



NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY Novi News

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Thursday, December 4, 2003

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50¢

Volume 47 Number 27

Novi, Michigan

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REGIONAL MARKET



Milford Jewelers

It's hard to tell sometimes that it's a jewelry store at all.

Sure, the cherrywood cases overflowing with sparkling diamond and gemstone delights often give it away. And the constant whir of a respected craftsman putting the final hand-engraved touches on a customized ring is yet another tell-tale sign.

But that's such a small part of the real Milford Jewelers story that it often seems redundant.

— Page 8B

INSIDE

It's time to party!

Holiday parties can send a host or hostess into a tizzy. Fear not.

Executive Chef Mary Brady, of Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro in Novi and Mary Brady's Custom Catering, has a few tips to smooth out the wrinkles in this year's festive feasts.

— Page 14A

She's a backer of business

Three local champions of small business were recognized Monday by the Small Business Association of Michigan, including State Senator Nancy Cissis (R-Novi) who was named the association's 2003 Legislator of the Year.

— Page 7A

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Penalized for prudent spending?

Schools hope that state doesn't mandate fund equity use

Novi figures out how to deal with cuts after Dec. 5 decision

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Say you are the superintendent of a school district and you had planned July 1 on a fund equity of \$500,000 to fund an educational program for the 2004-05 school

year. Then the state comes in and says that they're going to reduce the per pupil foundation grant amount by \$200 per student, which equals \$600,000.

Now, what is your school district to do?

Are you going to cut programs to save part of your fund equity or use your fund equity to run the programs running until there's no more fund equity left?

This is just one realistic dilemma that many school districts in Michigan are facing right now because of the state's nearly \$1 billion budget deficit. Of that, the

state education fund is running a deficit of more than \$300 million.

The Michigan Education Association has already warned school districts to expect a reduction in the 2004-2005 foundation grant of nearly \$200 per student (Novi currently receives \$8,310 per student). This prompted lawmakers

to say that school districts can avoid some of the pain by using fund equity and, in fact, they are talking about possibly mandating it.

A fund equity is like a savings account that some school districts have been able to build up over the years. Schools say that having a fund equity is prudent. It gives them some cushion for the unexpected and it provides money to carry them over while waiting for state aid payments to arrive. Otherwise, they would have to borrow money to meet payroll, which would mean they have to

pay interest.

The Novi Community School District currently has a 14-percent planned fund equity for the 2004-05 school year. That equals almost \$8 million in cash. Fortunately for Novi, it is not in the same boat of some other school districts. But, according to Jim Koster, assistant superintendent of business and finance, there is still need for concern.

"If the state cuts money from the foundation grant, there shouldn't be a mandate that

continued on page 10

Turkey tunes



Photo by Elaine Meylen

Over 200 first and second graders from Deerfield Elementary School sang a collection of Thanksgiving songs for students at Novi Middle School a few weeks back. Deerfield Music Teacher Ainsley Sonntag coordinated the event.

Culvert gathering wasn't a meeting

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Mayor Lou Csordas' meeting with a Walled Lake area homeowners association president and three city council members at a culvert last month did not constitute a meeting under the terms of the state's open meeting act, according to



L. Csordas

City Attorney Gerald Fisher. However, the man who made the original complaint says the city attorney had no business offering that opinion and has written a letter calling on Fisher to turn his files over to the Oakland County Prosecutor's office.

Austin Street resident Mark Robbins filed a complaint with the Novi Police Department Nov. 17 contending that a meeting arranged by Asa Smith two days earlier had violated the state's open meeting act.

Smith, president of the Lakes Area Homeowners Association, was unhappy that a concrete culvert connecting Shawood Lake with Walled Lake as part of a project to upgrade South Lake Drive provides a foot level clearance for people trying to negotiate the seasonal waterway between the two lakes. According to Smith, that denies canoeists and other small

continued on page 3

See Novi resident Mark Robbins' letter to the editor regarding 'the meeting' on page 12A.

175 vehicles vandalized at dealerships

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

While most people celebrated Thanksgiving with turkey and parades some marked the day with a rampage of destruction.

Police in Novi and Farmington Hills are looking for the people responsible for more than \$100,000 damage to 175 new vehicles at 10 dealerships in Novi, Farmington Hills and Waterford Township.

Although half the dealerships attacked belong to one group,

Suburban, police in Novi and Farmington Hills say they don't believe the company was singled out.

Chief William Dwyer, who has been Farmington Hills' top cop for 19 years, said he's never seen anything like it. "We will not tolerate it," he said, adding that Farmington Hills police are offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the identity, arrest and conviction of the person or people responsible for the vandalism.

Novi Police Chief Doug Shaeffer

said some 80 vehicles were vandalized at four dealers along Haggerty Road. He said a spokesman for Mercedes of Novi estimated damage to the 19 vehicles struck there at least \$1,500 each. "Anything over \$1,000 in malicious destruction is a felony," noted Shaeffer.

He said investigators in Novi did catch a break. Jaguar of Novi, where 17 vehicles were damaged, has a video surveillance system.

Shaeffer said the Michigan State Police Crime Lab in Northville has the tape now. "We don't know what

it will show, but we are very interested," he said.

In addition to Jaguar and Mercedes, the vandalized Novi dealers included Suburban Infiniti and Suburban Jeep Chrysler. Across the street in Farmington Hills the victims included Bill Cook Imports, Saturn of Farmington Hills, Suburban Honda, Suburban Acura and Tom Holzer.

According to Chief Dwyer, Suburban Ford on M-59 in Waterford Township was the biggest single victim with 30 cars damaged.

Bobdemonium: Fans pack Borders for glimpse of Bob 'The Bachelor' Guiney

ABC reality TV star stages performance, CD signing

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

You've heard of pandemonium. Well, it was "Bobdemonium" at the Novi Borders Books & Music the evening before Thanksgiving as an estimated 1,200 fans crammed into the store for a glimpse of America's favorite bachelor — Bob Guiney.

They came to see the famous bachelor from Ferndale and the star of ABC's television show "The Bachelor."

Guiney's performance Nov. 26 with fellow band members from Fat Amy was followed by a signing of Guiney's new CD, "3 Sides."

He was in Birmingham's Borders the previous day for a signing of his new book, "What a Difference a Year Makes."

Ashley Stohler of Milford came to see "Bachelor Bob."

"I watched every episode of 'The Bachelor,' and I just really liked the show. I really got into it. I decided it would be fun to come," she said.

Stohler had not listened to Guiney's new CD yet.

"I didn't even know he was in a band," she said. What did she think about his choice of Estella Gardinier, the 28-year-old fellow mortgage broker from Beverly Hills, Calif.?

"I liked her more than the other girls," she said. And her opinion of Guiney giving Gardinier a ring he placed on her right hand?

"I kind of thought he was going to propose. But, if he needs more time, that's cool," Stohler said.

Stohler's friends, Ben and Amber Wilson of Spring Arbor, said they watched the television



Photo by Pam Fleming

Bob Guiney of Ferndale, star of the ABC TV reality TV show "The Bachelor," signs a CD for a fan at Borders Books & Music in Novi Nov. 26. Guiney and fellow members of the band "Fat Amy" scheduled a performance followed by a signing of his new CD, "3 Sides."

continued on page 3

Way to go, Wildcats!

For Novi football coach Tab Kellepourey, it doesn't matter if everyone remembers this team 10 years down the road. All that matters to him is that he and his fellow coaches, along with every member of the 2003 football team, will reminisce about it. Join us in a tribute to the NHS Wildcats football team.

— B Section



Deer and drivers don't mix very well

By Phil Foley

With 52 deer killed last year, it's not surprising that the Michigan Dept. of Transportation is looking for ways to reduce the number of deer-related accidents on the state's roads.

Michigan's deer-related accidents last year were the highest since 1997, according to the Michigan Dept. of Transportation.

Deer-related accidents last year were the highest since 1997, according to the Michigan Dept. of Transportation. The department is looking for ways to reduce the number of deer-related accidents on the state's roads.



Welcome Home

Novi Mayor Lou Cosard (right) welcomes home Novi Police Officer Ayren Edgar and presents him with a plaque commending his service in Kuwait with the U.S. Marine Corps. Shortly after joining the Novi Police Department and getting married, Edgar's Marine Corp Reserve unit was activated for duty in the Middle East. He recently returned home and expects to trade in his Marine Humvee for a Novi PD Crown Victoria after the first of the year.

Online traffic map upgraded

By Phil Foley

The Novi Civic Center has upgraded its online traffic map, making it easier for residents to find their way around town. The new map includes more detailed street names and landmarks, and is available on the city's website.

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LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library

Hours
The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. We are located at 44245 W. 11 Mile Road, just east of 14th Road. For more information, call 248-349-7200.

Story Time notes

Drop-in preschool Story Times are now underway. Bookings are for the days and times of each Story Time session, are available in the library.

Battle of the Books

The Battle of the Books is a program designed to encourage reading and to recognize young people who like to read. All fifth and sixth grade students who live in Novi are eligible to participate.

Big kid story time

Kids ages 5-8 are invited to join us for stories, special activities, and a snack on Tuesday, Dec. 16, from 4:30-5 p.m. No registration is necessary.

Board meeting

The Novi Library Board of Directors meets Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. Beginning in December 2003, board meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month in the City Council Chambers at the Novi Civic Center.

Novi city happenings

- Dec. 4 Hanging in the Holidays
- Dec. 5-6 'A Christmas Carol'
- Dec. 7 'A Christmas Carol'
- Dec. 8 Library Board
- Dec. 9 Storm Water Committee
- Dec. 10 Planning Commission
- Dec. 11 Parks, Rec. and Forestry
- Dec. 16 City Council

the library's Youth and Teen Services department.

Friends' Winter Gala

The Friends of the Novi Public Library are holding a reception featuring music and refreshments on Friday, Dec. 5, from 7-9 p.m. The location of the reception has been changed to the model home at 26385 Crestwood Drive in Novi's new Island Lake subdivision.

The Nutcracker Ballet

The Novi Civic Ballet Academy presents dances from 'The Nutcracker,' accompanied by excerpts from the story, on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 11-11:45 a.m.

Board meeting

The Novi Library Board of Directors meets Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. Beginning in December 2003, board meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month in the City Council Chambers at the Novi Civic Center.

OBITUARIES

John Robert Martin

John Martin of Novi died November 25, 2003. He was 71. Survivors include his wife, Jacqueline "Jackie"; his mother-in-law, Vera Schultz; one sister, Pat (Don) Dixon; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held Dec. 6 at 1:30 p.m. at Junisse Bros-Marcotte Funeral Home, 1139 Ouellette Ave., Windsor, Mich. 48237.

Ethel L. Druding

Ethel Druding of Novi died November 20, 2003. She was 86. Mrs. Druding was born November 4, 1917 in Isabella,

Mich. to the late Arvid Sundin and Julia Landis. She had lived in Novi for 30 years and was active in the Novi Senior Center. She graduated St. Marys Nursing School and was a registered nurse.

Survivors include her husband, Melvin Druding; three children, Marcia (Rick) Krebs of Tean, Nancy Andrews of Farmington Hills, and Marvin (Kathryn) Druding of Pa.; two sisters, Violet LeGault of Gladstone and Frances McClintch of Nahma; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lawrence J. Neindorf and her father, Robert Shear. A funeral service will be held Nov. 22 at Casterline Funeral Home, Northville with Rev. Jennifer Dixby of First United Methodist Church, Northville officiating. Interment was at Roseland Park Cemetery, Berkley, Mich. Memorials may be made to the

Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, 24559 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 225, Southfield, Mich. 48075. Arrangements were made by Casterline Funeral Home.

Sally Ann Shear

Sally Shear of Novi died November 30, 2003. She was 56. Survivors include two daughters, Hannah and Emmaline; her mother, Marian Shear; and one sister, Brenda S. O'Connor.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lawrence J. Neindorf and her father, Robert Shear. A funeral service will be held Thursday, December 4, 2003 at Novi United Methodist Church, 41671 W. Ten Mile Rd., Novi, followed by a memorial service at 4 p.m. Memorials may be made to the American Kidney Fund, 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 1010, Rockville, Md., 20852-9813.

SENIOR CALENDAR

Thursday 12/4

9 a.m.-noon Massage Therapy
9:30 a.m. Line Dance
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open noon
12:15 p.m. Lunch
1:30 p.m. Adv. Line Dance
Rotary Luncheon at Novi Middle School (advanced reservation required)

Friday 12/5

9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
10 a.m. Body Recall
11 a.m. Quilting
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundry Shop Open noon
12:30 p.m. Lunch
1:30 p.m. Pinochle

Monday 12/8

9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
10 a.m. Body Recall
11 a.m. Quilting
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundry Shop Open noon
12:30 p.m. Lunch
1:30 p.m. Pinochle

Healing Touch

1 p.m.-3 p.m. Healing Touch
6:30 p.m. Clogging*
Oglehay & Greenbriar Trip

Tuesday 12/9

9 a.m.-12 p.m. Massage Therapy
9 a.m. Panera bread
9 a.m.-11 a.m. Computer Class-Windows
9:30 a.m. Line Dance*
10 a.m. Asian Pacific Lunch
noon Bingo
12:30 p.m. Focus Hope & TFAF Distribution
1 p.m.-3 p.m. Computer Class-Internet

Wednesday 12/10

9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
10 a.m. Body Recall
10:30 a.m. Quilting
11:00 a.m. Blood Pressure
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open
11 a.m. TOPS Class
noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Girl Scouts Caroling
4:15 p.m. Girl Scouts Caroling

*Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Phone (248) 347-0414.



Super Bowl pitch
Oakland Commissioner Hugh D. Crawford (R-NOV) shares a moment with legendary race car driver and businessman, Roger Penske, during a rare evening commission meeting in Pontiac. Close to 60 county residents and members of the business community came to listen to Penske, who is the Super Bowl XL Host Committee Chairman, make the case for Oakland County support of the 2006 Super Bowl, which will be held at Ford Field. While Penske argued that the event will be just as important to Oakland as Wayne county, he made no specific funding request.

IN THE SERVICE

Walled Lake resident Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason K. Walters recently reported for duty at Naval Air Station, Kingsville, Texas. He is a 1992 graduate of Walled Lake Western High School.

Wixom resident Air Force Airman Alexander M. Cleland has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Lori Cleland of Commerce.

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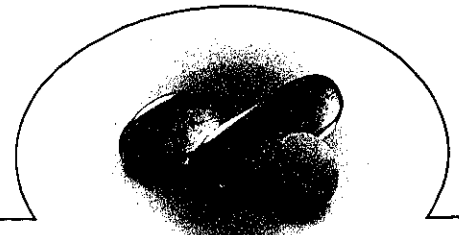
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BUSINESS

Pam Fleming, business reporter (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 pfleming@ht.homecomm.net

Mac-Clair Mortgage opens Novi office

Local firm boasts 13 branches in seven states



By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

As a boomtown, Novi has become an attractive location for both developers and mortgage companies. Hence, Mac-Clair Mortgage Corp. thought the community would be a great place to locate their new office, which recently opened at Ten Mile and Taft roads. Located on the northeast corner of the busy intersection, the office offers a prime location for potential homebuyers and sellers. Mac-Clair Mortgage now has 140 employees working in 13 branches in seven states and also just opened an office near Santa Monica, Calif. John Selby serves as the new branch manager.

"We primarily do all of our processing and underwriting at our corporate office in Flint," said Ron Gipson, executive vice president.

"That's why we set up offices like this, so loan officers can meet with clients to confirm information about credit and debt," he said. David Hartman, a Michigan native, started Mac-Clair Mortgage Corp. in 1970 in Macomb and St. Clair counties. The company name is a combination of the two counties' names.

"We've been expanding the operation over the last three years," Gipson said. "We understand that we're primarily a service to the marketplace and that there's a big demand in Novi," Gipson said.

"We found there was a need in this community for a company to originate the loan, underwrite the loan, close the loan and fund the loan itself. It's one-stop shopping," Gipson said.

Gipson said Mac-Clair Mortgage employees want to build relationships of value in Novi with Realtors, title companies and builders as well as customers. "We want to establish lifetime relationships with customers. We're not here for the one-time close."

of mortgage programs, including veterans' loans, Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loans, balloon mortgages, adjustable rate mortgages, interest-only mortgages and reverse mortgages. Gipson said very few companies offer reverse mortgages because the firm has to also be a lender.

"Basically, a reverse mortgage is a service provided to senior citizens in need of additional income," Gipson explained. "You compare the loan to value and allow a certain percentage to be provided as income based on the equity in the home. The investor then pays a monthly amount to the homeowner."

Selby said reverse mortgages are very popular in Florida, but not a lot of mortgage companies in Michigan are approved to provide this option. Interest-only programs in mortgages are another great option to homebuyers, according to Gipson and Selby.

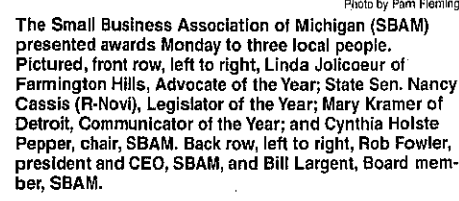
"These are great for seasonal customers, commissioned employees and the self-employed," Selby said. "This type of mortgage would allow a homeowner to pay only \$850 a month for a \$250,000 home," Gipson said.

"Plus, you can apply funds to the principal on the loan with no penalty." The new Novi branch boasts about 1,400 square feet with a nautical theme. "We're just starting to hire loan officers for the branch," Selby said.

For more information, visit Mac-Clair Mortgage's Web site at www.mac-clair.com or call Selby at (248) 596-1770.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homecomm.net.

*Ron Gipson
Executive vice president*



SBAM honors three, including Sen. Cassis

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Three local champions of small business were recognized Monday by the Small Business Association of Michigan.

State Senator Nancy Cassis (R-Now) was named the association's 2003 Legislator of the Year.

Mary Kramer of Detroit, associate publisher of *Crain's Detroit Business*, was honored as the association's 2003 Communicator of the Year.

Linda Jolicoeur of Farmington Hills, a member of SBAM's Legislative Action Council and owner of Target Equipment and Leasing Inc. of Farmington Hills, received the association's 2003 Advocate of the Year award.

SBAM officials at the presentation included Rob Fowler, president and CEO; Bary Cugill, vice president, government relations; Bill Largent, Board member; and Cynthia Holste Pepper, chair.

Pepper said that when selecting the Legislator of the Year, SBAM members look at legislation introduced, votes cast and leadership of the Small Business issues.

"I can tell you that small business has no better friend in Michigan than Nancy Cassis," said Jolicoeur, who presented the award to Cassis. "We are proud of her work on behalf of the small business community," she said. "She and her husband know firsthand what small business issues are because they owned a small business. And what better advocacy can you have than that?"

Cassis and her husband, Victor, used to own the Big Boy Restaurant on Novi Road. "He taught me what it really means to be in business," Cassis said.

Cassis was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 1996 and became a state senator in District 15 in 2002. She has registered 100 percent on roll call votes for the last two legislative sessions. Cassis was recently responsible for introducing recent legislation to eliminate the Small Business Tax. As chair of the Senate Taxation Committee, she led efforts to defeat a major package of tax increases.

"In many ways I am here as a symbol to honor all of you—the small business men and women of our community—and the work that you do. I am merely your voice, your supporter and your advocate in Lansing," Cassis said.

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

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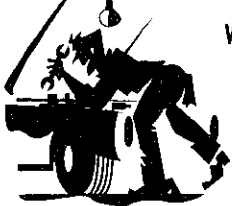
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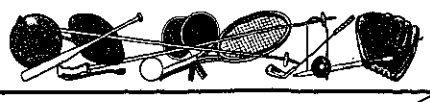
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Nancy Solomon, left, and Linda Fletcher show off some of the clothing available at Smart Chicks Consignment, their new store that just opened on Grand River Avenue across from Novi Town Center.

Smart Chicks caters to cost-conscious shoppers

Consignment store offers designer look for a whole lot less

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to women's fashion, it doesn't hurt to be a smart chick.

Or, to shop at Smart Chicks Consignment, a new women's clothing store that just opened Nov. 22 in Novi for the cost-conscious shopper.

The store is the brainchild of co-owners Linda Fletcher of Macomb and Nancy Solomon of Pinckney. So, how did they come up with the name?

"It's pretty evident," Solomon joked. "We were the smart girls in high school, and we still are," Fletcher said with a smile.

The store plans a grand opening celebration through Saturday with prizes and discounts on selected items.

Formerly occupied by Banks Vacuum, which moved to Novi Town Center, the 2,700-square-foot store with 1,300 square feet of selling space carries designer, popular and better-brand women's clothing and accessories.

A full range of sizes, from petite

to plus, is available at prices as low as 75 percent of suggested retail price. Shoppers can also purchase new costume jewelry plus one-of-a-kind pieces by local artists.

A consignment shop accepts merchandise on a consignment basis, paying the owners of the merchandise a percentage when and if the items are sold.

If clothing doesn't sell in 60 days at Smart Chicks Consignment, and the consignor agrees, items are donated to Dress for Success, a charitable organization that provides business suits, confidence boosts and career development to more than 45,000 women in over 75 cities each year.

Retail shopping is one of the fastest growing segments of the retail industry, according to the National Association of Retail and Thrift Shops. Currently, there are more than 15,000 resale shops across the country, and that number is increasing.

Because Novi is such a popular shopping area, the two entrepreneurs thought it would be an ideal place for their new business.

"Women in this area are savvy shoppers," said Solomon, an avid consignment shopper herself. "They want designer-quality merchandise but at discount-store prices. And, along with the money they're saving, they can make money by consigning clothes they don't wear anymore. It's the best of all possible shopping worlds."

The owners don't put a lot of

The store, at 43039 Grand River Avenue, is located on the south side of Grand River just east of Novi Road.

Smart Chicks Consignment is open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. For more information, including consigning guidelines, call (248) 347-1600 or e-mail at shopsmart@smartchicks.net.

restrictions on their consignment guidelines. "We simply ask that the items are in tip-top condition — clean, in good repair, and in a current or classic style," Fletcher said.

"We also don't require appointments to bring in items. After the first time they consign with us, we offer our consignors a drop-off service because we know how busy they are in a typical day. In fact, we'll even come to a consignors' home and pick up items," she added.

The owners, who have been friends and co-workers for years, found the site for their new business in July, with construction starting in August.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or at pfleming@bt.com.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Blair joins THAW board

Linda Blair, vice president of policy and business development for International Transmission Company, headquartered in Novi, was recently elected to the Board of Directors for THAW, the Heat and Warmth Fund.



Blair will serve a three-year term on the board. THAW is an independent nonprofit organization that provides emergency energy assistance to low-income families, individuals and senior citizens facing temporary financial crisis.

Since its inception in 1986 THAW has provided more than \$22 million in energy assistance to homes in 65 Michigan counties.

International Transmission's service territory covers 7,500 square miles in southeast Michigan. Its system comprises more than 2,500 pole-miles of overhead and underground high-voltage transmission lines, transmission structures, stations, rights-of-way and easements, and the power coordination center in Ann Arbor.

The firm invests in infrastructure and engineering solutions that create greater efficiency in the flow of electricity, better system reliability and lower overall energy costs.

Village in Novi, was recently ranked 10th in the American Seniors Housing Association ranking of the 50 largest owners and managers of senior housing in the U.S.

Moving up one slot in its ranking this year, Erickson currently owns and manages 11 campus-style communities. Fox Run in Novi, that opened in August, is one of the company's newest communities.

The ranking is based on a comprehensive survey of firms that own and operate senior housing, including independent living communities with and without assisted living; continuing care retirement communities and assisted living residences.

The list included properties and units in stand-alone nursing facilities, single-family homes in retirement communities and federally-subsidized senior housing as of July 1, 2003.

Residence Inn opens in Novi

Residence Inn of Novi, a new 107-site hotel operating as a Marriott International Inc. franchise opened its doors Nov. 19 at 27477 Cabot Drive next to Fountain Walk shopping center.

The franchise, owned by Elkin Equities of Southfield, is managed by White Lodging Services, Inc., of Merrillville, Ind.

Local couple wins in Vegas

Norm and Patty Sophia, owners of Final Cut Video Services in Novi, recently received two awards for "The Best Photo Montage" and most improved studio out of 35 studio owners nationwide.

The awards were presented to the Sophtas at the annual national convention for Home Video Studio in Las Vegas.

Presented by HVSI of Indianapolis, training at the convention featured workshops on the video production business.

Brass Craft recognizes safe plants

Brass Craft, a leading manufacturer of plumbing products headquartered in Novi, recently received safety awards for three of its manufacturing plants.

The awards were given to plants in Lancaster, Texas and Gardena, Calif. These plants received the Circle of Excellence award, the highest-level award earned by plants that exceed the established top safety score.

Compiled by Pam Fleming



Deborah Southworth (l to r), gift and basket coordinator, along with proprietors David and Julie Cole show off some of the tasty gift baskets available at Great Harvest Bread Co. at 139 E. Main in Northville.

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CLASS NOTES

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

Earth dome inhabits Orchard Hills

Mobile Ed productions brings our world to elementary

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Orchard Hills students learned all about our planet when Mobile Ed Productions visited with a 19-foot-high inflatable globe, which was made from satellite photographs from space.

The globe was placed in the school gymnasium a couple weeks ago for two days. According to Visiting Instructor David Killian, the reason for his visit was to teach students the seven continents; the four oceans; which animals and plants can be found in different parts of the world; different climates, like jungle, desert, forest, grass land; and where it's cold in the north or south poles.

"Mobile Ed Productions has a slogan - Education Through Entertainment," Killian said. "What we're trying to do is come to the schools with a variety of programs and earth dome is one of our premier science programs."

Killian explained that the globe has a scale of 30 miles per inch and is filled with a lot of detail. Many boundaries are not marked, however, because it is a duplicate of what is seen from space.

"We did include the biggest cities by population and several other points of interest like highest mountains and the Great Barrier Reef and Cape Canaveral in Florida," Killian said. "Things like that are marked, but we're using it on different grade levels

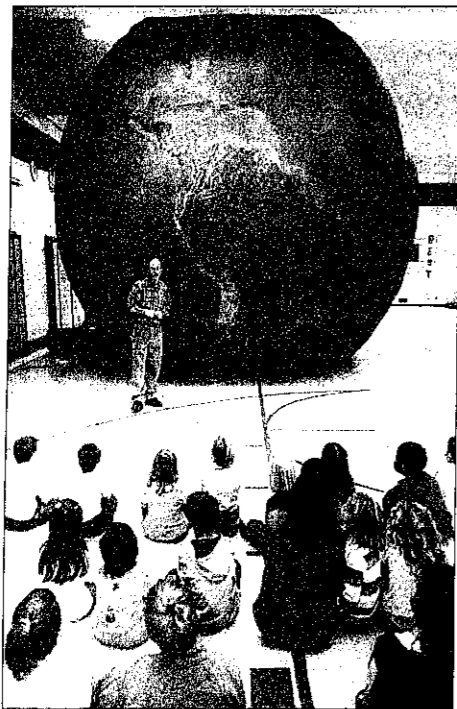


Photo by John Hedder

Dave Killian presents the Earth Dome last Thursday morning to Orchard Hills students. The 22' wide inflatable globe was made with detailed satellite images of Earth.

from preschool through high school to teach the concepts that they're covering in school to support the curriculum and testing."

One aspect of the Earth dome that Killian is proud of is the fact that he believes this type of program is going to teach kids on all levels of ability.

"Kids learn on different channels," he said. "Some of them are very visual, some are very audible, who remember what they hear rather than what they read and some are very kinetic. This is a type of program that's going to come to all the kids on all the channels and so it's going to get through for a while and they need. We cover a lot of things in a half hour program that's really going to fit right in with what they're learning."

Mobile Ed, which is based out of Redford, travels to schools throughout the Midwest and must adjust its presentations to fit with different age groups. Older students are taught time zones, longitude and latitude, the layers of the earth and about conservation issues. They're shown how much rain forest has been lost to deforestation and other issues like that.

"The kids get really excited about this type of program because it's very often they're going to see anything that big and spectacular unless it's in a parade or something like that," Killian said. "This is something that they're going to think and talk about for a while and that gives their learning some momentum."

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

Will state mandate use of districts' fund equity?

continued from front page

Schools use their equity," he said. "It should be up to each district what to do. There are school districts that could actually step school after their fund equity is all gone. They could stop school or they could cut programs, but that has to be the decision of the district. There are some districts that probably won't make it through the year, but we're not in that boat."

Though he believes mandating that schools use their fund equity during this time of financial crisis is wrong, Koster can still understand the state's reasoning. He also explained, however, that Novi is committed to running its 150,000 square feet of schools - and it won't get any additional money to do so.

"We have to start saving a little bit before we open up school," he said. "That's just common sense and good planning. That's what an equity is for. It prohibits you from borrowing and to allow for more unexpected expenses."

The Novi School Board of Education has the option, when faced with the reduction of dollars from the state, to cut programs, dip into its fund equity, do both or do nothing at all. These are the kinds of decisions it may be wrestling with over the next few months once the state is scheduled to make its decision

Dec. 5.

"Trying to take \$1.2 million out of a budget with six months left is like doubling it," Koster said. "So, you're a superintendent and you're in this circumstance. Would you recommend the total cancellation of the program beginning January 20 or would you recommend the continuation of a good program until the money runs out? That's a very big question."

Novi is in a circumstance that has a roughly 14-percent planned equity for the 2004-05 school year. That percentage is not much, however, as Koster explained that it would last probably about a month in the Novi Community School District.

Like all other boards of education in Michigan, Novi's will have to figure out what to do Dec. 5 in order to survive.

"The district's annual budget of \$60 million equals \$5 million per month."

"If everything just stopped right now and you had no income at all, we would have four to six weeks with the fund equity, then we would have to go borrow money from a bank."

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

Cassis slides with district

Michigan State Senator Nancy Cassis agrees that the state should not mandate schools to use their fund equity.

"The idea of mandating that schools use their fund equity to offset some shortfalls in the basic schools foundation grant is very inappropriate," she said. "It's often termed 'Robin Hood,' which is to support the districts that represent because they've been smart and wise and prudent and have been able to save money."

Cassis explained that right now Governor Jennifer Granholm is looking to propose the foundation grant by about \$190 per student. Something she is required to do according to the constitution in order to ensure that the school aid fund is balanced. That, in turn, might make school districts dip into their fund equity - but that should be the school board's decision, she said.

"That's only fair," she said. "Some school districts may need to do so, and others may not need to."

Cassis believes the shortfall is temporary. She says that the best thing that could happen is that the state support Michigan's economy so that it will again be strong and healthy and that the dollars that are going to the schools are strong and healthy.

"Our Michigan economy, as well as our national economy, is beginning to rebound again now," Cassis said. "I think that mandating schools to go into their fund equity would be taking away from the spirit of Proposal A."



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Bingo Night at Novi Woods! Oct. 24 was the annual Novi Woods PTO sponsored Bingo Night. Students and their families gathered for a fun night of Bingo, prizes and snacks. Here, second grade student Christy D'Annibale helps kindergarten Ashley Darling with her bingo card while they wait anxiously to choose their prizes.



Troop adopts 109th Medical Battalion

Novi Woods Brownie troop number 2297 has adopted the 109th Medical Battalion, stationed in Iraq, as a community service project. The girls sent a tree, complete with lights, hand decorated ornaments and a personalized garland. They also collected and shipped five large boxes of books, magazines, toiletries, candy, gum, cookies, towels, sheets, socks and other items to make the soldiers' lives more comfortable.

The 109th Medical Battalion provides medical care to US soldiers along with emergency care to citizens of Iraq. Pictured, top row from left to right are: Emily Kate Callahan, Julia Ghanann, Kerri Masseran, Hannah Latham, Katie Casselton and Rebecca Bartlett. Middle row: Kaitlyn Berg, Lexi Giragosian, Emily D'Ascenzo, Olivia Bradford and Michelle Kobylarek Bottom row: Natalie Trainor, Megumi Kambe, Kaitlin Welcham and Elizabeth Leinonen. Not pictured is Karla Bercu. The leaders of the troop are Lynn Berg and Cindy Callahan. The photo of the 109th Medical Battalion was taken just before it shipped out in February.



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VO students receive fun lessons in puppetry

Madcap Productions Puppet Theatre visits school for one week

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER



Novi Meadows student Christopher Fandanelli, far right, and other wanna-be puppeteers get some lessons during a workshop last Wednesday morning from Madcap Puppet Theatre's Karle Gipson of Cincinnati, Ohio.

If someone saw the inside of Village Oaks Elementary School from Oct. 3-7, they would swear they were walking on the set of Sesame Street or the Muppet Show. That really wasn't the case, but it's not too far fetched. Karle Gipson of Madcap Productions Puppet Theatre came visiting from Cincinnati along with many puppets for a whole school week to share with the kids some of the tricks of the trade.

Madcap Productions was created by Jerry Handorf about 21 years ago. Before that he worked with Jim Henson and used to build puppets for Sesame Street and in fact designed and built the first Elmo Puppet. Madcap is a nonprofit, touring children's theater company which combines giant puppets with actors to create a unique style of puppet theater and wants to introduce children to a whole new concept of puppetry, one that allows all the elements of theater to be combined in an artistic and educational performance.

With that in mind, teachers at Village Oaks knew they were getting the real deal when it came to puppets.

Gipson, who is Madcap's special projects coordinator, said that her

job for the week was to teach the kids puppetry, creative writing, storytelling and puppet manipulation, but her angle was talking about being an artist.

"There is art in everything that you do," Gipson said. "I talk about being a performing artist as well as a building artist and writing artist and that sort of thing. It just gives the kids a different perspective on art, puppetry, story telling and creative writing."

Gipson hoped that by the end of the week students received much knowledge from her visit in the form of an education in the arts and knowledge that there are things out there that adults do that are fun. She hopes they also received the knowledge of how puppets are made and built.

"Puppetry is normally something they see on television, like Sesame Street," Gipson said. "To see it really where they can actually do it, that just gives them a whole different perspective of something that they see on television and as well as how puppets are put together."

Gipson explained that the reason her company has puppets is to tell stories and that her puppets are characters in a story. She explained to the kids what a character is, why it looks the way it does and how they can tell if the character is a good guy or the bad guy, among other things. By the end of the week, Gipson hoped that what students got out of her visit is the love and respect for the arts as well as interests in continuing their early story writing or creation of characters.

"Monday we had an opening assembly where I explained who I am, what I'm going to do and I did a puppet show," Gipson said. "I then did a session with each grade twice, where they come in and meet with me."

The first three students met with her. Gipson explained the basics of how puppets work. The second time they actually got to put puppets on. That went on each day until Friday's rehearsal with some of the fourth graders.

For more information on Madcap Productions, visit www.madcapuppets.com or call (513) 921-5965.

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

Storyteller sings his tales at Meadows

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Novi Meadows was filled with harmony a few weeks ago, as professional storyteller LaRon Williams visited with his drums and songs. He also brought some important messages for students.

All together, Williams has been telling stories for 13 years, although it has been his profession for seven years. He really didn't start visiting a lot of schools until about eight years ago, and before that he did a couple little festivals. He lives in Ann Arbor and tells stories all over the country.

Williams explained that generally, when he tells stories, he wants to deliver certain kinds of messages, so no matter what age his audience is, everybody can understand them.

"I generally have certain kinds of messages that I try to put across and these are messages of peaceful conflict resolution, collective problem-solving, self-esteem and those types of things," Williams said. "At Novi Meadows I focused, at least a little bit in every one of my sessions, on setting a dream for yourself, or having a dream or objective in life and taking your life seriously. So at least a tiny bit of every one of my sessions had that in there. Then there was some other stuff thrown in just for fun."



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

GUEST COLUMN Freedom isn't free - be thankful for that

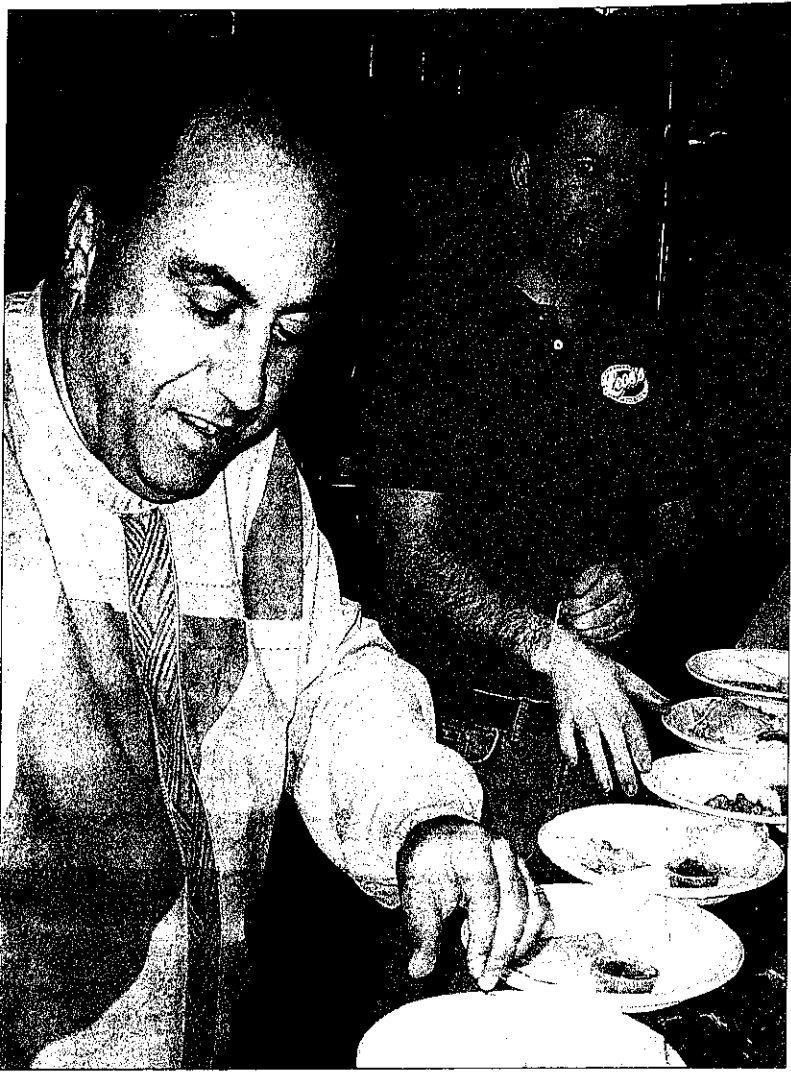
On this Thanksgiving of 2003, with the war going on in Iraq, did you feel safer than you did two years ago...

Hundreds of soldiers have died fighting for what they believe in - a world free from terrorists and tyranny... preserving and protecting the basic beliefs this country was founded on...

I pray and give thanks for President George W. Bush every day. He is not perfect, but he is willing to do what he believes is right...

OPINION

novinews.com



Holiday tradition Moe Leon, left, co-owner of Leon's Family Dining restaurants throughout the Metro Detroit area...

LETTERS

MEAP is JUNK

How long will principals and teachers need to explain to families about last year's MEAP? How long will it be before MEAP creators do what they say...

ing across the street from my home to review the South Lake Drive and Shawwood culvert construction project. Even worse, in this situation, three other elected officials were either not present or excluded...

I can't think of one teacher in this district who has not complied with these requirements and yet. The MEAP creators continue to fumble. It is interesting to me, when teachers were made aware of the changes in our assessment the first question that came to mind was logistics...

I'm concerned that this lack of good judgment has cost us in public education. It is interesting to me that I am expected to accomplish a task by a deadline, prepare students, test students, make sure students are calm, collected, and applying themselves...

Personally, I don't think we should have to pay for it. It seems to me that the MEAP creators owe the students of this state 30 million dollars. Rebecca Purcell, Orchard Hills Elementary Fourth grade teachers

On behalf of veterans We, the people of Novi welcome our new City of Novi leaders, council members, mayor Louis Cordas...

Share your opinions: We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less...

OTHER OPINIONS

No greater power than an idea whose time has come

The week before Thanksgiving, the papers were filled with stories marking the 40th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy...

Phil Power

I arrived at Oxford that fall, directly from Fairbanks, Alaska, where I had been working as the sports editor of the Fairbanks Daily News Miner...

cluding our generation had more important things to do than meeting going into business and making money. We felt young people could volunteer to serve abroad in less developed countries...

Clarke's political star is shining again

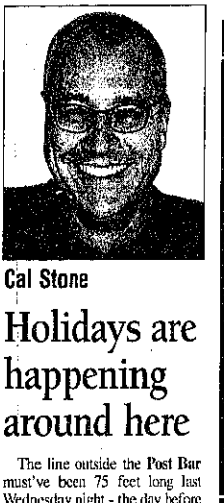
This is the story of a mixed-up young man who couldn't find himself, and a black lady named Octavia Lyons who cleaned house for a wealthy family in the suburbs...

He could pass for an Italian-American in his early 30s, or get away with claiming just about any Middle Eastern, Mediterranean or Native American pedigree...

Jack Lessenberry

Today, State Sen. Hansen Clarke is one of the most powerful Democratic legislators in Michigan. He has a law degree from Georgetown...

to save the state money by letting them keep at least part of the savings. "You need to put your employees first," he said. "You need to reward risk-taking and initiative."



Cal Stone Holidays are happening around here

The line outside the Post Bar must've been 75 feet long last Wednesday night - the day before Thanksgiving and traditionally the busiest night of the year for clubs...

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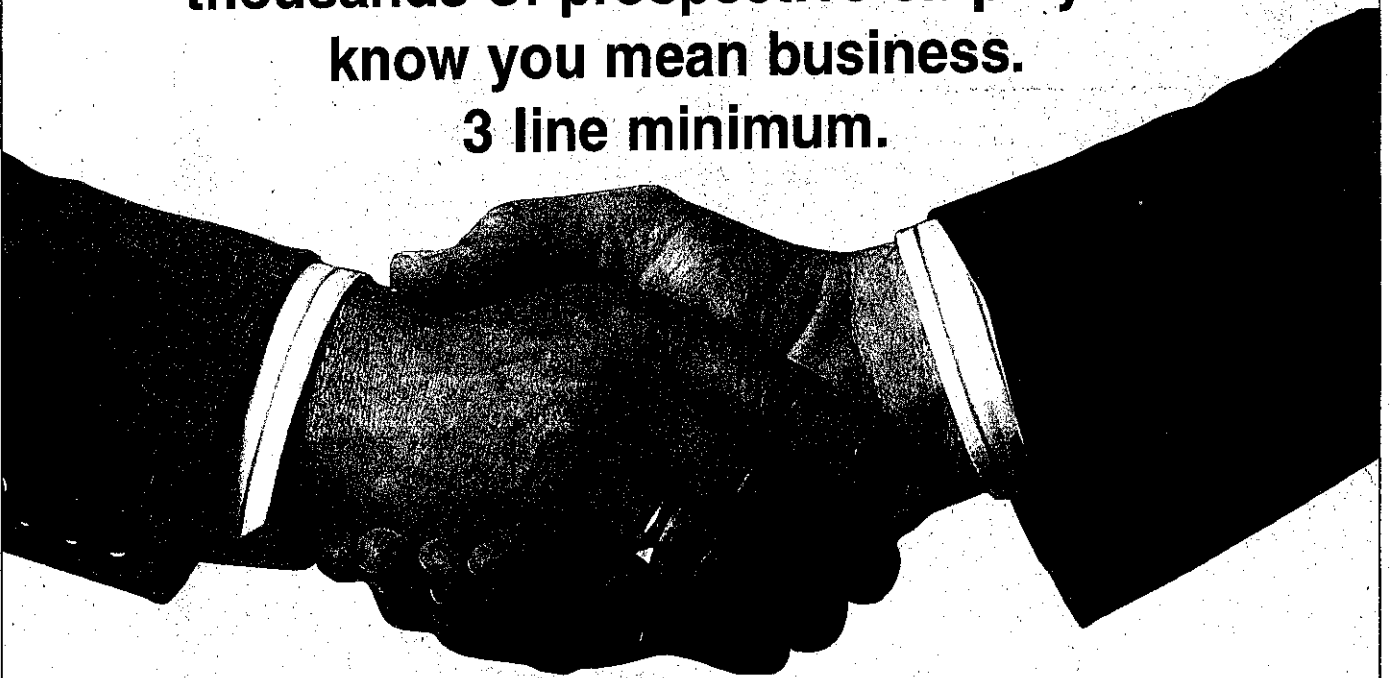
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Thursday, December 4, 2003

One heck of a year!

Team of 2003 showed the meaning of Wildcat

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

For Novi football coach Tab Kellepourey, it doesn't matter if everyone remembers this team 10 years down the road. All that matters to him is that he and his fellow coaches, along with every member of the 2003 football team, will reminisce about it.

"I'm hoping these kids will always be talking about it," he said. "I know we, as coaches, will go back and have great memories ourselves."

To make it to a 12-1 mark and earn their conference, district and regional titles was something that not one single individual on the Novi football team would have been able to accomplish. Instead, they had to do it as a team.

"It was an ongoing development with us," Kellepourey said. "We had to work together as a team, through any ups and downs we came across. It was really the kids that had to keep it together."

"Starting out, our goal was to be a really good team. To be a good team meant we were going to have to be able to respect each other through the course of the year. The kids went beyond that. They really cared for each other, and still do. From that, we had a lot of wins. That was nice. But what was truly important was that our kids really played together as a team."

Being part of three titles, a record-setting 12-win season and the third-straight victory

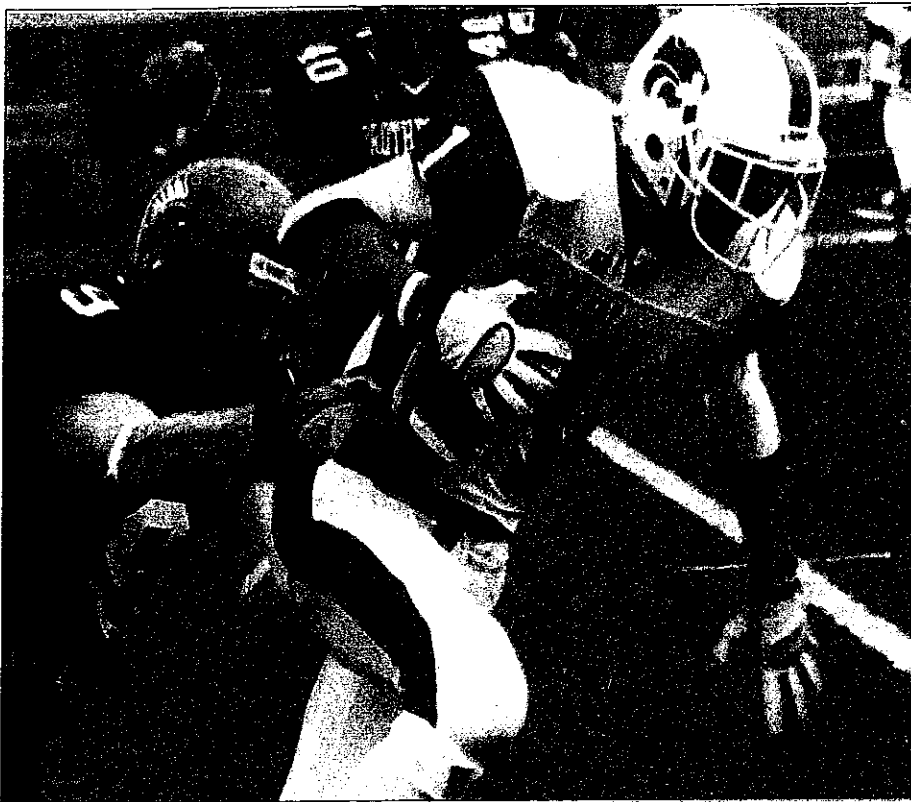


Photo by Sam Eggleston

Novi's Kerry Kreutzberg tries to break free from a Brother Rice defender's grasp in the final game of the 2003 season. Kreutzberg noted earlier in the year that he hoped to be part of a team that would be remembered for a decade — it appears he got what he hoped for.

over cross-town rival Northville wasn't the reason these athletes

began playing football for the green and white early in their

high school career. They did it because they wanted to be part

of something that had been forged out years before under

the guidance of then-head coach John Osborne — a winning tradition.

Winning traditions don't always mean titles, or undefeated seasons. Instead, it means the players have the dedication, heart and desire to be winners — no matter what the final win/loss record may be.

"There's a lot of pride that goes into being a football player in Novi," Kellepourey said. "Every year, it's renewed with our kids. The pride was there in the people who played before them, and the pride will be there in the players that come after them."

Kellepourey said to have winning seasons is just the frosting on the cake.

"The last two years have been good years for Novi football," he said. "Both teams made runs in the playoffs, and both teams were full of remarkable kids. Every year is full of remarkable kids. That's why we do it. Not for the wins, or the awards. We do it for the kids."

And it's the kids that make it work.

"Twelve victories in a season is tremendous," Kellepourey said. Every time I think about it, I think back to the power outage and how we missed two and a half days of practice in double sessions. I didn't know how we'd be ready to play when our first game rolled around, but the kids were. They just got any doubts out of the way and let it happen. That's what they did all year long, and that's why we were so successful."

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.

More than just a game

All year long, I've rambled and I've rambled about the Novi football team — and I'm going to ramble some more.

Novi football means more than yards and a final score — it means dedication, loyalty, determination, desire, accountability, responsibility and, most of all, heart. Football was invented as a game, but at the high school level, it has grown into much more than that. These kids come out, year after year, to experience the rush of being a part of something bigger than themselves. In many schools, a student is just a number — one of a couple thousand kids in the school district that makes their way through. On a football field, they are something else — they're part of a team.

Being a team means working together as a unit. Sure, there are a few names that get in ink more than others, but it happens because of a team effort. Novi football is all about team. They work together at a common goal and this year, with desire and hard work, that goal was reached. They were undefeated in the regular season, won the Baseline Jug, earned the Kensington Valley Conference title and they brought home a District Championship and a Regional crown. That is an



Sam Eggleston

amazing year.

At the end of the 2002 season, Novi High School's total wins in football was 199. By the end of the 2003 season, it's 211. That's a pretty impressive number. It took more than 60 kids in a single season to reach it — it took generations of Wildcat football to hit that mark. That's what programs are built on — dedicated individuals who know their progress may not have been as much as teams in the past, nor the future, but it still matters nonetheless.

The team of 2003 helped make sure the entire state knew about Novi football and the program that has been built here. They've made sure that the next generation of football players

has something to talk about and records to beat. They've made sure they'll have a lifetime of memories amongst themselves and amongst the coaches.

That's what Wildcat football is all about and what it means to be a Wildcat. Be you undefeated or winless, you're still a Wildcat and great memories come from your time in those football pads.

Some of us never had the chance to be Wildcat football players — but we're still a part of the program through our support and dedication. Some of us have been on the field and will cherish those memories forever.

It's just too bad the entire world couldn't have a taste of what Wildcat football represents — they have no idea what they're missing.

Good luck to all the generations of Novi football yet to come, and thanks to all of those who have come and went. Everything that has been done and has yet to be done just adds to the inspiration that Novi football has become.

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.



PHOTO BY SAM EGGLESTON

J.W. Woods (with ball) benefits from a block by Joey Fratto (6) against Brother Rice.

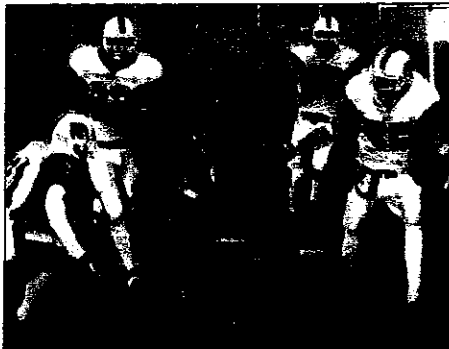


Photo by Sam Eggleston

A Brother Rice ball carrier is suddenly feeling like a trapped rat as senior defenders Draw Hoffman (31), Joel Dragan (55), Sean Costello (82) and Mark Kaminski (50) close in.

Fans meant a lot in Novi team's success

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

To win takes heart, dedication and a willingness to put the effort forth to grate out a difficult victory in some of the toughest situations — and Novi had it.

To keep it going week after week after week is another story. It takes support, cheers, loyalty and love — it takes fans.

"This year, we really felt their impact," Novi head coach Tab Kellepourey said of the fans. "The fan base was wonderful!"

Students, parents, family, friends and die-hard green and white fans packed the stands every week — and found ways to

keep it fresh and new no matter who they played or what the score was.

"They did a nice job in terms of creating a fun environment," Kellepourey said. "It was a fun season, and a lot of that is due to the fans."

Tail-gate parties, painted faces, hand-made signs and group chants were just some of the many things the fans did to keep their boys in the green and white jerseys on their toes and proud to be Wildcats.

In the final Novi game against Brother Rice, Kellepourey, who is normally 100-percent locked on the field of play, took a brief second to note the dedication of

the fans who packed the stands.

"They stood the whole time and paid very close attention to what was going on," he said. "There was a lot of cheering at the right times."

And it went far beyond the stands and the field of play.

"I saw banners flying in the community and there was tail-gating and we noticed a lot of noise at the home games," Kellepourey said. "They got together for the right reasons. They go out, get together, have fun and see what happens. We were fortunate to have the addition of some really great fans this year."

And, it seems, a lot of it has to

do with the parents who made sure to keep things going smoothly this year.

"They were networked and made sure that everything was coordinated and going the way they are supposed to," Kellepourey said. "They hosted team dinners, kept everyone informed and made sure to get everyone behind this football team."

And the student help was greatly appreciated as well.

"The student body took it upon themselves to get activated," Kellepourey said. "Our fan base definitely improved this year, and I hope to see it grow even more for next year."

2003 All-Area Football Dream Team

Josh Buck Novi Senior Linebacker

- 98 solo tackles, 43 assists
- Two sacks
- All-KVC first-team
- Conference Defensive Player of the Year

Josh Buck is a football player that possesses great toughness and hitting ability," said Tab Kellepourey. "He has an understanding of the game that has helped him become the team's leading tackler over the last three seasons. When you're watching the play and you see players being tackled, it's never hard to know when it was Josh who made the hit because the ball carrier is normally going backwards. It was kind of a trademark he had. When it comes to a player like Buck, you know he's going to be in the right place at the right time. He's a competitor and he's always going to be that way. This team is going to miss Josh Buck, but he's left behind a lot that the younger guys have learned from and will try to live up to."



Josh Buck

Trenton Sisson Novi Senior Linebacker

- 52 solo tackles, 18 assists
- Six sacks
- Fumble picked up and ran for a touchdown Vs Milford
- Interception to win game over undefeated South Lyon
- First-team All-KVC
- Played both linebacker and defensive end

"Trent was a captain of the team and an intelligent player," Tab Kellepourey said. "He has great speed, great strength and knows his football. Having Trent on the team afforded us the opportunity to do things we may not have previously been able to do. He had multiple capacities on this team, and was a great leader for us."

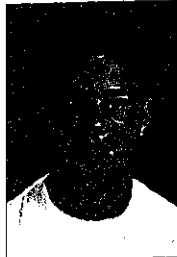


Trenton Sisson

Steven Ladd Milford Senior Linebacker

- Named All-KVC.
- Recorded 74 tackles and eight sacks.

"Steven is a bright, smart football player," Mavericks coach Pat Fox said. "He's got speed and is a great hitter. What we want from an inside linebacker is a good tackler with smarts and speed, and Steven has all that. He was a great defensive leader for us — he was very experienced and kept us together when we were young at the start of the year. On offense he was a big play receiver when given the opportunity."



Steven Ladd

Josh Woods Novi Junior Linebacker

- 59 solo tackles, 21 assists
- One sack
- First-team All-KVC

"Josh has exceptional speed and hitting power," said Tab Kellepourey. "This season, he really worked well with both Josh Buck and Coach Harman (the linebacker's coach). He really enhanced his game this year by listening and learning from Coach Harman, and with Josh Buck he did a great job of stopping the run."



Josh Woods

Bobby Watson South Lyon Senior Defensive Back

- Named All-KVC.
- Recorded 65 tackles, intercepted two passes and recovered one fumble.

"Bobby was key, because we moved him from free safety to a new position," Lions coach Bob Scheloske said. "And he did a great job at strong safety. He played outstanding for us and was All-League. He called all the secondary coverages and made all of the adjustments. He was the leader of the defense. He and Dennis (Reedy) were our two smartest football players."

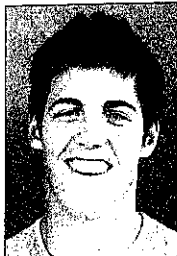


Bobby Watson

Nate Spurgess South Lyon Junior Linebacker

- Named All-KVC.
- Recorded 62 tackles, intercepted one pass and recovered two fumbles.

"Nate was the real emotional leader on the defense and on the offense," Lions coach Bob Scheloske said. "He plays with a lot of emotion and the kids look to him for that. When Dennis (Reedy) was getting the play from the sideline, Nate was the one that was keeping the players in tune to what was going on in the game. He's got speed, and his ability to go sideline to sideline makes him real valuable on the defense."



Nate Spurgess

Mark Angelocci Novi Senior Kicker

- First-team All-KVC
- Selected as conference kicker
- Won or tied multiple games for Novi
- Missed just one extra point all season

"Mark worked hard in the off-season and attended a couple different kicking schools to improve his game," Tab Kellepourey said. "It helped and he turned into a fine, fine kicker and punter for us. Whenever he went onto the field to kick, the team had no doubts. Everyone had tremendous confidence when he was kicking the ball."



Mark Angelocci

Jimmy Worden Lakeland Senior Defensive Back

- Named All-KVC.
- Recorded 75 total tackles and three sacks. Intercepted two passes and blocked a field goal.

"James was able to set the defensive tone for us from the secondary," Eagles coach John Matlese said. "He is an explosive hitter on run support, while being our best man-to-man cover-player."

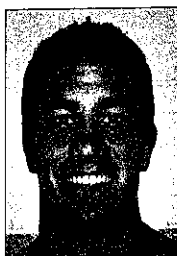


Jimmy Worden

Jimmy Schoenle Milford Sophomore Defensive Back

- Named All-KVC.
- Recorded 54 tackles and intercepted one pass.

"Jimmy is big and fast," Mavericks coach Pat Fox said. "He was timed at 4.55 in the 40 at a university camp. He was a really solid defensive performer for us and is very technique oriented. He has a tremendous desire to be successful and is a glutton for punishment in the weight room — he works very hard in there. Defensively, he was great lateral movement and has really strong vision. Jimmy will be moving to inside linebacker next year."



Jimmy Schoenle

Teams assembled and chosen by Sam Eggleston and Stan Frank.
Comments can be directed to seggleston@ht.homecomm.net or sfrank@ht.homecomm.net.

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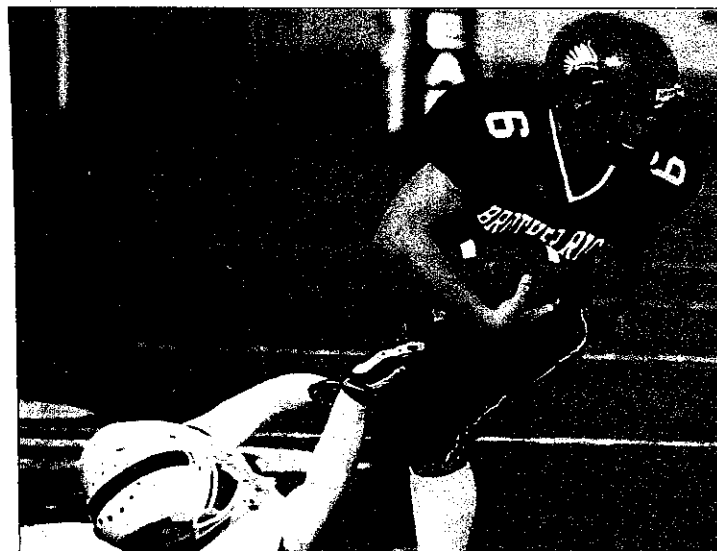
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The Novi Wildcats handed the ball to senior J.W. Woods. Woods headed for the middle of the line, found a linebacker waiting for him, and then danced to his right before breaking two tackles on the sideline. He outran his feet to the endzone for an 86-yard sprint and to give the "Cats a 24-13 lead.

The Novi Wildcats secured an outright victory in the Kensington Valley Conference with the massive drubbing of the winless Pirates.

Buck was the first "Cat across the goal line, scoring on a 5-yard run and the mauling Novi gave after J.W. Woods took the ball to senior J.W. Woods. Woods headed for the middle of the line, found a linebacker waiting for him, and then danced to his right before breaking two tackles on the sideline. He outran his feet to the endzone for an 86-yard sprint and to give the "Cats a 24-13 lead.

For the first time all season, the Novi Wildcats had to prove what they would do in a situation where they fell behind. At one point, Novi trailed 7-0 quickly before tying the



Photos by John Heider and Sam Eggleston

Top to bottom: Tight end Chris Scott makes a block on a crashing linebacker to free up quarterback Mike Hart on an option play; Kyle Margrave gets some help from tackle Steve Jabbori as he eyes a blitzing backer against Brother Rice; Drew Hoffman isn't about to get beat with a juke move or let go of his catch as he grabs the ball, holds on tight and waits for some Novi assistance. Bottom (left to right) Josh, J.W. and Jarrell Woods, Trevor Hoover, Kerry Kreuzberg, Mike Hart, Robbie Carter, Josh Buck and Mark Kaminski show their pride in the green and white.

- For the first time all season, the Novi Wildcats had to prove what they would do in a situation where they fell behind. At one point, Novi trailed 7-0 quickly before tying the game up at 7-7 on a 2-yard touchdown carry by Buck. With less than a minute left in the first half, the Brighton gridders made it 14-7 on a 29-yard passing play that found the Wildcats coverage breaking apart.
- Brighton went up 17-7 with a 42-yard field goal before the Wildcats went to work. With 10:42 left in the game, Hart found Hoover in the middle of the field on a post play that ended up going 69-yards for the touchdown to cut the Bulldogs' lead to 17-14.
- With 26 seconds left in the game, Angelocci nailed a 33-yard field goal to tie the game and force it into overtime.
- The Novi defense held strong, forcing a field goal in Brighton's first offensive series in overtime for a 20-17 Bulldog advantage. Two plays later, Jarrell Woods took the ball in from four yards out behind a crushing block from Buck to earn the first Novi victory over Brighton since 1994 with a 23-20 final.
- Jarrell and J.W. Woods combined for over 100 yards in rushing, while Hart went 17-of-32 for 209 yards.
- The Wildcat defense held Brighton to only 37 yards in the air.

**Game 5
Novi 17, South Lyon 15**

- In a game that pitted the only two undefeated KVC teams against one another, it was clear that whoever scored first was probably going to win the game. Thanks to Angelocci, it was Novi who first got on the board as he hit a 38-yard field goal to put his squad up 3-0.
- The Wildcats found themselves down for only the second time this season. South Lyon scored to make it 6-3 after a missed extra point, but Novi quickly regained the lead as Hart hit Hoover in the middle of the endzone for a 10-6 lead on a 12-yard strike.
- Novi continued to build on their lead, scoring their final touchdown of the night after J.W. Woods broke five tackles and sprinted 40 yards to set up his younger brother Josh for a 26-yard run. The two sprints put Novi three yards out, and Hart finished it off with an option keeper around the end for the touchdown and a 17-6 lead.
- The Novi defense held the Lions to a field goal for a 17-9 score and then found the South Lyon gridders scoring on a bootleg around the end to cut the lead to 17-15. The following two-point conversion attempt was cut short as senior Trenton Sisson read the quarterback's eyes and intercepted the ball to end the threat from a then-state-ranked team.
- The Wildcat offense gained 238 yards on the ground and tacked on 60 yards through the air.
- Novi's defense recorded four quarterback sacks on the

- The Novi Wildcats secured an outright victory in the Kensington Valley Conference with the massive drubbing of the winless Pirates.
- Buck was the first 'Cat across the goal line, scoring on a 5-yard pounce up the middle. Not long after, J.W. Woods took the ball in from one yard out for another touchdown run.
- Angelocci hit a 29-yard field goal for a 17-0 lead in the first quarter.
- Drew Hoffman intercepted his first pass of the season to set up a 53-yard scoring strike from Hart to Hoover. On the following Pinckney offensive possession, Kreuzberg snagged the ball for another interception before J.W. Woods scored on a 4-yard run to take a 31-0 lead with three minutes left in the first half.
- Junior Kevin Cisko grabbed yet another first-half interception from the Pirates and then hauled it back 46 yards for the defensive score and a 38-0 halftime lead.
- Novi's sixth touchdown of the game came in the fourth quarter as junior Justin Davis ran 25 yards for the score.
- Hart, who played only in the first half, threw 13-for-20, gaining 186 yards, a touchdown and an interception in the process. Hoover hauled in five catches for 97 yards.
- The Novi defense held the Pirates to just 17 yards in the first half.

**Game 9
Novi 35, Northville 16**

- The two biggest breaks in the Northville defense came on the second and third touchdowns of the night for the Wildcats. On the first, which made the score 14-0, senior wide receiver Kerry Kreuzberg caught a 21-yard strike from Mike Hart with 9:16 left on the clock in the second quarter. Kreuzberg had nothing to fear but dropping the dead-on pass as he turned and caught it in the endzone without a soul around (except fellow receiver Trevor Hoover). The second landed in Hoover's hands, this one on a 33-yard pass that found him catching the ball in stride without a single defender marking him.
- Novi continued to march on their cross-town rivals - even without one of their top players. After Hart took the ball on a ground gain, he found himself being slammed to the ground on a low, hard hit from Brendan Buckley. The hit found the senior quarterback exiting the game with a hip injury. Hart returned for one play from the 13-yard line as he hit senior Mark Angelocci for a score and a 28-0 lead after Angelocci hit his own point-after attempt.
- Junior Kevin Cisko entered the game for Novi after the Wildcat defense held strong. Cisko took the ball down to the 3-yard line as the third quarter came to an end. Two plays later, Cisko put the Novi Wildcats up 35-0 with their fifth touchdown of the night on a two-yard keeper.
- The victory marked Novi's third-straight over Northville in the Baseline Jug game. The series stands at 17-16 in Novi's favor.

- The Wildcats handed the ball to senior J.W. Woods. Woods headed for the middle of the line, found a linebacker waiting for him, and then danced to his right before breaking two tackles on the sideline. He outran his foes to the endzone for an 86-yard sprint and to give the 'Cats a 24-13 lead.

**Game 12
Novi 20, Detroit Mackenzie 19, OT**

- Hart found Kreuzberg from six yards out to give Novi a 7-6 lead following Angelocci's extra point.
- Buck pounded the ball in from one yard out to score with 27.9 seconds left in the game to tie it up at 13-13.
- In overtime, Mackenzie scored but missed the extra point before the Wildcats took the lead and the win on a five-yard touchdown by Buck. Angelocci nailed the extra point to win the game for the Wildcats.
- Novi earned the Regional Championship with the victory.

**Game 13
Brother Rice 31, Novi 28, OT**

- The Wildcats lost their bid to go to the Pontiac Silverdome and the Division II state finals by just three inches as Hart stretched the ball for the line in overtime but was ruled down by contact by a line judge - which gave Rice the win following their OT field goal.
- Earlier in the game, Novi took advantage of a Brother Rice turnover. Hart steadied his team with some impressive throws from the backfield and eventually found Hoover on a 9-yard touchdown strike. Angelocci's kick tied the game at 7-7.
- The Wildcats took the lead early in the second quarter following a third-and-nine scenario. Hart backed up in the pocket, guarded by protection from Ryan Pritchard, Kyle Margrave, Chad Thurman, Steve Jabbori and Mark Kaminski, and found Hoover streaking down the sideline for a 27-yard scoring pass to take a 14-7 lead.
- With the game tied 14-14 and time expiring in the half, the Wildcats went to work trying to gain enough yardage to get within Angelocci's range. After multiple passing plays, the Wildcats opted for a halfback draw that sprung for 39 yards and the touchdown as Josh Woods bounced outside, juked a linebacker and outran the defense to the endzone for the surprising score with just under 11 seconds left in the half.
- Hart put together 60 yards in passing and 10 on the ground before finding Hoover in the endzone for a touchdown and a tied game with 21.4 seconds left in regulation.



Photos by Sam Eggleston

Top to bottom: Josh Woods makes a few moves on his way to a touchdown before the end of the first half against Rice; Kevin Cisko follows a lead block by David Carnegie; Carnegie shows he can take hits with the best of them.

Compiled by Sam Eggleston



REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 3R

Thursday, December 4, 2008

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fine print: Read first or pay later

Consumers are unwittingly becoming ensnared in a credit card trap called universal default, an often overlooked item in a credit card agreement that allows issuers to increase a cardholder's interest rate if they've fallen behind on their payments. Only credit card companies are penalizing cardholders for late payments made to other creditors and lenders.

Consider these tips for staving off those unexpected interest rate spikes:

Go over your credit card agreement with a fine-toothed comb. Your card agreement contains a variety of terms — late fees, over-the-limit fees, transaction fees, annual percentage rate (APR) and grace period to name a few — that you should be familiar with. Knowing what these terms mean, and in many cases knowing how to avoid them, is your best defense against getting blindsided by an interest rate hike or socked with unexpected fees. Also, read the informational inserts that come with your monthly statement. They contain important addendums to your credit card agreement.

Familiarize yourself with all of your accounts. Commit to memory as much information as you can about all of your accounts: your payment due dates, balances and credit limits. By knowing your accounts inside and out, you'll not only remember to pay your bills on time, you'll know quickly whether you're missing a bill — a proactive step in guarding yourself against identity theft.

Take the U.S. Postal Service out of the picture. Many financial institutions now offer online bill payment services where members can pay their bills with a few clicks of the mouse. With e-bill pay you don't have to worry about checks sitting in your mailbox for people to steal, or making it to the post office before the last scheduled pick up.

You also eliminate the possibility of the post office sending your check to Florida when they should have sent it to Nevada. Online bill pay services range in cost from \$4 to \$15 per month. Realizing it costs much less to process an electronic payment than it does to process a check, financial institutions are increasingly offering this service for free. Alternatively, if you don't want to pay your bills online but still want the convenience of not writing checks each month, consider having your monthly payments automatically deducted from your account.

Review your credit report regularly. Don't assume your credit report is accurate and timely. In 2002 the Consumer Federation of America (CFA) and the National Credit Reporting Association (NCRA) extensively reviewed the credit files of 1,700 individuals, maintained by the three major credit bureaus — Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. Their research revealed that 78 percent of the 1,700 credit files examined were missing a revolving account in good standing, while 33 percent of the files were missing a mortgage account that had never been late. More concerning, in 43 percent of the files, reports on the same accounts conflicted with respect to how often consumers were reported as being 30 days late making payments. And in 29 percent of the files, there was conflicting information about many times the consumer had been reported as being 60 days late with a payment.

You can request a copy of your credit report from each of the three credit repositories (Equifax: www.equifax.com; Experian: www.experian.com; TransUnion: www.transunion.com). Costs range from \$10 to \$40 depending on whether you want your credit score and report from just one bureau or all three.

Peruse your history for inaccurate information. One advantage of looking at your history online is your ability to challenge any discrepancies by clicking a box on the Internet site. A credit bureau has 30 days from the time the challenge is filed to check with the creditor who reported the information. If the creditor agrees, the bureau corrects the information. If the creditor disputes the information, you have the right to add a statement explaining the dispute to your credit file. The Federal Trade Commission (www.ftc.gov) can explain your rights in a credit dispute.

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL), a statewide trade association representing Michigan credit unions. Send your financial questions to "Your Money Matters" c/o the Michigan Credit Union League, P.O. Box 8054, Plymouth, MI 48170-8054, or stop by our Web site (www.mcule.org) to learn more about smart money management.

ADVERTORIAL



Photo by David Aguilar

At Milford Jewelers, located in downtown Milford at 441 N. Main St., gifts are available between \$25 and \$10,000.

Milford Jewelers: Your friendly jewelry store

It's hard to tell sometimes that it's a jewelry store at all.

Sure, the cherrywood cases overflowing with sparkling diamond and gemstone delights often give it away. And the constant whir of a respected craftsman putting the final hand-engraved touches on a customized ring is yet another tell-tale sign.

But that's such a small part of the real Milford Jewelers story that it often seems redundant. What makes the store located in downtown Milford unique — besides its quaint 441 N. Main St. existence, that is — is its uncanny

ability to make everyone seem welcome.

Not simply purchasers of finely-crafted jewelry. Not only the fancily-dressed and the well-to-do. But everyone.

The mom who is hurrying home from work, two children in tow; the father who waited until the last minute on the day of his wedding anniversary to find "just the right gift."

The made-up. And the casually dressed. Those searching for the perfect engagement ring. And those just stopping by to say "hello," or grab a cookie.

Indeed, the real gems at Milford Jewelers are the 1,500 or so customers who have to date graced the store during its 18-month life. And the many more who simply stop by to chat. Or share a joke. Or tell a story. Or borrow the local newspaper.

"We are a people-oriented family," Tamar Aguilar said, who long with older brother, Jacques Chopjian, owns Milford Jewelers. "We could be selling widgets on the side of the road and we'd still take the same approach: people first."

Maybe that's why so many new

customers have discovered Milford Jewelers — and then sworn allegiance to them.

Maybe it's because Milford Jewelers is family-based. Maybe it's because the family of four brothers and one sister proudly owns four jewelry retail stores and operates its own jewelry manufacturing facility.

Or maybe it's simply because after 30 years of hand-etching a professional nameplate, the family is still not content, still unwavering when it comes to watermark items such quality craftsmanship, friendliness and professional customer service.

"We have never tried to be anything we are not," Jacques said. "We have never tried to reinvent ourselves, simply to be the biggest jeweler around or the fanciest."

"What we do is simply open the door and let people come in — to discover us in whatever way they feel comfortable."

Sometimes that's dressed casually in sweats, Tamar said. Sometimes that's in a \$1,000 dress. It doesn't really matter much. People are people.

"And they all deserve respect," she said. "Everyone deserves to be listened to, especially in this business where people are looking for something that feels unique to them."

That's where having a family business which can design, customize and manufacture any jewelry piece comes in especially handy, she said.

"We specialize in doing things everyone else says can't be done," Tamar said. "Because we have resources most jewelers don't — like the ability and expertise to actually design and cast jewelry, even platinum — we can always offer a significant step up in quality."

And a step down in price. "That's the benefit of having a

MILFORD JEWELERS

Milford Jewelers has extended holiday hours: Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday Noon to 4 p.m.

Milford Jewelers is located at 441 N. Main St., in downtown Milford. For more information, call (248) 676-0721.



Photo by Hal Gould

Tamar Aguilar and Jacques Chopjian have been a huge success in Milford. The reason? People are simply comfortable entering their downtown Main Street store to shop, browse or say hello.

jeweler who can do the job, start to finish," Jacques said. "When someone comes into our store and says they want a ring like this or like that, we say, 'No problem.'"

Tamar said the family's business philosophy is by design. And from the heart. "We know people are sometimes intimidated by the jewelry store experience," she said. "That's why we go out of our way to make people feel at ease."


Don't believe it? Ask around. "Ask the people who are already sitting here whenever that front door swings open," Tamar said. "People come in all the time, just to say hello. Or to sit down and share a cup of coffee."

Friendliness begets its own rewards, she said. "That tells us people know we are interested in much more than simply selling them jewelry. We are most interested in forming friendships that last as long as the pieces we design."

She thought a moment, then returned the enthusiastic wave of someone walking by outside, along the brick-path sidewalk.

"What better compliment could we ever get than having someone ask one of our customers, 'Where did you get that beautiful ring?'"

"Then having our customer proudly reply: 'From our friends at Milford Jewelers.'"



Tamar Aguilar & Jacques Chopjian, sister-brother, co-owners

MILFORD JEWELERS

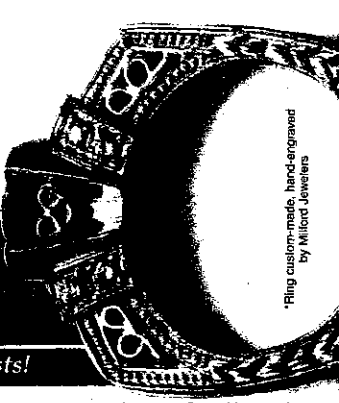
"Your friendly jewelry store"

Diamond Spectacular!

GIA certified diamonds at prices you can afford!

A true jeweler! Repair, custom design and hand-engraving specialists!

441 N. Main St. • Milford • (248) 676-0721 • Monday-Thursday 10-6 • Friday 10-9 • Saturday 10-5 • Sunday Noon-4 (Beg. Nov. 23)



*Ring custom-made, hand-engraved by Milford Jewelers