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INSIDE

Planning Commission

Condo plans shelved; nod given to 10 Mile home project; and Beck Park spec building earns approval

— Page 4A



Get the blues

Alvin Youngblood Hart will be making a very special "acoustic" live appearance promoting his just released solo acoustic album, "Down In The Alley", Thursday, November 21 at The Boathouse in Walled Lake, 142 E. Walled Lake Drive at 8 p.m. Read about it in our Calendar of Events.

— Page 8A



Alice in Wonderland

The students of the Novi Middle School Drama Department will be turning their school into a land of wonder this weekend as they present "Alice in Wonderland" on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 22-23.

— Page 14A

SPORTS

End of the road

The Novi Wildcats football team's season halted as they took on, and fell to, a very solid Detroit Catholic Central squad. It was what many will say was a game of two halves, but in the end the Shamrocks prevailed to win the Regional championship with a 26-3 final.

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City and school district at odds

Use of Powers Park center of groups' problem

By Victoria Sadlocha STAFF WRITER

After repeatedly urging members of the city council to behave in the "spirit of cooperation," City of Novi Mayor Richard Clark was unsuccessful in depleting a festering gap growing by the minute between the city and its school district.

During the Nov. 12 city council meeting, members were asked to

vote on a recreation facilities agreement between the Novi Community School District and Novi, allowing the schools to use 49.37 acres of the city's Powers Park for recreational facilities.

But what seemed to be a formality turned into an emotional discussion over the relationship between the city and its schools after some members of council poked at the agreement looking at it from a "business deal" perspective.

Superintendent of Novi Schools Dr. Emmett Lippe was upset by comments made regarding charging monthly rent along with other probings into the deal.

"To say it surprises me is a



gross understatement," Lippe said. "This surprises me to no end."

During the meeting, Lippe asked the council, why would you treat us this way when we treated you so good for so many years?

The school's superintendent said the district has been more than co-operative with the city,

providing the city with places for its activities with the only charge being for custodial services.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Business James Kuster said the only time the city is charged to use the school, without any "beef," is when a custodian needs to be scheduled because

"This just flies in the face of everything we have tried to accomplish in the community."

Richard Clark City of Novi mayor

continued on 2



Photo by Ramez Khuri

Happy birthday, Mickey!

Tammy Smith's kindergarten class at Village Oaks Elementary School celebrated Mickey Mouse's 74th birthday on Nov. 18. The children all made Mickey Mouse ears and sat around a stuffed animal of the character while singing happy birthday. "My class does this every year," Smith said. "They all made the ears and we also do a puzzle that turns out to be of Mickey Mouse too."

Gas spill closes Novi post office parking lot

By Victoria Sadlocha STAFF WRITER

About five gallons of diesel fuel spilled on to the parking lot of two Novi postal centers Tuesday, bringing together city departments in a clean-up effort.

"We mitigated the situation, worked with the DPW and the situation is taken care of," said Jeffery Johnson, City of Novi assistant fire chief.

Johnson said the situation was not of an alarming nature.

City fire officials said a mail-delivery vehicle leaked the fuel at the city's post office on Novi Road and its postal annex on Grand River Avenue Nov. 19, spilling about five gallons total at the two locations.

"Only a few gallons of diesel were spilled from a semi-tractor trailer that was making a drop at the post office on Novi Road and it then proceeded to the postal annex on Grand River," Johnson said. "It (the truck) proceeded to spill some diesel there which was another couple of gallons."

Engines and squad cars responded to the post office at about 9:20 a.m. and at the annex shortly after 10 a.m.

The scene was cleared by the fire department well before the noon hour.

Johnson said the parking lot of the main post office was closed for a short period of time while the spill was contained from possibly going down into the storm drain.

"There was some on the asphalt and we were concerned it would go into the drain," he said.

Workers on the scene also placed an absorbent material on the ground to absorb the fuel and dikes were made around the storm drain as a precautionary measure.

Employees from Novi's Department of Public Works also responded, spreading sand and using the city's street sweeper to aid in the clean up.

"It was all handled within an hour," Johnson said. "And we were very well satisfied with the way it was handled."

Novi's post master contacted representatives from Taylor Postal Contracting informing them of the incident.

City officials said any other clean up efforts will be the subcontractor's responsibility.

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

Two Novi officials receive raises

City's clerk, manager earn performance-based salary increases

By Victoria Sadlocha STAFF WRITER

Novi City Manager Richard Helwig and city clerk Maryanne Cornelius will receive salary increases after receiving positive performance reviews this summer.

An approved 5-percent increase will bring the manager's annual salary to \$109,725 and the city clerk's up to \$74,723 a year.

Both increases will be retroactive to the start of the city's fiscal year, beginning

July 1. The salary increase was voted on past the midnight hour, during Novi's Nov. 12 city council meeting.

City of Novi Mayor Pro-Tem Michelle Bononi and councilwoman Laura Lorenzo were the only two dissenters to the raise, opposing the amount of the increase.

Bononi and Lorenzo felt a 3.61-percent raise would be more appropriate because of the current economic climate and said the lesser amount had nothing to do with the officials' performance.

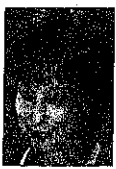
Other members of the council felt the 5-percent increase was appropriate.

"I think he (Helwig) has gone well above and beyond the call of duty," said Louis Csordas, Novi city councilman.

Csordas cited Helwig's work on the Sandstone settlement agreement and his initiative to



R. Helwig



M. Cornelius

implement other innovative projects within the city's administration as examples of a job well done.

The councilman also praised Cornelius for her contributions to the city.

"She is very well recognized and in my opinion does an exemplary job,"

Csordas said. A comparison sheet detailing other communities' salaries for both the manager and the clerk

were given to members of council as a point of reference.

Csordas said Helwig is pretty much approaching the maximum salary of other managers in the area and Cornelius falls somewhere in the middle.

"It (the 5-percent raise) seems fiscally responsible," Csordas said.

Some members of council wanted to table the decision for the Nov. 25 meeting because of the late hour.

Novi City Mayor Richard J. Clark urged all members to take the time to vote on the increase since both employees had been waiting since August for their raises.

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

Council approves revamped design for new Expo Center

By Victoria Sadlocha STAFF WRITER

Comic book heroes, pro golfers and championship chihuahuas will be only some of the attractions coming to a brand new Novi exposition center in years to come.

The recently revamped design, including the addition of a circular drive with covered main entrance, was approved by



B. Bowman

members of the city council last week, giving Novi Expo Center President Blair

Bowman the long-awaited site-plan approval and wetlands permit he needed to move forward with his plan to

relocate the existing Novi Road business.

Bowman said the center's current plan has struck the delicate balance of accommodating community concern, economic feasibility and appearance considerations.

"It's a much better project for the longterm," he said.

Other changes from the original plan include more accessible handicapped parking, a

landscaped parking lot, an improved wetland mitigation area and a progressive facade.

The split-face block exterior comprised of concrete masonry units planned for the center has been used to construct many prominent buildings including the headquarters for The Gap, the St. Louis Rams and the upcoming buildings for the Atlanta Falcons and the Baltimore Ravens.

Locally, the type of exterior may be seen on the Budco building in Highland Park.

Chris Cedargreen from Forum Studios said the material offers a tremendous capability when forming and shaping the center.

The facade material was one of the many project details listed out in a document issued by the Novi

continued on 2

Vertical text on the left side of the page, likely a library or archival stamp.



School district and city of Novi at odds

continued from front

because of the district's cooperation. Clark said what is being requested by the school is practical and a benefit to the community and would like to see cooperation between all members of council.

"This just flies in the face of everything we have tried to accomplish in the community," Clark said. "This will start the city, school district and residents down the wrong path."

During the meeting, the mayor urged all of his colleagues not to downsize the attitude of cooperation the city has shown in the time fostering with the new administration.

Novi City Councilman David Lamy said not only is he not in favor of changing the school district, but with all the talk going on about acquiring more park land, this is an opportunity for more sports-oriented development at no cost to city residents.

I am sure, said the council, the purpose of the district's tax cooperation and would not blame them

The city's administration also is in favor of the agreement. According to documents prepared by city officials, the benefits of the land-share agreement are:

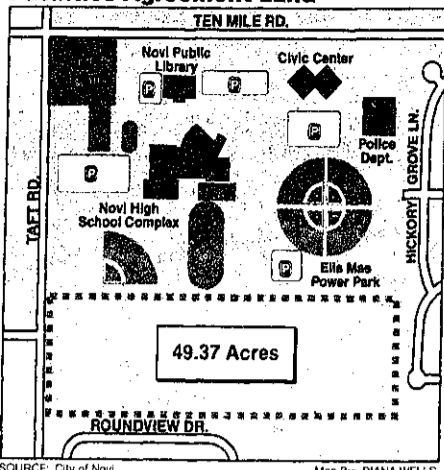
- The city/school partnership use of the land ensures maximum public use of the property in the most cost-effective manner;
- The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department will be able to better serve the community by utilizing the two additional playfields created at no cost to the district and continued use of the softball field; and
- The partnership provides a positive use of the property by the community with minimum impact on the homes adjacent to the property.

The partnership request is part of a process beginning in 2000 when a Civic Center Complex Task Force made the recommendation to expand the existing high school instead of building two separate high schools.

The task force recommended the high school expand to the south and west of the existing building with parking expansion placed between High School and Taft Road.

Additionally, a 2000-01 Blue

Proposed Recreational Facilities Agreement Land



SOURCE: City of Novi

Map By: DIANA WELLS

Ribbon Task Force final report included the recommendation of having two.

Representatives from the district said the property use is needed to carry out the single school goal.

On Sept. 23 representatives from the school district made a presentation to members of the council, including the concept of an agreement for the sharing of

recreational facilities on city and school property.

The tabled discussion between members of council and the district will resume during the Dec. 2 city council meeting.

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

Officials get raises

continued from front

Planning Commission with its recommendation to deny Bowman's approval request.

Other items on the list include:

- The west drive proposed angle is 73 degrees versus the required 90 degree angle;
- The front entrance to the building should be enhanced;
- Provide for lower lighting poles realizing there is an excess of 25 parking spaces; and
- Explore the alternative of a parking structure to preserve additional woodlands and wetlands on the east side of the building.

Former commissioner Robert Churella disagrees with the commission's current negative recommendation, saying the exposition center is a very successful business that will increase the city's tax base, bring in auxiliary businesses and offer all the benefits of an exposition center without the city paying the bill.

Churella said most exposition centers are municipally owned. Current planning commissioner David Ruyke also denounced the negative recommendation, appearing before members of the council on Nov. 12, reminding them the planning commission decision was not unanimous.

"I hope we get overturned tonight," Ruyke said.

Novi City Councilman Craig DeRoche said he is in favor of the new center and feels comfortable giving his approval.

The councilman said the process has been going on for three years and he knows other cities have made offers.

He also said he feels placing too many council-mandated restrictions is not always the right way to go, stating he feels James Chen, developer of the city's downtown project, lost some opportunity along the approval process.

"I want to see that (Expo Center) there for a very long time," DeRoche said.

City of Novi Mayor Pro-tem Michelle Bononi and councilwoman Laura Lorenzo voted against approval on Nov. 12, stating traffic concerns as their primary reason.

The one thing I can not compromise on in good conscience is traffic flow and traffic safety, Lorenzo said.

Bononi agreed traffic is a concern stating she does not feel someone needs to be a rocket scientist to see the bottleneck that may be created in front of the center.

"This is the opportunity to get it right," she said.

Bowman said even without any changes to his current plan, the traffic situation would be better than the current Novi Road site.

The about 319,000-square-foot complex will house exposition halls, banquet facilities, administrative offices and warehouse space on the 55-acre site located at Grand River Avenue west of Taft Road.

Construction is scheduled to commence next year.

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

Artists get 'mad' in fight against cancer

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Two years ago Novi's Kim Giroux was a personal trainer teaching people how to have a better day. Now she's a patient fighting to have another day.

Giroux, along with her daughters Kathryn and Krystina was among more than a score of cancer patients, families, volunteers and associates on hand for the opening of the Mad Hatter Tea Party display Nov. 12 in the Nancy A. Fox Art Gallery at Providence Hospital and Medical Center's Assarian Cancer Center in Novi.

The display, a collection of teapots and "all things tea" made in the center's ceramics program over the past six months, will be open to the public 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday through January.

The ceramics program is just one of more than a dozen programs offered through the hospital's Center for the Healing Arts.

"Western medicine," said Eleana M. Weissman, the center's supervisor, "is about disease. It looks at illness as a problem that's really technical. Healing encompasses a lot more. It's not just the cancer that needs treatment."

The center opened as part of the Assarian Cancer Center in 1999. The following year, Giroux discovered she had cancer.

"It didn't come as a total surprise. Both sides of her family have a history of cancer. You can't beat genetics," she said. Still, the news came hard. "I'm only 43," said Giroux. "When they tell you you have cancer it's very devastating."

Weissman said that's why there is a need for someone like the Healing Arts Center. "We need to address all the needs of a person."

That means offering everything from art and pottery classes to prayer and meditation. "My kids have been seeing a social worker," said Giroux, added, "They love coming here for the pottery classes."

Giroux recently switched her primary care from Providence to the Karmanos Cancer Institute in order to take advantage of a bone marrow transplant technique not available through Providence.

However, Giroux and her daughter, who still come to the Healing Arts Center, have not had their treatment barrier this year.



Photo by Phil Foley

"I really freaked out," said David Miller, when doctors told him he had bladder cancer. The Farmington Hills resident said coming to the Center for Healing Arts at Providence Hospital and Medical Centers in Novi has helped him work through his fears and speeded his healing process. "Judy [Buresh, the center's artist in residence] is very caring," he noted.

"While the doctors try to fix you, the people here try to uplift you," she observed.

When physicians told David Miller, who was already suffering from heart disease, that he had bladder cancer, "I really freaked out."

The Farmington Hills man said making pottery at the center is "very relaxing." He said it helps him blot out his fears and concerns, if just for a little while.

Miller said the doctors have told him his illness is completely treatable, but he fretted. "They only tell you as much as you need to know." So far, however, he's had no recurrence since his treatment barrier this year.

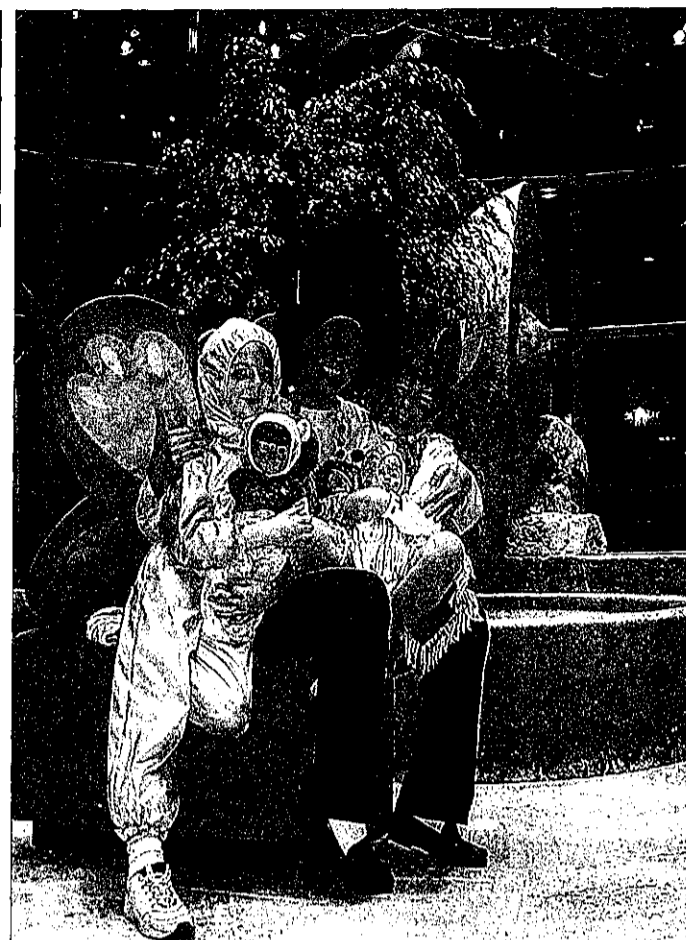


Photo by Phil Foley

Kim Giroux and her daughters, Kathryn (left) and Krystina have been coming to the Center for the Healing Arts at Providence Hospital and Medical Centers in Novi ever since she was diagnosed with cancer two years ago. "This is such a nice place to have cancer. I know that sounds weird," said Giroux, explaining that the center helps patients deal with all the things their surgeon can't.

And while he waits for his 90-day check-up next month, "This gives me a place to get away from it all."

Six months ago Buresh had the 50 or so patients enrolled in her ceramics class, started making teapots. The start has been a whirlwind world of "bats, elephants and turtles."

They're all on display in the Nancy A. Fox Art Gallery at the Assarian Cancer Center on the Providence Hospital and Medical Centers campus of 47601 Grand River Avenue.

For more information about the center and its offerings call Weissman at (248) 465-5448 or visit the hospital's website at www.providence-hospital.org.

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

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Jaguar pounces on child safety

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

The sleek XK8 convertibles and sophisticated XJ Sport sedans were gone Saturday and in their place on the polished marble floor at Jaguar of Novi ball toss games and popcorn machines vied for the attention of the under three-foot set.

About 200 families braced the chilly temperatures to stop by the dealership for its first child safety seat inspection event.

"I'm pleased with what we got," said Nancy Conyers, the dealership's customer relations manager. She said that while they were hoping for a few more people, she was happy with the turnout, given the weather.

Most Metro Detroit car dealers hold child safety seat inspection events in the summer or early fall. Jaguar of Novi emptied out its showroom to create an indoor space for activities to keep children busy while their parents had their vehicles checked out.

"We tried to make this a fun and exciting kids day," said Conyers as Clifford the Big Red Dog strolled the showroom shaking paws with his squealing fans.

Novi resident Fredrick Stram said he was surprised to find out he had been incorrectly facing the shoulder straps on his grand daughter's car seat. According to traffic safety officials, about 80 percent of the child safety seats on Oakland County roads are improperly installed.

After Officer Jim Geary, a certified child safety seat inspector from the West Bloomfield Police Department, showed Stram the



Photo by Phil Foley

Novi resident Fredrick Stram (left) learned he had been putting the straps through his grand daughter's car seat wrong when he stopped by the Jaguar of Novi Child Safety Seat Inspection Saturday, Nov. 16. Officer Jim Geary from the West Bloomfield Police Department, one of several that pitched in to help Novi police, showed Stram the correct way to install the straps.

correct way to install the seat in his car, Stram said, "I feel very good."

Tim Raipa, a police officer from South Lyon, said he left good being able to help out the Novi Police Department. Raip, one of several police officers from near-

by communities that helped out at the event, became a certified child safety seat inspector in May.

Conyers said she plans to hold child safety seat inspection events at the dealership because, "There's nothing more important

than making sure our children are safe."

Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 198 or at philfoley@home.com.net.

Committee approves brownfield bills

Cassidy committee approves brownfield bills. Panel extends law that will further help cities like Wixom.

Michigan cities like Wixom can take advantage of brownfield incentives for another five years under legislation approved this week by the House Tax Policy Committee.

State Rep. Nancy Cassidy, committee chair, said House Bills 6501-02 extend special brownfield tax credits through 2007. The incentives, a Single Business Tax credit and creation of a tax increment financing program, are scheduled to end this year.

"The exciting developments in brownfield are effective in restoring contaminated and blighted areas," said Cassidy, R-Nowi. "Tax policy issues like brownfield incentives can be a key component in strengthening our local and state economy."

Greg McCaffrey, Wixom director of public services, said: "Extending the brownfield program is vital to Michigan communities. In Wixom, development of our site creates a foothold for development in our city's downtown area. The new village center will be a cornerstone

within Wixom and a viable asset to our community."

Michigan is the first in the nation to make brownfield redevelopment successful, according to a Consumers Renaissance Corporation report. State brownfield projects include Oldsmobile Park baseball stadium in Lansing, River's Edge in Traverse City and Renaissance Global Logistics in Detroit.

"The brownfield grant will prove to be a tremendous catalyst for positive change throughout Michigan, as it will be for Wixom's economy and quality of life," Cassidy said.

Michigan's brownfield program was created in 1996 to provide funding and tax incentives to return economically viable but blighted and contaminated property. SBT credits are offered to reduce the cost of redevelopment and TIFAs are used to provide the funding for infrastructure on brownfield sites that compete with greenfield sites.

HBs 6501-02 also remove unnecessary restrictions on the methods of assigning the credits, allow needed flexibility in their approval and simplify administration of the programs.

The Senate committee is considering HBs 6501-02.

Hockey training sessions starting up

By Victoria Sadocha
STAFF WRITER

The city's new Novi Ice Arena assistant manager is getting up for fun with the start of next month's adult hockey training program.

Former professional hockey player and four-year letter winner on the Ferris State University hockey team, Todd Steinmeyer, will begin sessions of his new addition to the arena's offerings on Dec. 14.

The program field every Saturday will conclude February 15, 2003.

The weekly skills and conditioning series for adults of all ability levels will include:

- Individual skating technique to improve balance, agility, quickness, speed and control;
- Skill instruction on stick

handling, passing and shooting.

• Offensive and defensive concepts.

• Individual and team positional play; and

• Situational scrimmages. Program creators said the goal of the program is to improve players' overall knowledge of the game, teach new drills, increase enjoyment of the game, build confidence, conditioning and to develop skating and puck skills in a competitive and fun environment.

The ten-week session is \$189 and registration is underway. For more information, call (248) 347-1010.

Victoria Sadocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 105 or at vsadocha@home.com.net.

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Library Lines

Novi Public Library

Hours

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. We are located at 45245 W. 10 Mile Road, just east of Taft. For more information, call (248) 349-0720.

Thanksgiving holiday hours

The library will be closed Thursday, November 28, for the Thanksgiving holiday. The

library will be open for regular hours throughout the remainder of the holiday weekend.

Adult book discussion group

Our December selection is "The Age of Innocence" by Edith Wharton. The group meets Monday, December 2, at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room. All are welcome.

Story Time notes

Our regularly scheduled Story Times will not be held on Tuesday, December 3, due to a staff in-service day.

Tiny tot time

Children ages 12-18 months are invited to join us for a half hour of stories, songs, and games on Saturday, December 7, at 11 a.m. Registration is not required, but space is limited, so toddlers and caregivers only, please.

Internet practice lab for seniors

Practice makes perfect! Join us for an opportunity to practice any of the skills you've learned in our Internet classes on Wednesday, November 27, from 1-3 p.m. During this two-hour session, you may choose to work on any Internet skills you wish, with librarians to assist

you and answer any computer-related questions. Note: There is no set agenda for this class; you may come and go as you please during the two-hour session. Please register in advance by calling the library.

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Calendar of Events



Catch the blues at The Botohouse

Alvin Youngblood Hart will be making a very special "acoustic" live appearance... "Down In The Alley", Thursday, November 21, 2002.

Novi Town Center Free Fall Movie - "Shut Little 2"

DATE: Saturday, Nov. 23 and Sunday, Nov. 24. TIME: 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. each day.

Senior Book Club

DATE: November 14, December 12. TIME: 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. LOCATION: Novi Public Library.

Walled Lake Western High School Performance of "Les Miserables"

DATE: Nov. 15-17 and Nov. 22-23. TIME: Friday and Saturday shows, 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinee, 2 p.m.

Afternoon Tea

DATE: Mondays, November 18, December 16. TIME: 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. LOCATION: Novi Senior Center.

Novi Library Bookmobile

DATE: Nov. 19 and Dec. 17. TIME: 11:30 a.m.-noon. LOCATION: Novi Senior Center.

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"From Grief to New Hope" Seminar DATE: Saturday, November 23. TIME: 9 a.m.-12 p.m. LOCATION: St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Thanksgiving Supper and Praise Service DATE: Tues., Nov. 26. TIME: 6:30 p.m. LOCATION: Lakes Baptist Church.

Fine Arts Series of First Presbyterian Church of Northville Concert "MESSIAH"

DATE: Sunday, December 1. TIME: 7 p.m. LOCATION: First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main Street.

Wisom Teen Advisory Committee DATE: Monday, December 2. TIME: 4 p.m.-5 p.m. LOCATION: Wisom Comm. Center.

PHONE: (248) 347-0421, Mon.-Fri. 9-4 p.m.

DMC Health Care Center Craft Show DATE: Thursday, November 21 and Friday, November 22. TIME: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

International Festival DATE: Thursday, November 21. TIME: 6 p.m.-9 p.m. LOCATION: Novi Middle School.

Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon and "turkey bingo" DATE: Friday, November 22. TIME: 12 p.m. LOCATION: Novi Senior Center.

First Annual Metro High School Hockey Invitational DATE: Friday, Nov. 22 and Saturday, Nov. 23. LOCATION: Novi Ice Arena.

would like to invite you to become part of the community by planning activities and community service projects for your peers.

Holiday Festive Mixer-Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce DATE: Tuesday, December 3. TIME: 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Tables, Tea and Treats: A Christmas Celebration DATE: Tuesday, Dec. 3. TIME: 7 p.m. LOCATION: Meadowbrook Congregational Church.

Novi Theatricals Auditions, Man of La Mancha DATE: Tuesday, Dec. 3 and Thursday, Dec. 5. TIME: 7:30 p.m.

Novi Civic Center DATE: Saturday, December 7. TIME: 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. LOCATION: Meadowbrook Congregational Church.

Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital Blood Drive DATE: Wed., Dec. 4. TIME: 6:30 a.m.-5 p.m. LOCATION: Hospital's

Conference Center, 1 William Clark Drive, Commerce. PHONE: Office of Community Health, 248-937-3314.

Novi Chorale Christmas program, "Christmas Is Coming" DATE: Friday, Dec. 6. Saturday, Dec. 7 and Sunday, Dec. 8.

First United Methodist Church, 33112 Grand River Farmington, Saturday. Novi United Methodist Church, 41671 W. Ten Mile Rd., Novi.

Treats and Treasure Sale DATE: Saturday, December 7. TIME: 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Walled Lake Western High School's Holiday Arts and Crafts Show DATE: Saturday, Dec. 7 and Sunday, Dec. 8.

Motor Sports Hall of Fame "Art of Racing" Exhibit DATE: thru Dec. 31. LOCATION: Motorsports Hall of Fame, inside Novi Expo Center.

Rd., (between Pontiac Trail and Maple Rd.) DETAILS: Admission/\$2. Seniors and students/\$1.

Free Teeth Cleanings DATE: Wednesday, December 11. TIME: call for appointment.

Oakland County Health Division Epacnet Parent Classes DATE: ongoing series. LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple, Walled Lake.

Plymouth Community Chorus 29th Annual Christmas Concert "Sing Glorior" DATE: Friday, December 13, Saturday, December 14, and Sunday, December 15.

Oakland County Health Division breastfeeding support sessions DATE: ongoing series. LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple, Walled Lake.

Novi Toastmasters DATE: First and third Tuesdays of the month. LOCATION: Novi Civic Center.

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ON-GOING

continued on



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Calendar of Events

continued from 8

seven days a week, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday thru Sundays after Labor Day. DETAILS: \$4/adults, \$2.00/seniors, \$2/children.

Oakland County Health Division Epacnet Parent Classes DATE: ongoing series. LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple, Walled Lake.

Plymouth Community Chorus 29th Annual Christmas Concert "Sing Glorior" DATE: Friday, December 13, Saturday, December 14, and Sunday, December 15.

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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.

"Novi Needlers" Quilting Group DATE: Second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. LOCATION: Novi Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook, Novi.

Oakland Livingstone Human Service Agency Thanksgiving Donations DATE: ongoing until Nov. 26. LOCATION: OLSHA Intake and Service Center, located at the lower level of 196 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue, Pontiac.

New TIPS chapter in Novi DATE: Every Wednesday (no meeting Dec. 25, 2002 and Jan. 1, 2003).

Novi Toastmasters DATE: First and third Tuesdays of the month. LOCATION: Novi Civic Center.

Send calendar items to Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48168 or e-mail to cst@nlh.com

Veterans honored

On Thursday, November 14, 2002, Veterans twice honored... Mayor Richard Clark presented this year's Mayor Clark proclaimed Nov. 11 as American City of Roses.

Glenda's Florist & Nursery in Novi, Ltd., Roses-West... The Veterans of America, whose national organization is in Novi.

'Tis The Season! Over 85 Merchants! November 22, 23 & 24 Southfield Municipal Complex. Michigan's Antiques Market.

BABIES OF THE MONTH Congratulations to the proud parents! It's official. The waiting is over. Congratulations and good luck to all of our newest area families.

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Students learn life in the trenches

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Lee Bonner's second block students at Novi High School built a trench in its classroom in order to replicate those built and used in World War I by both sides. According to Bonner, the purpose was to give the students a better understanding of what life was like for a soldier during the first World War and to give the students an opportunity to be their own museum curator.

"We spent one week researching, designing and building this trench," Bonner said. "We used chicken wire, a great deal of brown paper, masking tape and a great deal of ingenuity."

The information gathered for the project included casualties of WWI, artillery and weapons used, pictures and paintings of no man's land, examples of uniforms, battle strategies, airplanes, submarines, leaders of WWI, causes of the war, timelines and speeches.

"After it was built, we opened it up for anyone who wanted to take a tour," Bonner said. "As a result, we had about 15 classes, which is about 350 students, from the high school take the 10- to 15-minute, self-guided tour that included tape recorded letters of home and war sounds playing in the background."

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



Novi High School World History teacher Lee Bonner, left, takes a look at the replica of a World War I trench that was made by some of his students, including Steve Daly and Kimberly Koch. 9

Parkview Elementary donates clothes, food to Clothes Closet

Students help less fortunate for the holidays

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Parkview Elementary School is doing its part to serve the community for the holidays by donating clothes and food supplies to the Clothes Closet in Novi, located on the grounds of the Holy Family Church. The project is just one of many community service projects sponsored by the school's PTO.

"Each grade has a different theme and families are encouraged to make contributions for that grade level," Principal Joseph Imrick said. "The Clothes Closet is not affiliated with the Holy Family Church, but it's located there. They disperse these items and a lot more like them to people in need in the Novi community. We do it every year."

The first grade theme was, "It's breakfast time." Students brought breakfast foods and cereal. The second grade theme was, "What's for dinner," the third grade theme was, "Let's clean up" and the fourth grade theme was, "Keep warm." Each

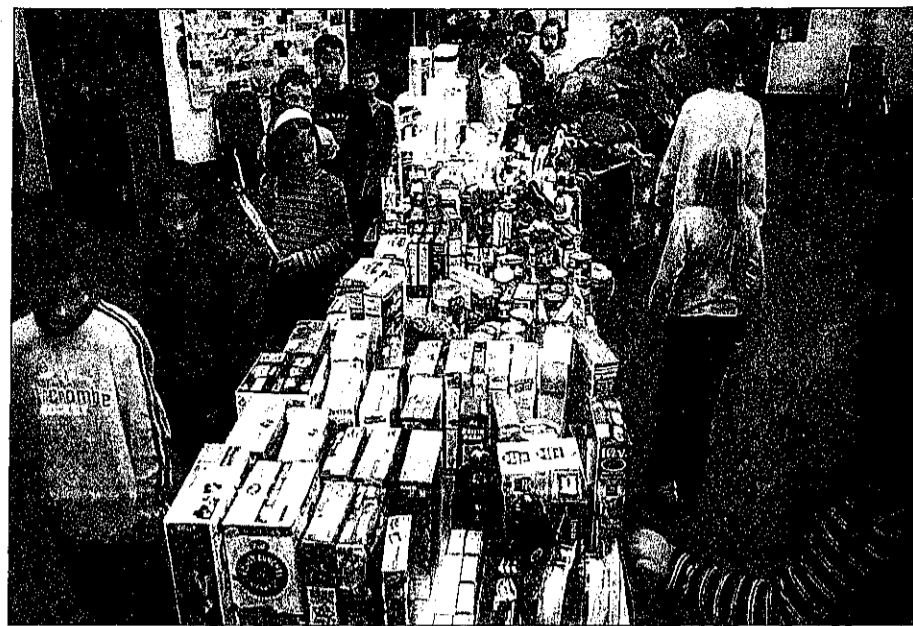
grade brought in products that fit their respective themes.

Imrick spoke of a very special visit that Parkview had just a few years ago while the donation was going on.

"A couple of years ago at this time we got a phone call saying that George W. Bush's wife, Laura, wanted to come visit the school," he said. "This was before he was elected president. She wanted to visit the school to read to the kids. We said fine, and at the same time we happened to have this donation program going on. We had the display up on that day she was here. It was kind of nice because she thought it was a really neat idea."

"At this time of the year we want the kids to become more aware of the fact that there are other people in the world who have needs that they may not have and that they should be sharing with other people," Imrick added. "Hopefully, this particular project can help them to develop this kind of awareness so they can carry this on to adulthood."

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



Parkview Elementary students take a quick look at some of the food, household sundries, and gently used coats they helped to gather for donation to Novi's Holy Family Church Clothes Closet for the upcoming Christmas season. The food and goods drive was helped by Community Service Chairperson Sandy Warren.

Novi High School students shadow nurses at Providence Hospital in Southfield

Students get hands-on nursing experience through "Nurse Now" program

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Fifty-six anatomy and physiology students from Novi High School are participating in the Providence Hospital of Southfield "Nurse Now" program this month. The program is a five-year

collaborative initiative to increase the number of academically qualified youth interested in careers in nursing.

"We have a situation in our country where our population is aging, so we have a growth of demand for nurses and we have a declining supply," said Don Potter, president of Southeast Michigan Health and Hospital Council (SMHHC). "As we looked into working with students and showing them what this career is like, we thought they would be more interested and they are."

SMHHC has done focus group research to learn more about the students and the most common theme among them has been that

they want to help people. Most schools get rid of school nurses, so those role models are gone. That makes the timing now very good for this program, said Potter. There are a ton of careers in health care, but nursing is the largest employed position.

Novi High is one of four other schools in southeast Michigan that is participating in the "Nurse Now" program at Providence, although many more schools are participating at other hospitals. A group of Novi High students visited Providence Hospital on Nov. 12 and another group was scheduled to go on Nov. 19. When the students arrived at the hospital, they were put through an orientation, they had breakfast, lunch and another orientation as well.

Novi High Student James Faysal went with the first group on Nov. 12.

"Mainly, you just go there and you get to choose what field you want to go to," he said. "You then follow a nurse in that department around and see what they actually do."

Faysal originally signed up to go into surgery, but too many people signed up for that, so he went with the medical unit, which deals with patients who have diseases like diabetes.

"I had a good time doing it and it was a lot of fun," said Faysal. "I learned a lot by seeing how a hospital atmosphere really is. It's a good learning experience, but with a few revisions they can make it better for the future."

According to Potter, vacancies are manageable but expected to increase over time. Meanwhile, area schools of nursing have vacancies and are seeking qualified students who are prepared for the challenge of a nursing education program. It is part of a long-term solution that exposes students to the benefits of a career in nursing. It is also bringing educators and hospitals together and opening doors to opportunities for students interested in pursuing a career in health care.

"Basically, the students are shadowing our nurses," said Robin Harris, administrative assistant of Momar's Services at Providence Hospital. "We are trying to promote a nursing career because there is a shortage of nurses in Michigan. The students are assigned to various nurses who work in every area of the hospital from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. I think it's a very nice program, and so far it's pretty successful because a lot of students are participating."

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

School Briefs

The recent Scholastic Book Fair at Novi Woods Elementary School resulted in gross sales of \$4,507.79. These sales provide the school with 1,352.33 of cash profit, which will be used to support the media program at Novi Woods.

P.J.A.N.S., the former LEAP

Parents Group, invites everyone and their families to attend its second annual Family Mall Night on Tuesday, Dec. 3 from 7:30-10 p.m. at the Novi Meadows Fifth Grade Cafeteria. There will be individual panels for children and parents of all ages. There will also be an optional parent discussion

question and answer group from 7:15-7:45 p.m. There will be a raffle for games and Borders Books will be there with books on gifted/talented issues for purchase. Any questions can be e-mailed to plans@novi@yahoo.com.

Novi Meadows is asking any-

one who has been taking pictures of school events (parties, field trips, classroom specials, etc.) to please consider giving the school duplicate copies. The yearbook collage pages are made from pictures the school receives. The book is put together in stages. Put them in an envelope, mark the

grade and event and turn them into your child's teacher. For any questions, call Donna McNamara at (248) 347-0664, or e-mail dnmc1@ameritech.net, or call Marilyn Wong at (248) 380-6850.

Compiled by Ramez Khuri

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Middle schoolers present "Alice in Wonderland" this weekend

■ Performances set for Friday and Saturday

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The students of the Novi Middle School Drama Department will be turning their school into a land of wonder this weekend as they present "Alice in Wonderland" on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 22-23.

"Alice in Wonderland is obviously a classic story," Middle School Fall Play Drama Director Jennifer Grabowski said. "Disney has done a version of it and there have been a lot of other versions done and we are doing our own version of the play."

"The story is about a little girl who follows a white rabbit down his rabbit hole and ends up in Wonderland, where she encounters many strange characters. All she wants to do is get back home because she doesn't want to miss out on her birthday."

"It's about her journey through Wonderland trying to find her way back home," Grabowski said. "She comes to realize that a lot of things in the end and that's how she gets home again. It's kind of a journey of discovery for a child growing up."

"There are 32 cast members in the play and also 15 to 20 kids on the crew who help out backstage. The main character is Alice, who is played by Sarah Barton, a seventh grader."

"The kids in the play have been totally awesome," Grabowski said. "This is Sarah's first year here and she has done some acting before, but there are also some kids who have never done acting before as well and those are the ones who are the most fun to work with because it's all new to them. The kids who have done it before still have enthusiasm, but a lot of the kids who are doing this for the first time have that fresh new enthusiasm that you don't get any way else."

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$4 for children under 10 years old. They are available for purchase at the main office of Novi Middle School up through the final night of the show. It starts at 7 p.m. each night, but seating will start at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Novi Middle School at (248) 449-1600.

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



Above, sitting in chairs, left to right, Liting chen, Emma Niendorf, Dana Santure, Nick Farrant, Nick Porter, Victoria Kelsey, Marcee Schoenbach and Patrick O'Connell. Below is Clara Yoon.

group of my kids went to see Macbeth to support them, so hopefully some of them will come out to support us. Adam has one of the bigger roles and he's one to watch for because he has been acting since he was three, so he's definitely one to watch."

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

CAST	
(and understudies)	
Alice	Sarah Barton (Lauren Shelar)
Cheshire Cat	Adam Britten (Nick Farrant)
Queen of Hearts	Rachel Kohl (Marcee S.)
King	Aaron Letzner (Ryan Richardson)
Humpty Dumpty	Nick Farrant (Patrick O'Connell)
Mad Hatter	Malissa Rankin (Corey Carril)
Duchess	Vidhi Bamzai (Kati Hildreth)
Tweedle Dee	Emma Niendorf (Sarah Porter)
Tweedle Dum	Dana Santure (Victoria Kelsey)
White Rabbit	Ryan Richardson (Matt Evans)
Mock Turtle	Marcee S. (Sarah Y.)
Caterpillar	Ruthanna Burke (Arthi C.)
March Hare	Lauren Shelar (Laura Reyes)
Gryphon	Patrick O'Connell (Jes Dillman)
Frog Footman	Liting Chen (Clara Yoon)
Doormouse	Sarah Nabaty (Alyssa Meyers)
Cook	Arthi Chandrasek (Jessica Salley)
Knave	Charles Shaw (Kelsey S.)
Executioner	Corey Carril (Kelsey S.)
Gardener 2	Sarah Porter (Kelsey S.)
Gardener 5	Kate Hildreth (Kelsey S.)
Gardener 7	Victoria Kelsey (Kelsey S.)
Soldier 1	Bryan Helton (Kelsey S.)
Soldier 2	Jes Dillman (Leah Evans)
Soldier 3	Matt Evans (Michelle Siden)
Soldier 4	Nina Abboud (Michelle Siden)
Rose	Natalie McGinnis (Michelle Siden)
Pink	Courtney Clark (Michelle Siden)
Yellow	Sarah Y. (Michelle Siden)
White	Clara Yoon (Michelle Siden)
Blue	Laura Reyes (Michelle Siden)
Violet	Jessica Salley (Michelle Siden)



B.E.A.R. Club helps students improve reading skills

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Since the start of this school year, first through fourth grade students at Parkview Elementary have been participating in a monthly "banking day" which begins as part of the school's business partnership program with Bank One.

The program, which is called the B.E.A.R. Club, stands for "Be Excited About Reading." It runs for a total of six months in two sections: Sept. 1 through Nov. 30 and Jan. 1 through March 31.

"The fundamental idea of the program is, if our children have a great foundation for reading, they're going to be more successful in the future in anything they do, whether it's banking or journalism or whatever," Carol Gardell said, who is a licensed banker for Bank One at the West Eight Mile and Haggerty Road Office.

According to Gardell, Bank One is very community oriented. Something that the bank does with Parkview Elementary, which is extremely supported, is the B.E.A.R. Club program. "The children read a certain amount of books during a period of time and then they come here in the morning on a given day and they record what they have done with their passbook letter in their passbooks," she said.

Gardell said that the children then go over to the prize table, where Bank One supplies them with some prizes. "It's a good way to positively support them in the reading program," she said.

For the program, each student will be given a monthly calendar at the beginning of the month to record the number of minutes he or she has read each day. They were asked to read or be read to at least 240 minutes a month, which is equivalent to 15 minutes per day for 16 days per month. Parents were asked to record the total number of minutes read each month and sign the bottom of the calendar. Students then returned their calendar to their home base

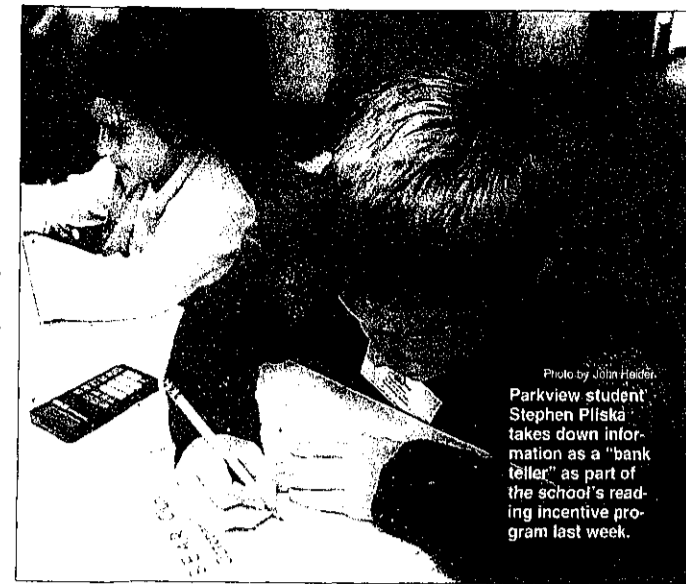


Photo by John Fiedler
Parkview student Stephen Pliska takes down information as a "bank teller" as part of the school's reading incentive program last week.

teacher by the date specified on the calendar.

On the monthly "banking day," the students in grades first through fourth took their calendars to the B.E.A.R. Club Bank, where the minutes read were recorded in their "reading passbook." Monthly incentives were given to each student who read 240 minutes that month and returned their calendars by "banking day." A year-end award, which is a book of their choice, will be given to each student that has read at least 240 minutes for each of the six months and has turned in all calendars.

"The student tellers are the children who get the highest amount of minutes from the previous month in the fourth grade," Gardell said. "They are the ones who get to be the tellers, so they earn this position as they move along. It's a unique recognition among their own peer group as well as school is for Bank One. It's a very positive thing."

Beth Langerhorst, who is the B.E.A.R. Club Chairperson, said "This year's program is only different because I'm the chairperson. For nine years it was done by Jill Bednarek, but she no longer has children here at Parkview, I was the CO-chairperson last year, so I could

become chairperson this year. I worked with her last year to see how it's done. We're trying to keep a little consistency because it's a big job.

Langerhorst said that the children's minutes are recorded and in April there is an assembly where Principal Joseph Imerick distributes books that the students have chosen as their final prize for participating in the whole six months. "They each get their books at the end of the year," she said. "If they didn't meet the minimum amount of minutes, they get a sticker, but if they do, and I would say that 98 percent of our kids meet the minimum, they get a prize."

Shalbhag Sidhu, a fourth grader who read 1,840 minutes in October, was a passbook teller on Nov. 13, which was the last "banking day."

"I read six chapter books," he said. "My job is to look at the paper the students give me and look at the students last names. I think this program is good because the students can think better. Reading helps you know more stuff."

Megan Henry, also a fourth grader, read 1,888 minutes in October. She was a deposit teller on Nov. 13. "We have these little papers and we get the passbooks and we write down the number of minutes," she

Board approves funds for new school furniture

■ Village Oaks and Orchard Hills Elementary Schools will benefit from expenditure

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Village Oaks and Orchard Hills Elementary Schools will be receiving some new furniture, thanks to a resolution which was passed by the Novi School's Board of Education on Nov. 7.

According to a report produced by Assistant Superintendent of Business, Jim Koster, a total of \$105,226.13 will be paid as follows:

- \$53,540.63 going to School Specialty of Greenville, Wisconsin
- \$36,745.95 going to J.R. Holcomb & Co. of Cleveland, Ohio
- \$14,939.55 going to Interior Environments of Southfield, Michigan.

Bids for the furniture were put out on Oct. 25 and these funds will be expended from the district's 2001 Capital Projects Fund.

The items bid in each building, which range from desk

chairs, to display cases, to floor seats, reflect on the needs of the new construction and other needs as well. The building principals and staff, with the assistance of the architect, determined what was required to furnish the remodeling additions. In addition, a survey was made of other furniture needs within the buildings. Furniture and equipment was then selected and specifications were developed.

Koster's report also states that construction in these two schools, which was projected to be completed in mid-January, is ahead of schedule. It is now apparent that the construction schedule would dictate completion by late December, which is why the board awarded the furniture bids on Nov. 7. It ensures delivery of the furniture by late December.

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

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Welcome to Milford Jewelers, your friendly jewelry store

Sandy Sproule walked into Milford Jewelers for the first time this past spring, during Sidewalk Sales, one of several people-friendly events held annually within quaint Victorian-style Milford Village. And she hasn't left yet.

"I walked in just to check it out," Sproule said of the Main Street, Milford store whose doors first opened this past May and whose cherrywood showcases, dedicated craftsmanship and friendly approach all beckon back to another era. "I ended up leaving my diamond ring here."

Sproule said that engagement ring — "which never leaves my hand, not even at home" — has since had its diamond re-set and was also recast into a platinum setting.

When she returned to retrieve her ring the following Monday, Sproule also decided she liked the store so much that she would also have platinum added to her wedding ring.

Then she added a few diamonds. Later, she had the store's co-owners cut off her husband, Dave's, wedding ring. And start again.

"I trusted them with my diamond. And now I live here," said Sproule, a Milford Township resident who even spent this past Monday evening helping "my new friend, Tamar," one of the store's sister-brother co-owners, decorate the store for the upcoming holiday season.

That after-hours endeavor was actually prompted by Sproule herself, who not only volunteered her assistance, but also purchased an assortment of stars and ornaments which now hang

MILFORD JEWELERS

Milford Jewelers is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The store is also open noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

For more information or to order something unique for the holiday season, call (248) 676-0721. Or visit the store, located at 441 N. Main Street in downtown Milford.



Tamar Aguilar, right, helps customers of Milford Jewelers select the appropriate item.

Photos by HAL GOULD

from the store's ceiling.

"That's what I enjoy most about this store, that's what makes it unique. I can just come here to talk or just visit," Sproule said, adding that she also regularly visits Duane Kurr's Massage Therapy Clinic, located just below Milford Jewelers.

On Main Street, Milford Jewelers is flanked by Michigan's premier Native American gift store, Legends of Time, and the ever-fashionable As You Wish gift boutique.

Sproule said Milford Jewelers stands out.

"It's their friendliness. They aren't pushy. They aren't arrogant. They are just genuinely friendly... and the work that they do... wow," she said.

Tamar Aguilar, who co-owns Milford Jewelers with her brother Jacques Chopjian, said such customer dedication is much appreciated.

"It makes us feel proud that people come into our store and feel as though they've been coming here for 100 years," she said. "That's been our only

intention all along. We don't want to become a jewelry mega-store. We just want to continue doing what our family has always done during the past 30 years — be honest, be friendly and be affordable."

The sibling tandem who have three older brothers who are jewelers as well — two who own additional retail stores themselves and a third who runs the family's unique 4,000 square foot manufacturing center — is part of an industry-trusted family operation whose nameplate has been forged during three decades by quality craftsmanship.

Village resident Mary Buzolits is just happy she doesn't have to carry Windex with her when she goes jewelry shopping anymore.

The nine-year village resident and mother of young children said making such simple trips has, until now, been anything but convenient.

Since Milford Jewelers opened, however, she said jewelry shopping has been simplified. Her young children are especially enamored with Tamar.

"They just love Tamy. We drive by the store and they say, 'There's Tamy! There's Tamy!' The kids just love coming in here. And I don't feel like I have to make special arrangements beforehand just to come to the jewelry store. I don't need to get a baby-sitter or anything like that."

That has not always been the case, she said, especially at what she called "museum-style" retail jewelry stores where showcases are guarded by sentry-like employees.

"When I would visit other jewelry stores with the kids, the employees would follow you around everywhere you went. Like they were terrified that the kids might actually touch their precious showcases. I'd think, 'Even if they do happen to touch the showcases, couldn't you just clean them?' Don't you have Windex?"

Milford Jewelers has plenty of patience, the true hallmark of a more relaxed approach to jewelry retailing.

"They have a willingness to get what I want, no matter what it is," Buzolits said. "It could be inside their showcase, or something unique they make themselves. They can do anything."

Commerce resident Pat Malek agreed. She has been visiting Tamar for at least 10 years, she said, well prior to the opening their new Milford location this past May.

"We have always come to them because we love their jewelry. We love their quality job. And they always do a quality job," Malek said.

"They care. They really care. They do what they say they're going to do... You walk in the door and immediately it feels like you've known them a million years."

Tamar said such are the jewels



Jacques Chopjian in his store, Milford Jewelers.

she and Jacques covet most.

"We care very much about making people feel comfortable in our store," she said. "It means everything in the world to know that people feel like they can come in here and feel immediately at home."



Tamar Aguilar and her brother, Jacques Chopjian, have owned Milford Jewelers for nine months. The business is in downtown Milford, just south of Commerce Road on Main Street.

Business in brief

Stuck inducted into ACR

Northville physician Karen J. Stuck has been inducted as a fellow in the American College of Radiology during the ACR's annual meeting in Miami. Stuck is affiliated with Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

Graves receives scholarship

Milford resident Deborah Graves, Business Travel Operations manager for AAA Michigan, serves her clients with excellence and professionalism, thanks in part to a scholarship she received from the Institute of Business Travel Management (IBTM), the education foundation of the National Business Travel Association. Graves was one of 12 recipients of the \$2,000

professional development scholarships awarded to qualified travel professionals. The grants covered tuition for a two-week study in the Certified Corporate Travel Executive Program at Cornell University. Graves' scholarship was made possible by The Hertz Corporation, an IBTM sponsor.

Finkbeiner joins CEI-Alpha

CEI-Alpha, a civil engineering, surveying and environmental firm is pleased to announce the addition of Peter Finkbeiner P.E. as a senior engineer at the Brighton office. He formerly worked as project manager for Bloss Engineering.

Finkbeiner has over 20 years experience as a civil engineer, designing residential subdivisions and commercial plazas. The projects have included

road design, with drainage systems, sanitary sewers, and water mains. His specialty is drainage engineering, utilizing flood control structures to mitigate the drainage impacts of development, and his field experience includes surveying, drainage analysis, and construction supervision.

Finkbeiner graduated with a bachelor of science degree in engineering from University of New Haven in West Haven, Conn. He received his professional license in 1982, and was involved in private practice and municipal engineering in Connecticut. He moved to Michigan in 1997, and resides in Howell.

Finkbeiner will be responsible for the engineering and layout of new residential and commercial projects. He may be contacted at the Brighton office, (810) 220-3097.

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Diwali celebrated at Montessori School

Students learn about Indian culture from festival

By Ramez Khuri
 STAFF WRITER

Students at the Novi/Northville Montessori Center Inc. in Novi received a lesson in Indian culture Nov. 15 when the school celebrated Diwali, an Indian Festival of Lights. There were many visuals and interactive songs that the preschool and kindergarten students and parents alike participated in throughout the day.

"Essentially, at this time of the year, we celebrate the lighting of lamps all over our houses and we make a lot of desserts and sweets," said Cecilia Rao, director/administrator and owner of the school. "We invite our friends and relatives to come and meet each other. It's like Christmas for us. It's a big celebration. In the morning we start the day with an oil bath and everybody wears new clothes. Food is the main thing and everybody has a big party."

The story of Diwali involves

an evil king, who was defeated by good. Diwali was celebrated in the kingdom when he was defeated. Rao explained that it's a time for family gatherings, friends and lighting of the lamps. There are also fireworks at night.

"We have decorated the school with a lot of artwork that the mothers have done," Rao said. "We sing and dance and the artwork is of flowers and we use a lot of colored sand. That is all done inside the house in India."

During the festival, Diwali's, which are marks of purity that are placed on women's foreheads, were passed around to the children. There were also some Indian clothes on display, like Saris, which are six yards of material draped around the body and Sabrakamez, which includes pants and a long top with a veil. The mothers involved in the celebration wore a lot of jewelry, necklaces, bracelets and flowers as well.

Some of the highlights of the festival included two children singing a song in front of the rest of the class, two mothers singing a song together, called "We shall overcome," a dance with sticks that all the children were involved in and a dance that just the mothers did together.

"The world is so small now and children need to know that there are different kinds of people all over the world."

Geetha Rao

Director/Administrator, school owner

When it was over, the children went back to their classrooms to make their own Indian artifacts from clay, paints and colored sand.

Diwali is just one festival that the school celebrates. Each month a different international Christmas is celebrated, where people from different countries are invited to come and show their ethnic cultures to the children. Children are encouraged to wear ethnic clothes from their countries and to eat their native foods as well.

"We teach the children where to locate their countries on the globe and about the culture there," Rao said. "It's just to introduce them to different things. The world is so small now and children need to know that there are different kinds of people all over the world. The philosophy of the school is, the children are given a lot of respect and in that environment, a child can go as far as he or she can."

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

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LETTERS

Students sound off on war

There is overwhelming evidence that suggests the United States should attack Iraq immediately. America has attempted numerous diplomatic channels to avoid attacking Iraq. Unfortunately, diplomacy isn't working. America has been patient for too long: the time to attack is now.

Saddam Hussein agreed to stop trying to produce or acquire chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. However, UN weapons inspectors found and destroyed many existing weapons and production plants until Saddam refused to permit further inspections in 1998. In an effort to delay the war, Saddam agreed to allow weapon inspectors to return. Although administration officials say they believe Iraq will do what it has done in the past: allow inspectors, but then throw up countless obstacles to keep them from doing their jobs. Furthermore, economic sanctions against Iraq have failed to draw Saddam to choose peace rather than war.

Saddam cannot be trusted. He is widely believed to have stockpiled chemical and biological weapons, and is trying to acquire nuclear weapons capable of inflicting massive civilian casualties. High-level Iraqi defectors indicate that Saddam still seeks to possess weapons of mass destruction. Saddam employed chemical weapons against Iran, and against his own civilian people. In 1988, a toxic gas attack killed 5,000 Kurds, an ethnic group located in north Iraq that has sided with Iran. Saddam could turn over weapons of mass destruction to terrorists bent on striking the U.S. leading to casualties and devastation that would dwarf the September 11 terrorist attacks. The Detroit Free Press, November 4, 2002, stated, "Page after page of secret Iraqi documents revealed plans for terrorist operations..." The prospect of Saddam Hussein arming terrorists with weapons of mass destruction puts him in another league entirely. He must be stopped.

Saddam has proven time and time again that he cannot be trusted, and in order for diplomacy to work trust is key. America has exhausted extensive diplomatic channels to avoid attacking Iraq. Saddam himself has said thanks but no thanks to diplomacy. Therefore, now is the time for America to attack!

Cathleen Garbacik
Novi

Every American has to be wondering how to handle the Iraq situation. Should we go to war with Iraq or should we use diplomacy to the fullest. The cost of a full-scale war could be up to \$200 billion. We need to consider the lives that would be lost in a war. If we go to war with Iraq, it could be possible that millions of innocent civilians die. It is believed that Iraq possesses many biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction. These weapons could be capable of destroying a whole city. If deployed on New York or Washington, D.C., hundreds of thousands of people could be killed.

The Cuban Missile Crisis was a scary event. On the positive side, we can use that event in history to help us with the Iraq situation. Our 35th president, John F. Kennedy, handled the Cuban Missile Crisis in an expert way. He was able to hold off Cuba and Russia and keep America from a nuclear war. Kennedy was able to make America appear strong to all other nations so we wouldn't be pushed around. He used non-violent ways and stuck to his ideas no matter what anyone else had to say. Bush should look back on those 13 days, assess them, and learn from them.

The U.S. would have to go into war with Iraq unilaterally. None of the UN countries from the Middle East, not even Kuwait, would support us if we go to war. An attack would isolate the U.S. from the rest of the world. This could leave the U.S. unprotected from any attacks because even our allies do not support us. Future attacks on the U.S. would leave us alone to fight our foes.

Another issue is we need to look at what we would do if Saddam was removed. Iraq may require U.S. military occupation for many decades. They would need to establish a new, more representative government and restore its war-damaged economy. The U.S. involvement would be tremendous and keep our national interests at a high with Iraq. Thousands of troops would have to be stationed in Iraq post-war. Also, millions, or even billions of dollars, would be spent above our normal spending to aid Iraq.

The situation with Iraq is ever growing. We need to use diplomacy in this case. Americans should

not have to worry about a nuclear war with Iraq and should be able to live their normal lives without being scared. Communicating with Iraq is the safe alternative to keeping America safe.

Neil Kocan
Novi

A major part of America's decision on a possible pre-emptive strike on Iraq is motivated by oil. Oil plays a major role in our economy, and Iraq has a lot of control in the Middle East, which could lead to control over oil. Oil is crucial to our government because of the large profits that can be made from it, and its need in American society. We use oil daily, from cars, to boats, to most industries. If Iraq were to gain too much control over oil producing nations, then they would have too much control over the United States.

Since our government makes decisions in the interest of the United States, then in order to protect the national security, we must deal with threatening problems from other countries. Iraq must open their sites for inspection, agreeing with the terms from the treaty. If Iraq refuses to let inspectors into the sites, then it will become crucial for the United States to go ahead for a unilateral attack, rather than waiting for an approval from the United Nations Security Council for multilateral support. If Iraq were to gain too much control over the United States, due to the possibility of them controlling oil producing nations in the Middle East, then the United States will have a large problem that will need to be dealt with. Iraq could gain so much power over the United States, that they could harbor terrorists in our own country. If they were to gain that much power, then the whole meaning of our country will be changed. The United States is against terrorists, and we are attacking countries that are supporting them. It would be very contradicting if we harbor terrorists in this country right after stating that we are acting against them.

Many problems can be evoked if Iraq were to gain too much control over oil in the Middle East. They would gain too much international control, especially control over the United States. Oil is a major motivation for the United States to attack Iraq.

Ashleigh Rainko
Novi

The White House is planning to launch a war against Iraq, yet there has been no convincing explanation of why a war is needed. Most of our allies and the rest of the world are opposed to a pre-emptive attack. A full-scale war against Iraq would isolate the U.S. from the rest of the world, undermine the effort against terrorism, and senselessly kill tens of thousands of civilians. The Bush administration is determined to start an illegal and wrong invasion. We the people must be just as determined to stop a war that threatens to tear the world apart.

There is no justification for going to war. What was Iraq's act of aggression against us that justifies war? There has been no attack on the U.S., no Iraqi threat of war, no Iraqi connection to September 11. War should be a last recourse of self-defense, a step to be taken only when all other alternatives have diminished. What the Bush Administration is planning is an act of aggression, not an act of self-defense. The U.S. has a policy against attacking preemptively, attacking aggressively would violate the policy.

Iraq does not and has not posed a clear and present danger. The White House says we should invade Iraq to prevent Saddam Hussein from using weapons of mass destruction. But during the 1990s United Nations weapons inspectors destroyed all of Iraq's major chemical, biological and nuclear weapons facilities and destroyed nearly all of Iraq's weapons and long-range missiles. In terms of threats of weapons, Iraq's military is now at one-third of its pre-Gulf War strength. Given Hussein's natural desire for self-preservation, it is highly unlikely he would launch any attack that would result in his destruction. Since deterrence is working, why should the U.S. start a bloody war that would undoubtedly lead to massive human suffering?

When it comes to invading Iraq, the U.S. has few allies. All the countries of the Middle East, besides Britain, are opposed to a war with Iraq. An invasion of Iraq would isolate the U.S. from the rest of the world and destroy the principles of international cooperation and mutual defense that are key to U.S. and global security. Attacking Iraq without obvious reason will ignite anti-American sentiment around the world, disrupting efforts to diminish terror-

ist networks.

Invading Iraq would be difficult, costly and without a clear victory. Although Hussein's army has been weakened, Iraq's forces remain large enough to put up with a defense. It is likely that Iraqi forces will be far more determined to defend Baghdad than they were to defend Kuwait City, dragging U.S. forces into a bloody fight in heavily populated areas. It is estimated that any full-scale invasion will cost as much as \$200 billion. Throwing out a government is easier than putting a new one together. An invasion without allies would leave the U.S. to enforce a peace in a chaotic country split by ethnic conflicts.

Americans know deep down that war makes no sense. According to recent polls, one-third of Americans are against a war with Iraq, and a strong majority thinks no attack should occur unless first approved by Congress. If the citizens say loud

and clear that we don't want a war against Iraq, it will be more difficult for the president to go through with this. We have to educate our fellow citizens about why war with Iraq is wrong, and then hold our executives accountable to the will of the people.

Kristi Timar
Novi

Throughout the year President Bush along with all Americans have had a stressful and somewhat opinionated year. We had to think about the possibility of another cruel war. Many think that we should go into war, since we were attacked by terrorists, and have had our lives shaken up. Yes, this is a reason to take action, but is it a good reason by itself? To that, everyone should say no. We have to look at everything underneath the attacks, and to all the things we could very possibly lose, not gain from our actions.

Some of these would include the trust and alliance with the UN, the many allies we have, and the money, and life's that would be lost. That is why the action we should take is to use every ounce of our diplomacy we have.

Attacking now could result in the loss of trust with the UN. America was one of the founders of the UN, which makes us one of the top guys there. If we were to go to war or even invade a country without the United Nations permission that would send a big threat to many countries, and we would now be looked upon by the UN as a "too good for you nation." If we went into unilateral action, this could make the US a very vulnerable nation for many other attacks since many nations in the UN could be very threatened by this and attack, or stop imports or exports to us, and make us fall.

If we went to invade Iraq, we could lose many of our allies that we have now from fear of inva-

sion on them, or not even know what we will do next, since we've never done anything like that. Also there is a great amount of money involved and the many innocent people we would kill. If we were to invest all of the money into a war that could put many at risk, since many are still recuperating from last year's attack. That would mean an increase in taxes, and right now many Americans can't handle that. And when we do attack the majority of people that we would be killing were innocent people. That aren't terrorists and don't have anything to do with this war. Innocent like many Americans who were killed on 9/11.

Our country should think about invading Iraq more thoroughly because I thought that America was about keeping the peace, and stopping terrorism, not encouraging it.

Jacque Peruski
Novi

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One heck of a run

Wildcats Regional championship bid comes to a close against CC

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Like all good things, it had to come to an end.

The Novi Wildcats football team's season halted as they took on, and fell to, a very solid Detroit Catholic Central squad. It was what many will say was a game of two halves, but in the end the Shamrocks prevailed to win the Regional championship with a 26-3 final.

"They found seams in our defense and capitalized on them," Novi's senior utility back Chase Chandler said. "A good team has the ability to exploit their opponent's weaknesses and they were able to do it to us."

The Shamrocks found themselves trotting into the endzone four times, all but one coming off their rushing game against a very strong and disciplined offensive line. The 'Rocks were dominating in the fourth quarter as they managed to put the ball over the goal line from three yards out as Darnell Tyson scampered in with three minutes, 38 seconds remaining in the game. Catholic Central also scored one and a half minutes prior as quarterback David Thomas hooked up with Sean Shahrestani for a 28-yard strike to seal the victory. Jason Gingell, who had his first two point-after attempts blocked, added the extra point on both scores for the 26-3 final.

"They are a good team," Novi coach Tab Kellepourey said. "I'm proud of the way our guys went out there and played though. They had some solid hits and were right in it until the end."

The first three quarters of the contest were a completely different story than the final period. The Wildcats managed to hold the Shamrocks to only six points in the first half — six points that came with no time left on the clock at the end of the first as Thomas scrambled in from a yard out for the score with the PAT getting blocked by sophomore Rob Carter.

The 'Cats wouldn't be denied points though, and they knew keeping the game close could have the possibility of rattling the Shamrocks. After a stellar 59-yard kick return by Darren Guffey, the Wildcats put together a nine-play drive that found junior Mark Angelocci nailing a 26-yard field goal to pull the game within three points, 6-3.

"I think we really gave them all that they could handle in the first half," Chandler said. "We had a game plan and it was working nicely. We had some nice running by Josh Buck as well as some good blocking up front. I don't think anyone was expecting the game to be that close at halftime."

The half came to a close after the 'Cats forced a three-and-out on the Shamrocks before pun-



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Trent Sisson (46), Drew Hoffman (31) and Brian Jaussi slam into Catholic Central's Derek Brooks in last week's Regional championship game.

ing the ball away and stopping a redzone threat by the Catholic Central squad as Chandler pulled down a Thomas pass for an interception.

"We had the game in a comfortable spot heading into the half," Novi assistant coach John Osborne said. "This is a great group of kids and the coaching staff knew that they had a lot of potential. We knew it from the beginning of the year and they showed us that we were right."

The third quarter found the Wildcats falling behind quickly as the Shamrocks, who deferred until the second half, took the

kickoff and drove it from their own 43-yard line and punched it into the endzone as Randall Means hauled the pigskin 10 yards through the middle of the line for a 12-3 lead. The extra-point attempt was blocked by Chandler.

The Wildcats threatened again after their defense forced a fumble, which Brian Jaussi came up with, and drove 24 yards before Angelocci's 29-yard field goal attempt sailed wide left.

"I think that miss dropped our morale a bit," Kellepourey said. "If we would have hit that it might have been a different ball

game. The Wildcats, who finished 8-4 on the season, were led by Chandler on the ground as he hauled the ball 18 times for 58 yards. Mike Hart threw 5-of-18 for 50 yards, including four completions to Chandler for 32. Josh Buck hauled the ball five times for 12 yards in the losing effort.

The Shamrocks followed the lead of Derek Brooks, who gathered 213 yards on 23 carries, while Thomas threw 4-for-8 for 69 yards, including a touchdown and an interception on the night. Eric Vojtkofsky took four carries

33 yards while Means had six for 39 and a score. Tyson jaunted 11 yards on three carries and scored one touchdown in the victory.

For Novi, it means saying good-bye to a tough group of senior football players that came to every play ready to give it their all.

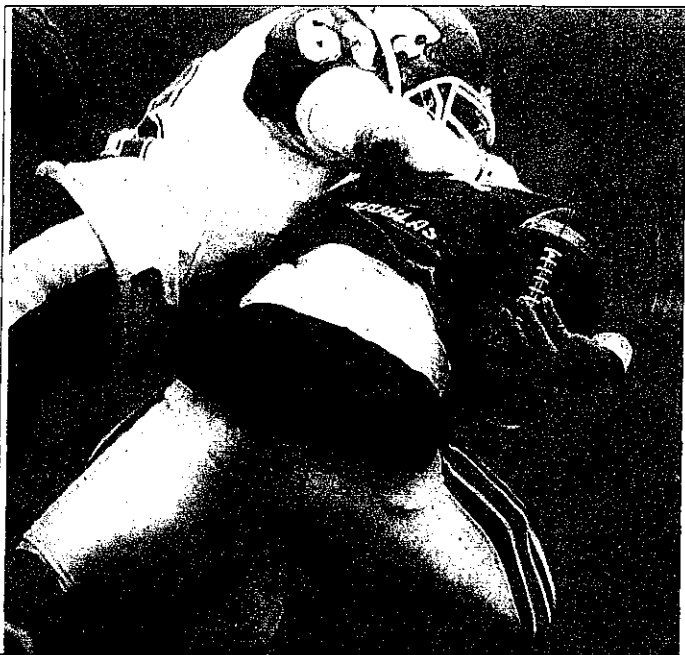
For Coach Kellepourey and his staff, it means looking to next year and starting over again at 0-0 with a slew of new starters.

For Novi High School, the season-ending loss meant nothing more than its sons have

come home after a hard-fought string of victories on unfamiliar ground with the weight of the Kensington Valley Conference resting on their shoulders.

And with it all over, and the pads being turned in this week, the Novi Wildcats have to remember one thing — it was one heck of a run.

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.



Photos by JOHN HEIDER

Novi Wildcat Brian Jaussi (left picture) nails Shamrock QB David Thomas as he jumps for a loose ball, while Josh Buck goes to the air to avoid a Catholic Central tackle (right picture) with junior Chad Thurman laying down the block.

Sometimes it's just one thing that reminds us

If you would have asked me three weeks ago how much a touchdown was worth, I would have told you six points. Now, I'm not so sure.

Thanks to the actions of 21 football players and two high school head coaches, my view of what a touchdown adds up to has become a bit askew.

Many of you may know what I am talking about, and many of you may not. This is a story of a Northwestern High School football senior from a town called McDermott in Southern Ohio — his name is Jake Porter.

In a day and age where the discussion over private versus public schools, recruitment, sharpie pens, dropped passes and losing records dominates sports, who would have ever thought that a disabled football player could remind us that sports needs one thing to thrive — sportsmanship.

Porter has a disorder called "Chromosomal Fragile-X," which is the most common cause of inherited mental retardation. That never stopped him though, as he was always at football practice right on time and always suited up for the games. In his years of playing high school football though, he had never taken an official snap.

Porter's coach, Dave Frantz, and the coach of their opponent that week, a tough squad known as the Waverly Tigers coached by Derek DeWitt, sat down the week leading up to their contest and had a chat — it was time for Porter to get a snap.

It was explained to Waverly that Porter couldn't take a hit, but Frantz just asked that if the game wasn't on the line on the last play that Waverly allow the senior to take a knee. In the beginning, that was just fine with DeWitt and the Tigers, but leading 42-0 with five seconds remaining in the game and a shutout seemingly a given, the Tigers decided it wasn't OK anymore. Instead, they wanted Porter to score.

During a timeout on the field, both coaches met and DeWitt offered to let the Northwest senior take the ball all the way. At first, Frantz wasn't sure that it was a good idea, but once the referees heard the idea, they were all for it as well.

The play that followed is what dreams are made of and hope is based on.

At Waverly's 49-yard line, Porter entered the game as a runningback and had his play, dubbed "84-iso" called in the huddle — a play that when done in practice found Porter taking a knee. Not this time. When the ball was snapped, 21 players parted like the Red Sea.

In the video of the play, it's apparent that Porter is some-

GAME OF THE WEEK



A TOUCHDOWN HEARD AROUND THE WORLD!

Renewed Faith in Sportsmanship



Sam Eggleston

what surprised by the action. He slowly walked through the gaping hole in the lines and then turned around to the original line of scrimmage. That's when everyone in the game — including the defensive players from Waverly — began pointing and guiding the senior back in the right direction and towards the endzone.

The 49-yard jaunt, which took approximately 11 seconds in all, was celebrated by players from both sidelines cheering and running in stride with Porter as he scored a touchdown heard around the world.

In 10 or 20 years, no one will remember that Waverly won the game 42-6, but it will be common knowledge that for players like Porter, dreams do come true. He wasn't looking for a college scholarship or a playoff berth. Instead, he just wanted to touch the ball in a game — and he did.

In one play, the life of a young man was changed forever and the idea of sportsmanship was returned to a nation that seemed to be beginning to forget what it was. In the end, Waverly won the game and didn't get their shutout, but the players and coaches from both teams that night renewed the idea that high school football — all sports for that matter — are meant to be played with class, decency and respect. And, don't forget, plenty of sportsmanship.

I've been lucky as a writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. Sportsmanship is stressed throughout with all of the programs in Northville, Novi and the Walled Lake Schools. But, in an age where terrorism, snipers and war dominate the front-pages of many newspapers, it sometimes takes a high school football player from McDermott, Ohio to remind us that the world isn't that bad of a place.

Thank you, Jake Porter.

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



Submitted Photo

Back-to-back title victories

At the Mid American Pompon 2002 Dance Team Championships, held at Eastern Michigan University's Convocation Center on November 10, 2002, the Novi Varsity Pompon team placed first in the Large Varsity Kick Division ("Large" is more than 21 team members). Their score of 376, edged out the Northville and Crestwood teams. The team has now earned back-to-back championship titles in this competition. The Novi coach is Jeni Hubenschmidt.

Tournament champions

They played the 2002 International Sports Extravaganza

Tournement the weekend of November 2nd and 3rd.

They played two games on Saturday in Plymouth and Canton against teams from the Cleveland area and won big, 12-0 and 8-1.

Sunday morning found them playing in Oak Park against a team from Strongsville, Ohio and won 6-0. This got them in the finals against Farmington. On Sunday afternoon in Plymouth, the game was very competitive with the Cougars winning 3-1.

An outstanding performance was turned in by all the players especially the most valuable player, Michael VanAntwerp, and the goalie, Cameron Schulze.



submitted photo

Novi Underclassmen Scores

NOVI FRESHMAN GIRLS BASKETBALL

Overall: 11-8; KVC: 7-7

The Novi freshmen girls' basketball team closed out its season with a 40-23 loss at Pinckney last week. The Wildcats led 10-5 after one quarter and held on to a slim two-point lead against the Kensington

Valley Conference (KVC) champions at halftime. But the Pirates slumped on an effective press in the third quarter, and Novi never recovered. Katelyn Tuck led the Wildcats with six points and eight rebounds. The Wildcats finish the season with an 11-8 overall record.

NOVI JV GIRLS HOOPS

Overall: 10-10

The Novi Junior Varsity girls' basketball team completed its season with two losses. The Wildcats finish the season with a 10-10 overall record. Novi JV lost to Pinckney, 66-48. Nikki Stephen scored 12 points for the Wildcats.

Abby Greulich added 11. The Wildcats also lost a tight, defensive battle to Milford, 43-31. Jessica Westfall played a great defensive game against Milford's top player, Nikki Stephen scored 10 points, and Hope Morris added eight.

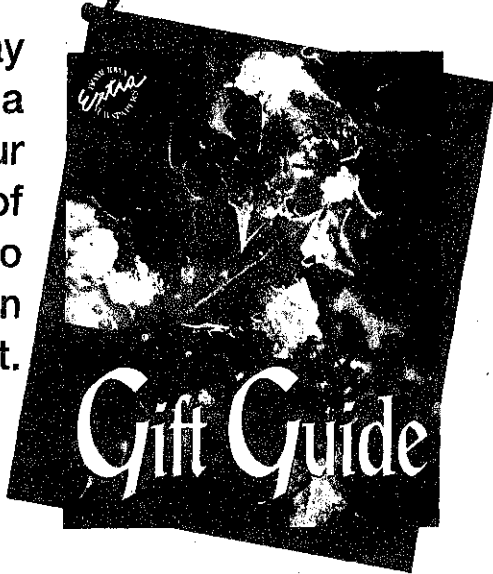
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From bedroom to bath (literally)

By **Rose Bennett Gilbert**
 COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Q: We are thinking of turning our married son's boyhood bedroom into a master bedroom. It's next door to our bedroom, so only part of a wall would have to come down, plus the wall to the old small bath. That way, we might save enough on renovation costs to afford a whirlpool tub and a few spa features. Any other money-saving suggestions would be welcome.

A: Not that you can tell from looking, but the gracious, very spacious bath in the photo we show here also started life as a normal-sized bedroom. That was before designer Jamie Gibbs worked his magic on it, redefining the room into a deluxe spa. Known for his legendary work with space and color (for such clients as New York's Mayor Michael Bloomberg), Drake pulled off a number of professional designer tricks you might consider stealing for your bedroom conversion.

First, he lined the room with cabinets that look built-in, but are actually free-standing and, therefore, removable should the space ever need to return to its bedroom role. Ditto for the high, wide and handsome tub elevated on a violet-lacquered platform to make it the undisputed center of attention in the room.

On the other hand, the designer managed to hide a less attractive necessity in plain sight. The toilet is tucked discreetly behind a decorative curtain held

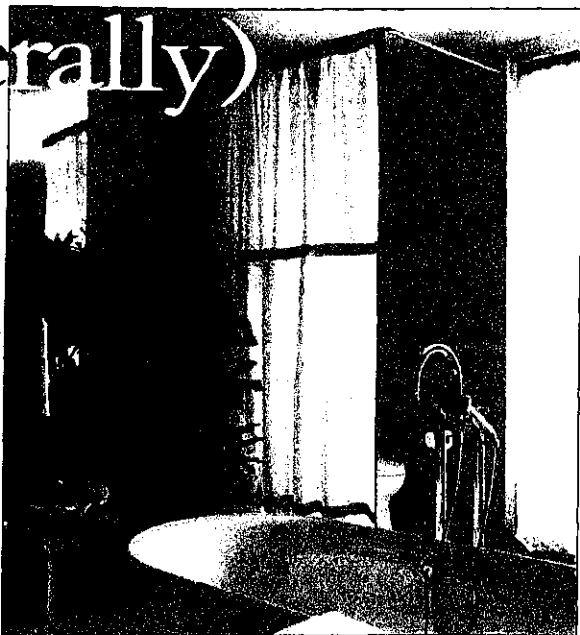


Photo by DENNIS KRAKOWSKI/COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

A shower curtain goes to great lengths to hide the toilet from the more sociable spa area of a bedroom-turned-bathroom.

floor-to-ceiling by an extended shower rod. Anchored by a mini-forest of plants (they thrive in the moisture of any bath), the curtain is as effective as an actual architectural wall — and much, much less expensive.

Q: Is all furniture created equal?

A: Even Thomas Jefferson would have to demur had he been at the High Point Furniture Market this fall to witness the unveiling of a collection of remarkable pieces inspired by his own furnishings at Monticello. Madison Square

Furniture, based in Hanover, Pa., has recreated some 30 pieces of Jefferson's furniture, including originals crafted by John Hemings and other Monticello slaves in the "joinery," or wood-working shop on the place, as they say in the South.

With all the furnishings based on other historic sites and personalities (there's even a collection inspired by Elvis' Graceland), you may wonder why nobody ever thought of Jefferson before. Madison Square owner Michael Peterson has thought of little else

since he took over the 37-year-old company two years ago.

"The joy of working inside this man's mind cannot be overestimated!" Peterson told a reporter covering the Monticello debut.

His two-year "labor of love" has resulted in specialty, occasional, casual and formal dining pieces, largely based on architectural elements found in Jefferson's neoclassical mansion and on original "joinery" pieces.

But more important, according to Peterson,

Continued on Page 2



Sycamore uses space wisely

By **Scott McAlexander**
 COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Space is of the essence in the modern residential subdivision, which has created the need for narrow, compact homes able to fit onto odd-shaped lots.

The Sycamore D6715 meets that need perfectly. It is 41 feet 8 inches wide and 42 feet 4 inches deep. The garage has a front entry, but could be converted to a side entry if the lot were on a corner.

The Sycamore is in the traditional ranch style, but appears more open because of the large windows lining its front and because of a covered porch accenting its entry.

The main floor of the Sycamore has the feeling of one large room. The front door opens directly into a spacious living room, bathed in sunlight from several surrounding windows. A large fireplace is on the outside wall.

Behind the front door is a seat to be used for taking off muddy shoes and wet coats. A coat closet is nearby.

The kitchen and dining room are in the rear of the home. The corner kitchen is open with an island eating bar that faces the dining room. Over the sink is a garden window. Large windows admit ample light into the dining room.

A door to the back yard is beside the pantry and closet. In the far corner is a half bath as well as a door to the garage.

Upstairs is a large master suite as well as two more bedrooms and a full bathroom. The master suite has a coffer-vaulted ceiling. The corner walk-in closet has a seat designed for convenience in changing shoes. The master bathroom has a tub and dual sinks as well as a large linen closet.

In the hall area outside the master suite is the washer/dryer, hidden behind folding doors.

Bedrooms Nos. 2 and 3 each have walk closets and long windows to catch the afternoon sun. The full bathroom has a tub and single sink.

Off the hall to the right is an unfinished storage area that could also serve as a play area.

Overall, the Sycamore's living area is 1,499 square feet. There is the unfinished storage area of 250 square feet and the unfinished basement of 747 square feet that could be used in the future to accommodate bedrooms or a family room.

The Sycamore has great potential.

For a study plan of the design mentioned in this article, send \$24.95 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Road E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424. (Specify name and number for study plan.) A catalog featuring hundreds of home plans is available for \$12.95, or save by ordering both for \$29.95. For faster processing, call (800) 562-1151 or visit www.landmarkdesigns.com.

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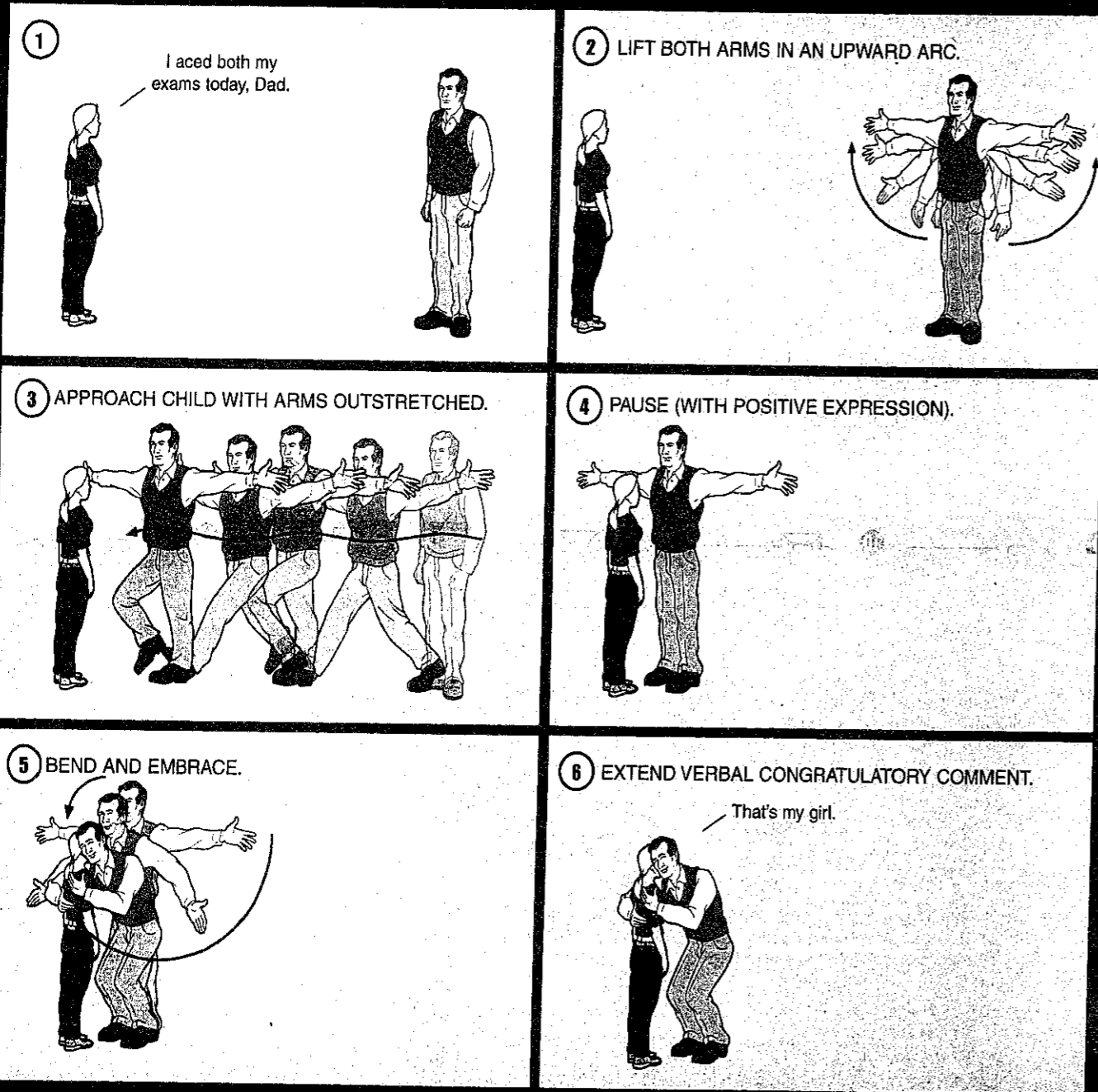
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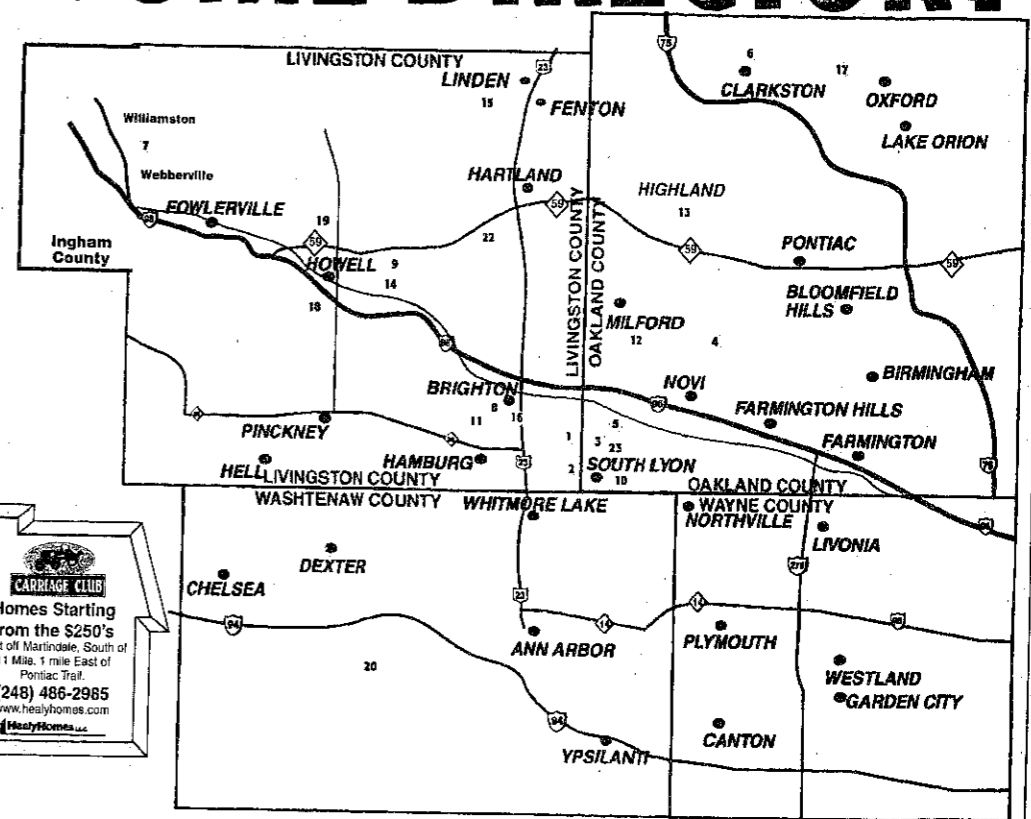
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Laughing Matters

By Damon Arthur
 SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Gordon Baugh is an example of what happens when people don't have enough fun. For years he went to his job each day as an information systems analyst with the California Department of Transportation.

He worked hard, piling on the stress. It made him frustrated and sick. He wasn't having fun.

Eventually Baugh suffered two heart attacks and underwent three heart bypass surgeries. He retired four years ago on disability, but the 63-year-old Redding, Calif., man is the happiest he has been in decades.

"I'm probably functioning better as a human being now than since boot camp," Baugh said.

While he labored for years under layers of stress, Baugh is no longer a victim of pressure, worry and anxiety.

He's active with the Masons, taking sick children to Shriner's hospitals. He drives those funny little cars in parades as part of the Fez Patrol. He is a lay reader at his church. He fixes old computers and gives them to needy children, and he is an "unpaid assistant" at his wife's footwear business.

"I spend a lot of time having fun," Baugh said.

"The better we understand our preferences, the better we will understand what will lead us to fun."

Charlie Price
 Recreation therapist

The key to making his life fun, he said, is attitude.

"I just thank God I'm alive," Baugh said.

Baugh is an example of why people need to have fun in their lives and what happens to them when they do, said Charlie Price, a recreation therapist and academic dean at Cascade School in Whitmore, Calif.

Price teaches a course through the Community Education program at Shasta College called "The Psychology of Fun." The class attempts to show people how to enjoy life, have more fun and reduce stress — "how can we enrich the meaning of our lives before we reach a terminal point," Price said.

Price, 57, worked 22 years as a recreation therapist at mental hospitals, at rehabilitation hospitals, schools and in drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs.

In his classes he doesn't teach people to water ski, how to be witty at parties or show them different games to play. Instead, he tries to get people to figure out what is fun and enjoyable to them.

"I'm teaching people how to grow their own fun," Price said.

While play comes easily to children, many adults have forgotten how to have fun, or they don't take the time for recreation, he said.

Through a series of exercises, Price helps his students determine what they like to do for fun. He also talks about various levels of fun, from individuals having fun alone to team sports.

He also discusses how everyone has his own idea of what fun is: One person might like throwing Frisbees, while someone else likes fishing.

"The better we understand our preferences, the better we will understand what will lead us to fun," Price said.

While Price asks people to consider for themselves what types of recreation make them happy, there are plenty of external messages telling people how to have fun, he said.

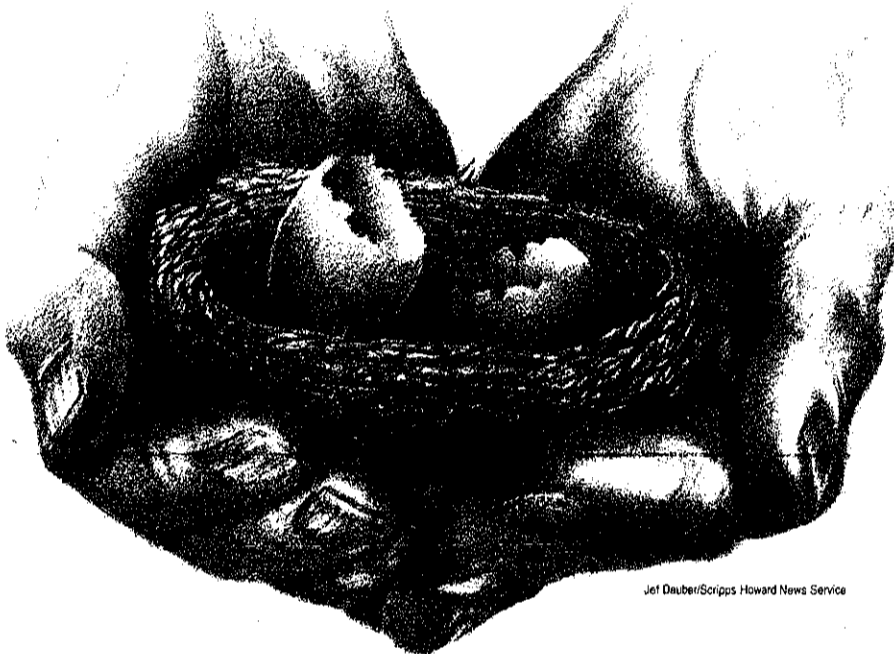
"For one thing, we're being marketed to a great deal: 'To have fun, go to Vegas for a weekend,'" Price said, citing an example.

There's a downside to that, though, he said. People sometimes feel they aren't having as much fun as they are supposed to.

"There's a pressure created by this kind of marketing," Price said. People sometimes come to his class wondering "why aren't I having fun?"

Empty Nest

Emotions are mixed when children leave home



Jeff Dauber/Scrapps Howard News Service

By Laura Christman
 SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

One day you're sleep-deprived and bleary-eyed, holding an infant who looks to you for everything — food, shelter, protection, love. And then you find yourself teary-eyed in a dorm room letting go of a young woman who's starting college.

When grown children leave home for college, a job, marriage or a place of their own, it can be tough on parents. The experience is lumped under a tidy label: empty nest syndrome. But it's not as if feelings unfold methodically or are the same for everyone.

It's a jumble of emotions. Many parents describe it as happy-sad. They may be apprehensive or lonely one moment; feel proud or breathe a sigh of relief the next.

Cynthia Mattera of Redding, Calif., watched her 21-year-old daughter back out of the driveway last spring and head to Long Beach State University. Her son moved out to a place of his own several years ago. Cynthia and her husband, John, are now official empty-nesters. She describes the experience as "heartful, difficult and exciting at the same time."

While she misses her children, she realizes that a parent's job is to raise responsible young people willing to go out and try something new. She feels a sense of

accomplishment in having done that.

"It's neat. You're not there every day, but they work things out. Their car needs an oil change and they actually go and get it done," she said. "It's like, 'Wow. They really do know how life works.'"

Children take a bit of their parents with them when they leave home, said Bernadette Butz, a family therapist in Redding. "They carry that parent with them."

It's important for parents who are feeling a loss of control over a child's day-to-day decisions to remember that. Parents need to realize, too, that the daily job of parenting is over.

"In some ways it is a relief," said Carolyn Furnish, a family therapist with the Children's Counseling Center in Redding. "You don't have to remind them to brush teeth, or sit up and worry about when they are coming home or if their homework is done. It is a freeing of responsibility."

Some parents — women in particular, since they're often the primary care-givers — can suffer an identity loss when there are no longer children at home to parent. After being wrapped up in being a mom, they may wonder: Who am I now?

Answer: Still a mom.

Children leave your home, but never your heart. You'll always be their mother. But use the opportunity to pursue other things, Butz suggested. She said mothers typically focus on others. When their children leave home, they can do something

for themselves. Pursue a dream, whether it's going back to school, changing careers, sky diving, belly dancing or taking up quilting, she said. View children leaving as a beginning, not an ending, she said.

Parenting requires being able to mediate, negotiate, prioritize, empathize and organize. The skills and creative energy that were poured into being a parent can be funneled into other pursuits.

Children leaving can be hard on relationships too. Spouses sometimes use children as a buffer to problems within the marriage.

"Sometimes they have not given the relationship attention. They can feel at a loss that they don't have anything in common anymore," Furnish said.

Butz and Furnish said it's normal to feel sadness after children leave, but if the feelings are severe or prolonged, seek help.

"If you are not finding that you are making the beginnings of an adjustment two or three months after the child has left home ... if you have no interest or energy, then you really do need to go in and talk to someone and get some pragmatic and practical tips on what you might do differently," Butz said.

Cynthia Mattera said it's been helpful for her to compare her children moving away to when they first learned to walk — they were leaving their babyhood, but it was fun to share their excitement over those first steps.

"You can't help but be proud," she said.

In the patient's shoes

By Wallace Chuma
 PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Reversing roles is not always something readily accepted, especially if you enjoy a privilege of sorts. You want to be in control, to have things go your way. You cannot let go without a fight.

Save, perhaps, for the intervention of fate.

That was the case of Dr. Geoffrey Kurland, 56, a pediatric pulmonologist at Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh.

After treating patients for 14 years he woke up one night in 1987 with a fever. It led to diagnosis of a rare form of leukemia that at the time had only a 40 percent survival rate.

In his book, "My Own Medicine: A Doctor's Life as a Patient" (Times Books, \$25), Kurland narrates a grueling account of how his diagnosis with hairy cell leukemia 15 years ago presented a new experience in his understanding of, disease, medicine and patient care.

Kurland developed a fever while practicing in Sacramento, Calif. He was admitted to the hospital, where an X-ray showed a fist-sized mass on the upper part of his chest.

"Then, quite suddenly, I realize who I am, into whom I have transformed ...," he writes. "I am no longer the doctor. I am the person with the disease."

He was treated at the Mayo Clinic.

A bone marrow biopsy revealed hairy cell leukemia. The chronic lymphocytic leukemia gets its name from the abnormal shape of the white blood cells with hair-like projections. It can strike males and females, mostly between the ages of 40 and 70.

Hairy cell leukemia causes enlargement of the spleen, so Kurland's spleen was removed. This stabilized his blood count. The number of disease-fighting platelets had dropped to 60,000, down from a normal 150,000 to 300,000.

Six weeks later, surgeons removed the mass in his chest. Just two months after joining Children's Hospital in 1988, he started a 14-month regimen of chemotherapy, which cured his disease.

The illness "had a profound effect on me. I became a different somebody," Kurland said.

The experience was chilling, and he described his fears and concerns as surgery after surgery was performed.

The book depicts a man who, faced with the painful reality of his own mortality, acknowledges his condition and gears himself to face the challenge. "Sometimes you have to lose control in order to gain it," he said.

The greatest lesson from his suffering was that he should trust some people. "Even the best of physicians have to be willing to let other physicians care for them. It's important to trust other people. It's usually hard because most physicians want to be in control," he said.

The experience also affected his interaction with patients. Although he acknowledged that he was "a good physician" even his diagnosis, he learned something about being a patient.

"Only when you are confronted with a similar experience can you understand what it means to be a patient," he said. "I learned and understood the things that my patients used to tell me."

Fans of 'healing pucks' say they gain calm, strength and vision

By Chandra Harris
 SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Transforming lives, one puck at a time.

That's what Mary Miller, one of the co-founders of the 20-year-old Gentle Wind Project in Maine aims to do.

She touts the benefits of holding a hockey puck-shaped instrument that contains a blend of salts, herbs, gemstones and minerals, which Miller says are proving to be healing.

As bizarre as it may sound, the science of puck handling for five

minutes "is real, and in those minutes the aura of the human body is being repaired," Miller said. "The instrument is based on the science of parapsychics."

Parapsychics, she says, is "the study of the ability of something to exert a non-physical energy outside of its physical boundaries; human beings give off energy beyond their physical boundaries."

"If you had transparent vision you could see the fragmented and burnt-out layers of everyone, even great spiritual leaders," Miller said.

The energy field of a person is where "life's huns and wounds are

stored, and that is where the healing begins," she said.

"Whether it be losing a loved one, suffering from an illness, divorce or getting fired, those emotions are stored somewhere," Miller explained.

"Each time someone is injured emotionally, mentally or physically, a part of the field is damaged."

Miller contends the healing puck enhances one's calmness, strength and the ability to solve problems more efficiently. "It fills those empty holes," she said.

Gaping holes in the lives of grief-stricken parents is what

Miller saw day in and day out as a clinical social worker in Boston more than two decades ago.

"I could give them tools to cope, but they would never recover from their loss," Miller said.

After selling her house, car, packing up her then 3-year-old and cashing in her retirement, along with five others "we were nobodies trying to create something to alleviate human suffering."

"A quantitative leap in life then happened," Miller said.

"People who couldn't sleep, started sleeping through the night,"

she said. "Children's rooms that hadn't been touched for five or 10 years after their deaths became dismantled."

The nonprofit healing organization has touched more than 6 million lives in 150 countries since 1990 by initially giving away free healing prototypes. Miller said. Now, volunteer instrument keepers share their healing tools at no charge with others. A healing puck can be purchased from the nonprofit group by means of a donation.

"It is not an end-all, be-all cure," Miller said, "but it works."

Plus

HomeTown

HOME & GARDEN



The blue color of the home of Daria Rowert on Medella Circle in Rancho Murietta has caused some controversy. Though the paint color was approved and is within the development's Covenants, Codes and Restrictions, some neighbors nonetheless are upset because all the other homes are either beige or gray.

houserules

Sometimes there are some bumps along the road to neighborhood orderliness

By Will Evans
SACRAMENTO BEE

Covenants, conditions and restrictions — oh, my! Drag in the garbage cans and yank those weeds quick, because Ray Brown's coming around the corner with more than 100 pages of CC&Rs.

Driving through Rancho Murietta, an upscale housing development in Sacramento, Calif., Brown has his eye out for violations of the community's appearance standards.

No clotheslines, no messy lawns, no chipping paint, no visible trash containers, no excessive noise, no cars in the driveway without a permit — you name it, there's a covenant, condition or restriction that regulates it.

Brown points out a house with old paint and knee-high weeds, surrounded by stately residences. "We fined 'em a couple dimes," he says.

That is a couple of hundred dollars. CC&Rs are not peculiar to Rancho Murietta. Enforceable in court, they're the basis for every homeowners association that oversees a housing development and are sometimes included in standard tract housing as well.

In recent years, many cities have encouraged the creation of private community associations that pay for themselves through homeowner fees instead of using tax revenues — making CC&Rs more important to everyday life than ever before.

But CC&Rs aren't new. Sam Perotti of the California Department of Real Estate says that since the time of the 13 colonies, property buyers have had to sign off on deed restrictions. When restrictions grew lengthy and complicated, they were separated into a dense packet of papers, known as CC&Rs.

The general rule is: Whatever you do, the neighbors shouldn't have to hear it or see it. Depending on the development, CC&Rs can prohibit anything from barking dogs to such general behavior as "noxious or offensive activities." Often they require that every

structural change to a home — from a coat of paint to an addition — be approved by the association. Developers usually hire lawyers to draft the original CC&Rs, which can stick long past the builders' departure. They can be amended, but often only with a two-thirds vote.

Where there are rules, there are resisters. But the disputes also unveil an institution that is widely supported.

In most homeowner covenants, the general rule is: Whatever you do, the neighbors shouldn't have to hear or see it.

restrict housing for non-whites. Some archaic, discriminatory covenants remain, and last year California established a procedure for residents to report such illegal language.

CC&Rs and, more importantly, their enforcement differ by community. Some associations fine violators; some just send letters.

Sometimes aesthetic rules have unintended consequences. They can hinder the use of solar power because after special requirements to submit a design plan, solar panel installation costs \$ percent to 10 percent more in CC&R-dominated Sacramento complexes, says Edmond Murray, treasurer of the California Solar Energy Industries Association.

Brown, making his way around Rancho Murietta South, is not a die-hard code enforcer, but rather a long-retired firefighter looking to keep active. "Now I'll show you the blue house," he says. "That's the biggest thing going on."

The community's architectural review committee had approved a blue coat, but when the painting was partly completed on June 10, Daria Rowert got a call that work would have to stop. With neighbors irate at the non-conformity, the committee paid for a toned-down shade.

But to some in the community, that wasn't enough. They see a blue house and they want it painted beige.

"My family likes blue," says Rowert, explaining her color choice. "We have blue carpet, we have blue cars, we wear blue clothes."

But for every restriction-resister, there seem to be legions of citizen enforcers. Sometimes they roam the streets, scribbling down violations. And in places like Rancho Murietta, they phone in hundreds of complaints a year.

Despite the endless rules and regulations buried in the fine print, many people — as they sign page after page of documents, itching to get into their new home — never read their CC&Rs. That, say CC&R defenders and detractors alike, can cause problems when the CC&R cops come around.

A new look at old myths about mobile homes

By Jim Buchta
MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL STAR TRIBUNE

Mobile homes now account for nearly 30 percent of all home sales nationwide and a growing number of buyers are middle-income people looking for a more affordable housing alternative.

Yet the negative stereotypes of trailer parks and the people who live in them persist.

Justifiable or not? University of Minnesota geography Professor John Fraser Hart, and co-authors Michelle Rhodes and John Morgan delved into mobile home life to find an answer.

"The Unknown World of the Mobile Home," recently published by Johns Hopkins Press, hopes to dispel some myths and shed some light on America's most stigmatized type of housing. The book chronicles the short history of the mobile home starting in the Depression era, when mobile homes were cramped, tiny camper trailers — temporary housing of last resort.

Since then, the ramshackle, pull-behind trailers have evolved dramatically, giving way to flat-roof single-wide trailers, and later to deluxe doublewide models with extras such as sunken living rooms and pitched roofs. Most aren't really mobile. More than 90 percent are never moved once they're anchored.

Trailer park life has changed, too. Aging baby boomers seek affordable second homes and mobile communities are popping up in Sun Belt states and rural areas — places where it's easy to see how trailer parks have changed.

Nowadays, many are upscale communities just off the golf course, with swimming pools, clubhouses and social directors. Some of the ritziest are in well-to-do retirement areas in the South.

Many of these changes were driven by changing demographics and stricter building codes enacted by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the 1970s.

Hart — who has never lived in a mobile home — and associates found that despite the proliferation of mobile homes, perceptions about mobile home life are inaccurate.

Q&A with John Fraser Hart, author of "The Unknown World of the Mobile Home."

Q: Is the negative reputation about elision or ignorance?

A: Probably a little bit of both, but we must also blame the news media, which delight in portraying mobile home parks as hotbeds of violence and sex. If it happens in a mobile home, then it's identified as such, but if it happens in a conventional house, nobody says anything about where it happened.

Ninety percent of Americans have never set foot inside a mobile home, and unfortunately they accept the isolated examples publicized in the media as representative.

It's a bit far-fetched, but I detect a similarity between mobile home parks, gambling casinos and houses of ill repute. "Nice" people do not go into such places, but they are pruriently curious about what goes on inside them.

Q: In your book, you say that mobile home manufacturers used to joke that their customers were either "bewitched or nearly dead." Are more middle-class people buying manufactured houses?

A: The escalating cost of conventional stick-built houses is forcing more people to accept mobile homes as the only affordable alternative. Mobile homes are also attractive and affordable second homes in retirement areas in the Sun Belt and elsewhere.

People of all ages are buying mobile homes, which have become a socially acceptable form of affordable housing, especially in rural areas in the West and South, perhaps a bit less so in the Midwest.

Q: Is the term ("mobile home") appropriate?

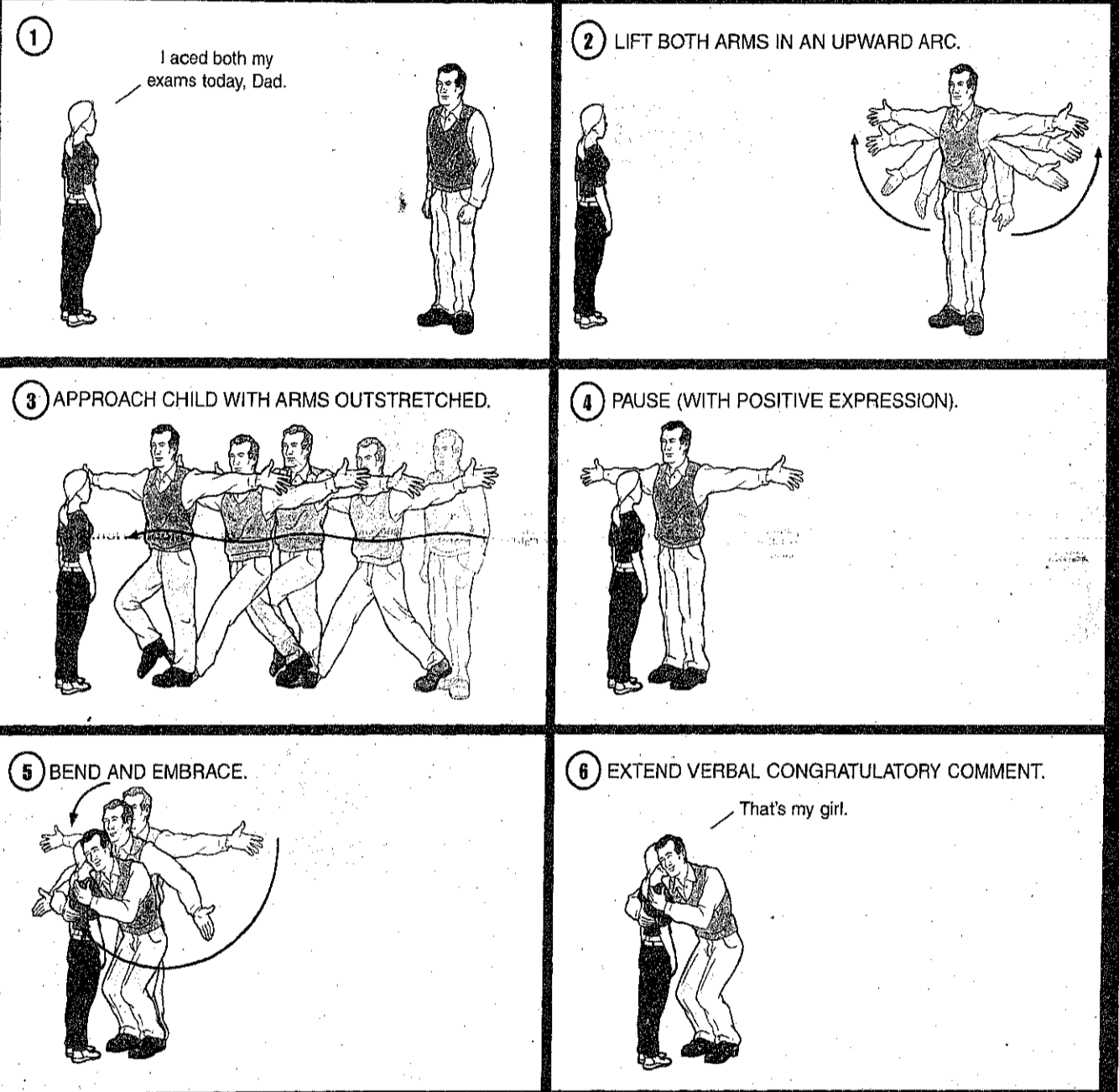
A: In fact, about 93 percent are only moved once — to their original site. Many do remain as houses and are immobilized; often you find brick foundations and brick carpets. Calling them trailers is not appropriate either because they're not towed by automobiles.

Many components of a modern, site-built house are built in a factory, too. Mobile is inaccurate, but manufactured is too confusing.

Parental Guide #27

"THE SUPPORTIVE HUG"

(Please see diagram below.)



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Bold homeowners showing their colors

By David Barton
SACRAMENTO BEE

Rachel Edelson's voice grows vaguely conspiratorial as she confides to a stranger. "I think a lot of people secretly want to do it," she says. "But they don't dare. I wanted to for years, but my daughter said 'You're never going to do it.'"

But she was wrong. And once Edelson did it, she found great satisfaction. "It's incredibly exciting to express yourself all the way," she says. "To come out of the color closet."

Edelson took her bold move — painting her two-story vintage home in the Curtis Park neighborhood in Sacramento, Calif., an intense super-saturated purplish blue she calls

"periwinkle" — after living in the house for nearly three decades.

The responses she got surprised her. "Curtis Park is supposedly so liberal politically, but when it comes to any aesthetic statement, it's very conservative," she says. "I have gathered that many people have quietly negative responses to the house. One neighbor said to me, 'Well, it's a free country.'"

Keith Mundy's company, KM & Co., painted Edelson's house. "Americans in general are into subtle shifts in white," Mundy says with a chuckle. "That's their idea of contrast, and everything's got to be symmetrical. And it blows people's minds when you do something decorative. It's a little unsettling for people."

But, he adds, those who travel know that people in other parts of the world paint their

houses with a lot of color, especially in the tropics.

And at least some of Edelson's neighbors are happy with her choice. Her next-door neighbors even hired Mundy to paint their house a contrastingly intense burnt orange, and the two of them together give a whole different flavor to the corner.

Mundy says it's hard to get people to consider other colors, and once they do, it takes them a while to get used to it.

"People are generally petrified to do it, and even though I prepare them, once you get it on the wall, they go, 'Whoa, that's interesting,'" he says. "But I tell them to live with it for 30 days, and every time, they love it. They don't want anyone to touch it. But it's an interesting journey."



Two homes, each exhibiting strong non-traditional house colors, stand as neighbors in a Sacramento, Calif., neighborhood.



Ruby Ann Boxcar, author of cookbook *Ruby Ann's Down Home Trailer Park* cookbook, shows off Taco-Roni Salad.

come 'n' get it

Serving up the secrets of trailer-park cuisine

Story By Rebecca Jones ■ Photos By Ellen Jaskol ■ Scripps Howard News Service

It's a long road from the High Chaparral Trailer Park in Pangburn, Ark., to Denver to New York City and her network television debut. But those who've traveled it with Ruby Ann Boxcar — beautician, singer and wit — know there's good eatin' every step of the way.

When Ruby Ann self-published her "Down Home Trailer Park Cookbook" in 2000, the doubters were legion. Nobody was much interested in a cookbook and trailer-park tell-all with recipes such as "Billy Ray Cyrus Mashed Potato Cake" and "Spam in the Hole Rolls" that call for both Spam and "government cheese."

But, oh, how the worm has turned. Suddenly, the chic Manhattan Stewarts of the world are watching their fancy lifestyles evaporate along with their stock portfolios.

Ruby Ann, on the other hand, saw her cookbook picked up by Kensington Books, where it's in its second printing. Her holiday cookbook came out last year, and she has a contract for two more books in 2003.

And last summer the beelived, blue eye-shadowed Ruby Ann appeared on "Fox & Friends," a nationally syndicated talk show on the Fox Network, and she's traveled around the country promoting her book as well as the trailer-park lifestyle.

"Why, I'm not makin' fun of people who live in trailer parks, because I live in a trailer park," Ruby Ann says. "I'm just sharin' our secrets, finally. Why would somebody do that? This is why: Because of the food and the love we share for each other."

The recipes, collected through long years of church suppers, school carnivals and trailer-park soirees, epitomize comfort food.

"Count calories? Absolutely not!" Ruby Ann says. "We try to do as little mathematics as possible. If you're lookin' for a low-fat, low-calorie diet, you've got the wrong cookbook. This stuff tastes good."

Denver comedian Robert Brown, 40, Ruby

Ann's "musical director" and longtime associate — who, curiously, has never been seen in Ruby Ann's presence — has quite a bit in common with the boisterous cookbook maven. Both are ample people with equally abundant self-deprecating wit.

The son of a preacher, Brown traveled throughout the South and the Midwest as a youth. "I was born in Texas," he says, "so I'm kind of related to people in Arkansas."

He attended the University of Oklahoma for two years, studying theater, then got involved in stand-up comedy. "I dropped out of college and am pursuing my love of humor and music," he says. "When Ruby Ann came along and asked if I would help her pursue this, too, of course I said I would. Before me, she was just a little bumpkin in Arkansas. I've brought her up to the woman she is today."

Ruby Ann's success has left Brown stunned. "I knew that, with her character, and with her charm and personality, she'd be successful," he says, "but I didn't realize it would be like this ..."

Ruby Ann expresses no surprise at how folks have taken to her cookbook and her tales of life in Pangburn.

"I knew once they saw how good the food was, what a change it was from other cookbooks, they'd be jumpin' on it like gold! People nowadays ain't got time to be fixin' extravagant meals. These — they're simple. They've got simple ingredients. Everybody knows what Dr Pepper and Spam is."



Absolutely not!
lookin' for a low-fat, low-calorie diet cookbook tastes good

— Ruby Ann

Trailer Park Cookin' Recipes

Dr Pepper Salad

2 cans Dr Pepper
1 large package cherry Jell-O
1/2 cup marachino cherries
1 small package cream cheese

Heat one can of Dr Pepper in a skillet or a microwave (in a microwave-proof cup or bowl) — or heat with a hair dryer if you ain't got nothing else. Heat it up nice and hot.

Add the Jell-O and stir until it's dissolved.

Put the cream cheese in another bowl and microwave it for one minute or until it's soft.

Add the cherries and stir together, or use a blender, to make it fluffier.

Pour this mixture over the Dr Pepper mixture and blend some more until the cream cheese has completely dissolved. It ain't good if you can still see the cream cheese.

Then you add the other can of cold Dr Pepper and mix it all up real good. It looks like a mess because it's real watery.

Pour it into a beautiful mold or into several individual dishes, or just leave it in the bowl and eat it out of there after you refrigerate it.

Refrigerate for four hours, then top with whipped cream if you want, or leave it as is. Either way, it's wonderful. It makes three layers and is real pretty. Why is a mystery we've been debating on in the trailer park for years.

Taco-Roni Salad

2 cups uncooked macaroni
1 pound hamburger meat
1 package taco seasonin' mix
1/2 cup French dressin'
1/2 head lettuce, shredded
1 pint cherry tomatoes, halved
1 cup government cheese, shredded
1/2 cup green onions, chopped

Cook the macaroni accordin' to the package. When done, drain and rinse with cold water. After a second drainin', put it in the fridge so it can chill for an hour.

Durin' this time, go ahead and cook the hamburger meat. Crumble the meat in the skillet and then drain off the drippins. Add the taco seasonin' and French dressin'. Mix well.

After the hour has passed, take the macaroni out of the fridge and add it to the meat mixture. Put the meat-and-macaroni mixture in a large bowl. Add the remainin' ingredients. Toss well. Serve salad immediately. Serves 5.

Gille's Award-Winning

Corn Bread

2 cups buttermilk
2 cups cornmeal
1 egg
1 teaspoon bakin' soda
1 teaspoon salt

Mix well and put in a skillet or 9-inch pan that has been heated with oil in it.

Bake at 375 to 400 degrees for about 20 minutes or until nicely brown. Makes 1 skillet.

Peanut Butter Muffins

1/2 cup brown sugar, packed
1/4 cup margarine
1/2 cup peanut butter
2 eggs
1 cup sifted white flour
1 cup sifted whole wheat flour
3 teaspoons bakin' powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1-1/4 cups milk

Blend sugar and margarine. Add peanut butter and mix until creamy. Add eggs and beat until smooth.

Sift flours, bakin' powder and salt together, and add alternately with the milk.

Begin and end with the flour. Mix well. Bake in greased muffin tins at 400 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes. Makes 18 large muffins.

Source: "Down Home Trailer Park Cookbook" by Ruby Ann Boxcar



Photo Illustration by Cameron Gillo / Scripps Howard News Service

'Dude' food: A man's guide to things culinary

By Jeremy Cox
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Dude, check it out.

You know how when you got a lady coming over, and she's all like, "Ooh, what are you gonna cook for me?" and, you know, you're playing it cool, so you're like, "It's a surprise, baby," but on the inside, you're going, "Dude, weak."

It's all good. I got you covered, man. First, let me say that I know my way around the kitchen the way I know my way around Myanmar. Kind of tropical. I think there's some monkeys. Anyway, point is, dude: Even a little culinary knowledge can go a long way.

"Isn't a 'culinary' something Katie Couric had a doctor do to her on national television that one time?" you ask.

Hang in with me here, dude.

OK, you got the lady coming over. Easy. I've got the recipe that will make you look like Jimmy Fallon in her eyes, even if you more closely resemble Horatio Sanz. Don't get the reference? Jecz, dude, you're killing me here.

Try a dish I call "Impressin' the

Ladies' Coq au Vin."

It sounds French, which is a total plus, and it's something that even, well, a guy can make.

All you're doing is throwing some chopped-up carrots, onions and spices into a skillet and cooking it for a few minutes. Then, you pour in some red wine, tomato paste and a bouillon cube (read: meat of the future). Fry up some flour-slathered chicken and put that in with the rest of the stuff and you're done.

While this is a great meal for special occasions, you've still got to worry about what to cook when it's just you. And, lately, I've become an expert in this category (dude, I don't get it, either).

You're going to need the staples — stuff like onions, chicken, potatoes, and, yes, macaroni and cheese. Sure, it's a cliché. But, man, stir up some white-cheddar-flavored mac 'n' cheese with some cooked spinach, and you've got yourself some real gourmet going on.

The key to any successful meal is minimizing the number of dishes that get dirty and maximizing the time you could be spending watching SportsCenter.

"Impressin' the Ladies' Coq Au Vin

3 tablespoons butter
1 carrot, peeled and sliced
1 medium onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed with a press
3 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped
1 can dry red wine
1/2 cup chicken bouillon
1 tablespoon tomato paste (or ketchup)
1 tablespoon cornstarch
2 tablespoons white wine
4 medium chicken breasts
1 medium onion
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon olive oil

1. In a large skillet, melt the butter and sauté the carrots and onions until they are soft. Add the garlic and tomato paste and sauté for a few minutes. Add the red wine and chicken bouillon and simmer for about 10 minutes. In a separate pan, sauté the chicken breasts until they are cooked through. Add the cornstarch and white wine to the sauce and stir until it thickens. Mix the flour and olive oil in a small bowl. Drain the chicken and add it to the sauce. Stir well and serve immediately.