

BECK: Will road funds come?

continued from front page

Person, a third of the \$18 million in road bonds approved by city voters last year was set aside for the Beck Road Bridge.

Road Commission for Oakland County spokesman Craig Bryson said his agency borrowed \$6 million to repair Grand River Avenue as a five-lane road between Beck and Wixom roads after being pressured by MDOT officials.

Wixom Assistant City Manager Tony Nowicki said that while his community hasn't spent any out-of-pocket money on the project, Wixom officials are concerned about how delaying the project may affect the city's plans for redevelopment as well as Ford Motor Company's future plans for the sprawling Wixom Assembly Plant, which turns 40 this year.

Local government seeks project reinstatement

Officials from Wixom, Novi, the Road Commission and others plan to go to Mount Clemens today to appear before the State Transportation Commission, a gubernatorial advisory panel, to argue for reinstatement of the Beck Road project, among others.

Nowicki said he first began working on the question of the Beck and Wixom road interchanges, which predate Ford's Wixom Assembly Plant, in 1990. He said the two interchanges then had only gutter curbs.

At Beck Road, the severed remains of 12 Mile Road were used as on- and off-ramps when I-96 was built, which means traffic headed into Detroit from Beck has to drive almost to Wixom Road before entering the expressway.

Blair Bowman, president of Novi Expo Center, said delaying the Beck Road project "harms greatly" his company's plans to build a new 318,000-square-foot, privately-financed exhibition hall near the interchange.

Bowman said when the Novi City Commission approved his \$4.82-acre project Nov. 12, "the interchange was a done deal." He added, "This truly is a fix-it-first project and a work-in-progress."

Gullick has already begun to form in the earth mounds piled by state contractors last summer. Several local politicians pointed out that MDOT has put plywood sheets under the existing Beck Road bridge to keep spalling concrete from hitting passing commuters.

Bowman said he too plans on attending today's State Transportation Commission meeting. "I firmly believe that after getting the facts, the governor and DOT will reconsider," he said.

Lou Martin, spokesman for Providence Hospital, said he doesn't believe the delay in the Beck Road project will have a major effect on his hospital's plans to complete a 200-bed expansion at its Novi Campus. However, he did note the hospital's board did donate 11 acres, worth an estimated \$3 million, to the state for the project.

Five Novi bridges in serious condition

In announcing the deferral of the Beck and Wixom Road bridges and 32 other projects, Jeff said, "Preserve First means protecting our most vital transportation investments. Right now our number one priority is to be fiscally responsible and make sure existing roads are in the best possible condition."

Five Novi bridges in serious condition

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

According to a report written by SEMCOG Transportation Planner Cheril Lin Abeel last April on the 3,524 bridges in SEMCOG's seven-county region, on a scale of zero to nine, the Beck Road bridge rates a three. The study, based on MDOT's 2001 Michigan Structure Inventory and Appraisal (MSIA) data base, listed the bridge and 151 Oakland County bridges as "structurally deficient or functionally obsolete."

Beck Road is one of five bridges listed in "serious" condition in the SEMCOG study. One, the CSX Bridge on Grand River Avenue, won't be on the list next year because it's being rebuilt.

In announcing April 16 the \$2.1 million replacement of the Old Plank Road Bridge over I-96, about five miles east of the Livingston County, Randy McKimney, manager of MDOT's Oakland County Transportation Service Center in Waterford Township, said, "Preserving the existing system is our top priority."

However, the SEMCOG study listed the bridge as functionally obsolete and in fair condition, instead of structurally deficient as it did Beck Road. Old Plank Road north of I-96 is a dirt road running past a tree farm. Beck Road north of the expressway is a paved road leading to several crowded industrial parks.

State Rep. Craig DeRoche (R-Nowi) said he plans on asking for a meeting of the House Transportation Committee May 1. "Fixing these roads is not about politics, it's about safety," he said.



The Beck Road bridge running over I-96 has many sheets of plywood stuck between its I-beams to catch pieces of concrete that fall from the deteriorating structure.

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POLICE REPORT

Yolked

A 47-year-old Novi male called police on April 12 after learning his home had been yolked. The resident told police someone had thrown eggs at his home in the 4700 block of Rochester, near 10 Mile and Beck roads, sometime between 8 p.m. on April 11 and 9 a.m. the next day. The eggs were thrown at his window above the door and the wood trim surrounding the glass. According to the officer's report, many eggs were thrown at the window and about one to two were thrown at the wood trim. The officer noted the window was not broken, but two to three panes were "yolk covered."

Under-age drinkers

Two young drinkers and drivers were busted last week after making the mistake of driving through the city while under the influence of alcohol.

The first arrest happened on April 12 at about 1 a.m. on 10 Mile Road at Duxer. A 20-year-old male from Chesterfield Township was stopped after a Novi officer spotted his 1996 Chevy Blazer weaving within its lane of travel and crossing the double yellow lines. The officer also noticed the truck's tires skim the curb while making a right turn. The driver told the officer he had nothing to drink and was on the way to his girlfriend's house. After failing a preliminary breath test, the man apologized for fibbing and told the officer he had been drinking "Bacardi."

The second arrest occurred the next day at about 10 p.m. in the area of 13 Mile and Meadowbrook roads. A Novi officer noticed a 2003 Chevy Malibu traveling 54 mph in a 40-mph zone. After initiating a traffic stop, the officer smelled a strong odor of intoxicants on the 20-year-old Livonia resident's breath. The driver immediately admitted he was younger than 21 and had five or six beers that evening.

Both drivers blew a .09 and were arrested.

Compiled by Victoria Sadlocha

Pilfered plastic

A Milford resident received an unpleasant surprise after a credit card company called his home to report suspicious activity on his cards. After the call, the 48-year-old male checked his wallet and realized four of his cards were gone. A representative from the credit company told the man his cards were used several times in Southfield. The man told police he believes the cards were stolen from his wallet while at Bally's Total Fitness in the Novi Town Center sometime on April 6 between 4 and 5:30 p.m. The Novi officer told the man to contact the FTC for credit assistance. He also advised the Milford man to cancel his cards and call all three major credit reporting agencies to put a

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Novi's own Annie

Novi resident Gracie Denton will take the stage in The Novi Theatres' upcoming production of "Annie" early next month

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Gracie Denton is living every little girl's dream.

The petite 12-year-old will take the stage with Sandy by her side, starring in the popular musical "Annie."

The infectious Novi 7th grader was chosen from a group of about 30 girls auditioning for the role of the curly-haired orphan in The Novi Theatres' spring production.

"It was really tough," Gracie said. "We were all very good."

"Annie" director Carrie Wickert of The Novi Theatres said Gracie stood out from the others primarily because of her voice.

"She had a look that could work as Annie, but she was the only one that really sang 'Tomorrow' the way it needs to be sung," she said. "It gave us chills."

Wickert said along with Gracie's strong vocals, her dancing and acting ability also captured the judge's attention.

This may be in part because of the young resident's stage experience.

Gracie began pursuing drama about three years ago with the Marquis Theatre in Northville.

Taking the stage in "Pinocchio," "Wizard of Oz," "Little Red Riding Hood," "Charlotte's Web" and

"Jack and the Bean Stalk" she developed her love of musical performance.

Mother Rosemarie said it was an exciting to the downtown theater when her daughter was 7 to see "Pied Piper" that really sparked Gracie's interest in musicals.

And since she started home schooling in fourth grade, Gracie was able to take the time out during the day the local theater's schedule required.

Gracie has also appeared on stage with Paper Bag Productions in Livonia, Plymouth Theatre Guild, Novi Meadows Elementary School and in November portrayed young Epounee in Livonia Churchill High School's "Les Miserables."

All of her acting experience along with instruction in ballet, tap, piano, flute, vocals and trips to Novi Middle School for band and choir made it seem no surprise Gracie received the starring role even though it was her first audition for the city's theater group.

"We had inadvertently heard about the auditions through a friend," Rosemarie said. "It's been a great experience with Novi Theatres."

"Sometimes it's nice to move on and experience different directions," Rosemarie said. "It's been a great experience with Novi Theatres."

Gracie said she never imagined she'd receive a callback, let alone be chosen for the role.

For her initial audition and callback, Gracie sang songs from the musical including "Tomorrow" and "Maybe" along with some tap dancing and scene reading.

"There were a lot of people there and a lot of energy," Gracie said. "The young actress said she was 'just elated' when she learned she would be Annie."

"Her dad and I are really excited for her," Rosemarie said.

Gracie has been rehearsing four days a week in preparation for her first curtain call Friday, May 9 on the Novi Middle School stage.

"I think it's going to be a great show," Gracie said. "The cast in

"Annie" is really good. It is really well cast and the dancing is phenomenal."

Novi's soon-to-be favorite orphan said some of her favorite scenes in the play are tap dancing with Oliver Warbucks portrayed by Novi resident Michael Wahlstrom and the play opener with Molly portrayed by Canton resident Frankie Topalian who Gracie said "is really good at her role."

"It will be a lot of fun," Gracie said. "But it will be sad when it is over."

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

WHAT ELSE FOR GRACIE?

Along with her portrayal of the lead role in The Novi Theatres' production of "Annie," 12-year-old Gracie Denton will take some other prestigious stages.

On Thursday, May 1, Gracie will travel to the state capitol to sing the National Anthem during National Day of Prayer celebrations. The event will be particularly poignant as Gracie's uncle is a Marine serving the United States in Iraq.

This is not the first time she has performed our country's anthem either.

Gracie belted out the patriotic tune during a last-year Right to Life-Lifespan Legislative breakfast and the Catholic Youth Organization Prep Bowl Football finals at Ford Field in October. Last Summer, the young crooner performed "Paris Angelicus" at the Michigan Catholic Radio Luncheon.

More is in store too as Gracie was recently accepted into Interlochen Center for the Arts' musical theater revue.

THEATRE: Sun will come out tomorrow

continued from front page

strong as a family favorite since its United States' opening in New York 26 years ago.

Wickert said Novi's version will not disappoint.

"It is a very positive and uplifting show," she said. "It appeals to all ages."

The director said the chorus of orphans was just about performance ready the first week of rehearsals because the young performers already are familiar with all of the play's songs.

Wickert herself remembers singing along with "Annie" and all the orphans as a child, a familiarity she believes will encompass all attendees.

Performances of "Annie" will

take place Friday, May 9 through Saturday, May 10 and Saturday, May 19 through Sunday, May 18 on the Novi Middle School stage, located at Wixom and 11 Mile Roads.

Tickets are on sale now for \$17 at the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry inside the Novi Civic Center.

Additional tickets will also be available at the door for the same price.

For more information, call (248) 347-0400.

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

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NOVI CITY COUNCIL BRIEFS

Arbor Day
Mayor Richard J. Clark declared this Saturday as Arbor Day in the City of Novi. In 1872, Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture a special day be set aside for the planting of trees. Today, Arbor Day has become not only a national, but a worldwide event observed throughout the last week in April.

White Cane Week
In an effort to urge all citizens to become familiar with the meaning and purpose of the White Cane Law and to lend support to Nova Lions projects, Novi Mayor Richard J. Clark proclaimed the period of April 25 through May 4 as Novi Lions White Cane Week. Clark said the Lions of Novi are dedicated to sight conservation activities by aiding the visually impaired for all ages through eye examinations and eyeglasses for the less fortunate. They also support Welcome Home for the

Blind, Leader Dogs for the Blind, Michigan Eye Bank and Transplantation Center, Penickton Center for Blind Children and other worthy community service projects. More than 18,000 blind people in Michigan are dependent upon a white cane or leader dog.

Holocaust Remembrance Week
Novi Mayor Richard J. Clark declared the week of Sunday, April 27 through May 4 as Days of Remembrance in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. Clark urges all members of the community to honor Holocaust survivors as well as the rescuers and liberators. He further urges that we, as citizens of Novi, strive to overcome intolerance and indifference through learning and remembrance. Clark said the history of the Holocaust offers an opportunity to reflect on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies and governments

and as a community we should always remember the terrible events and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution and tyranny.

New stop signs
Approval was given during Novi City Council's April 21 meeting for the installation of stop signs located within the Northham Walk and Pebble Ridge Estates subdivisions. The signs will be placed at the intersections of Woodworth and Delmont drives, Woodworth and Nottingham drives, Pebble Lane and Nottingham Drive and Kent Court and Nottingham Drive. The placement of the signs were noted on the final approved site plans and needed to be installed and officially acknowledged by the city with a traffic control order.

Suburban Hockey
The Novi Ice Arena will receive a preventative maintenance program and new parts for its second Zamboni ice resurfacing machine after members of council gave their approval during the April 21 meeting. Suburban Hockey Management recommended the approval to award the quotation of \$4,082 to Mueller, the sole source for both services. Mueller has provided the arena with a loaner Zamboni since February of this year to use in place of the arena's out-of-use piece of equipment.

Special Assessment Districts
Approval for two Special Assessment Districts effecting the Pioneer Meadows Subdivision was given during Novi City Council's April 21 meeting. The approval of SAD Resolution Number 3 authorizes the preparation of final plans and final estimates of the construction cost for the revised Pioneer Meadows Subdivision SAD 162 for sanitary sewer and SAD 163 for water main.

New fire hose
The Novi Fire Department will receive 32 sections of 2.5-inch fire hose after members of council gave their approval for the purchase during the April 21 meeting. The fire hose will be purchased from Apollo Fire Equipment, the low quotation, in the amount of \$4,451 for the department's Engines 2 and 3.

RACE: Csordas runs for mayor
continued from front page
councilman said, gave him a great lesson in perseverance and ethics. "I've had a lot of experience," he said.
Now that the announcement has been made, Csordas said campaigning comes next.
"I'll hold one or two fundraisers, and I'll be going out over the summer in the next four months and pounding on doors," he said. "I think we've got a real good plan in place and a real good agenda."
Csordas said what will be missing from his campaign is bad politics.
"As difficult as elections are, I know one thing is for sure," he said. "This won't be a nasty one. It will be totally respectful, as far as I'm concerned."

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

NOVI CITY BRIEFS

Spring ice skating lessons
Open registration for the Spring session of Novi Ice Arena's Learn to Skate Program has already begun. The program will run from Tuesday, April 29 through Saturday, June 7. The classes offered will be Beginning Ice, Snowplow, Sam 1-3, Basic 1-8, Freestyle 1-2, Adult 1-4, Hockey Skills 2-4 and Home School. Classes are open to skaters of all ages and will be offered at a variety of times Tuesdays through Saturdays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday classes will run six weeks, while Friday and Saturday classes will run five weeks. New to this session will be private lessons, which are available in 30 minute increments on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings throughout the session. Registration runs through Saturday, April 26. The Novi Ice Arena is located at 42400 Arden Drive, east of Novi Road between Nine and 10 Mile roads. For more information, call (248) 347-1010, ext. 4350.

Winslow Homer's America
Friends of the Novi Public Library present "Winslow Homer's America" on Tuesday, April 29 at 7 p.m. as part of the group's Spring 2003 Program Series. During the lecture, University of Windsor Professor Michael Farrell will discuss how Homer's move to New York, and the events of the Civil War transformed the magazine illustrator into an artist with his finger on the nation's pulse and the great questions of the day. The ice program will be held at the Novi Public Library, located at 45245 W. 10 Mile Road, between Novi and Taff roads. For reservations or

more information, call (248) 349-0220.

Memorial Day Parade
Calling all groups and businesses interested in being part of the City of Novi 2003 Memorial Day Parade. The annual event will serve as a special opportunity to bring recognition to those who have served our country. Entry forms are available at the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department or by visiting the city's Web site at www.novimich.com. The parade will take place 10 a.m. Monday, May 26. Completed forms must be returned by Friday, May 2. Confirmation and instructions will be provided by mail. For more information, call Tracie Ringle at (248) 347-0400.

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 serving in the armed forces from 1945 to 2003 at the Veterans' Recognition Day event. This event will honor veterans of the Civil War, Confederacy, 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 Reserves 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. Contact the City of Novi Community Relations Office, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 or (248) 736-5628 for a registration form for this event.

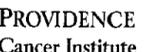
"I thought it was time. I have the experience and the local knowledge."

Louis Csordas
Novi City Councilman

Arbor Day
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*Not all buyers will qualify for Red Carpet Lease. Some payments higher, some restrictions apply. Cash back on RCL contracts includes: \$500 AARP cash on Town Car and Grand Marquis and \$300 (Sable), \$1,500 (LS), \$1,250 (Grand Marquis and Mountaineer), \$1,750 (Navigator) lease renewal cash. RCL cash and special lease terms, take delivery from dealer stock by 5/5/03. Customers eligible for lease renewal cash must terminate their new or used Lincoln or Mercury vehicle lease and renew into a new RCL by 5/15/03. **Starting of A-plan prices are less cash back or owner loyalty cash and excludes tax, title and license fees. Cash back includes: \$5000 (Town Car), \$3000 (Aviator, Sable, LS, Mountaineer and Navigator), and \$3500 (Grand Marquis) retail customer cash, \$500 (Town Car and Grand Marquis) AARP cash and \$500 (Grand Marquis) and \$750 (Mountaineer) Owner Loyalty cash. \$500 Bonus cash offer for AARP members valid only with any private offers. Take retail delivery from dealer stock by 6/30/03. Owner loyalty cash for current qualified owners of Lincoln or Mercury vehicles who purchase a new Mountaineer or Grand Marquis RCL by 6/30/03. Proof of ownership required. Offers subject to change. See dealer for details. †See dealer for details for Early Bird specials on LS, Continental, Villager, Town Car and Sable.

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BUSINESS

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

BUSINESS SHORTS

So he's the one...

Members of Walsh College Alumni Association will gather at the Troy Marriott Hotel at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 7 to meet the genius behind zero percent financing, Paul D. Ballew is General Motors Corporation's executive director for Global Market and Industry Analysis and is responsible for the company's forecasting, market and industry analysis and planning activities as well as economic and consumer research. He is also the second speaker in the WCAA Leadership Lecture Series. Alumni, students and guests are invited to join the networking and learning event. Student and WCAA member tickets are \$20; all others are \$25 and include hors d'oeuvres during the reception. Check the Web site: www.walshcollege.edu or call 248-823-1202 or email dballew@walshcollege.edu to reserve a seat. Ballew, who once served as a senior economist for the Federal Reserve and as an advisor to Chairman Alan Greenspan, is expected to discuss "The auto industry and its effect on the economy." Ballew was a member of the Walsh College finance faculty from 1990-1995. Founded in 1922, Walsh has a Novi campus in addition to its main facility in Troy and is has a presence at Macomb Community College's Automotive Center.



P. Ballew

Sticky situation

Auburn Hills-based Loctite Automotive has named Novi resident Nicholas Sampieri its automotive market development manager. Sampieri will oversee market development and growth for Loctite Automotive. He will be responsible for cultivating the company's business with automakers and tiered suppliers. Much of Sampieri's previous experience included various sales and marketing leadership positions in the silicone products division of General Electric Co. "Nick's experience directly aligns with this new position, providing a solid foundation to continue expanding our automotive market share," said Charles J. Evans, vice president and general manager, Loctite Automotive. "With more than 20 years of automotive background, he brings the necessary knowledge to support our growth initiatives and ultimately raise the bar for our development in the market." In addition to GE, Sampieri held several vice president posts at Textron Automotive Company and he created a minority supplier automotive program while he was senior vice president of automotive business development with the National City Bank Corporation. He is member of the Society of Automotive Engineers, the Marketing and Sales Executives of Detroit, the Michigan



N. Sampieri

Minority Business Development Corporation, the Japan America Society, the French American Chamber of Commerce and the Association of Corporate Growth. Before earning a bachelor's degree in marketing from Rutgers University and a master's degree in business administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, Sampieri was a U.S. Army rifle team leader in Vietnam in the mid-1960s. Loctite Automotive, which supplies the auto industry with adhesives and sealants, is part of the Henkel Group based in Düsseldorf, Germany. Henkel employs 46,638 worldwide.

Buy two and call me in the morning

Todd Hawley and Harry Cohen from Farmington Hill's Friedman Real Estate Group recently completed the sale of Novi Professional Village to Sabah Maroufy for an undisclosed amount. Maroufy purchased the fully leased one-story 15,500 square foot medical building and accompanying 1.5 acres as an investment property, and plans to develop the remaining acreage for additional medical space. The building was completed in 1988. The seller was UniProp, Inc., a nationally recognized, full-service real estate investment firm headquartered in Birmingham. Friedman represented both parties in the sale of the medical park, located at 23975-23995 Novi Road in Novi.

continued on page 9

By Phil Foley

STAFF WRITER

After more than two decades in Southfield, Telcom Credit Union is looking up its tent and moving to Novi. The 67-year-old credit union is moving its headquarters to a new 37,000 square foot building at the corner of 12 Mile Road and Cabarr Drive.

While it's not unusual for companies to move to Novi, less than 1 percent of Telcom's 31,500 members live in the Novi, Wixom, Walled Lake, South Lyon area. Sill, said Russ Kotila, the credit union's marketing director, "It's been very positive. I have not received one complaint" from members. That's because the move is about growth. The credit union was formed by 10 employees of Michigan Bell's Detroit District with \$5 each in 1936. Today, said Kotila, the credit union has \$375 million in assets and 90 employees in three locations. While credit unions have traditionally served distinct groups, such as church memberships or company employee groups, Kotila said, "We've deviated from historical trend." He said three years ago the credit union's board of directors began looking at Washnaw, Western Wayne and Oakland County for expansion targets. "We've identified this market as one that's underserved," he said. "I just can't talk anymore positively about Novi," he added. "We look at this as a hotbed. The community is salivating for help in financial services."

Like many credit unions in Metro Detroit, Telcom has undergone a spate of mergers, including the City of Southfield Employees

and Eaton Employees credit unions. Though founded by telephone company employees, less than half of its membership today is telecommunication workers. Kotila said Telcom has found a way to make it even easier to become a member. He said anyone making a \$2 minimum donation to the Salvation Army's Bed & Bread program is eligible to join. "Two dollars is nothing," he said. He said the credit union's board is expecting the new headquarters to lead to substantial membership growth. He noted the new building has four drive-through lanes. He said the credit union's current headquarters, located in a one-time Stouffer's restaurant at Eight Mile

and Northwestern Highway, is half the size of the new building. He added once the move is complete, it will remain open as a branch. Telcom also has a branch in Canton. Kotila said state law allows credit unions to accept members who live within 25 miles of a branch. He noted that even though Telcom spent \$9 million on its new building, it still had \$300,000 in profits to split with its members and the end of last year. Phil Foley is a reporter for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext 108 or by e-mail at pfoley@ht.homecomm.net.

LET'S TALK WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN GEMOLOGIST

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

SAVVY SENIOR

Dear Savvy Senior, I'm writing because my husband retired last year for his job of 38 years and has had a difficult time adjusting. He was tired of his job and was looking forward to retirement but now that it's here, he doesn't seem to be enjoying it. He's grumpy, restless, bored and feels lost (which he would never admit). I think he's depressed (which he also would never admit). Can you tell me if this is a common problem and what can I do to help him because frankly, he's making me nuts. Thank you, Mr. Grumpy and Mrs. Nutty

Dear Mrs. Nutty, Please be patient and supportive with Mr. Grumpy! It's very common and actually quite understandable to feel lost, bored and depressed with the huge and sudden lifestyle change of retirement. In many cases, retirement means that literally overnight, you have no job, no structure, no social interaction with co-workers and lots of free time.

Savvy Note: In today's American society, many men tie their self-esteem and self worth to their career.

Plan Ahead: Ah, retirement... Finally you have the time to read all those good books, travel, play golf and reconnect with old friends. Sounds great! Maybe not! Experts say that planning ahead is the number one tip for coping with retirement. Although many people plan for retirement financially, few consider the lifestyle changes they will face. Here are some savvy suggestions to help you make the adjustment.

Savvy Note: People who do best with retirement have interests and purpose outside of their jobs. Depression — What to Look For? Here is a list of the most common signs of depression: An "empty" feeling, ongoing sadness, and anxiety.

Tiredness, lack of energy. Restlessness, irritability or excessive crying. Loss of interest or pleasure in everyday activities, including sex. Insomnia, oversleeping or waking much earlier than usual. Eating more or less than usual. Aches and pains that don't go away when treated. A hard time focusing, remembering or making decisions. Feeling guilty, helpless, worthless or hopeless. Thoughts of death or suicide.

Savvy Note: Depression can be tricky to recognize and hard to diagnose, however the 80 to 90 percent of those who seek treatment can feel better within a few weeks. Treatment: If you're seriously concerned about your husband's post retirement difficulty, see your doctor or mental health specialist for treatment. Different therapies seem to work for different people. For example, support groups can provide new coping skills or social support if you are dealing with a major life change. Also, don't forget to call on family and friends to help provide support. Antidepressant drugs can also help. These medications can improve mood, sleep, appetite and concentration. Some antidepressants can take up to 12 weeks before you are aware of any progress. Be sure to first talk to your doctor about this option.

Savvy Facts: Depression affects almost 10 percent of the population, or 19 million Americans, in a given year. Two-thirds of those who are depressed never seek treatment. This savvy information was obtained in part from the National Institute on Aging.

Savvy Resources: National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH): 1-800-421-4211 (for publications) or see their Web site for items on depression and older adults: www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/depoldemenu.cfm National Mental Health Association (NMHA): 1-800-969-NMHA (6642) www.nmha.org American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry (AAGP): 301-654-7850 www.aagp.org American Psychological Association (APA): 1-800-374-2721 www.apa.org

Alexander honored

The Senior Alliance, a private non-profit agency based in Wayne, that administers a network of services to older adults in southeast Michigan, has presented Lynn Alexander with the organization's prestigious Meritorious Service Award.

Alexander, recently appointed by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson to the new cabinet level post of senior citizen advocate, earned the award "because of her extraordinary service to the aging."



Photo by John

The Bonnet Brigade

This year's Novi Senior Easter Bonnet Parade and Luncheon took place on Thursday, April 17 at noon inside the Novi Senior Center in Meadowbrook Commons. Every year area seniors put on their Easter Sunday best and enjoy a day of fun hosted by Kathy Crawford, City of Novi special recreation coordinator. Shown above are Virginia Whing, Marion Cowan, and Suzanne Davis.

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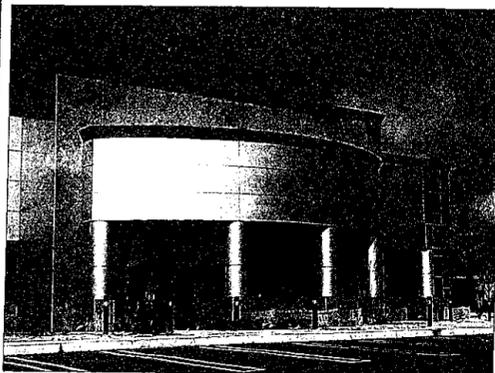
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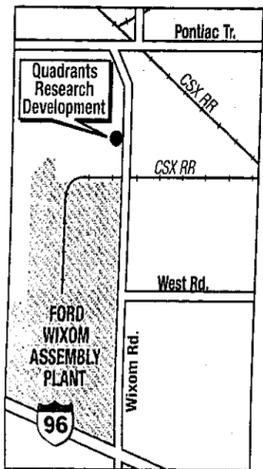
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Size: 28,000 square feet
Owner: Quadrants Inc., Wixom
Use: Office, research and industrial
General Contractor: Quadrants, Inc.
Architect: Harley Faxon, West Bloomfield
Completion Date: Shell complete, first tenant (software developer Trinity) slated to move in May 15. Buildout planned for the end of 2003.



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Novi Chamber auction raises \$10,000 for charity

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Chamber of Commerce will be handing over a check for \$10,000 to the Assarlian Cancer Center's Healing Arts program when chamber members meet June 17 for their monthly luncheon at Carabba's restaurant.

Champion said 320 bought tickets to the April 12 event at the Novi Hilton. "We've had a tough time with the economy, so I think the turnout was fabulous," said Champion. "This was really successful. A lot of people came out to support a worthwhile cause."

She noted that this year's auction "drew a lot of first-timers" and that the bulk of the tickets were purchased by individuals.

Champion said the Novi business community was very supportive of the auction. "So many people donated so many nice things," she observed. "Most of the times in our \$100 raffle ended up being worth \$100 and up."

the 12th annual Novi Chamber of Commerce Charity Auction. "We'd like to improve the auction," she said. "The goal is to always make it better."

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

Bank plants flag in Novi

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Troy-based Flagstar Bancorp (NYSE:FBC) held a soft opening of its newest banking center at 31110 Novi Rd. in Novi April 16.

That means no balloons, no hoopla, no ribbon cutting. That may come later when the bank holds its official grand opening.

Flagstar, the third largest bank headquartered in Michigan, is in the midst of a major expansion. Alessandro P. DiNello, Flagstar's executive vice president, said the bank has been growing at a rate of 20 to 30 percent a year. He said the bank has opened 17 new branches in the past 12 months in Michigan and Indiana and plans to do the same over the next 12.

DiNello said that while the bank hasn't picked any more locations in the area, "We anticipate additional locations in Novi," adding that if business growth in Novi warrants it, the next Novi location could start in 12 to 24 months.

"It's a good, strong market over there," he said from his office in Jackson. DiNello said Flagstar has been looking at a Novi location for a long time and bought its Novi Road property two years ago. He said the bank has had a loan origination office in Northville's Cady Center for years.

The opening of the Novi branch brings Flagstar's operations to 92 banking centers in Michigan and Indiana, 96 loan origination offices in 21 states, and 14 correspondent loan offices, servicing all 50 states.

Flagstar was formed in 1997 with the merger of West Bloomfield First Security Savings and Jackson's Security Savings. "At the time we were relatively small with eight locations and \$1 billion in assets."

Today, with \$8.2 billion in total assets, Flagstar Bancorp ranks behind only Comerica and Citizens Bank, said DiNello. He said last year the trade publication U.S. Banker named Flagstar the number one bank in America after it reported it was the nation's most profitable bank in 2001 and 2002, based on return on equity.

Hours at the Novi office are 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. For more information on the bank visit its Web site at www.flagstar.com.

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

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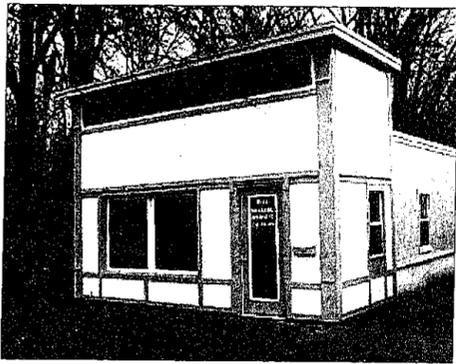
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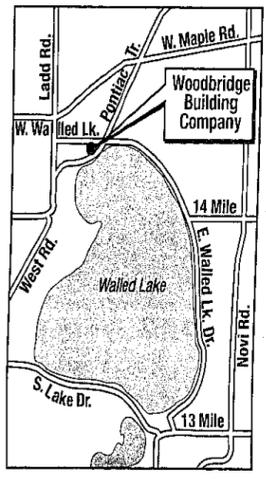
Owner: Jeff Nabozny and Ken Jedrusik, Walled Lake

Use: Office space for residential builder

General Contractor: Woodbridge Building Company

Architect: AZD, Birmingham, owner, Kevin Akey

Completion Date: April 30



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BUSINESS SHORTS

More trees, less parking

Novi's Planning Commission gave the J.B. Donaldson Co., the nod to cut parking at Venture Drive spec building off Nine Mile Road between Meadowbrook and Novi roads, but not before commission

member Lynn Kocan writing a promise from builder Bennett Donaldson to plant more Arbor Vitae trees between his property and the adjacent site in Hickory Corporate Park. In November, commission members approved the addition of 17 parking spaces on the south side of the building, which was completed in 1999, in preparation for leasing it to Sunglo, a Dearborn-based fire restoration company. Donaldson told commission members he wanted to trim parking by seven spaces in order to allow for the installation of an overhead door to provide drive-thru access for delivery trucks.

Stay in touch

Email your business news to info@hnow.com. If possible, attach a color photograph. You can also mail your business news to Phil Foley, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville 48167.



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A story of Susardham, India starts in Novi

By Umesh Rashmi Rohati

On 26th Jan. 2001 a big earthquake jolted the Kathi in Gujarat India. We were in Orissa, and we were about to end our trip in India. We shortened our other programs and decided to visit the area before we returned to USA. What we saw was well known. It changed our thinking forever and we realized that difference between the victims and us is only we have roof over our head and they not only lost roof but hope as well. We decided to do something with our limited resources; we decided to help at least one family. How to select that family was a big question, as we had no direct contact with any grieving family.

We know Manav Kalyan Trust (MKT). We contacted Mr. Lalita Bhat Desai Managing Trustee of MKT. Lucky for us he was in search of tents for victims, was unable to get them quickly. It became clear to us we may be able to get these tents from Pilakhuva in UP. He wanted to give 100 we added 4 from our side and sent 104 tents to Kathi in two weeks time. This was a short-term solution for housing needs.

At present 84 homes are fully completed. Remaining 20 houses will be completed in one month. By the way we have promised five years of our time for the cause of Susardham infrastructure and train the folks to run their own affairs afterwards if villagers are willing. Even now we do things differently. We only provide guidance, direction information, and talk to authorities on their behalf villagers themselves have to do every thing else. So far we have collected and spent \$110,000 equivalent in Indian rupees and US dollars. For other infra structure we will need additional minimum of 150,000 dollars. Excluding villagers labor cost. The story is not complete yet and it can not be completed by us as it could be further written and will be revised many times in future by us and residents of Susardham together and of course your input who are reading this will be most valuable in terms of help to be financial, emotional or suggestive. Hence your input in any form will be valuable and will be waited and adopted if it is consented by residents.

OBITUARIES

David Howard LaFond

David LaFond of Howell, formerly of Vanderbilt and Novi, died suddenly on April 17, 2003 at St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital in Howell. He was 80. He was born December 12, 1912 in Windsor, Canada, the son of David Sr. and Marie (Ashby) LaFond. Mr. LaFond was a sergeant in the U.S. Army, having served during World War II. He is survived by his longtime companion, Edith Fetterly of Howell; children Anthony LaFond of Howell, Judy (Gene) Tomlin of Rodney, Mich., and Matt (Patty) LaFond of Howard City; seven grandchildren; five great-grand children; and two sisters, Patricia and Prudy of Florida. The family received friends at the MacDonald's Funeral Home, 315 N. Michigan Ave., Howell (517-546-2800). Memorial contributions are suggested to the Livingston County Humane Society.

William (Learning) Shaw of Fenton, Mich.; several brothers and sisters-in-law, uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews and nieces.

Interment will be in Evergreen Cemetery in Lansing, Mich. Memorial contributions may be made to Dana's family or the Humane Society. Arrangements are by Lakeshore Memorial Services 11939 James Street in Holland.

Richard C. Phillips

Richard C. Phillips of Farmington, Mich. died on April 16, 2003. He was 78. He is survived by his wife, Beverly; his son, Richard K. Phillips; stepdaughters Michelle, Jill and Paula; eight grandchildren; his twin sister, Mary Smith; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Born in Grand Rapids, Mich. on May 20, 1924, Richard C. Phillips had a desire to learn to fly from an early age. He started to wash planes in Grand Rapids airport at the age 15; pilots gave him flying lessons as a bonus for his work. Mr. Phillips joined the R.O.T.C. at Central High School and went when World War II broke out. He and his fellow R.O.T.C.s were ordered to secure Grand Rapids airport. He enlisted in the Army Air Corp in June of 1942 and served in the Pacific theatre flying in bombers as a radio operator mechanic gunner, flying reconnaissance missions and was honorably discharged with the rank of Staff Sergeant in December, 1945. Mr. Phillips earned the following medals during his period in the Army: good conduct medal, victory medal-American theatre ribbon, Asiatic Pacific theatre ribbon with two bronze battle stars, two overseas service bars and one service strip. He went to college on the GI bill and graduated from the University of Michigan School of Engineering

and began his career in the field of Aerospace for 13 years, being employed by the Lear Corporation in his hometown of Grand Rapids. He followed this with a career in manufacturing, employed Lebow Associates, and distinguished himself as an inventor and was awarded with a U.S. patent.

Mr. Phillips manufacturing career led to a wide-range travel schedule, doing business in 22 countries. He loved his work and had been doing consulting until a year ago. After that he did part-time work at various routine supervisions, as we had no knowledge of local language, customs of Gujarat. But bank A/C will have Umesh as cosigner with

years and money thus collected will be used to start new ventures. Start few companies like water supply and construction company electric company to take care of maintenance, supply electricity to village. Houses are all in the joint names of husband and wife. There will be 100% employment with in village. There will be a library, school, and daycare for children, primary health care center, yoga center for health care. Solar street lights, solar Chula (cooker) for everybody, desalination stills for water purification. By the way various Government departments or research organizations in Gujarat already provided help to the Government home industry dept. Had promised help in building roads, school, community building and water supply. We have to make project reports and cost estimates and come up with subsidy money and or 1/3 percent of total costs of the projects. (This is our present need, 7 more money). List of meetings was done separately with women, men and children to gauge their needs so that these can be incorporated in plans. By the way our son is celebrating his daughter's birth with the villagers donated money to take care of child care park equipment.

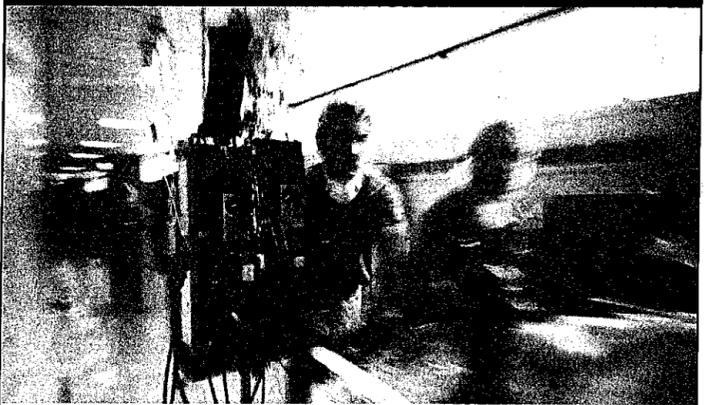
Mr. Phillips was very interested in doing genealogy and he and his wife were members of the Farmington Genealogy Club having spent many hours researching family roots. He also was a member of the American Legion, Grand Rapids post, and past member Society of Automotive Engineers (SAC). Computers played a large part in his life, and it was known that he never passed a computer store that he didn't stop in to see the latest technology available to assist him in his endeavors.

For more information, contact Novi resident Umesh Rashmi Rohati at (248) 471-5786, or by e-mail at menterprise@aol.com.



At 7:30 he was racing to the office.

At 7:45 he was being rushed into surgery.



The Botsford Emergency Department has an open door to the community, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are prepared to deal with a medical emergency whenever one arises. While we focus immediate attention on the medical issue of the moment, we maintain sensitivity to the anxieties of family and friends. Whether it's a heart attack, broken bone or any other emergency, our specialized treatment considers the individual needs of each patient. Our board-certified emergency department physicians have access to a full range of specialists. Our Emergency Services are a blending of prompt care and personal care that has come to be recognized as Botsford Care. We hope you will never need us. But if you do, we are here.

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Detroit Women in Rhythm & Blues coming to Wixom this Friday

■ A night of some of the best and freshest R & B and blues the Motor City has to offer

Wixom's Breaktime Billiards will host a smaller version of Detroit Women in R & B - an in-your-face onslaught of some of the freshest voices in the Detroit blues scene this Friday at 9:30 p.m. The ensemble will feature some of the most prominent ladies on the Detroit scene on a rotating basis in the coming weeks and months.

Blues powerhouse Kate Hart - who recently launched her own spring tour in late March - assembled Detroit Women in R & B shortly after returning to the metro Detroit area in recent months. Hart, who prospered as both a solo and ensemble performer in Seattle during the past two decades, gained recognition for assembling Seattle Women in R & B in 1985. This award-winning group contained some of the top women on the Seattle scene for 17 years, and appeared with legends such as B.B. King, Roy Orbison, Booker T and the MG's and Robert Palmer.

The concert format will feature all styles and genres of blues and R & B, including swing, Chicago shuffle and Texas romp. Each artist will perform one to two songs and will be supported by

Brown, Lydia Pense, Booker T and the MG's, Queen Ida, Dorothy Moore, Phillip Walker, Big Time Sarah and Terrance Simien.

• **Valerie Barrymore:** "Valerie is a wonderful singer," said Gladys Knight. Barrymore, the "Queen of Funk" has received six Detroit Music Awards. Barrymore has toured the United States, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Canada. Ms. Barrymore has been a favorite at festivals, clubs and state fairs. She has appeared with Betty Lavette, Midnight Star, The Contours, The O'Jays, Morris Day & the Time and Gladys Knight. Born and raised in Detroit, she attended Michigan Christian College, where she often performed as a featured vocalist.

• **Elena Papill:** This award-winning, 16-year-old's background already includes 13 theatrical productions and international performances. Papill is the featured artist for the Diablos Association and was the winner of Apollo Night, The Kiwanis Music Festival, The Canadian and The Composers awards. Papill has received scholarships in theater and music. In addition, she has been featured singing the National Anthem for various sports events.

• **Stacia Cressman Petrie:** Stacia Cressman Petrie has just

released her third album, once again garnering international acclaim. Petrie's honors include being a finalist in the prestigious Kerrville Folk Festival. She has been featured on Coney Carlson's Over Easy. Her honors include numerous awards in songwriting, including top honors in the Mid-Atlantic Song Contest in 1996, and in numerous national competitions. Look for her name on the 2003 Detroit Music Awards Ballot.

• **Lady T:** "Girl, you are a mess the way you sing about that man," said KoKo Taylor. Born and raised in Helena, Arkansas, home of the King Biscuit Blues Festival, Lady T (alias Dirty Old Woman, No Hawk Grind Lady, Detroit Lady Cobra of the Blues) began her career singing in the First Baptist Church. Lady T has performed at the African American Jazz Festival and the Montreux Jazz Festival. She has appeared with Bobby Blue Bland, Robert Penn Blues Band, Willie D. Warren, Danny Blue, Motown greats Joe Hunter, Rudy Robinson, Albarita Adams, Precilla Price, The Pocket Band, The Hasting Street Blues Band and the Curtis Stimpert Project.

• **Sharric Williams:** Sharric Williams' career started at age 12 when she was featured in "I Need A Man." She is currently singing with Sharric Williams and The Wiseguys and touring Europe. She is promoting her two CDs, "Real Woman" and "Sharric Williams Live at Wiseguys." She has appeared with the Wynans, Walter Hawkins, Shirley Caesar, Buddy Guy, Blues Checkboard and Buddy Guy's Rev. James Cleveland. New Jerusalem Inspirational Voices, Larry McCray, Zoom, Sugar Blue, Dion Payton, KoKo Taylor, Bobby

writer/arranger. While at Western Michigan University, she taught voice and sang with Gold Company, perennial winner of Down Beat Magazine's Best Vocal Group award. Lange has appeared with Bobby McFerrin, Andy Williams, The Manhattan Transfer, Alberta Adams, Thelma Houston, Opah Winfrey, Josh White, Jr., Ben Vereen and Blue Rose. Kim has written and recorded numerous commercial jingles along with performing in "The Gospel Truth," voted "Outstanding Gospel Choir" for 2002 by the Detroit Music Awards. Kim teaches private voice and performs in and around Detroit with the 10-piece horn driven, rhythm & blues outfit, Dr. Pocket.

• **Kim Lange:** Kim Lange has been performing in and around Michigan for nearly 20 years. Lange is an accomplished vocalist, pianist, teacher and

leader. She has written and recorded numerous commercial jingles along with performing in "The Gospel Truth," voted "Outstanding Gospel Choir" for 2002 by the Detroit Music Awards. Kim teaches private voice and performs in and around Detroit with the 10-piece horn driven, rhythm & blues outfit, Dr. Pocket.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

continued from page 12

6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. The Spiritual Disciplines, beginning with simple supper of soup and bread. Thursdays, through 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-Novi resident 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 Eko Murphy of Novi will have water-color paintings on display.

Business referrals
DATE: every Wed. ongoing
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 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

Oakland 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

New TOPS chapter in Novi
DATES: Wednesdays
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons Activities Room, 25075 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi.
TIME: 11 a.m. weigh in, 11:30 a.m. meeting
DETAILS: \$20/yearly membership registration, includes handbook, \$1/meeting.
New members welcome.

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

Novi Toastmasters
DATE: First and third Tuesdays of the month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, activities room
TIME: 7:8-8:45 p.m.
DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills, voice your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.
PHONE: For more information, call Colleen at (248) 685-9226.

Boat Cancer Support Group
DATES: Second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, starting January 28.
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C on the ground floor of the hospital.
TIME: 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: There is no need to call ahead and register.
PHONE: If you have any questions, call (248) 937-5017.

"Novi Needlers" Quilting Group
DATE: Second and fourth Wednesdays of the month
LOCATION: Novi Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook, Novi
TIME: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
DETAILS: Fabric donations welcome.
PHONE: (248) 347-0414

PROVIDENCE PARK
All Community/Health Events are held at Providence Park, Novi, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi, unless otherwise noted.

Center Support Group
DAYS: first and third Tuesday of every month
TIME: 6:30-8 p.m.
DETAILS: free, for adult cancer patients and significant others
PHONE: (877) 345-5500

Alcoholics Anonymous
DAYS: every Tuesday and Thursday
TIME: noon
LOCATION: Providence Medical Office Center-Novi, 39500 W. 10 Mile Rd.
DETAILS: free, all welcome
PHONE: (248) 348-9362

BOOST CAMP (through Providence Center for the Healing Arts)
DAYS: first Wednesday of each month
TIME: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
LOCATION: Providence Park-Novi or Providence Hospital and Medical Center-PMB, 16001 W. Nine Mile Rd., Southfield. Camp rotates between locations.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Meadowbrook Commons Senior Center Activity
DATE: Thursday, April 24
TIME: 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Senior Center, Meadowbrook Commons
DETAILS: Fantastic and easy to make Sun Catcher. St. register in advance, registration deadline April 17.
PHONE: 248-347-0414

Oakland County Historical Commission Workshop
DATE: Saturday, April 26
TIME: 9 a.m.-noon
LOCATION: Rochester Hills Museum at Van Housen Farm.
DETAILS: This workshop is designed for local historical societies and small museums that have the need to inventory and manage collections, but have few staff members and limited funds with which to do it. This workshop is free and open to any interested member of the public.
PHONE: (248) 656-4663.

Experimental Watercolor
DATE: Tuesdays, April 29 through June 17
TIME: 6:30-9:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Walled Lake Community Education, 613 N. Pontiac Trail
DETAILS: Select and trace beautiful images provided, then incorporate techniques using clear wrap, salt, cheese cloth and rice paper. Create four small paintings.
PHONE: Register for class at (248) 956-5000 or on-line at walledlake.k12.mi.us/ceec/

Henry Ford Health System Alternative Medicine Learning Series
DATES: Wednesdays, April 30, June 25
TIME: 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Henry Ford Medical Center, Novi, 40000 Eight Mile, one block west of Haggerty
DETAILS: \$5/per class. Space is limited and pre-registration is required.
PHONE: 248-380-6201 or www.henryford.com/fin, to register and for more information on topics.

Blood Drive
DATE: Wednesday, April 30
TIME: 2-8 p.m.
LOCATION: Walsh College, Novi Campus
DETAILS: The blood drive originally scheduled for March 5 has been rescheduled. Call ahead or walk in.
PHONE: (248) 349-5454

Fabulous English Roses
DATE: Friday, May 2
TIME: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile road (west of Novi Road)
DETAILS: Pat Hubbard, of Roses-West Rose Society in Novi, will present a slide program of David Austin English roses, along with handouts of the 2003 Austin Roses catalog; social hour, free and open to the public.
PHONE: (248) 449-4626

Annual Spring Concert
DATE: Sunday, May 4
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd., west of Novi Road
Under the direction of Jack Kopnick, the Novi Concert Band will present its annual spring

concert, which will feature a variety of music from the classics to jazz. Featured soloist will be Duan Kechyan, playing the third movement of the Mozart Concert for Clarinet, K622. Admission is free, refreshments at intermission will be supplied by Novi Department of Parks & Recreation.

Cassis' Coffee & Conversation
DATE: Friday, May 9
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Big Boy, 25401 Novi Road, Novi
DETAILS: Senator Nancy Cassis, R-Nowi, will be hosting her first of regular Cassis' Coffee & Conversation hours for people in the 15th District. All comments are welcome to come and take part in discussing issues facing western Oakland County.
PHONE: 888-38-NANCY

Novi Charalabes present "Good Times" evening of music
DATE: Saturday, May 10
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi High School Fuests Auditorium, 10 Mile and Taft Rd.
DETAILS: Tickets: \$10/Adults, \$8/Seniors and children 12 and under. Come and enjoy an evening of music celebrating the past, the present, and our hope for the future, which includes the Chovell Revue "Song of America". Purchase tickets from any member of Charalabes, at the Novi Civic Center and at the Novi Senior Center at Meadowbrook Commons.

Arts and Treasures Weekend
DATE: July 7-8
LOCATION: Fountain Walk in Novi
DETAILS: Along with the Novi Lions Arts & Treasures craft show, there will be a free Children's Art Village, free entertainment and more.
PHONE: Individuals interested in a booth at the craft show should contact Jerry Koonce, at (248) 348-0531.

ON-GOING

Adoption Playgroup
DATE: First and Third Fridays of the month
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church (on Meadowbrook Rd., between 10 Mile Rd. and Grand River Rd.)
DETAILS: We are a not for profit, non-denominational group that brings adoptive families together. Our twice a month meetings provide families with the opportunity to share play and conversation. During the summer, we meet at specially designated times and locations.
PHONE: For more information contact Michelle Pergeau 248-887-4955 or Sandra Noonan (248) 960-3257.

American Business Women's Association
DATE: third Mondays
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Wyndham Garden Hotel in Novi
DETAILS: American Business Women's Association (ABWA) brings together working women of diverse occupations and provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow professionally and personally through networking support, edu-

cation, leadership, & national recognition. Meetings are \$16, which includes full dinner. Future dates for the Novi Oaks Charter Chapter include May 19, June 16 and July 21.
PHONE: Chris Struve by phone 248-269-2035 or e-mail Christina.struve@livingston.com

Church of the Holy Cross Lenten Studies
Tuesdays, through 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, through April 16, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Study of the Gospel according to Mark with

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LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library
The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. We are located at 45245 W. 10 Mile Road, just east of Taft Road. For more information, call (248) 349-0720.

Book discussion group
Our May selection is "Empire Falls" by Richard Russo. The group meets Monday, May 5, at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room.

Winslow Homer's America
University of Windsor Professor Michael Farrell discusses how the events of the Civil War transformed Winslow Homer from a magazine illustrator to a renowned painter on Tuesday, April 29, at 7 p.m. Please call the library to register for this free program, which is sponsored by the Friends of Novi Public Library.

Senior book discussion group
Senior booklovers are reading "Year of Wonders" by Geraldine Brooks for their May meeting. The group meets in the library meeting room on Thursday, May 8, at noon.

IN THE SERVICE

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Navy Airman Recruit Jay A. Dankoff, a 2000 graduate of Walled Lake Central High School, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Last Thursday, Pfc. Rick Dee of the 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army celebrates his 21st birthday in Iraq. Dee is the grandson of Gene and Mary Drafitz of Novi. The private attended Novi Public Schools until his freshman year at Novi High School in 2000 from Franklin High School in Livonia. "We are very proud of our soldier," the Drafitz said. Everyone in Dee's family wishes him a happy birthday and a safe return.

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Miles Ahead. Minutes Away.

Incumbents only ones running in June 9 school board election

Carol Elfring and Dave Brown, both incumbents, are the only two running for positions on the Novi School Board. The election will be held June 9. The following is a Q&A by staff writer Ramez Khuri with both candidates.

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER



C. Elfring



D. Brown

1. Why do you feel that you would like to stay on the school board?

Carol Elfring: I have been on the school board for eight years and during that time I spent a lot of time doing more than just the Novi job as far as really learning a lot about education and best practices in education and how school boards work. In that time too I have worked a lot with the legislative end of it too as far as funding and the accountability and that sort of thing. I have a tremendous amount of background in that respect and I call it the big picture of how it all fits together. Also I have just become very interested in education as a whole and I think I'm able to look at the big picture as far as what's best for the students, what's best for the district physically and trying to make sure you are providing the best education with the best physical and they both definitely go together. Sometimes you have to make decisions based on that, but I just feel that I have been able to meet many different people in different school boards across the country and learn from that. I think I have educated myself a lot on education and on just being a part of the school board. The main reason I want to continue to serve is because I think times are getting tough. I think all of that information that I have collected in the past few years will be very important for the next four years. I think it will be very helpful for me in decision making to have that background because decisions will be tougher in the next four years.

Dave Brown: Having worked for 34 years for the Novi School System, I have a great respect for the employees, parents and district and I have three grandchildren who are presently students at Deerfield and Novi Meadows, so I have a very vested interest in the

future of the Novi School District. I feel with my background that I have a unique knowledge in having been an educator for 34 years, that I could contribute in that the others don't have. I believe that I could contribute and participate in an effective quality way. I want to be part of future decision making for this school district.

2. What are your feelings on the school district doing business with private parties for acquiring land at discounted rates?

Carol Elfring: Technically I guess when we purchased the land at Beck Road and I think that was a private owner and I think he probably provided the school a little better cost on the land because it was for schools rather than selling it to a developer. So, yes, you are always going to take advantage of that. As long as you were following legal guidelines and things that were ethical, you are always trying to save the school district money. Schools across the state of Michigan do not have to follow city building codes as such, but it doesn't mean that schools don't build according to code. They just don't have to have all of the inspections and that sort of thing from the city. I know that sometimes bothers people that they think schools get in all these things that other people don't get to do, which isn't true, they just don't have to follow the same process. If something was legal and ethical and saved the district money, I would always be willing to listen.

Dave Brown: I think the bottom line is, if we want a school to be designed a certain way and what should be cut and what should be added, I just think any program that is going to effect the quality and instruction and learning of the children is something that would have to be the last thing to be reduced. You are going to adjust your budget and your

structure a building that is sound educationally, then I wouldn't have any problem with it, but if they are going to construct a building that does not fulfill our purposes in the best way the children can live and learn, then maybe the saving of money would not be worth the sacrifices they would have to make with a less than adequate facility.

3. In face of pending state financial cutbacks, which programs do you feel are untouchable and which could be up for review?

Carol Elfring: As we have always said, the bottom line is we try to protect programs, so anything we feel is vital and is essential to a child's education, we are going to try to protect it at all costs. Things that are not essential to programs are always under review, but so far we don't feel that we have had to touch programs in any of our reductions and we have made quite a few in the last two years. I would say right now we have not made any reductions that a parent or a child would actually feel. We are probably getting close to those, but Governor Granholm made the issue. What's important and what's vital? If we get down to that part of what's nice to have and what is vital, then we will have to make those decisions based that way, but so far we have been lucky, we really haven't had to do that yet.

Dave Brown: We haven't really decided what's best to cut. We rely on the administration because they work very closely with all those issues, to provide us with good advice to help us to decide what should be cut and what should be added. I just think any program that is going to effect the quality and instruction and learning of the children is something that would have to be the last thing to be reduced. You are going to adjust your budget and your

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ELECTION: Incumbents only ones running in June 9 election

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personnel for things like sports before you would something like the teaching and learning of reading and math and science. Those things are the hard core subjects that we have to leave alone. The extra curriculars are the areas that we may have to reduce. If our financial condition deteriorates considerably, then maybe some of those extra curriculars would have to be reduced.

4. If demographics suggests that Novi High School will be over capacity after the current addition is completed, would you favor another addition or construction of a new high school?

Carol Elfring: The process that we have always used regarding that sort of thing is we try to get as much input from the community as we possibly can. That's why we are adding on to the high school right now. A lot of that was from community input. That doesn't mean that everybody in Novi wanted one high school, I'm well aware of that, but it seemed that the majority of the people preferred to try to do it at one high school, which is why we went the direction we did. We would go back to that process again, but in my mind it really wouldn't necessarily be a challenge to me that's important, it's what the community would want at that point. I don't see that happening because

I think the homework was done pretty well and there would have to be a dramatic change in demographics I think to have that high school not be able to sustain the enrollment through 2010. By that time the city will be built out.

Dave Brown: I think that is not an issue that will be facing the Novi School District. We have built a building that can accept 700 more students and it's going to be maybe 10 or 12 years before anything like that would be a challenge we would be considering. I question whether there is enough vacant land in Novi for us even to ever have 2,400 high school students in the Novi High School. If it reaches 2,400 in any consideration to go to 3,000, then I think we would have to seriously consider the construction of a second high school. When you get close to 3,000, your school will be too big. Because of the present reduction in expansion and growth, what did we have this last year, maybe an increase of 30 or 30 students at the high school, if you stretch that out for 10 years, we still have enough room because of the capacity of the present high school. We increased it so we could take six to seven hundred more students. Hopefully we have prepared enough now for the future that to not be an issue we have to consider for 10 to 12 years.

5. How do you see Catholic Central impacting the Novi Community School District when it gets here?

Carol Elfring: I think both the Novi Community Schools and Detroit Catholic Central are obviously excellent educational opportunities for students and I think that we provide certain advantages to students as does Catholic Central. I really don't see a lot of change, you may have a few more students attending Catholic Central now because it's a lot closer and logistically it might be easier for parents to send their sons there. I think anyone who chooses to send their sons to Catholic Central will make their decisions for the same reasons they did before, so I don't think it's going to dramatically change the decision making for people. If someone was inclined to attend Catholic Central five years ago, they will have the same reasons to choose to go there five years from now when they are open. Those are personal choices that parents make, I don't see it having a huge impact, it will be just another excellent educational opportunity.

Dave Brown: I think there is no question about it that having a quality high school like Catholic Central in our community that our high school enrollment will be affected. I don't know how much it will be affected because of the outstanding reputation of our present high school. I don't think it will hurt us by many students, but I think that it will be a

consideration that we will have to think about when there school is built as to how that will affect our enrollment. I really don't think we will lose many students because regardless of whether Catholic Central is in our community or in Redford, it's still an expensive decision for parents to make. If the Novi High School had a poor track record in regards to how well we educate children, then I think they would be much stiffer competition, but because of the good reputation of Novi High School and because of the quality program

that we have, I just can't imagine that it will be much of an issue for us considering that it's very expensive to have a child go to Catholic Central. If there were no charge to go there, I think it would be an issue and it would be difficult for us. Another factor that we have to take into consideration is because it isn't a school for both boys and girls, it will make less of an impact on our community. If that does draw people to move to this area, it is going to fill up our vacant space even more, so it will limit the amount of people who would move out here in attending Novi High School. They will draw some people out to this area, no question about it, because they will have a first rate high school, but Novi can only take so many houses and we are getting to the point where there isn't much land left to build houses on, so I just do not expect us to have large numbers coming in a real big enrollment because already, the numbers have gone down and we are nearly as high as the projections that we thought a couple years ago.

Courtesy Photo

Family fun at Meadows
Students and parents alike made Novi Meadows Family Fun Fest a success last month as they took part in everything from face painting, to singing Karaoke to eating cotton candy. Drew Hepburn, Brad Brasili, Nick Nuttle and Tim Barrett show off the former.

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Erin Kwederis provides a roost for Patch, a South American parrot.

Now that's hands-on!

Above, Orchard Hills fourth grader Jason Park meets Baby Big Boy up close and personal. Baby Big Boy is a Burmese python from Burma, Asia and is part of the Hands-on Education with living things of Science Alive, of Waterford Township.

Center, the students also got a close look at Harriet the Spring Haas, which is part of the squirrel family.

Courtesy photos

Village Oaks students rally to send aid to troops in Iraq

Kids gather food and goods for soldiers

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

For the past couple weeks, Village Oaks' new multi-purpose room looked like the back storage area of a local supermarket. That's because the students were bringing in to school each day different types of items, ranging from toothpaste, to candy, to snapp products, all to be shipped to America's troops in Iraq.

Each grade level was told to bring food or candy items and also usable items. We also tried to make it so it wouldn't be a financial burden on anybody.

There were over 100 items brought to the school each day the collection was going on.

The reason why Sparling took charge of the project is because of the stories she heard from her late brother, who was in the Gulf War. "I ended up doing this with the kids because it's something that I feel strongly about," Sparling said. "My brother was in the Navy, and he used to talk about how there would be so many people who never received anything from home and they were there so long. It was brought to my attention that the troops were asking for specific things, but I found a Web site where they were asking for letters from kids. We always do a community service project in the fourth grade, so we just decid-

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@h.homecomm.net.

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Bizarre plans would gut MEDC

It's so bizarre it can only be happening in Lansing.

Four Republican lawmakers want to slash \$50 million from the budget of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and use it to restore grants for high school students scoring well on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) test.

The idea is to take \$35.5 million in MEDC operating money from the state's general fund, \$14 million in MEDC and \$10 million in tobacco settlement money that funds high technology projects. That adds up to \$60 million, just about enough to restore the cuts Gov. Jennifer Granholm proposes making in the Michigan Merit Scholarship program. And it would leave the MEDC with around \$65 million in its 2004 budget, almost all of it federal.



Phil Power

Community Development Block Grant funds earmarked to pass through to local governments.

Make no mistake about it, if adopted, the net effect of this proposal would be to gut the MEDC, the independent agency charged with attracting new jobs and helping business growth in Michigan.

Never mind that the MEDC was started by Republican Gov. John Engler. Never mind that the MEDC has been recognized by Site Selection magazine five years in a row as among the top 10 economic development outfits in the country. Never mind that over its six year history, the MEDC has spurred more than \$72 billion in private investment in Michigan, helped create more than 231,000 new, high-paying jobs in the state and increased the state's tax revenue by around \$4 billion.

At a time when our economy is in the doldrums and Michigan's unem-

ployment rate is at a nine year high, why would anybody be crazy enough to want to cripple the state's very successful economic development program? The only two motives philosophical enough to justify such self-mutilation are ideology and politics.

Ideologically, look no further than the free-market fanatics at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, who call the MEDC "Michigan's chief dispenser of corporate welfare" and want the MEDC to be "eliminated entirely."

A curious charge, as only a very small portion of the 6,000 Michigan businesses the MEDC helps each year get any financial assistance: most get free help with worker's compensation cost consulting, site location services and worker recruitment and training.

As virtually every other state in the nation has an active and competitive economic development program, entirely eliminating the MEDC would be like unilaterally eliminating our nuclear weapons capability just before negotiating with the North Koreans about theirs.

Politically, the idea is beguiling but dangerous. Plainly, fat college scholarships for thousands of kids who may or may not need them is better politics than helping Michigan's economy prosper by helping businesses through the MEDC. But some day, those kids on scholarships are going to be leaving college and needing jobs. No MEDC, fewer good jobs, no good jobs, those well-educated kids will be leaving Michigan to pursue their careers elsewhere.

A fascinating sub-plot in all this has to do with the shenanigans now being performed by the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce, certainly the most influential organization in the state in promoting the interests of the business community.

Amazingly, the State Chamber is actively lobbying legislators to eliminate the MEDC. No less than three Chamber staff operatives have been meeting with key legislators to urge de-funding of the agency.

I called Jim Barrett, the President of the State Chamber to ask what's going on, since so far as I know the Chamber board of directors has not taken an official position.

"How come," I asked Barrett, "the state's leading pro-business organization is actively lobbying against the main pro-business agency in state government?" "The Michigan Chamber is advocating reductions in government spending," Barrett responded. "We don't support increasing state taxes or fees, so it would be irresponsible not to cut spending, including that of the MEDC."

"Does that mean you're supporting the proposal being made to gut the MEDC?" "I'm not familiar with any specific proposals from specific legislators," parried Barrett. He refused to say if any of his Chamber staff were actually lobbying legislators.

It looks to me as though the State Chamber — for whatever reasons — is in the middle of saying one thing and doing another. But that's what tends to happen when you mix ideology with politics. One wonders what the businesses that contribute to the Chamber's budget think about what's going on.

In any event, the plot to cripple the MEDC is a bad idea and should be summarily be killed.

FYI: Gov. Granholm has proposed a 20 percent cut in MEDC funding, which seems to me reasonable in light of current economic conditions. Let the record also show that I serve as the Vice Chair of the MEDC's Executive Committee, so I have a stake in this argument.

Phil Power is the Chairman of the Board of the company that owns this newspaper. He would be pleased to get your reactions to this column either at (248) 349-2247 or at ppower@homecomm.net.

LETTERS

War was right, John Not really an "outburst"

I have read John Heider's column from April 10, 2003 and I feel compelled to write about two items. This was another negative column about the U.S. government's actions in Iraq. In order to have balance I would hope to see some positive columns about our policies.

I totally agree with one part of John Heider's column. "Wars can be prevented just as surely as they can be provoked, and we who fail to prevent them must share in the guilt for the dead." Saddam Hussein is the only one responsible for this war. His lack of response to disarm for 12 years and his support of continued terrorism is what caused this action. September 11th proved what terrorists are capable of if left unchecked.

I applaud George Bush's courage to lead in face of the UN's weakness. They wanted Saddam to disarm but wanted to just continue their failed policies. As we are finding out now the key countries that opposed our action were just protecting their financial interests in Iraq. I think this sets a great example to the world that we won't tolerate a regime of pure evil that supports terrorists. I don't think we waited to wait to let Saddam develop nuclear weapons before we attempted to stop him.

In another part of the column, Heider discussed his less than happy exchange with another driver about his "No More War" bumper sticker. John indicated he was talking about inviting the other person for a cup of coffee to discuss their differences in an adult fashion. Again this was a thought — nothing he acted on. I want to make him an offer right now to talk with someone who supports George Bush's policies on Iraq. Hopefully from this conversation I can explain why this action was necessary. If not, maybe John can explain a more viable alternative.

Edmund P. Shaheen
Novi

Toni Nagy
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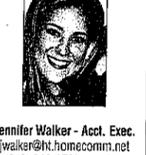
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Novi Meadows sends aid to Malawi, Africa

Two fifth graders come up with idea for fundraiser

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The New Life Center Orphanage, which is in Malawi, Africa, the fifth poorest country in the world, will be receiving some much needed financial aid. After learning about the country in their Novi Meadows fifth grade class, students Stephanie Berent and Evan Dixon decided they wanted to do something to help out.

"We found out that they were very poor, so we started looking for some fundraisers on the Internet and we found one called 'Penny Challenge,'" Dixon said. "We brought the idea to the student council and they decided that we could do it."

For the Penny Challenge fundraiser, every classroom in the school was given a jug. Each student was supposed to put their pennies in their own class jug and put any silver coins in other class jugs. After the week was over, \$4,350 was raised.

"I'm glad we did it because it's going to a really good cause, and



Evan Dixon and Stephanie Berent helped raise over \$4,300 to help Africans.

I'm glad to help out all the people in Malawi because they aren't as fortunate as us," Berent said. "I think we are going to take this fundraiser and go to another school, and we are going to see if we can raise as much money as

we did for Malawi." Novi Meadows Student Council Coordinators Georgia Bingham and Sylvia Sohran helped the kids out with the project. According to Sohran, the money raised is enough to hire

three teachers and supply food for the children of the orphanage. "We counted the money every day," Sohran said. "At the end of the week, Marianne Malarkey and Gary Hurst's fifth grade classes were tops and in the sixth grade it

was Georgia Bingham's, David Ascher's and Lisa LaPorte's classes." Sohran was very proud of the kids. "Every student in the whole building was a winner because they all contributed," she said. "Without us helping, it would have been very difficult to hire teachers and supply food. I think all of the enthusiasm that was in the building for this was great. The kids came in the morning and put their money in the jugs. It was a little competition, but that's what they really enjoyed about it."

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@h.homecomm.net.

LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION SCHOOL ELECTION

NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE ELECTORS OF NOV COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT: Please Take Notice that the regular school election of the school district will be held on Monday, June 9, 2003. THE LAST DAY ON WHICH PERSONS MAY REGISTER IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE REGULAR SCHOOL ELECTION CALLED TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2003, IS MONDAY, MAY 12, 2003. PERSONS REGISTERING AFTER 5 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING ON MONDAY, MAY 12, 2003 ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE REGULAR SCHOOL ELECTION.

To register, visit any Secretary of State branch office or your county, city or township clerk's office. Persons planning to register with the respective county, city or township clerks must ascertain the days and hours on which the clerk's offices are open for registration. This Notice is given by order of the board of education.

JULIE ABRAMS SECRETARY, BOARD OF EDUCATION

ADDENDUM PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Regular Biennial Election of Schoolcraft Community College, Michigan, will be held in conjunction with the Regular School Election on Monday, June 9, 2003.

ONLY REGISTERED SCHOOL ELECTORS RESIDING IN THE SCHOOLCRAFT COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE REGULAR BIENNIAL ELECTION OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

(4-24 & 5-8-03 NN 50381)

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 14, 2003 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider Site Plan # 0182 ASBURY PARK ESTATES FOR RECONSIDERATION OF A CONDITION OF PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN LOCATED ON ELEVEN MILE BETWEEN TAFT AND BECK ROADS. The applicant is requesting reconsideration of the zoning requirement in the northwest corner of the property.

All interested persons are invited to attend. The proposed ordinance is available for review at the Planning Department. Verbal comments will be heard at the public hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI, 48375, until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 2003.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION LYNN KOZAN, SECRETARY

(4-24-03 NN 51962)

Advertisement for Bids NOV COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT Bus Garage and Warehouse Building

BID PACKAGE FOR ADDITIONS, REMODELING AND SITEWORK OWNER: NOV COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION MANAGER: Skanska USA Building Inc. 30445 Northwestern Highway, Suite 250 Farmington Hills, MI 48333-9001 Telephone: 248-735-0571 • Facsimile: 248-737-5801

- Novi Community School District invites qualified contractors, including MBE/WBE/SBE firms, to submit proposals/bids for the above-referenced project for the following Bid Categories: IA - Earthwork and Site Utilities IB - Building Demolition IC - Asphalt Paving ID - Landscaping IE - Fencing IF - Concrete Foundations & Flatwork IG - Masonry IH - Miscellaneous Metals II - Carpentry IJ - Waterproofing and Joint Sealants IK - Roofing IL - Aluminum Windows IM - Overhead Ceiling Doors IN - Metal Studs, Gypsum Board and Ceilings IO - Tile IP - Carpet and Resilient Flooring IQ - Painting IR - Vehicle Washing Equipment IS - Pre-Engineered Building IT - Vehicle Lifts IU - Hoists and Cranes IV - Plumbing IW - HVAC IX - Temperature Controls IY - Electrical

ESTW002ES Bid Package Templates Rev 3 BIDS ARE DUE at 2:00 PM local time on Tuesday, April 29, 2003.

On behalf of Novi Community School District, Skanska USA Building Inc. will receive sealed proposals for the above project at the Skanska USA Building Inc. office, 30445 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 250, Farmington Hills, MI 48333, Attention: Chris Becker, until the stipulated bid opening date and time. Bids received after the stipulated date and time will not be considered and will be returned unopened. Bids will be opened at a public meeting to be convened at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, April 29, 2003 at Novi Community School District, Education Services Building, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, MI 48374. Bids must be clearly marked with the project name and bid category(ies). All interested bidders may obtain copies of the drawings and specifications from Westside & Detroit Reprographics, 37660 Hills Tech Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48331, upon request and upon providing a bid deposit of \$100.00, checks to be payable to Novi Community School District. Westside Reprographics will return all bid deposits to contractor(s) after bid date and when bid documents are returned in good condition.

A minimum of 5% bid security, either in the form of a Bid Bond or Cashiers' Check payable to Novi Community School District, must accompany each bid over \$17,250.00. In accordance with Michigan Compiled Laws Section 129.201, successful contractor(s) must obtain Performance and Payment Bonds for any Bid Category exceeding \$50,000. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be in an amount equal to the contract amount. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be solely for the protection of Novi Community School District and Skanska USA Building Inc. as fiscal obligees. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Michigan and be listed in the Federal Register or have an A.M. Best Rating of B+ or better.

Novi Community School District and Skanska USA Building Inc. reserve the right to reject any or all bids and to waive irregularities in bids.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT HEARING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL #165 CITY OF NOVI COUNTY OF OAKLAND, MICHIGAN

TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan, has determined it to be necessary to make the following described public improvement in the City of Novi: The construction of approximately 2,050 feet of 8" Water Main in Section 24 which will provide a direct benefit to the sixteen parcels in Connera Hills Subdivision Number 1 along a portion of Galway Drive and Byrne Drive and all of Kirush Drive.

The City Council has determined that all of the cost of the above described public improvement shall be assessed against the following described property abutting the above described improvement:

- 50-22-34-102-009 50-22-34-102-040 50-22-34-102-047
- 50-22-34-151-007 50-22-34-151-008 50-22-34-151-009
- 50-22-34-151-010 50-22-34-151-022 50-22-34-151-012
- 50-22-34-152-004 50-22-34-152-005 50-22-34-152-006
- 50-22-34-153-001 50-22-34-153-006 50-22-34-153-003
- 50-22-34-153-004

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the City Council has caused reports concerning said public improvement to be prepared, which reports include necessary plans, profiles, specifications and estimates of cost of such public improvement, a description of the assessment district and other pertinent information, and these reports are on file in the office of the City Clerk and are available for public examination.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the City Council will meet on Monday, May 5, 2003 at 7:30 o'clock P.M., Prevaling Eastern Time, at the Novi City Hall in the Council Chambers, 45175 West Ten Mile Road in the City of Novi for the purpose of hearing comments to the making of such public improvement.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that appearance and protest at such hearing is required in order to appear at the special assessment to the State Tax Tribunal. An appearance and protest may be made by an appearance at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or by filing an appearance and protest by letter.

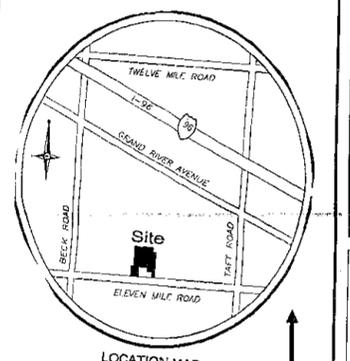
THIS NOTICE is given by order of the City Council of the City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK, 248-347-0456

(4-24-03 NN 51942)

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 30, 2003 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider Site Plan # 0182 ASBURY PARK ESTATES FOR RECONSIDERATION OF A CONDITION OF PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN LOCATED ON ELEVEN MILE BETWEEN TAFT AND BECK ROADS.



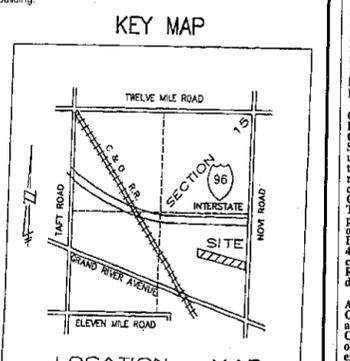
All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 30, 2003.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION LYNN KOZAN, SECRETARY

(4-24-03 NN 51818)

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 30, 2003 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider the NOVI SITE, SITE PLAN NUMBER 02-55, LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF NOV ROAD, NORTH OF GRAND RIVER AVENUE. A WOODLAND PERMIT AND PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN APPROVAL. The Applicant is proposing a 3,304 square foot commercial building.



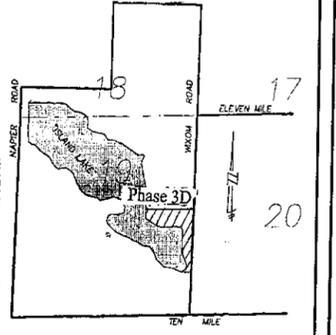
All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 30, 2003.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION LYNN KOZAN, SECRETARY

(4-24-03 NN 51826)

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 30, 2003 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider Site Plan Number 02-55 ISLAND LAKE OF NOVI, LOCATED WEST OF WIXOM ROAD BETWEEN ELEVEN MILE AND TEN MILE ROADS. FOR A PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, SITE CONDOMINIUM, WETLAND AND WOODLAND PERMIT. The applicant is proposing multiple family residential site condominiums, totaling 115 two units in fifteen buildings. The subject property is approximately 23.25 acres out of a total of 907 acres in the development.



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 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 30, 2003.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION LYNN KOZAN, SECRETARY

(4-24-03 NN 51814)

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Muscular Dystrophy Association MDA Jerry Lewis, National Chairman 1-800-572-1717 www.mdausa.org

NMS eighth grader ranked number one in state table tennis rankings

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Andy Korby, an eighth grade student at Novi Middle School, has found a game that he really likes. Although some may not consider it a sport, he certainly does and for all of the hard work he has put into it, he has won 10 trophies, is ranked number one in the state for the 17 and under group and is not planning on giving it up any time soon.

The game in question is table tennis, or Ping-Pong, as most people call it. Korby first started playing when he received a table as a Christmas gift from his grandmother in 2001. Every day

since then he has been in the basement playing and practicing. "I started competing after a while," Korby said. "A few of my friends play and they gave me some directions on how to get into tournaments. There are also Internet sites where you can learn more about getting into competition."

Korby practices every day at home with his dad. He also has a robot that him feeds balls when his dad isn't available. All of that practice has contributed to his success. "You can play different events and get more trophies," he said. "It's not just one tournament or one event. It goes by a rating system, so you can get a better

rating by winning and you can play higher events. You can also win money in some of the events."

One of Korby's more memorable wins was the 2003 Michigan Table Tennis Championship Tournament, which was held on April 5 and 6 in Fenton. This year he came home with three state championship titles for all three events he entered in. He won a first place trophy in the boys 15 and under event, a second place trophy in the boys 17 and under event and with his partner, Kevin Zhang from Northville, won the State Championship title in the 17 and under doubles event. "My partner goes to Northville

Schools and we practice together a lot," Korby said. "He has a brother, but he didn't want to play, so I partnered up with him." From here, Korby will continue to compete in different events for probably a long time. The events that he usually competes in take place in Davison, Michigan, which is near the eastern border of Genesee County, about 10 miles east of Flint. The next competition is near the end of next month.

"When I'm competing, I mostly think about how I'm going to beat the other person, what their strategy is, their weaknesses, things like that," Korby said. "Another important part is keep-

ing your paddles clean from dust and dirt particles. Sometimes you can play against the same people in different events and you can play them in the first round in one event and then play against them in the finals in another event, so I try to learn their games. It makes it easier for me to prepare for them. I remember their shots and where they like to hit the ball on the table. It usually works unless they change their strategies, but I can easily adjust to their styles."

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@h.homecomm.net.



Andy Korby (left) and his table tennis partner, Kevin Zhang from Northville, hold up trophies they won while competing.



Orchard Hills students Kyle Hurwitz and Luke Limpert try their luck at one of the games at Orchard Hills Spring Fling Family Carnival.

Care to try your luck? Orchard Hills students Kyle Hurwitz and Luke Limpert try their luck at one of the games at Orchard Hills Spring Fling Family Carnival.

Muscular Dystrophy Association Jerry Lewis, National Chairman 1-800-572-1717 www.mdausa.org

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Inspirational performance

Nikki Hermann's goal, efforts to overcome injury inspire Wildcats to beat Brighton for first time

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Thank you, Nikki Hermann, for all of your gritty determination and the ability to inspire your squad to utilize it too.

It was gritty determination that brought Hermann onto the field April 16, and the same that led the Novi Wildcats girls' soccer squad to their first-ever victory over Kensington Valley Conference rivals, the Brighton Bulldogs. The win came in the form of an intense defensive struggle, which found Novi prevailing 2-1.

The victory pulls the Novi kickers to 6-1 overall this season and 3-0 in the Kensington Valley Conference.

"We got a very inspirational effort from Nikki Hermann," Novi coach Brian O'Leary said. "She suffered a severe ankle sprain in the Canton game and was supposed to be out until after spring break."

Girls' Soccer

For players like Hermann, who strive to succeed in the game of soccer, an ankle injury wasn't about to keep her out of the biggest regular-season game of the year.

"She decided to get it taped up and try to play," O'Leary said. "I thought this would be a great lift to our team, just to have her back."

O'Leary admitted that he never expected Hermann to give the boost to the squad that she did though, especially since her playing time was enormously more than he had anticipated.

"I thought she would play about 10 minutes each half," he said. "Instead, she played the whole game except 10 minutes and she scored our first goal."

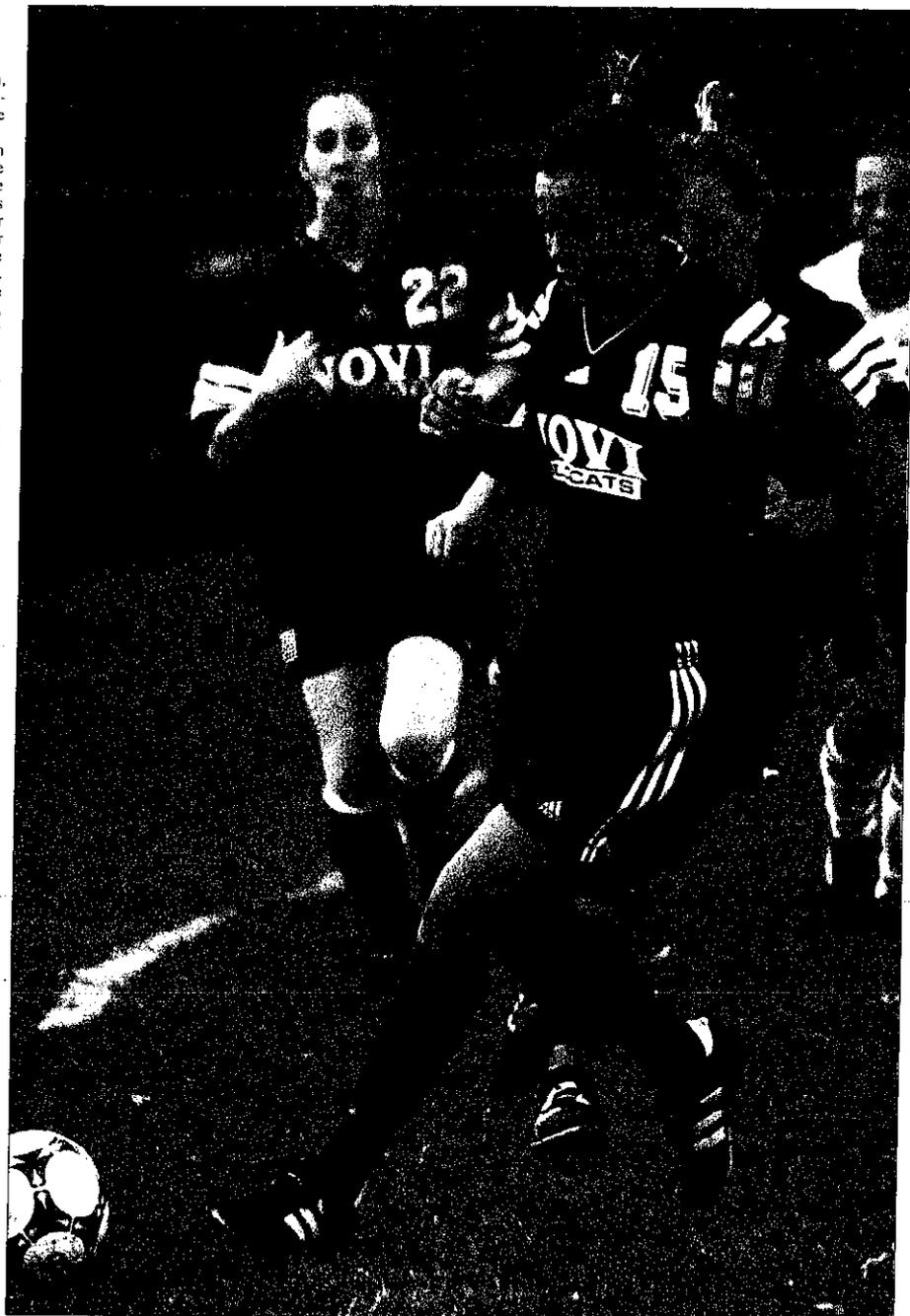
The return was all Hermann. Each day, after school let out, the Novi junior could be found working with trainer Jeff Zelany in hopes of getting back for the Brighton match — and lucky for Novi, she did.

Brighton started the game out strong, keeping the Wildcats out of scoring position and knocking in their own goal with about 10 minutes left in the first half to take a 1-0 lead.

"To our credit, we kept our composure and continued applying pressure," O'Leary said, noting that the shots on goal in the first half were 7-2 in favor of the Wildcats.

The big break came with about six minutes left in the first. Sarah Schmitt sent in a beautiful corner kick against the Brighton defense. The ball sailed in and found Hermann scoring with the header for a 1-1 tie at the half.

"I was a little worried with the 1-1 halftime score because



Novi's Kristi Timar (15) chases down the ball before going out of bounds while Jamie Harden (22) looks on.

Photo by Todd VanSickle

we had the stiff win in our favor," O'Leary said of a pushing breeze that had been to Novi's back in the first half. "But the second half was more of the same. We carried most of the play and scored the go-ahead goal with six minutes left

in the game." The deserving applause went to Nicole Barnid, who won a 50-50 ball in the box and headed it by the Brighton goalie to put Novi up 2-1 and to seal the victory.

The Wildcats out shot their Bulldog foes 14-6 throughout the contest and heard themselves groaning more than once in near-miss situations as Katie Ales hit the goal post three times on direct free kicks.

Their schedule finds them off until Monday, April 28, when

they host Millford at 7 p.m.

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 by e-mail at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

It could happen to you!

It's enough to make me wince. Well, not really.

No, no — it's not that Spring Break is going to leave me high and dry when it comes to sports this upcoming week, because I'll make it work and fill the pages any way. It's not that I'm stuck here in Northville while the kids that I write about each week are off frolicking in the sand. (Well, maybe I'm winning a little over that one.)

Anyway, it's all the injuries that I'm concerned about.

I'm not wanting to jinx anyone here, but you have to know the truth about Spring Break. It's not some fun-in-the-sun, relaxing vacation. It's a madhouse of injuries waiting to happen.

Some of these kids are going to be running around recklessly, playing games and racing their buddies to get to the buffet first. Others will — gasp! — stretch from their place on the towel situated over the hot sand in order to reach the cooler where their refreshments are smothered in ice. And some, and I'm shaking my head at the thought, might even wear themselves out swimming in 60-degree water too long.

All of this (and the many other possibilities that are out there) is just disaster waiting to happen. Let's take our track stars, for example. What if a couple of our guys on the relay team get tans? That coloration has to add some weight, right? About a 1/100th of an ounce, I'd venture to guess. And what does that extra weight do? That's right, it slows them down. I can see it already. The squad turned in a 1:44.58 before they left on break, and next week they'll turn in a 1:44.59. Disaster!

And how about the girls on the soccer team? You know that sand that gets in between your toes is impossible to get out. You scrub, you bathe, shower, scrub, shower, scrub, bathe — and it's still there! What's going to happen? The first game back, one of our girls is going to have an annoying little piece of sand — just a granule mind you — that will have survived the intense trip back to Michigan. In just the most inappropriate time, like when she's about to kick a goal, that sand is going to strike! The result? The ball travels 1/1,112ths of a millimeter to the right! That could easily be the difference between a nice smooth kick that finds the back of the net and one that looks a bit choppy before it goes in. Horrible!

And how about baseball and softball, eh? That bright sun in those tropical locations is just a killer. Some of our players might be down there, right now, feeling the adverse effects of the brilliance. And you know what happens then, don't you? Their eyes will adjust to that sunlight, and when they come back, everything will look a little dreary and dull. The consequence? Their response time will be slowed by 1/1,000,000 fraction of a nanosecond, thus resulting in a late swing at the ball. Instead of hitting it to left center, the ball is going to fly to left-left center — about a millimeter left of where it would have been! Disgusting!

The possibilities are just staggering, and I'm going to quit tossing them out there so that I won't worry the coaches, fans and parents of these "vacationing" student-athletes any more than they already are. Let's just hope, for the sake of these kids and our own, that all of them come back no worse for wear, and had a good time while avoiding all these horrid encounters with paradise.

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 by e-mail at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

GAME OF THE WEEK

Novi Wildcats
SPRING BREAK HORRORS
WHAT YOUR TRAVEL AGENT DIDN'T TELL YOU

There's no calm before the storm

Novi's Ime Akpan trying to relax before pro football draft

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

How many young children come up through the ranks of pee-wee football thinking they want to be in the National Football League? Lots.

How many of those kids hold onto the dream as they play in middle school and high school? Plenty.

And just how many still have a fighting chance after playing college football, with the NFL draft approaching and the excitement in the air? Only a small percentage of those who dreamt about it originally.

Novi's Ime Akpan is one of that small percentage. After collecting 1,282 yards over 11 games for the Eastern Michigan University Eagles in his senior year, Akpan's dream is still alive as his numbers made him the third-best runningback in the nation when comparing sta-

tistics.

Even after working out for teams like the Detroit Lions and the Oakland Raiders, Akpan said that it's not so much the nerves that are getting to him.

"I'm more anxious than I am nervous," he said. "I'm anxious to see where I'm going to be at and where I'm going to go. I can't say I'm nervous, because I know I'm going to go somewhere."

Akpan is an impressive sight, standing at 6-foot-1 and tipping the scales at 230 pounds. His size is deceiving to many, as his speed across open ground and through tight holes in the offensive line are what helped him burn most defenses for a 111 yards per game average.

With the draft starting on Saturday and running through Sunday, there is a lot of time for Akpan to sit back and think about where he'll go and when



Ime Akpan

his name will be called. Until then, he's avoiding most of the mock-draft websites and just trying to relax.

"I'm just playing video games and hanging around friends," Akpan said. "I'm try-

ing not to think about it too much, but it's still in my head."

In fact, it's been something that has been in Akpan's head since he was little. A dream that developed while he was just a kid in football pads was stated clearly with a letter he wrote home from camp.

"He wrote me a letter that said he wanted to win the Heisman and be the number one draft pick," Akpan's mother, Mildred, said. "I've been looking for that letter, and I'm sure I'll find it."

Akpan's mother and father, Edward, still reside in Novi, and both are not only excited, but confident as well.

"A lot of people have him going high," Mildred said. "We are so excited for him and we hope he goes the first day. This is what he has always wanted. We know he'll do it, but we just have to wait and see what happens."

Akpan, who is set to graduate from Eastern this spring with a major in communication and a minor in business marketing, has seen the interiors of plenty of professional training facilities to this point. He's worked out for the Lions, the Raiders, the Seattle Seahawks, the Cincinnati Bengals, the Minnesota Vikings, the Miami Dolphins, the Indianapolis Colts and the New York Giants — just to name a few.

"A lot of teams have seen me," Akpan said. "I feel that I compare with everyone that are expected to be selected, if not beat them, in all the tests I've done."

The work outs consists of having height and weight measured, vertical jumps, standing broad jumps, 40-yard dash and agility testing. Akpan said for a strength test, he was required to

continued on B4

Wildcats dominate

Only loss this season came to a very strong state-ranked Detroit Catholic Central squad

By Michael Zerklisch
SPECIAL WRITER

The Wildcats played three matches in three days, with one of them against a key Kensington Valley Conference foe and recorded a three-peat.

The number one team in the state in the season at the Holy Grand Blanc Invitational April 12, Novi, coached by Jim Hanson, finished first that time while Brighton was a close third.

Against Brighton there were several victories that were very close and could have gone either way.

Hanson said, "Our number one doubles, second doubles, and fourth doubles teams all won three set matches. It really showed me something that our double teams in each of their three set victories really came on strong."

This time on Monday, April 14, the final score was Novi 6 and Brighton 2. However, don't think the 3-1 ratio of wins to losses made this one a blow-out. Add to the Brighton win one the next two days with a 2-1 victory over Ann Arbor Greenhills and a perfect shutout 8-0 South Lyon proving this year's Wildcats are definitely paving the way to an undefeated season.

Hanson, satisfied to say the least, warned against reading too much into any of these scores.

"The Brighton match score of 6-2 was a bit of a surprise, somewhat deceiving. Brighton has an excellent team and reminds me of our own players in many ways."

Hanson noted that though the Wildcats are playing strong now, they still have work to do throughout the remainder of the season.

"We still have a lot of work ahead of us as a team, though," he noted. "Our only loss has been to Redford Catholic Central but we know we are going to have to play them again in the regional tournament and that will be tough. Plus, Brighton is going to play us again in the KVC tournament on the 18th of May and they are tough."

Other teams will be improving as they go through the season — and Hanson stated that his team can't become stale.

"Although our team is really coming on strong we can't afford

TENNIS RESULTS

Novi versus Brighton

- 1 Singles Suraj Ramachandran def. Greg Rantz 6-4, 6-2
- 2 Singles Prasanna Venugopal def. Jeff Lisiecki 4-6, 1-6
- 3 Singles Andrew Laskowski def. Gary Ismer 6-3, 6-2
- 4 Singles Steve Chiang def. Paul Harr 6-3, 6-0
- 1 Doubles Joe Lynch and Vishal Gupta def. Jon Stewart and Elliot Edwards 2-6, 6-2, 6-1
- 2 Doubles Chris Kovacinski and James Paucha def. Brian Faistenhauer and Alex Juski 6-3, 4-6, 6-1
- 3 Doubles Drew Doster and Jeff Walgen def. John-Michael Fischer and Adam Kovacs 7-6, 6-4, 6-6
- 4 Doubles Connor Hogan and Jeff Kotby def. Chris Walker and Mike Stewart 6-2, 2-6, 5-7
- 5 Doubles Siploman Zhang and Robert Lin def. Jeff Houteman and Zach Madson 6-1, 6-1

Novi versus Ann Arbor Greenhills

- 1 Singles Suraj Ramachandran def. Stephan Chang 6-2, 6-3
- 2 Singles Prasanna Venugopal def. Matt Field 1-6, 0-6
- 3 Singles Andrew Laskowski def. Jeff Hamp 6-0, 6-3
- 4 Singles Steve Chiang def. Daniel Beer 6-1, 6-1
- 1 Doubles Joe Lynch and Vishal Gupta def. Sergio Ponce DeLeon and Stephen Smith 6-1, 6-1
- 2 Doubles Richie Fretter and James Paucha def. Aaron Dayton and Zach Froelich 6-1, 6-1
- 3 Doubles Drew Doster and Jeff Walgen def. Jake Izenberg and Charlie Betz 6-1, 6-2
- 4 Doubles Connor Hogan and Jeff Kotby def. Spencer Andur and Arvid Sohoni 6-4, 6-3
- 5 Doubles Siploman Zhang and Robert Lin def. David Lingenleiter and Viktor Brankovic 6-0, 6-1

Novi versus South Lyon

- 1 Singles Suraj Ramachandran def. Brad Sarkella 6-0, 6-1
- 2 Singles Prasanna Venugopal def. Joe Ahonen 6-1, 6-3
- 3 Singles Andrew Laskowski def. Matt Hayward 6-0, 6-2
- 4 Singles Steve Chiang def. Matt Coppola 6-0, 6-2
- 5 Singles Richie Fretter def. Josh Cook 6-0, 6-0
- 1 Doubles Chris Kovacinski and James Paucha def. Alex Goode and Rog Arbez 6-2, 6-1
- 2 Doubles Drew Doster and Jeff Walgen def. Brian Hewlett and Josh Fagin 6-1, 6-1
- 3 Doubles Connor Hogan and Jeff Kotby def. Chris Ciliento and Aaron Ruby 6-1, 6-1
- 4 Doubles Siploman Zhang and Robert Lin def. John Slawny and Joe Golezinski 6-0, 6-2

not to improve if we are going to make a run at the state tournament," Hanson said.

Next matches on the schedule is a home meeting with Saline on Tuesday, April 29 which will be played at the Novi Middle School's courts beginning at approximately 3:00pm. The following day is an away match-up with KVC opponent

SPORTS SHORTS

Junior Golf Clinics

Coaches are scheduled to discuss the upcoming season, football camps and dates as well as the planned fundraising activities. Come and be a part of a winning program.

Looking to improve that swing? Want to get rid of that slice? Tanglewood Golf Club is offering individual and group lessons by PGA Certified instructors for private lessons.

Colts Football and Cheerleading Registration

Open registration for the 2003 Northville-Novu Colts Football and Cheerleading squads will take place from April 1 through May 3.

Spring Break Baseball/Softball Camp

Total Baseball's Baseball/Softball Camp will feature professional instruction from Aaron Kriener (Montreal Expos), Lee Bjorkie (Michigan High School Coaches Hall of Fame) and Jessie Milosek (Bowling Green University Softball).

Northville Football Meeting

The Northville Football Parents Association will be holding a parent orientation meeting May 7 at 7:07 p.m. at Northville High School.

Umpire Clinic

Northville's Umpires Association (NUA) is currently looking for people at least 14 years of age interested in becoming umpires.

Novi JV Softball

Overall: 3-4; KVC: 3-3

The Novi Junior Varsity Softball Team split a doubleheader with Milford in Kensington Valley Conference (KVC) action last Wednesday. The Wildcats JV played a great first game when they stomped Milford 20-8.

The second game, Sara Bielski hit a homerun. Two days earlier, swept a doubleheader from Howell, 3-1 and 12-2.

The Novi Wildcats softball team is sure of one thing — you can't win them all. Most would agree with that statement, and most would agree that the best time to hit the bumps in the road is early in the season.

The Wildcats hit two bumps against Kensington Valley Conference opponent Hartland April 12, and fell in both games of a doubleheader, 4-1 and 2-1.

The first game found the Novi squad starting off on the wrong foot. After a pop fly out, the Eagles managed to score their first two runs of the game in the first inning before scoring their third in the second inning of play.

The Wildcats were quick to buckle down after the quick lapse in defensive play, adjusting in the third and fourth innings to keep the Eagles scoreless before Hartland was able to notch their final run of the game in the fifth with one out and a double into right field before a single to center scored their final run.

The Wildcat comeback came too late as Kendall Hobart led off with a single before Shannon Shrader notched a single. Sarah Thelen knocked in the RBI and scored Hobart for the single run of the game.

The Wildcats collected seven hits in the first game of the doubleheader, with Hobart and Kim Zaczynski collecting two and Shrader, Nicole Lewis and Thelen getting a single hit each.

Sophomore hurler Alyssa Wagner went the distance, giving up six hits and walking seven. She struck out seven batters in the losing effort.

Hartland 2, Novi 1

In the second game of the doubleheader, the Wildcats found themselves neck and neck through the fourth inning.

Novi's Courtney Kolb stepped up to plate with two outs in the fifth before smacking a single to get on base. An smart throw found Kolb advancing before sophomore Beth Mallo cranked a line drive down the left field line for a double and the lone RBI of the game for the Wildcats.

"We played great defense behind a great pitching outing by Kendall Hobart," Novi coach Sunny Jones said. "But, in the bottom of the seventh inning, things turned drastically different."

The Eagles were able to get their

Wildcats showing marked improvement

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Slow and steady wins the race — or at least sees a squad improving enough to reach their season goals.

The Novi Wildcats girls' soccer team and the Wildcats' 15th-place finish in 2002. "I was pleased with the results. They are improving more than they realize."

The following day, the Wildcats

There are games during a season that act as a barometer as to whether your team is at the top of the food chain. "The game was a shot at the top, a chance to be the big banana, or placing both feet at the summit as the king of the hill."

Last Tuesday the Novi boys' baseball team played Milford at home and won the game 7-2. Novi now rests with a perfect 6-0 record and a perfect 6-0 conference record and 8-1 non-league mark.

Called "a big game" in the sports vernacular the Milford contest was circled on the pre-season schedule back in February. The Wildcats' knew opponents returned many veterans from the year before and the road to a season title traveled to and through mighty Milford.

The weather that day displayed a season wind that alternated every five minutes between calm dead air to howling gusts of 25 to 35 mph out to left field.

Novi coach Rick Green found great satisfaction with his team this day.

"We played a near perfect game. Everyone, despite the weather, came in with the challenge of improving our defense that had been a problem all spring. We worked on that at prac-

helped the 'Cats along. Jessica Westfall scored a 111 on the day, and Laura Vaughn recorded a 115 for Novi.

The following day, the Wildcats headed to Hartland's Dunham Hills to compete in the second Hartland Best Ball Invitational.

Novi brought two teams to the competition. Team White and Team Green, and found the squad's respective scoring 294 points and 328.

recovered. Credit Milford, though, as they battled throughout the game but Flavin's hit really did some major damage."

Shortstop Rodriguez continued his sizzling hot bat for the Wildcats with a perfect 4-4 outing and a RBI.

Kevin Cisto came up big with a 2 for 2 effort. His hits came in the 3rd and 4th innings where he scored both times.

Other Novi players contributing with one hit was Buck who, besides doing a great job catching, had one hit. Fellow junior classman Kerry Kreuzberg also chipped in one hit. In two at bats, he scored a run, and had one RBI.

Other players who scored runs for the Wildcats were Daren Guffey, Matt Nickles, and Adam Brandau.

Novi's baseball schedule resumes with a doubleheader at Detroit Country Day on Saturday April 26. A single away game is on Wednesday, April 30, at Howell.

Michael Zerklisch is a special writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. Comments can be directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

Novi tops Mavericks

By Michael Zerklisch
SPECIAL WRITER

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Hartland Eagles take two games away from Novi 'Cats

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

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A Knight tackles a ballcarrier in a home meet against a rugby team from Washtenaw Co.

Knights win one, lose one

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

You win some, and you lose some — that's just the nature of sports.

The Northville-Novu Knights rugby football club is well aware of that, and they take what they get and learn from the rest.

In a game against a tough team from Washtenaw April 16, the Knights found themselves on the wrong end of a losing score as they fell 12-5 in their first home game, which was played at Hillside Middle School on the football field.

Prior to that, in a make-up game at Howell, the Knights were on the opposite end of the win/loss column as they beat the Highlanders 15-9.

Against their foes from Washtenaw, the Knights started the game off right. The first score of the game came off a try as Kyle Teevens was propelled into the try-zone by a shove from big Mike Suba. Teevens managed to touch the ball down for the five-point score.

Heading into the half, the Knights held on to a tight lead, 5-0, after their extra-points kick sailed wide following their try. Unfortunately for the combined Northville-Novu squad, that would be all the offense they would muster — the second half would be Washtenaw's.

The Knights, minus a major offensive scoring threat, couldn't

get the ball moving like they wanted. The Washtenaw defense jammed the Knights backwards until they pinned them and took possession away before scoring a five-point try of their own to tie the game after they missed the extra-points attempt.

As time continued to race off the clock in the second half, Washtenaw went on the offensive and took advantage of multi-ple open-field runs before they jaunted into the try-zone for the score against a cold and worn-down Knights defense before tacking on the two-point kick to seal the victory, 12-5.

The second half was an impressive one for the Knights. With the wind now in their favor, Northville-Novu capitalized on a penalty kick of their own off the foot of Matt Haggerty to go up 10-9 in the contest. The final score of the game came off of a try by Teevens, who touched the ball down in the zone late in the second half for the 15-9 victory.

The game was a close one for the Knights, who watched as two additional penalty kicks of Howell's sailed wide thanks to the difficulty of kicking into the wind.

The ruggers even found themselves with an injury to stellar kicker Meyer, who took a head-to-head blow and left the game with a gash on his forehead, though he is expected to recover fully.

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.

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More second-half woes for Novi

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's a tough word to use, but it somehow seems appropriate — dismal. The Novi Wildcats lacrosse team is definitely finding itself in dismal situations after their games this season, the most recent coming against Troy Athens.

The Wildcats, who are finding it difficult to earn victories this season, started off their match against Athens with a 0-0 tie leading into the second quarter. Both squads collected six shots on goal in the first period, but a strong defensive presence from goalie Corey Simone found the Red Hawks being stonewalled in their efforts.

The second quarter was a much improved effort on the parts of both offensive units. The Athens squad started the quarter off with a score just over a minute in, but the Wildcats were quick to knot it back up as John Favorite won the face off and sprinted through the defense before slamming the goal home unassisted.

The Red Hawks, being the strong offensive team they are, were known to be rattled with their second goal of the contest coming later in the second quarter. Novi was quick to answer though, finding the back of the net off the stick of Jeff Politecchio for a 2-2 tie.

The pressure increased again and found both defenses buckling under the assault. Troy Athens came back strong, making it a 3-2 game with a hard shot into the net for the score, before the Wildcats rang the bell with a goal of their own with Mike Ward coming the point with a well-placed shot.

As time expired in the first half, the Red Hawks got the last laugh and headed into the locker room on top of the Wildcats after a last-second throw towards the goal found the Athens' squad up 4-3 at the end of the second quarter.

Whalers fall one game behind Rangers in finals

Easter didn't prove to be a day of smiles for the Plymouth Whalers hockey team. The Whalers head back to Plymouth after a heartstopping loss in Kitchener after the Rangers took advantage of home ice on Easter Sunday and they defeated the Whalers 3-2 to take a 2-1 lead in the OHL's Western Conference Finals.

The Whalers were inches away from overtime, as Cole Jarrett appeared to tie the game as time ran out in the third period. After review the officials ruled that it was no goal and the game was over.

The Plymouth Whalers and Kitchener Rangers entered the first intermission of Sunday's game knotted at 0-0. Whalers starting goalie Paul Drew stopped all 7 Rangers shots while Rangers goalie Scott Dickie turned away all 10 Whalers shots in the first period. The Whalers were penalized 4 times to the Rangers 1 in the first.

The Whalers carried their strong play into the early parts of the second period, but Kitchener responded with 2 goals to take the lead. Nathan O'Nabigon scored his 7th goal of the playoffs at 12:39. O'Nabigon took advantage of a bounce off goaltender Paul Drew to put Kitchener up by a goal. The Rangers scored exactly 1 minute later when Greg Campbell scored his 10th of the playoffs capitalizing short-handed to put Kitchener up 2-0. The Whalers managed to outshine the Rangers 2-1 over two periods.

Jeff Weber replaced Paul Drew between the pipes for Plymouth in the third period. Defenseman earned the assists. The Rangers added two more goals in the third to ice the victory. Derek Roy scored 32 seconds into the third, just as a Ranger power play ended. Steve Eminger then added a power play goal at 10:26 to close out the scoring.

The Rangers held a 33-29 shot advantage in the game. The Plymouth Whalers started the Western Conference Finals off with an important 3-1 win over the road over the Kitchener Rangers April 16. Chris Thorburn scored the game winner at 18:46 of the second off a nice feed from John Mitchell.

Wildcats cut down by KVC rival Brighton

Tom Vreitas took second in the discus with a throw of 116-2, while Wong took third with a 108-3. In the shot put, Pritchard was third with a toss of 41-10. Emmeckecker ruled the high jump one again, winning with a clearing of 6-1, while Eric VanTassel cleared 5-11 for second. Yiu was third in the long jump for Novi, leaping 18-5 1/2. In the pole vault, Dan Thelen took first with a nice clearing of 11-0, while Phillip Hornshaw was second as he went over 10-6.

On the track, the Wildcats found Chandler winning the 200 dash in 23.54 with Emmeckecker on his heels in second with a 23.66. Chandler also took second in the 100 dash with a nice time of 11.67. Moore paced the 3,200 run with a time of 9:54, while Huprikar was third in 10:10.92. In the 1,600 run, Gilchrist took third with his time of 4:37.87.

The 4-by-100 relay team of Yiu, Chris Dalton, Chandler and Alex Harsha-Strong took first with a time of 44.97 seconds to help the Wildcats to their 46 final points.

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HOME AWAY	THURSDAY 24	FRIDAY 25	SATURDAY 26	SUNDAY 27	MONDAY 28	TUESDAY 29	WEDNESDAY 30
						AA PIONEER 7:00	Birmingham 5:30
							Hovell 4:00
						WLU 4:00	Hovell 4:00
						South Lyon 3:30	
						South Lyon 3:30	
					MILFORD 7:00		Lakeland 7:00
						SALINE 4:00	HARTLAND 4:00
						BRIGHTON 3:30	Pre-KVC 3:30

Northville edges tough Holt

San Eggleston sports writer

and netched a goal for Northville to keep the game at 1-1.

Minutes later, senior attack Mike Dawson kept his eyes peeled and found senior Rick Ragner crossing through the defense. Ragner, who has been a scoring fanatic this season, added yet another goal to his totals for the 2-1 lead.

Holt tied the game up as the clock continued to wind down in the first quarter. The ball came loose during a quick scramble in front of the Northville goal and managed to dribble into the net for the score. The Mustangs wouldn't be deterred though, and recaptured the lead as Dawson fought off the Holt defense long enough to get a pass to Monticello, who slammed the score in with a quick bounce into the back of the net.

The second quarter found the Mustangs utilizing some impressive passing through the box, and some agonizing shots that found the Holt goalie standing on his head to make the saves that kept the game stagi-

nant, 3-2. As time expired in the half, the Mustang defense found Holt tying the game 3-3 thanks to a lack of action throughout most of the quarter that lulled them into relaxing — it was a mistake they wouldn't make in the third quarter.

The third was, quite simply, dominated by the Northville Mustangs. Freshman middle Max Lamm slammed home the fourth goal with assists from Dawson and senior middle Ryan Grigsby before notching another for a 5-3 lead just seconds later on an unassisted rebound shot.

Minutes later, Dawson took a deep pass from Monticello and shouldered his way through the defense before slamming home the sixth Mustang goal of the day. Shortly after, Lamm scored his third on the day for a sweet hat-trick before Ragner padded the lead with a timely goal for the 8-3 Northville advantage.

The only Holt goal of the third quarter came as time was running out, but the Mustangs were determined to end the period on top and Grigsby did exactly that as he took advantage of an opening the goalie provided him for a 9-4 lead with the assist being credited to Dawson once again.

The fourth quarter was a physical punishment for both squads. Holt, determined not to let the game slip away, stepped up their offensive and defensive play and earned a quick goal for their effort to shrink the Northville lead to 9-5.

The only Mustang score of the quarter came just minutes later as Dawson scooped up an errant Holt pass just inside the box and slammed the goal home.



The will of the one is as strong as the will of the many. A Northville-Nowi Knight gets gang tackled by rugby players from Washtenaw Co. in a home meet in April.

AKPAN: Draft day is approaching

continued from B1
hench 225 pounds as many times as he could and did some position-specific drills such as catching the ball or running through an obstacle course. "I feel I did real well and performed close to the best of my abilities," Akpan said, and noted that going all out isn't easy. "It's a lot different in those circumstances when you're just working out with teams rather than actually doing it out on the field. It's something you have to adjust to."

attention to what's going on, I enjoy being in the spotlight." And in the spotlight is where he intends to be for some time to come. Akpan said that in the worst-case scenario, he doesn't get drafted — but that's not going to deter him any. "My agent said that even if I don't get drafted, I'll be playing somewhere," Akpan said. "I'll be a free agent, and that's not a bad thing. I'll be with a team come the first game of 2003."

"They are always asking me where I feel I'm going to go. I'm thankful people are calling me and paying attention to what's going on. I enjoy being in the spotlight."

Akpan's mother hopes everyone watches. "He's going to make Novi proud," she said. "He's going to make everyone else proud of him too."

San 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.homecom.net.

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CITY OF NOVI WOODLAND REVIEW BOARD THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2003 - 4:00 PM
(City Hall 2nd Floor, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road)

AGENDA
CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL: Lynn Kocan, Planning Commission
Terry Morris, Deputy Building Official
Steve Prinz, City Forester
CASE 03-03 FILED BY: Singh Homes
7125 Orchard Lane
West Bloomfield, MI 48325
Applicant is proposing to relocate tree fence at Lot 115 Willowbrook Farms 1st lot per plan.
ADJOURNMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: STEVE PRINZ, CITY FORESTER, (248) 347-0401

LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION SCHOOL ELECTION NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE ELECTIONS OF NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WAYNE, OAKLAND AND WASHTENAW COUNTIES, MICHIGAN

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT:
Please take notice that the regular school election of the school district will be held on Monday, June 9, 2003.
THE LAST DAY ON WHICH PERSONS MAY REGISTER IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE REGULAR SCHOOL ELECTION CALLED TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2003, IS MONDAY, MAY 12, 2003. PERSONS REGISTERING AFTER 5 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING ON MONDAY, MAY 12, 2003, ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE REGULAR SCHOOL ELECTION.
To register, visit any Secretary of State branch office or your county, city or township clerk's office. Persons planning to register with the respective county, city or township clerk must ascertain the days and hours in which the clerk's offices are open for registration.
This notice is given by order of the board of education.

SECRETARY, BOARD OF EDUCATION

Muscular Dystrophy Association Jerry Lewis, National Chairman 1-800-572-1717 www.mdusa.org

ADDENDUM
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Regular Biennial Election of Schoolcraft Community College, Michigan, will be held in conjunction with the Regular School Election.
ONLY REGISTERED SCHOOL ELECTORS RESIDING IN THE SCHOOLCRAFT COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE REGULAR BIENNIAL ELECTION OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE.
(4-24 5-08-03 NFRN 51190)

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Portage Pharmacy (Innovative Professional Services) received some lots of compounded pain medicine, methylprednisolone, in June 2002 because of microbial contamination. Although our previous lots tested negative for mold, the cause of contamination was linked to Portage Pharmacy's compounded medicine. If you have questions about an injection that you may have received before June 2002, contact our firm for further information.

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STAR SOUTHFIELD STAR TAYLOR UA COMMERCIE SHELTON

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SHOWCASE STERLING HILLS SHOWCASE PLYMOUTH STAR FAIRLANE
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ENTERTAINMENT

Sam Eggleston, (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 seggleston@ht.homecomm.net

hometownlife.com

'Splinter Cell' brings novels to life

Stealth, spying and uncovering secret plots are part of the game

By Sam Eggleston
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Well, PlayStation 2 gamers can take a deep breath and relax. "Splinter Cell" has managed to make it's way onto their systems.

"Splinter Cell" is a tale of covert intrigue that reminds one of sitting down and reading a Tom Clancy novel. Strangely enough, the game was based on the works of Clancy himself.

Gamers take the role of Sam Fisher, a National Security Agency operative, who uses his sneaky abilities to uncover an evil terrorist group's plans to disrupt the world as we know it. The mission, if gamers choose to accept it, is to infiltrate high-

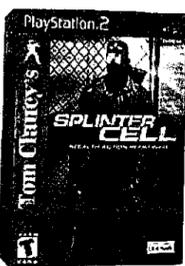
security buildings and collect super secret information.

The game takes place in the not-so-distant future, and finds gamers maneuvering Fisher through the shadows in hopes of avoiding detection from the enemy. Right away, gamers will adjust to the scene, and find the thought of not only sneaking about, but also dispatching those who stand in their way, a very quick one to accept.

The first thing that many gamers will notice is the impressive visual and audio packaging that makes "Splinter Cell" such a great buy. Though it isn't quite the staggering visuals that the Xbox managed to produce, the game still packs quite the punch. Players east

their own shadows, the lighting plays a big role in the realistic feel and stealth of the game and the audio commentary is a major plus thanks to some of the best voice acting and time changes in music that are available on the PS2 today.

There are only two major complaints I have about this game, and they aren't really that big of a deal for PS2 owners. The only disappointment I really had in the Xbox version of the game was the inability to explore areas and find new ways and paths to complete and objective that hasn't changed on the



PS2's version either. You are still stuck in environments that

are designed to keep you moving in one direction.

The other complaint, and it relates to the Xbox version once again, is that the levels are shortened from the original game. Yeah, there are a couple of added levels and cinematic scenes to fill the void, but I felt rather cheated that the developers felt the need to scale back their impressive work for those with PlayStation controllers in their hands. Though the levels are shorter, I have to say that the design hasn't changed and the overall game play remains intact.

Overall, I feel that "Splinter Cell" is a must-have for PS2 gamers. Those who love tales of spying and intrigue will drool

over this title, and those who want one of the best games to hit the Playstation yet will be looking to fork over a few bucks as well.

The game has a lot to offer, from actor Michael Ironside's raspy voice for the main character, and a nice musical score to some of the smoothest movements for games of this kind. This game is a wonderful adventure in the Tom Clancy universe, and a great addition to anyone's collection.

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.

VIRTUAL VIC

Dear Virtual Vic,

Recently, I found myself in a bit of a quandary. Do I buy my girlfriend roses for her birthday or jewelry? We've been exclusive with one another for about a year now and I definitely feel that we could be together for some time to come. I pondered picking up a nice necklace or bracelet, but my buddies tell me that she might take it the wrong way and feel I'm moving in with too much pressure. Too fast. Yet, flowers die off and don't give her something to really hold on to. Maybe I need a completely different line of thinking, like getting her a gift card to her favorite store or something? What would you suggest?



Victoria Sadlocha

My very first reaction to your question was ROSIES? ARE YOU CRAZY?

My second reaction was, I'm sure glad you wrote and asked. Roses for a birthday gift after a year of dating is like giving your mom - I don't even know

what - for Mother's Day.

Crying is the only reaction I picture your girlfriend having after receiving such a perceptively thoughtless gift.

The same goes for a gift card - bad idea!

Do you even know this girl? Take it from me (a girl) when I tell you the anticipation surrounding a birthday gift at the one-year mark is more about receiving a clue into how you feel about her than a material object to unwrap.

Roses and gift cards are saying the same thing, "I haven't really paid much attention to who you are and what you value, so I just picked up something to give you."

What you want to say with your gift is, "I have spent the past year carefully getting to know you so I picked up a thoughtful gift reflecting the characteristics you possess that I deeply value."

Pretty smooth, huh?

Jewelry may or may not accomplish this task.

For example, giving your girlfriend jewelry just because you found a necklace in your

price range is a big no-no.

But let's say, for example, on the first day you met your girlfriend you were both gazing at some stars during a party.

Now a necklace or bracelet with a star charm would be a good gift.

It is a simple gesture with an appropriate sentiment. It shows her you have been paying attention throughout your year together.

I do understand what your buddies are saying, although I feel their advice is more applicable to the thought behind the gift than the actual object.

For example, if you purchase a box of tissues to represent every time she has sneezed in the past year along with a calendar marking the date and time you blessed her, that is a little creepy.

Or if you purchase a pair of shackles, symbolizing how you hope she will forever be attached to your side, that too would be going a bit far into the pressure scenario.

And while were on the buddies subject, let's say that you do decide to give her a nice,

appropriate piece of jewelry. Do not bend down on one knee in front of her before handing her the box.

I hope you understand what I am trying to say - the thought is always more important than the material object.

Just remember when you go shopping, think to yourself the acronym WHIPPED stands for when honestly in passion, purchase earnest doohickies.

If you need advice, a little help or a complete overhaul, please forward your questions to vsadlocha@ht.homecomm.net or seggleston@ht.homecomm.net. His topic is off limits, unless it violates the paper's family-friendly rating. If your question is chosen, you just may see it in the next edition of your local paper. And please remember to provide an alternate name or we will provide one for you. Our intention is to give fun advice without exposing you to your neighbors.

ART. ASK FOR MORE.

For more information about the importance of arts education, please contact www.AmericanForTheArts.org.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Sam Eggleston, (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 seggleston@ht.homecomm.net

hometownlife.com

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Each morning is started off with a soothing cup of tea. My husband is usually downstairs first, and has turned into quite a brewer. The wonderful smells of a fruit-based blend are a great eye-opener. The drive to work affords me just enough time for the second cup, a nice relaxation technique before a hectic onset. During the day, tea gives me a lift when the energy flow is low. And at night, a cup of Sleepy Time acts as a slumber provoker. I don't care if it is my imagination. It works for me.



Chef Mary Brady

Although tea will never be as popular as coffee in our country, over the past several years, we have seen the trend toward less caffeine and more flavonoid teas. The Lipton "Flow Time" bags are no longer the norm. Now it is Oolong, Lapsang, Darjeeling, Rose Pouchong - much more exciting than the standard "breakfast blend."

Tea drinking originated in China centuries ago, but did not come to America until the 17th century. Tea has been cultivated there for more than 1,500 years. China dominated tea trading until 1850, after which other countries tried to nose their way into the market.

China still grows what are considered the most marvelous teas in the world: black, green and oolong are manufactured commercially, along with smoked and scented. They are best without milk and with a bit of lemon. Oolong is considered a cross between a black and a green.

India is the world's largest producer and exporter of tea. The British planted tea as early as 1830. There are three main teas that are indigenous to India: Assam, Darjeeling, and Nilgiri. Assam, the first and largest amount of land devoted to tea growing, produces strong black teas. The medium grades are the mainstay of blended English teas and hold up well to milk. Darjeeling in the foothills of the Himalayas, produces India's most prized teas. Due to the high altitudes, some of these varieties take up to 10 years to mature. Nilgiri is the high plateau in the south of India. Its teas are used exclusively for blending.

Ceylon (Sri Lanka) is the world's third largest producer and second largest exporter of teas. Teas were first planted there in the 1870s and became a principal cash crop when blight wiped out the country's coffee crop. Early growers and merchants set a high standard of excellence, which is still recog-

nized today. Ceylon teas are "high grown," and are strong but delicate with a bit of bitterness. They are good with milk, but not with lemon.

Tea has been grown and drunk in Japan since the 9th century. It has long played an important role in Japanese life. Green tea is principally produced and the demand is so great that little, if any, is exported. Exotic teas have been produced for centuries. An early example is Earl Grey, a recipe given to the second Earl Grey in 1830 by a Chinese Mandarin. It is a blend of fine black teas covered with the oil of the Bergamot orange. Ginger, mint, spices, honey, lavender, and almond are illustrations of other essences.

Fruit teas, such as lemon, orange, apple, and coconut are some of my favorites, although flower teas are lovely too. Rose and jasmine can fill a room with summer. Tisanes, or herb teas, have been used for centuries to relieve every form of distress known to man. They can be made from almost any edible plant. Elderflower is a mild stimulant, chamomile is a sedative, orange blossom helps uterine and gastric problems, and rosemary (a rich source of vitamin C, cowslip is recommended for skin disorders, and the list goes on and on.

Herbs such as fennel (a blood cleanser), peppermint (good for headaches), and rosemary (a spirit lifter), have been in medicine throughout the years for those who believe in their powers.

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

'War of the Monsters' is an instant fighting game classic

By Sam Eggleston
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Monsters? I'm talking about things like Dracula and the wolf-man, right? Nope. I'm talking about those gargantuan creatures that terrorized places like Tokyo and New York.

These aren't the things that stalk in the night, these monsters are the things that rule the land.

Back long before I was a wee baby, monsters like King Kong and Godzilla ruled the lands. Finally, after a long-enough wait, a company has decided to bring those monsters back.

Sony Computer Entertainment's "War of the Monsters" is a game in which the gamer takes control of one of several enormous monsters that threaten to take over the world.

Once you begin your first trek into the game, you'll hear the sounds of monster movies and see a large drive-in movie screen that sets the tone of the game. Projected on the screen is the monster of your choosing, from a giant praying mantis, to a King-Kong wannabe called Congar.

Every monster has the ability to punch and throw one another across a selection of cities and areas. In this environment, buildings become destructible obstacles, and everything from cars to steel beams and building pieces become weapons. Just pick up a car, whip it at your opponent, or choose to hang on to it and beat him to a pulp with it. Sometimes, sharp objects like the massive antennae that sit atop buildings, can be used to impale your opponent to momentarily paralyze them and make them defenseless against your attacks.

The first thing my wife said when she saw me playing the game was that "War of the Monsters" is a Rampage-like game on steroids.

The controls are fairly easy to learn, which will prove a very positive thing for the younger gamers or those with little game-playing

experience, and the graphics provide players with great-looking, tough cartoonish, monsters to control and impressive looking cities that await their destruction.

This game should prove to be a fun one for those who like party games as well. Multiplayer action is where this game is at its best, and the more the merrier when you're trying to set up a fun bracket to see who's the best of the best among you and your friends.

Monster fans will be taken back to the good-old days and the game play doesn't make it the kind of platform that finds you hitting the Internet for the right move combination or cheat code.

Though not quite a "must-have" for fighting game fanatics, "War of the Monsters" is a great way to introduce someone into the genre or just have a little fun while escaping from the blood-and-gore styles that are elsewhere in the gaming world.

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Brian Renner
THE MOVIE INSIDER

Coming to theaters this weekend is the comedy "It Runs in the Family" which follows three generations of a highly successful New York family, The Grombeks, who each in their own way, live separate lives but find a couple moments in time to come together through laughter and tears and remind themselves that they are attached by blood. Mitchell Grombeck (Kirk Douglas), the patriarch, is having difficulty coming to grips with his mortality. His son, Alex (Michael Douglas), has spent his life trying not to duplicate his father's mistakes, while Alex's eldest son, Asher (Cameron Douglas), a rebellious college student, tries to cope with life, love and rock 'n' roll in today's confused society. "It Runs in the Family" is a MGM release and rated PG-13 for drug content, sexual material and language.

Thriller "Identity" follows ten complete strangers who are stranded at a remote deserted motel during a raging storm who soon find them being murdered... as their numbers thin out they turn on each other, as each tries to figure out who is the killer. The film stars John Cusack, Jake Busey, Rebecca DeMornay, Cien DuVall and Ray Liotta. "Identity" is a Sony Pictures release and rated R for strong violence and language.

The hottest trend in television finally makes a jump to the big

screen with "The Real Cancun." Casting was done at colleges across the country to assemble a unique cast of real people ready to explore reality's barriers beyond the limits of television while on the ultimate Spring Break vacation in Cancun, Mexico. Bonds (Andy Garcia) to shadow his every move, even as the con man and his crew work to pull off another scam for the mob to pay off the debt completely before they come collecting. "Confidence" is a Lions Gate Films release and rated R for language, violence, and sexuality/nudity.

to enjoy this movie, because it's so accessible. "The Real Cancun" is a New Line Cinema release and rated R for strong sexuality/nu- dity, language, and parodying.

Controversial drama "The Believer" (R), emotionally charged drama "Bloody Sunday" (R), spooky thriller "Darkness Falls" (PG-13), Mexican drama "The Crime of Padre Amaro" (R) and Motown documentary "Standing in the Shadows of Motown" (PG).

For more information, please log on to TheMovieInsider.com, or call (248) 349-1700. Please direct any questions, comments, and/or feedback to brian@themovieinsider.com.

Relay For Life

The American Cancer Society is hosting Relay For Life in our community again, this year in two locations - Ford Field in Northville and City Hall Field in Walled Lake. We hope you'll join us at one of these events, and help our community continue to fight cancer.

- There are many ways that you can get involved, including:
- Forming a team
 - Sponsoring the event
 - Making a cash donation
 - Joining the planning committee
 - Walking in the Cancer Survivor's Victory Lap
 - Donating good and services
 - Purchasing a luminaria in honor or memory
 - Hosting a fundraiser for the event

Here's your opportunity to make a difference! Call us at 248.557.5353 to learn how you can get involved, or click on www.cancer.org.

RELAY FOR LIFE

American Cancer Society

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NOVI NEWS

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 6B - NOVI NEWS

Thursday, April 24, 2003

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Aufschlager promoted at ACRO Service Corp.

South Lyon resident Greg Aufschlager has been promoted to director of Client Services for Acro Service Corp. in Livonia. The announcement was made by Ron Shabani, Acro's founder and president.



Aufschlager will direct cross-selling efforts for ACRO's Global Sourcing Services, XRM Solutions and Technology Consulting Services divisions. Aufschlager previously served as director of the company's Clerical and Light Industrial Services Division (CLISD). In his new role, Aufschlager will also continue to oversee CLISD.

Aufschlager earned his bachelor's degree in communications from Michigan State University.

Founded in 1982, Livonia-based Acro Service Corp. (Acro) provides collaborative engineering, information technology and human capital management services to the world's leading organizations, including Fortune 500 companies and government entities. Acro (www.acrocorp.com) has 31 offices worldwide, including regional centers in Michigan, Tennessee, New Mexico and California.

Mail Boxes changes names

Northville's Mail Boxes, Etc. store are among the locations across the country converting itself into the new The UPS Store. The store, located at 143 Cady Centre, will maintain hours of operation from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Chamber golf outing

The Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for its 26th annual Four-Person Scramble Golf Outing and have joined forces with the Walled Lake Fire Department for a second time to host a spring charity event.

Firefighters, chamber members and their friends will tee off with a Shotgun Start at 10:30 a.m. June 2 at Milford's Mystic Creek Golf Course. Registration is \$115.00 per golfer for those who register and pay by May 2nd and \$125.00 per golfer for those who don't make up their mind until after May 2nd. Either way you'll get 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch, dinner, contests and prizes. For those interested in the dinner only, the cost is \$30.

Proceeds from the outing benefit the Walled Lake Fire Department and the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Business Community. A Chamber spokesman said both groups have a strong commitment to fire prevention education.

Executive Director Jim Zick said, "It is only through the help of our local businesses and community members that we can attain our goal of reaching as many children and families as possible with our message."

To register for this golf outing, call the Chamber office at 248-624-2826. Zick added you can promote your business by sponsoring a hole, contest, or donating a prize.

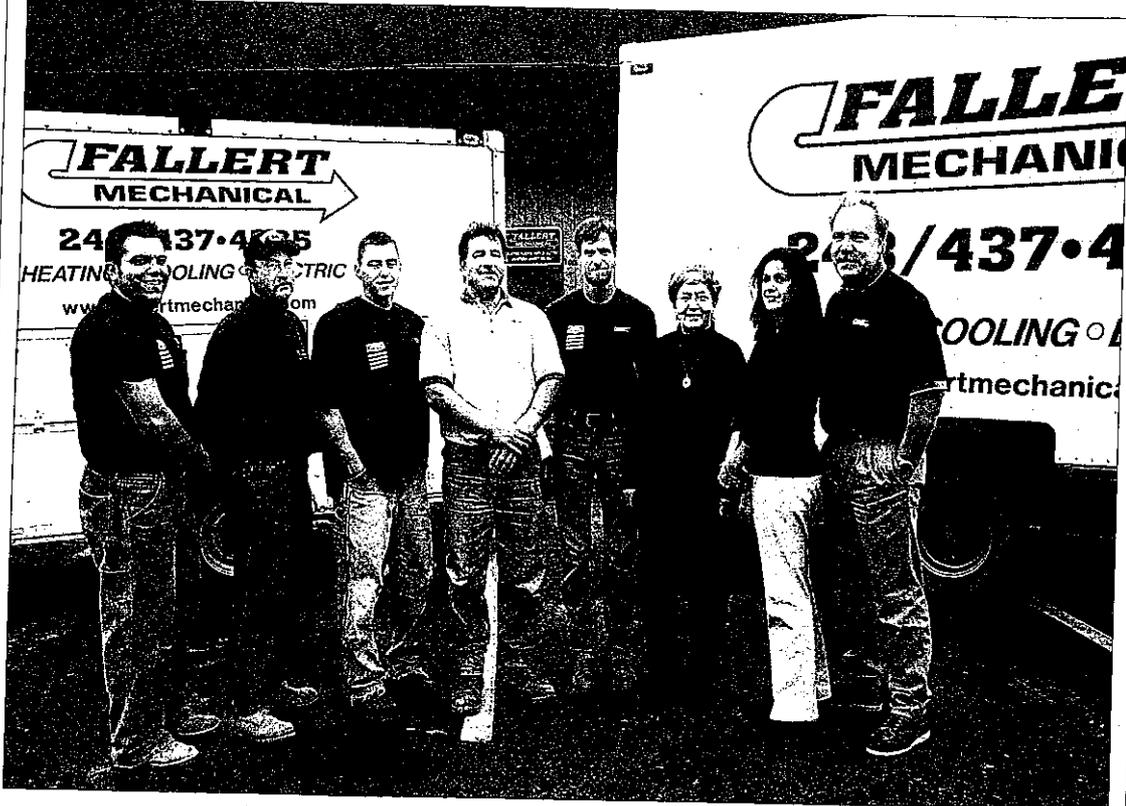
New members

The Novi Chamber of Commerce signed up six new members in April. Among them are Telecom Credit Union, 44575 West 12 Mile Rd., Novi; T-Mobile, 25875 Novi Rd., Novi; Masters Green, 1965 Best Dr., Walled Lake; Cold Stone Creamery at Fountainwalk, 44175 12 Mile Rd., Novi; Advanced Window Fashions 3D, Inc., 15690 Edgewood Circle, Plymouth; and Prudential Financial, 101 W. Big Beaver Rd. Ste 705, Troy.

Business quickie

First there was speed skating. Then there was speed dating. Now there is "Speed Networking." The Novi Chamber of Commerce is holding a Speed Networking event at 5:30 p.m. May 29 in the Lifestyle Cafe Food Court at Twelve Oaks Mall. Light munchies will be served. Business cards will be exchanged rapidly. Registration is limited so call the chamber office at (248) 349-4743 — quickly.

ADVERTORIAL



For heating or cooling, this crew's for you: (l to r) Jonh Turowski, Dave Williamson, Marc Kremers, Jeff Bridson, Don Mair, Mary Badalamenti, Caryn Fallert and Paul Fallert. Photo by Hal Gould

Enjoy perfect indoor weather in any season

By Elizabeth Heer
SPECIAL WRITER

Customer satisfaction is a long-standing tradition of service at Fallert Mechanical Inc. The Green Oak Township company prides itself in providing efficient and professional work, and making sure the customer is happy from start to finish.

Fallert Mechanical has been providing expert installations of residential and commercial heating and cooling systems since Paul Fallert began his company in 1980. In addition to mechanical contracting, Fallert also provides electrical contracting services, gas piping, hot water heat systems, heat pumps and custom duct work for new construction and replacements in existing homes.

Quality is the key to Fallert Mechanical. "We pride ourselves in doing a good job, and we get a lot of compliments on the quality of our work," says Caryn Fallert, Paul's wife and partner. "In fact, customers often comment that our staff is courteous and respectful of their homes. They do the job right the first time."

Paul stresses that he insures his customers stay happy with the expert service they offer as well as the warranty he offers.

"We have a 100 percent guarantee on our equipment. We will replace the equipment

within one year if you are not completely satisfied," he said. "We are a factory authorized Bryant dealer, and we had to meet certain standards to earn this designation. Our staff has met testing standards and also takes ongoing training to insure that they stay up on new technology and any changes in the industry."

Choosing the right heating and cooling professional is an important process. It can make the difference between getting the most comfort and efficiency for your money or getting stuck with a system that doesn't meet your needs. Fallert has a few tips on evaluating a prospective dealer. He suggests looking for an established dealer, someone who has earned a reputation for fair and quality service. Check to see the dealer's contractor's license. The state of Michigan requires a mechanical license to install any heating and cooling equipment.

"Unfortunately, there are a fair amount of unlicensed people out there who may offer what seems to be a good price, but are not around or not able to handle problems when the customer starts having problems with a system that was not installed properly," he said.

Other things to look for:

- Is if the contractor is listening to your needs?
- Are they complying with state and local code?

- Do they have continuous formal training for the workers to assure you the best quality job?

These are important questions to consider. And with summer coming up, now is the time a lot of people start thinking about central air conditioning.

"Often we have a few hot days in early spring and we get a lot of calls about air conditioning," Fallert said. "Then it cools down and the customer puts off following up on it. Now is the time to get it installed. If you wait until June when the hot weather returns, the contractors will be much busier and you will have a longer wait." He also stressed that this time of year is when the manufacturers usually offer rebates and sales. He cited the rebate that he is offering from Bryant for up to \$1,000 on a complete system until the end of May.

Maintaining your system is another important point. You should have your furnace and air conditioner cleaned and checked annually. This is to insure it is safe and working at its best. Units that are not properly maintained may use more energy and have a shorter life than a well-maintained system.

Air quality has become an important issue for homeowners — even more so when allergies are present. Paul has seen

changes in the industry over the past several years that can greatly improve air quality problems.

"As houses get more efficient and air-tight, there has been a problem with air quality," he said. "It's a growing problem, because we have made our homes so tight that we now have to open them up again to get fresh air back inside."

A ventilating system can solve the stale air problem. Paul suggests things such as fresh air scuttles, which has recently become code for new homes, and heat reclaimers, to not only bring in fresh air but to condition it so there isn't a drain on energy requirements. Ultraviolet lights are becoming a popular option in cleaning the air. The lights actually kill bacteria as the air flows past, and are quite helpful in controlling allergies. Air cleaning and humidifying equipment are part of the indoor air quality scene as well.

"The best way to clean the air is with an electrostatic air cleaner, which can be installed directly onto the furnace," Paul said. "The technology has been around a long time. We now have residential air cleaning and indoor air quality products that I can recommend and install."

Educated at Detroit Engineering Institute, Fallert first gained experience with

DETAILS

Fallert Mechanical, Inc. provides the best possible indoor weather solutions for your home environment. Fallert Mechanical, Inc. is located at 10075 Colonial Industrial Dr. in Green Oak Township. Call (248) 437-4385 for more information. Visit the website at: www.fallertmechanical.com.

several companies before opening his own business in 1980. His company has been in its current location since 1985. He obtained his mechanical license shortly after completing his education. Fallert's expertise extends to the several industry licenses he holds — more than is actually required for the mechanical contracting business. Besides his mechanical contracting license, he has licenses in electrical, boiler, and hot water heating. Training and education are important to Fallert and his employees. His technicians are fully certified — just one of the criteria needed to be a factory authorized Bryant dealer.

"All of my people are highly trained," he said. "I really emphasize training for all my employees to stay up on all the new technology."

"We are a factory authorized Bryant dealer, and we had to meet certain standards to earn this designation. Our staff has met testing standards and also takes ongoing training to insure that they stay up on new technology and any changes in the industry."

Paul Fallert
owner

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