



Novi News

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Thursday, September 25, 2003

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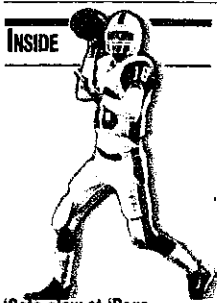
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Volume 48 Number 17

Novi, Michigan

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INSIDE



Cats claw at 'Dogs'

Well, it's about time. The Novi Wildcats have been on the wrong end of their game against the Brighton Bulldogs 12 out of the last 14 games with their last victory coming in 1994 while John Osborne was still in charge. It's a new century now though, and Coach Tab Kellepourey has been in charge long enough to know that 2003's victory, which came in the form of a 23-20 overtime win, is a sweet one.

— Page 1B

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE



Handy to have around

By focusing on the smaller maintenance and repair jobs, Dayn Benson's My Handyman, has created a successful niche for itself.

— Page 10B

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CONTACT US

Novi News
104 W. Main
Northville, MI 48167

- Classifieds: 888-999-1288
- Newsroom: 248-349-1700
- Fax: 248-349-9832
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Arrest made in rape case

Wixom man, 35, facing multiple charges

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

A Wixom man, who police say sexually assaulted his neighbor for hours, stood alone and mute in Novi's 52-1 District Court Friday afternoon charged with home invasion and three counts of criminal sexual conduct.

District Court Judge Robert Bondy ordered Dean Michael Schmitz, 35, held without bond. Schmitz's arrest in a wooded area behind a pole barn on a farm near Burkhardt and Mason Roads in Livingston County's Marion Township Thursday ended a nine-day investigation for the Wixom Police Department.

"This is a big relief for all of us," said Wixom Detective James Osborne. "This is the kind of case that really scares people."

He said Wixom Police received more than 200 calls from residents and nearby police departments

after word of the attack got out.

Wixom Police said Schmitz broke into his neighbor's apartment in the early hours of Sept. 8 and raped the 21-year-old woman repeatedly after telling the woman he'd been sent there to kill her.

Investigators said Schmitz jumped the 37-inches between the balcony on his third floor apartment and his neighbor's in Wixom's Stone Ridge Apartments and then cut a screen in a door wall to gain entry.

The victim told investigators that she had returned home about 3:30 a.m. the morning of the attack and

a short time later was awakened by hands over her eyes and mouth and a male voice.

Wixom Detective Shannon Luther told Judge Bondy that Schmitz covered the woman's eyes with a bandana and secured it with electrical tape before raping her and forcing her to have oral sex over the next three hours. Luther said that before leaving, Schmitz forced the woman to bathe and wash her hair and then covered her with a blanket and ordered her not to move for 10 minutes.

Detective Luther said a palm print recovered from the bathtub in

the woman's apartment recovered by the forensic technicians from the Oakland County Sheriff's Office matched one obtained by the Livingston County Sheriff's Office following Schmitz' arrest.

Investigators said the one-time Pinckney resident fled to a friend's farm in Marion Township, south of Howell.

Schmitz, said Detective Osborne, was being sought by sheriff's deputies in Livingston County on a year-and-a-half old warrant charging him with failure

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Not forgotten

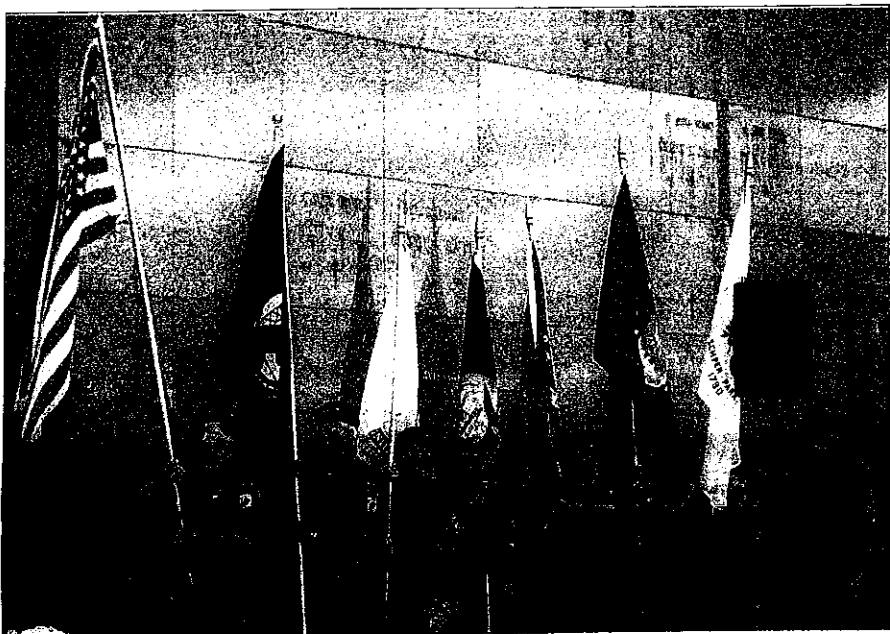


Photo by John Heider

Michigan Vietnam Veterans Association Chapt. 154 Color Guard presents the colors at the start of last Friday night's National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony at Oakland Hill Memorial Gardens in Novi. Three more U.S. veterans had their remains interred in the memorial seen behind the color guard.

Grand River roadwork on schedule

12 Mile still a little behind

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

After a long dusty summer of roadwork delays, relief for Novi businesses along Grand River Avenue is just around the corner.

Paving crews moving east along Grand River from Beck Road seem to be going at a pretty good clip, and city and county road officials agree the project is on track to open for traffic Nov. 1.

Haim Schlick, a construction engineer with the city, said paving

crews are working on schedule. He said preparing the roadbed was the most time-consuming part of the project, noting that once crews start pouring concrete, "it goes fast."

Tom Blust, director of engineering for the Road Commission for Oakland County, said crews were scheduled to pour concrete for the first half of the bridge deck on the commission CSX Bridge project last Monday night. Although the entire project isn't slated for completion until next June, Blust said the bridge should be open for traffic Nov. 1.

Road Commission crews will be back next spring and summer to put in sidewalks on both sides

of Grand River and finish landscaping.

On 12 Mile Road, where Road Commission crews are building a four-lane boulevard from Meadowbrook Road west to Novi Road, work isn't expected to be complete until the middle of next month.

Blust said the county is a little behind its original schedule. He attributed the delay in part to cooperating with the city to keep the road open to business traffic.

"We can always work faster if we can shut a road down," he said. He added it also took longer than expected to obtain needed right-of-way from a cemetery on the north side of 12 Mile Road

and move several graves.

Once complete, the project will leave most of 12 Mile road boulevarded through Novi. Last year the road commission widened the road west of Novi Road past the Fountain Walk complex. While that leaves a little more than two miles of two-lane road leading to Beck Road where the state Department of Transportation plans on building a new bridge over I-96, Blust said he knows of no plans to widen the remainder of the road.

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

Rockin' again?

Promoter wants to bring rock and roll's golden era back to Walled Lake's shores

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Some four decades ago, dressed in a dark suit and black glasses straight from the set of MIB, Lee Alan lured thousands of Detroit teens to the Walled Lake Casino with artists like Chuck Berry and Stevie Wonder.

The glasses are gone and the hair's a little thinner, but Alan wants to do it all over again next summer—even though the casino burned to the ground Christmas Eve 1965 and the site today is a Novi City Park.

Alan, today an advertising

and marketing executive, came to the Novi City Council Monday night to get conceptual approval for what he's billing as the Walled Lake/Novi Music and Family Festival.

While the Walled Lake City Council voted unanimously Sept. 16 to support the project, Novi's city fathers, and especially its mothers, haven't jumped on the bandstand just yet.

Alan was light on specifics for the event, which he wants to run July 1-4, 2004.

City Council members put off a formal vote on backing the



Lee Alan

continued on page 22

Not just Emagined; film festival's coming to Novi

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Film lover Jim Jerome of Northville was tired of the standard Hollywood fare at local theaters.

So the independent filmmaker decided to give local movie watchers something different. Emagine Theater in the Fountain Walk shopping center in Novi will host the first Michigan Independent Film, Art & Music Festival Oct. 3-9.

The event will include feature films, documentaries, shorts, animated shorts and music videos.

"It started in March when me and a couple of buddies said we were sick and tired of going to the theater and being forced to see Hollywood sequels," said Jerome, a

Northville native.

"What we're trying to do is bring the independent culture to the Novi and western Detroit area. This includes independent filmmakers, artists and musicians," he said.

Jerome graduated two years ago from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, with a degree in film and video production and has an independent film company called Leifhand Films. "I'm left-handed, so that's where the name came from," he said. For more information, check out his Web site at www.leifhandfilms.net.

What better person to start such a festival? He selected the Emagine Theater because it's a new theater in the area, and other theaters have agreements with Hollywood studios to run mostly Hollywood productions.

"The Emagine Theater not only looks spectacular, but it's a little more open to independent films and just different films in general. They host premieres for local independent filmmakers," he said.

The Emagine has 18 full stadium audio-

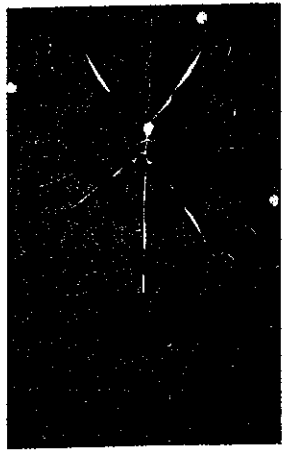
riums that seat 340 people each. It also has 18 concession stands, digital sound and projection and a full bar with beer, wine and cocktails.

Many films will be shown to the public for the first time. Directors and professionals from the film industry will also present workshops during the festival.

The event includes exhibits and demonstrations of the latest technology in film. Artists will also display and sell their work, and live concerts will be provided by local bands each day of the festival.

Ticket sales started last weekend and cost \$7 for one film. A Bronze package for \$30 buys five tickets. A Silver package for \$50 buys 10 tickets. A Gold package for \$75 provides 20 tickets. And a Platinum package at \$250 secures access to all movie showings, all after-party events, access to workshops and concerts, and a TUNNEL VISION T-shirt, with only a limited number of shirts available.

continued on page 22



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MADDA HONORS LOCAL OFFICERS

MADD honors local officers

Two local lawmen were among the 35 from across Oakland County honored at MADD's 14th annual Lifesavers Awards Banquet in Auburn Hills last Saturday.

joined the 13-member force just four days out of the academy. Working midnight he made 13 drunk driving arrests in the community of 7,600 last year.

Arrest made

continued from



Photo by John Heider

Wixom resident Dean Michael Schmitz was arraigned last Friday afternoon in Judge Robert Bondy's 52-1 District Court chambers on multiple sexual assault counts.

According to Detective Luther, Schmitz admitted to drinking heavily and using cocaine the night of the attack. Asked about the attack, Detective Luther said Schmitz told her, "I don't believe I did it. I don't think I did it."

Dressed in an orange Livingston County Jail jumpsuit, Schmitz asked Judge Bondy for a court-

POLICE REPORT

Hit and run

A 59-year-old Farmington Hills man told Officer Paul Leslie at 7 a.m. Sept. 15 that sometime after 8 p.m. the night before someone drove into his 1989 Nissan while it was parked on Sanford, just east of Beck Road, and drove off.

Beer-1, Impala-0

A 51-year-old Novi man told Officer Steve Corbett that he hit a deer with his 2002 Chevrolet Impala while he was driving south on Beck Road a half-mile north of 9 Mile Road at 8:16 p.m. Sept. 21. The man said his Impala suffered minor damage and the deer got up and ran away.

Lincoln-1, Deer-0

A 69-year-old West Bloomfield man told Officer Paul VanPel that he hit and killed a deer while driving his 1999 Lincoln on Haggerty Road a half-mile south of 14 Mile Road at 2:30 a.m. Sept. 17.

Just two, officer

Officer Kristie Gruenwald stopped a 2002 Pontiac Montana at 12:47 a.m. Sept. 18 on westbound 10 Mile Road near Christina Road after she reported seeing it drive erratically on southbound Novi Road. The driver, a 44-year-old Northville man, told Officer Gruenwald that he'd had two drinks at the Post Bar. However, he failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .096, so Officer Gruenwald charged him with operating under the influence of liquor.

Calling home

Officer Erik Ziser stopped a 2003 Ford Explorer at 1:10 a.m. Sept. 18 after reporting seeing it swerve several times on Grand River Avenue near Haggerty Road. The driver, a 23-year-old Redford woman, said she had

been trying to call her husband. The woman said she'd had a Bacardi and Coke at 11 p.m. and before someone drove into his 1989 Nissan while it was parked on Sanford, just east of Beck Road, and drove off.

Burglar undetected

A 26-year-old Novi man told Officer Erik Tapia at 11:25 a.m. Sept. 18 that his 2002 Ford truck was burglarized sometime after 7 p.m. the day before while it was parked in his carport near Wexford and Waterbury. The man said a radar detector worth \$200 was taken.

No fights

Officers Shawn Panzak and Jason Meier stopped a 2003 Thunderbird at 11:45 p.m. Sept. 18 after reporting seeing it drive east on Grand River Avenue with no headlights on. The driver, a 34-year-old Livonia man, told the officers he had two glasses of wine at Steve and Rocky's restaurant. However, the man failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .143. He was charged with operating under the influence of liquor.

Stereo taken

A Novi woman told Officer Kevin Heaney at 7:55 a.m. Sept. 16 that someone broke the driver's side rear window of her 1994 Ford sometime after 11 p.m. the night before and took her stereo.

Stocking up

Officer Craig Chismar charged a 27-year-old Jackson man with retail fraud after loss prevention officers at Kohl stopped the man outside the

store with \$179.99 worth of men's clothing. Officer Chismar recovered another \$300 worth of cookware from the man's 1999 Volvo S-80. The man was released after posting a \$100 bond.

Car burglarized

A Novi woman told Officers Shawn Panzak and Jason Meier at 6:14 a.m. Sept. 14 that her Hyundai Sonata was burglarized at her home on Windmill Street overnight. She said her purse, Palm Pilot and digital camera were taken. The purse, with cash and credit cards still inside, were found nearby. She estimated her loss at \$700.

Truck vandalized

A Farmington Hills man told Officer Scott Tewes at 8:47 a.m. Sept. 15 that someone threw rocks at his 2003 Ford truck while it was parked at a house he's building on South Lake Drive.

Slow down

Officer Eric Lindblade stopped a 2000 Oldsmobile Alero at 1:15 a.m. Sept. 12 after clocking it at 57 mph in a 40 mph zone on Novi Road. The driver, a 28-year-old Naperville, Ill. man, said he'd had two or three beers at 5th Avenue. However, he failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .146 operating under the influence of liquor. The man was charged with operating under the influence of liquor and later released after posting a \$75 bond.

Erratic driving

Officers Shawn Panzak and Jason Meier stopped a 2001 Chevrolet Camaro on eastbound Grand River Avenue near Market Street at 12:48 a.m. Sept. 14 after the reported seeing it drive erratically. The off-

icer charged the driver, a 48-year-old Clarkston man, with operating under the influence of liquor after he failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .139.

Dog gone

A 70-year-old Novi woman told Officer Paul Stulgross that she lost her 16-inch concrete statue of a basnet hound from her yard near Novi and 13 Mile Road sometime before 11:33 a.m. Sept. 14.

Tunes taken

A Hazel Park man told Officer Paul Stulgross at 2:36 p.m. Sept. 14 that someone broke into his car while it was parked near West Pontiac Trail and West Park Drive. He said a portable CD player, 60 to 70 CDs and some clothing were taken. The clothing was recovered nearby in the driveway.

Residence vandalized

A 66-year-old Novi man told Officer Scott Baatons that his residence near 10 Mile Road and Meadowbrook was vandalized at 9:52 p.m. Sept. 14.

Compiled by Phil Foley

Chateau Novi residents hope improvements will follow merger

State finds manufactured home community noncompliant

By Pam Fleming

STAFF WRITER

Residents of Chateau Novi, a manufactured housing community on the city's north side, hope conditions will improve at the park following an upcoming merger between Chateau Communities and Hometown America.

Hometown America, of Chicago, one of the nation's largest privately held owners and operators of manufactured home communities, and Chateau Communities, of Greenwood Village, Colo., the largest owner and operator of such communities in the U.S., announced that the two companies would merge on May 29.

Under the agreement, which was unanimously approved by the Boards of both companies, Hometown America will acquire all of the outstanding stock and common units of Chateau properties.

The companies anticipate that the transaction will take place in early October. Richard Helwig, city manager, and Don Saven, chief building official, toured the park Sept. 5. It is located on the north side of 13 Mile Road, just east of Novi Road.

"What we saw is unsafe and unsatisfactory and so, in several aspects, represents a pattern of abandonment by the ownership," Helwig said in a letter to the Mayor and City Council members.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality issued a Manufactured Housing Code Violation Certificate of Noncompliance to Chateau Novi on July 1, 2003, for the 2002-2003 licensing year. The park was found to be non-compliant on water quality and drainage matters. City officials have also received residents' inventory of electrical, plumbing, and sewer deficiencies, many of which occur on vacant properties.

"Since 1998, the park has fallen apart," said Teri Fraser, president of the "Chateau Novi Homeowners Association."

park said Jim Baxter, former maintenance supervisor at the community and a current resident.

City of Novi staff were to testify at a Compliance Conference Sept. 15 sponsored by the state. The conference was held following the recent Certification of Noncompliance issued to Chateau Novi by the state.

"This was a closed meeting, but supposedly they have come to agreements that we're not privy to at this point," Fraser said.

Fraser and Baxter have researched state laws regarding manufactured home parks and created a formal Statement of Complaint with about 1,000 residents' signatures.

Fraser, who now has a water filtration system, said that well water for the community colors clothes and food.

"One day I cooked spaghetti. Had the water in the pot, and then I noticed spaghetti noodles on their desk. They came out orange," she said. Fraser and Baxter said the water is not fit to drink, cook with or wash clothes in, even though the state has deemed it safe.

"I've heard residents don't want to wash their clothes in it. We're looking at alternate solutions, such as digging a new well or hooking up to the city of Novi water system," McCabe said.

"State regulations haven't worked, even though we've pointed out that they're in violation of the laws," Baxter said. "We've gotten a good response from the city," he noted.

that will require us to repair some deferred maintenance issues. This one has had more publicity than others," he added.

McCabe said once the merger takes place that Hometown America officials will invite Chateau Novi residents to a get-together either on-site or at a nearby facility.

Hometown America owns communities in 14 states including five in Michigan. "We're not new to Michigan," McCabe said.

"We're not going to close down that community and force people to move or develop it for another use," McCabe said. Hometown American and Chateau Communities have been working on the \$2.2 billion merger since April.

"Chateau Novi, which will soon be known as Hometown Novi, is one of the best located manufactured housing communities in Michigan. We know that people there are proud to live in the city of Novi, and we're going to make them proud to live in Hometown Novi," McCabe said.

McCabe said the orange-colored water occurred when one of the community's five wells went down a few months ago.

"When that well went down, there was some sediment in the system that washed through. It did not affect the safety or quality of the water but the appearance was startling," he said.

"I've heard residents don't want to wash their clothes in it. We're looking at alternate solutions, such as digging a new well or hooking up to the city of Novi water system," McCabe said.



Photo by Pam Fleming

Teri Fraser, president of the Chateau Novi Homeowners Association, shows a sample of the sediment that colors the water orange at the manufactured home community. The park will be under new management following an upcoming merger with Hometown America of Chicago.

Advertisement for eye exams and frames. Includes text: "free eye exams & free frames up to \$99". Details about eye exams and frame options. Includes contact information for various locations.

Advertisement for Town & Country Eyecare. Lists phone numbers for various Novi schools. Includes contact information: Novi Rd. & 9 Mile • 248-347-7800 • www.tceyecare.com

Advertisement for Jim Seghi Renovations. "Turning Dreams Into Reality. Additions To Fit Your Needs. Kitchens • Bath • Master Suites • Finished Basements." Contact: Jim Seghi Renovations • 248-437-2454

Advertisement for My Dad's Circulatory System. Shows a man in a white tank top standing in a laboratory-like setting. Text: "Want to help your kid with science but not sure how?"

Advertisement for Americans For The Arts. "ART. ASK FOR MORE." Includes website: www.AmericansForTheArts.org and Ad Council logo.

Advertisement for Republic Bank. "HERE ARE THREE MORE GOOD REASONS TO GET TO KNOW US." Lists interest rates: 47 Month CD 4.02%, 17 Month CD 2.01%, Advantage Savings Plus 2.30%. Includes branch information and website.

Advertisement for HAP. "Good for us." "As parents, we know it's important to have health care coverage that is comprehensive and affordable. HAP is all that, and more." Includes website: hap.org

High-end homes selling even with rising mortgage rates

■ Four multi-million dollar homes sell in past 30 days in Bellagio

Rising mortgage rates and a growing economy have spurred informed homebuyers to invest in high-end estate homes.

A prime example is Cambridge Homes, Inc. which in the past 30 days has sold four homes between 1.2 million and \$3.5 million each in the Bellagio community of estate homes in Novi.

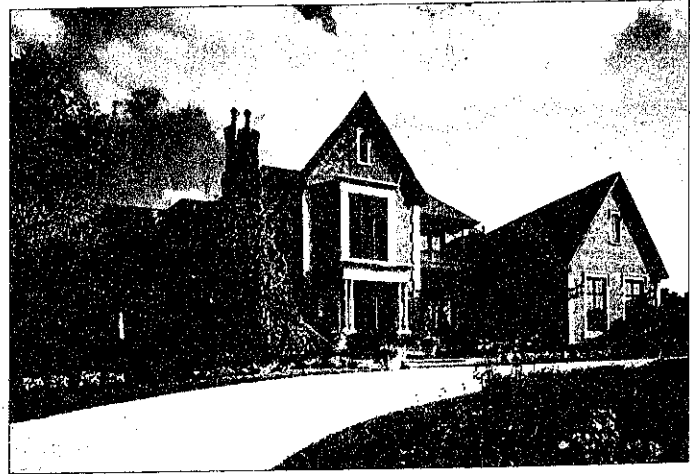
When mortgage rates began inching up, followed by improvements in the stock market, our buyers began to feel more comfortable about buying our high-price homes," said Mark Guidobono, CEO of Cambridge Homes, Inc. "The buyers I've talked with feel our economy has hit bottom and is on the upswing. They have faith in the economy and are willing to start spending money again. It's not that they couldn't afford our high-end estate homes in the past but they now want to spend and invest."

The National Association of Home Builders reports that even as mortgage rates continued to climb in August, builder confidence reached its highest level in three and a half years — an index that has been rising steadily since April," added Guidobono. "That's certainly true of Cambridge Homes' experience with Bellagio."

The U.S. Census Bureau last month reported that total housing starts have hit a 17-year high with single-family starts reaching their highest level since 1978. In September mortgage rates continue to climb, consumers gained confidence, and the Federal Reserve reported the outlook is brighter in most regions of the country. President Bush, speaking in Indianapolis Sept. 5, also reported progress is being made in growing the economy as his tax cut incentives are beginning to address short-term problems.

The Bellagio is a distinctive gated community of 55 estate homes on Beck Road north of 8 Mile in Novi. Cambridge will custom-build each of the Bellagio homes to the owner's needs and desires. The spec homes range in size from 5,000 to 15,000 square feet, and range in price from \$1 million to \$3.5 million.

Distinctive elements of a Bellagio home include carved limestone facades, blacksmith-crafted ironwork accents, leaded glass windows, a home theater, wine cellar, solarium, indoor pool, oak floors, custom Victorian



Courtesy photo
Cambridge Homes, Inc. in the past 30 days has sold four homes between 1.2 million and \$3.5 million each in the Bellagio community of estate homes in Novi.

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Center holds series on non-traditional medicine

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

There was a time, not that long ago, when doctors dismissed anything that wasn't taught in a medical school as so much hokum. However, the 1990s saw a surge in interest in non-traditional, non-western forms medical treatment, which led the Henry Ford Health System to open its Center for Complementary and Integrative Medicine.

The center opened last June in temporary space before moving in December to the second floor of the Henry Ford building in on Eight Mile in Novi.

"What we do is evidence based," said Denise Jacob, the center's administrative manager. Jacob, who holds a doctorate in nursing, said the center avoids the term alternative medicine because "We do not want to be seen as in competition with traditional medicine. We want to be seen as another resource," she said.

Jacob added, "We don't do primary care here. We require all our patients be under medical care somewhere." However, that doesn't mean that a patient's primary care doctor has to be a Henry Ford physician. "This is not an either/or, it's an and," she said.

According to Jacob, people seek out complementary medicine for a variety of reasons, sometimes it's because traditional medicine has not been successful in addressing a problem, while at others it's because the patient is

looking for a gentler way of dealing with a condition.

For instance, she said, a holistic physician may recommend the use of herbs to control a borderline condition rather than a synthetic drug.

She said mind-body therapies, such as hypnosis, meditation and relaxation techniques have proven effective in helping people stop smoking; weight loss; improving athletes' performance; and in relieving chronic pain.

Jacob said the center's staff includes a holistic physician, a chiropractor, a holistic nutritionist, an acupuncturist, a specialist in St. John NeuroMuscular Therapy and others.

The center operates out of 3,500 square feet of space divided up into 11 "healing rooms," designed with the help of a Feng Shui architect.

Jacob said the center has a three part mission — treatment, research and education. Since opening its doors, the center has offered two series of classes on complementary medicine and will start its third series Sept. 24.

Robert Levine, Ph.D., the center's research director, will kick off the series with Complementary and Integrative Medicine: A New Paradigm for Health and Healing. As with all the classes in the series, it will begin at 7 p.m. and run for an hour-and-a-half. There will be a \$5 fee for the class.

Dr. Mary Bunker's class will also cost \$5. She'll be covering

Healing with Herbs: Safe and Effective Uses, Oct. 22.

Lanny Orr, the center's chiropractor will follow up Nov. 19 with a discussion of The Myth of Aging: Growing Stronger While Growing Older. This class will also cost \$5.

Renee Surdu, the center's holistic nutritionist, will cover The Unique Gifts of Essential Oils: Healing Through Scent Dec. 10. This class will cost \$15, but participants will be able to make small holiday gifts.

Space for all the classes is limited, so pre-registration is a must. Registered nurses attending the classes will be awarded 11/2 contact hours per class.

Lilita Mattson, MSW, a graduate of Mind Body Spirit Professional Training will also offer a series of four workshops examining how the mind-body connection can transform an individual's life.

Jacob said the series will benefit anyone who wishes to improve their health including those with chronic pain, high blood pressure, heart disease, digestive disorders, autoimmune disorders, insomnia, infertility, anxiety, and depression. She added it can help those living with stressful life changes including divorce or bereavement. The workshops will cover:

- Meditation as a way of life
- Using relaxation, imagery, and self-hypnosis
- Music for enhancing healing
- Exercise, movement and dance therapy
- Increasing self-awareness through journaling and art.



Acupuncturist Paula Neys, left, works some 36-gauge needles into co-worker Susan Jakary's arm at the Henry Ford Health System Alternative Healing Arts Building in Novi.



A 36-gauge acupuncture needle sticks out of the arm of Henry Ford Health System worker Susan Jakary's hand at the Eight Mile Road Alternative Healing Arts office on a recent Friday afternoon. At their 40000 W. Eight Mile road location, Henry Ford offers clients acupuncture, massage therapy, cupping and chinese herbs and oils.

HEALTHY STATE OR PROPOSED BUSINESS TAX BILL
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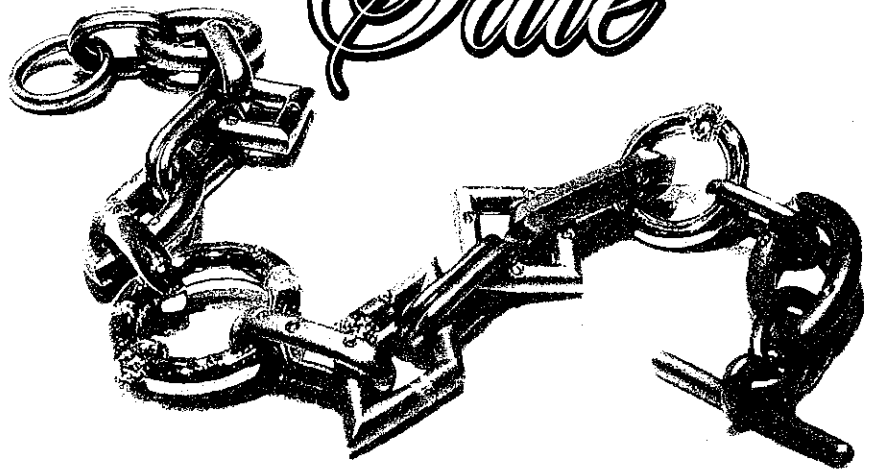
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Toastmasters puts the world at the tip of your tongue

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Ask anyone of a certain age and they are likely to say they think their mother had one in the kitchen, but Toastmasters isn't a small household appliance; it's a self-help group that focuses on one of many people's biggest fears—public speaking.

According to Wixom resident Cliff Suttle, most people fear speaking in public more than they do death.

"People come here for one reason, to improve their public speaking skills," said Colleen Fitzpatrick. Along the way, the club president added, "they blossom as people."

Robert McTavish, who sells software for U.S. Data, called the club "group therapy for public speaking." The Novi resident said he joined the group because after 20 years of sales, he still wasn't as confident as he wanted to be speaking and making presentations.

He started out three years ago with a Toastmasters group that met during the day at Federal Mogul in Southfield and switched to the Novi Club 18 months ago. Novi Toastmasters meets the first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center.

Though not as high-profile as some other service clubs, Toastmasters International boasts 180,000 members in 8,900 clubs spread across 70 countries.

Fitzpatrick, a senior consultant with Y2Marketing, said she first learned about the group from a college friend at her first job and after a few meetings, she was hooked.

She said it's not uncommon to find people who've been Toastmaster members for 30 years. She said that's because of the wide range of study tracks and contests the club offers.

Georgene Vornek, who is a professional public speaker, agreed saying the club is a "skill builder. There's always room for improvement." The Novi resident said the best thing about the club is that while everyone's speech is critiqued, "they never tear you down."

Wade Manley, who owns a promotional products business in Wixom, said he joined the group to sharpen his presentation skills. He said the difference between

Toastmasters and speech class in high school or college is, "in speech class you have to be there. Here you want to be there."

Clark Suttle, a conductor currently between symphonies, wants to be there to improve his speaking skills. He said anyone who thinks a symphony conductor isn't a public speaker hasn't done a youth concert for an audience of 2,000.

A night at Toastmasters is fairly structured, though Kilpatrick said the club tries to introduce things to "keep it fun and light. The idea is to keep people coming back."

A typical night starts out with a brief presentation by the president, followed by speaking tips from the group's education manager. Then comes Table Topics, where everyone in the club is encouraged to give an impromptu two-minute speech on a topic selected that night. On one recent night, club members took on the role of an animal pleading its case with Noah to be let on the Ark.

Each night three club members sign up to give a five-to-15 minute speech which is then evaluated. "Compassion," said Kilpatrick, is the key to the evaluation. "The idea," she said, "is to encourage people."

For more information about Toastmasters, call Kilpatrick at (248) 685-9226 or visit the club's Web site at www.toastmasters.org.

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



Bloomfield Hills' Rob Allen, Novi's Joyce Baker and Dearborn's Greg Elsen share a laugh at last year's Lights, Camera, Auction, an annual event held by Variety — The Children's Charity, to raise funds to purchase clothing for needy children. This year the event will be held at the Emagine Theater, 44425 W. 12 Mile Road, at 6 p.m. Oct. 1. Tickets are \$45 per person.

Stars shine for Variety at Emagine

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

For some variety may be the spice of life, but for needy children Variety is a helping hand.

Wednesday Novi residents will be able to put a little spice in their lives while helping needy children as Variety brings its annual Lights, Camera, Auction event to Novi's Emagine theater.

While Variety was founded in 1928 by theater people after a baby girl was abandoned on the steps of Pittsburgh's Sheridan Theater, it's not really a theater group. Novi resident Michael Berman said he was invited to a Variety luncheon 15 years ago and was hooked immediately.

Berman, a successful account executive, rose through the group's ranks of committees to become its president last year. His term over, Berman is still involved in Variety. "We're here to help as many kids as we can."

To do that Variety holds 12 to 15 fund raisers around Metro Detroit. One of the more glitzy is Lights, Camera, Auction. Every year the group hosts a sneak preview of a major motion picture.

Berman noted that in 1990, guests at Lights, Camera, Auction were the first in Detroit to see Kevin Costner's Dances with Wolves.

Along with the film, Berman said Lights, Camera, Auction guests are treated to "phenomenal food." In addition to an auction and film preview, the event includes a strolling supper. This year's dinner will include food from Beams & Cornbread, Beverly Hills Grill, City Cellar Wine Bar & Grill, Coffee Connection, Elie's Mediterranean Cuisine, Five Lakes Grill, Kroger Company of Michigan, Mario's, McCormick & Schmick's, Puries With Class, Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Shiraz, 220, Townsend Hotel, Rugby Grille, Vineyards and Zoup.

This year Variety will hold a special auction to raise funds for Kids in Distressed Situations (K.I.D.S.). The group is a charity of national retailers and manufacturers of children's products and the money raised is used to ship and administer the distribution of children's items to area charities.

A Variety spokesman said over the past two years Variety has provided more than \$1 million worth of clothing to 92 agencies in Southeast Michigan.

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

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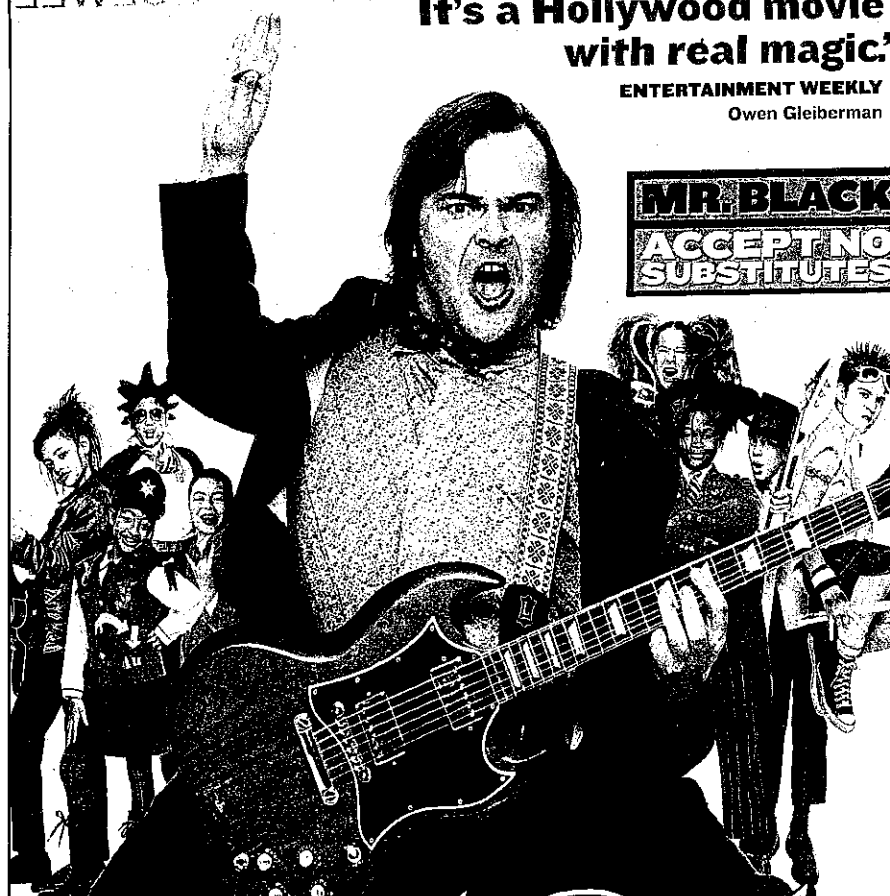
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FR/SAT 11:40
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FR/SAT 11:20
RECORDED LIPS (PG)
12:20 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20
FR/SAT 11:10
ANYTHING ELSE (PG-13)
SAT/SUN 10:40 12:20 2:40 5:00 7:25
9:45 FR/SAT 11:20
THE FIGHTING TEMPTATIONS (PG-13)
SAT/SUN 11:10 1:40 4:15 6:45 9:15
FR/SAT 11:45
MADISON MEN (PG-13)
11:40 2:10 4:40 7:10 9:30
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CANN FEVER (R)
12:20 2:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
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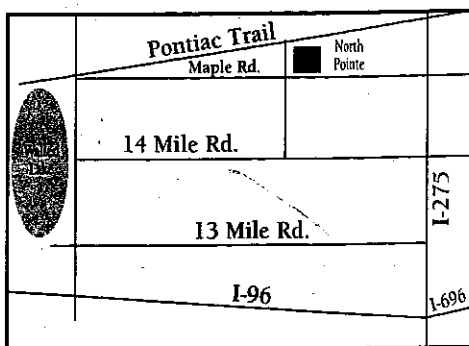
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This could be for all the marbles

NOVI NEWS

hometownlife.com

Thursday, September 25, 2003

"It's a Friday night and the scoreboard says we have more points than they do."

Tab Kellepourey
Novi Football Coach

Brighton's now 'Cat country

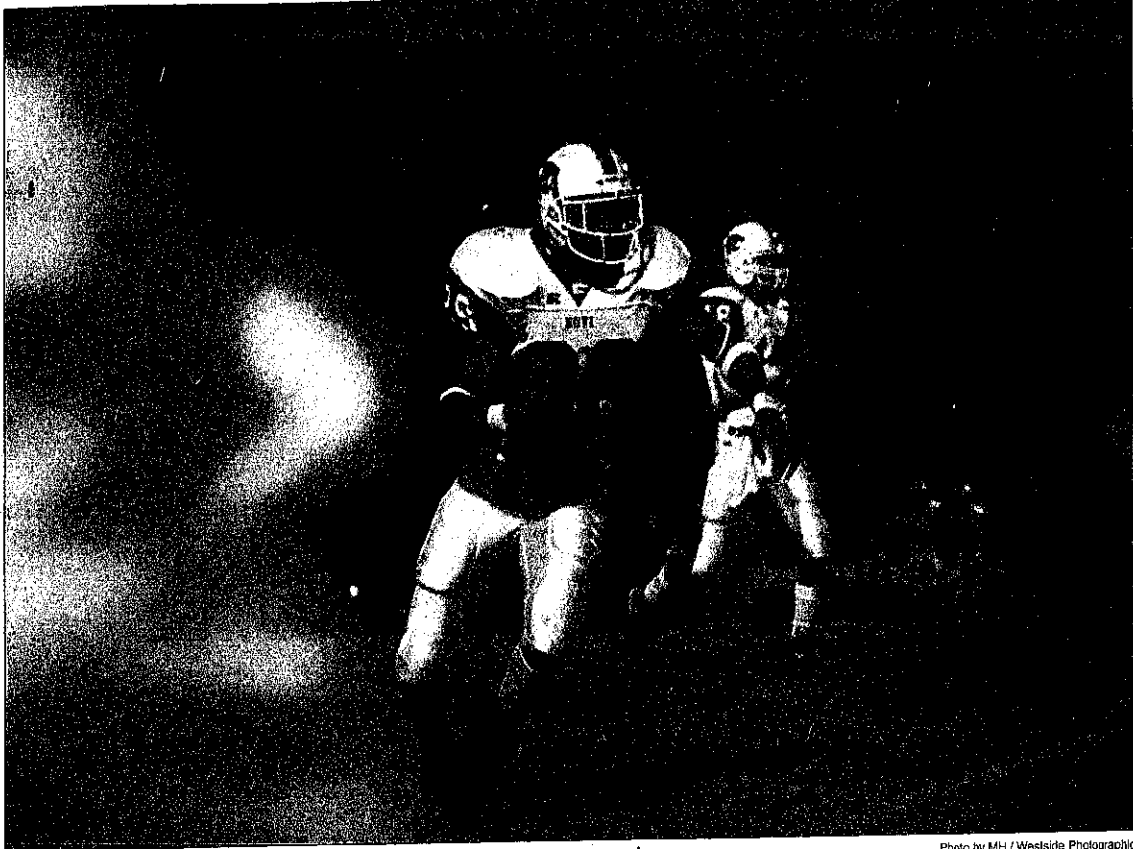


Photo by MH / Westside Photographic

Novi's J.W. Woods (above) bolts around the right side of the line as he looks for a first down against the Brighton defense. Novi won the game, 23-20 in overtime, marking their first win over Brighton since 1994.

Novi earns first win over Bulldogs since 1994 season

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Well, it's about time. The Novi Wildcats have been on the wrong end of their game against the Brighton Bulldogs 12 out of the last 14 games with their last victory coming in 1994 while John Osborne was still in charge.

It's a new century now though, and Tab Kellepourey has been in charge long enough to know that 2003's victory, which came in the form of a 23-20 overtime win, is a sweet one.

"It's a Friday night and the scoreboard says we have more points than they do," Kellepourey said after the game. "Brighton is a tough football team and we knew we had to get it done against them. We're very happy to get this win."

Things weren't looking very bright for the 'Cats though, at least not after Brighton's second play from scrimmage. Brighton senior Chris Elsey took the hand-off around the edge of the line and broke free for a 70-yard jaunt before Jay Jandasek tackled on the extra point for a 7-0 lead over Novi — and the silence on the sidelines was apparent of the sudden mood.

Players didn't seem to know how to react after the defensive blitz found their squad staring at the numbers on the back of Elsey's jersey — but then it became clear.

"We had to go out and make some plays," senior linebacker Josh Buck said. "Our defense got caught on that first run, but we knew we had to buckle down and lighten our hold on them if we wanted to shut them down."



Photo by MH / Westside Photographic

Trevor Hoover dives for the ball but can't haul it in as it bounces off his fingers in the third quarter of play.

And tighten their grasp they did — and nearly strangled them. The Novi defense, which has Dave Hartman calling in the blitz packages to the linebacker corps, held the 'Dogs to just three first downs in the entire game.

After the two squads traded possession a few times, the Wildcats' offense went to work and pulled through late in the second quarter. A 14-play, 66-yard drive culminated with senior quarterback Mike Hart scampering around the left tackle for the one-yard score before kicker Mark Angelocci tacked on the PAT for a 7-7 tie with 3:13 left on the clock in the first half.

"That was big for us," Hart

said. "We knew we had to respond and we did. I think it was right about then we all realized we could win the game."

But Brighton hadn't come to that conclusion as of yet. With 12 seconds left on the clock and Novi back in possession of the pigskin following a 'Dog punt, a mishandle on the hand-off found the ball skipping across the turf and right into a Brighton defender's hands on the 29-yard line. Two plays later, Brighton junior Adam Powell backed up in the pocket and threw a gliding pass down the center of the field to Anthony Besso, who hauled it in for the score with just one-point-six seconds left on the clock.

Brighton's lead climbed to 14-7 after the extra point sailed through the uprights.

"It's tough to go into halftime down by a touchdown," Angelocci said. "I think it helped us get fired up for the second half."

The entire second half of the contest, besides a 41-yard Jandasek field goal with 7:38 left on the clock in the third quarter, belonged to Novi.

Following the 17-7 field goal, the Wildcats defense went to work, shutting down the Bulldogs with intense blitzing and three plays the resulted in negative yardage. As the end of the quarter came and went,

Novi's eyes turned to their quarterback, who had stood in silence through the entire game on the sidelines.

Hart marched onto the field with 11:32 left in the game and began the rally. Two plays later, he found his favorite target in Trevor Hoover, who snagged a pass in the middle of the field and jetted away for a 68-yard scoring strike to pull Novi within a field goal, 17-14.

"We knew if we gave Mike the time, he'd make it work," Novi offensive/defensive lineman Mark Kaminski said of the time in the pocket Hart had. "Our line has grown as a unit and we play as a unit. Each and every one of us knows what we have to do, and I feel that we accomplished it today."

Angelocci's kick-off fell in the hands of Elsey, who fumbled it after a slap by Novi's Chris Scott found the ball bobbling loose and bouncing into Andrew Gorman's hands. Novi went three downs and then attempted a 44-yard field goal that found itself sailing just left thanks to a harsh wind in the air.

"There wasn't a lot of time left and we had to get the ball back," Buck said of the Bulldog's next drive.

The defense closed the gaps, and found Brighton gathering only one yard after Sean Costello tore through the line and stuffed Powell's option for a four-yard loss.

The 'Cats went seven plays on the following drive before stalling on a fourth and four pass. With only 3:57 left on the clock and the ball in the hands,

Continued on B4



Sam Eggleston

You have to admit it — this is the biggest game in the Kensington Valley Conference this year.

The Novi Wildcats football team, under the charge of Tab Kellepourey, will be hosting the South Lyon Lions tomorrow at 6:55 p.m. in what is sure to be a scoring extravaganza.

The Lions will be bringing to town one of the most potent offenses the league has seen in a number of years, while the Wildcats will be sporting their defense which they pride themselves with so much.

The Lions aren't too shabby on the defensive end of the ball either. They held their first two opponents to no points in both contests. Novi has some pizzazz on the offensive assembly line, too. Mike Hart and Trevor Hoover having hooked up on more than just a handful of touchdown passes this year and the Woods brothers are looking to break into some open field.

The key in this game comes down to which lines control their respective aspects of the game. If the Novi defensive line, which has seen plenty of action and negative-yardage tackles and sacks this year, can penetrate and disrupt the pocket for Dennis Reedy, Novi has a real good chance at winning this game.

On the other side of that coin is Novi's offensive front. Led by junior center Ryan Pritchard, the line has grown remarkably in the first half of the season. If they are able to keep Hart safe in the pocket as well as open some holes for their backs, Novi will find themselves in a situation with the opportunity to take away a victory through concise control of the pigskin.

In all truthfulness, this game could be for all the marbles. It's only week five, and the Wildcats could easily find themselves as king of the hill if they win this one — or quickly sitting back in second place and hoping for an upset of the Lions by another team this year.

Now, I know as well as anyone that rankings are a bunch of nonsense. I wouldn't care if my team was ranked first or last, as long as they were playing the game. South Lyon, however, is ranked by the coaching association and have themselves a top-10 spot in division one.

Novi's players, fans and coaches just have to remember that a ranking doesn't mean a team is unbeatable; it just means some coach down the line put a number next to a squad and voted for them even though they've never seen them play. It's just an odd way of doing things, but unfortunately the only real way of doing it.

If the Novi Wildcats gridiron team can keep their wits about them and come into this game focused and ready to play some football, it's going to be one heck of a game. Being at Novi is always a help, and I'm hoping — as are the coaches and players — that the stands are going to be packed so that there is standing room only.

I'm picking Novi to pull off the "upset" in this one, though I hardly think it's an upset when both teams are as good as these two.

Novi 35, South Lyon 28

GAME OF THE WEEK



Novi
Wildcats
Football
vs
South Lyon

Friday, September 26
6:55 p.m. at Novi

Josh Buck
Senior
Football

If you were a running back and the holo in the line was suddenly filled with Buck, the first thought that should go through your mind is he looks like one heck of a player. Of course, that thought probably wouldn't be finished until after you were lying on your back and scanning the night sky. Buck was instrumental in helping the 'Cats to their first victory over Brighton since 1994 last week.

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Rachele Folino
Sophomore
Basketball

Folino scored 20 points in the Novi Wildcats victory over the very tough Walled Lake Central Vikings before adding 12 to her stats on the boards. Folino notched 13 points in a recent win over the Northville Mustangs as well. The Novi Wildcats will continue to look to Folino and her shooting as she finds herself in the company of fellow cagers that want to win.



REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 108

Thursday, September 25, 2003

NFIB UPDATE

Health-care reform in 4,000 years?

A while back—at least 3,700 years give or take a decade or two—mankind was already engaged in debates over the cost of health care. The first record of a public official kicking around the idea of regulating medical treatment and fees was Babylonian King Hammurabi who gave the world its first written laws around 1700 B.C.

So no matter what excuse or legislative technicality those foot-dragging lawmakers in the U.S. Senate conjure up to avoid reforming the nation's health-care system, they can't say the issue has lacked ample discussion. Credit is certainly due the U.S. House of Representatives, whose members took a bold step earlier this session to pass a bill that would allow small businesses to buy health insurance from their trade associations.

It could be that certain senators are unable to see the link between economic growth and health benefits. Most Americans know that when our small-business-driven economy is chugging along, it puts more money into the pockets of wage-earners, encourages consumers to buy goods and services and fattens the tax coffers of governments at all levels.

It could be that certain senators could care less that small businesses create three out of every four jobs in America. Or maybe it's because some of those who serve in the upper chamber march to the tune of special interests, such as big business, big insurance and big labor, which can band together to buy low-cost, quality health insurance for their employees—an option not available to Main Street employers.

Are those senators who are reluctant to give small businesses fair treatment aware that the single largest barrier to job growth among entrepreneurial firms is the cost of health care? Do they know that health insurers reaped more than \$4 billion in profit in 2001, a whopping 70 percent increase over the year before?

Have those indecisive legislators in the Senate heard that one big company alone—Blue Cross/Blue Shield—raked in a profit of nearly \$3 billion while small firms were staggering under dramatically excessive hikes in health care premiums? Or that the Kaiser Family Foundation reports health insurance costs rose 16.6 percent this year for the smallest of firms?

Association Health Plans can bring equity to the medical marketplace by allowing small firms to collectively purchase affordable, worthwhile health coverage. This crucial reform would open the door to medical care for millions of American workers who earn their livelihoods interestingly, on one side of Washington, D.C., the U.S. Small Business Administration is gearing up to celebrate its 50th anniversary of service to the nation's entrepreneurs later this month. But at the highest point in the city, Capitol Hill, Senate efforts to help small firms by passing an Association Health Plan bill have fallen short.

King Hammurabi's code made all his subjects equal before the law. It's time for our modern lawmakers in the Senate to put small business on an equal footing when buying health insurance. If unfairness was easy to see 4,000 years ago, what's delaying health-care reform today?

Jack Faris is president of NFIB (the National Federation of Independent Business), the nation's largest small-business advocacy group. A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB represents the consensus views of its 600,000 members in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals. More information is available on-line at www.nfib.com.

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ADVERTORIAL



Courtesy photos

Just some of the My Handyman technicians and their well-stocked vans.

My Handyman grows from referrals

Local company, My Handyman, recorded record sales through the summer months. "I could not be happier with our results. Traditionally the summer is a slower time of year for our company," says Dayn Benson, owner of My Handyman, "but due to high repeat and referral work our business has nearly doubled from last year."

By focusing on the smaller maintenance and repair jobs, My Handyman has created a successful niche for itself. "We stay away from large remodeling jobs like additions and kitchens that can drag on for weeks and months. This focus allows us to service our customers quickly, usually within a few days, and also lets us cater to the busy schedules of our typical client," remarked Benson. "We are in the business of providing time for time-starved consumers and skilled work for homeowners."

After surveying past consumers, it became apparent that

the appeal of My Handyman's services was the fact that they did the job correctly the first time and showed up to work when they promised. That is why Benson adopted the slogan "On time. Done right." For his "On time guarantee," My Handyman offers a \$25 refund if a technician is late to a scheduled appointment.

Andrea Morris, My Handyman's office manager, says, "My job is fun because I'm building relationships with people that I know we'll be serving for years to come."

Currently My Handyman is generating over 60 percent of its revenue from existing customers. One happy customer, Mike Brueger of Mercedes-Benz of Ann Arbor, said, "When you meet the men and women who work for Dayn Benson at My Handyman, you are happy to turn your house over to them and head off to work. You can feel comfortable that they will do the job and lock up behind them-

DETAILS

My Handyman offers home and business repair and maintenance services with technicians who have a minimum of 10 years experience. Each technician has passed a drug screen and background check and wears a uniform while on the job. My Handyman guarantees they will be on time or you get \$25 off your bill. My Handyman maintains millions of dollars of both liability and workers' compensation insurance and its employees are all bonded. You can contact My Handyman locally at (734) 662-5555 or toll free at (800) 770-4099. My Handyman also does business as Mr. Handyman in Livingston County.



One of My Handyman's skilled technicians, Lee Knepper, fixes a sticky door.

self. They always put down protective drop-clothes and clean up afterwards. And when you come home the work is done. It's nice to have an operation with people you can trust, with uniformed technicians and marked trucks. It's truly a trustworthy operation."

Benson offers the following tips to use when hiring a handyman:

1. Look for a company that invests in its future (marked vans, advertising, and referrals are good indicators that you will not be dealing with a fly-by-night company).
2. Get the right person. Ask if the company has done background screening and drug test-

ing on its technicians.

3. Experience pays, it does not cost. Ask about the experience level of the technician who will be coming to your home. Look for at least 10-15 years of professional experience.

4. Protect yourself. Ask to see copies of any applicable insurances and licenses. A handyman

should at least maintain a sizeable liability and workers' comp insurance package.

5. Timeliness and flexibility. Find a company that can service you when and how you want to be serviced. A reputable company will offer guaranteed times as well as "short notice" scheduling.



Dayn Benson, owner of My Handyman, serves time starved homeowners with guaranteed appointment times.

On time. Done right.™

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Prompt, Safe & Reliable

Your home is due for a visit from My Handyman!

Check the items that need our expert attention. Then call to schedule your appointment.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| MAINTENANCE | REPAIR | ODD JOBS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gutter Cleaning | <input type="checkbox"/> Wall, Floor & Ceiling | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Cleanups |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Deck & Siding Repair | <input type="checkbox"/> Storm Doors & Windows | <input type="checkbox"/> Blind Installation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weather Stripping | <input type="checkbox"/> Roof & Chimney | <input type="checkbox"/> Ceiling Fans |
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