an excellent way to get kids interested in art since it is relatively easy and provides instant results. Cartoons are also something they can relate to personally."

Other benefits of cartooning include developing a sense of confidence, fostering discipline, reinforcing fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination, encouraging imagination and creativity and exploring possibilities.

Seven and a half year old Zach Heller, a student at Parkview, was placed with the workshop. "I am learning how to draw very good cartoons and very fun drawings," he said. "I love it."

Nine year old Andrew Cheek, also a student at Parkview, agreed. "I am learning how to draw good cartoons and have fun," he said. "When we get out of the class we will draw better."

Costs vary for each workshop depending on where it is held, but it is generally around \$15. Anyone interested in signing up may contact Levin at Sunbirdone@aol.com.

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



Photo by Tom Hibbin

From left, Yuto Tateiwa, 7, and Toshiaki Momozaki, 6, work on their cartooning skills, as Neal Levin instructs.

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Obituary

Thomas J. Ling, Sr.

Thomas Ling of Northville died October 13, 2002. He was 54 and had lived in Northville most of his life.

On Campus

Gail Pallister has been named a National Merit Semifinalist, and Kate Rudenmacher has been named a National Merit Commended Student.

Library Lines

Novi Public Library

The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

Tiny tot time

Children ages 12-18 months are invited to join us for a half hour of stories, songs, and games on Saturday, October 26, at 11 a.m.

Judge Mackenzie speaks

Brian Mackenzie, Chief Judge Pro Tem of the 52nd District Court, will speak at the library on Tuesday, Oct. 29, at 7 p.m.

Novi Public Library will also offer a class on how to use the Internet to find family history. This class is free and open to all.

Using library resources in your job search

Looking for a job? On Tuesday, October 22, from 7-9 p.m., we'll show you how to take advantage of the library's Internet and print resources to help you work smarter as you look for the ideal job.

Ancestors on-line

Learn how to begin searching the Internet for information on your ancestors on Thursday, Oct. 24, from 7-9 p.m.

Story Time notes

Registration for Fall 2 Story Times begins October 21 and runs through November 2. Fall 2 Story Times start November 18.

Internet practice lab for seniors

Practice makes perfect! Join us for an opportunity to practice use of the skills you've learned in our Internet classes on Thursday, Oct. 24, from 1-3 p.m.

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REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Milford Jewelers specializes in customer service

Perhaps Milford Jewelers' signature moment was the day when jewelry craftsman and store co-owner Jacques Chopjian, put down his workbench tools and picked up a plumbing wrench. Two Milford Village residents had wandered into the family-run jewelry store one weekend.



Skilled plumbers had already told them that it would be cost prohibitive. "These are old pipes," the couple had been told. "It's going to cost a lot of money."

Tamar said personalized service is hallmark Milford Jewelers. "We absolutely love this town," Tamar said. "Everyone has been so nice. We love when people come in and we can talk to them about whatever is going on in their life — their kids, upcoming weddings, a new dog."

Highland resident Lisa Doppala is one of those customers. Recently she brought a Raymond West watch into Milford Jewelers after the store she had originally purchased it from told her it would now need to be repaired a second time.

No experience necessary

Power your way to better Web site hits. By Tim KISSMAN. Anyone ever try to call a radio station and get a busy signal when you want to request a song, or leave the right answer to a trivia contest that spurs the better part of a morning?

Some of those contestants left on "American Idol," and will definitely work for you. Maybe one day promoting a Web site will be so trivial a topic will show up on a radio talk show.

MILFORD JEWELERS advertisement featuring images of jewelry and the slogan "Your friendly jewelry store".

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Repaving: Residents question road work

Galway Drive

continued from front

Hullman said she and her neighbors feel they have no recourse.

"I guess what we want is a little more accountability from Novi City Manager Richard Helwig and assistant manager Clay Pearson," Hullman said.

"She (Lorenzo) didn't have anything to do with the map," Pearson said.

The "map" is a PASER evaluation document indicating Novi neighborhood streets in poor condition.

Pearson said neighborhood streets receiving a "poor" or "very poor" rating were included in this year's funding, including Galway from Windermere to Daleview.

Pearson said not only did the city base its 2002 street repaving choices on the map, but city officials would never have just paved a portion of Galway because it is not city policy to conduct spot paving.

"Our objection through this program is intersection to intersection," Pearson said.

The assistant city manager said the integrity of the project would be compromised if portions of the street were paved instead of entire areas.

So how could Galway residents get the idea the entire street should not have been paved?

City of Novi Engineer Nancy McClain said although the PASER system did give that section of Galway a "three" rating, after physical inspection, she did not recommend repaving to city officials because in her professional opinion, it did not seem poor enough.

Pearson and Haim Schlick, the city's construction engineer, said they were unaware of such a recommendation by McClain.

Pearson reiterated the decision of what streets to include in the program is based on the PASER report.

Further suspicions may also have derived from an erroneous city council agenda item put before members to award the 2002 program contract.

During the city's June 17 meet-

ing, Lorenzo said she "would be remiss if she didn't advise the council of an issue that could have affected her directly."

Lorenzo said in the initial meeting packet, including the approval to award a bid for the 2002 Neighborhood Repaving Improvements Program, only a small portion of Galway was included in what council members were supposed to approve.

Lorenzo said she had to notify city management of the oversight to make sure they corrected it to include Galway from Windermere to Daleview.

City management said it was a true oversight and not a matter of Lorenzo pushing for "her portion of the street."

Helwig said he personally has jogged on the street and he, Pearson and Novi Director of Public Works Benny McCusker knew the repairs were necessary and assured Lorenzo they would be done.

Helwig said the omission of the entire Galway paving had nothing to do with a conflict of interest and the road did need to be redone and the completed portion of paving was appropriate.

Galway residents still maintain they were told "unofficially" Lorenzo pushed for the paving and look for more forthcoming communication from city management in the future.

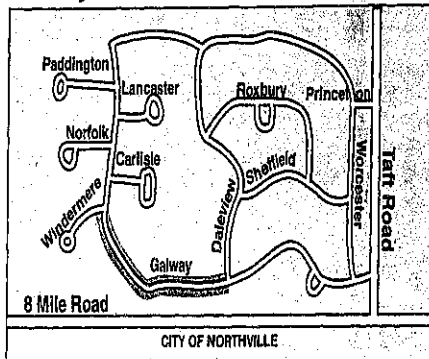
In 2000, Novi voters approved the 2000 Roadway Bond Program

which included \$5.4 million for the rehabilitation and repair of neighborhood roadways.

Officials said the first year of the program targeted roadways within the Village Oaks area.

This year's completed program, included roadways in Jamestown Green, Charrington Green, Meadowbrook Manor and Galway from Windermere to Daleview.

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



SOURCE: City of Novi

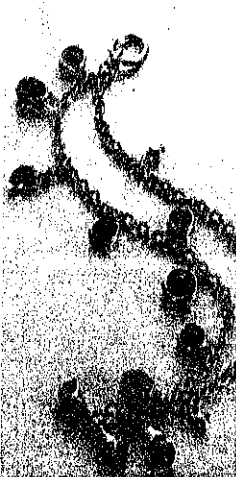
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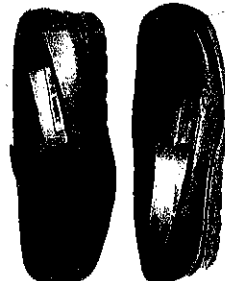
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PASER

PASER is an acronym for Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating system and is used to evaluate the surface condition of concrete and asphalt roadway pavement.

Using a truck equipped with special laser sensing equipment, road surfaces being analyzed are driven over with the equipment "reading" the surface condition. This data is then processed and given a condition number which correlates to criterion for that particular number rating on the PASER chart. Roadways are rated on a scale from one to 10, with ten being the best or new construction, and one representing a condition needing total replacement.

A roadway given the rating of "one" represents the poorest roadway condition. The pavement surface with this rating displays visible signs of distress and extensive loss of surface integrity; the roadway surface is failing and needs total reconstruction.

A rating of "10" indicates the pavement surface is in excellent condition, displaying no visible signs of distress, and having a quality rating of "new construction."

Currently, nearly 80 percent of Novi road segments surveyed were found to be "good" with a rating of six, or better.

source: City of Novi

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Mavericks are a little 'red skinned' after loss

Milford flustered after Novi gets underdog victory

By Karl Kling
 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

As Milford and Novi prepared to battle each other last Friday, both sides had one goal in mind.

For Milford, they wanted to clinch the KVC title. For Novi, simply keeping their playoff hopes alive.

After a thrilling 35-28 double-overtime victory by the Wildcats, both teams will enter this week's games with the same goal: The Mavericks looking to win the league and Novi hoping to keep their playoff dream alive.

"We wanted to win our league tonight and we didn't do it," said a disappointed Pat Fox, head coach of Milford. "We're in the playoffs, but we need to regroup."

The Mavericks were stunned as a fourth-down pass attempt, and the KVC title, slipped through the fingertips of Jim Presley as the 6'3" 225-pound runningback stood at the goal-line, leaving Milford wondering how they let the game slip away.

"The kids played really hard and I am proud of their effort," said Novi coach Tab Kellepourey. "This is an impressive Milford squad and it took overtime for us to knock them off. I told our boys that we were the only ones left to stop their momentum."

The Mavericks dominated early, taking their initial drive 82 yards, with Presley gaining the final two yards to propel Milford to an early 7-0 lead.

In a sloppily-played game with numerous turnovers and penalties, the Wildcats were able to stave off a blowout and eventually pull themselves close as Chase Chandler scored from the 4-yard line. The drive was aided by three Maverick penalties. An errant snap foiled the extra-point attempt, but Novi had made a game of it at 7-6.

With halftime looming, the Mavericks capitalized on the third Wildcat turnover - a Gary Johnson interception of Mike Hart. Milford quarterback Jeff LaClair scored on a keeper from the 1-yard line giving the Mavericks a 14-6 lead at the break.

After Mark Westenberg scored from 43 yards out on a counter play midway through the third quarter, it seemed the KVC crown was to be inscribed with the Maverick name that weekend.

The Wildcats were determined not to let their dream die.

With less than nine minutes remaining and trailing by 15 points, Novi started their rally, due mainly to the "big uglies" up front, such as Matt Murray and Nick Mainella.

"We got it going when it counted," said Murray.

After a turnover, Novi had possession in Maverick territory. After one touchdown pass was brought back due to a Wildcat penalty, Hart dropped back and pumped once.

The fake caused defensive back Anthony Celini to bite, and receiver Evan Rodriguez slipped through and was able to haul in the pass for a 20-yard touchdown. Hart then hit a wide-open Kerry Kreutzberg for the 2-point conversion and Novi had scratched their way back.

After forcing Milford to punt, Novi mounted another attack.

The trio of Chandler, Josh Buck and J.W. Woods were able to put

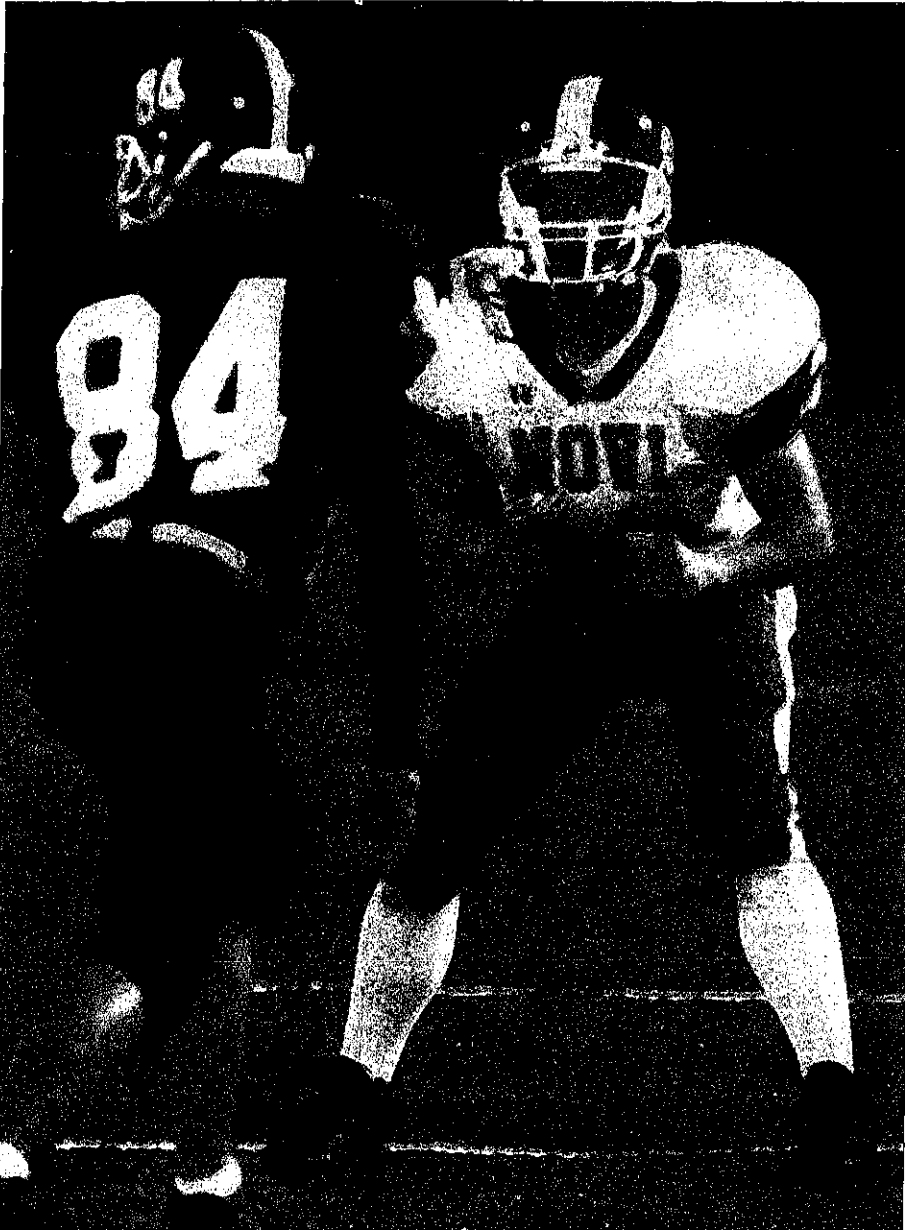


Photo by

Novi specialist Adam Brandau lines up against a Milford gunner last Friday. Brandau is a key player for the Novi special teams program. His speed and field awareness help the 'Cats in a multitude of situations.

Novi at the Milford 37-yard line. With a daunting fourth down before them, Hart hit Chandler who nestled himself in the middle of the field for a 16-yard gain.

Chandler assumed his duties under center and called his number. Sweeping to the right side of the line, Chandler broke up field, froze Westenberg with a shuffle-step and skirted his way through the defense en route to the end zone. As Mark Angelocci split the uprights, the teams were knotted at 21.

As overtime began, Fox rallied his troops.

"This is what it's all about," he said. "This is fun, let's have some

fun."

And with the first possession, the Mavs looked like they were having fun for the first time since halftime. A pile of defenders hit Presley at the 3-yard line, but the back carried the mob into the end zone, giving Milford a 28-21 lead.

Novi retaliated as Hart found Kreutzberg all to his own on the right flat, and the junior would not be denied by Westenberg at the goal.

The second overtime found Novi with the first possession. Chandler struck for a 5-yard gain on a keeper.

The next play, it looked as if Chandler would once again look to strike through the heart of the

Maverick line. Just prior to being leveled, Chandler wildly flailed the ball to his right into the waiting arms of Kreutzberg who had little opposition as he scored and gave Novi a 35-28 lead.

"Chase is a real good quarterback and he makes the right reads," said Kreutzberg. "To be put in that situation, to have the coaches and quarterback trust me, is awesome. It's just so surreal!"

With Milford ready to even it up again, the Wildcats were buoyed by a second-down stop. As Presley hit the line, George Boueri and Buck hit back just as hard.

"We got great penetration and we

put him on his back," said Buck.

The tackle was not deafening, but was as loud as a thunderclap in the hearts of the Wildcats. Two plays later, the ball rolled off Presley's fingers and the Wildcats walked off with an upset.

Both teams will look to see their dreams become reality this Friday. Novi will have a triumphant homecoming as they play host to the Pinckney Pirates Saturday at 1 p.m. for their homecoming game.

Karl Kling is editor of the Milford Times. He can be reached for comment at (248) 685-1507 or by e-mail at kkling@ht.homecomm.net.

Novi wants to top Pirates

The Novi Wildcats will be looking to make some noise on a nice Saturday afternoon when they host the Pinckney Pirates in a Kensington Valley Conference match-up.



Sam Eggleston

Not only will the Wildcats be fighting for a victory in their conference, they will be defending their school honor in their homecoming game with hopes of being able to sit back and enjoy their celebration later that night.

The Wildcats will be looking to come at the Pirates with a triple threat. Quarterbacks Mike Hart and Chase Chandler will be key in the contest with their option play while fullback Josh Buck will be hoping to get a little contact with the ball safely cradled in his arms.

Steering down the field will be Evan Rodriguez as he looks to snag a couple of deep passes off of Hart's throwing ability.

Chandler's key plays, as always, will be the option as he cuts around the end and dances through the defensive secondary. His quick feet and agility make him one hard runner to take down.

A factor that is going to be key in this contest is the offensive line. Pinckney is no pushover on their defensive front, but the Wildcats will be bringing seniors Matt Murray, George Boueri, Nick Mainella and Brian Jaussi up front with hopes of getting a good push right away. Their size and, more importantly, their quick thinking makes this line a tough one to contend with.

On the defensive end of the ball, senior defensive backs Chandler and Darren Guffey will be looking to pick off a couple of passes, while Doug Ray is hoping to come off the end like a mad man for a sack or two.

Three players that I feel have the ability to impact are the Woods trio. Juniors Jurrel and J.W. both have the speed to crack a few heads when they penetrate the line, while sophomore Josh is a quick linebacker that has a lot of potential on both sides of the ball.

Kick returner Andy Gorman looks to have a good head on his shoulders, knowing when it's time to let the ball bounce or when to pick it up for a chance at the endzone. Receivers Eric Van Tassel and Mark Angelocci will also have a few chances at getting the ball. Their sure hands and quickness off the line make them good targets for Hart to find.

The Wildcats will no doubt find Pinckney to be a tough opponent that isn't going to fall down for their KVC rivals to score. Expect this to be a good fight to the finish, but I think the game being homecoming and the thirst the Wildcats have shown for victory is enough to push them to the win.

Novi 28, Pinckney 17

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

Novi not happy with late season results

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

The Novi soccer team isn't feeling like themselves lately. Instead of getting games falling under the win column as Coach Brian O'Leary believes they should, they dropped a Kensington Valley Conference match-up before getting a hard-earned win.

The Wildcats fell to South Lyon 2-1 Oct. 8 after beating Milford 5-1 the day before in a make-up game. The Novi kickers rounded out the week with a 5-0 victory over Harland October 10.

"Everyone played half the game," O'Leary said of the Harland contest.

The first half of the contest

found the Wildcats getting goals from the talented feet of Matt Urick, Adam Southworth, Brad Simpson and Ryan Stec. Notching assists in the first half were Yusuke Yoda, Urick and Matt Nickels, who collected two assists.

The second half was much of the same, with the Wildcats looking to the ever-improving and highly-talented Simpson to put the icing on the cake with his second goal of the game. The assist went to Jon Sierra.

A.J. Glubzinski was solid in goal, making three saves for the shutout.

The Wildcats will return to action when they host Pinckney today at 7 p.m. before the Michigan High School Athletic Association Districts will be

played on their home turf Oct. 21 and 23.

South Lyon 2, Novi 1

For O'Leary, it seems the win over the Brighton Bulldogs earlier this season was a strange turning point for his team - one that he doesn't like and wouldn't mind watching it go away.

"Ever since we beat Brighton, we have been playing very poorly," he said. "It seems we are convinced that we are going to come in second place (in the KVC) so we are just going to wait until districts to start playing well again."

Which doesn't bode well for Novi.

"I know this is a sure formula for an early loss in districts," O'Leary said. "But I don't think

the team believes this."

The Wildcats had a fine match-up with the Lions, but couldn't pull out the victory even with stellar play from some of their team.

"Brent Coles played a great game tonight and has been our best player this season," O'Leary said. "He plays hard every single night and always does his job and more."

"Jason Sierra also had his best game of the season," O'Leary added.

But a handful of players can't make up the difference in the game. "All other players gave sub-par performances and it cost us the game," O'Leary said.

Novi 5, Milford 1

The Novi Wildcats made sure to

make their rain make-up game count as they blasted the Milford Mavericks in KVC play.

Goals were scored by Matt Crawford, Southworth, Simpson, Urick and Colin Goldsmith. The assists went to B.J. Humphrey, who was credited with two, and Matt Kurnick.

"All of my players played at least 25 minutes," O'Leary said of the game.

Glubzinski was the force in goal, making five saves for the victory.

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.

GAME OF THE WEEK

Novi Wildcats Football vs Pinckney Pirates

HOMECOMING

at Novi
 Saturday, Oct. 19 • 1:00 pm

Smith is more than a swimmer

By Ryan Edwards
SPECIAL WRITER



Amanda Smith

Amanda Smith is not just a swimmer. She is a senior on the Novi swimming and diving team, but not just an ordinary swimmer. She's arguably Novi's best swimmer and one of the best in Michigan as she has already qualified to participate in four separate events at the state meet.

"My goal is to finish in the top 12 this year at states," Smith said. "Last year I finished 13th and it was kind of a disappointment."

This should be an accomplishable goal for a girl who has been swimming on organized teams for the past 12 years. When she was only 6 years old, she swam for the Spartans swim team.

"I've been swimming for like my whole life, ever since my mom took me to baby swim lessons," she said.

Smith's mother, Jean, seems to have been a huge influence in her being a swimmer. Her family also appears to have a large impact on her life. Smith said that her sister Jeanne is her best friend. Jeanne, 23, just got married. Smith's other family members are her dad, Wallace, and her 9-year-old brother, Wallace.

Smith said the things that keep her interested in swimming are the joys of competing and the fact that "Each day is a new day."

"That competitive spark that she has during swim season obviously doesn't take away in the spring, and as much as she's like a fish in the water, she doesn't seem to have any trouble competing on land as well. She runs for the Novi track team, mostly in sprinting events such as the 200, 400 and also in the 4x200 and 4x400 relay events. However, there's a lot more to this two-sport athlete than just her blazing ability to blow by and away from people both on land and in the water.

On top of all the time and efforts Smith puts an athletically, she's just as dedicated in the classroom.

"I think I'd have to say my biggest accomplishment is being well rounded and maintaining a high GPA while swimming," Smith said.

The high GPA she's referring to is very high, as she carries a 3.83. She's not taking the usual senior

this brown concoction that she always drinks before she swims.

"It's brown, it smells terrible and she somehow always manages to accidentally spill it," Jean said with a laugh.

Smith explains that it's a chocolate Myoplex shake and that it actually tastes really good — although she's not sure if it actually helps or not.

With as busy as Smith is, she doesn't have a whole lot of spare time. When she does though, she enjoys watching movies, eating and sleeping. Her favorite food is salad, although she also likes salmon when she is visiting her favorite restaurant, GRADY'S.

If she isn't watching Tommy Boy or another Chris Farley movie, it's probably because she's watching 7th Heaven, her favorite television show. Other things you might find her doing in her spare time include things that most high school girls do: listen to music and go shopping. She prefers alternative music, with 80X (88.7 FM) being her favorite radio station and Our Lady of Peace and the Goo Goo Dolls being her favorite bands. Her favorite places to shop are "The Limited" and "Abercrombie." She's not very picky though.

"I like everything... all the places you can eat... all the typical girl stores," Smith explained.

Another thing that she really likes is the color red, which happens to be the color of the Trailblazer she currently drives.

Smith's already preparing for the future, as most high school seniors are faced with doing throughout the year. After her interview, she was on her way to visit Hillsdale College where she plans on attending school, swimming and majoring in business management. Eventually, she hopes to be involved in advertising which she thinks would be really neat.

Smith's a really nice girl who epitomizes what a student-athlete is and should be. She is hoping to have a great senior year and to do her best at the state meet.

Smith can be seen in action in Novi's next two meets, Oct. 22 at Sakon, Oct. 29 at Brighton and in the state meet which takes place Nov. 22 and 23.

Novi/Northville Colts Football

By Rocco Pollitro
SPECIAL WRITER

It's another Novi/Northville Football day but this one was different; today the Colts play the Brandon Hawks at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Yes, the Colts get to play on the same field as the NFL great, Barry Sanders. Walking into the Stadium fans can't help remember some of the great games played here, even a Super Bowl. As the kids walk onto the field the fans can see the excitement on their faces. Personally these are the best seats some of the fans have ever sat in while watching a game here.

It's obvious from the opening drive by Brandon this is going to be a tough opponent. Matt Wright, Daniel Begerer, Adam Felch & Nick Littleton made some key tackles on the Hawks opening drive. Then the Brandon Quarterback, on a keeper, scrambles around the left end for a first touch down and they convert on the extra point.

The Colts offense determined to execute plays find the Hawks defense very solid. Late in the

first Quarter the Hawks break a long run for a touch down giving them a 13-0 lead. On the extra point attempt Connor Pollitro breaks through the line and sacks the quarterback ending the attempt. The Colts offense starts to move, on a QB keeper Brett Gardner runs for 30 yards giving the Colts first and 10 on the Hawks 34 yard line. There were some outstanding plays by the Colts. Inemcu Michael Michalski, Daniel Price, Akshar Patel and Philippe Landry. The Colts, with there back to the wall fourth down and nine yards to go for the first down, pulled out the pass play for the refreshment of the downs.

Brett Gardner dropped back to pass and threw a strike to Alex Wilson for a 33 yard touch down pass and bring the Colts within seven points of the Hawks 13-6. With the Hawks driving on the Colts 38 yard line, fourth down, 5 Connor Pollitro again wraps up the quarter back for a five-yard loss. With only minutes left in the half the Hawks run for a touch down giving them a 19-6 half time lead. On the opening kick off to the start the second

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10/17/02	Basketball	*Howell HS	Away	7:00	10/24/02	*Pinekey HS	Home	6:00	
10/22/02	Basketball	*Lakeland HS	Home	7:00	10/18/02	MHSAA Finals	Away	TBA	
10/24/02	Basketball	*Brighton HS	Away	7:00	10/19/02	MHSAA Finals	Away	TBA	
10/17/02	Soccer	*Pinekey HS	Home	7:00					
10/21/02	Soccer	MHSAA Districts	Home	TBA					
10/23/02	Soccer	MHSAA Districts	Home	TBA					
10/21/02	Cross Country	*KVC Radford Union	Away	4:00					
10/25/02	Cross Country	*KVC Radford Union	Away	TBA					
10/18/02	Tennis	MHSAA Finals	Away	TBA					
10/19/02	Tennis	MHSAA Finals	Away	TBA					



Milford slips by 'Cats

Novi able to bounce Eagles earlier in season

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats basketball team felt the sting of a Kensington Valley Conference loss against the slow-paced Milford Mavericks October 11.

After topping the Hartland Eagles 41-31 in Kensington Valley play October 9, the Wildcats just couldn't get the victory as they fell to their conference rivals 50-40 two days later.

Against the Mavericks, the Wildcats weren't able to fight back from a seven-point halftime deficit that found the Novi cagers trailing 22-15 leading into the locker room at the half.

With their slow-paced offense and grinding defense, the Mavericks held on to their lead for the remainder of the contest to pull out the conference victory.

Senior guard Angie Schmidt led the charge for the Wildcats as she poured in 12 points on the night.

Novi will return to action when they visit Howell today at 7 p.m. before hosting Lakeland October 22 at 7 p.m. One of the top dogs in the conference will be hosting the Novi cagers as Brighton welcomes the Wildcats to their home



Photo by John Heider

Novi guard Alison Greulich tries to put a shot up against Walled Lake Central early in the season.

floor October 24 at 7 p.m. All of the match ups are Kensington Valley Conference games.

As the old saying goes, when the going gets tough, the tough get going. Sophomore point guard Jessica Hagerly showed that the tough also score points as she sank 10 points in the winning effort as she took charge of the offense and brought her best game to the court.

Alison Greulich showed her value to the Wildcats as she.

Milford too tough

By Steve Bell and Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITERS

A number of variables had to fall into place for Milford's boys' cross country team to have a challenging dual meet last Tuesday. Large, competitive meet three days prior in which your varsity had to go all out? Check; the Oakland County meet. Extra-curricular late night activities which expend energy and take the mind off of important things like cross country? Check; the homecoming dance hours after the county meet. And the third variable, a team which can actually run with the nation's seventh-ranked team? Check; the Novi Wildcats.

Novi went above and beyond the call of duty on the third count, with five kids running a five-minute first mile at Pousass Hollow. At which point Milford responded to the challenge and ended up winning the meet 21-35.

"The first mile, our kids were feeling it," Milford coach Brian Saljers said. "As the second mile developed Novi paid the price for taking it out so aggressively, they went out 12 seconds faster than Oakland County. At that point it was not physical, it was about pride for us."

Dan DeRusha ended up running the fastest time a Milford athlete has had at Kensington in a dual meet, 16 minutes 15 seconds, three days after running 16:09, which was the second-fastest ever on the course. Mike Anderson was third (17:01), Seth Theobald fourth (17:05), Kyle Harris fifth (17:05), Chad Murray eighth (17:16) and Pat Miller 10th (17:29).

"I was very pleased that Novi responded," Saljers said. "I wanted to see us challenged under short-term circumstances, forced to press and forced to respond. Those circumstances are difficult to create because you need outstanding competition. I told Bob Smith, Novi's coach, that going against them 100 days after facing them at the county meet, they have run us as tough as anyone in Michigan. I don't think it's breaking news that two KVC teams are running at a top level, but Milford and Novi are as good as anybody out there."

Two straight weeks, Milford has managed to best the impressive Wildcat squad — but in no way is it due to lack of effort.

"It is my firm belief that Milford is the best team in the state this year," Novi coach Robert Smith stated via email. "If the state meet was run today, they would be crowned state champion."

In the dual meet against the Mavericks, sophomore Mark Moore continued his steady improvement this season with a second overall finish in a time of 16 minutes, 45 seconds — his personal best. Senior Brian Glickert came in second for the 'Cats and sixth overall with his time of 17:07 while Eric Joseph was tipping at his heels in seventh.

Senior runner Tim Kava was the fourth Wildcat across the line and in the top-10 while sophomore Spencer Ornes was 11th overall with a time of 17:32.

The Wildcats also had the pleasure of taking second place in the Oakland County Meet — behind Milford. Glickert led the way with a time of 16:42, which was good for ninth place overall. Moore was 15th in the race with a 16:58 while Kava was 23rd in 17:13 and Joseph was 29th with 17:15. Ornes collected the Rob Mutch award as the look 31st place, just off of the 30 medal positions, with his time of 17:19.

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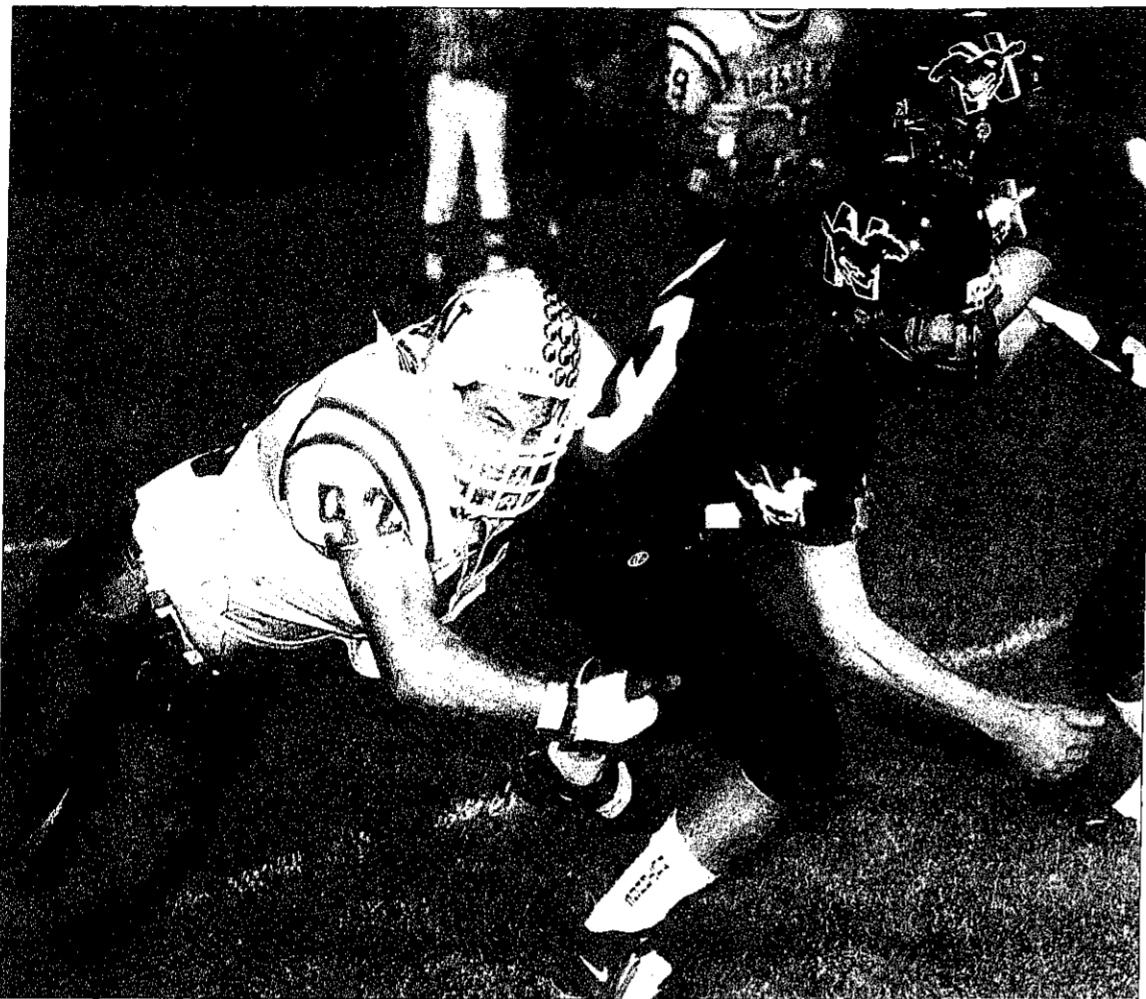
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Warriors tame Mustangs

Playoffs still alive for WLW

By Roger Garfield

The visiting Walled Lake Western Warriors upended the Northville Mustangs football team last Friday by the score of 27-14. The loss brought the Mustangs' record to 2-5. Western is now 4-3.



Mustang ballcarrier Lance Blair is brought down by Western's David Bayson during Friday night game hosted by Northville.

Western punted the ball away after their first three offensive plays, and a 15-yard return by senior Tim Higgins gave the Mustangs the ball at their own 37-yard line.

He looked solid at the outset, connecting with senior wide out Lance Blair for 30 yards to bring the 'Stangs down to Western's 25. Alas, Northville could not pick up another first down, and Western at the football ball back at their own 20-yard line.

Western then ate up six minutes of the clock and marched 80 yards for the game's first score. Senior tight end Steve VanNortwick capped off the drive with a one-yard TD run.

On the following kickoff, Western's special teams personnel hustled downfield and managed to recover the ball at their own 21. Two plays later, senior quarterback Jon Michael completed a 17-yard touchdown pass to senior John Sawdler. Monfette tackled on the point after and Western led 14-0, just eight seconds into the second quarter.

Mustangs blocked the extra point and kept the score at 20-0. On Northville's next possession, they started from their own 49. Senior tailback Zack Wollack got things going with a 17-yard run. Blair then caught a pass for 15 more yards. On the next play, Delaney hooked up with senior Greg Johnson for a 14-yard score. Johnson made an astonishing diving grab in the end zone. Brown brought Northville within 13 after a successful extra point.

Western was intent on maintaining their lead, and it was evident on their next drive. The Warriors took five more minutes off the clock by keeping the ball on the ground primarily. With 3:18 to play, junior Greg Hay gave Western six more points on a nine-yard touchdown run. The extra point was good, and the Warriors led 27-7.

The Mustangs were down, but their offense had not yet liberated for the evening. Tim Higgins caught a Delaney pass on the next possession and made the Warrior defenders look silly by cutting across the field and prancing in for a 68-yard touchdown. The point after split the uprisings making the score 27-14. Only 2:09 remained in the game.

Delaney went 10-for-19 and passed for 200 yards for the 'Stangs; he also had two touchdowns and an interception. Lance Blair was his main target on the evening, hauling in three catches for 70 yards. Zack Wollack rushed for 48 yards on 16 carries.

The Mustangs are now ineligible for the state playoffs. This is the first time they will be absent from postseason play since 1999. Northville coach Clint Alexander thought the Mustangs could have beaten Western. "A couple critical mistakes hurt us and helped them. And I think our defense got worn out."

Western recovered the Mustangs' outside kick attempt. With Northville lacking time-outs, the Warriors ran out the clock and ended the game on top. The Warriors' star tailback, VanNortwick, led all ball carriers with 183 yards on 36 carries. "I was impressed with how Darryl played," Alexander added. "He and the other kids are really starting to pick up the system."

Delaney had the following thoughts on his team's performance: "We had a great week of practice leading up to the game, and I think we were well-prepared. Western just capitalized on our mistakes." "The loss is disappointing, but at the same time we came together as a team," commented Blair, the blossoming wide receiver. "I know it will help us for Nov."

"Canton is the best team we'll play other than John Glenn," he commented. "They're going to run right at us, so we have to play our best game of the year." Game time is 7:30 p.m. at Canton High School.

Roger Garfield is an intern for the Northville Record and the Novi News. Comments can be directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

Vikings can't stop undefeated Rockets

By Sam Eggleston

The Walled Lake Central football team could feel it in the charge of victory that seems to drive a team to the brink of their annual instincts in hunt for the win. Unfortunately for Walled Lake, it was the John Glenn Rockets that were being driven.

The Vikings trailed 37-7 heading into the half as junior De'Anthony Granberry scampered 62 yards before senior Anthony Davis hauled the ball 47 yards for another score. Ceciewicz found Granberry on a 42-yard pass in the second quarter before the junior runner carried the ball 80 yards for another score just before the half ended.

The third quarter found Davis scoring on a 5-yard touchdown run set up by his own 31-yard kickoff return. Jeremiah Thornton put the finishing touches on the John Glenn scoring game as he hauled the ball into the endzone from 19 yards out to make it 50-7 in the Rockets' favor. The Viking squad, which collected 31 yards in the air and 246 total, nailed its final touchdown as Justin Navarre broke free from the stifling John Glenn defense and scampered 68 yards with just over two minutes remaining in the contest.

The Vikings had wyes through the air, as junior quarterback Brandon Cassie was picked off twice, with Granberry and Smith each notching an interception. Granberry scored three touchdowns with 148 yards rushing while Davis added 157 yards and scored two touchdowns of his own. Ceciewicz was a shining 4-for-4 on the night with 89 yards passing and two scores. The Vikings will return to action when they visit the Wayne Memorial High School Zebras tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in a Western Lakes Activities Association contest. The Vikings can't afford another loss if they hope to make the playoffs, and they still have Walled Lake Western waiting for them in the annual city game October 25.

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.

WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION GOLF RESULTS

Table with columns for Western Division, Lakes Division, Conference Final Standings, and All Conference Individual Honors. Lists names and scores for various teams and individuals.

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Time to transport away from theater

By Sam Eggleston

Look out action world — there's another budding action hero on the block. In case we're unfamiliar enough to not see Vin Diesel in an action flick or Bruce Willis reprising one of his old roles, we now have Jason Statham to fill their shoes.

Statham lets himself be known as an action star around the country as he stars in the exceptionally violent movie, "The Transporter." The whole premise of "The Transporter" is a simple one. Statham plays European Frank Martin, who will transport anyone or anything to any location for the right price — including cars, bank robbers or things that are on a need-to-know basis.

Well, that all goes out the window when he — surprise! — opens a duffel bag he is delivering for an American, played by Matt Schulze, near the Riviera. Inside, he finds a beautiful Chinese woman named Lai, played by newcomer Shu Qi from Hong Kong.

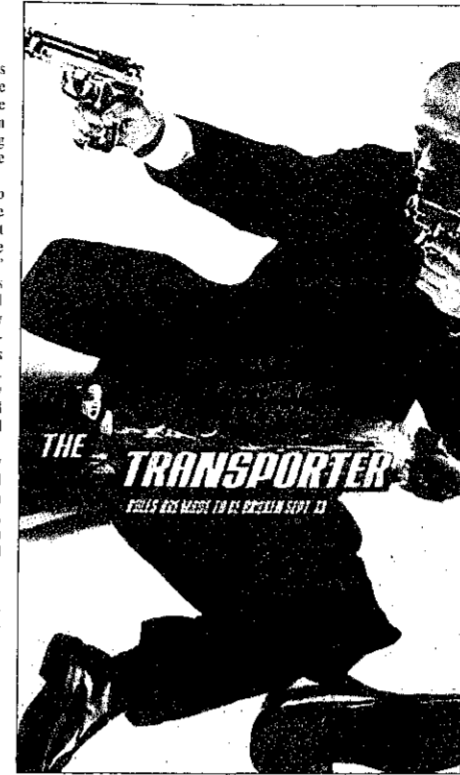
Hong Kong director and fight choreographer Cory Yuen, a frequent partner of Jet Li, serves up the chaos in swift dishes that begin to mix together after a while. Occasionally, though, Yuen uncorks a cleverly off-the-wall fight scene that makes you chuckle at its originality.

Statham, who co-stars in "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels" and "The One" displays a terse action-hero persona as well as a traditionally muscular frame — and tried to figure out the length it takes a film to dispense with the plot specifics will find that "The Transporter" will have that task out the door in about 15 minutes into the movie.

Every now and then, even action and special effects don't make up for the troubling failure in the plot and the dialogue.

The truth is, about halfway through the show you are considering how much it would cost to have a person in Martin's profession to transport you back to your car so you can escape the should-have-been-straight-to-video movie, "The Transporter."

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 seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.



The Transporter leaves audience members fixed to endless fights and explosive action.

Starring: Jason Statham, Shu Qi, Matt Schulze. Directed by: Corey Yuen. MPA Rating: PG-13. Released by: 20th Century Fox. Genre: Action/Adventure, Action, Martial Arts. Final Rating: 4 (out of 10). Now showing at Novi Town Center.

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 seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

A very veggie movie

By Karl Kling

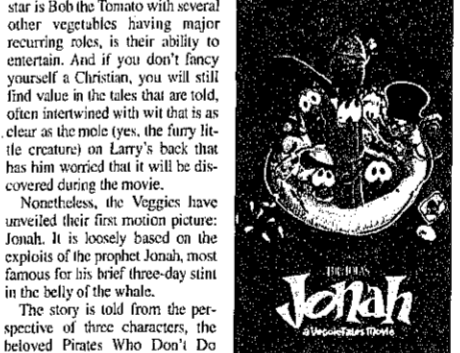
Have you ever realized that you have missed out on what so many other people have enjoyed? A few months back, my youngest son was given a stuffed animal that sang. I was perplexed because this toy was a giant cucumber — named Larry.

That was my first exposure to the world of VeggieTales. The five members of my family have clung to these characters as if they were critical to our well-being. And if you faith is based in Christianity, then you would think they are that critical — to your spiritual well-being.

The true value of these characters, in addition to Larry, the other star is Bob the Tomato with several other vegetables having major recurring roles, is their ability to entertain. And if you don't fancy yourself a Christian, you will still find value in the tales that are told, often intertwined with wit that is as clear as the mole eyes, the furry little creature on Larry's back that has him worried that it will be discovered — named Larry.

Nonetheless, the VeggieTales have unveiled their first motion picture: Jonah. It is loosely based on the exploits of the prophet Jonah, most famous for his brief three-day stint in the belly of the whale.

Karl Kling is editor of the Milford Times. He can be reached for comment at (248) 655-1507 or by e-mail at klling@ht.homecomm.net.



Join Larry and the gang as they take to the big screen.

With fish, the prophet tried to run away from what he was called to do. That was the moral of the story. Jonah being given a second chance to amend his ways and do what he is destined to do.

It was at this point, what was to be the climax, that the movie strayed a bit and failed to deliver the knock-out punch. But as my children left the theater, bellies full of candy and popcorn, singing the songs of the VeggieTales, I realized that the story satisfied their thirst for a wonderful movie that was entertaining.

Karl Kling is editor of the Milford Times. He can be reached for comment at (248) 655-1507 or by e-mail at klling@ht.homecomm.net.

Food For Thought

Wine is good for your health

Three or four times a year we unveil a new wine list at our bistro, Diamond Jim Brady's in Novi. Putting together a good list is not an easy task. You may think that trying dozens of wines is a fun way to spend the afternoon. Not necessarily so, as many wines are of poor quality, and others just flat. There are very few that we'll actually swallow and enjoy. They usually end up on our list. Our routine when tasting is to swirl the wine in an appropriate glass, smell the aromas and take a small amount and swish it around your mouth. Then, to avoid "slipping under the table," dispose of it into a throw away "spit" cup. Then we make notes.

Medicine made huge news because of its claim that a few drinks a day actually reduced heart disease the number one killer of men and women in the United States. The study was conducted after researchers noticed that the French, who eat a high fat diet, have a lower mortality rate from heart disease than Americans. There are other studies that confirm that moderate drinking (8 oz. wine, 12 oz. beer, or one oz. hard liquor), can stave off other diseases also.

Other studies consistently find a 20-40 percent lowered risk for heart disease with moderate drinking. This may protect the heart in several ways. It increases levels of protective HDL cholesterol that helps to clear fatty deposits from the bloodstream, thereby helping to keep arteries clean. It may also help prevent blood clots that can lead to heart attacks and some types of stroke. Research suggests that certain phytochemicals in red wine inhibit the formation of blood clots. These flavonoids are also found in red grapes, grape juice, tea and onions.

In a recent study at Colorado State University, researchers found that adding two glasses of wine to dinner provided an extra 10,000 calories which should have resulted in a three pound weight gain over the course of a year. Data indicated otherwise. Even though moderate drinkers consume more calories than non-drinkers, they tend to weigh less. A Danish study of nearly 50,000 men and women suggests that wine drinkers actually have healthier eating habits. They ate less saturated fat, more fruits and veggies, fish, salads and olive oil.

Wine is also credited for reducing the risk of developing age-related macular degeneration, a leading cause of blindness in the United States. It also may improve circulation to the brain, enhancing mental function.

Wine has also been viewed as a digestive aid throughout the centuries. And, indeed it does stimulate secretion of stomach acids that aid in digestion. Even though it seems that wine is good for our health the age-old adage "everything in moderation" applies. Just like anything else, overdoing it can reverse the benefits. Cheers!!!

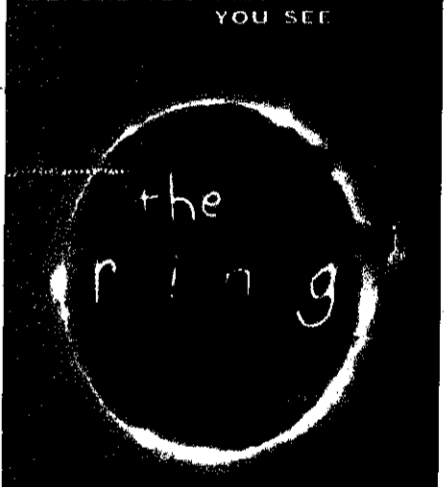
Mary Brady is a certified executive chef and co-owner of Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro in the Novi Town Center. If you have culinary questions or comments for chef Mary Brady, you can contact her via e-mail at djfbistro@aol.com.

The Screen Beat

By Brian Renner

THE MOVIE INSIDER

Coming to theaters this weekend is the thriller that profiles stressed out, college freshman Catherine Burke (Katie Holmes). She faces exams, completion of her thesis, and a competitive interview process, all of which is compounded when a police detective, Wade Handler (Benjamin Bratt), begins investigating the two-year-old disappearance of her boyfriend, Emory Langhan (Charlie Hunnam), a young man whose memory haunts and obsesses her. As the investigation furthers, Catherine is forced to choose between past passions and new possibilities, even as Handler is discovering surprising new facts about Emory and his possible connection to another disappearance from campus — "Abandon" is a Paramount Pictures release and rated PG-13 for drug and alcohol content, sexuality, some violence and language.



the Ring was Japan's best selling movie ever — will it have the moxy to hold up here in the United States?

Acting-packed "Formula 51" follows a master criminal/chemist Elmo McElroy (Samuel L. Jackson) from Los Angeles who travels to Liverpool, England for a large-scale drug sale. When the deal goes sour, he finds himself caught up in the UK underworld. Featured among the cast are Robert Carlyle, Meat Loaf, Rys Ifans and Emily Mortimer. "Formula 51" is a Sony Screen Gems release and rates R for strong violence and language, drug content and some sexuality.

A remake of one of Japan's biggest box office hits ever, "The Ring" centers on Naomi Watts, a journalist who investigates an urban legend about a unlabeled, cursed videotape said to kill in exactly seven days anyone who watches it. Martin Henderson co-stars as her ex-husband, a photojournalist. Together they are forced to put their differences aside to fight the evil force to save her life and the life of her son (David Dorfman). Executive Producer Laurie MacDonald explains, "There are always those unlabeled tapes where you can't remember what's on them; and the television is another thing that is part of

everyone's life. The idea that these two everyday items could lead at the center of this, could lead to your death, can really get under your skin." "The Ring" is a DreamWorks Pictures release and rated PG-13 for thematic elements, disturbing images, language and some drug references.

Emotionally charged drama "Bloody Sunday" chronicles the events of the infamous "Bloody Sunday" massacre on January 30, 1972 in Londonderry, Northern Ireland. Local Irish civilians assembled for a peaceful civil rights march though twenty-seven were shot by members of the British Army. The pivotal event fueled a renewed cycle of violence that tore the country apart.

Featured among the cast are James Nesbitt, Tim Pigott-Smith and Nicholas Farrell. "Bloody Sunday" is Paramount Classics release and rated R for violence and language.

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

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Orchards of Lyon



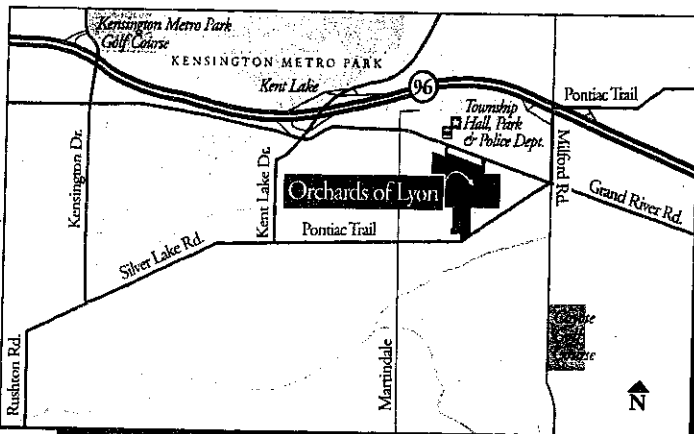
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Thursday, October 17, 2002

A supplement to
Milford Times • Northville Record • Novi News • South Lyon Herald

Therapist's aim is to reduce workplace pain

By Jeff Jardine
MODESTO (CALIF.) BEE

Before the days of personal computers, office workers used prehistoric contraptions called typewriters. They wrote on — of all things — paper.

And once the page filled up with information, they stopped typing long enough to get up from their desks and file the documents in a drawer or cabinet.

This combination of duties, primitive as it might seem by modern standards, probably is the reason few people back then had ever heard of carpal tunnel syndrome or any of the other repetitive stress injuries that are so common today.

Or so says Don Brock, a longtime physical therapist in Oakdale, Calif., who has seen the number of injuries and complaints increase as computers became commonplace in the workplace.

"People stay on their computers longer," said Brock, 64. "They used to type, then go file for a while, and that would give them a break. Now they just stay on."

Consequently, more and more people are developing the wrist and elbow ailments that cause both pain and lost productivity. These people now constitute about 15 percent of Brock's clientele.

Physical therapists work with injuries to ease the pain, restore mobility and strengthen the injured areas. And they also coach the patient how to prevent injuries from recurring.

"You teach them to take breaks and stretch, and the exercises that will keep it from coming back," Brock said.

Many injuries result from weakened muscles, so the therapists will work on strengthening the muscles around the injured area.

Therapists use a variety of tools and techniques to promote the recovery, including ultrasound, electronic stimulation and other electronic devices. They also rely on hot paraffin wax treatments, whirlpools, heat packs, ice and even teach people how to walk properly.

As the workplace strains and injuries became more common, Brock found that some patients go right from the therapy session back into the same environment that caused the problem to begin with. That delays the healing, he said.

"If someone has carpal tunnel and they go back to the same job, it probably won't get better," Brock said. "They need to change what they're doing."

And sometimes the best therapy can be merely getting up every hour or so, stretching a bit and maybe filing a paper or two.



Photo by John Pendergrass/ST. Petersburg Times

Tampa General Hospital Chaplain Eileen Weber applies therapeutic touch to Kari Patton, 32, who is waiting on a heart transplant. The goal of therapeutic touch is to rebalance energy to a healthy state.

Healing with touch

Patients and doctors in mainstream hospitals are coming to rely on therapeutic touch.

By Dong-Phuong Nguyen
ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Eileen Weber's hands scan the air above the hospital patient's body, gently, rhythmically, like a metal detector over soft sand.

She sweeps a few inches above the woman's head, down her body, all the way to her toes, feeling for an energy field. When she senses imbalance, Weber motions like she is wiping it away.

The patient, Kari Patton, 32, has been ailing as she waits in Tampa General Hospital for a heart transplant. But she relaxes and smiles under Weber's hands.

Weber is practicing a controversial form of faith therapy called therapeutic touch, which claims to temporarily rid the body of pain and discomfort through the shifting of energy.

While therapeutic touch has its critics, it is now taught in many nursing programs and offered at more than 70 hospitals nationwide, including Tampa General.

Weber, who works part-time as a chaplain at Tampa General, has served about 400 people since bringing therapeutic touch to the hospital more than 11/2 years ago. She received therapeutic touch training in a nursing program but Tampa General is the only hospital in the area that has allowed her to work on patients, Weber said.

Therapeutic touch is based on the concept that all matter is energy, and ailments throw the energy out of balance. The touch therapist's task is to shift the energy back into balance and offer short-term relief — all with swift motions of hands during 20-minute sessions.

Weber has worked on comatose people, infants, burn patients, expectant mothers. Some patients say that their pains ease after a session.

One patient who was caught by surprise is Kari Patton. The Orlando woman, hospitalized since April as she awaited a new heart, was

referred to Weber by her surgeon.

"I thought I was getting a massage," she said. "I didn't know what to think."

But Patton said that her aches and anxiety soon were disappearing with each session, and she was even falling asleep before Weber could finish.

"I was all tensed up and she relaxed me quite a bit," Patton said.

Patton's surgeon, Dr. Cristóbal Alvarado, said he read about Weber in a hospital newsletter and thought Patton, a high-strung patient who suffered from chronic pain and discomfort, would be an ideal candidate for the therapy.

"She is someone who has been sick for many years and is going to be in the hospital for many months," said Alvarado, a cardiothoracic surgeon with LifeLink. "It was important to keep her spirits up."

As for therapeutic touch, "I don't know if I can say I believe it or not," Alvarado said. "As surgeons, we are responsible for our patients' physical well-being, but we need to address our patients' psychological and spiritual needs as well."

It works, Weber insists — on humans, animals and even plants.

She said she bought 10 orchid plants at Home Depot, marked down to \$1 because they were dying. She brought them home, offered some therapeutic touch, and one by one, they

began to bloom.

"I wanted to see how it would work with their energy," Weber said. "And they not only survived, but they bloomed."

Therapeutic touch is a modern derivation of ancient healing practices and was developed by two American women in 1972. One has died.

The other, nurse Dolores Krieger, continues to teach the art of therapeutic touch.

One does not have to believe in it to benefit from it, said Krieger, who lives in Montana. "It's not a matter of faith," she said. "It works. It helps people and it's safe."

One of therapeutic touch's critics is Stephen Barrett, a retired Pennsylvania psychiatrist who publishes papers on quackery. He says

there is no scientific evidence that the therapy works.

"The whole idea is based on delusion," he said. "It makes as much sense as saying we're having Ghostbusters come to the patient's bedside and we're going to get rid of the ghosts."

Tampa General spokesman John Dunn said that the hospital welcomes alternatives in pain management.

"If this process helps a patient to relax and helps them do a better job of coping with pain, then that's just one technique that's available to that patient," Dunn said. "Who is someone from the outside to judge whether a patient feels better or not? No one is making the claim that it helps all patients, but if it helps a particular patient, as long as it is understood for what it is, who's anyone to shoot arrows at it?"

Caffeine wakes the face up, too

By Sylvia Rubin
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

But you didn't know that your caffeine fix in the morning could come not only from that cup of coffee but also from your skin cream.

Caffeine has been included in skin care preparations for four years by Prescriptives, for example. The trend seems to be picking up steam, so to speak — MAC just introduced caffeine into some of its eye and skin care products this season. Estee Lauder, Lancome and Clinique also include caffeine in the list of ingredients in some skin and eye care products.

The pitch: Caffeine helps to reduce under-eye puffiness and help improve skin tone. There is also a new soap just out called Shower Shock that lathers up a bit of caffeine along with the bubbles.

Better to drink lots of green tea, eat blueberries or grapes if you want to help your skin, says Paula Begoun, the best-selling author of numerous consumer books on cosmetics and their ingredients.

"Caffeine isn't one of the ingredients I'd run to the cosmetics counter for," she says. "I get more excited about say, green tea, in a skin cream."

But if you already like skin care products by these companies, there can be no harm — and perhaps a temporary benefit — in trying the ones with caffeine, says dermatologist Richard Clogau of the University of California at San Francisco.

"There may be some decrease in puffiness that may last for about six hours," he says. "It's temporary. Next, we'll see eye cream by Starbucks."

Computer-controlled artificial leg is major step forward in prosthetics

By Peggy Fletcher Stack
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Like so many 16-year-olds, Lyle Earl gave little thought to the dangers of working his family's farm. That innocence was lost in an instant one autumn day in 1977 when he tumbled off a combine and had his left leg severed well above the knee.

Young Earl was given a prosthetic leg that weighed about 17 pounds and had to be held on with a heavy, leather belt. Since then, he has tried every possible kind of prosthesis, but each one took its toll on his good leg — and on his self-esteem and energy.

Then, last November, on the 24th anniversary of his accident, Earl was fitted with a new, computer-controlled leg he said has revolutionized his life.

"I've had all kinds of hydraulic legs, but this one's made all the difference in how I walk and feel," said Earl, who lives in Taylor, Utah. "It's like getting your life back."

The new model, known as a C-Leg, has a built-in microprocessor in the ankle that tells microprocessors in the knee and shin whether the user is standing on heel or toe. The tiny computers measure angles and movements at the knee and shin 50 times a second and adjust for the stiffness or flexibility needed.

This helps a user descend stairs, walk at a normal gait or speed up or slow down easily.

For the first time, users say, they can move without fear of falling or being conscious of every step.

The C-Leg is powered by lithium ion bat-

"I've had all kinds of hydraulic legs, but this one's made all the difference ... It's like getting your life back."

Lyle Earl, 16, of Taylor, Utah

teries that can operate for about 30 hours without recharging. Earl, for example, simply plugs his C-Leg in every night before he goes to bed. If he forgets, he can use the cigarette lighter in his car.

The C-Leg, created by Otto Bock Health Care in Duderstadt, Germany, was introduced in the United States in 1999. Since then, an estimated 300 have been sold nationwide.

The cost of a single leg is between \$45,000 and \$50,000, compared with about \$15,000 to \$20,000 for a hydraulic model.

Until now, it has been an uphill battle to get insurance companies to foot the bill, said Tom Andrew, president of Ability Prosthetic Systems in Salt Lake City. Andrew lost his leg in a bicycle accident in 1973.

Medicare has just approved C-Leg use for its patients and has created insurance codes to govern payment. "Medicare sets the standard for the whole insurance industry," said Scott Allen of Fit-Well Prosthetic and Orthotic Center in Salt Lake City.

In terms of costs, the wear and tear on the good knee can far outweigh the initial cost of C-Leg, said SPOT's Jim Liston of Specialized Prosthetic and Orthotic Technologies in Salt Lake City.

"When (users) fall, they use their good leg to catch themselves and that produces all kinds of trauma on that knee," he said.

"If they've been amputees for a long time, they often have an 'ovense syndrome' because they are taxing the leg so much."

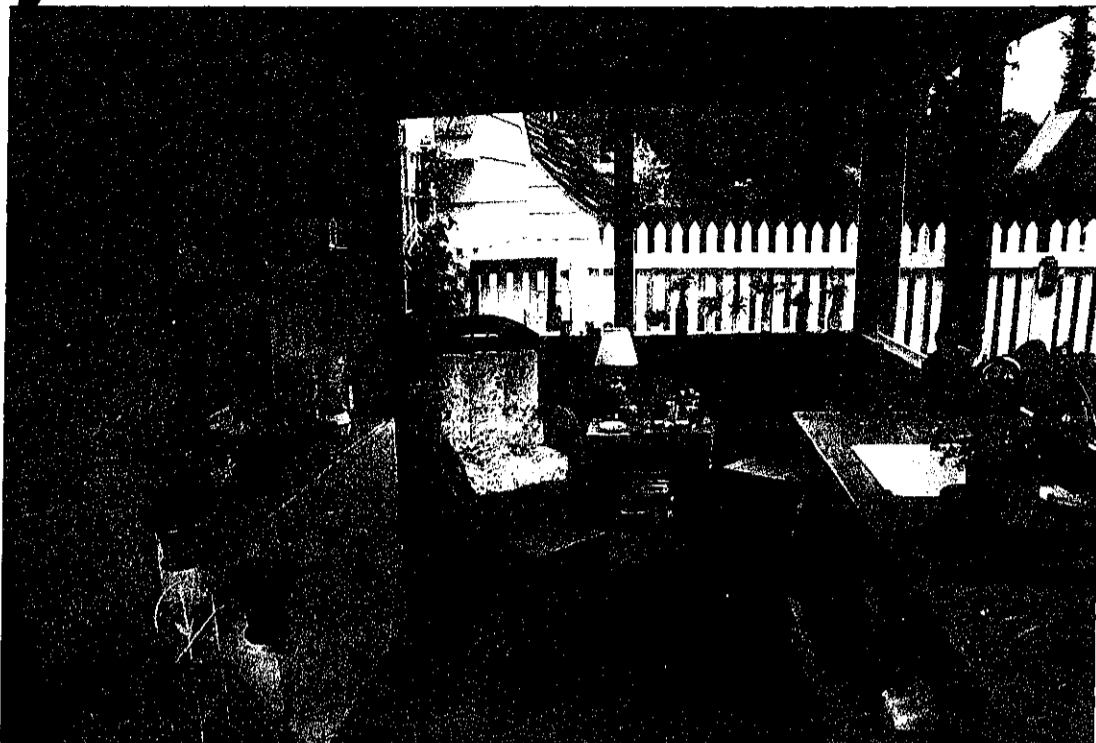
Liston has a client who was falling weekly, even daily. Since being fitted with a C-Leg several months ago, "he hasn't fallen once," Liston said. "That's huge."

"It's worth the insurance fight," said Earl.

Now he can keep his head up while walking and doesn't get as tired. "I don't use as much energy," he said. "The chip does it all."

Plus

HOME & GARDEN



Tammy Olsen and her husband Rob enjoy spending time in their spacious potting shed.

Photos by Richard Tsong-Talbot/Mississippi-St. Paul Star Tribune

Growing pains

With thorns and sore joints, gardeners cultivate their injuries and aches

By Alicia Roca
SACRAMENTO BEE

Gardeners beware: Aphids aren't the only hazard lurking in your yard. Rosebushes carry a lot of bacteria and can make a really deep cut," says Joanne Strickley, a hand therapist at Mercy Hospital of Folsom, Calif.

Strickley works with patients who suffer garden injuries. In some cases, what begins as a simple prick leads to a severe infection requiring surgery.

"People think, 'Oh, I just got a poke,' but it gets red and swollen and tissue gets damaged," Strickley says.

Puncture wounds are just one of the injuries people can suffer while gardening. Others are more cumulative, such as shoulder tendinitis and chronic back pain. All the aches and pains can be minimized if gardeners take a few precautions.

Since the most frequent injuries are from slivers and thorns, gardeners should be up to date on their tetanus shots, says Robert Derlet, a professor of medicine at the University of California-Davis.

If you do cut yourself, Derlet says, "First, get all the dirt out with soap and water; then go to your first-aid kit."

To prevent back strain, bend at the knees and lift with your legs when lifting heavy objects, such as bags of potting soil or container plants, Derlet advises.

Along with short-term injuries, cumulative problems can develop.

Repeated exposure to garden chemicals, for example, can cause neurological ailments, says Cindy Fike, a horticulture and small-farms adviser for the University of California Cooperative Extension.

Read and follow label directions on chemicals. Use appropriate protection such as gloves and goggles, and do not expose yourself to chemicals for long periods of time, she advises.

Other cumulative problems involve muscle disorders due to repetitive, prolonged and awkward movements.

"People go out and prune bushes for hours, and the joint at the base of their thumb becomes inflamed and painful," Strickley says. She recommends that gardeners vary their motions, take breaks and work in short intervals.

Fike says gardeners might overestimate what their bodies are capable of doing. "People think they can do more than they really can," she says. "They need to know when to hire a professional."



First frost

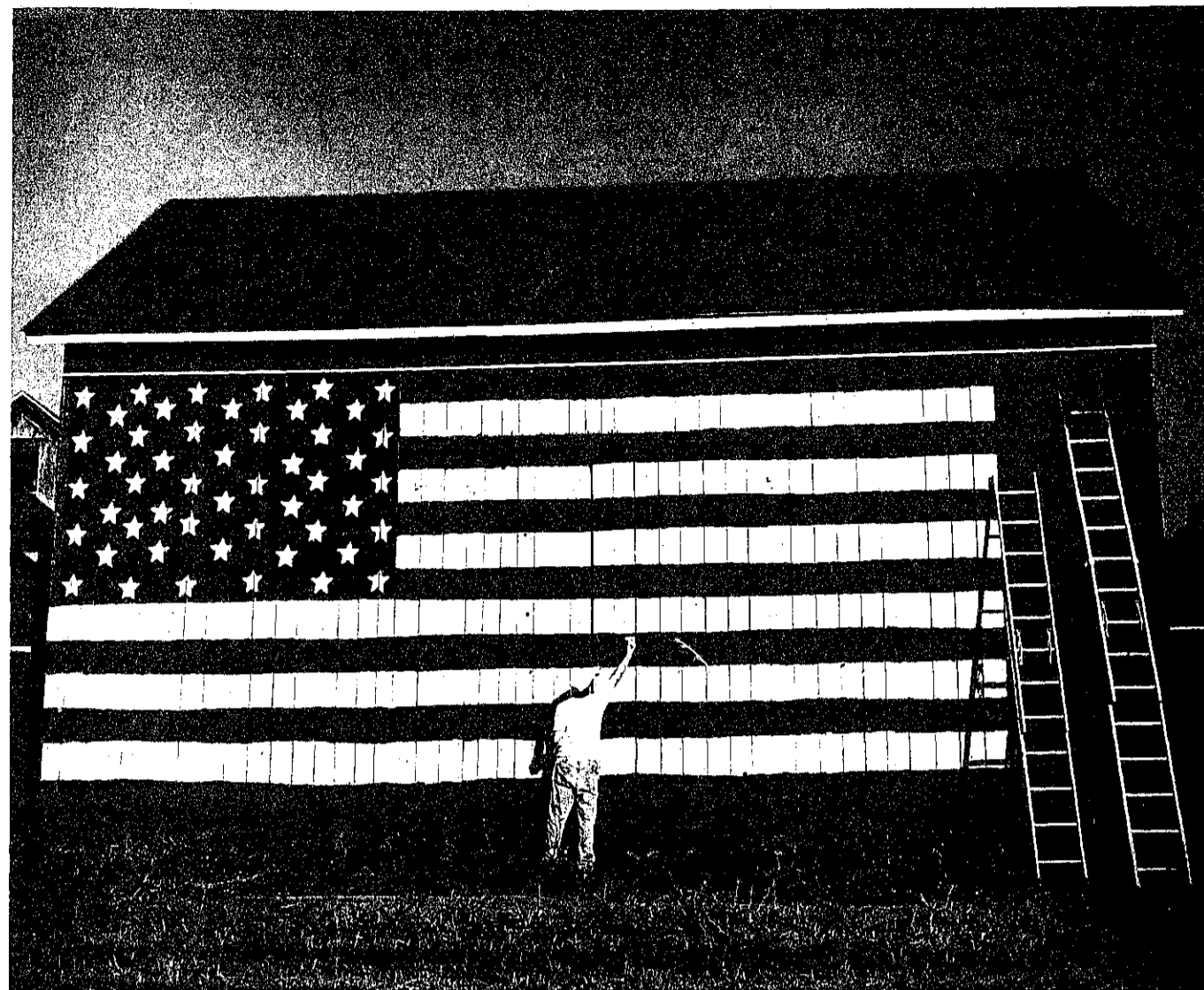
To determine when to plant your fall garden, find out when the first hard frost typically arrives in your area. To find the ideal planting date, count back eight to 12 weeks, or roughly 60 to 90 days.

Help your disposal

Don't try to grind really fibrous food like onion skins, celery stalks, asparagus and potato peels in a garbage disposal. On the other hand, grind ice and egg shells to help clean the disposal and keep the blades sharp.

Making paper 'buttons'

When punching a design inside of a design, begin with the smaller, inside design first. This technique can be used to create paper "buttons," which can be mounted on complementary background circles then used to embellish scrapbook pages and more.



ROOM TO GROW

A garden shed makes a great place to pot, relax and store stuff

By Lynn Underwood
MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL STAR TRIBUNE

In the garden, every plant has its place. The serious gardener also needs a special place to pot plants, wash out containers or scribble in a garden journal. And there's got to be space to stash all that gardening stuff.

That place can range from a well-equipped garden shed with running water to a salvaged potting bench in the garage.

Tammy Olsen's special place is her backyard garden shed. It's attached to her Edina, Minn., garage and has the ambience of a screened porch complete with a charming screen door. "I don't like it's also a hard-working, functional shed. The pine potting table holds a sink with running water, shelves and containers for storing pots, soil, fertilizer and a handy tool caddy.

The table is at a comfortable height for potting — no more back-aching planting on the driveway. The best part is the open view of her herb and perennial garden — so close you can almost reach out and touch the cornflowers.

The couple collaborated with an architect friend, James Jenkins, to design the 8-by-12-foot addition to blend with the architectural style of their tiled-roof Spanish colonial home.

They did some of the finishing work themselves. Olsen laid the brick floor that matches the brick walkway and the patio, and the couple stained the cedar and pine structure. The shed has plumbing and electricity with overhead light provided by chicken-coop warning lights from a feed store.

The shed is Olsen's homey gateway from her job. "It's my own space," she said. "And I feel like I'm in the middle of the garden when I'm working."

Like a home, a garden shed can reflect the personality of its owner. Since Olsen is almost as passionate about collecting as gardening, her prized antique iron sprinklers, vintage colored bottles (cut flowers accent each one) and other mementos from antiquing and her travels are displayed inside.

A distressed antique wall cupboard stores magazines, seed packets and coffee cups. In a corner is a rustic twig chair where Olsen can hear the trickling of the fountain as she puges through seed catalogs.

And why not have the amenities of home? She brews coffee and plays classical music ("the plants like it") on her transistor radio as she patters in the shed.



The view from the Olsen's potting shed opens to the back garden where herbs such as sage and basil are grown along with other plants. She washes her hand in a sink that drains into the back garden so the water is not wasted.

Home sweet shed
Olsen and her husband, Rob, had seen a variety of potting sheds while traveling in England.

Unlike the United States, Britain is garden shed country. There are almost 10 million garden sheds in Britain and the number is growing, reported the London Daily Mail.

"It's a bloke thing, a sort of retreat, an escape," said Andy Sturgeon, the Mail's gardening expert. "You get different kinds of shed owners. Some want somewhere to keep garden tools hang neatly in a row; others spend more time in the shed than they do gardening."

But there are signs that potting sheds are catching on this side of the Atlantic. In "Potting Places: Creative Ideas for Practical Gardening Work Spaces" (Friedman/Fairfax Publishers, \$17.95), Massachusetts writer Teri Dunn describes many different kinds of sheds. She writes about everything from charming country sheds to decorative sheds with gingerbread detailing and stained-glass windows to prefabricated kits (with assembly required).

Gardeners without space or resources for a true shed like Olsen's can consider equally useful potting corners and benches. An indoor or outdoor potting room, deck or basement or nestled into any sheltered spot. Setting up in a corner gives you walls on two sides to store and hang supplies. If possible, choose a space near a window for light. A simple potting bench can offer plenty of work area, a lower shelf to store big items and an upper shelf for garden tools.

Dunn writes that no matter how modest or how elaborate your potting place turns out to be, it should be your domain dedicated to your love of plants and gardening.

For Olsen, her potting shed is more than that. It's a home away from home surrounded by all things related to her love for gardening. She opens it in mid-April and closes it the first week in October, attaching canvas over the screens to protect storage items from the weather. "I feel melancholy when I close it up," she said.

Think ahead to next year's best bets for your garden

By Linda F. Negro
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

It's never too early to start planning next year's garden. Think about this past summer's vegetables and flowers and make note of what worked and what didn't.

Which tomato variety survived the heat? Where do you need more color in the flower garden? Would improved varieties work better?

All-America Selections has been working for 70 years to test new varieties in a network of gardens across the country.

Each year the organization publishes a list of some of the best performers. You'll find these in garden catalogs this winter and at garden centers in the spring.

The All-America Section Gold Medal winner is the "Purple Majesty" ornamental millet. The purple grass grows 3 to 5 feet tall with 8- to 12-inch flower spikes (which can be used in floral arrangements).

Other flower awards include:
● "CanCan Scarlet" carnation was selected for its 2-inch red blooms and spicy fragrance that can fill a room.
● "Prairie Sun" rudbeckia hirta is a 5-

inch yellow cone flower with a green center and is easy to grow.

● "Merlin Blue Mom" petunia has a pure white center with a velvety blue edge on its 2-inch blooms.

● "Blue Wave" petunia has velvety blue 2-inch blooms covering the plants, which grow 4 to 7 inches tall and spread 3 to 4 feet.

● "Golden Jubilee" agastache foeniculum is an aromatic herb that loves the heat and produces dense spikes of lavender blue flowers on 10- to 15-inch plants.

● "Jairo Dark Red" vinca reproduces

bright red 2-inch blooms with white centers. Neither deer nor insects are attracted to the plant.

● "Corona Cherry Magic" dianthus offers a mosaic of colors from cherry red and lavender to a combination in 2-inch blooms on 7- to 9-inch plants.

● "Sundance Bicolor" gaillardia pulchella is a drought-tolerant plant offering double globe-shaped blooms on plants that spread 15 to 16 inches.

● "Forever White" clematis offers 2-inch ivory-white blooms on heat- and low-moisture-resistant compact branching plants.



Photo courtesy of All American Selections
"Purple Majesty" ornamental millet.

"FOR TOO LONG OUR CULTURE HAS SAID, 'IF IT FEELS GOOD, DO IT.' NOW, WE WANT TO BE A NATION THAT SERVES GOALS LARGER THAN SELF. WE HAVE BEEN OFFERED A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY. WE MUST NOT LET THIS MOMENT PASS. MY CALL IS FOR EVERY AMERICAN TO COMMIT TO THE SERVICE OF YOUR NEIGHBORS AND YOUR NATION. BY DOING THIS, WE SUSTAIN AND EXTEND THE BEST THAT HAS EMERGED IN AMERICA."

★ ★ ★ EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING. ★ ★ ★

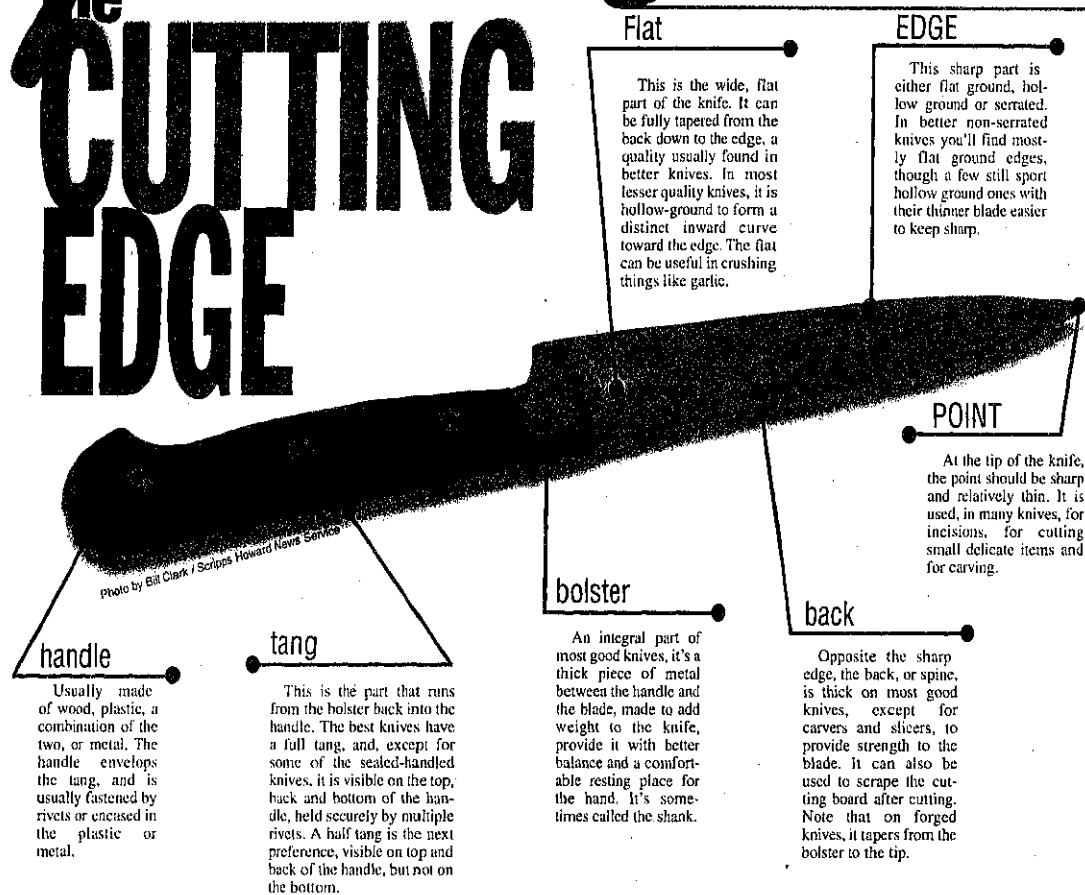
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10 Ours HomeTown

the CUTTING EDGE

FOOD



handle

Usually made of wood, plastic, a combination of the two, or metal. The handle envelops the tang, and is usually fastened by rivets or encased in the plastic or metal.

tang

This is the part that runs from the bolster back into the handle. The best knives have a full tang, and, except for some of the sealed-handled knives, it is visible on the top, back and bottom of the handle, held securely by multiple rivets. A half tang is the next preference, visible on top and back of the handle, but not on the bottom.

bolster

An integral part of most good knives, it's a thick piece of metal between the handle and the blade, made to add weight to the knife, provide it with better balance and a comfortable resting place for the hand. It's sometimes called the shank.

Flat

This is the wide, flat part of the knife. It can be fully tapered from the back down to the edge, a quality usually found in better knives. In most lesser quality knives, it is hollow-ground to form a distinct inward curve toward the edge. The flat can be useful in crushing things like garlic.

EDGE

This sharp part is either flat ground, hollow ground or serrated. In better non-serrated knives you'll find mostly flat ground edges, though a few still sport hollow ground ones with their thinner blade easier to keep sharp.

POINT

At the tip of the knife, the point should be sharp and relatively thin. It is used, in many knives, for incisions, for cutting small delicate items and for carving.

back

Opposite the sharp edge, the back, or spine, is thick on most good knives, except for carvers and slicers, to provide strength to the blade. It can also be used to scrape the cutting board after cutting. Note that on forged knives, it tapers from the bolster to the tip.

Finding the right knife for your kitchen takes planning, research

By Jake Grove

SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Today's kitchens are not the den of mediocre utensils they used to be. At-home chefs are looking for the right equipment for the right job and they won't buy the average stuff anymore. This is no more true than in the pursuit for the perfect kitchen knife.

Kitchen knives have come a long way in the last decade or so. Where once a customer picked out a relatively boring, never-needs-sharpening version that ran about \$30, those same customers are splurging a little more to get something that lasts and something that does the job better than usual.

And the knives out there reflect this trend. There are dozens of brands to choose from now, so that means there is a lot more research to do before buying.

"When customers first come in they just say they want a good, sharp knife," said Judy Booker, owner of Kitchen Emporium in Anderson, S.C. "They just want something that will make cutting easy, but don't really know what else to

look for."

The first thing to learn is what the knife is made of. Not every kitchen knife is made the same and there are different schools of thought as to what you should look for.

Most blades are made from a high-carbon stainless steel, the most popular metal for knives because it has rust and stain resistant properties.

As far as construction, knives typically fall into two categories: forged and stamped.

The forged variation is usually indicative of hand-made knives, according to Cook's Illustrated. Brands like Wusthof, Chef's Choice and Sabatier are forged and very popular among some chefs.

Stamped knives are created from a machine. Although generally not considered as high a quality, the average cook can barely tell the difference. Chicago Cutlery and Forschner are such stamped companies.

A third variation, however, has been patented by J.A. Henckels and involves taking three pieces of steel specially designed for each part of the knife (the

blade, bolster and tang). The pieces are then fused together in order to provide the perfect balance.

But does the average customer really care how a knife is made or what it's made of? No. The buyer only cares about three things: the price, the use and the feel.

Booker said the feel of a knife has replaced price as the most important factor in new knives.

Most often, the only real difference lies in the handle, where balance is determined.

"They have to look for a good balance," Booker said. "Men usually prefer a heavier knife while women would rather have a lighter one. I hand them the knives and let them grip it and they have to take it from there."

Finally, you have to decide what style of knives you want to buy.

When you have narrowed down what brand, then figure out which type you generally need in your kitchen. On average, there are three mainstays in the knife set: a chef's knife, the paring knife and the utility knife.

The chef's knife is the most used. It can chop meat, veggies and just about anything except bone. Therefore, it should be the most comfortable to you.

The utility knife is about six inches long and is used for the smaller jobs. Some use it exclusively while others consider it a secondary knife to the chef's.

The paring knife is the smallest. It will be used for cutting and chopping things you can hold in your hand. It usually only gets used for peeling but can be great for slicing and dicing just like the chef's and utility.

Prices can vary. A set of five knives with block can cost anywhere from \$80 to more than \$250.

Individual knives can cost as little as \$10 and as much as \$100, depending on the brand and style.

Most of the higher end models come with lifetime or extended warranties where you won't have to buy another knife for the rest of your life. If you go cheaper, you might be buying a new set every few years.

Eggplant, pasta make perfect partners

By Betsy Kline

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Unless you've grown up eating eggplant, chances are you've admired it for its curvaceous beauty but never tried it.

Truth is, we hadn't, either, unless you count eggplant Parmesan, in which the vegetable is virtually unrecognizable swathed in so many other wonder-

ful flavors.

Eggplant plays a starring role in today's recipe, in which it is baked and then combined with caramelized sweet peppers and onions and pasta for a delicious entree.

In fact, don't worry if you over-bake the eggplant, because its creaminess just adds to the lushness of the dish. Fresh basil is a must — do not use dried.

PENNE WITH PROVENCAL EGGPLANT AND SWEET PEPPERS

2 medium-sized eggplants, unpeeled and cut into 1-inch cubes
1 cup olive oil, divided
Salt
2 medium-sized onions, sliced
3 red, green or yellow sweet peppers, thinly sliced (we used one of each to make the dish colorful)
4 cloves garlic, finely minced or pressed
Freshly ground pepper
1/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
2 tablespoons herbes de Provence
1 pound osage pasta
1/2 cups finely packed chopped fresh basil
Fresh basil leaves for garnish, optional

Place eggplant cubes in a shallow baking dish, toss with 1/2 cup of the olive oil, sprinkle with salt to taste and bake in a 400-degree oven until cubes are soft but still hold their shape, about 30 minutes. Set aside to cool. Heat 1/4 cup of the olive oil in a large, heavy fry pan. Add the onions and sweet peppers and cook over very low heat until vegetables are quite tender and lightly caramelized, about 35 to 45 minutes. Stir in garlic and salt and pepper to taste. Cook 3 minutes more.

Combine the remaining 1/4 cup olive oil, lemon juice, herbes de Provence and salt and pepper to taste. Whisk and reserve.

Cook pasta in 2 quarts boiling water until al dente. Drain and rinse well. Add the eggplant, onion-pepper mixture to a large bowl with onion mixture and reserved dressing.

Stir in the remaining 1/2 cup olive oil, herbes de Provence, salt and pepper to taste. Make a bed of pasta in a 10 to 12 inch serving dish. Top with eggplant-pepper mixture and fresh basil leaves.

Serves 4. Recipe by James McVey.

America's finally gone catfishin'

By Marty Meitus

SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Henry Gantz reels off the statistics on catfish: Catfish ranks fourth on the list of most consumed fish per capita (if you count shrimp, it's fifth); it's passed cod in popularity; it's growing in consumption as the rest of the fish category remains flat.

Gantz is with the Catfish Institute in Mississippi, which was established 15 years ago to promote farm-raised catfish.

He believes catfish has finally overcome its image as a bottom-feeder, adding, "Everything seafood has done wrong, catfish has done right." Prices are reasonable, and quality is consistent.

Now his job is to up our intake. Despite the marketing push, we consume only 1 pound of catfish per capita per year. Overall seafood consumption per capita is only 15.6 pounds. (By comparison, we eat 62.9 pounds of beef per capita per year.)

To help him in his mission, he's brought along Karen Adler, author of "Fish & Shellfish, Grilled & Smoked" (Harvard Common Press, \$15.95) and nine other cookbooks, who's best-known for her mail-order barbecue-cookbook business (www.pigoutpublications.com).

Catfish is mild enough to do just about anything with it, she says. When cooking catfish, which can be grilled, baked or pan-fried, follow the 10 minutes-per-inch-of-thickness cooking rule. Catfish can be substituted in any of your favorite fish recipes.

Here are some of Adler's suggestions:

• Rub with a little olive oil and garlic salt, pan-fry and serve with salsa.

• Serve with a spicy horseradish sauce (from Adler's cookbook "The Best Little BBQ Sauces Cookbook"): 1 cup light sour cream; 4 tablespoons horseradish; 2 tablespoons chopped pimento; 1 tablespoon paprika; 1 teaspoon ground cumin; 1 teaspoon allspice; 1/2 teaspoon coriander; 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes. Combine and refrigerate for an hour before serving.

• Make a rub. One of Adler's favorites is the fireworks rub from her latest book: Use 1 to 2 teaspoons of the rub and grill, bake or pan-fry the fish. The rub, which makes one cup, will

TERIYAKI CATFISH WITH WASABI CUCUMBER SALAD

3 tablespoons teriyaki sauce
1-1/2 teaspoons wasabi powder (available in Asian markets)

1 teaspoon rice vinegar (available in the Asian section of grocery stores)

2 medium-size cucumbers, peeled, seeded and chopped

1/3 cup non-fat sour cream
Four 3- to 5-ounce farm-raised catfish fillets
Fresh cilantro leaves for garnish

Prepare a hot fire. In a small bowl, stir together the teriyaki sauce, the wasabi powder and the vinegar to make a marinade. Set aside for 10 minutes to let the flavors blend.

In a medium-size bowl, stir together 1 tablespoon of the teriyaki marinade and the cucumbers; stir in the sour cream.

When ready to grill, brush both sides of the catfish fillets with the remaining marinade and place on an oiled grill rack. Grill until the fish is opaque and just beginning to flake when tested with a fork, 2 to 3 minutes per side.

To serve, top the catfish with the cucumber salad and garnish with cilantro. Makes 4 servings.
Source: Karen Adler's "Fish & Shellfish, Grilled & Smoked"

keep for up to six months, so it's ready for dinner when you are: Combine in a jar with a lid: 1/4 cup chili powder; 1/4 cup cumin; 1/4 cup coriander; 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon; 2 tablespoons firmly packed brown sugar; 1 tablespoon salt; 1 tablespoon red pepper flakes; and 2 tablespoons freshly ground black pepper. Shake to blend. Use 1 to 2 teaspoons as a rub for fish.

• Serve with a doctored-up barbecue sauce (also from "The Best Little BBQ Sauces Cookbook"): Mix 2 cups bottled barbecue sauce with 1/2 cup dark brown sugar; 1/3 cup minced onion; and 5 large minced cloves garlic. For an Asian-style variation, add 2 tablespoons soy sauce, 1 teaspoon ground ginger, 1 teaspoon garlic powder. Or, for a raspberry barbecue sauce, add 1 package of frozen red raspberries in syrup (thawed).



Chefs turn to beer as flavor enhancer

By Bob Masullo
SACRAMENTO BEE

Beer is meant for drinking. You'll get no argument on that from California chef Chris Thomas, former executive chef at Sacramento Brewing Co.'s Oasis. But he often uses the beverage as an ingredient in his cooking.

"I love to drink beer and I love to cook with it," says Thomas, 36. "If I had to choose between the two, which fortunately I do not, I'd have to say I prefer drinking it."

Although he now works primarily as a construction contractor, he still cooks at the Oasis for special events and for classes on beer appreciation.

Q: Where did cooking with beer start?

A: That goes back to the ancient Egyptians. They used it instead of water in making bread. But ever since, many cultures have used it.

Q: Does it have a contemporary ethnic connection?

A: Yes. As you might expect, it's most popular where beer-drinking is big. The Germans cook with it a lot, mainly to simmer sausages and other meats. The British use quite a bit, too. Their Welsh rarebit has stout (a thick, dark beer) as a main ingredient.

Q: What recipes do you use beer in?

A: I use it imaginatively, matching certain beer tastes with certain food tastes. You have to have a feel for what goes with what.

Q: Some examples?

A: Oh, chicken with lager; pork with stout; fish with pale ale or a light beer.

Q: What are some of the ways you use beer in your cooking?

A: Three of my favorite uses are in a barley vinaigrette, which you can apply to many dishes; in the batter for fish (in a fish 'n' chips dinner); and in pizza dough, which, if you use a nice hefeweizen (wheat beer), becomes incredibly light and airy. It's also a good alternative to wine for deglazing.

BEER-BATTERED FISH

This recipe is used by Sacramento Brewing Co.'s Oasis restaurant; its fish 'n' chips dinner is quite popular.

The fish must be cooked in a deep fryer, according to chef Chris Thomas.

"A frying pan just won't do it justice," he says, noting that deep fryers for home cost about \$30.

The recipe does not include the oil needed to fry the fish. Serve the fish with french fries, slices of lemon, malt vinegar and tartar sauce.

1 12-ounce bottle of India pale ale
2 eggs
1/4 cup vegetable oil
2 cups flour plus a little extra for dredging
3/4 tablespoon baking powder
3/4 tablespoon ground pepper
1/2 tablespoon cayenne
1/2 tablespoon salt
1/4 teaspoon oregano
1 tablespoon whole thyme
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1 1/2 to 2 pounds of fish fillets (cod or pollock are best)

In a bowl, combine ale, eggs and oil; when smooth, whisk in flour, baking powder and spices.

Dredge fish fillets through flour and shake off excess, then whisk through batter.

Drop fillets in fully heated oil in the deep fryer; let cook until they float to surface and are golden brown (usually 5 minutes or less).

Remove fillets from deep fryer, drain and serve.

Prep time: 10 minutes.

Cook time: 5 minutes.

Serves: 4.