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Novi News



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Novi, Michigan

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Look inside for your
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SPORTS



Call it a four-peat

A check by a Mustang Troy Engelland leaves Novi's Mario DeGrazia on his feet during last week's tilt at the Novi Ice Arena.

— Page 1B

INSIDE

Chalk Art festival

This spring Commerce Township's Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital and the Walled Lake Downtown Development Authority (DDA) plan to transform the city's Historic Lakefront District into an Italian piazza in hopes of catching the eyes of residents from West Oakland County and beyond.

— Page 5A

Youth sports changes

Promises of enhanced skill building, more fun and a better opportunity for socialization top the list of reasons city officials made changes to Novi's Youth Sports Team program.

— Page 7A

On schedule

Novi Woods staff and students eagerly await the completion of their new building from their temporary home across the parking lot.

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Complaints few at bridge update meeting

■ First monthly update held on projects to improve roads

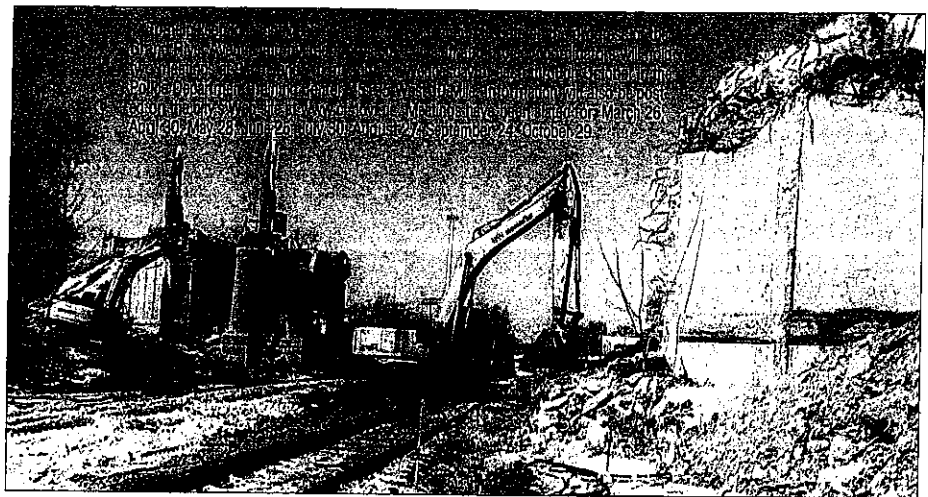
By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Contractors and city staff outnumbered business and homeowners for the first monthly update on what's being called collectively as the Grand River Avenue improvement projects.

Meetings were held at the Novi Police Department's Training Center at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. last Wednesday and additional meetings will be held the final Wednesday of the month through October. The last of three projects being completed between Novi and Beck roads that will replace an aging cast concrete bridge and widen Grand River Avenue to five lanes at a cost of roughly \$15 million are expected to be done Nov. 1.

According to assistant city manager Clay Pearson, the low turnout pretty much follows the same pattern the city saw last year for the rebuild of the Novi and 12 Mile road intersection. Last month city council chambers were filled with business people in the morning and residents in the evening as representatives from the city and the Road, Commission of Oakland County explained the effects of this year's Grand River projects as well as others in the pipeline.

Pearson noted that while the state's Department of Transportation has decided to push back letting its contract to replace the Beck Road bridge over I-96 until May, he doesn't believe that will affect the completion date of that two-year project, which will tie in with the Grand River work.



Work continues last week on the demolition of the Grand River Ave. bridge. After the span was removed, all that remains for now are its three large concrete abutments.

Photo by John Heider

Pearson was expected to ask the city commission Monday night to consider closing Clark Street, which enters Grand River just west of the old CSX bridge. He said closing the street at Grand River permanently would prevent drainage problems that would be caused by having to raise the road to meet the new road surface and eliminate a traffic hazard. On the other hand, he added, it would increase traffic at the Lanny's Lane/Grand River intersection.

"Traffic's like air in a balloon - if you squeeze it one place, it will go someplace else," he observed. Shelly Gibson from Harold's

Frame Shop said her company is concerned about the traffic hazard created by people who ignore the construction signs and then try to find a way around the missing bridge but cutting through their parking lot.

Pearson promised to have private drive signs put up, but he cautioned, "there's a certain knucklehead factor we can't take care of."

A few residents of the Creek Crossing subdivision complained that motorists trying to get around the missing bridge have been driving through their neighborhood at alarmingly high speeds. However, they also noted there has been an increased police presence.

"GRAND RIVER BIZ"

Sheryl Walsh, the city's community relations manager announced the city is adding a new program on its public access cable television channel throughout the duration of the project. "Grand River Biz," she said, will highlight not only the businesses between Novi and Beck roads are open, but what they have to offer as well. Walsh said businesses can reserve a half hour block of studio time between 2-6 p.m. March 13 or 8 a.m. and noon March 14. She said business owners and managers can call her at (248) 735-5628 to reserve time. Walsh explained the studio time will be edited down to feature several businesses in each edition of "Grand River Biz."

Pearson noted that eventually motorists will realize that only 10 and 12 Mile roads can be used to bypass the construction site.

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.

Rotarians honor Lippe, Evans with Paul Harris Fellowships

By Flamez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Two prominent members of the Novi Community were recognized and honored recently when they were awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship Award, presented by the Novi Rotary Club. Novi Superintendent of Schools Emmet Lippe, who is in his 11th year with the Rotary, and Novi Public Library Director Brenda Evans, who is in her fourth year, were recipients of the award.

The Paul Harris Fellow recognition was created in memory of Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary, as a way to show appreciation for contributions to the Foundation's charitable and educational program. A Paul Harris Fellow is an individual who contributes \$1,000 or in whose name that amount is contributed.

"In my case I look upon it as something to aspire to," Evans said. "It's a vote of encouragement to work and grow within the organization. The intent of it indicates that I have supported the ideas of the Rotary, and I am honored that they would feel that way."

Evans, who was the Rotary's

secretary last year, also has been putting out a newsletter for the club. She explained that people who join the Rotary have an opportunity to do some local and international service they wouldn't otherwise have.

"The Rotary allows you to do it a lot easier than if you were just an individual," she said. "Generally, Rotary is intended to bring together people who have business needs within a certain region. Being a member of the Rotary has been a huge learning experience for me. It has taught me a great deal about the people that we have right here who want to help in so many ways. We have people who simply

want to make a difference. I think that I feel that I was able to contribute in a positive way. I am very honored that the Rotary has given me this kind of encouragement. It certainly inspires me to want to continue doing what I'm doing."

Every Paul Harris Fellow receives a pin, medallion and a certificate when he or she becomes a Fellow. This identifies the Paul Harris Fellow as an advocate of the Foundation's goals of world peace and international understanding.

"I appreciate very much the honor that has been bestowed on me as a Paul Harris Fellow," Lippe said. "This is my 11th year as a member of the Rotary Club of Novi and I think a person always wonders why they are worthy of an honor such as this one. Hopefully, over the last 10 years I have done a few things that perhaps have helped the community. I always try to support what the club does."

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



Photo by Carrie Wickert

Rehearsing for the upcoming Novi Theatres' production of "Man of La Mancha" are Ves Spindler of Southfield as Don Quixote, Dick Wickert of Novi as Sancho and Linda Demmer of Plymouth as Aldonza.

Inspire your heart

■ The Novi Theatres' upcoming production of "Man of La Mancha" offers idealism and romantic spirit

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

One of the last lines in The Novi Theatres' production of "Man of La Mancha" states "they are both men of La Mancha."

They refers to Don Quixote and his creator Miguel de Cervantes.

The March musical based on Dale Wasserman's plays, marries Cervantes, a central figure of the

Golden Age of Spanish writing, with his Quixote creation.

Cervantes has been coined an almost exact contemporary of Shakespeare and Quixote has been coined an idealist with a pure heart.

The musical, directed by Novi Theatres Director Linda Wickert, exemplifies romantic idealism in its purest form and the drive and borderline madness involved in a

Please see LA MANCHA page 3

Legislature begins look at business competitiveness in Novi

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Lansing's Joint Committee on Business Competitiveness is kicking off a seven-month look at how the state can improve its business climate in Novi Monday, March 10, and State Senator Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) couldn't be more pleased.

"Novi is where it's happening," declared Cassis.

However, what's happening, at least in the retail sector, is a lot of hand-wringing. In January the

Michigan Retailers Association called the holiday season "dismal," citing a 3.2-percent drop in sales from the previous year and reported that 68 percent of its 5,800 members statewide were expecting first quarter sales to drop or remain flat compared to last year.



N. Cassis

The auto industry reported a 7-percent dip in sales for February, with General Motors reporting a 19-percent drop and Porsche posting a 38-percent sag in sales. Auto analysts are blaming the sales fall off on things as varied as the fear of rising gas prices this summer, to the automakers robbing Peter with year-end incentives, to mid-winter doldrums.

On the bright side, Cassis noted that Site Selection has tapped Michigan as its number one business location for four years running.

Cassis' spokesman Lisa Posthumus said the 10-member committee will be examining everything from tax policy to the latest developments in high-tech industries, looking for ways to attract new business and retain existing business in Michigan.

Chaired by State Senator Alan Sanborn, (R-Richmond Township), the committee is slated to meet from 3-5 p.m. Monday in the Stilller Room at the Novi Expo Center. A spokesman for Sanborn said 10 meetings are planned, but the location and

dates for the remaining nine have yet to be set.

"We need new business and new jobs to bring in more revenue," said Cassis. "And we're going right to grass roots for ideas."

One idea Cassis has already is the remove health insurance premiums from gross receipts calculations for the state's single business tax. Although the tax is set to expire entirely in 2010, Cassis observed that with health costs

Please see BUSINESS page 3

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NOVI CITY BRIEFS

Sheriff appointment

Oakland County Sheriff Michael J. Houchard was appointed to the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women by United States Attorney General John Ashcroft. The committee serves as an advisory capacity to Ashcroft and the Secretary of Health and Human Services and was created to examine the strength of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 which is now approaching the 10 year mark since its enactment. The task force is also responsible for identifying strategies for the second decade of federal support to efforts aimed at preventing and addressing all forms of family violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

Calling all Veterans

On Sunday, June 22 at 1 p.m., the City of Novi will recognize the men and women of our community and the surrounding area that served in the armed forces from 1945 to 2003 at the Veterans' Recognition Day event. This event will honor veterans of the Cold War, Germany, Panama, Desert Storm, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Somalia and Kosovo. Additionally, we recognize that many men and women in our area have been called to active duty from the Reserve or National Guard Units and, while they may not be able to attend, we would ask that their families join us so we can honor them. Please contact the City of Novi Community Relations Office, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 or (248) 735-5628 for a registration form for this event.

DeRoche Breakfast Club

State Rep. Craig DeRoche's next breakfast meeting will take place March 14 at the Novi Expo Center. The topic of discussion will be "Oakland County's Economic Vision" and will feature guest speaker L. Brooks Pittman. A legislative update will also be provided by DeRoche. The intent of the "DeRoche Breakfast Club" is for the former councilman to meet with

leaders in the community to have a dialog on timely, important topics. The one-hour 7:30 a.m. breakfast program is free to the public. However, a breakfast buffet is available for \$15. A coffee-and-conversation session will take place before the program at 7 a.m. The event will take place in the McKenzie Room inside the center at 43700 Expo Center Drive. For reservations, please call Shenna Wyoff at (517) 373-0827.

Senior Holiday Luncheons

Tickets are now on sale for three upcoming holiday luncheons at the Novi Senior Center inside Meadowbrook Commons. The first event is the annual St. Patrick's Luncheon and Dublin Derby. The luncheon, March 17 event will feature a real Irish lunch and an Irish Sweepstake horse race. The following month, area seniors are invited to attend the city's April Food Luncheon and Fashion Show. Prizes will be awarded for the most foolish in the room. Games will also be played at the Tuesday, April 1 happening. Finally, wear your favorite hat and gloves to the Easter Bonnet Parade and Luncheon. The Thursday, April 17 festive event will feature entertainment and prizes.

Mother-son shimmy

Tickets are now on sale for The City of Novi Mother-Son Shimmy Shimmy. The annual dance will be held Friday, March 14 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center. Guests will enjoy gifts, photos, appetizers and dancing. Tickets are \$10 a person for residents and \$12 a person for non-residents and are available at the Novi Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department. For more information, call (248) 347-4100.

POLICE REPORT

Disappearing flip phone

A Walled Lake mother came to the Novi Police Department to report a missing Motorola flip cellular telephone. The 42-year-old woman told police in the station's lobby the phone was stolen from her son while at Twelve Oaks Mall. She said her 13-year-old son told her he set the phone on a bench inside Foot Locker while he sat down to fix his shoe. The mother said when he turned around to retrieve the phone, it was gone. The son told his mother he checked with store employees, but had no luck finding the phone. The Walled Lake woman said she wanted to document the case for insurance purposes.

Gas and gun

Someone escaped with \$26 in free gas after filling up at the Speedway station on Haggerty

Road and taking off. Novi police responded to the gas station on Feb. 28 at about 3:45 p.m. when an employee told officers a white Ford Explorer-type vehicle and took off without making any attempt to pay. The employee gave police a license plate number he obtained from the sport utility vehicle, but a search resulted in no record found. No further action was taken by police.

Too close together

A Westland woman was arrested by Novi police for drinking and driving after having too much, too fast. Novi officers stopped the 21-year-old female on March 3 at about 2 a.m. after watching her drive erratically on Novi Road. Officers following behind her watched the 2002 Kia

she was driving swerve onto the flare-line of the road, back into the through lane and go through a yellow light turning red at the intersection of Grand River Avenue. After initiating the traffic stop, officers asked the female if she had been drinking. The Westland woman said she had about two to three drinks. After the officer asked her how close together she consumed the drinks, the woman replied, "too close together." The Kia driver blew a .15 and was arrested.

Double the trouble

After being arrested for drinking and driving, an East China man was charged for possession of marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia. A Novi officer first noticed the man on Feb. 25 at about 1 a.m. after he sped past her in a 2001 Dodge van travel-

ing about 54 mph in a 40-mph zone. The officer stopped the vehicle in the parking lot of the Mobile Gas Station at Grand River Avenue and Novi Road. The 33-year-old male said he was coming from his friend's house and had a "couple of beers...probably three." According to the report, the officer noticed his eyes were red and glassy. The officer asked him to step out of the vehicle to perform field sobriety tasks. The East China man was asked to count from 90 to 73. He began at 89 and counted down to 79. He blew a .127 and was arrested. While the man was taken to the police station, another officer searched the van upon the impounding process. He found 5 grams of marijuana and a narcotics pipe. The drug possession charges were added to the drinking and driving charge.

LA MANCHA: Presentation begins on Friday, March 16

continued from front

personal quest. "It (the musical) is the classic good triumphing over evil," Wickert said. "The feel-good ending that we always look for and seldom find nowadays. It says there is nothing wrong with holding fast to your dreams. Idealism is really not such a bad thing - especially in the world we live in now!"

On a basic level, the story is about prisoners awaiting a hearing with the inquisition where a defense, providing insights into the accused crimes. The Novi Theatres' musical will be presented without intermission with a seamless flow, offering attendees the opportunity to watch the prisoners evolve from the scum of the earth into the idealist that is the character of Don Quixote.

Wickert points out although "Man of La Mancha" may not be as popular as "Oklahoma" or "Sound of Music," the musical has won Tonys on Broadway and continues to move audiences.

"It is a wonderful musical that has humor, drama, great songs and lots of physical activity," she said. "It really has something for everyone and will appeal on many levels."

Production qualities those involved with are boasting about are the level of professionalism and quality of vocals.

"This is not typical community theater," Wickert said. Participants said from the director to the choreographer to the vocal director to the lighting and set designers - all are professionals.

"Those who have seen The Novi Theatres' musicals will know what a treat they have in store," Wickert said.

Vicioria Sadocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or vsadocha@nhomecomm.net.

Who: The Novi Theatres
What: "Man of La Mancha"
Where: The Novi Middle School Auditorium 49000 11 Mile Road, at the corner of Whorn and 11 Mile roads
When: March 14-16, and 21-23
Times: 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays; 2 p.m. on Sundays
Tickets: On sale now at the City of Novi Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department. All seats are reserved
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THE CAST

Novi Theatres' "Man of La Mancha" Cast List:

Don Quixote (Cervantes) Ves Spindler
Sancho	..... Dick Wickert
Aldonza	..... Linda Demmer
The Innkeeper	..... Frank Rosamond
Dr. Carrasco	..... Bruce Markham
Padre	..... Larry Kallie
Antonita	..... Lori Asmann
The Barber	..... George Giess
The Housekeeper	..... Susan Lewis
Maria, The Innkeeper's Wife	..... Laura Utter
Anselmo	..... Karl Wzinsky
Jose	..... Michael Marsoujian
Paco	..... Michael Wahlstrom
Ferrnina	..... Bryan Dechart
Moorish Girl Dancer	..... Carlin Peterson
Captain of the Inquisition	..... Sabrina Miller
Women Prisoners:	..... David Margolis
Molly Wyns, Marion Cowan, Emily Holt, Donna Mirnikos	..... Stephanie Bommarito,
Muleteers (Males):	..... Alison Welsh
Men of The Inquisition:	..... Sabrina Miller, Molly Wyns
Patty Jyikka, Del McPherson, Alice Smith, Suzanne Davis, Jennifer Bovair, Lynn Melsel	.....
Horses:	..... Lynn Melsel, Jennifer Bovaira

BUSINESS: Legislature looks

continued from front

increasing 15 to 18 percent annually, "why are we taxing something we want employers to provide?"

Michael Bernachi, professor of marketing at UD-Mercy, said that in any state-to-state examination of competitiveness, taxes will have to figure prominently. "Noting the state "tends give up long run for short runs," Bernachi, "whatever welcome wagon package is out there, we'll have to match."

He added, "There has to be some kind of cooperative concerted effort keep economic viability beyond auto industry." Bernachi suggested, "Each region of the state will need to find a niche for itself both in state and out."

He said he's already heard that the threat of war and rising fuel costs has already prompted some tourist operators on the state's west side to focus more of their energies on in state travel promotions.

"Despite the sagging job mar-

ket, attracting and maintaining key talent is a critical challenge to local employers," offered Mary Corrado, president and CEO of the American Society of Employers. Her group is slated to release its 52th annual Salary Survey for Southeast Michigan at the Westin Southfield-Detroit Hotel March 20.

Novi Chamber of Commerce Chairman Lou Martin said his group will be interested in hearing more about the efforts to pull health insurance premiums out of the single business tax. He called the move "enormous."

Cassidy said she has a "couple of bills in the hopper." The commission is expected to provide both houses of the state legislature with a list of ways to improve Michigan's business competitiveness Sept. 1.

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

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LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library

Hours
The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. We are located at 45235 W. 10 Mile Road, just east of Tappan. For more information, call (248) 349-0729.

Story Time notes
Spring Story Times begin March 17. Please call the library during the week of March 10 for information on the day and time of your child's session.

Chapter Club
The Chapter Club, our book discussion group for grades 4-6, meets Saturday, March 8, from 11 a.m.-noon. We'll be discussing "Joan's Girdle" by Meg Hobbins, snacking on goodies, and playing games. Drop-ins are welcome.

Board meeting
The Novi Library Board of Directors meets Monday, March 10, at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room. Community members are welcome to attend.

Big kid story time
Kids ages 5-8 are invited to join us for stories, special activities, and laughter on Tuesday, March 11, at 4 p.m. No registration is necessary.

Senior book discussion
Senior booklovers are reading works about the Islamic religion for their March meeting. The group meets in the library meeting room on Thursday, March 13, at noon.

Saturday story time special
Children ages 12-24 months and their caregivers are invited to join us for 30 minutes of stories, songs, fingerplays, and more on Saturday, March 15, at 11 a.m. No registration is necessary for the half hour program.

Space is limited, so toddlers and caregivers only, please.

AARP workshop
An AARP Tax Workshop will be held at the library on Thursday, March 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please register in advance in person or by calling the library. (Note: You cannot prepare small business or rental property taxes at this workshop.)

Intro to the Internet for seniors
Learn the basics of the Internet in a relaxed, supportive environment on Wednesday, March 12, from 1-3 p.m. You will discover how the Internet works, practice using a web browser, and learn about using search engines to find information. Please register in advance for all Internet classes in person or by calling the library.

Evaluating info on the Internet
Learn how to evaluate the content you find on the Internet on Wednesday, March 12, from 7-9 p.m. We will identify important characteristics in a high-quality Web page that distinguish it from other Web pages on similar topics. Hands-on practice is included.

Ancestors on-line
Learn how to begin searching the Internet for information on your ancestors on Thursday, March 13, from 7-9 p.m. In addition to providing a general background on genealogy, the class covers key genealogy web sites and effective search techniques for locating genealogy information.

Advanced Internet searching
Experienced Internet users are invited to explore the advanced features of the Google search engine and learn additional search skills using keywords, Boolean searching, and nested queries on Thursday, March 20, from 7-9 p.m. You are welcome to bring specific research questions to the class for discussion. Hands-on practice is included.



225 years ago
As part of the Novi Public Library's Winter Break Program, area children enjoyed a special performance by students from Walled Lake High School. The special reenactment, titled "Life in 1778 Colonial Detroit," concluded the successful week of activities with a Feb. 27 afternoon performance. Each year, the library hosts free activities for children ages 5 and older to enjoy during their February break from school. Joe Smith, left, and Rob Osterman of the Walled Lake Central High School Living History Club don colonial-era American garb for an assembly last Thursday afternoon. The club makes most of its own clothing and researches how and where they were worn.

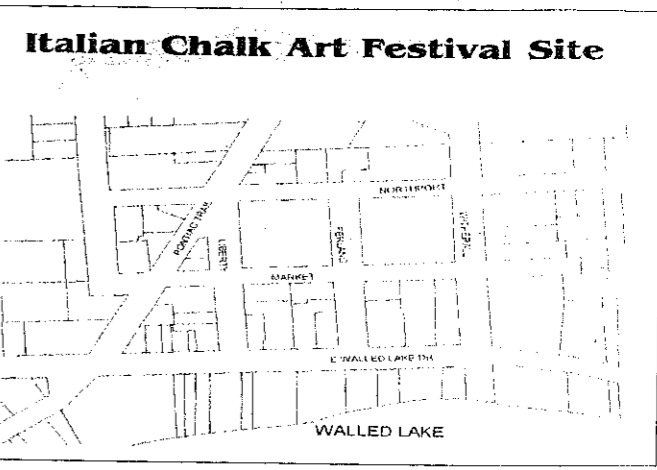
Galway Drive repaving a "misunderstanding"

By Cal Stone
ERROR
A "misunderstanding" may have led neighbors of Laura Lorenzo to wrongly accuse her of using her position as a Novi City Council member to include her street in the 2002 repaving project.
"At no time was there a recommendation by me against the inclusion of the portion in front of Council Member Lorenzo's property," wrote city engineer Nancy McLain in a letter to the Novi News dated Oct. 29, 2002.
In a story published two weeks before that, McLain had told the Novi News that after physically inspecting Galway Drive, she did not recommend repaving to city officials because in her professional opinion, it did not seem poor enough.
"I think there was some misunderstanding there," said McLain.

The section in front of Laura's house was never in doubt. It needed some work - whether it was full-depth reconstruction, that decision had not been made yet.
Part of the confusion began during the repaving project's preliminary design stage, which took place last spring. The portion of Galway that was being considered runs from Windermere to Daleview and is divided into three sections: west, middle and east (the section where Lorenzo lives).
McLain says that she was referring to the west portion of Galway, not the east, when first questioned by the News. The middle and east sections were both supposed to be included in the prelim design, but the east was omitted by error.
After Lorenzo pointed out the error to city officials, her section of Galway was included.
"Laura's neighbors thought her section was added in because it was erroneously left out of the preliminary design," said McLain, "but that was an oversight."
Neighbor Linda Hullman was under the impression that only "bad spots" were supposed to be repaired, and felt that "pressure" from Lorenzo led to the whole portion of the street being done.
Clay Pearson, assistant city manager, said streets receiving "poor" or "very poor" ratings - which included Galway from Windermere to Daleview - were included in the 2002 project. He also noted that it is not the city's policy to conduct spot paving, but rather the objective is intersection to intersection. Because the west portion was not in as poor condition, when the project was let for bids it was included as an "alternate" to be repaved only if the cost came in favorably.
"We didn't need it, we didn't want it and it is just a huge hodgepodge and just a tremendous waste of taxpayer money," said Hullman in the Oct. 17 story.
Lorenzo called Hullman's accusations "totally false and totally ludicrous."
As of today, the original letter McLain wrote Oct. 29 has not been received by the Novi News. McLain faxed a copy Jan. 21.
"Now that this new information, or these facts, have come forward, I think the facts as presented by Linda Hullman are totally unfounded," said Lorenzo. "I would hope that she would concur that there was a misunderstanding."
Hullman refused to comment further when recently contacted by this newspaper.
Cal Stone is the editor of the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 or by e-mail: cstone@h.homecomm.net.

Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Walled Lake DDA gear up for chalk art fest

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER
Four centuries ago intrepid Italian artisans would demonstrate their skills in chalk on city streets hoping to catch the eye, and then commission, of a passing wealthy merchant or nobleman.
This spring Commerce Township's Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital and the Walled Lake Downtown Development Authority (DDA) plan to transform the city's Historic Lakefront District into an Italian piazza in hopes of catching the eyes of residents from West Oakland County and beyond.
And while the end of May seems awfully early, it's not too early for Jack Barry, the hospital's event planner, to be trolling for sponsors for the Italian Chalk Art Festival.
Barry has sponsorship packages ranging from \$50 for a company's name on a banner at the festival site, up to \$5,000 which gets the company's name on the festival banner, on all festival advertising, and above eight of the more than 100 works of art that are expected to be created.
Top sponsorship will also get a company eight reservations to the festival's Arte Del Gesso Afterglow; four preferred parking spaces; 20 children's passes to the People's Choice Prize and Scholarship Award; and a copy of the festival's inaugural poster.
Shari Cohen, the hospital's communications consultant, noted that while there have been demonstrations of chalk art at some area arts events, "there's been nothing on this scale."
"We're hoping to get between 100 and 125 artists, and our goal is to get a sponsor for each one," she said.
Along with the one-day works of art, the festival will offer an Italian Street Market and a "Ristorante Court," offering everything from espresso to focaccia sandwiches.
The idea, said Cohen is to draw attention to downtown Walled Lake and Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, which serves Western Oakland County and parts of eastern Livingston County. Cohen added the hospital would also like to raise a little money for its expansion program.
Cohen said hospital employees have seen similar successful events in Florida and California and Walled Lake seemed like a natural for the area.
Walled Lake Mayor William Roberts agreed saying, "Chalk art has become a popular feature of outdoor festivals throughout the United States, and we think it is a great theme for a festival here in Walled Lake's Historic Lakefront District." Walled Lake's DDA covers a half-square mile and includes more than 160 businesses.
The Italian Chalk Art Festival is slated for noon to 5 p.m. May 31. Businesses, artists and vendors interested in sponsorship or participation can call Barry at (248) 937-3325.
Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 168 or at pfoley@h.homecomm.net.



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Oakland County's traffic information goes high-tech

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

It never seems to fail, the last traffic report you glance at on the TV as you leave the house for the morning commute always seems to be about a traffic tie-up in the next county or if you're wondering whether you should side off 1.96 onto Grand River because traffic is at a near standstill, the radio folks are happily chatting about a roadblock near the airport.

The Road Commission for Oakland County's (RCOC) Real-Time Traffic Map, located on the commission's Web site (www.rcocweb.org) has been giving area motorists the most complete and timely traffic picture in the state since 1999.

"One of our goals," said commission spokesman Craig Bryson, "is to not only inform the public, but to reduce traffic congestion." RCOC's Real-Time Traffic Map displays information from Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) sensors buried in the county's expressways as well as the commission's more than 140 FAST-TRAC cameras around the county. That means that someone working on Nov's south side can discover with a couple of mouse-clicks that while the average speed of traffic westbound I-96 is 34 mph, traffic on Grand River, which has a posted speed of 45 mph, is light.

The Real-Time Traffic Map is an outgrowth of the commission's Fast-Track system, which began a decade ago with 28 controlled intersections in Troy. Since then the system has expanded to more than 140 intersections across the county and, according to Bryson, plans call for the expansion of the system to cover more than 1,000 intersections.

"We're adding 25 to 50 a year,"

said Bryson. FAST-TRAC stands for Faster And Safer Travel Through Routing and Advanced Controls. It was modified from the Sydney Coordinated Adaptive Traffic System, which was developed in Australia 30 years ago. The system uses video imaging equipment to monitor traffic flows, and that information is used by computers to alter traffic light patterns.

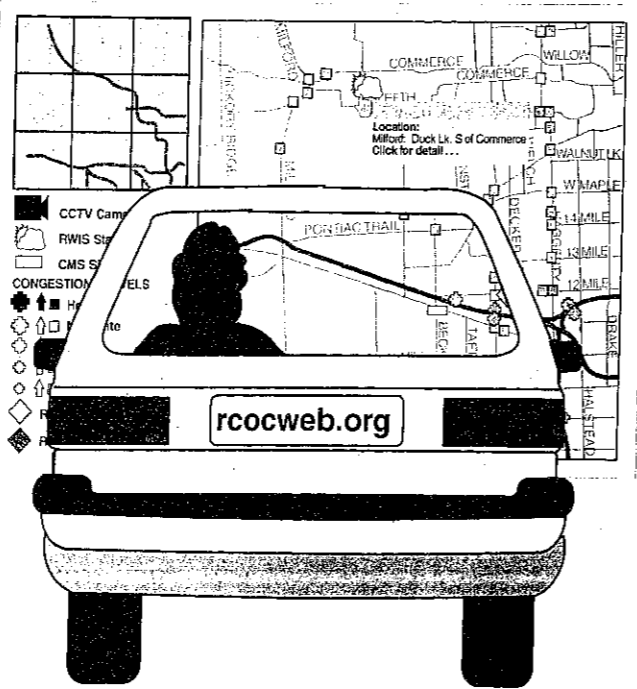
Not quite four years ago the commission began displaying that data on its Real-Time Traffic Map. According to Bryson it's the only system of its kind in Michigan, although officials in Wayne, Macomb and Genesee counties are giving serious thought to installing systems of their own.

Recently RCOC officials added two new pieces of data to the Real-Time Traffic Map. They are real-time weather information from the three RCOC weather stations, including one near Sleeth and Wisom roads, and MDOT's freeway changeable message signs.

While Wisom Assistant City Manager Tony Nowicki lives only eight miles from his office, he said he thinks the commission's Real-Time Traffic Map is "a valuable resource." He said that while he mainly uses the commission's Web site to keep track of the pace of road commission projects in his city, he can see that for commuters, "it's a very valuable tool."

According to Bryson, one key piece of information that Novi residents can only get on from the Real-Time Traffic Map is pavement temperatures. He said that's important because while the weatherman may be report that the air temperature is in the 40s because a warm front is moving in, the pavement may still be holding at 20 degrees because it's been cold for weeks and that

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



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Changes surround city's sports program

Procedural changes implemented by city officials to Novi's Youth Sports Team program promise a level playing field among other positive attributes

By Victoria Sadiocha
STAFF WRITER

Promises of enhanced skill building, more fun and a better opportunity for socialization top the list of reasons city officials made changes to Novi's Youth Sports Team program.

The changes announced by The City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department include a new T-ball league, school-district selection for kindergarten-through second-grade aged youth and skill-based team member selection for children in third grade and up.

"By balancing it out (team member selection), it encourages more team work and fun and everybody gets more out of it," said Randy Auler, director of Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry. "It is about balancing the skills."

Deputy Director Jack Lewis said in the past, all children were placed on teams according to their school district.

"We had one team killing everybody and that wasn't fun for the kids," Lewis said. By holding a skills evaluation clinic, Auler said all teams will be balanced out by placing the same amount of kids at differing levels on each squad.

"That way you don't have a team that is really, really good and a team that is inferior," he said. Auler said the new skills-selection method has already produced desired results after trying it out during the city's basketball season.

For example, our third-grade girls teams have had their games decided by one basket," he said. "So that is fun for everyone." Auler stresses the benefits of the change reach much further than competition.

By ensuring each team has members of all skill levels, every child will have someone to play against during each game, he said.

This allows each participant the opportunity to work on their games and skill building.

"The kids with lesser skills get more out of it," Auler said. Lewis points out the new team-

selection method also boosts social interaction.

Instead of children staying with their schoolmates throughout their community-league career, participants will have the chance to meet other students their age from different schools.

Lewis said this will also provide a benefit when Novi's students are combined for middle school.

The new skill-based assessment method is in effect for students in third grade and up.

Participants in kindergarten through second grade will be appointed to a team based on school district, with the exception of Deerfield students because it is a school of choice.

Deerfield students in kindergarten through second grade will be placed according to the school they would have went to before making the decision to attend the elementary school of choice.

Auler said the new method has

some parents elated while others are questioning the change.

He hopes all parents in the community and the surrounding areas will embrace the reasoning behind the department's decision. Auler also added the department will not accept team placement requests.

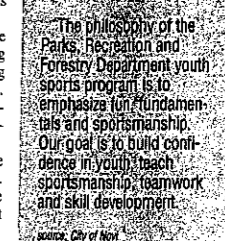
"It is difficult to do because we may have 2,000 kids," Auler said. "It gets very hard to divvy these teams up and that is why we don't take requests."

Other changes rounding out the Youth Sports Program upgrading include a switch from age to grade as means of child appointment.

Auler said that change was implemented last Summer and seems to be working well.

A change for the future includes the creation of a co-ed kindergarten T-ball team.

Girls and boys entering kindergarten the Fall of 2003 are eligible to play.



Registration for residents is March 19 and April 23 for non-residents. The fee is \$50 and \$60 respectively.

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

Jack Lewis
deputy director of Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry deputy director

Triathlon? You can do it too

The Sports Club of Novi is holding a triathlon for everyone regardless of fitness level

By Victoria Sadiocha
STAFF WRITER

Just because you don't have biceps the size of Arnold Schwarzenegger doesn't mean you can't participate in an athletic test of endurance.

In fact everyone, regardless of size or athletic ability, may participate in The Sports Club of Novi's indoor triathlon.

The event, sponsored by the club's The Finish Line nutri-

tional program, will last about one hour and includes 15 minutes of swimming, biking and running or walking.

A five-minute break will separate each heat, and participants will be grouped according to fitness level.

"It's giving everyone an opportunity to set a goal, achieve it and have a real positive experience," said Debbie Nuttle, ACE certified trainer, certified nutrition specialist and creator of The Sports Club of Novi's The Finish Line program.

Nuttle said the triathlon experience also helps foster a higher degree of self esteem, motivation and good health.

"It is like a snowball effect," Nuttle said. "If you eat well, you exercise and if you exercise, you eat well."

Participants in the Sunday, March 30 event will be categorized as a beginner, intermedi-

ate or advanced athlete.

As a guide, Nuttle explained advanced would be a physically fit person who has participated in triathlons before, intermediate would be someone who may be physically fit, but may not have participated in a triathlon before and a beginner would be someone who may not exercise on a regular basis.

Beginners are allowed to use flotation devices in the pool and may walk on a treadmill for the run/walk portion.

"I want people to come and say, 'I can do this,'" Nuttle said.

Vickie Dickieson plans on participating at the beginner level.

The 75-year-old Novi resident said she will be participating in the triathlon for personal reasons.

"I will be doing this to set a benchmark and my benchmark

Please see TRIATHALON on 8

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• Best place for breakfast	• Best place to get nails done	• Best bakery/baked goods
• Best Sunday brunch	• Best real estate company	• Best floral shop
• Best deli	• Best real estate agent (agency)	• Best grocery store
• Best fast food restaurant	• Best mortgage company	• Best party store
• Best family restaurant	• Best new car sales person (dealership)	• Best music store
• Best place for soup	• Best used car sales person (dealership)	• Best specialty shop
• Best salad bar	• Best auto dealer	• Best jewelry store
• Best place for burgers	• Best auto service	• Best lumber yard
• Best place for hot dogs/coney	• Best oil change shop	• Best pet supplies
• Best place for subs	• Best collision shop	• Best children's wear
• Best place for French fries	• Best tire shop	• Best men's wear
• Best place for ice cream	• Best insurance agent (agency)	• Best women's wear
• Best place for chicken	• Best dry cleaner	• Best shoe store
• Best quality dining restaurant	• Best lawyer	• Best sporting goods
• Best place for desserts	• Best veterinary service	• Best antique store
• Best Italian restaurant	• Best travel agency	• Best hardware store
• Best place for seafood	• Best childcare service	• Best home improvement store
• Best oriental restaurant	• Best video store	• Best place for carpet/flooring
• Best Tex-Mex restaurant	• Best house painter	• Best gift/card store
• Best place for pizza	• Best rental company	
• Best place for steak	• Best landscaping company	
• Best chicken dish	• Best health/fitness company	
• Best place for barbecue ribs	• Best wellness (restaurant)	
• Best wine selection (store)	• Best car wash	
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House approves water board bill; County retains seat on commission

State Rep. Craig DeRoche announced Oakland County residents are one step closer to getting proper oversight over the Detroit Water Board after the Michigan House last Tuesday approved legislation establishing a commission to oversee rate increases and contracts. House Bill 4206 creates a five-member public service commission consisting of one person each from Genesee, Oakland, Macomb, and suburban Wayne counties, as well as Detroit.

DeRoche announces nursing scholarship grants

State Rep. Craig DeRoche has announced the availability of \$4 million in scholarships for Michigan nursing students. Up to 8,000 students statewide are eligible for the scholarships.

"This is a very important program to help deal with the nursing shortage in Michigan," said DeRoche, R-Novi. "Helping local students today and encour-

aging them to go into the nursing profession will in turn help local hospitals with their staffing needs. This will allow all of us to have better access to care in the event of a health problem."

The Michigan Higher Education Assistance Authority, within the state Department of Treasury, is administering the scholarship program. Funds will be distributed to the state's universities, independent colleges and community colleges.

As a condition of the scholarship, students must work in Michigan for a time equal to the number of years they receive the award.

For example, a student who uses the scholarship for four years must work as a nurse for four years of the part-time equivalent of four years full-time. Students are eligible for the scholarship whether they are in a two- or four-year nursing program.

NOVI CITY COUNCIL BRIEFS

Three dogs allowed

Members of the Novi City Council voted on March 3 to approve consideration of Ordinance 03-108.4 amending Section 5-9 to eliminate duplication of regulations mandating the number of dogs permitted on a single piece of property. The second reading of the ordinance approved during the Monday meeting was an administrative change, deleting wording also stated in Novi zoning ordinances regarding limiting dog ownership. Officials said there are no changes to the number of dogs permitted on a single piece of property which remains at three. The rule applies to dogs 6 months and older unless a person has a kennel license from the State.

Massage license

Members of the Novi City Council approved a renewal request from The Sports Club of Novi for a massage business license during its Monday meeting. The club has held a massage license since 1998. No objections were voiced by the police, building or fire departments for the request.

Wetland mitigation

Members of council awarded a contract for the Wetland Mitigation of select areas for the 12 Mile Road improvements project to PLC Development/Waterland Trucking as the construction contractors in the amount of \$648,270. Officials said as the project progressed, the need to address the mitigation of additionally disturbed wetlands along 12 Mile Road was mandated by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The final payment in the amount of \$44,788 was approved during Novi's Monday meeting.

Outside maintenance

Contracts were awarded during Novi City Council's Monday meeting for the maintenance of outside

areas. The approval to award low qualified bids for weed cutting, mowing and landscaping went to Gerich Landscape for \$3,420, D & J Lawn and Snow Service for \$12,442 and Rasins Landscape & Assoc., Inc. for \$1,890 annually. Gerich Landscape will maintain roadways and retention ponds, D & J Lawn & Snow Service will maintain the Civic Center and surrounding areas and Rasins Landscape & Assoc., Inc. will provide irrigation services. The city received 12 qualified bids. Officials said D & J and Rasins provided the city with positive references and Gerich has provided excellent service to the city for the past two years.

Traffic signal fee

Consideration of a \$75,000 traffic signal permit fee to the Road Commission for Oakland County for traffic signal improvements at the Grand River Avenue and Tati Roads intersection was granted by members of the Novi City Council during the March 3 meeting. Officials said the Grand River Avenue widening project from Beck Road to Lamy's Road to a two-lane roadway requires traffic signal modifications to accommodate the additional pavement width and turning movements at the avenue and Tati



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TRIATHALON: You can do it too

continued from page 7

greater sense of risk taking and healthy habits before the actual big day.

"It might motivate them to take chances in the future," she said.

Prizes will be awarded to the first three participants in each category with the best combined time and every person will receive an award.

The triathlon is open to members and non-members of the athletic club. The fee is \$30 and \$35 respectively.

The day's activities will begin at 7:30 a.m. and run in one-and-a-half-hour intervals until 4:30 p.m.

Start times and triathlon information will be provided to all registered participants before the day of the event.

Registration forms are available at The Sports Club of Novi.

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

DETAILS

What: Indoor Triathlon

Where: The Sports Club of Novi, 42500 Arena Drive, east of Novi Road between Nine Mile and 10 Mile roads

When: Sunday, March 30

Sponsor: The Finish Line nutritional program

Registration Deadline: Saturday, March 15

Phone: (248) 735-8850

Cost: \$30 member and \$35 non-member

Event: Total triathlon time is one hour and consists of a 15-minute swim, 15-minute bike and 15-minute run/walk.

"It's giving everyone an opportunity to set a goal, achieve it and have a real positive experience."

Debbie Nuttle
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BUSINESS

Phil Foley, business reporter (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 pfoley@ht.homecomm.net

New bistro offers unique qualities

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

The unique qualities making the Tahiti island of Bora Bora a premier destination point are not lost on a new downtown Novi business bearing the same mystical name.

The new Market Street gathering place mixes together a welcoming ambiance, attractive decor and a menu of treats quite possibly the most varied in the city.

Patrons may place an ultra-healthy order from Bora Bora Bistro's raw juice and smoothie bar or meander over to the bakery case for scrumptious, freshly prepared French pastries and baklavas.

In-between items include soups, salads, pita sandwiches, gourmet coffees and teas, cappuccinos and lattes, hot chocolate and Chai, bagels, spinach and meat pies, Tabouli, Falafel, filled croissants, tropical cocktails featuring chunks of fresh banana, strawberry, mango, kiwi, pineapple, honey and kashi-ta, truffles, frozen yogurt, sun-

daes, shakes, malts, flurries, parfaits and natural, homemade ice creams.

Owner Abe Koussan also offers an opportunity to experience the age-old Mediterranean smoking experience of Hoakhs — water pipes used to inhale flavored tobaccos.

"You come in, and I want to make sure you get your money's worth," Koussan said. "Everything is fresh and everything is homemade."

The atmosphere of Bora Bora Bistro is another high priority for the owner.

"It is a place for someone to come, play checkers or read a book," he said.

And you don't have to bring your own games.

The business offers checkers, backgammon, chess, two televisions and in the near future will feature complimentary reading material.

Come warmer weather, the outdoor patio will open and a live reggae band will be the center of the entertainment.

Expanded hours will also be offered while evenings are

warm. The new destination will offer an alternative to the bar scene, staying open until midnight or 1 a.m. on weekends and 11 p.m. to midnight on weeknights.

Koussan said the whole idea is to offer a place Novi and area residents may relax and enjoy themselves with indulgences each customer holds close to their hearts.

"Customers may waste an hour, half-hour, have a snack, a drink, whatever they prefer," he said.

"What is important, Koussan said, is that everyone enjoys his bistro and the surrounding downtown Novi area.

"I love the area, I like the people around here and I really like the downtown area," Koussan said. "I know it is an early start to Main Street, but I want to grow with it."

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

BORA BORA

What: Bora Bora Bistro

Where: Market Street just south of Grand River Avenue, east of Novi Road near BD's Mongolian BBQ in Novi's Main Street area

Fortes: Light lunch, raw juices and smoothies, homemade ice cream, freshly baked pastries, gourmet coffees and teas, cappuccinos and lattes, enjoyable atmosphere and Hookahs

Hours: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday.

Phone: (248) 465-9100

BUSINESS SHORTS

INCAT signs sales pact with Pathtace

Novi's INCAT(R) has signed reseller agreement with Southfield's Pathtace Systems Inc., to distribute EdgeCAM(TM) software throughout the country.

EdgeCAM is used to the program CNC metal cutting machine tools. There are more than 20,000 EdgeCAM users worldwide.

Like INCAT, Pathtace maintains headquarters in Michigan and England.

Commercially, INCAT's presence will assist greatly in our ambitions to provide EdgeCAM to larger corporations who require more than just another CAM system," said Steve Svitler, CEO of Pathtace Systems Inc.

"Our decision to add EdgeCAM to our product offerings is based on its associativity with other major CAD products

in the marketplace," said Terry Mills, INCAT Account Manager. "Many INCAT customers find themselves supporting multiple CAD models, putting a great deal of pressure on the tooling industry. This will provide our customers with the capability of reducing naive CAD models, reducing errors during translation and increasing productivity."

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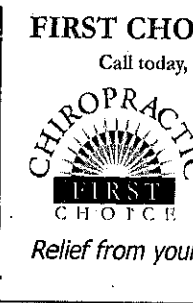
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Bora Bora cafe owner Abe Koussan has plenty of treats for patrons including these birds' nests desserts with pistachio nuts.

Photo by John Hisher

More reasons to come out & play at Casino Windsor!

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BUSINESS SHORTS

continued from page 9

tapped Keith Wilson to fill the vacancy on its executive board created by the resignation of Holly Diamond in January. Diamond resigned to devote more time to her new job as registrar at Southfield's Jobs & Technology University. Wilson, who has been with the Novi chamber for a decade, is general manager, corporate and community services, at Farmington Hills' Best Sellers/Pontiac-GMC Isuzu. Wilson will complete Diamond's term on the board and then be able to form a full term on his own.

Retails upbeat on sales

According to a survey conducted by Michigan Retailers Association (MRA) and Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, the state's retailers expect to increase sales by nearly 6 percent this year, a marked improvement from virtually no growth last year.

The retail climate continues to be a difficult one because of economic uncertainty, the threat of war in Iraq and higher gasoline prices. But most retailers expect sales to recover and to post solid, but not spectacular, gains by the end of the year," said Larry Meier, MRA chairman and CEO.

The optimism follows a slight uptick in January sales during a continued cold retail climate. Twenty-nine percent of retailers increased sales from the same month a year ago, while 59 percent experienced declines and 12 percent reported no change. The results create a seasonally adjusted performance index of 35.6, up from 34.1 in December.

For the February-April period, 44 percent expect to increase sales from the same period last year, while 24 percent forecast declines and 32 percent project flat sales.

Surgeon advises national GOP

Dr. Jean-Paul Guilleux was recently appointed to the National Republican Congressional Committee's Physicians' Advisory Board. Guilleux, whose Michigan Hand and Wrist is located at Providence Hospital and Medical Centers' Novi campus, said he will be traveling to Washington once or twice a year to confer with fellow Republicans on health care issues. A 1991 University of Michigan graduate, Guilleux has been an orthopedic hand surgeon in Novi for the past six years.

How fast is too fast?

Dr.-Ing. Herbert Hansemann, president, CEO and founder of DSPAC, was slated to discuss the rapid pace of automotive electronics systems development at the Society of Automotive Engineers' Technology Theater Management Conference at Detroit's Cobo Center March 3. Based in Paderborn, Germany, with North American headquarters in Novi, DSPAC produces engineering tools for embedded controller development and testing for the automotive, aerospace, agricultural, educational, engineering, robotics and noise & vibration industries. Visit www.dspacinc.com for more info.

Local lab gets testing approval

Underwriters Laboratories (UL) automotive electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) testing facility in Novi has received approval from Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA), a European vehicle approval authority and technical

DIA's Museum Store set to close at Twelve Oaks Mall

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

The DIA's Museum Store at Twelve Oaks Mall will be DOA by month's end.

The museum recently announced the closing of the store along with another at Somerset Mall as part of cost-cutting measures expected to save the museum as much as \$1 million in the coming year and trim the museum's workforce by 13 percent.

In Novi, one full-time employee and 18 part-time employees will be losing their jobs at the 1,450-square-foot store. Overall, the DIA is trimming 55 positions.

Ann Marie Erickson, the museum's vice president of communications and marketing, said the museum opened its first off-site store at Twelve Oaks Mall in 1991, followed by the Sunnyside store the following year. While the stores were seen as a way to connect with the DIA's suburban audience and generate revenue for the institute, neither ever really materialized.

"Museum shops seemed like a

wonderful idea 10 years ago," said Erickson, adding that art museums all over the country have been closing their off-site stores.

According to Erickson, the Novi store lost money in all except its first two years. That, she said, led museum management to decide in 2001 to "give the shops two holiday seasons to turn things around." Erickson said that while things had improved somewhat, they simply did not improve enough.

While museum management had expected the two stores to turn a modest \$5,000 profit this year, it became apparent "we were looking at a \$35,000 loss."

The project loss, said Erickson, is the equivalent of two full-time jobs at the museum. As it is, the DIA is trimming 18 full-time jobs and 37 part-time jobs from its payroll as a result of falling state support and the failure of Proposal K last fall which would have pumped \$40 million over the next decade into the 16-year-old museum.

Erickson said the DIA won't know exactly how much money its cost-cutting program will save

for another two weeks. Since 1991 the DIA has seen state support plummet from \$16 million annually to just \$4.4 million.

50th, said Erickson, closing the stores has been "really difficult. We wanted to make sure we took every opportunity to make it work." In the end, however, said Erickson, "These are tough times for cultural institutions, and we just couldn't sustain the losses."

She noted the DIA isn't alone in its financial difficulties. According to Erickson, museums across the country are faced with the triple threat of a soft economy — reductions in government support, philanthropic giving and attendance.

Erickson said the Museum Shop at Twelve Oaks Mall is expected close March 31. She said some of the merchandise will be shipped back to the museum and some will be sold at discount.

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

IN THE SERVICE

Ashley M. Craft

Ashley M. Craft has joined the United States Army Reserve under the Delayed Training Program.

The program gives young men and women the opportunity to delay reporting for basic military training for up to 270 days. An enlistment in the reserve gives many new soldiers the option to learn a new skill, serve their country, and become eligible to receive more than \$7,000 toward a college education, \$20,000 for repay-

Rademacher's DAR's Good Citizen of year

Kathryn G. Rademacher, the daughter of Mark and Mary Rademacher of White Lake, has been selected as a National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) Good Citizen winner for the 2002-03 school year.

Other Good Citizen recipients are Meghan Lynn Callahan of Milford; Dawn Swenton of Commerce Township; and Brad Mark Thomas of South Lyon. The awards were presented by the Grand River Trail NSDAR chapter of Milford. The students and their parents were honored at a luncheon held at the Lyon Township Library, hosted by the DAR members.

The DAR Good Citizen Award assesses the qualities of good citizenship — dependability, service, leadership and patriotism — among high school seniors. The contest is open to members of the senior classes of local high schools in good standing with the State Board of Education or accredited independent and private high schools.

Each DAR Good Citizen received a pin, certificate and wallet card recognizing his or her achievement. Sue Brown of Highland serves as Grand River Trail's Good Citizen chairperson. Lynda MacDonald of White Lake is the chapter regent. Rademacher, a senior at Walled Lake Central High School, is a member of the National Honor Society, editor of the school yearbook and attends Advanced Placement courses. She plays on the varsity basketball and volleyball teams.

Mr. and Mrs. Kirk N. Pace of South Lyon (formerly of Novi) and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth H. Lloyd of Springdale, Pennsylvania are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Laura Patee, to Kevin Lloyd.

The bride-elect is a 1991 graduate of Novi High School and a 1995 graduate of Central Michigan University with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism/Public Relations. She is employed with Kinoko, Inc. as a Corporate Account Manager.

The groom-elect is a 1988 graduate of Springdale High School in Pennsylvania and a 1992 graduate of West Virginia University. He has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and is currently employed as a Manufacturers Representative for a sales agency in the automotive industry. An August wedding is planned.

Let us tell everyone your good news! Send your announcements (and photos) to Cal Stone, editor, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-9832; or e-mail to cstone@hometown.com.

OBITUARIES

(Katie) Wright, many nieces and nephews, and her loyal canine companions, Thor and Zeus. A funeral mass was held March 4 at Holy Family Catholic Church, Novi.

Donations may be made to the Endowment Fund of University of Alabama, P.O. Box 870043, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-0343. Messages of condolences may be sent to the Hobart Family at O'Brien/Sullivan@sbcglobal.net. Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi.

Survivors include two sons, Harold C. (Carol) of Spring Lake, and David D. residing in Germany; one daughter, Barbara C. (John) Wolfson of Traverse City; eight grandchildren, Jennifer and Timothy Gatz, Jeffrey and Kristi Schmidt, Julie and Matthew Williams, Katherine and John; one great-grandson, Justin Gatz; and many loyal friends, including Betty Morley, Jean Dades and Bert Doty. Her husband, Harold W. Schmidt preceded her in death.

A memorial was held February 8, 2003 at Grand Court Retirement Center Chapel, Novi.

Mementos may be made to the American Cancer Society or to a charity of your choice. A special thanks to the fine staff at Huron Valley Sinai Hospital for their compassionate care.

Arrangements were made by Northrup-Sassman Funeral Home, 10091 Northville Rd., Northville, MI 48167.

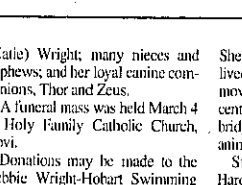
1 SAU Mug Box



Deborah Wright Hobart died February 28, 2003. She was 46. She was the daughter of Mary Ann and the late Leslie Woodward Wright II. Mrs. Hobart was a graduate of University of Alabama Interior Design School.

Survivors include her husband, Anthony; her child, Kendall; three brothers, Lee (Julie) Wright, Gregory (Cathy) Wright, and Daniel

Katherine Ann Cramer Schmidt



Katherine Schmidt died January 26, 2003. She was born on March 29, 1917 to Jacob and Clara (Rooff) Cramer, M.D.

Mrs. Schmidt was born and raised in Muskegon and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan in 1940. She was a lab technician at Hackley Hospital in Muskegon until her marriage and move to Detroit in 1942.

Survivors include her husband, Daniel

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A Closer Look at the Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital Renovation & Expansion

Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital Celebrates Construction Milestone

TOPPING OFF CEREMONY TRACES ROOTS TO ANCIENT TIMES

Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital (HVSH) celebrated its topping off ceremony in mid-February starting a countdown toward a series of improvements that will allow for improved patient care and convenience at Oakland County's fastest growing hospital.

According to Jim Cole, executive vice president, Skanska Inc., topping off ceremonies trace their roots to ancient times when people would attach plants thought to be inhabited by good spirits to the top of their new structures.

In 700 A.D. workers in Scandinavia began hoisting evergreen trees atop new buildings marking their near completion. Following that tradition, the HVSH ceremony included placement of a tree atop the highest structural point of the hospital's expansion.

Cole and Merle Harris, chair of the HVSH board of trustees, joined Robert Yellan, hospital president, and HVSH employees, physicians and construction workers at the celebration. After brief remarks and the tree hoisting ceremony, guests munched on tree-shaped



Robert Yellan, HVSH president, signs a ceremonial beam at the hospital's topping off ceremony.

cookies and signed a label that will be affixed to the highest new beam in the hospital.

The project will be completed in 2004, but a series of improvements will lead up to that and will occur throughout the coming year. Commenting on the milestone, Harris said, "We are very pleased with the hard work of the construction team and our employees who are working together to ensure that Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital continues to offer the very best in patient care to the residents of western Oakland County."



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In order to meet patient needs Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital offers the latest high-tech equipment. This modern approach still allows for a strong emphasis on the importance of the human healing touch - which is evidenced in the hospital's high patient satisfaction levels.

Today, Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital's state-of-the-art equipment and capabilities are vast including: cardiac calcium CT scanning, stereotactic breast biopsies, sentinel lymph node biopsies, external beam radiation and brachytherapy, Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) and Multi-Leaf Collimator (MLC), cutting edge cancer treatments are also offered on-site at the Chirach Cancer Treatment Center.

Through the current expansion, many more advancements are underway that will allow the hospital to offer cutting-edge care. Improvements include an additional operating room and endoscopy suite, expansion of radiology and cardiac programs. "In the last few years we have put millions of dollars of new technology into our facility," says Connie Franko, vice president operations, Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital. "But nothing sets the tone for the type of care we provide better than our outstanding staff."

The hospital is proud that its patients consistently rank it in the 99th percentile in patient satisfaction by the Press-Ganey national survey of 750 hospitals around the country. "It's not uncommon for patients to write 'I love this hospital' on their surveys," adds Franko.

Commerce Resident Leads Construction Team

When Frank Guiringer was a junior in high school, the Commerce Lake resident watched as the foundation for Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital was poured just blocks from his home. Sixteen years later Guiringer is watching the hospital's current renovation and expansion project even more closely. Guiringer, now 32, serves as the project's superintendent, responsible for oversight of all onsite construction activities for L.S. Brinker, one of two construction companies involved in the project.

Guiringer also played a role in the hospital's 1999 improvements. He served as the project superintendent for the Chirach Cancer Treatment Center, Regional Specialty Center and the Cardio-pulmonary Center. This time, however, he is responsible for the entire 95,000 square foot, \$27 million project. Guiringer says that the project is challenging because of inconveniences during the



Frank Guiringer

construction must be minimized. "This is a fully functioning hospital, so we must keep things quiet and clean," he explains. "With many other projects, the public never comes near the site until the work is completed."

He says that it is worth the added work. "The people are super nice and my friends who have come here for care say that it is a great place to be a patient."

Although the project will be finished next year, his interest will not fade. He plans to keep watching the hospital grow as it has since it opened when he was a teenager. "I just built a house across the street in the Mount Royal subdivision," he laughed.



Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital
Detroit Medical Center / Wayne State University

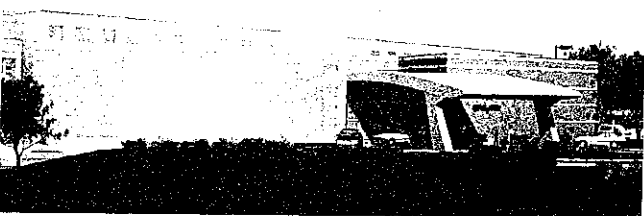
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www.hvsh.org

PHOTOGRAPH BY [unreadable]

Building to Serve

MANY IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED AT HOSPITAL

Although it is a relatively young hospital compared to many other health care institutions in Southeast Michigan, Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital continues to expand to meet the community's rapidly growing needs. The hospital doubled from its original size in 1999 with an expansion project that included new birthing, cancer, surgical and cardiopulmonary centers. Now the hospital is responding again to increased demand for its services with a \$27 million,



Rendering of the new HVSH North Entrance

95,000 square foot renovation/expansion project.

"With a 7.5 percent population growth slated for the

surrounding area over the next five years, additional resources are needed," says Robert Yellan, president, Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital. "We will continue to offer our community the most modern, sophisticated medical services available - close to home."

Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital's current construction project will result in the renovation of 55,550 existing square feet and the addition of 40,000 square feet of diagnostic and treatment area. The project will conclude in summer 2004 with the opening of a new main lobby; however,

patients and visitors won't have to wait until then to see results. This spring, the hospital will hold open houses to mark the relocation and expansion of the cardiac rehabilitation and cardiopulmonary services as well as the Krieger Geriatric Center.

HVSH is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community hospital and relies on the support of the patients and families it serves to continue its mission. All gifts are 100 percent tax deductible. If you would like further information, contact Cheryl Purdie Yout, director of development at 248-937-3627.

Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital Improvements:

- Expansion of surgical services
- Expansion of the Krieger Geriatric Center
- Expansion of radiology and outpatient cardiology services
- New private patient registration areas
- Upgrades to patient care areas
- New main lobby entrance
- Expanded cafeteria
- New gift shop
- New retail restaurant
- Outpatient pharmacy
- 250 more parking spaces

Site Improvements to Include More Parking and Easier Access

Making it easy for patients and visitors to find their way around Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital was a key priority in the construction and expansion project. On an average day, more than 600 people visit the hospital to spend time with a loved one or tend to their own medical needs.

Plans are underway for a new covered main entrance and 250 additional parking spots that will be strategically located near entryways. Unlike some other area hospitals, parking will remain free of charge. Also, improvements were recently completed on William Carls Drive. The road now loops throughout the entire campus allowing for easier travel in and out of the hospital. Additionally, all parking areas are marked by letters mounted on the light poles making it easier to find cars when leaving the hospital, and the lots are monitored by the hospital's security staff.

"We realize that a visit to the hospital can be stressful," says Kay Rademacher, project manager, Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital. "Simple things like

accessible parking, and being able to find your car when you leave can make the trip a little easier."

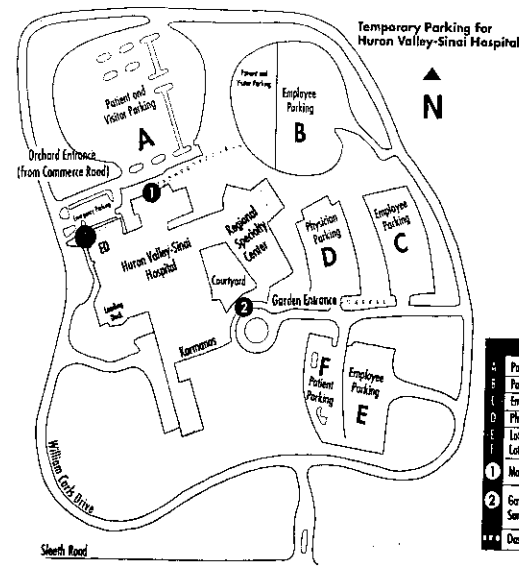
Consideration was also given to maintaining the hospital's attractive natural surroundings. More benches will be

added as well as a fountain honoring a donor.

Currently the hospital has a courtyard with fountain and two sculptures: "Geese in Flight" by Marshall Fredericks and "The Blue Heron" by Heiner Herding. The courtyard

has been honored in the past for its beauty and tranquility.

Burt Leib, a retired podiatrist and HVSH patient from West Bloomfield, says that his visits to the hospital have been very positive. "It has been a wonderful experience."



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CLASS NOTES

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

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Walking trees

Trees around Novi High School that were designated to be destroyed because they are in the way of construction are instead being moved to other schools in the district, like Novi Woods, Village Oaks, Orchard Hills and the Middle School tennis court areas. According to Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Jim Koster, the decision was more cost effective. "Rather than destroy them, we would move them rather use them," Koster said. "We already moved some of them to Village Oaks and some are still at the high school because if we moved them now, they would probably die in this weather. It's cheaper to do it that way than it is to buy new trees and those are healthy trees."

Goin' Hawaiian

Novi Meadows was transformed into the islands of Hawaii on Friday as the kids dressed the part for spirit day. "It's a student council program," Novi Meadows Student Council Coordinator Georgia Bingham said. "Every month we have a different theme and it's just so we can show some school spirit. This one happens to be Hawaiian because about now we thought we are ready for Hawaii. We need a break and everybody is getting adjusted for the up-coming spring. We don't necessarily have parties here anymore, so in order to provide the kids a little fun we reserve a different day each month. It's not a competition or anything, it's just a friendly fun day."

Kids and Bids

Meadowbrook Elementary PTA, 29200 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, announces its "Kids and Bids" auction event, Friday, March 21, from 5:30 p.m.-9 p.m. The silent and live auction, with items donated from businesses within the community, raised more than \$10,000 for Meadowbrook students last year.

This year the PTA expects more than 400 students and their families to attend. Dinner is provided by Boston Market with desserts from Dairy Queen. There is also entertainment, dancing, and student activities. *Lovely the Clown* makes her outstanding balloon animals, and *My Glow* provides younger children with gymnastics, games, face painting, storybook reading and a toy walk.

For more information on Meadowbrook Elementary's "Kids and Bids" auction event, contact Teresa Presly at (248) 788-9109.

Open house at Village Oaks elementary

Village Oaks Elementary School is holding an open house to celebrate its new media center Wednesday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m. with the ribbon cutting ceremony starting at 7 p.m. Visitors will see the completed renovations which include a lobby, office and a permanent wall of student ceramic tiles. They will also see brand new multi-media computer rooms and a state of the art media center.



Courtesy photo

It's Abe, honest
Former United States President Abraham Lincoln visited Orchard Hills Elementary last week for an assembly called, "Living Abraham Lincoln."

Well... not really. The part of Honest Abe was played by Geoffrey Beauchamp from Mobile Ed Productions in Redford. He told the kids about "his" life growing up, on through his presidency and his death. He spoke about slavery and his Emancipation Proclamation.

Novi Woods new school building still on schedule

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

As the Novi Woods staff and students eagerly await the completion of their new building from their temporary home across the parking lot, workers from Skanska USA Builders are working each day in the freezing temperatures to make it happen. According to Project Superintendent Bill Olszewski, the building is coming along nicely and is on time.

"In the next two to three weeks we will be starting the finishes," Olszewski said. "We're scheduled to start ceiling, tile and bathroom in about two weeks. We started painting last week."

Windows have already started going in and Olszewski expects a lot more windows, doors and entry ways to be going in the next couple of weeks. "We are throwing out the gym

right now," he said. "The gymnasium is the last piece we have to pour slabs for and all the roofing is done. All the exterior work is anticipated to start in April and that's going to run pretty much throughout the whole summer. Right now we are slating ourselves to be done in mid-July with the building itself so we can punch out and finish up the odds and ends for the last month."

"The company is looking to get heading in by May 1 so the workers can start on the wood floor and put wood doors in. Flooring and ceiling tile will also be installed in May or June."

"Now we are doing all the mechanical and electrical plumbing and as soon as the tile goes in by April we will be putting in the bathroom fixtures," Olszewski said. "We are tearing off all the bricks on the new additions. Right now we are tearing apart the front of the building to replace the brick

and we're putting all the new window openings in. We'll put in the back side of the existing building probably next month."

Olszewski said that the cold weather has been a minor inconvenience, but it hasn't stopped him or the workers from going ahead with the project.

"Let me put it this way, our temporary heating bills are pretty high, but the cold hasn't stopped us from forging ahead," he said. "I anticipate the building being done on time. We are looking at the gym floor going in by mid-June and we will start putting ceiling grid in probably in a couple weeks. We will work from the classroom wing going north to south in the building."

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

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BID ADVERTISEMENT
Novi Community Schools will receive sealed bid proposals until 5:00 p.m., bid opening, on Tuesday, March 20, 2003, for the following bid package: "Asbestos Abatement at Orchard Hills Elementary & Village Oaks Elementary Schools". Bidding Documents may be obtained on March 11, 2003, from Nova Environmental, Inc., 5340 Plymouth Rd., Suite 210 Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106. Tel: 734-658-0866 and at the mandatory pre-bid examination. A mandatory pre-bid examination of the buildings will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2003. Meet at the Orchard Hills Elementary School - Media Center. Bids shall remain firm for acceptance for a period of 45 days. Novi Community Schools reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.
(2-27 & 3-6-03 NN 40539)

PUBLICATION NOTICE FOR A NEW BRANCH
Notification is given that Bank One, NA 1 Bank One Plaza, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois 60670 has filed an application with the Comptroller of the Currency on March 6, 2003, as specified in 12 CFR 6 for permission to establish a domestic branch at 30746 Lyon Center Drive East, New Hudson, Oakland County Michigan 48165. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with the Licensing Manager, Large Banks Licensing Operations, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 250 E. Street, SW, Mail Stop 7-13, Washington, D.C. 20219 within 30 days of the date of this publication.
(3-6-03 SLH 41300)

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CITY OF NOVI NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 12, 2003 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **TRILUM VILLAGE, SITE PLAN NUMBER 02-39, LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF HAGGERTY ROAD NORTH OF NINE MILE ROAD, TO CONSIDER A PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN APPROVAL. THE APPLICANT IS PROPOSING A 38-UNIT TWO-FAMILY ATTACHED CONDOMINIUM DEVELOPMENT.**
KEY MAP
SCALE: 1" = 200'
TEN MILE ROAD
NINE MILE ROAD
HAGGERTY ROAD
SECTION 20
SITE
All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments will be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be sent to the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 5:00 P.M. Wednesday, March 12, 2003.
(03-06-03 NN 42065) **NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION LYNN KOCAN, SECRETARY**
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Oscar & The Grinch
12:00, 12:45, 2:15, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:10, 7:45, 8:30, 9:55, FRISAT 12:11, 30, 12:00
KING OF THE HILL
12:10, 2:30, 4:58, 7:20, 9:40
THE MENTALIST
11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:10, 9:30
FRISAT 12:11, 30
HANSARD JACK (PG)
12:10, 2:30, 4:58, 7:20, 9:40
ADAPTATION (R)
12:00, 2:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
FRISAT 12:11, 30
THE SCARLET HOUR
9:15, FRISAT 12:11, 30
NOVI FOX OPEN WEEKEND (PG)
7:40, 9:45, FRISAT 12:11, 30
MIDDLE-EAST FILM SERIES
TALE OF THREE JEWELS (PG)
FROM PALESTINE IN ANADAC
FRISAT 12:11, 30, 2:30, 4:58, 7:20, 9:45
FRISAT 12:11, 30
CLASSIC FILMS DAILY
MINE WITH ME
8:07 THRU 9:13 AT
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NW implements six strategies to assist students in reading

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

During a Novi Schools Board meeting which took place on Jan. 23, Novi Woods Principal Pam Quilquist reported that her staff would start to implement six strategies to assist students in their reading. She said that the school staff was happy with the students' success on the MEAP and that the strategies were decided upon after analyzing reading MEAP data and also after reading the book "Strategies That Work."

"What we are trying to do is to make sure that we are all teaching so that the language becomes the same," Quilquist said. "That becomes a common language for the students as they go through Novi Woods."

The six strategies are:

- **Visualization:** Students create pictures in their minds to make the words on a page real and concrete.
- **Connections:** Students better understand their reading when they compare it to life experiences.
- **Questioning:** Engages students and keeps them reading.
- **Inferencing:** Students use their prior knowledge and information from the text to draw conclusions.
- **Determining Importance:**

Students are able to sort information in a story and determine what is important.

• **Synthesizing:** Students are combining information from different sources to achieve a new perspective from their reading.

"The staff all read the same book strategies that were implemented in the classrooms," Quilquist said. "All of the classrooms came forward to assist students in their reading. Every month one of the leaders of our book club does a presentation at one of our staff meetings to talk very specifically of questions. What does that mean? How do you implement that in the classroom?"

Teachers are expected at that point to go back into the classrooms and start working on those strategies.

Three Novi Woods' goals that Quilquist explained at the meeting include the ability to write effectively, a math goal and a behavior goal.

The first goal was that all students will show an improved ability to write effectively. The rationale for this is that teachers feel students would benefit from a more comprehensive and sequential writing program through all grade levels.

The school's math goal is that students will improve math reasoning across the curriculum. Math is a

continuing area of concern for students, teachers, administrators and parents. This area, if addressed, could affect the entire curriculum preparing students for future life decisions. A new math program has been put in place so that a continuum will exist across grade levels.

This will meet the new expectations in the classroom both statewide and nationally.

The school's behavior goal is that all students will exhibit improved respect for others and demonstrate increased responsibilities for their actions. In the teacher/parent/student surveys, it was noted that issues regarding behavior were rated among the greatest concerns.

On both the teacher and parent surveys, areas of concern were solving personal and social problems using a responsible, learned process and developing responsible work habits.

On the student survey, items of concern were students being kind to each other, classmates behaving well at school and feeling safe on the playground. Also, based on the school's Mission Statement that "Novi Woods is committed to developing responsible citizens with respect for others," it was felt that continued work on behavior was warranted.



Courtesy photo

Baking for Maybury?

The money raised at Deerfield's mini-society bake sale a few weeks back could potentially help re-build Maybury Farm in Northville. According to Deerfield first and second grade teachers Sherry Griesinger, Jennifer Semeyn and Amy Huszco, the money raised at last year's bake sale went to Kensington Farm, where a pig was bought. This year the bake sale happened at the same time of Maybury burning down, so they thought it was appropriate to look into it.

"We were talking about donating the money to Maybury, so we saved all the money and we are planning on donating it to Maybury as long as they are going to re-build," Huszco said. "All the first and second grade classes raised probably about \$70 each, so there's a few hundred dollars. It was during our economic unit to teach the kids about producing and consuming."

Griesinger said, "We originally decided to donate to Kensington Farm again, but when we learned about Maybury, we had a couple kids who were very upset. We talked about, instead of donating to Kensington this year, to donate it to Maybury."

Semeyn actually contacted someone at Maybury. "They said that if you donate money to them there is a guarantee that your money will either go for re-building the farm or purchasing an animal," she said.

Pictured from left to right are Kathryn Giroux, Patricia Dixon, Edgar Witowski, Amy Zouh, Stefan Werth, Lawrence Yuan, Chris Volpe.

Stuttering can't stop custodian from singing out God's praises

■ His speech problem doesn't stop his ability to sing songs

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Orchard Hills custodian sings at local churches and nursing homes.

Speech problem doesn't interfere with ability to sing.

George House, a custodian at Orchard Hills Elementary, is very active in the community. He's a well liked man who sings at local nursing homes and senior citizen centers to entertain the residents. House also sings at his church and other churches, all the while getting his work at the school done in a timely manner.

When his name comes up, people usually speak of him in amazement and admiration. Not just because of the fact that he is a custodian who sings, but because of the fact that he stutters when he talks. Just like the great country singer, Mel Tillis, House has trouble finishing sentences in one-on-one conversations, but when he's up on stage singing in front of many people, words flow out of his mouth like a river.

"When I was a boy I used to like to sing but I was very shy about it and I never sang in public at all," he said. "My mother said that she used to stand outside my bedroom door listening to me singing. When I got older I entered a Gabrielle Richard course, which is like a public speaking class. I found out that I



Photo by Ramez Khuri
George House, a custodian at Orchard Hills Elementary School, holds his CD, "This is my story. This is my song."

have always wanted to do that and they were able to take my cassette soundtracks and put them on their computerized system to make a CD. That's how I was able to make that with my own tracks. I'm slowly going to move to CD with my other songs as well."

When he sings, House uses some old time styles, such as Elvis Presley and Roger Whittaker. "I like to sing a lot of the old time songs," he said. "My parents used to like to play the old time songs when I was growing up. I liked Dean Martin and Bing Crosby and Elvis. When I do these programs, a lot of people said they have a lot of fond memories that were brought back to them when they hear these songs. I feel really blessed to be able to do that. I think that I was influenced by Elvis. I used to sing along to his gospel album that he put out. He put out three gospel albums in the early 1960s, and those three were his best sellers."

House believes that his ability to sing comes from his faith in God. "God helps me," he said. "I believe that he gives me the peace I need to sing in front of so many people. I would like to get back to doing more programs for seniors in the area."

House said that he has sold his CD in a Christian Publication Store on 7 Mile Road just west of Farmington Road in the past and can order some more for that location. For now, however, if anybody is interested in it, they can call him at Orchard Hills.

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

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American Scandinavian Student Exchange program seeking hosts

■ Families to provide room, board, transportation to foreign students

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The American Scandinavian Student Exchange (ASSE), a program which runs out of Laguna Beach, Calif., is looking for host families in the Novi and Walled Lake areas to house students from foreign countries for four to eight weeks this summer.

ASSE was originally established to provide opportunities for student exchange between Sweden and the United States. It cooperates closely with the provincial Ministries of Education in Canada and is approved by the New Zealand Ministry of Education. In the U.S., ASSE has been designated by the United States Department of State as an "exchange visitor program" and adheres strictly to its regulations.

Program Coordinator Jayne Ann Bloomfield's role is to coordinate English as a second language program for the students. "I am a program coordinator for an organization period that lasts four to eight weeks," she said. "The program provides structured classroom time, gives students excursions one day a week, an enrichment program one day and I find host families for the students as well."

Host families can comprise of single people, married people, couples who are married without children, married without children or older. If there are any students left over after the four week orientation period, there is an auditing process for any students who do not have a permanent placement in the United States.

Incoming ASSE exchange students are girls and boys 15, 16, 17 or 18 years of age and are carefully screened and selected by the ASSE Representatives abroad. School administrators, teachers and ASSE Representatives evaluate the students. Only those who can demonstrate excellent character, department and proficiency in the English language are chosen. All ASSE exchange students have at least three or more years of English study (or the equivalent) in their home country.

"Primarily, I am looking for host families for four to eight weeks," Bloomfield said. "It has to be four weeks, but it can be up to eight. Applications for this program are higher than ever. After Sept. 11, surprisingly, applications for this program went up. My director in California said that it has become a more global program and people from all over the world, so ASSE had to go out and hire more coordinators, which is why I got this job. I need to have host families by mid April."

According to the program description, the students have excellent medical and liability insurance. They receive pocket

money from their natural parents and the host family is expected to provide only room, board and transportation.

"We are just receiving students," Bloomfield said. "We are not sending any from here. Some of the excursions we will be going on include Greenfield Village and the picture museum, water parks and the Woodward Dream Cruise. There are also some optional excursions as well. We are going to go to Tiger baseball games and I want to take them to the theater. They are going to do things that are in this area and experience the American way of life and culture. Host families are welcome with any siblings or children, but they have to pay their own admission. It's a great experience for a family to have someone from another culture living with them for four to eight weeks."

Host families who would like to host more than one student are welcome to do so. All they have to do is provide room, board and transportation to the Academic Center located in a church at the corner of Pontiac Trail and Maple Roads in Walled Lake.

"It's an awesome program that gives these students an opportunity to get their feet wet in American culture and what high school life would be like," Bloomfield said. "The host families need to be in this area so they can drop them off in the morning."

The students, who are going to be in the Novi/Walled Lake area for a maximum of up to eight weeks, will be placed anywhere in the United States afterwards. They will stay there for a full academic year doing a student exchange program at a high school.

"I provide English as a second language instruction Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Friday all day long," she said. "The excursions," Bloomfield said. "That's starting July 24th and ending four to eight weeks from that point. On July 24, which is a Thursday, they will fly in and the host families will get them at that point. Friday the 25th there is an orientation and picnic with the host families. Saturday the 26th is a get-to-know-you session, and Monday they start right in on their schooling at the academic center at the church in Walled Lake. The application deadline for host families is May 15."

Anyone interested in being a host family or who needs more information can contact Bloomfield at (313) 623-7837.

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

Bridge construction no big deal for bus routes

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The message that Novi Schools Director of Transportation Dan Tooman has for parents regarding the construction of the Grand River Bridge over the CSX Railroad Tracks is: It's not a big deal. In fact, the construction prompted only minimal changes in the morning and afternoon bus routes, which have caused minor to no delays in students getting home on time.

"I didn't get very many complaints from parents or anyone," Secretary Dispatcher Carol Sprys said. "I think there were some snow delays than there were construction delays."

Before the construction began, there was one bus route that went east and west on 10 Mile Road four times in the morning and four times in the afternoon. In order to make that run be on time, because of the extra traffic which has been re-routed onto 10 Mile, Novi Members had to be taken off that run. This enabled the driver of that route to have enough time to do Novi

there was an accident on I-96, which put the traffic onto service roads.

"We had to change a couple of steps in order to take buses off 10 Mile and by doing that we have also lessened the traffic on 10 Mile, and we're staying on time," he said. "People were very understanding. The only thing that has really affected us is that we put in a partial run to disperse some of the work for another bus. That's all we have done."

There are 20 buses that go to the high school in the afternoon and depending on where they go next is how they were re-routed.

"I have been here four and half years and for four years we have been told that the bridge project was going to start and it finally did," said Tooman. "We had anticipated this happening for all these years and we had written runs that would include the bridge not being there and ones with the bridge being there. We have done that for so long that we were ready for it when it finally started. By no means did it catch us by surprise. The only thing that caught us by surprise was that they actually started the project."

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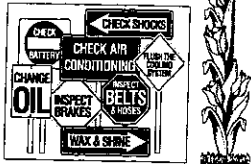
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Call John Utter (517) 548-7060

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Outstanding teacher nominations wanted from Novi district

The Novi News will recognize monthly a local teacher for his or her excellence in the classroom. Nominations can come from students, teachers, parents, administrators or community residents

who have contact or knowledge of a teacher's classroom activities. Nominations can be mailed to Novi News, Cal Stone, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167; faxed to (248) 349-9832; or sent by e-mail to estone@ht.homecomm.net. The deadline for nominations is the last day of the month. The Novi

News staff will select the winner and a feature story and photograph will appear in the Novi News on the second Thursday of the following month. These not selected as the Outstanding Teacher of the Month will be considered for subsequent months. To nominate a teacher, please

send the teacher's name, school address and the school's telephone number along with a statement of no more than 200 words telling us why this teacher deserves to be the Outstanding Teacher of the Month. Please help us in honoring the many dedicated teachers who do outstanding work.

On Campus

Bianca Mith of Novi will be dancing in Adrian College's Dance Marathon, March 14-15 to raise money for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. She is the daughter of Dellel and Annemarie Mith and a 2001 graduate of Novi High School.

Novi residents John Kohl and Elizabeth Kurti were named to the Dean's List for fall 2002 semester at Miami University.

Novi resident Ellen Lawrence was named to the Dean's List for fall 2002 semester at Northern Michigan University.

Kristin Levin has been named to the President's List for fall 2002 semester at Central Michigan University. This honor is for Dean's List students achieving a perfect 4.0 grade point average.



Courtesy photo

Making them aware

Tom Hostlin from the Center for Independent Living in Ann Arbor shared his story about being a parapalegic with the fourth graders of Orchard Hills as part of the school's Disability Awareness Workshop last week. Students also got a chance to meet Maxie, a Paws With a Cause puppy in training. Paws with a Cause is an organization that trains and provides dogs to help the physically disabled.

They are going to do things that are in this area and experience the American way of life and culture... It's a great experience for a family to have someone from another culture living with them for four to eight weeks."

Jayne Ann Bloomfield
ASSE program coordinator

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

Our legislators are proactive

Some areas, sad to say, have legislators that forget where they came from right after they've left there.

That's not the case in Novi. We've got a rookie in the State House of Representatives with Craig DeRoche, and we've got a veteran in Nancy Cassis, now a State Senator. These folks haven't headed to Lansing to never look back, and for that we are grateful. Take DeRoche, for instance. The former Novi City Councilman has come up with the DeRoche Breakfast Club, a unique opportunity for community leaders and residents alike to meet with their representative on a wide variety of topics. Next on the agenda for the "club" is L. Brooks Patterson to discuss Oakland County's Economic Vision. With the number of businesses located here in Novi, there's probably no more pertinent topic locally right now. These folks don't wait for things to happen, either. They've got a meeting - coffee and conversation begins at 7 a.m. in the McKenzie Room at the Expo Center. If you snooze, you lose. Sen. Cassis is equally enthusiastic about Novi, as the Joint Committee on Business Competitiveness kicks off its seven-month study at how Michigan can improve its business climate right here in Novi on Monday. "Novi is where it's happening," she got that right. The committee will take a broader view than DeRoche's constituency focusing on tax policy, high-tech industries and attracting new business to the state. We're just glad both groups are choosing Novi to make their statements.

GOVERNMENT

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

United States Senate: Carl Levin (D-Detroit), 266 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510, (202) 224-6221, senator@levin.senate.gov. Executive: L. Brooks Patterson, County Service Center, Building 434 East, 1200 W. Telegraph Road, Pontiac, MI 48341, (248) 858-0848. 7th Commission: Christine Long, 1342 E. Commerce Road, Commerce Twp., MI 48392, (248) 366-2666, longc@co.oakland.mi.us. 8th Commission: Jeff Potter, 1099 Stable Lane, South Lyon, MI 48178, (248) 437-7597, potterj@co.oakland.mi.us. United States Congress: 11th District: Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia), 415 Cannon HOB, Washington D.C. 20515-8171, (202) 225-8171, (202) 225-2667, Local office: 17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Suite 161, Livonia, MI 48152. Governor: Jennifer Granholm (D-Northville Twp.), PO Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909, (517) 335-7858. State Senate: 15th District: Nancy Cassis (R-Novi), PO Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536, (517) 373-1758, senncassis@senate.michigan.gov. State House of Reps: 39th District: Craig DeRoche (R-Novi), 50887 House Office Building, PO Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514, (517) 373-0827, FAX: (517) 373-5873, craigderoche@house.mi.gov. 39th District: Marc Shulman (R-West Bloomfield), 351 Capitol Building, PO Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514.

OPINION

Retelling repaving "misunderstanding"

Customer complaints are common in any business, and newspapers are no exception. Sometimes the paper doesn't get delivered on time, or there's a typo in an advertisement, or we forget to mention someone's child in a sports story.

It comes with the territory, we expect it and we deal with it. Period. Then there's times when the subject of a story has a problem. Those are a little more difficult.

Case in point: Novi City Councilwoman Laura Lorenzo and the Galway Drive repaving debate that began last October with a front page story by our Victoria Sadlocha.

Lorenzo felt that a neighbor wrongly accused her of using her position on council to get her road repaved. That neighbor, Linda Hoffman, said it wasn't needed or wanted and that it also was a waste of taxpayer money. (Hoffman refused to comment any more on the issue when I phoned her this week.)

Victoria asked city engineer Nancy McLean if that was correct. McLean told our reporter that in her professional opinion, the road did not seem to need repaving to condition to warrant repaving.

Only problem was that there were three

sections of Galway Drive that were being repaved - and after the article appeared, McLean said she was referring to another portion of Galway, not Lorenzo's. I was, and still am, confident in Victoria's reporting abilities. In fact, she even questioned assistant city manager Clay Pearson about McLean's recommendation to not repave. He said he was unaware of it.

How do we know that was the section McLean was actually referring to? Well, we didn't know until Jan. 21. That's when McLean faxed us a letter - dated Oct. 29, 2002 - that she says was sent to us after Victoria's article was published.

That may have led neighbors to believe that the councilwoman had her portion of Galway added to the project for personal reasons. Neighbors have the right to their opinion if they don't think the road needed to be repaved (even though the analysis showed otherwise), and Lorenzo has the right to defend her reputation.

It can usually tell the "Peters" by a certain smile or look in their eyes, but you know what they say about the wolf in sheep's clothing. I hope my niece encounters more "Peters" than bullies along her journey.

Meeting pasta makers who donate their time to charity, entrepreneurs who are willing to open a business just because they believe in the city and theater directors basically giving blood to provide a high-level of artistic entertainment for Novi neutralize the bullies' staying powers.

Meeting pasta makers who donate their time to charity, entrepreneurs who are willing to open a business just because they believe in the city and theater directors basically giving blood to provide a high-level of artistic entertainment for Novi neutralize the bullies' staying powers.



Cal Stone

Some things just never change, do they?

My niece is beside herself. The six-year-old beauty has some serious problems.

For starters, there is recess. A battle over the blacktop occupies most of her waking moments. The boys have taken control of the non-grassy area and are not allowing the girls entry.

To make sure, they chase the girls whenever the sweethearts come close. My niece and some of her girlfriends are feverishly trying to figure out how to escape these first-grade bullies.

When not worrying about the bullies, she is thinking about how she can make sure there is an empty seat next to her on the bus so her nice friend Peter may sit next to her. Peter is great.

They share many interests and she even gets why she still keeps her special blanket "blue slinky" in her backpack even though she is six years old. Although I'm happy she found one of the good ones at her school, it pains me each time she stresses about the bullies.

My first instinct is to eliminate all bullies from her existence and fill her world with "Peters," but in reality that wouldn't be doing her very much good. Unfortunately, bullies never go away.

They persist into adulthood like festering corpses. But instead of chasing you at recess or taking your lunch, they irritate by pushing their weight around or by twisting and manipulating a situation until it appears to come out their way.

Adult bullies are everywhere, including the City of Novi, and are as persistent as a Wile E. Coyote. They don't rest until the truth becomes obscured regardless of what really happened and with disrespect to others' opinions. Fortunately for all of us, there are also a lot



Victoria Sadlocha

LETTERS

Yes to farm question

This is in response to John Heider's question: "Does anyone know of a working farm with livestock within our cities or township limits?" Actually the answer to this question is yes. I live on a small five-acre farm in the middle of the Toll Brothers Island Lake development. We have a horse, goose, rabbit, turkeys, chickens, ducks, goat, pig and lambs. I make a living from this farm and thus I think this qualifies it as a "working farm."

Margaret Schmidt, "The Farm Lady" Novi

Against Lannys closing

I attended the council meeting on March 3 with the intention of listening to comments of the residents on Lannys' and the City Council's response to the closure of Clark and Grand River intersection. This closure is something new to all the residents as of the last few weeks, and even newer to the residents of Lannys. Regrettably I did not speak up as I came unprepared. Some members of the City Council seem to think this is a great idea without giving it much further investigation.

I am against the closure. That intersection has been my means (as well as my neighbors) as an entrance and exit to and from our sub (Creek Crossing) as well as those of Novi Heights and Settlers Creek. It is my impression the city and road commission will save some extra money by closing the intersection off and not having to create the additional incline on Clark to Grand River. The idea of saving a few bucks by forcing all of use Lannys and Taft is not a viable solution and most importantly not fair to the residents of Lannys.

Emergency vehicles - yes, they would only have to go an additional 100 feet to get down to Lannys to get back into our subs, but maybe 1000 feet is 1000 feet too much when it may be a matter of life or death. I know that may sound extreme, but a conversation with any emergency personnel will tell you in some circumstances it can make a difference.

Safety - 17 accidents in 5 years. That is exactly 3.4 accidents per year. I don't even pretend to know what is a good statistic and what is not for an intersection of that size and daily traffic. Even one accident is one too many. However, I would believe that the main cause of accidents at that intersection involve drivers on two counts.

1. Drivers turning left from Clark to go west on Grand River. The traffic coming over the bridge going west is not visible and may be traveling at an excess of 50 mph per hour. I personally have witnessed traffic going 60-70 over the bridge. The speed limit at that point is 45 mph. HERE is where you need additional police force to slow down the traffic coming over the bridge. MY SUGGESTION: NO LEFT TURN FROM CLARK ONTO GRAND RIVER. Simple solution right?? Traffic that needs to go west on Grand River should go down 11 Mile to Taft and use the traffic signal at Taft to turn left and proceed west on Grand River. Using a traffic signal is much safer. And the traffic should not be using Lannys to go onto westbound Grand River. Yes, that should be a "local traffic only road." Yes, posting signs and ticketing violators is still a solution, but lets keep the Clark/Grand River intersection open with a right turn only and having the west bound traffic use Taft and Grand River.

2. The other safety/accident issue involves cars travel Grand River coming over the bridge at a high rate of speed to suddenly encounter a vehicle turning left onto Clark, with no designated left turn lane. This, too, causes accidents. With the widening of Grand River and use of 5 lanes, which obviously includes a left turn lane, these type of accidents most likely will no longer be an issue.

Marianne DiGiusto Novi

Share your opinions: We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Mail: Letters to the Editor, Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167 E-mail: cstone@ht.homecomm.net Fax to: (248) 349-9832

OTHER OPINIONS

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

Purpose of this war will be to eliminate repeat of 9/11

"Terrorism doesn't take away any of our freedom, only what we freely give up." Thaddeus McCotter, Republican Congressman, District 11

The question is not whether the United States will wage war against Saddam Hussein's Iraq. The better question, according to U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, might simply be, "When?"

And perhaps "Why?" It's all about defense, McCotter said. The Sept. 11, 2001, attacks against the United States in New York and Washington D.C. served as the first salvoes in this most recent war.

McCotter said today Iraq is our primary target because that country willingly harbors terrorists. And Iraq possesses weapons it has been banned from developing, McCotter said, who added that the United States will gladly avoid armed conflict if Hussein willingly and publicly disarms.

"Show us remains of the weapons of mass destruction," McCotter said. "You just have to keep on living life," he said. "If you don't

weapons of mass destruction. It is up to Hussein to reveal where they are located. And if they can be dismantled tomorrow, McCotter reasoned, then why shouldn't Hussein show us where those weapons are located today?"

If Hussein can't do that, then it's fairly obvious those weapons have not yet been destroyed, McCotter said.

And that will bring us all to war, McCotter said. Current diplomatic discussions are mostly stall tactics. The seasons will change, it seems, long before Hussein alters his willingness to comply with United Nations mandates. He is in no particular hurry.

And there lies the danger, because an Iraqi summer is like a Russian winter. No one wants to fight in such unbearable conditions. So we prepare for war, at home and abroad.

And the continued concerns of additional terrorist attacks in the United States should be taken in stride, as well.

Just ask McCotter. He's been told that he's a target of terrorists - he, along with every other congressman representing the 50 states. But what can he do? "You just have to keep on living life," he said. "If you don't

considered, the house must be built before 1930 and be privately owned. Additionally, the current homeowners must have made the discoveries themselves during the restoration or remodeling process. It helps if the owners have discovered physical artifacts - Bibles, deeds, photographs, ledgers, books, children's toys, furniture and other items - that have encouraged them or helped them learn more about the house's past.

After a phone interview, Wormald will choose five or six homes in the area to submit to the network. The producers then select the houses they would like to feature. If your house is chosen, a two-person crew will visit in April to tape the segment, which will air in the fall or next spring on HGTV.

So, don't be shy. Give Wormald a call and help bring national attention to the beautiful homes in Novi. I should also encourage you to hurry. Wormald is on a tight deadline and needs to write her stories by mid-March.

Contact Sarah Wormald, researcher for "If Walls Could Talk" on HGTV, at (303) 712-3321 or via e-mail at Sarah.Wormald@cable.comcast.com.

And, if your house is selected, be sure and let me know. I'd love the opportunity to write a story about your house, as well.

Candy Parent, special sections editor, can be reached at (517) 552-2849 or via e-mail at cparent@ht.homecomm.net.

HGTV looking for historical homes for show - how about yours, Novi?

If your house's walls could talk, what tales would they share? Maybe they would tell of a young boy who fought in the Civil War or of a man who built the house with money obtained during the California Gold Rush.

Perhaps they would share a story of passion or the will to survive. Or maybe they would give you a glimpse into the life of early settler.

Whatever story your house has, you may be able to share it with America. HGTV is coming to Michigan and researchers are currently looking for five to six houses in our area to feature on the show "If Walls Could Talk."

For those unfamiliar with the show, "If Walls Could Talk" features homeowners who have discovered their house's past while restoring it. For example, previous episodes have showcased owners who found their house's original blueprints in the closet or antique chests behind the mantle of a fireplace. Others have found signs in the attic or elegant paintings hidden under wallpaper. These discoveries inspired homeowners to research their house's past and learn about the first residents.

The show also inspires homeowners around the country to look for treasures and secrets in their own historic homes. On a personal level, the show inspired me to learn the history of my house.

After watching a show where a man dug out his basement and found all sorts of treasures, I begged my husband to let me dig up our house. He refused, but he did let the kids and me dig up the backyard in search of the privy. Although we never found it, we do have a small collection of bottles, square nails, old newspapers, a chisel, marbles and a porcelain faucet handle. Of course, our little finds aren't worthy of television, but many of you have houses with finds that are and it's time to let the country know about them.

Getting in touch with HGTV is simple. Sarah Wormald, a researcher for the show, has a brief questionnaire for potential homeowners to fill out. It asks questions like "Why did you buy the house?" "How much work have you done on it?" "What have you learned about the history of the house?" and other questions.

Once the questions are answered, Wormald selects those that best meet the criteria of "If Walls Could Talk." In order to be

Novi Chamber of Commerce 2003 Charity Auction. These are some of the items that will be available at the auction, Saturday, April 12 at the Novi Hilton. For more information, call the chamber at (248) 349-3743.

Detroit Symphony Orchestra Tickets. Hotel romance package. Body Care Spa items. Auburn Hills Suite. 1 Night hotel stays w/dinner packages. Radio Cassette Stereo/CD Player. Weekend Car Rental. Golf for 2 (18 holes + cart). Custom made furnished dollhouse. Salon Spa packages. Emmett Smith, Dallas Cowboys #22 Jersey. Guitar w/stand and case. Tiger's Game tickets.

A day at the Capitol with Sen. Nancy Cassis. Puppy of your choice certificate. Couple's Fitness Membership. Cell Phone. A day at the Capitol w/Senator Cassis. Writing desk and chair. 1 Night Deluxe accommodations for 2 w/Sunday brunch. Total fitness 1 yr. Memberships. 1 Week Condo stay in Ixtapa, Mexico. Golf for 4 (18 holes + cart).

A day at the Capitol with Rep. Craig DeRoche. His & Her Spa packages. Oriental Rug & Lamp. Dinner for 6 in the backyard of your choice. Ford Detroit Jazz Festival passes. Kid Rock autographed hat.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Pruning roses for today's garden
DATE: Friday, March 7
TIME: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road (west of Novi Road)

Novi Community Education Organizing Class
DATE: Mondays, March 10 and March 17
DETAILS: Professional Organizer, Betty Hunter, will offer suggestions on how to get organized and build a system to suit your needs.

Saving a Greyhound is Always in Fashion
DATE: Saturday, March 8
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Wilson VFW Hall, located at 2652 Louisa Lake Rd.

Food distribution
DATE: Tuesday, March 11, TIME: 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook, Novi.

Details: Ex-facing greyhounds rescued from certain death by Michigan ReGAP (Retired Greyhounds as Pets), a non-profit rescue and adoption group based in the Detroit area, will be featured in this fashion show. In this special annual gala, ReGAP hopes to raise funds to help offset the organization's high medical costs and educate the public about the greyhound racing industry. Price is \$50 per person.

DeLoche breakfast
DATE: Friday, March 14
TIME: 7:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Novi Expo Center, McKean Room
DETAILS: State Rep. Craig DeLoche announced L.F. Brooks Patterson will attend a meeting of the DeLoche Breakfast Club. Patterson will discuss the economic vision for Oakland County, DeLoche will give a legislative update on Lansing activities. The event is free.

Friends of Maybury meeting
DATE: Saturday, March 8
TIME: 10 a.m. to noon
LOCATION: Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady St.
DETAILS: Everyone is invited to discuss options for the future of the park including if rebuilding is possible. Donations may also be made to the Maybury Fund, c/o Hidden Spring Veterinary Clinic, 48525 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville, MI 48167. For more information, call (248) 349-2598. PHONE: Art & Susan Greenlee, members. (248) 380-5924

Quick Date:
DATE: Tuesday, March 11
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi
DETAILS: Meet 10-15 new people for five minutes each. It's fast-paced, fun & exciting. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$40. PHONE: (517) 552-0673 or www.quickdateinfo.com

Practical Gardener's Garden Design
DATE: March 10
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.
DETAILS: Gardeners of Northville & Novi presents an evening with Janet MacIntosh. Janet's topic: "Practical Gardener's Garden Design". Public welcomed. Reservations preferred.

Sexual harassment seminar
DATE: Tuesday, March 11, TIME: 7 p.m., light refreshments, 7:30 p.m. speaker
LOCATION: Northville Senior Center, 215 Cady Street, Northville. Free, open to the public. Harriet Sawyer will present her Doctoral Dissertation on "Perceptions of High School Females Regarding Sexual Harassment in Public Schools: Implications for Curriculum Reform". AAUW is open to all

Individuals holding a baccalaureate or higher degree. Student Affiliate membership is currently available to individuals attending college. PHONE: For membership information call 248-924-2180 or www.northville.lib.mi.us/communitygroups/aaauw

11th Annual Spring Boating Expo
DATE: March 13-16
TIME: 2-9 Thursday and Friday; 10-9 Saturday; 10-7 Sunday
LOCATION: Novi Expo Center, Novi (I-96 at Novi Rd.)
DETAILS: The last major boating exhibition before the spring launch. \$7 for adults, free for children under 12. PHONE: 1-800-224-3008 or www.wmbia.com

DeLoche breakfast
DATE: Friday, March 14
TIME: 7:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Novi Expo Center, McKean Room
DETAILS: State Rep. Craig DeLoche announced L.F. Brooks Patterson will attend a meeting of the DeLoche Breakfast Club. Patterson will discuss the economic vision for Oakland County, DeLoche will give a legislative update on Lansing activities. The event is free.

Daughters of the American Revolution, Sarah Ann Cochran Plymouth-Northville Chapter Sandwich Luncheon
DATE: Monday, March 17
TIME: Noon
LOCATION: Shirl Hering's home (call for directions).
DETAILS: Program will be Online Research Suggestions and Aids. PHONE: Shirl Hering, 734-455-5525.

Free arts show
DATE: March 17-April 10
TIME: week hours: M-F: 8 a.m.-9 p.m., weekends: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center's Gate VI Gallery
DETAILS: Jeanette Groesch exhibits silkprint and watercolor. PHONE: (248) 596-1270 or via email: groeschj2@yahoo.com.

Quick Date
DATE: Tuesday, March 18
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: 5th Avenue Ballroom, 23750 Novi Road, Novi
DETAILS: Meet 10-15 new people for 5 minutes each. It's fast-paced, fun & exciting! Pre-registration is required, cost is \$40. PHONE: (517) 552-0673 or www.quickdateinfo.com

Henry Ford Health System Alternative Medicine Learning Series
DATES: Wednesdays, Mar. 19, April 3, June 25
TIME: 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Henry Ford Medical Center, Novi, 40000 Eight Mile, one block west of Haggerty
DETAILS: \$55 per class. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. PHONE: 248-389-6201 or www.henryford.com/cam, to register and for more information on topics.

Saturday Slitler - Diabetes Support Group
DATE: Saturday, April 5
TIME: 9:30-11:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Hostford Center for Health Improvement, 39750 Grand River Avenue, located between Haggerty and Meadowbrook in Novi
DETAILS: The Diabetes Management Program at Brostoff Center for Health Improvement presents "10000 Steps to Good Health", which is open to persons with diabetes and their loved ones. From this remarkable resource for controlling diabetes and optimizing health, participants will learn weight loss strategies from a registered dietician and fitness tips from a personal trainer. PHONE: (248) 477-6100

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Better Business Bowling Tournament
DATE: Sunday, April 6, TIME: check in: 12:30 p.m., tournament begins: 1:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Wonderland Lanes, 8265 Richardson Road, Union Lake.
DETAILS: Proceeds to benefit Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund. \$80 per team, 4 persons sponsored by a local area business or a member of the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce may have a team. No handicapping. PHONE: Chamber of

Commerce office, 248-624-2826. Call for registration form.

Church of the Holy Cross Lenten Studies
Tuesdays-March 11-May 20, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Study of The Gospel according to Mark with The Rev. Fred Brunson, beginning with a pot luck supper.
Wednesdays-March 12-April 16, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. The Spiritual Disciplines, beginning with simple supper of soup and bread.
Thursdays-March 16-April 10, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. An Introduction to People of the Bible.
LOCATION: Church of the Holy Cross, 46200 W. Ten Mile Rd., Novi. PHONE: 248-349-1175.

Paintings on Display-Novice artist
DATE: March on going
TIME: M-F, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
LOCATION: Picasso's Cafe, 39915 Grand River, Novi, (W of Haggerty)
DETAILS: Barbara Eto Murphy of Novi will have watercolor paintings on display.

Business referrals
DATE: every Wed. ongoing
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.
TIME: 7-8:30 a.m.
DETAILS: Meeting of local professionals and business looking to increase word-of-mouth referral business. Various classifications open and eager to bring you qualified business leads. PHONE: (734) 462-6460 for specifics

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

Marketing Masters: Creating Brand Awareness for Your Business in the Media proves you don't need a multi-million dollar advertising budget to establish a positive identity for your business. Learn how to employ basic techniques, ideas for what's necessary, positioning your business "angle" to maximize your media attention and creating brand awareness. Hear firsthand from successful small business owners who have been in your shoes. Presented by the Woodward Avenue Action Association (WAA), Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services and DTE Energy Foundation.
Wednesday, March 12, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Baldwin Theater, Royal Oak. The fee is \$29 for WAA members and supporting partners, \$39 non-members. Continental breakfast is included. Call (248) 399-3933 to register.

How to Start a Business is a seminar for anyone thinking about going into business. Participants examine their entrepreneurial skills, learn how to implement their ideas and receive a list of pitfalls to avoid when starting a business. The class runs from 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday, March 13, at Oakland County Complex, 1200 N. Telegraph, in Pontiac. The fee is \$30 and includes the "Starting a Business in Oakland County" book published by the Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services. Call (248) 858-0783 for directions and registration.

How to Write a Business Plan is a workshop for small business owners who are developing a plan to serve as their road map to success. The class is held on March 20, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Oakland County Complex, 1200 N. Telegraph, in Pontiac. The fee is \$40, which includes all materials. Space is limited, so pre-registration is required. Call (248) 858-0783 for directions and registration.

Marketing 101 provides advice on successful marketing and marketing principles to help business owners produce their products, services or ideas to the most promising customers. The workshop will be held on March 27, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Oakland County Executive Office Building, 1200 N. Telegraph, in Pontiac. The fee is \$40 and includes materials and refreshments. Call (248) 858-0783 for directions and registration.

Send calendar items to Col. Steve, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48168, or e-mail to cstone@hhome.com.net

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Miller appointed VP
Northville Township-based Hayes Lemmerz International, Inc. announced that it has appointed Patrick E. Miller to the position of vice president of Sales and Product Engineering for Hayes Lemmerz North America Wheels Division. Miller, reporting directly to president James Stegelmeyer.

Fashion Bug show
Women across the country will take to the runway, March 22, at 2 p.m. for the 2003 Spring Plus Size Fashion Show, a chain-wide fashion show hosted by Fashion Bug, a women's retailer. Women of plus size are encouraged to become a model for a day by signing up at any Fashion Bug store.

How to Start a Business
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Wixom-based engineering firm founded by Neville in 1995. With more than two decades of domestic and international architectural/engineering experience, Neville has managed projects for many automotive OEMs and tier one suppliers, including Ford Motor Company, Visteon Corporation and General Motors Corporation. As vice president, his responsibilities include marketing/sales, corporate operations, project management, client liaison and customer satisfaction initiatives.

Rutkowski and Dan Rutkowski, Novi-based architect, have been named as the new owners of the Brookwood Farms community of apartments and single-family homes. "We offer custom designed single family homes and luxury apartments nestled among professionally landscaped grounds," said Pamela Armon, property manager. The distinctive look is obvious in the exterior, even down to the variety of exterior finishes that include brick, river rock, and cedar shake. The project, which opened in 1995, was completed in March 2002.

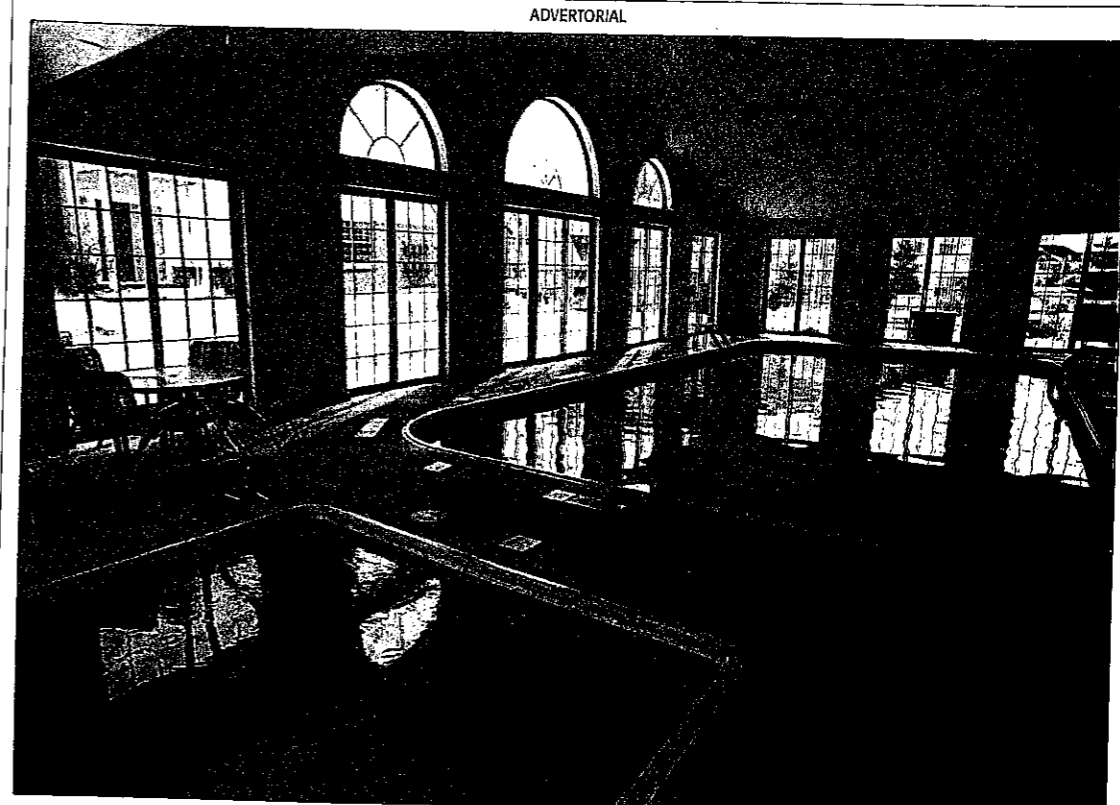
Wixom-based engineering firm founded by Neville in 1995. With more than two decades of domestic and international architectural/engineering experience, Neville has managed projects for many automotive OEMs and tier one suppliers, including Ford Motor Company, Visteon Corporation and General Motors Corporation. As vice president, his responsibilities include marketing/sales, corporate operations, project management, client liaison and customer satisfaction initiatives.

Rutkowski also brings over 20 years of engineering and project management experience. His background includes architectural design, plant layout, construction observation, project scheduling and financial analysis. His engineering background includes major renovation and rehabilitation projects production facilities at General Motors Corporation, Ford Motor Company, Delmar Chrysler Corporation, and Visteon Corporation. His responsibilities as operation manager include interdisciplinary coordination, resource allocation, budget control, and schedule attainment.

Plymouth Physical Therapy took the old adage, "location, location, location," and went one step further, adding yet another location. There's now a total of four locations in Plymouth, Wixom, White Lake, and the newest in Novi.

But convenient locations are not all that Plymouth PT offers. Owner Jeff Siribian is also committed to providing excellence in orthopedic and sports medicine rehabilitation. Plymouth's Novi clinic will celebrate two years of service in April. Novi has experienced tremendous growth, part in thanks to community support. Siribian welcomes Ben Wallis as the new Novi director of Rehabilitation Services. He is a Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Specialist and a graduate of Central Michigan School of Physical Therapy.

Siribian opened his first clinic in 1994 and has been providing the Southeast Michigan community with quality physical therapy services ever since. He received his physical therapy degree from the University of Michigan and completed his Masters degree in Indianapolis.



Indoor and heated outdoor swimming pools are just part of the amenities at the 7,350 square foot clubhouse.

Come home to Brookwood Farms

By Elizabeth Heer, SPECIAL WRITER

It's easy to enjoy life in this peaceful country setting while still maintaining easy access to major expressways, entertainment, and shopping facilities. In fact, Brookwood Farms is just a short commutable distance from both Detroit and Ann Arbor. Yet, it is within walking distance of historic downtown South Lyon.

A wide variety of floor plans are available for the one, two, and three bedroom apartments. Private entrances, patios, balconies - some with hardwoods and garages - enhance many of the apartments. Square footage ranges from 715 to 1,323 square feet, with the largest

floor plans boasting spacious storage areas. Cathedral ceilings are a benefit of the second floor apartments. To complete the entire package, all apartments offer central air and gas heat, major appliances, window treatments, water softeners, and washer/dryer connections. "We also offer a washer/dryer lease arrangement for residents who do not own their own," Armon said.

The single-family detached homes have six floor plans to choose from and square footages that range from 1,102 to 1,591 square feet. They come complete with an attached two-car garage, deck, full basement, and cathedral ceilings. Throw off your maintenance concerns, everything is taken care of for residents at Brookwood Farms. "While many apartment complexes provide maintenance, not many homes can offer that convenience," points out Minerva McParland, leasing specialist. Various lease plans are available as well, including corporate leases, she adds.

There is a definite neighborhood ambiance to Brookwood Farms. "People are thrilled to come here because it doesn't look like a typical apartment complex," McParland said. "Residents really enjoy the walking distance to downtown where they can shop, go to the movies, or have dinner. You really get that hometown feeling here."

She points out that parents especially like the sidewalks that run throughout Brookwood Farms. "They know that their kids can jump on their bike and ride over to a friend's house or meet up at the pool or clubhouse for activities. It's a real neighborhood."

In fact, there are plenty of recreation and relaxation amenities at Brookwood Farms for everyone to enjoy. "When you choose any of our high-quality living accommodations, you're also afforded access to one of the area's finest clubhouse facilities," Armon said. The beautiful 7,350 square foot clubhouse provides indoor and outdoor heated swimming pools, hot tub, and fitness center. Brookwood Farms also offers tennis courts and a half-basketball court. Leasing of the clubhouse is also available to all residents for special occasions such as birthday parties, graduation parties, or just spending some time with all the family on special holidays. The well-stocked library has books that may be checked out on the hour system, and the social room where you can curl up in front of the fireplace is a great place to read and relax.

DETAILS

"Hurry, hurry! Don't miss out on your chance to take advantage of Spring Fever going on at Brookwood Farms," says Pamela Armon, property manager at South Lyon's Brookwood Farms. Get out of the cold and into the hot tub and heated indoor swimming pool. Use the coupon at the bottom of the page to take advantage of the Spring Fever special.

Brookwood Farms is conveniently located off 10 Mile Road, one-half mile east of Pontiac Trail, close to downtown South Lyon. Minerva McParland, leasing consultant, will be happy to assist you in your search for your new home. The Leasing Center is located at 200 Brookwood Drive, across the street from the tennis courts. Call (248) 437-9959. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Evening appointments are available. E-mail: brookwoodfarms@ml-apartments.com.

This summer other community activities are being planned. "We'll be starting a children's club, and when your child signs up, he or she will enjoy the benefits of membership. And we are looking into hosting a few movie nights for our residents," McParland said. "It's just our way of saying thank you for choosing Brookwood Farms for your home."

From the left, Heather Hoult, Pamela Armon and Minerva McParland inside the Brookwood Farms Clubhouse.

Brookwood Farms Spring Fever Special One Month FREE! 200 Brookwood Drive South Lyon, MI 48178. On 10 Mile, 1/2 mile East of Pontiac Trail. 248-437-9959. Sign a new lease for 13 months and get one month free! Coupon expires April 30, 2003.

SENIOR CALENDAR

Thursday 3/6
9 a.m.-12 p.m. Message Therapy
9 a.m.-11 a.m. Computer Class
9:30 a.m. Line Dance*
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Income Taxes by Appr. noon Lunch & 12:15 Bridge*
11 a.m.-4 p.m. Computer Class Lab
NEW! 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Glass Painting
1 p.m. Line Dance-Regitners
2 p.m. Line Dance-Advanced

Friday 3/7
9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
10 a.m. Body Recall
12 p.m. Clotting*
12:30 Bingo
12:30 Dupl. Bridge*

Monday 3/10
9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
9 a.m.-11 a.m. Computer Class
10 a.m. Body Recall
11 a.m. Goodie Lady
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday Shop Open
1 p.m.-3 p.m. Lunch & *12:30 p.m. Pinochle
2 p.m.-3 p.m. Healing Touch
6:30 p.m. Clotting*
Kewadin Casino Trip

Tuesday 3/11
9 a.m.-12 p.m. Message Therapy
9 a.m. Panera bread
9:30 a.m. Line Dance*
10 a.m. Crafts
10 a.m. Asian Pacific
noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Pinochle
1 p.m.-2 p.m. Focus Hope & TPA Distribution
1 p.m.-2 p.m. Computer Class
Just For You Trip

Wednesday 3/12
9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
10 a.m. Body Recall
10:30 a.m. Quilling
11 a.m. Blood Pressure
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sunday Shop Open
noon TOPS Class
12:30 p.m. Clotting*
Pen Pal Letters Die
Just For You Trip

*Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. All other activities will take place at the Meadowbrook Commons Community Center. Note: ALL TRIPS will depart from the Novi Civic Center on Ten Mile Rd. The City of Novi Senior Center is in the Meadowbrook Commons senior residential community at 25075 Meadowbrook Road between 10 Mile Rd. and Grand River. (248) 347-0414.

MADONNA UNIVERSITY PIANO SALE FOR BEST SELECTION CALL FOR A PREVIEW APPOINTMENT 734-354-1832

Numerous pianos will be sold Sunday, March 9, 2003 at Madonna University. Many grands, consoles, uprights and digital pianos in various finishes will be sold. Most are less than one year old and carry new factory warranties. This special event will feature Baldwin, Estancia, Kawai and more. To ensure the best selection, preview appointments are strongly recommended.

For information or to schedule a preview appointment call: 734-354-1832. Sale hrs: Sunday, March 9 11AM - 5PM by Preview Appointment Only.

MADONNA UNIVERSITY Call for a Preview Appt. 734-354-1832. Sale Location at Madonna University. Sale benefits Madonna University Department of Music. ONE DAY ONLY

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 9 Mile & Meadowbrook, Wixom, MI 48196. Pastor: Rev. James J. Schneider, Pastor - 349-0565

IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 1100 W. 10 Mile, Novi, MI 48162. Pastor: Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt, Pastor - 248-348-7757

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 21325 Meadowbrook, 1/2 Mile Morning Worship 10 a.m. Church School 9 a.m. Pastor: Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt, Pastor - 248-348-7757

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL 10 Mile between 1st & Back Novi. Phone 349-1175. Sunday 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Sunday 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist, 11 a.m. Sunday School & Nursery.

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 4492 W. 10 Mile, Novi, MI 48162. Pastor: Rev. Anne Schaefer, Associate Pastor - 349-3477, 349-9441

ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 40320 10 Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48162. Pastor: Rev. James J. Schneider, Pastor - 349-3477, 349-9441

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY 2526 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48175. Mass: Sat. 5am, Sun. 7:45 p.m. 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. Holy Days 9 a.m., 5:30 p.m., 10 p.m. Fr. John G. Sucko, Pastor. Fr. Paul Siskin, Associate Pastor. Parish Office: 349-8847

WORLDWIDE HARVEST CHURCH "A Place to Grow" 16000 W. 10 Mile, Novi, MI 48162. Sunday Worship Services: 11:00 AM. 16000 W. 10 Mile, Novi, MI 48162. More info: (248) 919-8927. Email: baptist@worldwideusa.com. Web: www.worldwideusa.com

WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 4000 Sibley Road, Novi, MI 48162. Pastor: Rev. James J. Schneider, Pastor - 349-3477, 349-9441

CHURCH DIRECTORY For information regarding rates for church listings call: The Northville Record of Novi News (248) 349-1700

MILL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH of Mill Creek Historic Village. Pastoral: Christine. Contemporary Worship. Sun 10 AM - Wed. Prayer 7 PM. 248-386-1509

CHURCH DIRECTORY For information regarding rates call The Northville Record or Novi News (248) 349-1700

Commemorating 100 Years of Service O'BRIEN SULLIVAN FUNERAL HOME 41555 Grand River Avenue Novi, Michigan 48375-1822 (248)348-1800. John J. O'Brien, John P. O'Brien, Michael D. O'Brien/Watt, Nicole A. McKinnon. State Licensed-Board Certified Funeral Directors Family owned Offering Prearrangements & Pre-financing

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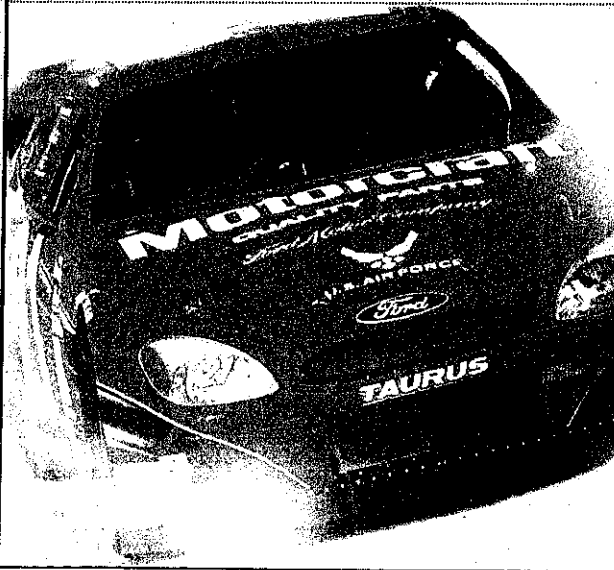
*Based on loan values \$150K-300,700. Current APRs may change. See participating dealerships for details.

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Call it a four-peat

Four Regional crowns in a row — and that's from a 5-year-old Novi Wildcats hockey program

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

What do you call it? A four-peat?

The Novi Wildcats hockey team made things difficult for the sporting world as they earned their fourth-straight Regional crown with a 2-1 victory over the Waterford Kettering Captains February 28 at the Novi Ice Arena. Four titles in a row — and that's from a program that's only five years old.

If that weren't enough, the Wildcats also blasted their previous opponents in Ypsilanti Lincoln with a 12-1 loss, all while setting what is believed to be a new state record with four goals in just 38 seconds of play.

Regional Champions

"That was pretty amazing," Novi coach Dan Phelps said of the record. "Sometimes things just go your way. I have to say, that was one of them."

The Novi offense, which has been firing on all cylinders over the last nine games, turned to Chaz Bulbuk as he turned up the juice and electrified the crowd with both goals on the night.

On the opposite end of the ice, it was the Novi defense, including junior goalie Trent Sisson, held strong all night with the exception of a second-period goal.

After a hard-fought defensive first period that found the squads sitting at 0-0, the Captains were able to notch the first score — and that was all it took to light the Novi fire.

Bulbuk cranked the puck into the back of the net on a fierce slap-shot that came off assists from Garet Malott and Brian Jaussi to pull the Novi icers even at 1-1.

Their momentum carried through with the defense shutting down the Captain's bid for another goal, while Bulbuk came out strong in the third period. With just 55 seconds off the clock in the final period, Bulbuk took the pass from Justin Collins and danced through the Waterford Kettering defense before setting up shop in front of the net and ramming home the winning goal for the 2-1 lead and the win.

The Wildcats earned the right to take on the East Lansing Quakers in Lansing Tuesday night (after the *Novi News* went to print). If they earn the victory, the Novi skaters will be back in action at the Compuware Arena in Plymouth for the state semifinals against the winner of the Davison/Midland contest. The semi-final game is slated for a 6 p.m. start tonight.

Novi 12, Ypsilanti Lincoln 1

In a game that can pretty much be described as ugly, the Novi Wildcats made short work of their Regional tournament opponents, scoring 12 goals in two periods before the 10-goal rule came into play and ended the contest early.

"We got through it," Phelps said. "It's not an easy thing when a game gets ugly, but you can't turn your players on and off like a faucet. We are in the playoffs, and you play your best hockey until the game is over."

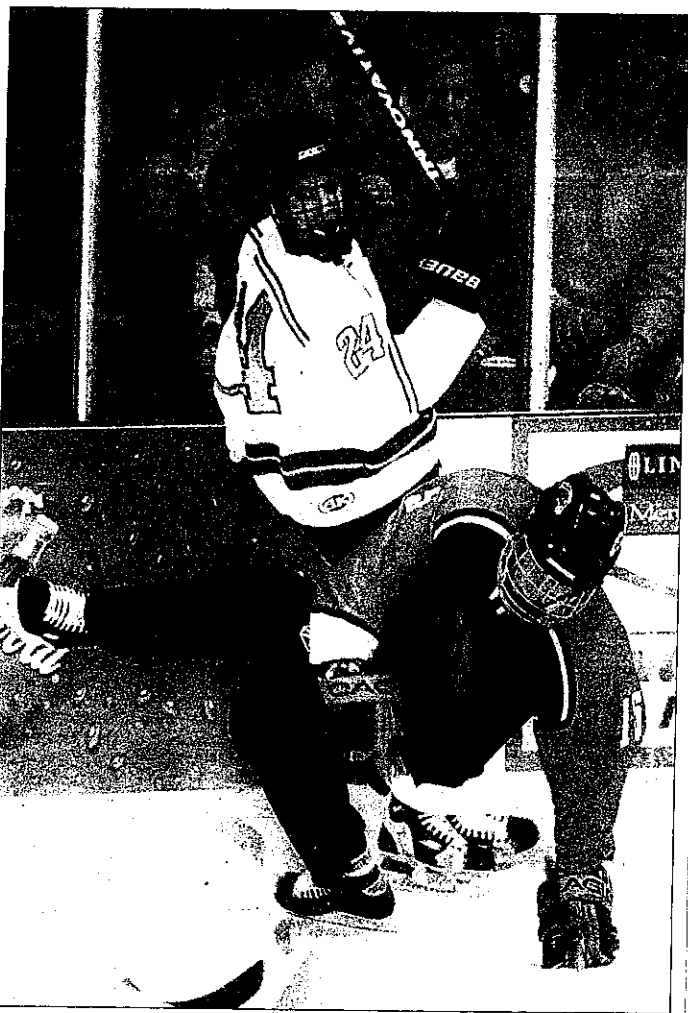
And play their best hockey is exactly what the Wildcats did. The Novi icers set a new team and possibly a new state record against the Rail Splitters with a staggering four goals in just 38 seconds.

The four goals came almost as quick as they could be written down on a pad of paper. At 10:04 of the first period, John Murray scored on a powerplay goal before Brian Jaussi followed it up with a score at 9:50. Jared Perras got into the act, noching a goal at 9:32 and Brett Jaussi finished the blitzkrieg out with a score at 9:26.

Four Minutes later, Brett Jaussi added another goal, making it a 5-1 game in Novi's favor at the end of the first period.

The second period was much like the first, but the 'Cats were kind enough to spread the scoring out for those who were keeping track. Robert Vulaj, Mario DeGrazia and Malott all added goals to their season totals with solid play, while Brett Jaussi and Bulbuk scored two goals each to seal the victory and to finish nailing the Lincoln coffin shut.

"You can't ask players to hold back," Phelps said. "These guys went out there and played their hockey. Ypsilanti is doing a lot of things right. They have some tal-



A check by a Mustang Troy Engelland leaves Novi's Mario DeGrazia on his feet during last week's tilt at the Novi Ice Arena.

Photo by John Helder

ented players, and a coaching staff that knows what they are doing. I think in a couple of years there are going to be some very good teams coming out of that area."

Junior goalie Dan Morrison was solid in the net, stopping all four-of-five of Ypsilanti Lincoln's shots on goal. The Wildcats were able to collect 37 shots on the Rail Splitters' net.

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.

Call it the post-season, the second season or the playoffs. Want to know what it really is? It's win or go home.

Winners

get the luxury of last- ing until the next game, while the losers go home and get to either wonder what they are going to do to improve

next year, or wonder about where their lives are going to take them after graduation.

I have to say that it's probably the most stressful time of year for many players and coaches, as well as myself. Not only am I looking at the playoffs that are at hand, but I'm also trying to look forward to the spring sports that are about to be upon all of us.

But, the truth be told, I'd rather be sitting here at my desk pounding out a story or up in the bleachers watching the game that down there trying to earn that win. I remember how tough it was to know that a loss means you're through for the rest of the season and the rest of the year, while a simple little win means you get to play another day.

You have to give these athletes the respect and admiration they deserve. Not only do they play to forward their seasons, but they do it to entertain you and I as well. Come on, you know you love it when they are scoring goals, buckets or racking up the points. It gives you a rush, doesn't it? I sure get one, especially as the clock is ticking down and the game is on the line. Wham! And holsthe they score and win it! Sure can't beat that feeling when it comes to sports.

Being that I've never had the chance to coach a team like our local squads, I have to say that I'm always most impressed by the way those at the helm and the way they can continue to motivate their squads into the post-season.

What do they say? What do they do? Each coach has their own way of doing things, but sometimes I sure wish I were a fly on the wall when it came to halftime speeches to keep a team playing at a high level, or to convince them to rise to the occasion after a tough first half.

And what of the captains? I was a captain on every team I was on my senior year, which was a credit to my relationship with the coaching staffs as well as my friendships with those on my team. More than once, I was looked to as a leader in tight situations. Did I always come through? Unfortunately, the answer is no. Now, I look to the captains on the teams that I cover and watch them as they are put into similar situations as those in my past, and sometimes they don't come through and other times they do. That is the pressures and the rewards and agony that a captain holds on their shoulders.

With captains like these teams have and the quality coaches that head them up, I have a ton of confidence in their abilities and their chances at making a dent in the playoffs.

Are all of them state-championship quality? I really couldn't say, but if they use the heart and the determination that they have showcased throughout the regular season and thus far into the playoffs they definitely have what it takes to hoist that final trophy.

I'd just like to take this small paragraph to thank the teams, players, coaches and fans for all they have done this season, as well as wish all of those that are left in the post-season the best of luck in their bids for the states.



Sam Eggleston



Photo by John Helder

On the balance beam, Wild'Stang Trish Brownfield leaps high in the air during last Saturday's regional competition at Plymouth High School. One assistant of the combined team was heard to say, "Trish was jumping so high I could have walked under her."

Regional Champs!

Wild 'Stangs prove that you can't keep a good gymnastics team down

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

In a season that really didn't have a clear-cut ending for the Novi-Northville gymnastics squad, what better way to bring it to a close than in the state finals?

The Wild 'Stangs, under the guidance of coach Lindsay Schultz, added yet another state-finals trip to their repertoire as they won their Regional meet at Plymouth Canton High School March 1, collecting 142.60 points to edge out Livonia Unified's 142.20 points. Host-team Canton took third with 139.05 total points.

The Wild 'Stangs, or at least many of them, had the meet of their lives. Some athletes in other sports may look back on their performances and say that they could have just tried a little harder. These girls don't have to worry about doing that — how can you try harder when you collect your best-ever totals?

Trish Brownfield had best-ever points on the bars with an 8.05, as well as on the beam with a 9.0. Marcie Fink's 9.05 on the vault was her best, while Jessica Glancy's 9.1 in the same event marked her summit. Caitlin Miller had a nice showing with an 8.55 in her floor routine and an 8.7 on the beam for best-ever marks, and Janna

PERSONAL BESTS

The Wild 'Stangs had a heck of a showing at the Regional meet, and they managed to win it and gain a berth into the state finals — in part to some of their best gymnastics ever. These gymnasts had personal-best performances:

- Janna Ramsey: an 8.8 on the vault.
- Caitlin Miller: An 8.55 in the floor exercise and an 8.7 on the beam.
- Jessica Glancy: A 9.1 on the vault.
- Marcie Fink: A 9.05 on the vault.
- Trish Brownfield: An 8.05 on the bars and a 9.0 on the beam.

Ramsay collected a career best 8.8 on the vault.

Other highlights from the meet were Rachel Deneau's 8.85 on the floor exercise, while Glancy collected an 8.25 on the bars. Sarah Ilkhani-Pour had a stellar day, notching an 8.3 on the bars, a 9.0 with her floor routine and a 9.1 on the beam.

Jenn Mehl had a good showing with her 8.45 on the bars and 8.8 on the beam. Fellow Wild 'Stang Maggie Mills notched an

8.9 in the floor exercise, while earning a 9.0 on the beam. Ramsay, who had a best-ever performance on the vault, did quite well on the floor, too. She earned an 8.85 for her performance.

Sara Wilchowski had the best-overall marks for the Novi-Northville squad, earning a 9.05 on the vault, a 9.2 on both the floor exercise and the bars while collecting a 9.3 on the beam.

The Wild 'Stangs will be back in action in the state finals Saturday at Plymouth Canton High School. As of press time, the host school did not have a start time for the event. The high school is located on Joy Road, on the same campus as Plymouth Salem High School.

Through hard work and impressive determination, the Novi-Northville Wild 'Stangs showed that a good team can't be kept down for long.

Attribute it to good coaching, top-notch leadership or just an amazing will that pushes them to strive to be the best, but any way you look at it, these gymnasts are doing what they do best — winning.

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

GAME OF THE WEEK

WIN! OR STAY HOME

Doing it the hard way

Sometimes when you want to play, you have to practice first

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

To walk or not to walk — that seems to be the question for some athletes, especially in the sport of football.

With the recruitment behind us, scholarships handed out and letters of intent signed, it comes down to those who are looking to continue to play football at the highest level and what they are willing to do to get there.

The statistic is a staggering one. Only one in every 100 high school athletes get their hands on a Division I college athletic scholarship. That's quite the figure, considering the talent at that level. For those who don't get the chance to ride the athletic-scholarship train through their higher education but still want to play sports, there's a much harder, yet necessary, way of getting it done — walk-on.

And if you're going to do it, why not reach for the top? Northville athlete Tim Higgins and Novi's Chase Chandler might just do that. For Higgins, the calling seems to be coming from the direction of the University of Florida, while Chandler's future may be in East Lansing with the Michigan State University Spartans.

"Florida has always been my favorite team growing up," Higgins said. "I went down for a visit in early January and had a meeting with the offensive coordinator. He pretty much told me what life was like as a walk-on for the University of Florida."

And that news probably wasn't the most cheerful. It's a tough way of life. Athletes compete in hopes of getting chosen to be a member of the team — and that's a loose definition. If one of the blessed few, the athlete usually becomes a member of the practice squad where they are beaten and pummeled in hopes of making the starters on their team that much better.

"It's a tough thing to get started and to get that first opportunity," said Ed Zaunbrecher, the offensive coordinator with the University of Florida Gators. "There are no guarantees. The athletes that are recruited get first shot on a lot of things."

Walk-ons who make the team

may not even see a moment in a game jersey, but, then again, that time may just come if they work hard enough.

"At some point in time, a guy just has to step up and prove himself," Zaunbrecher said. "It's often not until the second year, during the off-season program, when they show they can work."

Athletes like Higgins and Chandler already realize that they aren't starting out of the blocks and gaining a quick lead. Instead, they are some of the last to get looked at by the coaching staffs, and that's usually to fill in some very highly desired slots on the team.

"When I was talking to the coaches there, the first thing they let you know is that your practices start later than everyone else," Chandler said. "Right away you are behind the rest of the team."

But you still have to work just as hard, and sometimes a little bit harder than those who already have the coach's eye.

"Being a practice player means you are basically there to work hard," Chandler noted. "You are trying to get noticed out there. You are out there running against the first team, and you are automatically put in a situation where you work hard or you get killed out there."

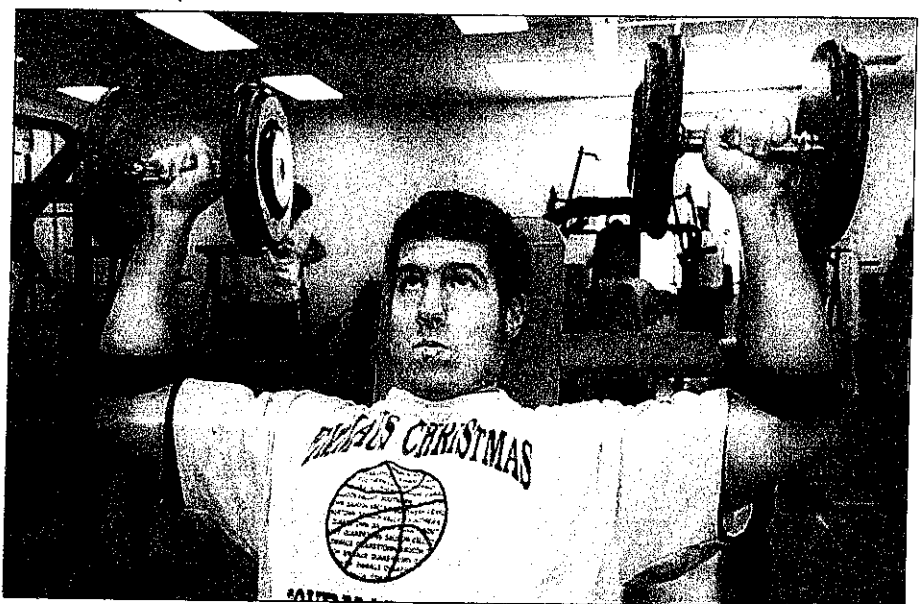
But to do all that work and to not get the recognition or the playing time in exchange — is it worth it?

"Definitely," Higgins said. "You are on a team that might be competing for a national championship each year, and if they get it you get a ring for it. You are out there trying to make your team better. When they make the big plays and make things happen on Saturday, you know that you helped prepare them to have that kind of success."

But just to get the chance to make them better is going to require a lot of work on the part of the walk-on.

"Some guys come out and try it just to try it," Zaunbrecher said. "Some are not in condition, and it's dangerous to their health to continue. We usually terminate it at that point and time if it becomes obvious."

Both Chandler and Higgins



Northville's Tim Higgins pumps some iron in the high school's weight room. Higgins is hoping to be a walk-on at University of Florida's football program.

Photo by John Heider

"You don't have time to build up to it. You go from zero to 60 in a heartbeat."

Ed Zaunbrecher
Offensive Coordinator,
University of Florida

have their own work-out regimens, and both have goals set for themselves.

Higgins, who stands at 5-foot-8 and weighs in at 165 pounds, is hoping to bulk up to 175 by the time he graduates, and then up to 180 by the time football starts up.

Chandler, who is 6-1 and 175, is looking to boost up to 185-190 by the time the walk on date is scheduled.

But, for athletes like these two, it's not easy to make the time to lift and to run — instead, they utilize their sports to help them. Higgins is a member of a recreational basketball team, as well as a runner on the boys track and field squad. Chandler, who is currently playing basketball with the Wildcats, is also on the track and field team.

"Right now I'm lifting five days a week," Higgins said. "Track season is going to start up in two weeks and I'll start doing that. I'm hoping to move from middle distance to sprinting this year to improve my speed."

Both athletes are also aware that they have to make themselves as valuable as they can for their respective teams to really give them a good look and to consider them for the program.

"Walk-ons have the best chance if they can do other things as well," Higgins said. "I'm going to practice being a holder for field goals. If I can perfect that skill, it'll open some extra opportunities for me."

Chandler was also receptive to that kind of idea.

"That never really came across my mind," he said. "I'm pretty sure I can do that, and I guess that would be an idea that I could offer to them."

And if, through all the hard work and perspiration, they finally get selected to the squad, the important thing to remember is that when they are called upon, they have to be ready to act.

"Once a coach gets to know you and they tell you to jump in there, you have to be prepared," Zaunbrecher said. "You don't have time to build up to it. You go from zero to 60 in a heartbeat."

And though talent is a major factor in making a squad like that of Florida or Michigan State, there's also an element of fate — just watch the movie "Rudy."

"It's your heart and your mind," Chandler said. "Are you going to give up if they put you down and you don't make the team? You have to work hard,

and if you don't make the team you have to work for another whole year and do it on your own. Your heart pushes you to that, and if you don't have heart, you're never going to make the team."

Higgins echoed that thought. "Though it's very rare nowadays that a Rudy story will actually happen, when it does it's almost all based on heart and the intangibles you bring with you," Higgins said. "How much focus do you have on the goals you've set for yourself?"

Sometimes, other factors outside of the realm of football weigh in on the final decision by the coaching staffs. For example, Higgins had maintained a high enough grade-point average to be offered a full-academic scholarship to universities — including Florida.

"I would never have considered Florida if they hadn't offered me a full-academic scholarship," he said. "Since I'd be going for free, it might help the coaches out more and they might be more inclined to keep me. They'd never have to give me an athletic scholarship, and they'd be able to fill that slot with someone else."

No matter what, the most important thing is that they are going to go out there and try. There will never be that ques-



Chase Chandler

tion in the back of their mind wondering if they could have made it or if they should have tried. Instead, they'll know — and you never know what might happen.

"It's a tough deal," Zaunbrecher said. "Of course, there have been guys that do it, and they go out there and they do it. You just have to be a little more patient."

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.

Whalers back to those winning ways

Former Plymouth skater makes the best of his NHL debut, scores

Two of the top offensive teams in the league lived up to expectations Feb. 28 at Compuware Sports Arena as the Plymouth Whalers pulled off a 7-6 overtime win over the Ottawa 67's. Nate Kiser scored the game-winner on a slap shot at 3:20 in overtime. John Mitchell and Chad LaRose earned the assists.

Mitchell led the Whalers with two goals and three assists. Corey Locke also had a good game for the 67's with one goal and two assists.

Plymouth looked to be in command of the game with a 6-1 lead early in the second, but the 67's fought back with four power play goals to knot things at 6-6 in the third. Jeremy Akenson tied the game at 15:53 when his shot found a way past Plymouth goalie Paul Drew.

The Whalers put together a great start in the first period, scoring early and often to take a 4-1 lead. Mitchell got things started for the Whalers with his first goal of the game at 4:57. Chris Thorburn and Karl Stewart assisted on the goal.

Ottawa found a way to tie it up with a 5-on-3 power play goal at 8:34. Scott Sheppard took a perfect pass from Corey Locke and fired it past Whalers goalie Paul Drew for the 1-1 tie. Karol Slaboda earned the other assists.

Plymouth regained the lead when LaRose scored his 55th goal of the season on an unassisted effort at 10:20. Ryan Ramsay put the Whalers up 3-1 with a nice play down deep off a pass from Mike Letizia and John Vigilante. Mitchell then followed with his second of the night at

15:16 to close out the first period scoring. Thorburn earned the lone assist.

The high scoring continued in the second period as Plymouth jumped out to a 6-1 lead. But a pair of power play goals and another at even strength in the final minutes pulled the 67's within two goals, 6-4. Karl Stewart opened the second period with a Whalers goal at 1:07 with assists going to Thorburn and Mitchell. Plymouth continued to roll when Mike Nelson scored his first goal of the year at 2:13. Mitchell and Cole Jarrett earned the assists.

Ottawa pulled back into the game with power play goals from Brendan Bell and Corey Locke to cut the lead to 6-3. The 67's continued to pressure and it paid off when Bryan Bickell scored with 29 seconds left in the period to make it 6-4. The 67's continued with the momentum in the third as Matt Foy tied the game at 2:03, setting up the tying power play goal by Akenson.

Plymouth improves to 37-13-8-2 while Ottawa drops to 39-14-7-2.

Former Whalers Scores In Debut

Former Plymouth Whaler Tomas Kurka made the most of his NHL debut Feb. 27 when he scored his first NHL goal in a 4-2 loss to the Phoenix Coyotes.

Kurka, who was called up by the Carolina Hurricanes from their AHL affiliate the Lowell Lockmonsters on Wednesday, scored with 3:33 left in the game, spoiling Coyote goalie Sean Burke's shutout bid.

SPORTS SHORTS

Learn to Check

Suburban Hockey Schools will hold its Learn to Check Clinic at the Novi Ice Arena Thursday, April 3.

The program is geared toward squirt players moving up to the pee wee level, as well as pee wee and bantam players needing instruction on the techniques of checking.

Areas of emphasis during the two-hour clinic will include proper checking techniques, how to receive a check, how to avoid a check, stick checking, back checking, angling and body positioning. The fee is \$45 per participant.

Enrollment is limited so all interested future participants are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible.

The city-owned arena is located east of Novi Road between Nine Mile and 10 Mile roads on Arena Drive.

For more information, call (248) 478-1600 or visit www.suburban-hockey.com.

Softball/Baseball Private Lessons and Training

Total Baseball will help players, ages 6-18, improve their game. Instructors include Oakland University coaching staff, Big 10/MAC All-Conference softball/baseball players, the Toledo Mudhens manager, former professional players and college/HS coaches. Pitching, hitting and fielding are the lessons available and are by appointment only. The fees for the lessons start at \$35 per 1/2 hour or five private lessons for \$160.

Coaching positions open

Walled Lake School recently announced the following openings:

Walled Lake Central Girl's Track Assistant Coach; Walled Lake Western Head Boy's Tennis Coach; Walled Lake Western Head

Girl's Tennis Coach

Interested candidates should contact David Yarbrough, Athletic Director for Walled Lake Schools at (248) 956-2073. Those are the only positions open at the Walled Lake for coaches right now.

Youth Basketball Clinic

The Detroit Pistons Youth Basketball Clinic will be held at the Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville. This special family event for boys and girls will be held Saturday, March 8, for grades 1-3 and Saturday, March 15, for grades 4-6.

The time of the clinic is from 12:30-3 p.m. Each child will receive two free Piston tickets

and will be invited to attend the pre-game "Shoot Around" at courtside. There will be refreshments for all and parents should make sure to bring their cameras.

The cost of the camp is \$15 and space is limited. For more information, or to sign up, call Ward Church at (248) 374-5937.

Table Tennis Tournament

Northville Parks and Recreation will be hosting a table tennis tournament sponsored by the Chinese Association of Greater Detroit.

The event, which is scheduled to be held March 22, will have a 10 a.m. start with three groups consisting of an A-group (1900-

plus USTTA rating or the equivalent), a B-group (1600-1900 rating or equivalent) and a C-group (under-1600).

There will be individual round robin for small groups, with the top players advancing to the second-round playoff. Each group will be limited to no more than 12 players for the A group and 20 for the B and C groups. Players should register early for their spot.

The cost of the tournament is \$15 per player and the deadline is March 8.

For more information, contact Yong Huang at Yhuan@peoplepc.com or at (248) 380-0936 (home) and (734) 416-7253 (work).

WILDCAT CALENDAR

HOME Away	THURSDAY 6	FRIDAY 7	SATURDAY 8	SUNDAY 9	MONDAY 10	TUESDAY 11	WEDNESDAY 12
●		District Finals* 7:00				MHSAA Regionals* TBA	MHSAA Regionals* TBA
⚾		MHSAA Prelims noon	MHSAA Finals noon				
⚾			MHSAA State Finals TBA				
●	MHSAA Semi-Finals* TBA		MHSAA State Finals* TBA				
⚾		MHSAA individuals 2:30					
●			Volleyball season is over				
⚾							

Editor's Note: All Times are p.m. unless noted. * Indicates Novi Wildcats will play if they won their previous tournament contest.