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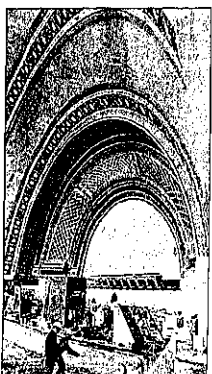
INSIDE



Baja Fresh

Berenice Alicea, general manager of Novi's Baja Fresh, displays some of the just-prepared food that her Novi Town Center location is known for including store-made chips and salsa and a platter of chicken fajitas.

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Over the Hill? No way!

Workers put the finishing touches on Hill Auditorium, which is celebrating a fresh renovation.

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HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS EXCLUSIVE: Inside the Ford Wixom plant: Creating the GT



Special poster on pages 8/9

Star-struck



Photo by John Heider

Faces of Novi Woods Elementary students are illuminated by the light reflections on the walls of a portable, inflatable starlab planetarium last Wednesday morning. See the full story on page 14.

Waging war for Wixom project

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

While it's unclear when the aging Wixom Road Bridge over I-96 will get replaced, one thing is clear — there is no love lost between State Senator Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) and state Department of Transportation Director Gloria Jeff.

The pair banged fenders during a heated exchange at what was billed by the department as a "listening session" Jan. 8 at the Troy Marriott.

State Rep. Craig DeRoche (R-Novi), who has also been a vocal critic of Jeff, declared the night "a total disaster for the MDOT director."

Novi's legislative delegation first collided with the transportation director last spring when Jeff announced Gov. Jennifer Granholm's Preserve First program which took 34 road projects out of the construction pipeline across the

continued on page 2

Ciao, Novi!

Maisano's changes hands

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

It started out years ago as a Town Club Pop store, and eventually became one of the most well-known restaurants in Novi.



Frank Maisano

Maisano's — a landmark of the city for more than 20 years at 26139 Novi Road just north of Grand River in Wonderland Plaza — now boasts a new owner, with Michael Vardomiotis taking over the restaurant last month.

Previous owners Frank and Jackie Maisano decided to sell the business and retire to Orlando, Fla., to be closer to their son, Joe, his wife, Stephanie, and their 1-year-old granddaughter, Sophia Rose, who has a baby sister due in March.

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Local Dems cast caucus votes online

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Michigan Democrats believe the Internet is key to them shaping the next Presidential election and increasing interesting the party.

Milford Township Jack Schneider became one of the first party members in the state to cast his ballot in the Democratic caucus Monday when he sat down in front of a computer at the Novi Public Library.

"I feel like a trendsetter," said the West Oakland County Democratic chairman.

Four years ago Michigan's Democrats gathered in one location in each of the state's 88 counties for their Presidential caucuses. This year West Oakland County Democrats will have 10 locations to vote at in addition to the option of casting their ballots by mail or over the Internet.

Schneider said he believes 400,000 people across the state, including 17-year-olds who will be old enough to vote in November, will participate at one of the 600 caucus sites or over the Internet.

Those who cast their ballots over the Internet, said Oakland County Democratic Chairman Dave Woodward, will have a chance to vote before voters in Iowa and New Hampshire. Even though the results of the voting won't be released until the party's caucus Feb. 7, Woodward, who serves as State Representative for Royal Oak and Madison Heights, said he believes whoever wins the Michigan caucus will win the Democratic Presidential nomination when then party meets

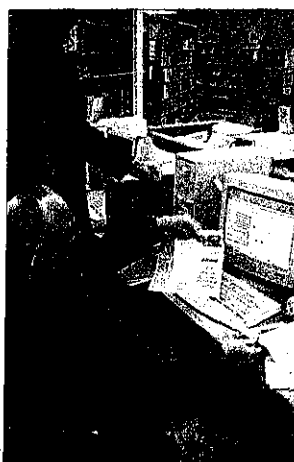


Photo by Phil Foley

Oakland County Democratic Party Chairman Dave Woodward (standing) helps Milford resident Jack Schneider cast his ballot for the Feb. 7 Democratic Caucus at the Novi Public Library Monday.

in Boston the end of July. Woodward noted that while the GOP holds a majority of elected offices in Oakland County, the county's fiscally-conservative, socially-liberal votes went Democratic in the last three national elections.

He said Oakland County has become a critical battleground in a traditional swing state. "It's difficult to win a Michigan statewide campaign without Oakland County," he said.

Schneider said the West Oakland Democratic Club, which includes party members from Commerce, Highland, Lyon, Milford, Novi and White Lake Townships as well as Novi, South Lyon, Walled Lake, Wixom and Wolverine Lake, is one of the fastest growing clubs in the state.

He said the group will meet next at 6 p.m. Jan. 21 for pizza at Mama Mia's followed by a club meeting at 7 p.m.

To vote online in the Democratic Caucus one needs to be a registered voter in Michigan. To get a ballot application, voters can visit www.applytovote.com or www.mi-democrat.com. They can also call Oakland County Democratic Headquarters at (248) 584-0510.

"It only takes a minute to apply," said Schneider. He said that even though he's not terribly computer literate, applying for a ballot and casting it was easy.

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

WEST OAKLAND CAUCUS LOCATIONS

All of Highland Twp. Highland Public Library 444 Beach Farm Circle Highland, MI 48357	Novi City and Novi Twp. Novi Public Library 45175 W. Ten Mile Novi, MI 48375	27005 S. Milford Rd. New Hudson, MI 48165	Twp. (11th District portion) White Lake Community Center 7525 Highland Rd. White Lake, MI 48383
Milford Twp., Village of Milford Milford Public Library 330 Family Dr. Milford, MI 48381	City of South Lyon, Lyon Twp., New Hudson (Oakland county portion only) Lyon Twp. Public Library	Walled Lake, Commerce Twp. Richardson Community Center 1485 Oakley Park Rd. Commerce Twp., MI 48390	Wixom City and Wolverine Lake UAW Local 36 28930 Wixom Rd. Wixom, MI 48393
		White Lake Twp., Waterford	

Providence project leaves a Lasting Impression

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

More than 200 people crowded into the lowest level of the Assarian Cancer Center Saturday to watch Kathy Ryan, vice president of acute services for Providence Hospital and Medical Centers, cut a wine red velvet ribbon to open Lasting Impressions.

"It's more than I expected," said Novi resident Maja Robinson who brought her 13-year-old son, Nathan, to find their tiles among the hundreds lining the walls of the tunnel joining the center with the main buildings on Providence's Novi campus.

Robinson and her co-workers at

Allied Home Mortgage were among the thousands of people who were involved in making tiles for the project. Her house tile is in a frame near the bend in the tunnel.

After the tiles were fired and glazed, Judy Buresh, the Center

"This was the most rewarding, inspirational experience I've ever had."

Karen North
supervisor of cancer care services at Providence

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in the Green Sheet Classifieds

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Preparing for the unthinkable

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

It couldn't happen here. Gunmen rampaging through a building of terrified people is something that happens in faraway places. Senseless killing is something you read about in the newspaper or see on television, but it doesn't happen here.

That's probably what they thought in Linton, Ohio, before two students at Columbine High School slaughtered 13 classmates and wounded 20 more before turning their guns fatally on themselves April 20, 1999.

That's probably what they thought at Wixom's Ford Assembly Plant before 31-year-old Gerald Atkins sprayed the place with 300 rounds from an automatic rifle, killing assistant plant manager Darrel Izard and wounding three others, including two Oakland County Sheriff's Deputies, Nov. 14, 1996.

That's why police officers from Wixom, Walled Lake and Wolverine Lake were training for the unthinkable in a vacant factory on the edge of Walled Lake last week.

The Wixom Police Department hosted four days of what's being called Active Shooter Training and it marks a substantial shift in police policy since the Columbine killings.

According to Wixom Det. Jim Osborne, prior to Columbine, patrol officers when confronted with a gunman were told to secure the perimeter and call for a SWAT team.

That's not what two Wixom patrol officers did seven years ago when Atkins, who is now serving a life prison sentence for Izard's murder, stormed the Wixom factory.

The officers grabbed their shotguns and chased Atkins through the plant, recalled Osborne. Reaching their lives, they saved others.

Sgt. John Kirkpatrick, who heads up Wixom's Active Shooter program, said Atkins later said investigators "if he hadn't been looking out for the officers, he would have been able to do more."

The officers, said Osborne, later told their superiors that "if they had assault rifles they could have ended the whole thing in the first 10 minutes. As it was, Atkins held officers from 13 agencies at bay for nearly five hours that November morning.

Most of the officers, like the two wounded deputies, were armed with handguns and were simply outgunned by Atkins, who had a high-powered assault rifle, said Osborne.

That has changed, said Sgt. Kirkpatrick, who heads up Wixom's



Walled Lake PD's Paul Shakinas, (left) Sgt. Charlie Yon and Officer Todd Hawk from Walled Lake practice hunting down a heavily armed gunman in an empty factory in Walled Lake.

Active Shooter program. He said all Wixom police now carry a 223 caliber AR-15 caliber rifle.

Det. Bob McGhee, a retired Detroit cop who now works with Wolverine Lake police, the training was a return to the days when he was a young officer. He said in the late 1960s and early '70s when he was getting started, officers were expected to kick the door and get the bad guys.

In the 1980s, he recalled, as criminals got better armed and the death toll among officers mounted, SWAT teams were formed and patrol officers were told to wait for reinforcements. "This is going back to the old days," he said.

That's fine with Linda Fultz, a patrol officer from Wixom. "I'm behind this 1,000 percent," said Fultz, who was outside the Ford plant in 1997. "This is the way it should be done."

The key, said Kirkpatrick, is training. He noted that while the Wixom Ford plant has an emergency operations manual that fills two thick binders and company officials now hold yearly tabletop exercises with local fire and police officials, most companies do not.

"It's normal. It's human nature," said Sgt. Kirkpatrick. "People want to believe this kind of thing is not going to happen. The evidence is, they do and not in places you'd suspect."

He said that's why it's important for local law enforcement to train regularly to face the unthinkable.

While the Wixom officers who chased Atkins in '97 simply grabbed their guns and ran, officers now are being trained to act as a unit and go to the sound of gunfire.

Sgt. Kirkpatrick said officers are being trained to rush the building only if people are being actively harmed. He said in the case of a barricaded gunman or hostage situation, they are still told to wait for SWAT and negotiating teams.

Det. Osborne admitted the shift in policy can be a little scary, "but that's our job."

"Hopefully, we'll never have to use this," said Sgt. Kirkpatrick, "but if we do, we'll be ready."

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

City of Novi declares January blood donor month; supply low

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Winter taxes, spring taxes—the government always wants your money. Now they want your blood, too.

Novi Mayor Lou Czaros declared January Volunteer Blood Donor Month and announced at the city's Jan. 5 council meeting that the city will be hosting a blood drive at the Civic Center Jan. 21.

According to the latest figures from the American Red Cross' Southeastern Michigan Blood Services, blood reserves for the region's 50 hospitals are less than 18 percent of what they should be. Normally the Red Cross has 6,000 units of blood on hand; currently it is just over 1,000.

According to Red Cross spokesman Andrea Ward, it's an annual problem brought on by the holidays. She said between holiday functions, shopping and shortened work schedules at

major companies, blood donations always fall off at the turn of the year.

Ward said the need for some types of blood is more critical than others. She said stocks of Type O and Type B blood are down to 400 units, enough for a six-day supply, when the Red Cross should have 3,600 units on hand.

"With reserves so low, it troubles me to think of the peril we would be in if a natural or other disaster occurred," said Diane Ward, CEO of the Red Cross' regional blood services.

In joining state and national proclamations, Mayor Czaros said "everyone should consider giving blood."

To give blood, said Andrea Ward, you must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in general good health.

The city's blood drive will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 21 at the Civic Center, 45175 West 10 Mile Road, Karen Amolsch, the city's community relations coordinator, said she's hoping for a much better turnout than last year's event when only 20 people donated. "The need is really there," she said.

The Sports Club of Novi, 42500 Arona Drive, just east of Novi Road between Nine and 10 Mile roads, will hold public blood drives from 2-8 p.m. Jan. 20.

For those who can't wait that long, there is always the Red Cross' Novi Donor Center at 41160 10 Mile Road. It's open from 1 to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

To make an appointment at any of these locations, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

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"With reserves so low, it troubles me to think of the peril we would be in if a natural or other disaster occurred."

Diane Ward
CEO of the Red Cross' regional blood services

Two escape major injuries in falls

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Friday was a bad day to be on a roof in Novi. First a firefighter fell off a roof while checking out a possible chimney fire, then a construction worker slipped from the roof of a bank under construction.

According to Novi Fire Chief Art Lenaghan, Scott Perry suffered a dislocated shoulder when he slipped off a roof at a home on Eight Mile Road between Garfield and Napier on the city's west side at 12:20 p.m. Jan. 9.

The chief said Perry and two other firefighters from Station Four were on the roof for the second time that day. He said the homeowner had reported a chimney fire earlier in the day and the crew had been sent out a second time to reassure the homeowner

that the fire was out.

"They had dumped a can of water down the chimney and they were coming down," said Chief Lenaghan. He said the other firefighters were on the ground when Perry lost his footing and fell 15 feet between the ladder and the roof of the house.

He was taken to Providence Hospital and Medical Center's Novi Campus "in a lot of discomfort," said the chief. He said Perry will be off work for a couple of weeks while his shoulder heals.

The Station Four crew was back out at 4:08 p.m. when an unidentified construction worker slipped from the roof of the TCF Bank under construction at West Market Square.

According to reports, the man was working alone when he fell

20 feet to a concrete parking area. The man remained conscious and was able to call for help on his cell phone, Chief Lenaghan said he didn't think the man was in "too bad a shape" since he was able to call for help.

The unidentified construction worker was taken across the street to Providence.

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OBITUARIES

Sylvia G. Carley

Sylvia Carley died January 8, 2004 at her residence in Northville. She was 77. Mrs. Carley was born on July 6, 1926 in Detroit to the late Ignatius Mackiewicz and Anna Ciolk Mackiewicz.

She retired from the Hawthorne Center in 1978 after 15 years of service as a medical receptionist.

Survivors include five children, Dennis Carley of Redford, Thomas (Deborah) Carley of Brighton, Janice (Doree) Finney of Novi, Ronald (Michelle) Carley of Livonia, and David (Elizabeth) Carley of Northville; 12 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held January 12 at Grace Christian Fellowship Church, Livonia with Pastor Mark J. Freer officiating. Interment will be at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Grace Christian Fellowship Church, 29530 Manger, Livonia, Mich.

Arrangements were made by Northrup-Sassaman Funeral Home, Northville.

Valentina Ross
Valentina Ross of Novi died January 6, 2004. She was 54. Tina touched all the hearts of those who knew her and will be missed by all.

Survivors include three sons, Leon Helfrick (Carrie Camfield), David II (Adele) Ross, and Kurtis (Tammy) Ross; and five grandchildren, Ashley, Kurtis III, Nicholas, David III and Itaielle.

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SENIOR CALENDAR

*Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Phone: (248) 347-6414.

Thursday 1/15

9 a.m.-noon: Massage Therapy
9:30 a.m.: Line Dance*
9:30 a.m.: Travel meeting
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: Sunday Shop Open noon
12:15 p.m.: Lunch
1 p.m.: Beginners / 2 p.m. Adv. Line Dance

Friday 1/16

9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
10 a.m.: Crafts with Loretta
11 a.m.: Medicare, Jack Main
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: Sundry Shop Open noon
Lunch & 12:30 p.m. Bingo
12:30 p.m.: Clogging*
12:30 p.m.: Daryl Bridge*

Monday 1/19

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

Tuesday 1/20

9 a.m.-12 p.m.: Massage Therapy
9 a.m.: Body Recall
9 a.m.-11 a.m.: Computer Class-Intro
9:30 a.m.: Line Dance*
10 a.m.: Asian Pacific
10:30 a.m.: Bookmobile
noon: Lunch
12:30 p.m.: Bingo
1-3 p.m.: Computer Class-Windows

Wednesday 1/21

9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
10 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.: Clogging
2 p.m.-4 p.m.: Estate Planning by Appl.

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ENGAGEMENT



Kaminski-Webber

Jeff and Sue Kaminski of Novi announce the engagement of their daughter, Nicole Kaminski, to Peter Webber, son of Pam and Ron Webber of Southfield.

The bride-elect is a 1999 graduate of Novi High School and a 2001 graduate of the University of Michigan. She is currently enrolled in a master's program at the University of Michigan and will graduate in May 2004.

The groom-elect is a 2002 graduate of Southfield Christian High School and is currently attending the University of Michigan.

A July 2004 wedding is planned.

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BUSINESS

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

Baja Fresh offers health menu choices

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Probably the top New Year's resolution with those who need to lose weight.

Whether you're following a low-carbohydrate diet or a low-fat diet, Baja Fresh Mexican Grill, with new locations in Novi and Northville, has menu items that fit the bill.

In its new Lifestyle Choices menu introduced last summer, the restaurant has menu items that fit many diets for calories, protein, carbohydrates, fat, fiber, cholesterol and sodium.

"Due to the initial response and demand we've had on the menu items, we've continued it," said Mike Versaci, vice president of the local franchise operation.

High protein selections start with Chicken Picado with light-style char-broiled chicken, grilled green peppers, onions and melted cheese. The chicken is finished with fresh Salsa Verde, guacamole, sour cream and salsa. Steak Picado is also on this menu.

Another high protein choice is "Side-by-Side," a full meal of freshly char-broiled chicken and a side salad topped with Salsa Verde. The dish is served with guacamole, Pico de Gallo salsa and Monterey jack cheese and avocado slices.

Baja Ensalada is another high protein entrée with romaine lettuce, char-broiled chicken, tortilla strips, Pico de Gallo and shaved cheese.

The low fat menu features the Bare Burrito served in a bowl instead of a tortilla with char-broiled chicken, grilled peppers, chilies and onions, rice, beans, Pico de Gallo and Salsa Verde.

The Veggie Bare Burrito is the same dish minus the chicken. Tachuelas Verano consists of



Berenice Alicea is general manager of Novi's Baja Fresh.

char-broiled chicken, grilled peppers, chilies, onions topped with Salsa Verde and shaved cheese served with rice and beans and Pico de Gallo salsa.

Another low fat choice is Original Baja Style Tacos, which are mini soft corn tortillas with chopped onion and cilantro, hot or mild salsa, and your choice of char-broiled marinated chicken or Gulf shrimp.

Shrimp Ensalada provides another low fat meal with char-broiled Gulf shrimp, romaine lettuce, Pico de Gallo and shaved cheese.

"We've been in the restaurant business for 25 years, so we have a lot of experience," Versaci said.

Versaci said the California-based franchise is the most popular Mexican restaurant in California.

"It has almost a cult-like following. They're very passionate about it, and we hope to duplicate that here. So far, we've been very happy," he said.

The restaurant serves steak and ground beef, as well as chicken, shrimp and fish. "Some items only have a six-hour shelf life,"

Versaci said.

The salsa bar has four different types, including Pico de Gallo, a chunky tomato salsa; Salsa Baja, a dark salsa made with char-broiled tomatoes; Salsa Verde, a Mexican-tomato-based salsa; and Salsa Roja, a hot red salsa. Pickled jalapeno peppers and

Mexican restaurant uses fresh approach

■ Newest two locations in Novi, Northville

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

It's always good to take a fresh approach.

And that's exactly what the restaurant chain Baja Fresh has done.

With ingredients tracked in daily from downtown Detroit's Eastern Market, this Mexican grill's menu items are as fresh as it gets.

The chain boasts six locations in the Detroit area, with the two newest stores located in the Novi/Northville area.

A location opened at 43271 Crescent Blvd. at Novi Town Center in mid-October 2003, and the most recent addition began operations at 17933 Haggerty Road north of Six Mile at the Northville Village shopping center the weekend after Thanksgiving 2003.

"We capitalized on some of the holiday shopping," said Mike Versaci, vice president of the local franchise operation owned by his father, Tony, and his partner Mike Lucci, who used to play for the Detroit Lions.

"They understand the food, and there is a sense of pride in preparing the native food of their country. You'll hear Spanish spoken here, and the music is Spanish too. It creates an authentic ambiance," he said.

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The chain has restaurants in 15 states and the District of Columbia. "We expect to open a total of 15 stores in the next three years," Versaci said. He noted that his family has exclusive rights to the franchise in Michigan.

For more information, check out the chain's Web site at

www.bajafresh.com.

Other locations are at 37660 Twelve Mile Rd. at the northwest corner of Twelve Mile and

Hales in Farmington Hills; at 38644 Telegraph Rd. at Telegraph and Twelve Mile in the Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield; at 13577 Coolidge Hwy. at Maple and

Coolidge at Midtown Square in Troy; and at 176 N. Adams at Walton Blvd. at the Village of Rochester Hills.

A seventh location will open at the end of January at Northwestern Hwy. and Fourteen Mile in Farmington Hills.

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.



Novi Town Center's Baja Fresh employee Jose Piri assembles a platter of chicken fajitas on a recent Friday evening.

fresh cilantro are also on the bar.

Baja Fresh also provides party packs that can be picked up for home or office.

The restaurant has no freezers, no microwaves and no can openers. Cooks also don't use hard MSG.

"Burritos are our specialty, and our burritos are identical to those you'd get on a street corner in Mexico, which are called taquerias," Versaci said.

"The tacos feature two soft corn tortillas, which is typical in Mexico with either steak, chicken, shrimp or fish. The fish served is a becaled fillet of talapia, a very mild whitefish."

The salsa bar has four different types, including Pico de Gallo, a chunky tomato salsa; Salsa Baja, a dark salsa made with char-broiled tomatoes; Salsa Verde, a Mexican-tomato-based salsa; and Salsa Roja, a hot red salsa. Pickled jalapeno peppers and

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bank One hires Novi resident

Bank One recently named experienced banker Clyde Carlson of Novi to manage relationships with small business customers in the Ann Arbor area.

Based at Bank One's Zeeb Road branch, Carlson will also work with customers at the bank's Main/Washington, Packard, Plymouth/Green and Westgate offices.

Carlson brings more than 25 years of banking, finance and sales experience to his new position at Bank One. The former president of a community bank in Illinois, he built the bank's book of business from zero to \$2.2 million in loans and \$2.8 million in deposits in a year.

He is active in the Novi Lions Club and Rotary Club.

Mail names facilities director

Twelve Oaks Mall at 196 and Novi Road has named Ken Ruona as its new facilities director.

Ruona will oversee all facility and tenant construction, building and mechanical maintenance, plumbing, electrical and HVAC systems, landscaping and site maintenance; and interior and exterior cleaning services for the 180-store shopping center.

Ruona previously worked for the Clark Retail Group, based in Detroit and Chicago, where he began as construction project manager in 1989 and spent the last six years as director of facilities for more than 1,000 properties.

Before joining Clark, he spent six years with G.E. Wash Construction in Detroit as construction estimator and senior project manager.

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Cable TV studios start internship program

Do you know a college student who needs to "get out of the classroom?"

The Southwestern Oakland County Cable Commission Studios have implemented an internship program for local students who have an interest in the communication arts.

Several interns are currently working with the staff at the studios and are highly involved in everyday productions including videography, editing and producing.

Deve Reinhardt, a graduate of Spivey Howard School of Broadcasting in Southfield, says "The internship program at SWOCC provides a deeper look into the business end of television. It has also taught me a lot of stuff you can't learn in a classroom."

Positions are available in TV production or promotion. The production interns require participation in television productions. The promotion interns work closely with the Community Relations department of SWOCC Studios to publicize, educate, and coordinate channel promotions with the surrounding communities.

Interns must be at least 18 years old and accepted on an open enrollment basis. For more information about the internship program at SWOCC Studios please call (248) 473-2834.

The next SWOCC meeting is at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 21 at 6:30 at Farmington City Hall.

Michigan tourism looking up in 2004

This year's travel and tourism outlook is upbeat, according to Travel Michigan. The state's official agency for the promotion of tourism recently conducted a survey to provide a barometer of the state's tourism industry over 2003 in addition to projections for 2004.

"Michigan's tourism industry is optimistic about the coming year with more than 60 percent of the Michigan tourism businesses surveyed saying that 2004 will be better than 2003," said George Zimmerman, interim chief operating officer for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and vice president of Travel Michigan.

Data for the survey was gathered from two groups — Michigan tourism businesses and potential Michigan travelers. Consumers surveyed reported that they expect to increase their level of travel in or to Michigan in 2004 from 5.1 trips to 5.7 trips, a 10.5 percent increase.

Overall, the tourism industry contributes \$15 billion to Michigan's economy annually, accounting for 188,000 jobs and generating \$68 million in state tax revenues. This makes tourism the second largest industry in the state.

Compiled by Pam Fleming

Red Lobster boasts new look

The Novi Red Lobster at 27760 Novi Road by Twelve Oaks Mall was recently enhanced with the company's award-winning "Coastal Home" decor that emphasizes the bright, open feel of the sea.

The restaurant has also been expanded to offer additional guest seating.

New items on the kids' menu include Snow Crab Legs & Steamed Veggies, Grilled Mahi-Mahi & Steamed Veggies and Popcorn Shrimp & Fries. All kids' meals come with a choice of appetizer or fresh carrots and

bowling tournament will take place March 7.

The primary mission of the Open Door Outreach Center, Inc., is to provide emergency services (food, clothing and referral information) to families in need. The Center in Waterford depends on support and funding from individuals, local businesses, corporations, and religious and civic organizations. For more information about the center, call (248) 360-2930.

Maples Country Club Restaurant is located at 31260 Wakefield Drive two blocks east of Novi Road off Fourteen Mile Road. For reservations, call (248) 669-6551.

The dinners will be offered from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. each Wednesday. For \$5.95, patrons will receive a spaghetti and meatball dinner with salad, rolls and butter. For every meal sold, \$1 will be split between the four charities.

The four charities, which are all members of the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, include: Aplastic Anemia Foundation of Michigan, Hospitality House, the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund and Open Door Outreach Center, Inc.

The Aplastic Anemia Foundation of Michigan, in Wolverine Lake, provides emotional support, educational mate-

rials and updated medical information for patients with aplastic anemia, myelodysplastic syndromes and other bone marrow failure diseases. The foundation also helps patients' families and financially supports research to find effective treatments for these diseases. For more information on Michigan call (248) 624-1394.

Every month, the Hospitality House food pantry in Walled Lake provides over 3,000 pounds of food to people in need who live in the Walled Lake School District. Part of United We Serve, the organization depends on the generous donations of goods or services. For more information about the Hospitality House, call (248) 974-5172.

The Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund awards a number of college scholarships to graduating seniors from area high schools. The awards are presented at the Chamber's Annual Membership Luncheon each June.

The Chamber also hosts an annual Better Business Bowling Tournament to support the Scholarship Fund. This year the

Registrations down on 2003 models

Total U.S. new vehicle registrations were down by 6.5 percent at the close of the 2003 model year compared to 2002, according to automotive intelligence provider R.L. Polk & Co.

Car registrations were down 9.2 percent, and truck registrations were down 4.1 percent. Toyota Camry and the Ford F-150 truck took the top spots as far as registrations.

European brands and sport utility vehicles were the only segments to show growth in an otherwise down new vehicle market for the model year.

Registrations for the 2003 model year were 16,434,563, their lowest level since the 1999 model year when 16,149,984 new vehicles were registered by U.S. consumers.

Lannie Miller, director of analytical solutions at Polk, expects new vehicle registrations to increase in 2004.

"Economic indicators are trending positively, and are signaling a turnaround for the economy and the automotive market," he said. "We project new vehicle sales to reach 16.6 million for the 2003 calendar year, increasing to 17 million for the 2004 calendar year."

America opens Novi branch

Comerica Bank, announced Jan. 6 the opening of a new branch in Novi at 47230 West Ten Mile Road.

In addition to traditional banking services, the office features a walk-up ATM, night-depository and self-serve security boxes which enable customers to store important papers and other critical items in a protected box that they can conveniently access on their own.

Toni Thomas, who has 18 years of banking experience, manages the new Novi office. She has been with Comerica for four years and previously served as an officer in the bank's West Bloomfield branch.

To celebrate the opening of Comerica's new branch in Novi, customers will receive special promotional offers through Feb. 28, including:

- Free first order of checks on any new personal checking account opening for the Michigan
- Installment loan rate discount of 1/4 percent
- Free Web Bill Pay service for 12 months
- Free personal financial plan through Comerica Securities
- 50 percent off security box rental for 12 months up to \$50
- No maintenance fee for 12 months on money market investment accounts

The branch lobby is open Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Comerica Bank is Michigan's oldest and largest bank.

Compiled by Pam Fleming

Milford Times
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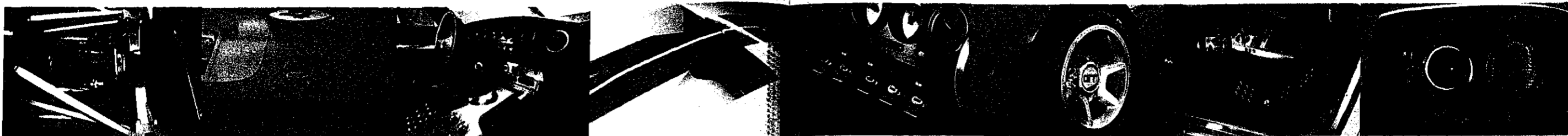


Winter Sale

Sale Ends January 24th
There's nothing better to chase away those wintertime blues than buying something fresh and new for that favorite room in your home. Whether it's the living room, dining room or the bedroom, we have prices and values to cure those winter blahs.

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HomeTown Newspapers EXCLUSIVE

Inside Ford's Wixom Plant: Creating the new GT



Ford Wixom employees Helen Hurlburt and Jerry Roach check out a shipment of newly-arrived 5.4 liter, 500 horsepower engines that are destined to be used in the Ford GT the plant's crafting. The rear-mounted engines are made in Ford's Romeo assembly plant.

By Phil Foley
HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

When Mark Jarosz was 8 years old, someone gave him a set of Matchbox cars that included a tiny white-and-blue Ford GT40. Today, 35 years later, he's heading up a team of Ford craftsmen responsible for final assembly of one of the most highly anticipated and talked about sports cars in decades.

Last week Jarosz and his band of 17 began disassembling a bright yellow, non-driveable runner inside what was once the Carcraft glass plant next to the Wixom Ford Assembly Plant in order to perfect their assembly techniques for Ford's \$139,000 super car, the GT.

"I used to push them around on the floor, now I'm building them. How cool is that?" said the Wixom resident.

Two years ago, when Ford CEO Bill Ford unveiled the GT40 concept at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, company officials hinted broadly that it was more than a designer's dream and less than a month a half later announced the company would build the car. The announcement came amidst a storm of stories in the busi-

ness and enthusiastic press about Ford's financial performance and product quality.

The first hiccup came when company officials discovered that no one had protected the name GT40 that won Henry Ford II racing glory in the mid-1960s and a kit car maker had trademarked the name. Ford's centennial car quietly became the Ford GT.

So far 15 GTs, including the three rolled out as 2003 models at Ford's centennial celebration this summer, have been hand built with the help of the Wixom team at Saleen Special Vehicles in Irvine, Calif. The first driveable Ford GT is expected to come out of the Wixom Prototype Build Center later this month.

"This is something I've always wanted to be involved in," said John Stachowiak, a 33-year Ford veteran from Howell. "I like the idea of a hands-on project."

Each Ford GT will be shepherded from one end of the assembly area to the other by just two people. "These are craftsmen, not assemblers," Brock Roy, UAW Local 36 chairman. "They should have their names on the car."

Jarosz noted that all the members of the assembly team are cross trained in a number of skills.

"I've been involved in launches before, but nothing like this," said Dick Wagner of Highland. "It's pretty exciting with the attention."

There is a security level at the Wixom Prototype Build Center that's closer to a design center than a normal production plant. Besides Jarosz, only two other people have keys to the building.

When two busloads of auto enthusiasts arrived at the sprawling Wixom Assembly Plant Jan. 8 for a tour of the Lincoln and Thunderbird lines, the GT assembly area was not on the tour.

Ford GT bodies will be delivered six at a time in enclosed trailers, the kind used to deliver vehicles to auto shows, and they'll leave the same way, Jarosz said plans call for his team to produce about 8 to 10 units per day and up to 1,500 per year, which is about 10 percent of the annual production for Thunderbirds.

While at Wixom, the final assembly team will mate Ford's 500-horsepower MDD 5.4-liter supercharged V-8 engine to a six-speed transaxle and wedge it into the car's engine compartment. Team members will then install the interior before driving the car down a 165-foot-long test track that's borrowed a title from Ford's best squeak-and-rattle tests.

"There can be no defects," said Jarosz. "That's one of the things that attracted Helen Hurlburt, a paint specialist with 30 years at Ford, to the project. "It's a challenge. I want this to be the very best. I want the people who own these cars to take as much pride in owning them as we do in making them."

While the Ford GT is likely to draw the glancing attention of every auto enthusiast and performance magazine when it hits the dealers this summer, team members seem very calm about it. "This is our opportunity to show the world what we're all about," said Roy. Even the assembly area itself was erected by members of Local 36.

"We've become a close-knit family here," said Jarosz. "Every person has a handheld radio so we can stay in constant touch."

In some ways the Ford GT line reaches back to Henry Ford's original Model T line. Like Ford's first car a century ago, the GT is moved through the plant and assembled by hand.

Unlike Ford's Model T, the GT is not an everyman car. The sale price of Ford's entire first year of production wouldn't equal the base price of one GT.

How can you get one?

So, what are the chances of seeing a Ford GT on a dealer's lot near you? Well...

While Ford Motor Company has 3,850 dealers nationwide, plans call for the Wixom Prototype Build Center no more than 1,500 of the \$139,995 supercar per year. That's not enough for one car for every other Ford dealer and one of them has already been sold.

An undisclosed bidder ponied up \$557,500 at a Christie's Auction during the 53rd annual Pebble Beach Concours

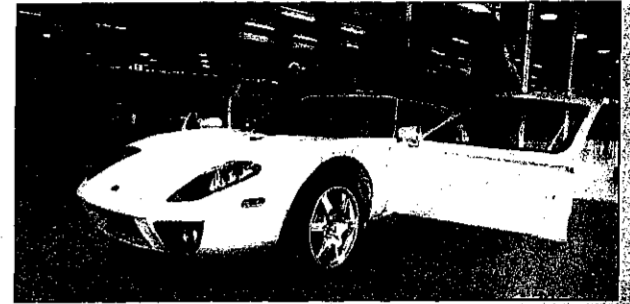
d'Elegance in Monterey, Calif., in August. Proceeds from the sale went to support charities designated by the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, including The Pebble Beach Company Foundation, United Way of Monterey County, The Wheelchair Foundation, and Boys & Girls Club of Monterey County.

The remaining cars, said Larry Fisher, dealer relations manager at the Wixom Assembly Plant, will be parceled out on the basis of hard work and luck. Only dealers with a high sales volume and a President's Award for superior customer service will be considered for the opportunity to sell a Ford GT.

From that select group, a distribution lottery will be held to see who gets to have a Ford GT on their lot. The happy few are expected to find out who they are in April.

According to several published reports, dealers have been taking substantial deposits without knowing if they'll ever see one of the cars.

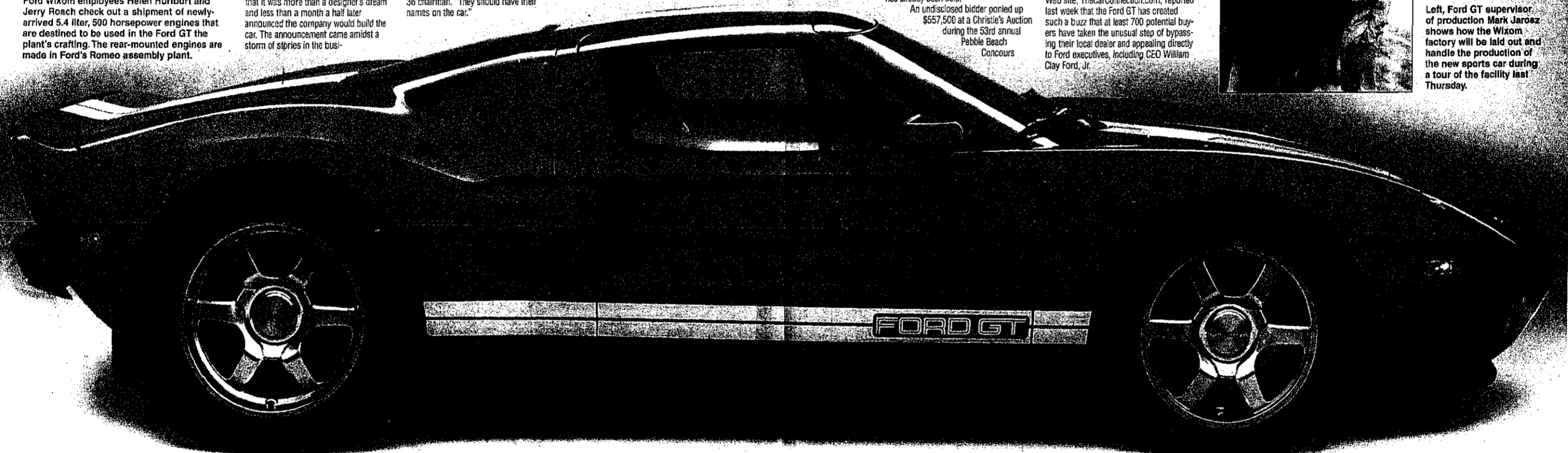
Automotive insider Paul Eisenstein's Web site, TheCarConnection.com, reported last week that the Ford GT has created such a buzz that at least 700 potential buyers have taken the unusual step of bypassing their local dealer and appealing directly to Ford executives, including CEO William Clay Ford, Jr.



Above, the Wixom plant that Ford's \$139,000 GT sits in, which used to be used to make Corvette windshields, will soon be assembling the 500-horsepower automobile.



Left, Ford GT supervisor of production Mark Jarosz shows how the Wixom factory will be laid out and handle the production of the new sports car during a tour of the facility last Thursday.



FORD GT SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE		Supercharger Eaton Model 2300 screw-type		WHEELS & TIRES		Triple		Leg room 44.6 in. (1132 mm)	
Configuration V-8, aluminum block, aluminum	Throttle body Twin 70 mm	Front 18 x 9 in.	4th 0.94:1	Wheels		4th 0.94:1	Sloulder room 57.7 in.		
four-valve cylinder heads, H-beam connecting rods,	Exhaust manifold Cast iron	Rear 19 x 11.5 in.	Triple	Tires		5th 0.77:1	Hip room 57.8 in.		
forged aluminum pistons	Exhaust system Low restriction dual with active muffler	Front Goodyear Eagle F1 Supercar	Double	BRAKES		6th 0.63:1	Passenger volume 52.8 cu. in.		
Bore x Stroke 90.2 mm x 105.8 mm		Rear 235/45ZR18	Double	Front 14.0 x 1.3 in. (355 x 32 mm) Brembo cross-		Double	Fuel capacity 17.5 gallons		
Displacement 5.4 liters (5409 cc/330 cid)		Front 13.2 x 1.3 in. (335 x 32 mm) Brembo cross-	Reverse	drilled and vented discs, four-piston monoblock calipers		Final drive	Oil capacity 10 qts.		
Bore x Stroke 90.2 mm x 105.8 mm		Rear 13.2 x 1.3 in. (335 x 32 mm) Brembo cross-	Double	drilled and vented discs, four-piston monoblock calipers		3.135:1	Recommended fuel 91 octane (premium)		
Horsepower 500 @ 6,000 rpm		Front 14.0 x 1.3 in. (355 x 32 mm) Brembo cross-	Double	drilled and vented discs, four-piston monoblock calipers		3.38:1	Weight distribution, fr 43/57		
Torque 500 lb-ft @ 4,500 rpm		Rear 13.2 x 1.3 in. (335 x 32 mm) Brembo cross-	Final drive	drilled and vented discs, four-piston monoblock calipers		3.38:1			
Specific output 92.6 hp/l		Front 14.0 x 1.3 in. (355 x 32 mm) Brembo cross-	DRIVETRAIN		ABS Four-channel, four-sensor system				
Redline 6,500 rpm		Rear 13.2 x 1.3 in. (335 x 32 mm) Brembo cross-	Transaxle Ricardo six-speed						
Valvetrain Double overhead camshafts,		Front 14.0 x 1.3 in. (355 x 32 mm) Brembo cross-	Differential Helical limited-slip						
four valves per cylinder		Rear 13.2 x 1.3 in. (335 x 32 mm) Brembo cross-	Clutch Twin disc, 240 mm						
Intake valves Two per cylinder, 37 mm		Front 14.0 x 1.3 in. (355 x 32 mm) Brembo cross-	EQUIPMENT						
Exhaust valves Two per cylinder, 32 mm		Rear 13.2 x 1.3 in. (335 x 32 mm) Brembo cross-	• Driver and passenger air bags						
Ignition system Electronic distributorless, coil-on-plug		Front 14.0 x 1.3 in. (355 x 32 mm) Brembo cross-	• Anti-lock brake system (ABS)						
Fuel system Sequential multi-port electronic fuel		Rear 13.2 x 1.3 in. (335 x 32 mm) Brembo cross-	• Front fog lamps						
injection (SEFI) with dual injectors per cylinder		Front 14.0 x 1.3 in. (355 x 32 mm) Brembo cross-	• SecurILock™ passive anti-theft system						
		Rear 13.2 x 1.3 in. (335 x 32 mm) Brembo cross-	• Leather-wrapped, three-spoke, telescoping steering						
		Front 14.0 x 1.3 in. (355 x 32 mm) Brembo cross-	wheel						
		Rear 13.2 x 1.3 in. (335 x 32 mm) Brembo cross-	• Aluminum gearshift knob						
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CLASS NOTES

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

Major changes on the way

Novi must comply with new curriculum mandates by spring

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Community School District has but a few months to change curriculum that took years to develop as they work to comply with the federal No Child Left Behind benchmarks. The federal mandates require that math and English language arts will both be tested starting in third grade and every year after.

That means new grade level MAP tests will be implemented as early as the 2004-05 school year. The MAP tests that used to be given to grades four, five, seven, eight and 11 will change. Mathematics and English language arts will be tested in grades three through eight. Other subjects that the MAP tests, such as social studies and science, will stay the same.

Part of the complexity to this is that Michigan has to have its new curriculum in place across the state by the 2005-06 school year. That means that Novi and all the other districts in Michigan have one year, the 2004-05 school year, to get organized and instruct students so that they will have the opportunity to succeed when they take the new MAP tests.

"We have to change the curriculum for those two subject areas by this spring so it's ready to be taught next school year," said Jane Hesse, director of K-12 curriculum and assessment for Novi schools. "The Michigan Curriculum Framework, which is what we currently use, took years to develop and now we have to change it within a few months."

Hesse explained that the Michigan State Board of Education approved the federal government plan for changes in the curriculum on Nov. 20, 2003, and she said that

was like an unofficial message to districts to get busy and start changing what they were doing. When Hesse met with Novi's math teachers, they took a look at the Michigan curriculum and compared it to the federal curriculum. In trying to pinpoint the areas that need changes and those that can stay the same, they found many more of the former.

New curriculum means new materials

Another challenge is that the materials teachers use should also change — but there aren't any new materials published yet that coincide with the federal mandates. In kindergarten through sixth grade, Novi uses an every day math program, which has books that coincide. The books that are purchased to implement the Michigan curriculum aren't necessarily organized for the federal curriculum. When math teachers compared the two curriculums, they had many questions as to how the changes can be made.

"I asked the teachers to color code," Hesse said. "A pink mark means a match, green means there's no match and yellow means that something has to change to make it a match. There were a lot more green marks than any other color. When you look at what we have to modify, we have to find materials that will match the federal benchmarks. But where are they? Even if we could afford them, there are none out there because this is all totally brand new and they haven't been published yet."

Until some of these new materials start to become available and Novi has the resources to purchase them, district officials have to be able to rely on the expertise of their educators to be able to teach effectively without them.

"Fortunately, we in Novi have very fine teachers and, secondly, they aren't instructors in a classroom," Hesse said. "They have been learners in their own right and they have been helping to facilitate products that everyone uses in the district over many years. That's a team and we can't go out and publish a book right now, but we can

Why the changes?

Some of the new federal changes that are to be implemented in Novi's curriculum are math standards that say multiplication tables must be learned by second grade and algebraic concepts begin in sixth and seventh grades. Currently, multiplication is taught in third grade and many students don't do algebra until ninth grade, although there is a lot of middle school algebra going on already.

"These stricter math benchmarks are being pushed down to lower grades, but all the math books being used in those lower grades are teaching lower math skills. Hesse explained the current way of teaching is a spiral approach — students learn a skill, then go back and review it many times so it stays refreshed in their minds. The new curriculum would eliminate that spiral. Hesse asked, "Can a student actually learn a higher level math at an earlier level? I guess I would have to say yes."

Hesse spoke of her personal experience growing up in Mexico. "The notion when I was there that students weren't going to stay in school for their whole K-12 experience because they have to go to work," she said. "We were taught hard math at a younger age. When I came to the United States, my math skills were far greater than my peers. That's why our government is going this way with our education."

Hesse said that when Michigan first submitted its plans to the federal government, they were rejected. The federal government has an international studies perspective and believes students can learn more at an earlier grade level. "That whole thing has to do with commerce," Hesse said. "If we're going to have students from United States schools be able to compete to get into international universities, or even our own universities, we have to have an even playing field. Our students have to be prepared."

What does that mean for Novi Schools? Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Jim Koster said that the state reduction total for Novi will now drop from \$610,000 to \$510,000 — a \$100,000 decrease.

Regardless of the reduction in cuts, the Novi Board of Education has implemented a reduction of \$29,700 from its budget through eight cuts of its own, which are still in effect. They are to:

- Discontinue all district funded conferences which would save \$42,405.
- Discontinue all district funded instructional field trips which would save \$12,497.
- Reduce district-wide capital outlay which would save \$20,000.
- Reduce non-instructional supplies which would save \$50,000.
- Reduce custodial overtime which would save \$30,000.
- Reduce secretarial overtime which would save \$10,000.
- Eliminate imaging project (transferring district records to CD format) which would save \$34,184.
- Do not fill current maintenance position vacancy which would save \$30,614.

Per pupil foundation grant reduced to \$84

State drops figure from \$96 per pupil

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Community School District received some good news last week when it learned that less money will be taken out of the state's per pupil grant than originally anticipated.

Because the state of Michigan's school aid fund closed 2003 with a \$113.7 million balance, which was more than anticipated in the earlier estimations, the portion that the Novi Community School District now faces is \$84 from the per pupil grant. That figure is reduced from approximately \$96 per pupil. Furthermore, that portion may be adjusted downward by five to 10 dollars after yesterday's consensus conference.

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Parkview students sing in their annual program, "Holidays Around the World."

First graders perform for parents

Holiday vocal concert a hit

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Many lucky parents were serenaded by their Parkview first graders last month as the kids put on a holiday vocal concert.

According to Parkview Music Teacher Suzanne Korzyn, the annual program, which is called "Holidays Around the World," is currently based in Novi. It's done because first grade teachers do a unit on holidays in different parts of the world and the music program at the school follows that up with the show. Students sang holiday songs in Spanish, Japanese, French and Polish.

It is very diverse culturally and so this addresses diversity," Korzyn said. "We want to promote that and to make sure they understand different cultures."

With a population of over 500 students, each grade level at Parkview performs at least twice during a school year. A kindergarten-through-fourth-grade performance will mark the end of the year.

"Different children celebrate differently, and we want the kids to be aware that some children don't celebrate anything at all in some parts of the world," Korzyn said. "This just broadens their world, their horizons and their appreciation for different cultures and languages and some of the traditions that they may not have known about before."

In addition to that, singing in different languages jump starts students learning about other cultures as well, she said. "All of these holidays take place in December," Korzyn said. "December has more than the tra-

Novi High students learn calligraphy

Lesson strengthens sense of culture

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Japanese Club students at Novi High School are learning a new way to write. Well, Japanese calligraphy is not really new, but it's different to them.

Japanese calligraphy is a highly developed art form that has three different basic styles: Kaisho, which is a printing style; Soshoo, which is in cursive; and Gyosho, which is in between. Students were asked to use a brush, much like a painter would use, and black ink to create the Japanese characters on pieces of paper. One major aspect they learned was that the Japanese read it up and down, which is far different than the English way of left to right.

The students were focusing last week on Kaisho, which is the easiest of the three. But, according to Japanese Teacher Noriko Rosen, it takes years to master the art.

RE/MAX offers seniors scholarships

RE/MAX of Southeastern Michigan (RE/MAX) is presenting its second annual "American Dream" scholarship program, open to high school seniors in Macomb, Monroe, Oakland and Wayne counties. The deadline for submitting applications is Feb. 1.

The scholarship program — \$1000 to each of 20 student recipients — was originally established as part of the celebration of RE/MAX of Southeastern Michigan's 25th Anniversary. Because the program was so successful in its inaugural year, RE/MAX decided to offer the scholarship contest again this year.

To apply, students must provide a short essay on what the "American Dream" means to them and the role that higher education plays in helping to achieve that dream. Essays and supporting materials will be judged on content, originality and creativity.

For more information about the scholarship program, or to obtain an entry form, contact Jeannette Schneider at (248) 644-4520 or check on-line at www.manyhouses.com or visit any local RE/MAX office.

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

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(248) 668-9552 1138 E. W. Maple Road • WALLED LAKE

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 04-18.185

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Novi City Council has adopted Ordinance No. 18.185 — AN ORDINANCE TO ADD A DEFINITION OF "REFUSE BIN (DUMPSTER, TRASH RECEPTACLE)" TO SECTION 201 DEFINITIONS; OR OF ORDINANCE NO. 07-18, THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, IN ORDER TO ADD A DEFINITION OF "REFUSE BIN (DUMPSTER, TRASH RECEPTACLE)" AND TO ADD SUBSECTION 200.2.F. TO MODIFY THE STANDARDS FOR TRASH ENCLOSURES WITHIN THE CITY OF NOVI.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF PROVISION OF THE SNOW EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Chapter 33, Article III, Division 5, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Novi, Michigan, a snow emergency shall be deemed to exist whenever: (1) freezing rain, sleet or four (4) or more inches of snow has been forecast for the area by a newspaper circulated in the city; or by a radio or television station with a normal operating range covering the city; or (2) freezing rains or sleet has fallen or four (4) or more inches of snow has accumulated in the city.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 04-28.50

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Novi City Council has adopted Ordinance No. 04-28.50, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING SPECIFIC REGULATIONS FOR THE INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF GREASE INTERCEPTORS.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Northville will be flying its flag at half mast on January 22nd in memory of the 40 million plus lives that have been lost due to abortion. Thirty-one years ago the Supreme Court decision of Roe vs. Wade legalized abortion on demand. We mourn that decision.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
201 Elm Street, Northville
248-349-3140

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 8:30am - Regular Worship Service
- 9:45am - Sunday School for all ages
- 11am - Modern Contemporary Service
- 11:30am - Traditional Worship Service

Verizon Wireless Communications Stores

ANN ARBOR 2570 Jackson Ave. (Next to Blockbuster) 734-765-7722	DEARBORN 1859 Chaffin, Suite C (Off Grand River, in front of Target) 910-225-4769	CANTON 42447 Ford Rd. (Corner of Ford & Lundy Rds., Canton Commons) 734-844-0481	DEARBORN 24417 Ford Rd. (East West of Telegraph) 313-278-4061	FARMINGTON HILLS 14125 Woodward (Model T Plaza) 313-483-2522	FRANKLIN HILLS 3101 Orchard Lake Rd. (Off Corner of Orchard Lake Rd & 14 Mile Rd.) 248-538-9900	GRAND BLANC 12921 S. Saginaw St. (Near Center Ct.) 810-387-1558	LAKE ORION 2531 S. Lapeer Rd. (On Van Dyke & 14 Mile N. of the Palace) 248-393-6800	NOVI 43005 12 Mile Rd. (Twelve Oaks Service Dr., North of Spqr) 248-100-6600	PONTIAC/METRO 454 Telegraph Rd. (Across from Sunbelt Plaza Mall) 248-335-9900	ROCKSTON HILLS 3032 S. Rochester Rd. (Off Corner of Orchard Lake Rd & 14 Mile Rd.) 248-538-9900	ST. CLAIR SHORES 25451 Harper Ave. (At I-192, West) 585-777-4010	SOUTHFIELD 28117 Telegraph Rd. (South of 12 Mile Rd.) 248-558-9700	20128 W. 8 Mile Rd. (Baseline Plaza, just west of Evergreen) 248-387-1558	STERLING HEIGHTS 29245 Van Dyke 586-751-0747	WILSALE 4511 Park Ave. 484-845-5455	UNION TOWNSHIP 1913 E. Big Beaver Rd. (Troy Sports Center) 248-325-0040	WESTLAND 35105 Warren Rd. 65 W. Corner of Warren & Wayne Rds.) 734-722-7330	WALL-MART LOCATIONS Grand 3539 Grand River E. 917-548-5911	Park Ridge 4475 24th Ave. 910-265-1231	Warren 29245 Van Dyke 586-751-0747	White Lake 9190 Highland Rd. 248-693-0043
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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.

Help the House

Since it was established in 2001 by United We Serve, the Hospitality House food pantry has provided non-perishable food to Walled Lake School district residents in need. Each month, approximately 3,500 pounds of food and personal care supplies are distributed to 100 to 150 local families, and both numbers have been growing steadily in recent months.

The First Baptist Church of Walled Lake has donated space in the back of their building since the opening on February 14, 2001. However, Hospitality House has outgrown the location, and the church needs the space for their own use. Hospitality House must move to a new site by June and needs community assistance.

The biggest challenges are rent, taxes and insurance. Until now, Hospitality House has not had to pay rent and have had few operating expenses. This has allowed them to put most donations directly into food and personal care products for their clients.

Help is needed with this move in several different ways:

1. Donate cash towards operating expenses (tax deductible).

2. Donate a 1,000 sq. foot plus space for three to six years (tax deductible).

3. Help spread the word about this organization and the volunteer and donation opportunities.

Hospitality House will need to stay in close proximity to their current site to accommodate clients who do not have cars.

The organization will be hosting a two-year anniversary celebration on Saturday, Feb. 21 at 4 p.m. with refreshments, a silent auction, entertainment and a pantry tour. The event is free, but donations are welcome. Proceeds will go to the building fund. The celebration will be held in the Walled Lake Methodist Church, in downtown Walled Lake at the corner of Nicolet and Withcraft (south of Pontiac Trail).

For more information, or to donate time or money, please call (248) 974-5172. The mailing address for financial donations is P.O. Box 284, Walled Lake, MI 48390.

This is a worthwhile organization that is in need. We ask readers to help Hospitality House continue its efforts.

OPINION

novinews.com



Unveiled
Novi residents Moira and Nathan Robinson check out Moira's contribution to Lasting Impressions during the unveiling ceremony Saturday. Nathan's ceramic rendition of ice cream is a little farther down the hallway. The 11-month-old project is intended to give patients at the Assarian Cancer Center messages of hope and inspiration. See the story on the front page.

Photo by Phil Foley

GOVERNMENT

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

United States Senate

Carl Levin (D-Detroit)
268 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
(202) 224-6221
senator2@levin.senate.gov
Local office:
124 W. Allegan
Suite 1810
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 377-1506
FAX: (517) 377-1506

Oakland County

Executive
L. Brooks Patterson
County Service Center
Building #34 East
1200 N. Telegraph Road
Pontiac, MI 48341
(248) 858-0484

Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing)

702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
(202) 224-4822
senator@stabenow.senate.gov
Local office:
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East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 203-1760

United States Congress

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415 Cannon H08
Washington D.C. 20515-8171
(202) 225-8171
FAX: (202) 225-2667
Local office:
17187 N. Laurel Park Drive
Suite 161
Livonia, MI 48152

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hughcrawford@msn.com

Townships

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Supervisor
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Commerce - Charter

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Commerce Twp., MI 48390
(248) 624-0110
FAX: (248) 624-5834

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Novi, MI 48375-3024
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Walled Lake

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Walled Lake, MI 48390-0099
(248) 242-4847
FAX: (248) 624-1616

Wixom

49045 Pontiac Trail
Wixom, MI 48393-2667
(248) 624-4657
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39th District

Marc Shadmier (R-West Bloomfield)
351 Capitol Building
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

38th District

Craig DeRoche (R-Novi)
50887 House Office Building
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
(517) 373-0827
FAX: (517) 373-5873
craigderoche@house.mi.gov

Blood drives are nothing to poke fun at

When I first started writing for this company, I wrote what I thought was a cute column about my experience donating blood.

I was nearly lynched after the blood drive organizer read it. Because of my fear of needles, I am not a regular donor. But our boss at the time was very ill and all the employees thought it would be a nice gesture to help him (and others out).

Long story short, the nurse poked me about eight times and still could not find a vein worth tapping. "Too much caffeine," she said was the reason.

The whole ordeal made everybody laugh

each time I retold it, so I thought it would make for a good read. It did, except for the woman who put together the drive. She said I did more to set back blood drives than anything in the last 20 years.

Ouch! That hurt more than the needle pokes. Fast forward nine years. The American Red Cross says its blood reserves are low — so low that there's only a six-day supply on hand. It's not unusual for this time of year because of the holidays, work schedules, etc., but the supply is less than 20 percent of what it needs to be.

You can help out by donating at the city's blood drive next Wednesday (10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Civic Center). If you can't make that, there's a drive the day before at the Sports Club of Novi (2-8 p.m.). And, just so there's no excuses, you can always hit the Red Cross' Novi Donor Center (41160 10 Mile Rd.) any time between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday or 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturdays.

There are lots of options there. Even a needle-hater like me is going to pick one and donate. I'm hoping that everything goes much better than it did every year. Either way, the experience will probably find its way into this column. Stay tuned — and give blood!

Cal Stone is the editor of the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 or at cstone@ht.homecomm.net.

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LETTERS

Ambulance situation needs improvement

On January 2, I had the unfortunate opportunity to summon an ambulance to my Austin Street residence as my mother apparently had had another stroke. I was told that Community EMS (CEMS) would not be responding — they were too far away! Our Fire Rescue Team delivered my mother to the ER at Providence Park.

Share your opinions:

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

Mail: Letters to the Editor, Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167

E-mail: cstone@ht.homecomm.net **Fax to:** (248) 349-9832

The report I was sent begs numerous questions. Where do the waiting ambulance staff buses themselves while waiting for emergency calls? How many ambulances are "on call" to service our present population of about 50,000? How many neighboring communities does CEMS serve with how many ambulances? Regarding calculated response time (report), how DO they register a "no response"? And how many of these "no responses" do we get regularly?

It's time this City does whatever is necessary to ensure the physical well-being of its residents in time of emergency. Anyone who has called for emergency services already realizes our Fire Rescue gets there first, without the full ability to provide Advanced Medical Response.

James Korte
Novi

OTHER OPINIONS

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

Duggan has work cut out for him at Detroit Medical Center

Mike Duggan started his new job as CEO of the Detroit Medical Center last week. Both Duggan and the DMC have been in and out of the news fairly regularly for the past several years — Duggan as former Wayne County Executive and Ed McNamara's chief deputy and then Wayne County Prosecutor, and the DMC as hemorrhaging cash and facing insolvency. So I called Duggan's PR person to schedule an interview and, voila, he returned the call...punctual to the minute.

Both in person and in the media, the 45-year-old Duggan comes across as a short, balding, intense and pugnazious guy; imagine a miniature, aggressive-but friendly bulldog sniffing energetically at your pant leg and you get the idea. I think he's taken a bum rap over years for McNamara's alleged flaws, thereby obscuring that administration's very considerable achievements: Pulling down abandoned houses in Detroit, fixing up the physically dilapidated Detroit schools, sorting out the suburban bus system.

There was lots of criticism when Duggan's appointment to head the troubled DMC system was announced. He doesn't know anything about medicine or hospitals, it was said. His appointment was a monument to cronyism. He'll antagonize (a) the doctors, (b) the patients, (c) the other hospitals, (d) the Wayne County politicians, (e) you pick.

DMC is an aggregation of eight hospitals and three medical institutes. Detroit Receiving Hospital, the only Level I trauma institution in the city, is one of the best emergency outfits in the country. Hutzel Hospital excels in obstetrics, delivering more than 5,500 babies in a year and coping with the vast majority of high-risk pregnancies in the entire region. The Karmanos Cancer Center and the Kresge

Eye Center are national quality. But the medical center also takes in the poor, the uninsured and the underserved. As a result, it's losing lots of money; the current rate is probably as much as \$10 million a month. Last year, an emergency \$50 million public grant was arranged to keep DMC afloat while (unnamed) wise people tried to figure out how to fix a system that has been broken for years.

When we talked, Duggan sounded both informed and upbeat. Why did he get the job? "I know some professional hospital administrators wouldn't take it because they thought things couldn't be turned around... For me, health care for poor and uninsured people has always been close to my heart."

And the opportunity to run Detroit's largest private employer is a real challenge, especially one with terrific assets, a wonderful medical staff and lots of talented people who have been caught up in a non-functional system. Duggan's first priority — one endorsed by every expert I talked with — is to show the world that he's for real and DMC can survive and prosper by finishing off the stalled refurbishment of Detroit Receiving. "My very first hire was Mary Zuckerman, who is as good a big project manager as anybody," said Duggan. "When I went over to Receiving, the whole place looked like it wasn't even open for business, and the parking structure was in complete disarray. We have the money to get the job done. It's just an issue of managing and driving the construction."

In the longer run, Duggan will have to figure out how to attract patients and cut costs even further. He says some of the DMC's hospitals compete unnecessarily and expensively with each other, and he wants to work out how best to collaborate with other

hospital systems in the area — Henry Ford, St. John and Oakwood in particular. Ultimately, some kind of financial and managerial model will have to be developed to stabilize DMC. The obvious example is Chicago's Cook County system, where big hospital operations were rationalized and a network of 20 small, federally qualified local health centers were opened to serve poor and underserved patients who otherwise would jam the expensive emergency rooms at the big hospitals.

In an anti-tax climate, the obvious question is finance. A new Detroit Wayne County Health Authority was created at the same time the \$50 million bailout was adopted. It is supposed to work out issues of governance, finance and politics — no small matter in these anti-tax days. Duggan says the Authority is the responsibility of "other people," although he adds, "a countywide tax is simply unrealistic." I think Duggan has no choice but to push the authority as far as it will go. Given the harsh realities of Wayne County politics, this may be the toughest assignment of them all.

Some non-Detroiters may think that what happens to the DMC is of no particular concern to them. I'd advise thinking again. DMC accepts annually around \$125 million in uncompensated health care costs. If DMC were to fold, poor patients would overwhelm the St. Johns and Henry Fords and then flock to suburban hospitals, the obvious first choice being William Beaumont in Royal Oak, just up Woodward Avenue from the city's borders.

Duggan's got a tough job, and I wish him well. As he says, "Hospitals are the only business I know that the government requires you to take in every customer, but won't pay the cost of treating them."

Duggan is the Chairman of the Board of the company that owns this newspaper. He would be pleased to get your reactions to this column either at (734) 953-2047 or by e-mail at ppower@homecomm.net.



Phil Power

Proposed voting system could be just the ticket for better turnouts

Every election, millions of Americans tempted by third party candidates face the same frustrating dilemma: Do they vote for the candidate they really like, even though they have little or no chance? Or do they vote for the "least bad" of the two major party candidates, just to prevent the worst one from winning?

But what if voters could feel free to choose the candidate of their dreams without any worry about causing the election of the "evil of two evils"? Tom Nader, a political activist and former Green Party congressional candidate in Ferrisdale, has come up with a solution.

He and a dedicated band of activists call it IRV, which stands for Instant Runoff Voting. Basically, it allows voters to pick both a first and a second choice for an office. If any candidate receives more than 50 percent, the second-place votes are ignored.

However, if nobody has a majority, the second-place votes are added in. Take the most famous example in modern times: Florida. Four years ago, the official vote stood at George Bush: 2,912,790; Al Gore, 2,912,233; Ralph Nader, 97,488.

Survey shows that the Nader voters would have split about 65 percent for Gore, 10 percent for Bush, and the rest wouldn't pick anyone else. Allocating those votes would give a rough new total of Gore, 2,976,000; Bush 2,922,000.

The final result would likely have been closer, since the 34,000 Libertarian and Reform voters may have preferred Bush. But Gore would have won.

"We aren't, however, proposing to do this nationally, but locally," said Ness, who these days operates something of a political

activist center and cultural salon called the Green House, on Woodward Avenue in Ferrisdale, an aging blue-collar Detroit suburb.

Ness and non-practicing psychiatrist from Oak Park are now working busily to get a proposal to adopt IRV on the Ferrisdale ballot in November, and their chances are probably as good here as anywhere. Ferrisdale, which has about 22,000 people, has in recent years marked itself as a

gay-friendly city and gay coalition have moved in and rehabilitated many of the town's vintage-1920s homes.

While Green Party candidates elsewhere in Michigan have been performing abysmally, last year Greens won election to both the city council and school board.

"All we have to do is get a few hundred signatures and we are on the ballot," said Dikoff, who says he decided not to practice after graduating from medical school "because the profession is so controlled by the drug companies."

Ness says IRV would benefit Greens and other third party candidates, because their first-choice vote would likely swell once voters said that voting their conscience no longer meant risking electing the person they least wanted.

But the major parties would also benefit, since they would usually still win, he argues, and the winner would be better able to claim a clear mandate from the people.

What happens now is that third party candidates generally get fewer votes than polls show, in large part because voters end up returning to the major party in an effort to block a candidate they really don't want.

Four years ago, of course, the worst of all possible worlds hap-

pened for the Greens. Just days before the election, Nader was running far higher in the polls than the 2.7 percent of the vote he received in the end, and Greens were confident he would get the 5 percent needed to get federal matching funds.

Much of his support evaporated in the final days. Yet while Nader got far fewer votes than he had hoped, he still got more than enough in Florida to deny Gore the election, and make for bad blood ever since between Democrats and Greens.

IRV would prevent that. The system wouldn't necessarily always work to the advantage of liberals; there is some evidence that most First voters in 1992 would have picked the first choice, President Bush, the second choice. The choice would not always be made on ideological grounds, of course, especially in local elections.

For IRV activists, their cause is becoming somewhat of a crusade. They have been sparring with Michigan elections director Chris Thomas, arguing — so far unsuccessfully — that new voting equipment should be made IRV-compatible.

Last week, Dikoff held a workshop for activists in other cities, including Royal Oak and Ann Arbor, where ballot efforts are also under way.

Whether IRV would make a big difference in election outcomes is unknown, but it just might stimulate a new wave of interest in politics and voting. "If people see that their vote will really count and really matter, more people will vote," Ness said.

Given that barely half of Americans vote in even the most closely contested presidential elections, that alone might be reason enough to give IRV a try.

Jack Lessenberry is editorial vice president of HomeTown Communications. He can be reached by phone at (248) 901-2561 or by e-mail at jlessenberry@homecomm.net.

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LET'S TALK
WITH **GARY S. WEINSTEIN**
GEMOLOGIST
CAMEO APPEARANCE
Cameos are precious or semi-precious stones on which a design, usually a face in profile, has been carved in relief. These beautiful art forms emerged in Greece at the time of Alexander the Great and were generally accepted as personal adornment by the Romans at the end of the second century BC. From there, the European passion for cameos extended right up to the nineteenth century. And now, cameos are on the forefront of a high-profile jewelry trend. Don't expect dimly brooding, old-fashioned, that family-favored, Victorian-style. And now, cameos are re-emerging then on gold chain and leather cords to create necklaces, earrings and brooches.
A wonderful selection of jewelry, including cameos, for both casual and dressy wear, abounds here at WEINSTEIN JEWELERS OF NOVI! Featuring a 14K yellow gold heart shaped cameo brooch. This piece is currently on sale for 50% off for Valentine's Day. Hurry this offer will be good until Feb. 16th, 2004. We are also offering discounts on our other beautiful one-of-a-kind pieces. We are located at 41900 Grand River Ave., (248) 347-0803, we are "The Jewelers you know, the same you trust." Most major credit cards accepted. We are now licensed by the city of Novi to offer loans on jewelry.
[PS: Put your cameo with an Empressians dress or a romantic blouse.]

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Students are seeing stars at Novi Woods

Mobile Ed Productions brings Starlab planetarium to the school

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Students at Novi Woods Elementary School took a 45-minute journey through the universe from the comfort and security of their own gymnasium last week when Mobile Ed Productions came visiting. The company's portable, inflatable planetarium dazzled the students as they were taken on a tour of the solar system.

Mobile Ed, which is based in Redford, travels to schools throughout the Midwest doing presentations which feature hands-on demonstrations and active participation that make learning fun.

When the kids got to the gymnasium they witnessed a log-inflation done with a ball. The ball was actually a model that led them right inside it, where they were introduced to a star-filled sky.

Mobile Ed Performer Peter Stewart was the navigator of the students' trip. "Basically I want to give the kids a brief introduction into astronomy," he said. "I start them off with a slide show of the planets, and we talked about which planets can and which of them can't support life and the conditions that we think are needed to support life. I talk about galaxies and nebulae and black

holes. Kids love that."

With the star lab Stewart had a special projector that put up the Greek constellations all around the room. He showed the kids about seven or eight Greek constellations and then he had a second projector that put up just stars. With that one, he showed the students what those constellations look like in the night sky.

"With third and fourth graders, you get into a lot more detail, but with the kindergartners, their attention span isn't quite there yet. I keep it short and simple with them," Stewart said.

Stewart used a laser pointer to show students how planets and moons travel around the sun. Students learned how to identify stars and constellations, they were introduced to Greek mythological characters and they saw how they can be found in the stars. They also witnessed the night sky in different seasons and from different global perspectives.

Fourth graders Ryan Kobylarek and Nick Alexi both enjoyed the experience. "I didn't know that you can learn about the nine planets using one sentence," Kobylarek said. "My mother bought nine pizzas, or something like that."

Alexi learned a valuable lesson about life on other planets. "You can not have life on any other planets except for one of Jupiter's moons and Earth," he said. "It was really fun. At the end he was presenting we were in a black hole. I liked that the best."

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@home.com.net.



Learning about holidays in different cultures

As part of a year-long study of folk tales across the world, Village Oaks students, parents and staff members celebrated the holiday season by learning about holiday celebrations in other cultures and lands. Each classroom "adopted" a country or culture, and the room parents featured that country or culture in class holiday parties in December. Pictures were taken in each classroom, and a video was shared on the last day of school before winter vacation. Shown are parent volunteer Susan Cusensbury (right) and third grader Anna Rose Moses (left) demonstrating some of the holiday customs celebrated in Russia.

Novi grad joins California theatre group



T. Parrish

San Diego Repertory Theatre Artistic and Managing Director, Sam Woolhouse and Karen Wood, announce an addition to the San Diego Repertory Theatre team. Tom Parrish, a graduate of Novi High School and son of Tom and Tina Parrish of Novi, will be the new general manager for the San Diego Repertory Theatre.

Parrish was drawn from an extensive national search conducted over the last six months, and was chosen for his ability to contribute extensive practical and educational acumen to the REP. This change reflects a strategic plan to enhance the level of expertise throughout the company in order to best support the REP's ambitious mission and quality productions.

Parrish recently completed the master's of business administration and master's of arts, arts administration programs at Southern Methodist University in Texas - placing first in his class, the only theatre management program with the MA and MBA to be completed concurrently in two years. While there, he had his college admission essay published in Essays That Worked For Business Schools. He also has a BA in Theater Arts and Economics from Case Western Reserve University and graduated from the National

Theater Institute at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center. Throughout his higher education, Parrish worked on the business plan for a new, non-profit regional theatre in metropolitan Detroit, which he hopes to found sometime in the next ten years. "For many years, Detroit was on the forefront of theatre in the United States. Now, however, of the cities ranked in the top 15 by population, Detroit is the only city lacking a professional theatre-producing organization that is a member of the League of Resident Theaters (LORT), the collective bargaining and industry association representing the major, professional, regional theatres in the United States," Parrish said. "I hope to change that soon, helping usher Detroit through a cultural renaissance that will once again make it a major cultural player. The benefits of a strong theatre in regional redevelopment, education and quality of life are apparent in almost every major city."

Celebration for "Barn Again!" set

Michigan Humanities Council invites public to exhibit

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Residents of Novi and the surrounding area are invited to the grand opening from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24 for the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit coming to Novi.

The exhibit, "Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon," opens Jan. 23 at the Novi Civic Center.

The exhibit will be on display through March 7.

This event is the only grand opening that will be held for the exhibit throughout the state.

Those involved in hosting the display at other sites, as well as elected officials and other dignitaries, will attend.

The Michigan Humanities Council, headquartered in Lansing, is organizing the Jan. 24 gala, with special guest Carol Harsh from the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service Museum on Main Street Program. The "Barn Again!"

exhibit is part of this program. Tickets are \$20 per person, with children under 12 admitted free. For more information or to order tickets, call (517) 372-7770 or e-mail contact@michiganhumanities.org.

TAKE YOUR PICK

Grand opening celebration #1
Members of the Greater Detroit community are invited to attend the grand opening celebration from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24 of the Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit on barns coming to Novi.

Organizers expect about 200 people at the event.

Guests can warm up with farm food and farm talk. They can also learn about the impact of barns on our history and culture from a Smithsonian exhibit in their neck of the woods. "Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon" is sponsored by the Michigan Humanities Council.

The celebration begins at 3 p.m. with Jim McConnell, chair, Michigan Humanities Council, speaking at 3:15 p.m. Harsh will speak at 3:20 p.m., with self-guided tours of the exhibit starting at 3:30 p.m.

Refreshments will feature Michigan grown foods. Top-picking tunes will be provided by The Raisin Pickers from Manchester.

Scott Hircio, public relations officer for the Michigan Humanities Council, visited Novi Jan. 9 to make arrangements for the exhibit throughout the state.

"The Barn Again! exhibit shows the barn as the centerpiece of rural life in America and its role in our cultural heritage," Hircio said.

He added that the Museum on Main Street exhibits, a partnership of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (ITES) and State Humanities Councils nationwide, are targeted to smaller communities like Novi.

Other exhibits include "With

TAKE YOUR PICK

Grand opening celebration #2
In addition to the statewide grand opening planned for Jan. 24 by the Michigan Humanities Council, local supporters of the "Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon" exhibit will have a free grand opening for the community from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 25.

This event, which will also include food and music, will be at the Novi Civic Center. For more information, call Kathy Mutch, site coordinator, at (248) 224-4211.

Remember also that an oral history presentation by Glenn Ruggles of Commerce Township in conjunction with the traveling exhibit will take place tonight at 7 p.m. at the Historic Township Hall, the small white building located just west of the Novi Public Library.

Produce for Victory: Posters on the American Home Front, 1941-1945, which came to Michigan in 1998, and "Yesterday's Tomorrow: Post Visions of the American Future," which may come to Michigan in the near future.

"That one intrigues us, and we already see some potential for local sponsors," Hircio said. The exhibit examines what Americans of the past century expected our lives to be like at the millennium's turn.

The next proposed project is "Key Ingredients: Culture and Cuisine in America," which will look at the rich regional food traditions found across our nation and the diversity of foods and customs associated with them.

For more information, visit museonautainstreet.org.

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@home.com.net.

Wedding Preview set for Saturday at Twelve Oaks

Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi will feature a special Wedding Preview from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday in conjunction with the "Marry Me at Twelve" contest in Center Court on the lower level. The contest started Jan. 5.

The show will feature representatives from various stores and service companies organizing the wedding package.

"We'll have informal modeling of gowns by Jessica McClintock and After Hours Formalwear," said Peggy Hayes of Twelve Oaks. Representatives will also be present from Entralid City Designs, Epoch Events Catering of Novi and WNIC 100.3-FM Saturday.

The contest, which will award an all-expenses paid rehearsal dinner, wedding at 7 p.m. Feb. 15 and honeymoon to a lucky local couple, runs through Feb. 1.

Contest entrants, who must be age 21 or older, must submit a photo of themselves and their future spouse and write a 100-word or less essay on why they should win an elegant wedding planned by Entralid City Designs of Farmington Hills and Twelve Oaks.

Entries must be received by mail by Jan. 31 or can be dropped off at the Twelve Oaks Management Office by 5 p.m. Feb. 1 to be eligible.

The contest package was recently expanded as to what the bride and groom will receive. It now includes:

After Hours Formalwear - tuxedo for groom and best man.
Cassens-Murphy Band - live entertainment.
Entralid City Designs - will create the entire set for the magical wedding fantasy at Twelve Oaks, including full wedding coordination for the bride and groom, personalized invitations, floral designs, exquisite linens and china, ceremony arrangements and more.
Epoch Events Catering of Novi - will provide buffet-passed hors d'oeuvres, champagne toast, butter-passed wine

and mineral water, plated dinner including salad, choice of beef tenderloin or stuffed breast of chicken entrees completed with chocolate truffles.
Godiva Chocolatier - lable favors.
Heidi's Salon - hair and makeup for bride and maid of honor.
Gentle's Hair in the Hills (in Northville) - couples' shower for 30 on February 13. The shower will include gift and the theatre production, "Wedding Bell Blues."
Hotel Barometre - will provide a Presidential Suite for the couple on their wedding night and a charming London taxi limo ride.
JE Robinson - wedding bands.
Jessica McClintock - wedding dress, veil and maid-of-honor dress.
Max & Erma's - rehearsal dinner on Feb. 14.

Papyrus - personalized thank you notes.
Paul Kubek Photography with Pictags.com - wedding photography including a bound photo album of 180-200 photos.
Polsey Barn - bridal registry and special gift.
Sweet Dreams Pastry - custom wedding cake for 100.
Things Remembered - bridal party gifts, tossing glasses and cake serving set.
Travel 2000 Luggage and Gifts - luggage for the honeymoon.
Twelve Oaks Mall - will provide a Bahamas Cruise honeymoon, airfare included.
VideoMatic Productions - videographer for wedding.

Mail entries to "Marry Me at Twelve," c/o Management Office at Twelve Oaks, 27500 Novi Rd., Novi, MI 48377.

To enter, pick up an entry form at any participating Twelve Oaks store.

Twelve Dating Traps & How to Avoid Them
DATE: Tuesday, January 27
TIME: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 506
DETAILS: Identify twelve of the most common dating traps encountered by singles and learn

how to better prepare yourself for a successful and lasting relationship. Explore the ten principles of conscious dating and how they can change the way you date. Handouts are provided.
FEE: \$20
PHONE: (248) 440-1206 for registration

Debt Management
DATE: Tuesday, January 27
TIME: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 522
DETAILS: If you feel stressed out by debt, you're not alone. This seminar is designed to help you take control. Learn how to put a program in place for a debt free future. Pay off current bills using the equity in your home, consolidate debt into one lower fixed monthly payment, and take advantage of potential tax savings. Bring your mortgage papers, loan documents, and credit card statements.
FEE: \$15 per person; \$25 per couple
PHONE: (248) 449-1206 for registration

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NOVI COMMUNITY EDUCATION CORNER

S.O.A.R. - Study Skills Workshop
Set goals - Be Organized - Ask Questions - Record Your Progress
Age 11 and up
DATE: Monday, January 26 to February 9
TIME: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 502
DETAILS: S.O.A.R. is a fun, interactive workshop that teaches students how to increase their efficiency and independence. Middle school, high school, and college students will learn tips to manage homework, projects, and extra-curricular activities, organize materials, take meaningful notes, effectively prepare for tests, increase reading comprehension, and communicate effectively with parents and teachers. The program is taught by a certified reading specialist. A \$25 material fee is payable to the instructor at the first class.
FEE: \$69
PHONE: (248) 449-1206 for registration

Beginning Italian
DATE: Tuesdays & Thursdays, Jan. 17 to March 11
No class February 17 & 19
TIME: 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 502
DETAILS: Planning to take a vacation to Italy? Learn how to ask for meals, directions and be involved in social events. You will also learn some Italian culture and characteristics of the Italian people.
FEE: \$79
PHONE: (248) 449-1206 for registration

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Renovations make performance king at the Hill

By Keely Kaleski
STAFF WRITER

He remembers how homely she was, and also how warm – the day Eleanor Roosevelt came to Hill Auditorium is one Phil Power will never forget.

"I was only 10, and it was clear my mother was very excited," said Power who is chairman of the board of Hometown Communications, Inc. the company that owns this newspaper, and a member of the board of the University Musical Society. His mother told him "you must listen to this woman, she's the greatest American and will become a historical figure."

Many memorable people have visited Hill Auditorium since it opened in 1913 including the Grateful Dead, Bob Dylan, Allen Ginsberg, Robert Frost, Count Basie, Martin Luther King Jr., Winston Churchill, and Henry Kissinger.

"Over the years every single significant musician and artist has played at Hill Auditorium," said Power who served 1987-99 as regent for the University of Michigan. "When someone really important came to speak, they came there."

Going to Hill Auditorium was an event, something you got dressed up for. Women wore hats and gloves, and sometimes even black tie, especially on opening night – tuxedos for the men, long, elegant gowns for the women.

"I think this weekend some people are likely to wear black tie," said Power who has many fond memories of Hill Auditorium.

Eugene Ormandy, conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra, was a chum of his parents and always came to Hill Auditorium during

May Festival. "He told me that President Nixon called him to say he was going to be given some big award," said Power. Ormandy, who was sick in bed when Nixon called to tell him he'd been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, got out of bed and stood at attention while taking the call.

In 1955 German pianist Walter Gieseking played at Hill. "He was six foot five and built like a linebacker," recalled Power. "But he played Mozart so delicately that notes came off the piano just like oil."

Hill Auditorium cost \$282,000 to build and was named after Arthur Hill a Saginaw businessman who bequeathed \$200,000 to the university to build an auditorium. Hill earned a degree in civil engineering from the university, was a UM Regent, and served a term as Mayor of Saginaw. Designed by architect Albert Kahn with acoustical engineer Hugh Tallant, Hill Auditorium was hailed as a "monument to perfect acoustics."

"A key test was when the acoustical engineer dropped a pin on stage and it could be heard in the second row balcony," said Power. "It's among the five best concert halls acoustically in the country."

'Sound of music' to fill refurbished Hill Auditorium

The sound of music will soar through Hill Auditorium as always.

It's just that concert-goers will probably enjoy the experience at the Ann Arbor venue more than ever.

The auditorium, which celebrates its gala reopening Saturday-Monday, Jan. 17-19 with three concerts presented by

the University Musical Society, now has a lower level lobby.

"For the folks going out these days, they want more than a concert, they want an experience," said Kenneth C. Fischer, UMS director.

With the addition of the lobby and refreshments stand, patrons can now gather, converse and linger pre- and post-concert. The mezzanine, formerly called the first balcony, now configures into a reception area for post-concert gatherings with catering.

The \$38.6 million renovation of the more than 90-year-old auditorium, well regarded for its acoustics, began in May 2002.

Another significant change – installation of air-conditioning, allowing Hill Auditorium to remain open during summer months.

Other improvements include new seats, sound and light locks, improved barrier-free access, additional restrooms, restoration of the house's wall painting, ceiling adornments and organ piping, as well as the exterior's brick stone and terra-cotta surfaces. Many changes, such as a new backstage utility tunnel and electrical infrastructure replacement, will go unnoticed by patrons but modernize the building and aid in its preservation.

"This is a real treasure," Fischer said of Hill Auditorium, which was designed by renowned architect Albert Kahn. "It's being taken care of, and much of what's being done is what will help the building survive through the 21st century."

The reopening concert series also notes UMS' programming strengths, as the organization happens to be celebrating its 125th anniversary.

Renowned violinist Midori per-

OPEN AGAIN

What: University Musical Society three-concert weekend celebrating reopening of Hill Auditorium with strolling supper in Michigan League prior to opening night performance.

When: Reopening concert, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17; Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique and the Monteverdi Choir, 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18; and Jazz Divas Summit, 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19.

Where: Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., University of Michigan campus, Ann Arbor.

Tickets: \$10-\$75, call (734) 764-2538 or visit www.ums.org.

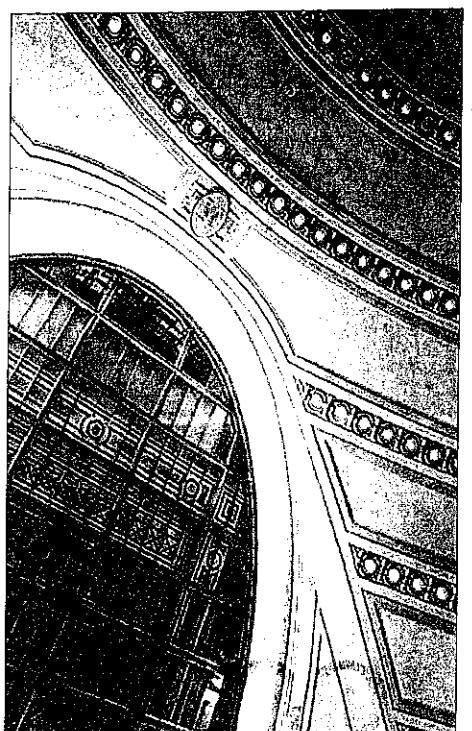


Photo courtesy of the University of Michigan
Among the improvements is restoration of Hill Auditorium's house ceiling adornments. The auditorium is more than 90 years old.

forms Saturday, representing the international star soloists who have played at Hill Auditorium. Sunday night's concert with the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique and The Monteverdi Choir symbolizes UMS' historic Choral Union series, which dates back to 1879. The final Martin Luther King, Jr. Day program, entitled "Jazz Divas" speaks for itself, and features Dee Dee Bridgewater, Regina Carter and Dianne Reeves, three Michigan-born artists of African-American heritage.

Each concert is a "distinctly different event," Fischer said, adding attendees will receive a special gift following reopening performances. "Hill Auditorium has always been a venue of the community. As UMS has expanded and diversified its programming, it has spoken to more and more of the larger metropolitan Detroit community. What we want Hill Auditorium to become is a place where the community gathers and feels comfortable."

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Copper Country Kings

Wildcats prove hockey isn't just for Yoopers anymore

Novi pushes Eagles around in their house

The Hartland Eagles played their first game in the new Hartland Sports Center, but the Wildcats ruined the housewarming as senior captain John Janssens scored the first-ever goal in Hartland's new house. Senior goalie Danny Morrison played solid in goal as the Wildcats earned a conference victory.

— See Page B3 for details

Did you know?

Novi assistant football coach Jeff Burnside and his fiancée, Heather, will marry December 19 of this year. There will be a chill in the air, but that shouldn't bother Heather — she's from Menominee in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Swimming and Diving team earns 1-1 record so far

The Novi Wildcats swimming and diving team may not be the biggest squad in town, but they know how to compete. So far, they've earned a 1-1 record with a win over Franklin and a loss to Walled Lake Central. This squad also earned a 10th-place finish at the Eastern Michigan University relays and a sixth-place finish at West Bloomfield.

— See Page B5 for story

Novi basketball tops 'Stangs in offensive show down

The Wildcats boys basketball team escaped with a big win over their cross-town rivals in an offensive display of talent. The two squads are both capable of notching big wins, but Novi was the team to escape this contest with a victory. Senior Brad Simpson scored a season-high 21 points in the win.

— Full Story, Page B2

GAME OF THE WEEK

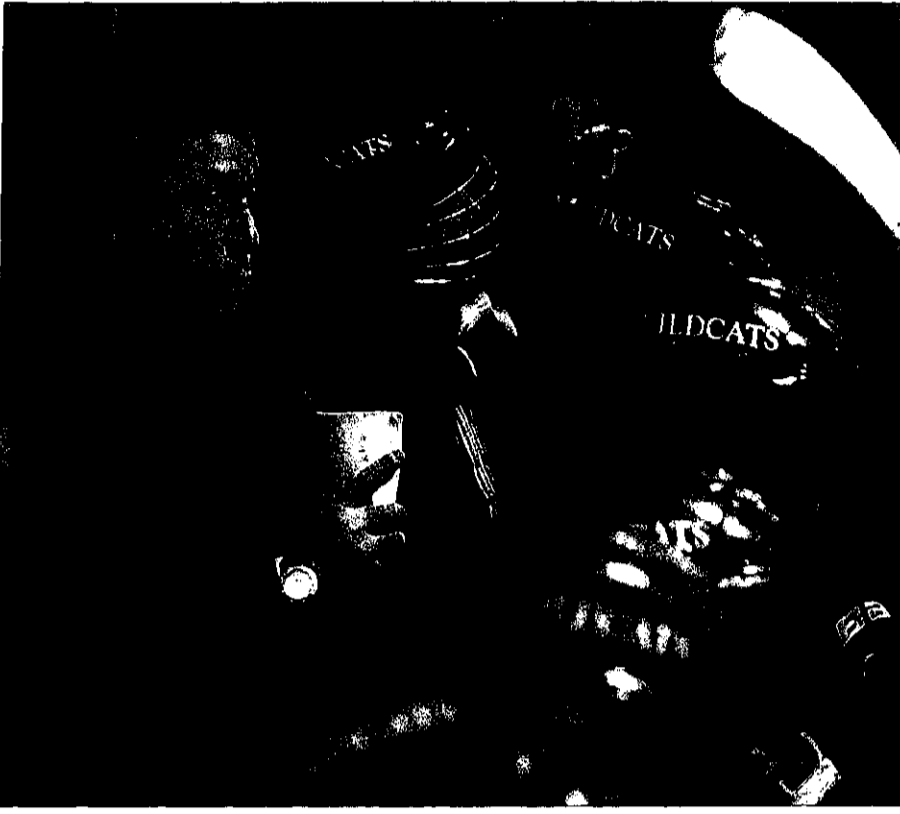
Novi Wildcats Basketball vs Lakeland

Friday, January 16
7:00 p.m.
at Novi Middle School

Bring on the Eagles

The Novi Wildcats boys basketball team will play host to the Lakeland Eagles in an always-classic Kensington Valley Conference match-up. The Eagles have just one loss on the season, and the Wildcats remain undefeated as they look to make some noise right out of the starting gate in their hunt for the conference title. Will the Wildcats prevail, or is Lakeland too strong? Novi News sports writer Sam Eggleston explains why his Wildcats have too much working in their favor to lose this game.

— See Page B2



Novi varsity hockey coach Dan Phelps talks to his team on the bench as they wait out a timeout during a home game against Northville in late December.

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's never easy to make the long hard trek to Michigan's Upper Peninsula — especially on a bus and especially with the prospect of playing two days of intense hockey before coming back home.

The journey, which is approximately 500 miles, has ended with the Novi Wildcats hockey team having a **NOVI 5** good time in **CALUMET 1** the past, but never coming home with the big wins — well, 2004 marks a change in that.

The Wildcats bested the Division II state champion Calumet Copper Kings, 5-1, January 10 to mark a sweep of the Michigan Classic Hockey Tournament. The tournament, which is held in the heart of the Copper Country on the Keweenaw Peninsula, found both Novi and Brighton winning both their games over Calumet and Hancock.

Against the Copper Kings, Novi played one of the most intense and penalty-filled games of the season. Senior Chaz Bulbuk even found himself hitting the road as he was ejected from the contest in the third period on a game misconduct penalty. Overall, the two teams racked up 22 minutes in the penalty box in the third period alone.

Calumet was the first to get on the board in the game as Jake Parske-Sergot found the back of

Continued on B3

Nickels more than an All-State athlete

Senior works hard in every aspect of life

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

There is a certain breed of athlete out there that would never question a coaches' decision, or complain about the season or even ask why they were omitted off a list the deserved to be mentioned.

Matt Nickels, a Novi senior, is one of those athletes. An honorable-mention All-State soccer player, Nickels was the only Wildcat left off of the All-State list that was produced in the January 8 edition of the *Novi News*. No matter to Nickels though, he just shrugged it off.

"That's OK," he said when apologized to. "I can understand how it happens."

Nickels may be one of the best athletes that walks the halls at Novi High School, but you'd never know it by talking to him. The stellar senior takes quite a bit of prodding before talking about any athletic accomplishments, and they aren't his as an individual — rather as a team.

"When speaking with some people during the post-season, I admitted that I was a little worried about our team in the pre-season," Nickels said. "I wasn't sure what we had with the underclassmen, but they came to play. They never argued, were at all the practices and played some great soccer. If we

"He is the most mature, dedicated, respectable, hard-working competitor I have ever coached."

Brian O'Leary
Novi Soccer Coach

school and practice, he is working for Red Robin in Novi or for the South West Oakland Cable Commission, which basically means he works for the city on the Novi cable channel.

"It's something I'm very interested in," Nickels said. "I'd like to go into TV when I go to college. It's very interesting work."

And whoever Nickels works for probably doesn't have to worry about him calling in sick. During the soccer season, Nickels felt an annoying pain in his foot that kept getting worse and worse. Finally, he went to the doctor.

"They told me I had a broken bone in my foot," Nickels said. "Apparently, it started as a hair-line fracture during the summer or the baseball season and it turned into a full break."

The doctors informed the Novi senior that the break would require surgery. The heal time was estimated at 10 weeks — well through the end of soccer.

"Matt told him that he would come back in November when the season was over and get the surgery done between the soccer and baseball seasons," O'Leary said.

Oh yeah, baseball.

Nickels not only wows the competition and the fans on the soccer field, he's also an

Continued on B4



Novi senior Matt Nickels takes a look up field during a soccer match in the fall. Nickels, who was selected as an All-State athlete, played the entire year on a broken foot.

Mario DeGrazia
Senior
Hockey

DeGrazia scored two goals in the two games of the Michigan Classic Hockey Tournament in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The trip marked Novi's first time sweeping the Calumet Copper Kings and the Houghton Bulldogs in the three years the team has made the 500-mile trip. DeGrazia's play was just one of many Wildcats who stepped up at the tournament and have helped turn the program around.

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Dan Morrison
Senior
Hockey

Morrison's play against the Calumet Copper Kings during the Michigan Classic Hockey Tournament was just one of many outstanding performances this stellar goalie has given the fans of Novi hockey this year. Morrison, who has been a force through his years on the varsity program, shut the Copper Kings down on five power plays and two separate 5-on-3 advantages. His play in goal is a good reason why Novi should never be counted out of any contest.

Cats take first loss

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

If there's one thing that can be said about high school competitive cheerleading, it's that the sport is hard, quite a bit of opinion.

The Novi Wildcats cheerleading team, coached by Amy Denny and Family Parker, can attest to that. Though neither coach would ever blame an incident like their 681-5-6 loss to the Brighton Bulldogs on the judges, they would agree that there are a lot of opinions in the sport.

"Cheerleading has a lot of arbitrary decisions in it," Denny said. "Brighton is a great team and they have a great reputation. Sometimes that plays into the scoring."

Denny noted that she felt the judges were very correct in their 186-5-179.5 first-round scoring in favor of the Bulldogs, but said that the 202.5-178 score against Novi in round two was a little off in her opinion.

"Then round one definitely looked better than ours," she said. "I felt that rounds two and three deserved a little more credit than what they got."

Round two found the Wildcats

been given more points than we were if we would have beat them in that round, we would have been happy with that. The truth is, we deserved it. We really deserved to win that round."

Though the squad lost, Denny said the girls didn't take it too harshly. "The girls were fine," she said. "Emily and I felt really bad that we cost them 14 points in the second round though. We were disappointed. I told the girls that I thought they did fantastic, even though the outcome wasn't exactly what we were hoping for."

Denny said that she hopes the team responds favorably to the adversity they faced.

"Hopefully, it pushes them to try even harder next time," she said.

The dual meet won't mark the last time Novi will see the Bulldogs. In fact, the squads will meet up again in the Kensington Valley Conference meet in February.

"By then, we'll have made some improvements and we have plenty of time to do it," Denny said. "We'll get better, and hopefully our scores will be what (Brighton's) are and maybe even higher."

Brighton also won the junior varsity and freshman competitions.

The Novi Wildcats competitive cheer team will take on South Lyon in a dual meet today at 7 p.m. in the Novi High School Fieldhouse.

Saturday, the cheer squad will play host to the Novi Invitational at the Novi Middle School, with the junior high teams starting at 10 a.m. and the varsity starting at 11 a.m. and the junior varsity and freshman teams beginning at 12:30 p.m.

"We lost 14 points in round two on a coaching error on the part of Family and myself," Denny said. "We changed something and we weren't really thinking about it. We paid the consequences for it."

"We should have outscored them," she said. "It was pretty clean and I thought that we should have



Members of the Novi High School varsity cheerleading squad perform a routine during a meet they hosted at home in December.

Howell tops Novi

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It wasn't the way the Novi Wildcats would have liked to start their season coming out of the holiday break — but they'll learn from their mistakes and move on.

The Wildcats volleyball team, coached by Julie Fessete, took a loss to the Howell Highlanders in Kensington Valley Conference play January 8.

After winning the first game 25-17, the Wildcats fell 25-20, 25-6 and 25-15.

The game marked a change in format that has been put into effect for the 2003-04 season. The regular-season contests will be played in a best-of-five format instead of the old best-of-three. Also, this year, rally scoring has been introduced into the Kensington Valley Conference and teams will play to 25 points in each game instead of the usual 15.

Last season, Howell and Novi tied for third place in the KVC behind Packney and Milford, who tied for first. The Wildcats may have taken an early loss in their hunt for the KVC title, but Fessete told the *Record* and *Daily Press & Argus* that she doesn't expect any team to escape this year without a conference loss.

"We're not discouraged," she said. "I think the league is going to be tough this season, and I can honestly say that the winner of



Wildcat Kim Zarczynski goes up for a spike in last week's home game against Howell.

the KVC title will not go undefeated."

The Wildcats are far from through either. They have a slew of games on the schedule that could help them get into the hunt for the league crown. Next up for Novi is the Walled Lake

Matt Nickels is more than a high school All-State athlete

Continued from B1

impressive athlete on the diamond as well. In fact, his goals are in the game of baseball when it comes to college.

"I'd love to play college baseball," he said. "It's always been a dream of mine."

And when Nickels isn't playing sports or working, he's busy keeping up a grade point average of 3.88.

And, strangely enough, that's just scratching the surface of this remarkable high school senior.

Since about third grade, Nickels' father, Charles, has fought leukemia. Through the past year, he began to feel better than normal and he was forced to make the decision of getting a high-risk bone marrow transplant or not — and he chose to take the risk.

"He was in a lot of pain," Nickels said. "The baseball and the soccer parents came together, including Mr. O'Leary and his family, and supported us. They brought us meals, did so much for us and were always giving words of encouragement."

"I don't know what we would

"Matt is a one-of-a-kind high school athlete that I hope my son grows up to be like."

Brian O'Leary
Novi Soccer Coach

have done without them. I'd just like to thank everyone, including Mr. O'Leary and his family, and all of the players and parents who supported my family. It meant more than they know. No complaints, plays hard and when the intensity rises, his game excels.

"Matt is a one-of-a-kind high school athlete that I hope my son grows up to be like."

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.homes.com.net.

basically working 24 hours a day. She works and she still takes care of me with my school, work and sports. She's amazing."

Nickels has grown to understand that if you're not willing to put forth every effort to succeed in what you do than what's the point in doing it? With that kind of attitude and everything he has gone through, it's no wonder that some people don't view Nickels as they would most high schoolers.

"Matt is very mature and very respectable," O'Leary said. "Every time I talk to him, he inquires about my wife and kids and takes a real interest in my life. Plus, he competes at sports like a man. No complaints, plays hard and when the intensity rises, his game excels."

"Matt is a one-of-a-kind high school athlete that I hope my son grows up to be like."

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.homes.com.net.

Novi skaters have impressive showing

Next meet slated for Jan. 24

There's one thing for sure — you can't complain about a performance like that one.

The Novi varsity ice skating team, coached by Nancy Harbin, showcased their abilities January 10 at Canton's Arctic Edge Arena.

The squad, which will compete next in Kalamazoo January 24, took a second place in low-team moves and a third place in high-team moves against some extremely talented competition.

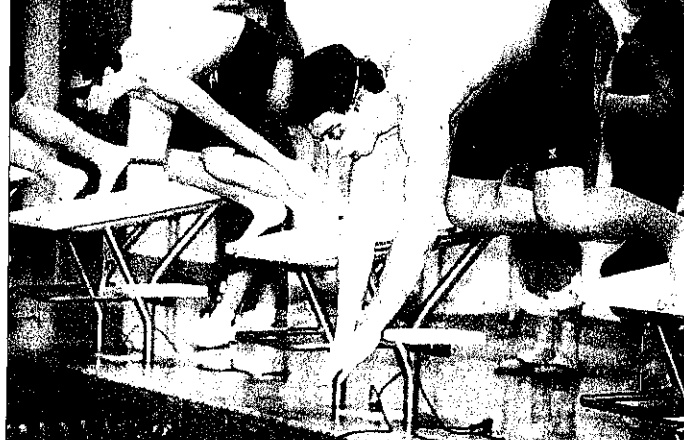
Out of the nine schools in attendance — Ann Arbor Huron, Dexter, Ladywood, Farmington, Northville, Plymouth-Canton, United Farmington and Walled Lake — the Novi skaters turned in one of the best performances on the day.

Skating on the squad this season are Jessica Harbin, Ashley Manderostian, Chelsea Anderson, Megan Spitz, Lauren LeBlanc, Taryn Knogden and Megan Sanctornum.



The Novi varsity ice skating team poses for the camera after a competition.

The competition, which was officially hosted by Ann Arbor Huron High School, was a USFSA High School Competition.



Novi's Matt Swift leaps off the blocks in an away meet at Livonia Franklin.

Swimmers get road win at Franklin

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Though the Novi Wildcats boys' swimming and diving team has just 17 competitors and no home pool to swim and practice in, they're still managing to start the season off on the right foot.

The Wildcats took a 100-78 win against Livonia Novi 100 Franklin Franklin 78 before falling to Walled Lake Central 118-62. The squad also managed a 10th-place finish at the highly-competitive Eastern Michigan University relays, and took sixth at the West Bloomfield Invitational.

Against Franklin, the Wildcats found Derek O'Branovic having a good day as he notched first-place finishes in both the 500 free and the 100 backstroke. O'Branovic took time of 6:04.71 and 1:12.45, respectively, to win the events.

In the 200 freestyle relay, the team of Chris Pieprzak, Lev Rubel, Scott Utley and Chris Alberty won with a time of 1:51.17. The 200 medley relay also took first with a time of 1:58.03. Members of that team were O'Branovic, Bryan Hornacek, Pieprzak and Matt Swift.

Swift also had some impressive individual showings. In the 200 freestyle, he took first with a time of 2:07.27 while Utley took second in 2:24.52 and Rubel took third in 2:46.31. Swift also won the 100 free with a time of 54.77 seconds.

Not to be outdone, Pieprzak finished first in the 50 free with a time of 29.09, followed by Alberty's 29.12 for second. Pieprzak also won the 100 butterfly with a time of 1:03.68, while Utley took second in 1:19.23.

To show some impressive versatility, sophomore Alberty also took second in the diving portion of the meet, gathering 158.10 points.

Hornacek notched a first of his own in the win, taking the 200-yard individual medley in 2:33.15.

Against Walled Lake, the Wildcats gathered just two first-place finishes. Pieprzak took first in the 50 free with a time of 24.70, while Alberty took first in diving with 196.3 points.

Taking seconds was Swift in the 200 free with a time of 2:01.51 and in the 100 free with a time of 54.51 seconds. Pieprzak also had a second, his coming in the 100 butterfly in a time of 1:01.90, while Hornacek took second in the 500 free with a time of 5:55.22.

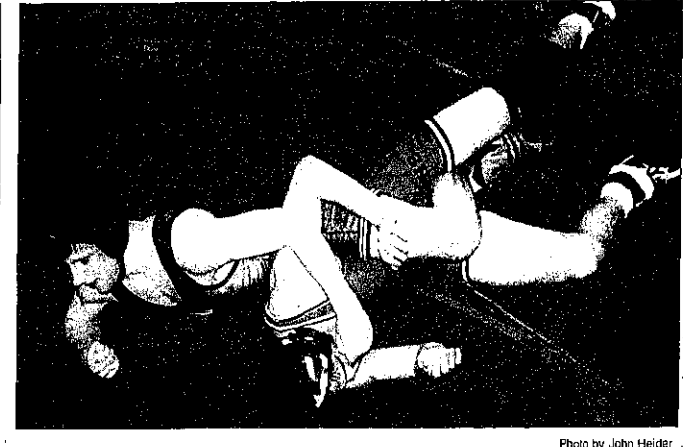
Taking third was John Wang in the 100 butterfly with a time of

1:06.73, while Sean Bugbee, a freshman, took third in the 500 free with a time of 6:05.34. Also taking a third-place finish was Lewis Park in the 100 backstroke with a time of 1:06.88.

In the relays, Novi took a second-place finish in the 200 free with the team of Swift, Hornacek, Pieprzak and Wang with a time of 1:42.75, while the team of Bugbee, Pieprzak, Park and Swift notched a time of 3:54.05 in the 400 free, which was also good for second place.

The team of Park, Hornacek, Wang and O'Branovic took third in 2:02.93 in the 200 free relay.

Novi will swim at Walled Lake Western January 20 at 7 p.m. before visiting Saline January 29 at 6:30 p.m.



Novi's Jason Ballentine, left, works on his Northville opponent Stephen Giammarco during a wrestling meet held at Northville High.

Wildcats lose Scott Bergeson to injury

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's the kind of injury that is tough to swallow — for both Scott Bergeson and his team.

The senior grappler may be out for the remainder of the season — or perhaps back in time just for post-season tournaments — thanks to a shoulder injury he sustained.

"It was a fluke injury," Novi coach Brad Huss said. "He injured his shoulder during a match and now he might be out for the rest of the year. That's a tough loss to take for us, and it's going to be hard for Scott. He's not the kind of kid who sits."

The Wildcats have been on a good streak lately, and Huss is looking for the injury to Bergeson doesn't change that. His squad took 10th-place overall at the Salem Invitational, and then had a good showing January 10 at the Rochester Adams Team Duals competition.

In the Salem Invite, the Wildcats benefited from pins by Bergeson (119), Matt Crawford (145), Cameron (171) and Kristoffik (119), while Eric Hansen and Alex Baum both won by voiks in the 125 and 135 classes.

"Justin Cameron is starting to wrestle and not brawl so much," Huss noted. "He is starting to understand the difference and he is starting to win matches that he was losing earlier in the year."

Favorite (153) and Morris (160) were forced to do it the old-fashioned way, and won 9-2 and 2-0, respectively.

In the Lapeer East match-up, the Wildcats had a lot of rounds that were decided by points. At Vellalottam (103), Bergeson, Hansen, Cameron and Kristoffik all earned pins in the match. Earning wins via points was Baum, who

"A.J. Morris is having a very good year," Huss said. "He has won nine of his last 10. We are showing for the state meet with A.J. He is a real leader for our team and I'm real proud of his accomplishments."

During the Duals Meet, the Wildcats took three of their five opponents for wins. Novi topped Fraser, 45-25, beat Lapeer East, 38-29, and topped host team Rochester Adams, 45-31. The "Cats fell to a very strong Uica Eisenhower, 40-26, and lost to Churchill, 39-31.

Against Fraser, the Wildcats benefited from pins by Bergeson (119), Matt Crawford (145), Cameron (171) and Kristoffik (119), while Eric Hansen and Alex Baum both won by voiks in the 125 and 135 classes.

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won convincingly 13-1, and Crawford, 10-7. Favorite beat his opponent 12-7, and Morris has a very dominating performance, 16-1. Kyle Margate, who is wrestling at heavyweight, tapped his foe 17-1.

"Kyle is a very small heavy-weight, but he wrestles with a lot of heart and guts," Huss said.

In the Rochester Adams win, the Wildcats took pins with Vellalottam, Nick Lichorobiec (112), Hansen, Baum, Joe Czapski (140), Favorite and Morris. Bergeson won his match 16-0 and Cameron topped his opponent 14-7.

"We wrestled well and are beginning to improve with each match," Huss said. "Some kids are really showing some major improvements and they're starting to gain confidence."

In the loss to Eisenhower, the Wildcats got wins from Vellalottam, Hansen, Baum, Favorite and Morris via points, while Czapski won through a void. Against Churchill, Lichorobiec and Morris won through points, while Mason Sierra (130), Czapski and Dan Spys (189) pinned their opponents. Crawford won by void in that contest.

Novi will be back in action when they host South Lyon tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. before competing in the South Lyon Duals Saturday at 9 a.m.

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SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR FAIRPLANE 21
STAR ROCHESTER

The new comedy from the co-writer of *Meet the Parents*

For the most cautious man on Earth, life is about to get interesting.

Ben Stiller Jennifer Aniston

Along Came Polly

STARTS FRIDAY AT THESE THEATRES

AMC COMMERCIAL BLVD
AMC LUTHERAN
AMC SOUTHFIELD 23
PROSPECTOR 24
SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR ANN ARBOR 14
STAR TROYLUM
AMC COMMERCIAL BLVD
AMC LAUREL PARK
CANTON 6
EMERALD NOW
SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR FAIRPLANE 21
STAR ROCHESTER

"Teacher's Pet" is the year's first big surprise: a charming, imaginative, LAUGH-OUT-LOUD WINNER!

An all-new animated motion picture musical comedy about one dog's dream of becoming a boy.

Disney's TEACHER'S PET

STARTS FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

AMC COMMERCIAL BLVD
AMC LUTHERAN
AMC SOUTHFIELD 20
EMERALD NOW
SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR FAIRPLANE 21
STAR ROCHESTER

2004 Northville Record Novi News Pie Contest

We're looking for the best bakers in Northville and Novi. Think you've got the best recipe for a pie? Prove It!

Rules

- Pies and typewritten recipes must be dropped off at the Northville Record / Novi News office on Jan. 23 or Jan. 26, until 10am. Judging will be done Noon January 26.
- Entrants are limited to one entry per person, either fruit-based or non-fruit based. Each pie must be baked by the entrant.
- HomeTown employees and their families are not eligible.

Entry Form

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____
Name of Recipe _____

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Novi News

Thursday, January 15, 2004

Apply early for college aid

You've heard the saying, "you've got to spend money to make money." Whoever coined this phrase could easily have been talking about an academic degree.

The average cost of college tuition, fees, and room and board in the 2003-04 academic year amounted to more than \$10,600 at a state university and \$26,800 at a private university. Though the cost is stiff, the payoff is worth it. Adults with a bachelor's degree can expect, on average, to earn \$2.1 million over the course of their working lives, according to the Commerce Department's Census Bureau. They'll earn over \$1 million more than adults with just a high school diploma.

If you're a parent who is counting on financial aid to help pay for your child's education, you should begin the financial aid application process in early January.

How to apply for aid

More than half of today's undergraduates receive some sort of financial aid. To apply for financial aid, you'll need to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This form is used to determine eligibility for federal and college assistance programs.

Though the application deadline varies at each school, for most, it falls between February and March. But you'll want to give yourself ample time to obtain and complete the paperwork.

Who is eligible for aid

Regardless of income, take the time to complete the application. According to the publisher of FinAid, an Internet guide to financial aid, families that earn \$100,000 or more can qualify for some aid if they have multiple family members in school. And all students, regardless of financial need, can qualify for two kinds of low-interest federal loans — the Stafford and the Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS).

Forms to complete

Pick up the FAFSA forms at your child's school or local library, or complete the forms online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You'll need your financial information from 2003, including federal income tax returns, W-2 forms and 1099 forms for you and your student, your bank statements, mortgage information and investment records. You'll also need information related to non-taxable income (Social Security, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, welfare, or veterans benefits) as well as your child's Social Security Number, driver's license and list of colleges where you want the information sent.

If you haven't filed your income tax return yet, submit an estimate of your gross income. Later, you will have the chance to update the numbers on the application to match your actual returns.

Fill out the application carefully because mistakes will prevent your application from being processed. If you don't understand a question, you can call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243 or visit http://www.ed.gov/prog_info/FAFSA/.

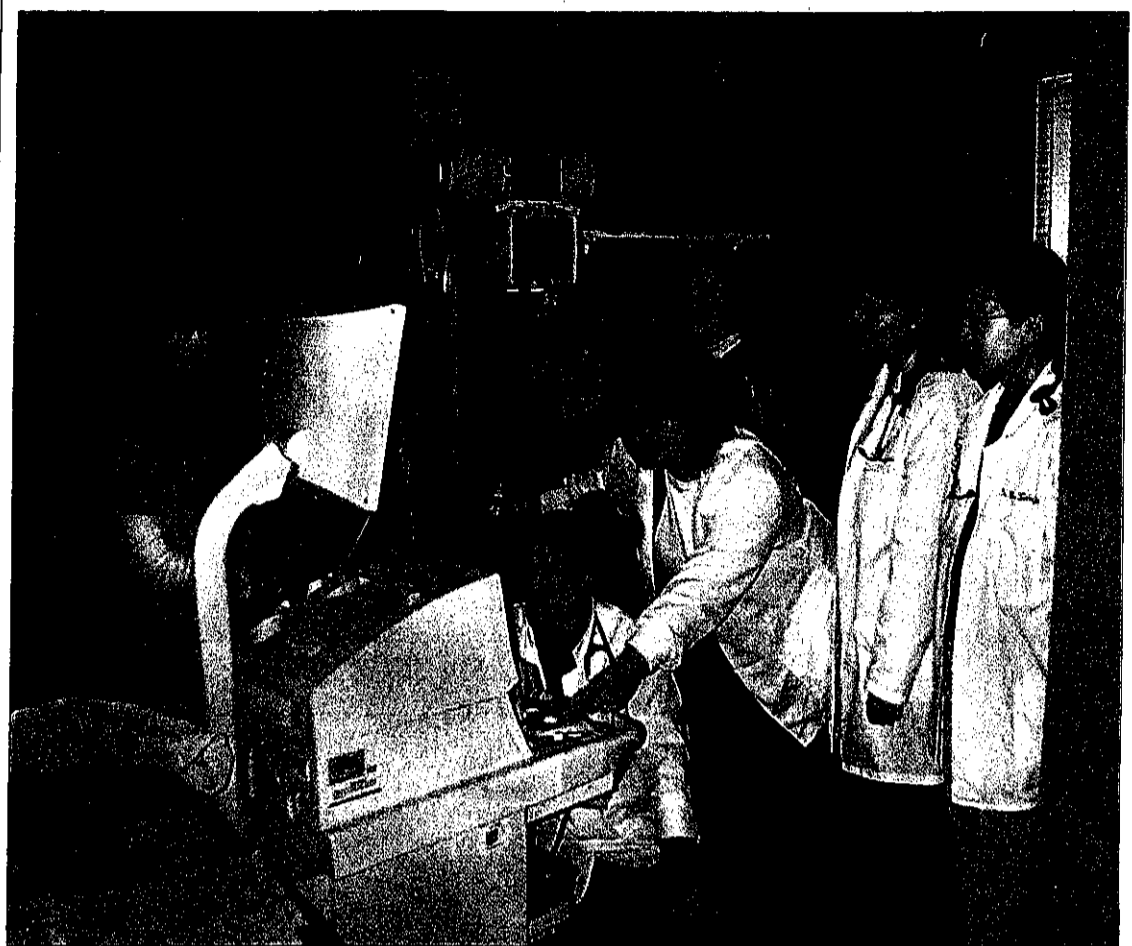
Watch your mail

Three to five days after filing a FAFSA online, or about four weeks after you mail your application, you'll receive a Student Aid Report (SAR), which summarizes the information you listed on your FAFSA. It also lists your expected family contribution. You'd better be sitting down when you review the SAR, because the expected family contribution is almost always more than the family thinks it can pay. Why? The government expects the family to contribute as much as 5 percent of their savings and anywhere from 20 percent to 45 percent of their available income.

Your information will be sent to the colleges you indicated on the FAFSA form. They will develop financial aid packages — a combination of scholarships, grants, loans and work-study — based on your expected family contribution, how much the school can afford to grant and your student's level of need. Shortly after you receive your SAR, you'll start receiving financial aid award letters. Review the offers carefully, particularly the loan to scholarship/grant ratio. One school may meet all of your needs with loans; another may meet you part of the way, but does so primarily with grants.

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League. Send your financial questions to "Your Money Matters" c/o the Michigan Credit Union League, P.O. Box 8054, Plymouth, MI 48170-8054.

Advertorial



Dr. Kim Berrie, (standing center) demonstrates an ultrasound unit and points to the results on the screen during a training session for the staff of Hidden Spring Veterinary Clinic. The staff includes, from left, Hilary Nims, technician; Dr. Xuan Mai Vo, operating the ultrasound equipment, Danielle Schreckengost, assistant manager; Dr. Heather Jones and Dr. Barb Scheffler.

Hidden Spring Veterinary Clinic cares for animals

By Duane Ramsey
SPECIAL WRITER

The staff at Hidden Spring Veterinary Clinic has provided care, love and medical treatment of animals for more than 30 years at the same rural location outside Northville.

Tucked behind an old colonial house with white pillars on Eight Mile Road, Hidden Spring Veterinary Clinic is well known

to many area residents. The practice holds many fond memories for Dr. Carol Geake, who founded the clinic in an old caretaker's home on the site when she and her husband Bob were raising their young family.

The original building was expanded several times as the practice grew. A new facility, which was designed and built for the veterinary practice, opened on the same site in September 2000.

"In spite of the new building with its state-of-the-art equipment, Hidden Spring has maintained the warm friendly atmosphere for which it is so well known," said Dr. Geake.

The veterinary clinic has grown from the small practice founded in 1970 to a flourishing business with a staff of 22 employees. Dr. Geake has retired from practicing veterinary medicine but is still involved in the operation of the

business she owns and loves.

"Clients like coming to Hidden Spring because the friendly staff treats both clients and their pets like royalty," said Dr. Geake.

"The pets enjoy coming here because of the large, park-like atmosphere, exotic scents from horses and other farm animals that live nearby and the various calm, friendly dogs and cats hanging around the office. The resident pets instill a bit of confidence in the patients."

"Over the years, we have developed many very special relationships with clients and their pets that have ranged from warm and fuzzy to downright hilarious," she said.

Dr. Geake relies on Janet Talbot to manage the daily operation of the growing vet business. Talbot joined the vet clinic in 1991 and has served as practice manager for the past six years.

"I did a little bit of everything and learned the business from scratch," Talbot said.

The staff includes six experienced veterinarians: Cynthia Eichman, Kim Berrie, Carol Joy, Xuan Mai Vo, Heather Jones and Barb Scheffler, who represent a wide range of educational backgrounds and career accomplishments. Coming from various veterinary colleges, they share their collective knowledge and

experience freely with each other.

"The technical support staff is an equally caring, well-educated and motivated group," said Dr. Geake. "They work well with the doctors to make each visit a positive experience for the pets and their owners."

The vet clinic treats mostly cats, dogs and other small animals in its modern new facility that includes several examination rooms, a large clean kennel, surgical suites, an extensive laboratory with testing equipment, and a new ultrasound machine for pets. There also is a large conference room where they hold educational meetings for the entire staff and sometimes include outside veterinary groups.

Hidden Spring offers a wide range of services that include x-ray, ultrasound, surgery, laboratory testing, micro chipping for identification, behavioral counseling, cat boarding, internal and external parasite control, dentistry, and wellness programs such as special senior care.

The veterinarians are always willing to provide referrals to specialists when such care is indicated. Local clients are fortunate to have easy access to specialists including 24-hour emergency service, neurology, cardiology, orthopedics, ophthalmology, oncology, dermatology and many others in the area.

"Pet insurance is available to help people afford the medications and procedures required to provide the best health care for their pets," Talbot said. "Although available, pet insurance is not widely used yet. We provide information about pet



Photos by Duane Ramsey

The staff of Hidden Spring Veterinary Clinic treats clients and pets like royalty, said Dr. Carol Geake, who is seated on the left. With her are Janet Talbot (standing), and Dr. Kim Berrie with Tigh, one of her Rhodesian Ridgebacks.

insurance to our clients but have processed only a few claims through it."

Last year, the clinic and its staff shared in a local tragedy that touched the entire community. One of the clinic's neighbors, the Maybury State Park Living Farm was destroyed by fire last February.

Dr. Geake and her husband rushed to the scene and offered their services for any surviving animals. The clinic treated a sheep that survived the fire but later died at the veterinary hospital at Michigan State University.

Many concerned citizens had asked to make donations for the farm, so Hidden Spring estab-

lished a fund and became a collection site. Donations amounting to \$5,000 have come from clients, employees, local community groups, many children and schools. They plan to use the fund for a specific need toward the establishment of a new Maybury Farm, according to Dr. Geake.

Although retired, Dr. Geake stays in touch with the business located on the property where she lives. Away from work, she is a semi-professional nature photographer and enjoys accompanying her daughter Tammy when she trains and shows the Arabian horses they raise on the 10-acre farm.

Hidden Spring Veterinary Clinic

Our focus: Preventive Healthcare For the Pets You Love, Delivered in a Friendly Setting



OUR STAFF
Carol L. Geake, D.V.M.
Cynthia Eichman, D.V.M.
Kim Berrie, D.V.M.
Carol E. Joy, D.V.M.
Heather Jones, V.M.D.
Xuan Mai Vo, D.V.M.
Barbara Scheffler, D.V.M.

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Hours:
Mon-Thurs
9-7
Friday
9-5
Saturday
9-12
Appointments preferred

