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SPECIAL SECTION



Lookin' good

Summer is fast approaching, and our Health Fitness & Beauty supplement can help you look your best this year.

— insert

CORRECTION

The story "Full-time programs restored" (March 11 edition) should have stated that the "selection at random for the full-day kindergarten programs will not be balanced by gender."

INSIDE



Lookin' good

Deanna Martynenko gets a friendly sniff from a lamb during the visit of Novi's "Farm Lady" Margaret Schmidt to Village Oaks Elementary School.

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\$4.8M seized

Authorities charge two in largest seizure in state history

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Agency, and members of several area law enforcement agencies netted nearly \$4.8 million — the largest seizure of funds in the history of the state — at two locations in Novi and Northville last Thursday.

Two suspects were charged in Federal Court with possession with intent to distribute marijuana — conspiracy after their arrests March 18 in Novi. Suspects charged include Leonard Montalvo, 30, of San Antonio, Texas, and Alexander Tam, 39, of Carefree, Ariz.

A third suspect, Irma Padilla, 27, of Guadalajara, Mexico, has not been charged but is being held as a material witness.

A U.S. Marshall will receive a check from Comerica Bank, which counted the seized cash, for the funds and hold the currency until a forfeiture action occurs.

Generally, under Federal forfeiture laws, seized funds are dis-

bursed to the law enforcement agency or agencies that confiscate the currency.

The City of Novi is working closely with the DEA and SONIC, the South Oakland Narcotics Intelligence Consortium, as this case continues to be very active and the investigation broad. The consortium includes the police departments of Novi, Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

The series of events leading up to the major cash haul began at 12:47 p.m. March 18, when the Novi Police Department received a call that there was an upset woman in the lobby at Studio



Photo by Pam Fleming

This Northville residence was one of two locations examined by investigators as part of a seizure of nearly \$5 million by law enforcement officials.

Plus, an extended-stay motel at 39640 Orchard Hill Place at Eight Mile and Haggerty roads.

Officers who responded to the scene found an hysterical woman, Padilla, who led them to two hotel rooms because she feared that

occupants of the rooms may have been harmed.

Police checked the rooms and found no one inside. The woman, who was an occupant of one of

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Photo by John Heider

That's the spirit

Jordan Kincaid, 10, a player with the Detroit Skate Club's "Ice Dragons" paints "USA" on the top of his mother's SUV before a Friday afternoon squirt hockey playoff game at the Novi Ice Arena.

Novi schools short millions

Koster paints bleak picture of financial future

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Jim Koster is a well liked person... most of the time.

When the assistant superintendent for business and finance for the Novi Community School District reports to the school board of education on budget matters, however, people usually aren't so happy to see him.

Koster did just that at last Thursday's board meeting, stating that a financial crisis looms in Michigan's educational system in the near future.

"For the second year in a row, the state is not going to increase funding to education," Koster said to the school board. "Last year the state reduced funding

by a half million dollars."

Combine that with increased costs to the district — such as the opening of the new high school addition, utility and insurance costs and state-mandated retirement — and there is definitely a problem.

"As a result of no increase in revenues and increases in expenditures, the district's budget is in jeopardy," Koster said. "What do we do?"

Novi's dilemma is the state prohibits the district from increasing millage. The district can only make reductions, which it has done the last four years. But with the magnitude of the budget differences, the district may now be forced to reduce its educational program.

"The state will not fund us, we cannot raise money on our own and our costs are going up — not just in Novi, but across the state," said Koster.

Koster spoke about how Michigan's Speaker of the House last week said that the state won't do anything until there is a catastrophe, like the one the Kalkaska School District had in the early 1990s. That school district used its fund equity until it was all gone, then closed its doors. Koster believes that the same fate may be in store for many school districts in Michigan very soon.

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BREW BLUES: Local entrepreneur claims firms violating his trademark

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Everybody likes an underdog. And local entrepreneur Steve Brown is taking on some big dogs in a trademark dispute over his product, WETBEER.

Brown, who works for a marketing firm on the border of Novi and Farmington Hills, filed opposition papers this month against two huge beverage manufacturers.

He claims Allied Domecq Spirits & Wine North America and Anheuser-Busch of St. Louis have infringed upon his registered trademark on WETBEER.

Allied Domecq makes well-known beverages like Kahlua, Maker's Mark and Beefeater Gin, among others. The firm also owns Dunkin' Donuts and Baskins-Robbins Ice Cream.

Last year, the company introduced Wet By Beefeater gin.

Anheuser-Busch, makers of Busch, Budweiser and other popular brands of beer, didn't introduce a wet beer but recently started using "Get Wet" in their Budweiser advertising campaign.

Both instances, Brown says, are trademark infringements.

Brown, who has a background in marketing and public relations, came up with idea of WETBEER about 1997.

"It started as a spoof on dry beer," he said. "Being in the marketing field, I thought that dry beer didn't even sound good. If you look at the beverage industry, what's the overwhelming theme that comes to mind? It's wet."

So, he started a Web site — www.wetbeer.com. WETBEER was nothing more than a "virtual beer." You couldn't buy the beer because there was no product at that time. He sold T-shirts, hats, and had beer jokes on the site.



Photo by John Heider

Wet Beer founder Steve Brown with some of his product outside his place of employment in Novi.

"It was just for fun. Then I started getting e-mails asking, 'Where can we get this beer?'" he said. "I was advertising a product that didn't exist."

Married with three children, Brown left his job, put together a prospectus and got some friends and family involved as investors. He also spent a lot of his own money to roll out the new

product. "Wet beer is obviously a better idea," he said.

He paid to have the name WETBEER trademarked in 1997, met with owners of several breweries, came up with packaging and wound up using a brewery in Minnesota. "We did a search and were surprised that no one owned the trademark," Brown said.

Now, he's taking the two companies to task over the trademark issue.

"I'm a little guy sitting here in Michigan with federal trademarks to protect me, and I have two multi-million-dollar companies that have come out with products similar and confusing with my brand," Brown said.

"I feel an obligation to my investors," to pursue the matter, Brown said.

Opposition papers were filed against the Beefeater manufacturer, Allied Domecq, in January and against Anheuser-Busch in March.

"We went to them and tried to settle this amicably," Brown said, but to no avail.

Brown is working with three breweries to expand the availability of the product. One of the breweries distributes to 14 states, he noted. "Hopefully, it will be available locally in the next year."

Brown hopes that he will be able to reach some sort of settlement with the companies in the near future.

"If they think I'm just going to sit idly and let them get away with this, they've got another thing coming. I'm not giving up the fight," Brown said.

"Right is right, and wrong is wrong. I'm not going away."

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.hometown.net.



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Novi schools short millions

continued from front page
What does this mean for Novi?

Current estimates show Novi's deficit to be in excess of \$4.3 million. To balance the budget, that amount of money would have to be reduced. Fortunately, however, the district can use its financial equity, which is much like a savings account.

"When the fund equity is gone," cautioned Koster, "it's gone."

Novi has three options to choose from in preparing next year's budget. The district can use its fund equity, make reductions in programs or try a third option that not too many people know about.

In the state's tax code, originally written in 1917, there is a law that states a school district may levy a millage for "public recreation and playgrounds."

Since the district offers an extensive community recreation program, according to Koster, it is logical that a millage could be levied for these programs, thereby lessening the amount of necessary reductions in education programs.

"Those are the three ingredients to the recipe," Koster said. "The board has some time, but they will be discussing this issue

POSSIBLE BUDGET CUTS

The Novi Community School Board of Education will be holding a special public meeting to discuss the 2004-05 school year budget dilemma tonight at 7:30 at the Educational Services Building located at 25345 Taft Road.

- The following are reduction possibilities for the 2004-05 school year:
- Elimination of the Novi Meadows camp
 - Elimination of field trips
 - Reduced noon aides
 - Elimination of elementary Spanish
 - Reductions in athletics
 - Elimination of after-school club activities
 - Reduction in building cleaning
 - Elimination of high school bus run
 - Elimination of elementary art, music and physical education
 - Reduction in administrative staff
 - Elimination of middle school teaming
 - Elimination of high school block scheduling
 - Elimination of high school advanced placement classes
 - Reduced elementary reading
 - Reduction in social work/psychology
 - Reduced grounds maintenance
 - Eliminate all day kindergarten

at a special meeting tonight at 7:30 at the Educational Services Building. The board may decide to implement a combination of all three.

"We won't know that until they make a decision," said Koster.

"The board has to make a decision on what to do before July 1, which is the state deadline for budgets."

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



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Jim Koster

assistant superintendent for business and finance, Novi Community School District

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Authorities charge two men in largest seizure in state history



Representatives of local, county and federal government address the media following seizure of several million dollars at locations in Novi and Northville.

continued from front page

the rooms, insisted that officers check the luggage in the room. Officers soon found a bag filled with large amounts of rubber-banded U.S. currency.

The woman kept insisting that someone had been seriously injured in one of the rooms. Based on the information they had at that time and the large amount of U.S. currency, local police contacted federal authorities.

Search warrants were requested for the rooms through the

Oakland County Prosecutor's Office and ultimately issued through the 52-1 District Court.

A search of the rooms revealed several large bags of cash. Information obtained from the room led investigators to a location at Eight Mile Road and Novi Street in Northville.

Investigative agents of the DEA, FBI and Novi Police Department observed two subjects at this location leaving the residence and returning to Studio Plus.

The two subjects who were suspected of renting the rooms at

Studio Plus were arrested by DEA agents.

Authorities then requested a search warrant for the residence at 861 Allen Drive in Northville. A search of that house resulted in the discovery of three additional bags containing multiple bundles of U.S. currency.

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.

Student prompts hazing bill

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

"Garret's Law" will be the new name of pending legislation making hazing illegal in Michigan if signed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm this spring.

The name request was made by Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, March 16 in honor of Meads Mill Middle School student Garret Drogosch, who was seriously injured in a controversial football tackling drill last fall.

"I think it is great and Garret thinks it is great," said Paul Drogosch, father of Garret. "I think it is a silver lining in what has been a pretty bad situation relative to what has happened to Garret."

Paul hopes the governor will approve the anti-hazing legislation by the end of April.

"Garret is just trying to now turn something very bad into a good situation for kids in the future,"

Paul said. "He doesn't want to see people in jail. I just don't think he thinks it was right for this to have happened to his team, to him and anyone else in the future."

Garret spoke before Patterson and other members of the senate in a March 9 senate judiciary committee hearing held to assess testimony regarding the anti-hazing legislation.

The bill prohibits anyone attending an educational institution from engaging or participating in the hazing of another person.

The bill does not apply to a person who is the subject of the hazing, regardless of whether he or she voluntarily allowed the activity.

While speaking before the committee, Garret told the story of an Oct. 28 football drill at Meads Mill Middle School leaving him with multiple leg fractures and an ongoing recovery.

The Drogosch family hopes

Garret's story will put an end to activities considered hazing among adolescents.

Sen. Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, backed the anti-hazing legislation along with support from Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau.

If signed, the legislation banning the activity would make a hazing incident resulting in injury a misdemeanor and resulting in death a felony.

Michigan is one of seven states that does not consider hazing illegal.

The senate was scheduled to take a final vote on the bill March 17, after press time.

Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 or by e-mail vsadlocha@ht.homecomm.net.

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POLICE REPORT

Retail fraud

A 60-year-old Fenton woman was arrested for retail fraud at 1:42 p.m. March 17 at Lind & Taylor at Twelve Oaks Mall. Items recovered included a silver ring valued at \$30 and a pair of Vanelli shoes valued at \$74.

Loss prevention employees at the store said the woman selected and concealed the merchandise. They caught the store without paying. The incident was observed through the store's closed circuit television system.

The woman selected a ring from the store, then placed it in her coat pocket. She then went to the shoe department where she tried to remove the ring from the price tag backing. She was unable to do this and put the ring back in her pocket. The woman then selected a pair of shoes, which she placed inside her coat, then later transferred to her

car. The woman was stopped after leaving the store and handed the concealed items to loss prevention employees at the store.

Missed flight

A 48-year-old East Lansing man was arrested for operating while intoxicated at 9:41 p.m. March 17 at 196 and 1-275.

Officers were driving eastbound on West Oaks Drive when they saw a 1999 tan Chevrolet Tahoe northbound on Novi Road make a large U-turn and head southbound on Novi Road just north of 1-96. The driver also changed lanes twice without signaling. The officers followed the driver, who was eastbound on 1-96.

The man told officers he was from Lansing and on his way to the airport. Although officers could smell intoxicants coming from the man, and the man's speech was slurred, he told them he had nothing to drink that night.

After refusing to take a breath test, he finally consented to the

test, which resulted in a blood alcohol level of .10 percent.

To go

A Farmington Hills man was arrested for operating while intoxicated at 11:37 p.m. on March 17 at the Burger King restaurant at 39601 Grand River Ave.

Officers were dispatched to the parking lot of the restaurant on Grand River just west of Haggerty Road when employees noticed the driver of a dark Chevrolet had run over a drive-through sign and was trying to leave the lot.

Before police arrived, a tow truck was already on the scene to tow the vehicle, a 2003 Chevy Avalanche. When police arrived, they saw the vehicle stuck on the traffic island with the drive-through sign underneath the front end of the vehicle.

The police approached the driver in the car who was talking on his cell phone. The officer tried to get the driver's attention, they were told to hold on because he was on the phone.

Officers smelled intoxicants and had one beer that night.

Oh, about two or three

A Novi man was arrested for operating while intoxicated at 1:22 a.m. March 18 at Novi Road and 1-96.

While driving eastbound on Grand River Avenue, officers saw a black 1997 Chevrolet Lumina with a fully tinted driver's side window heading westbound on Grand River and Novi Road.

After noticing the smell of intoxicants coming from the driver, police asked the driver if he had been drinking. He said that he had had a couple of drinks after work. When asked how much he had drunk, he said that he had had two beers.

After agreeing to take a breath test, his blood alcohol level was measured at .18 percent.

After agreeing to take a breath test, his blood alcohol level was measured at .13 percent.

That's the brakes

A Walled Lake man was arrested for operating while intoxicated at 1:34 a.m. March 20 at Novi Road and Crowe.

An officer was in the area of Novi Road and Grand River stopped at a light on northbound Novi Road at Grand River. He was stopped behind a black Mercury Sable and noticed that the right brake light was burnt out.

After pulling the driver over, the officer noticed the smell of intoxicants on the driver, who was also slurring his speech. He asked several times if it was the right brake light that was out. When asked how much he had had to drink, the man said he had had three drinks and had been at a bar for about an hour and a half.

After agreeing to take a breath test, his blood alcohol level was measured at .13 percent.

When asked how long ago he had been drinking, he said "I stopped two to three years ago."

One big beer

A Wixom man was arrested for operating while intoxicated at 12:31 p.m. March 18 at Grand River Avenue and Toff Road.

The driver was heading westbound on Grand River traveling at 57 miles per hour in a 40 mile per hour zone on the Grand River Avenue bridge. The officer stopped the driver of the white Monte Carlo.

After smelling intoxicants coming from the driver, he said that he

Compiled by Pam Fleming

Youth and experience

Courtesy photo

Commissioner Hugh D. Crawford Looks on as a Youth in Government Student representing the Public Services Committee makes a presentation to the Youth in Government Board of Commissioners.

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Circuit welcomes Goldsmith

The Oakland County Circuit Court announces the appointment of Mark A. Goldsmith as the newest judge to the 10th Circuit Court bench, sworn in March 19 by Chief Judge Wendy Potts, he will assume the general jurisdiction docket formerly held by the late Judge Patrick Brennan.

Goldsmith received his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Michigan in 1974 where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa with High Distinction and high honors in the Honors Economics Program, and his juris doctor degree from Harvard University Law School in 1977 where he graduated cum laude.

A resident of Huntington Woods, Judge Goldsmith partnered with Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP in 1987 where he specialized in commercial litigation. He is a member of the State Bars of Michigan, New York, and Texas; treasurer and past-chair of the Federal Bar Association, Eastern District of Michigan Chapter; former special counsel to the State Bar Committee on the Unauthorized Practice of Law; author of Federal Opinion Notes for the Eastern District, Michigan Bar Journal; hearing panelist on the Attorney Discipline Board; and adjunct instructor for Wayne State Law School.

Admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, U.S. Court of Military Appeals, and numerous U.S. District Courts, Goldsmith comes to the court with a wide range of trial and appellate experience.

"My colleagues and I are glad to have Judge Goldsmith join us on the 6th Circuit Bench," stated Potts. "Obviously we were saddened by Judge Brennan's sudden death. It is difficult to lose a valued colleague and friend. But we are certainly pleased to welcome Judge Goldsmith. He brings a wealth of trial experience and is highly qualified for the position. We look forward to working with him."

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Walled Lake's Best

Walled Lake's Fire Fighter of the Year Matt Salow (left) accepts his certificate from Walled Lake Fire Chief Ken Van Sparrentak. Salow started his career with the department in 1984 as an Explorer Scout before joining the department full-time as a fire fighter/EMT in 1987. He was promoted to fire officer in 1999.

Photo courtesy Walled Lake FD/Cathy Bohares

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Let's face it, buying a house is an emotional time filled with overwhelming decisions that have thousands of dollars riding on them. That's why Jeff Duneske has put together a special report entitled "Home Buyers: How to Avoid Paying Too Much." Home buyers, there is no learning curve when you venture out into the real estate market—there is no trial and error and the ramifications can be severe. Be sure to read this essential report before you sign on the dotted line and regret it for years to come.

To get your free copy of this report call (800) 294-2857 code no. 333 24 hours for a recorded message. There is no obligation.

Jeff Duneske is a member of RE/MAX 100 Office: (248) 548-3000 ext. 245

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CIRCUIT COURT REPORT

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for March 15.

- Sean Francis Farida — Malicious destruction of property - \$1,000 to \$20,000; malicious destruction of personal property - over \$200 less than \$1,000.
- Brian David Hanselman — Possession of burglary tools; attempted breaking and entering; sentence enhancement/second offense.
- Lee Ann McGeachy — Police officer assault/resisting/obstruction/injury; domestic violence; assault and battery.
- Richard Leslie Bishop — Controlled substance - second offense/double penalty; driving while license suspended - second or subsequent offense; refuse to obey police officer traffic order.
- Russell Lee Clark — Delivery/manufacture of marijuana.
- Willie James Moore — Uttering and publishing; sentence enhancement/third offense.

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for March 16.

- Richard Leslie Bishop — Controlled substance - second offense/double penalty; driving while license suspended - second or subsequent offense; refuse to obey police officer traffic order.
- Russell Lee Clark — Delivery/manufacture of marijuana.
- Willie James Moore — Uttering and publishing; sentence enhancement/third offense.

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for March 17.

- Maajorie Ann Crabtree — Controlled substance -

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for March 18.

- Amelulthony Dickerson — Armed robbery; unarmed robbery.
- Michael Anthony Foster — Third degree criminal sexual conduct (13 through 15), fourth degree criminal sexual conduct.
- Vikhtang Prutze — False report of a felony.

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for March 19.

- David Aaron Kindler — Home invasion - first degree.
- Stane Thomas Kerr — Unlawful driving away automobile, unlawful use of a motor vehicle.

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for March 20.

- Ann Elaine Carter (AKA Ann Elaine Wohlbert) — Larceny over \$1,000.
- Michael Ryan Chapman — controlled substance/possession methamphetamine/ecstasy, controlled substance/possession of marijuana, sentence enhancement/second offense.
- Russell Ray McCowan — Retail fraud (first), assault and battery, sentence enhancement/fourth or subsequent offense.
- Jeremy Thomas Estell — Third degree criminal sexual conduct (age 13 through 15).
- Phillip Henry Henson — Domestic violence (third offense notice).

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for March 21.

- Durban Lovell Gardner (AKA Juan Gardner) — Financial transaction device, sentence enhancement/fourth or subsequent offense.
- Jeremy Thomas Estell — False report of a felony.
- Michael Anthony Foster — Third degree criminal sexual conduct (13 through 15), fourth degree criminal sexual conduct.
- Vikhtang Prutze — False report of a felony.

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for March 22.

- John Ray Murray, Jr. — Uttering and publishing (3 counts).

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Library to recognize Walker family for \$1 million gift

Public invited to reception Sunday

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

The public is invited to attend a reception at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at the Novi Public Library to introduce and honor Novi residents Charles and Myrtle Walker, who recently donated \$1 million to the library.

Brenda Evans, library director. The reception will take place in the Community Meeting Room, just inside the main entrance to the library at 45245 Ten Mile Road. Special presentations will begin at 3 p.m., with the reception lasting until 4:30 p.m. Cake and punch will be served throughout the reception, which is free of charge and open to the public. "This will be an opportunity for residents who have not met the Walkers to do so," Evans said. State Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Nowi) will be present as well as members of the Library Board of Directors and Novi Friends of the Library.

Additional members of the Walker family will also be present. Evans noted that the Walkers have received several thank-you notes from members of the community for their generosity. "To have a family in the community express their appreciation for a public service at this level is unprecedented in recent history in the City of Novi," Evans said. "This gift is going to benefit everyone in the community," she said. Evans noted that Walker's motivation to make the large donation stemmed from his own use of libraries throughout his career. "He told me that he has used our library over a large period of

time as well as other libraries. He values the opportunity to learn throughout his life, and he wants to enhance other people's ability to do that," she said. "He believes that libraries are important to individuals' development. Libraries offer an opportunity for self-education at all ages," Evans added. Those who have questions about the reception can call Evans at (248) 349-0976.

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@nl.homecomm.net.

MARCH IS READING MONTH - BORDERS BOOKSTORE RECOMMENDED READING

INDEPENDENT READER (Ages 8-12)

Redwall, Redwall Series #1
Jacques, Brian
Penguin Group (USA)
Incorporated
September, 2002
Like Philip Pullman (*The Amber Spyglass*) and J.K. Rowling (*Harry Potter* and the Order of the Phoenix), Brian Jacques writes books that are fun for kids and adults. Jacques is a master storyteller, weaving epic tales of good and evil filled with unique, compelling characters. This is the book that began his beloved series.

Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place
Kotigshberg, E. L.
Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing
February, 2004
E.L. Kotigshberg, one of the few authors to have won the Newbery Medal twice, now brings children The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place. The story begins with a horrible summer camp experience and evolves into a family's struggle to protect art and individuality.

The Amulet of Samarkand, Bartimaeus Trilogy Series #1
Stoud, Jonathan
Hyperion Books for Children
September, 2003
This first book in an imaginative trilogy tells what happens when Nathaniel, a 12-year-old magician's apprentice, summons Bartimaeus, a powerful djinni capable of adopting thousands of guises and observing things on seven different planes.

The Tale of Despereaux
Dicamillo, Kate / Ering,
Timothy Basil
Candlewick Press
October, 2003
Dicamillo, who won a Newbery Honor for *Because of Winn-Dixie*, presents another captivating story—and this year's Newbery winner—for young readers. The Tale of Despereaux is a fairy tale full of quirky, unforgettable characters—some humans, some rodents—narrated with humor and poignancy.

The Thief Lord
Funke, Cornelia / Latsch, Oliver
Scholastic, Incorporated
November, 2003
Originally published in Germany, this magical tale about street children in Venice is now available to English language readers. Featuring a magical carousel that changes adults into children and children into adults, it is an enthralling story peopled with wonderful characters.

Princess Tales, Princess Tales Series
Levine
HarperCollins Children's Book Group
February, 2004

Love Is a Gift, Heartland Series
Brooke, Lauren
Scholastic, Incorporated
February, 2004

Monsters Unleashed: Junior Novelization, Scooby-Doo Series
Weyn, Suzanne
Scholastic, Incorporated
February, 2004

YOUNG ADULT/HIGH SCHOOL (Ages 12+)
Code Name Cassandra, 1,800-Missing Ser.
Cabot, Meg
Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing
December, 2003
Cabot, author of *The Princess*

Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers
December, 2003
From a talented mother-daughter team (writing together under the name *Zoran Corder*) comes an adventure for independent readers set in a near future in which the old and the new blend in unexpected ways. This is the story of a boy whose search for his kidnapped parents affects the fate of the entire world.



Year of Secret Assignments
Moriaty, Jaclyn
Scholastic, Incorporated
February, 2004
A bestselling author for young adults in her native Australia, Jaclyn Moriaty made an impressive debut in this country with *Feeling Sorry for Celia*. Now she presents *The Year of Secret Assignments*, a magical story of a high-school pen-pal program that leads to pranks, romance, and eventually a war between two schools. This novel was chosen for the Borders Original Voices program.

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants
Brashares, Ann
Random House Children's Books
March, 2003
Brashares knows how to speak the language of teenage girls. In this coming-of-age story, four friends are about to spend their first summer apart, so they share a pair of "traveling" pants, which keeps their circle intact and represents the support of their friendship.

Great and Terrible Beauty
Bray, Libba
Random House Children's Books
December, 2003
Set in the late 1800s, this is the story of Gemma, a 16-year-old girl who is sent from her home in India to an English boarding school after her mother's suicide. It is at the school that Gemma discovers that her visions of the future have a disturbing tendency to come true.

Ella Enchanted
Levine, Gail Carson
Morrow/Avon

Diaries, also created the 1-800-WHERE-R-YOU series, about a teenage girl who acquires psychic abilities after she's struck by lightning. Lifetime has recently created a TV show based on the series, and the first four books have been reissued: When Lightning Strikes, Code Name Cassandra, Safe House, and Sanctuary.

Abhorsen, Abhorsen Trilogy Series
Nix, Garth
Morrow/Avon
February, 2004
The final book in Nix's imaginative trilogy—that began with *Sabriel* and continued with *Liriel*—finds Liriel now an Abhorsen-in-waiting. She must "maintain the borders of Life and Death." When Orannis the Destroyer is released from his earthly tomb, all of Life is in peril. Somehow, it falls to Liriel to overcome the Destroyer.

Deaf Child Crossing
Maffei, Marlee
Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing
February, 2004
Deaf Child Crossing, a touching and often humorous story of friendship, is loosely based on events from Maffei's own childhood in Chicago.

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LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library

Hours
The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. We are located at 45245 Ten Mile Road, just east of Taft Road. For more information, call (248) 349-0970.

Story Time Notes
Drop-in preschool Story Times are now underway. Brochures listing the days and times of each drop-in Story Time session are available in the library.

Battle of the Books
Our first annual Battle of the Books will be held at the Novi Civic Center on Saturday, March 27, at 1 p.m. Community members are invited to attend and cheer for the eleven teams of 5th and 6th graders who have been in training since December for this event.

Computers 101 for Seniors
Have you ever wondered what a floppy disk or a modem is? Do you want to know what RAM or CD-ROM means? Our "Computers 101" class on Monday, March 29, from 1-3 p.m. will answer these questions and more, as a librarian discusses basic computer technology and points out important parts of the computer. Whether you're thinking of buying your first computer or are just curious about computers, this class is for you! Please register in advance by calling the library.

Long-term Care
Providence Hospital Community Health Education Services holds a program covering crucial information on long-term care on Wednesday, April 7, from 6:30-8 p.m. in the library meeting room. Please call the library to reserve a seat for this free program, which is for adults of all ages.

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

Kids' Movie Night
Kids in the 5th grade and up are invited to the library at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31, to see a special new release adventure film. No registration is required for this free PG movie screening.

English Castles and Maritime History
Join freelance writer and photographer Bob Weir for a maritime adventure in the south of England on Thursday, April 1, at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room. You'll walk through castles and experience the International Festival of the Sea in Portsmouth. Please call the library to register for this free program, which is sponsored by the Friends of Novi Public Library.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Huron Valley Ambulance adds new members to Board of Trustees

Huron Valley Ambulance, which has been providing emergency medical services to Milford and Wixom since July 2003, has elected two new members to its Board of Trustees: Peter DeChants and Michael Mikhail, MD. PACER DeChants is the vice president of Corporate Development and Treasurer of Kaydon Corporation, an industrial products manufacturer located in Ann Arbor. Dr. Mikhail is the chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Superior Township. Mikhail will replace William Ibarra, MD, from the University of Michigan Hospitals, who is leaving after six years of service, including two years as board chair.

Recently elected officers are as follows: Board chair is Richard B. Lundy, consultant and community leader from Dexter; vice chair is William Wise, professor of Criminal Justice at Siena Heights University; Adrian and secretary/treasurer is Thomas Manchester, attorney with Manchester and Associates, Ypsilanti.

Corned beef's cookin'

Last Saturday, an historic moment occurred in Novi. Jack's Meat Market, a Novi icon, sold its first homemade corned beef at retail. Jack Lapidus, who passed away five years ago, and son Ken started Jack's Meat Market in 1972. Their business is in parts a federally-licensed wholesale operation and a distinct retail operation in the mall in the southwest corner of Ten Mile and Meadowbrook Roads. While corned beef and hamburger have been popular wholesale items for years, this is the first time Ken has sold corned beef at retail. One of his first customers was Steven Myers, who happened to stop by for one of Jack's famed sandwiches. After quickly filling Steve's order, Ken explained what was cooking. Due to be ready in an hour, Steve

National City supports downtown Walled Lake

National City Bank, located at 246 Liberty Street in Walled Lake's Historic Lakefront District, has once again shown its support of downtown revitalization efforts by donating \$1,500 toward the creation of Business Recruitment Packages on Feb. 25. The Business Recruitment Packages will be used to highlight the demographics and other assets of a community in a professional manner to potential business owners who are contemplating opening or relocating their business to Walled Lake. "National City cares about doing what is right for our customers and community," said Beverly Murphy, manager of the National City located in Walled Lake. "We are proud to offer this support to the 'Main Street' program. This program has been highly successful in revitalizing local communities where our employees live, work and volunteer numerous hours to community organizations. Caring for our communities is not the only thing we do right, but it is the best thing we can do."

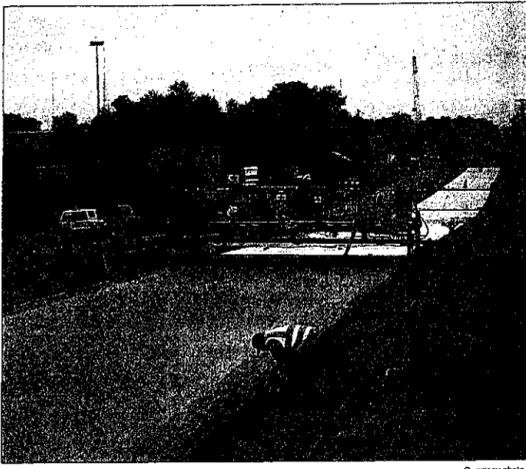
"Our goal in the road construction business is to get in, get out and stay out for 30 years or more," Risser joked.

Michigan Paving Association honors city

Members of the Michigan Concrete Paving Association presented its Michigan Award of Excellence to the City of Novi at the March 15 city council meeting. The award was presented in recognition of the Grand River Avenue Reconstruction Project. Mike Frederick and Bob Risser from the association presented the award. The association also recognized Tony Angelo Construction of Novi, JCK & Associates of Novi, and the Road Commission for Oakland County with the same award. Mike Evangelista of Tony Angelo Construction, located at 46850 Grand River Ave., said a few words during the presentation. The firm was commended for the state-of-the-art technologies implemented to save construction dollars. "We're very proud to have formed this project in the City of Novi," Evangelista said. "I'm sure it was stressful to a lot of people."

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The Grand River Ave. Reconstruction Project earned the City of Novi an Excellence Award from the Michigan Concrete Paving Association.

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- Entertainment and fun for the entire family
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Chamber seeking items and sponsors for annual auction

The Novi Chamber of Commerce's Annual Charity Auction will be held Saturday, April 24 at the Hotel Barometre. This year's charity is Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit. Sponsors include Varsity Lincoln-Mercury, Hotel Barometre, Twelve Oaks Mall, Bob Sellers, Novi News, Community Financial, Novi Expo Center, Republic Bank, Brit Irrigation, Richard Gail.

To become a sponsor, donate items for auction or purchase tickets to this event, please call the chamber at (248) 349-3743.



- Two Gift Certificates for \$50 each to Twelve Oaks Mall Treasure Chest Toy Box (\$573)
- Gift Certificate for a European Facial a value of \$70
- \$250 Gift Certificate towards new Window Treatment
- Two Dinner Certificates for two a value of \$45 each
- Gift Certificate for 18 holes with cart
- A \$135.00 value Gift Certificate for your own in your home personal Chef
- 3 Complimentary Nights in Jacuzzi Rooms with free deluxe continental breakfast (\$550)
- \$120 Spa Basket with Sea Salts, Scrubs etc.
- Dinner & Boat Race
- Gift Certificate \$50
- One overnight stay for two including Breakfast Buffet in the Oaks Grill
- 13" RCA Color Television
- One Night stay including Breakfast and evening reception
- \$100.00 Gift Letter towards food and beverage at an Epoch Restaurant of your choice
- A \$208 "Head to Toe" for her gift certificate including facial, pedicure, manicure, haircut & style and makeup
- One Week use of a 2 Bedroom/2 Bath Oceanfront Villa with pool set in a Beautiful Garden in St. Martin, N.A.
- \$1000 value Gift Basket w/family pack, ceramic braces upgrade, T-shirts, miscellaneous
- Deluxe Gift Basket a Value of \$61.95
- \$200 Figurine-Trezy

BUSINESS BRIEFS

continued from page 7

returned for his order of fresh corned beef.

"Just like the corner deli in New York," beamed Ken

Old Maid hires new manager

The Old Maid Service has been successfully established in Novi since 1985. The residential and commercial cleaning service owned by Pamela Jerome announced the arrival of Tracy Jesernig as the office manager.

Jesernig has 21 years of commercial and residential cleaning experience.



T. Jesernig

She has owned and operated her own residential and commercial cleaning services in Texas and in Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. She has had the pleasure of cleaning for Ari Fleisher, the former press secretary for President Clinton.

Jesernig will be responsible for handling the daily tasks of running the office in a pleasant, professional and efficient manner. She will be in charge of maintaining the clients and employee scheduling as well as client and employee relations. Jesernig will be responsible for ensuring proper training of employees to clean homes and offices.

Wine judging, tasting set April 1

Oakland Community College's Culinary Studies Institute is proud to announce the Ninth Annual Great Lakes Wine Judging and Walk-Around Tasting from 6 to 8:30 p.m. April 1 on the Farmington Hills campus.

Top area restaurants, including Steve & Rocky's in Novi, Great Lakes Country Club, and OCC's Culinary Studies students will prepare signature dishes to sample along with more than 500 wines entered in the Great Lakes Wine competition.

The world famous ice wines from Ontario will also be included in the competition.

The event will take place at the college campus located at 27055 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills in Building J, third floor.

Lean conference set

The OCC Jazz Band will entertain guests at the competition. All proceeds go toward scholarships and travel expenses for the student chefs' competition team.

Tickets are \$50 per person. For more information, call (248) 522-3700.

Film Advisory Commission to meet

The Michigan Film Advisory Commission will meet at 3 p.m. April 1 at hdstudios, 23689 Industrial Park Drive, in Farmington Hills.

Those who plan to make comments or give testimony are asked to bring their comments in written form with sufficient copies for MFAC members.

If you need special accommodations or arrangements at this meeting, contact the Michigan Department of History Arts and Libraries at P.O. Box 30739, Lansing, MI 48909.

For more information, contact Richard D. McLellan, chairman, Michigan Film Advisory Committee at (800) 477-3456.

Local bank supports Walled Lake

National City Bank at 246 Liberty Street in Walled Lake's Historic Lakefront District has once again shown its support of Downtown Revitalization efforts in the city by donating \$1,650 toward the creation of Business Recruitment Packages.

The packages will be used to highlight the demographics and other assets of a community to potential business owners who are contemplating opening or relocating their business to Walled Lake.

Other sponsorship and advertising opportunities are available with the Walled Lake Downtown Development Authority. For more information, contact Charlene Long at (248) 926-9004 or e-mail her at clong@walledlake.com.

Transmission donated to Novi firm

ZF, a worldwide automotive supplier of driveline and chassis technology in Northville, recently donated one of its S6-650 manual transmissions to the Lean Learning Center in Novi.

The ZF S6-650 six-speed manual transmission is designed for light truck applications and is featured in Chevrolet and GMC heavy-duty and Ford super-duty pickup trucks. It is designed with a maximum torque capacity of 600 lbs./ft. and features a "creep" first gear to improve low-end performance and fuel efficiency.

Cable update set March 31

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson will provide a briefing on The State of Broadband in Oakland County: The Oakland County LinkMichigan Report at 8 a.m. March 31.

The briefing will take place in the Oakland County Board of Commissioners Auditorium, 1200 N. Telegraph, in Pontiac. Patterson will be joined by representatives from consultant R.W. Beck and co-sponsor Automation Alley.

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The results of this just-completed study will enable the County to maintain its status as a progressive

high-tech area and build on future technological needs.

Community representatives who want to attend the briefing are asked to RSVP to Mary Jo Leutheuser at (248) 975-4419 or e-mail her at leutheuserm@co.oakland.mi.us by March 23. For more information, contact Mark Adams, Senior Business Development Representative, at (248) 858-5439.

The Web site address for Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services is www.co.oakland.mi.us/peds.

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County participated in the LinkMichigan study, which identified the level of high-speed readiness throughout the State of Michigan.

At the urging of the Business Roundtable, the County pursued and received a \$75,000 grant from the MEDC and obtained a matching \$25,000 grant from Automation Alley to map the County's telecommunication infrastructure and carry out a comprehensive telecommunication demand study.

Compiled by Pam Fleming

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CLASS NOTES

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

Learning about life on a farm

Farm Lady Margaret Schmidt brings Buster to Village Oaks

By Ramez Khuri STAFF WRITER

Students at Village Oaks Elementary School received a special treat when Margaret Schmidt, "The Farm Lady," came visiting last week.

Schmidt brought along Buster, a baby ram that she got when he was only a day old. She also talked to the kids about her farm and how she runs it, she sang songs and showed a slide show with pictures of how she and her family drain sap from trees.

"Not a lot of kids have any contact with farm animals, so that's why I give them the chance to see the animal and experience that," Schmidt said. "Also I give them a little history and show them some of the processes of things that were done here in Novi in the past."

Schmidt has been visiting schools for about 19 years now. Before that she was a teacher for a couple years in Venezuela with the Peace Corps and she taught six years in a school district before she retired. Her family moved to their farm in Novi 27



Photos by John Halder

Deanna Martynenko gets a friendly sniff from a lamb during the visit of Novi's "Farm Lady" Margaret Schmidt to Village Oaks Elementary School last Wednesday afternoon. Students learned how maple sap was collected and refined to produce syrup and also how sheep's wool was spun to produce yarn.

years ago.

All students who attended Schmidt's assembly received their own piece of wool from a sheep and got to sit in a circle while Buster walked around them.

"To me, visiting schools is educational," Schmidt said. "It's like teaching, but I can do it in my own way. I don't know that there aren't any other places in Novi that has farm animals, but I consider us the last one that is really unique. We make maple syrup and we have a variety of animals."

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ON CAMPUS

Novi Mayor, President, Anand Madakshira Pranesi was among graduates of Kettering University during December 2003 commencement exercises.

WALSH COLLEGE NEWS

Economic challenge hosted

Walsh College is pleased to host the Fourth Annual Economics Challenge, Wednesday March 31 at its Novi Campus. Some 130 students from four Detroit area high schools will compete in the event sponsored by the Michigan Council on Economic Education and TCF Bank.

Students from the International Academy (Bloomfield Hills), Mumford and Renaissance High Schools (Detroit) and South Lyon High School (South Lyon) will compete in individual and team categories-theory and real life. The best two teams will compete in a quiz-bowl style event. The winning Michigan team will compete in the regional Economics Challenge sponsored by the National Council on Economic Education and Goldman Sachs.

"The Gala was a tremendous show of grace, community, and business leaders from the Novi area, and friends of the College came together and shared a unique evening for the arts," said Walsh President Keith Pretty. "Their efforts will enable Walsh students to overcome financial obstacles to academic success and add their name to the long list of business leaders Walsh has produced over the years."

Patrons were treated to a splendid dinner catered by Unique Restaurant, Corporation while attendees also sampled rare wines, viewed the work of local celebrated artists, and bid on a variety of items in a silent auction. Wine enthusiasts at the event heard commentary from Master Sommelier Madeline Triffon & Sonnetier Rick Rubel as they tasted rare wines compliments of the private cellars of Bob Cummings and Dr. Bob Bernstein.

Gala wrap up

The Gala showcased the joint efforts of co-chairs and supporters that made the evening a great success for students and the College. Pictured from left: Walsh President Keith Pretty, wife Gretchen, Gala Co-chair Dave Potosky, wife Kathy, Lori Niederhuser, Gala Co-chair Herb

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Novi fifth grader competes in Reader's Digest National Word Power Challenge

Connie Robbins makes it to state level competition

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Connie Robbins, a Novi Meadows fifth grader, competed in the State Championship round of the Reader's Digest National Word Power Challenge on Feb. 27 at the Henry Ford Museum. Robbins is a Learning Activities Enrichment Program student in Jeanne Dill's class.

The challenge is a vocabulary contest designed for schools nationwide with any of all grades fourth through eighth. Only English-speaking students in eligible grades who have not reached their 11th birthday by the time of the school-level competition may participate. The challenge is an educational outreach program of Reader's Digest magazine.

Students from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Department of Defense Dependent Schools, as well as

home-schooled students, were invited to participate in the 2003-04 challenge.

There are three levels of competition: School, state and national. Robbins made it to the second level.

"I was excited about it," she said. "We did questions on a paper and people with the highest score in the class went to the finals. We were then asked questions, and if you got two wrong you step down. The last two people standing were the ones from the class to win."

Reader's Digest provides the questions and answers for the contest at all levels. Questions address the subject of vocabulary in a variety of formats. Some questions require a straight definition and others require knowledge of a word's etymology or its proper use in a sentence.

"The school finals were the same way," Robbins said. "When I won for the school I got a certificate. Then I took a written test to see if I could qualify to go to the state competition, which I did, but I didn't qualify for the national competition."

Students were asked questions about words derived from other languages and words categorized by different themes or topics.

Over 1.2 million students participated in the Word Power

THE CHALLENGE

Three levels of Reader's Digest National Word Power Challenge competition:

• School level
Competition begins in each participating classroom; a minimum of six students in the same grade must participate. The classroom winner then competes with other classroom winners in his or her grade to determine the grade-level champion. Students never compete across grades in the school-level competition. To compete for advancement from school to state, each grade-level champion takes a written qualifying test that is returned to Reader's Digest for scoring.

• State level
Up to 100 of the highest scoring students in a state or territory are invited to compete at the State Championships. The first place winner from each state contest advances to the National Championship. State Championships were held in all states, the District of Columbia and participating U.S. territories on Feb. 27.

• National level
The first place winner from each state level competition — the State Champion — advanced to the National Championship at Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia.

Challenge across the United States and United States Defense Schools worldwide. More than 72,000 Michigan students in grades four through eight participated in the initial qualifying rounds in their local school districts. Virtually all of the Novi Meadows' students were able to participate in the

district level qualifying rounds through the assistance of Novi's Special Services Department and Meadows' Learning Activities Enrichment Program.

There were 120 State Championship round students. They tested their knowledge of common and not-so-common words, using questions from a



Novi Meadows fifth grader Connie Robbins poses with her teacher, Dr. Katherine Ellis at the Reader's Digest National Word Power Challenge competition

variety of formats throughout the day. Eventually, an eighth grader from New Boston won the State Championship and an all-expenses paid trip to Orlando for himself and his teacher/escorts to participate in the Reader's Digest National Word Power Challenge national championship in March. The first place national winner will

receive a \$25,000 college scholarship. The second and third place winners will receive \$15,000 and \$10,000 college scholarships, respectively.

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.

Retired teacher takes his show on the road

CJ Baker brings 'Character Country' to Novi Meadows

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Clyde "CJ" Baker, a former Hazel Park teacher for 30 years, visited Novi Meadows last Wednesday with his new presentation called "Character Country."

Students witnessed a musical show which consisted of many different ideas that all pertained to building character, and ultimately building successful adults. Baker brought two different guitars, a lot of audio equipment and a special bear puppet named Bodoshus to entertain and educate the kids.

According to Baker's Web site, "Character Country" is a musical story-filled program highlighting values such as Responsibility, Trust, Respect, Living the Golden Rule, Civic Duties and Responsibility. It says that original songs about how we feel, what we want and how we behave set examples for youngsters. Carefully crafted stories also give children alternative choices in behavior. Children experienced a wide range of feelings as the program unfolded for them.

"Character Country" challenges kids to put to use behaviors which not only benefit others for the greater good, but build strong self image and character in themselves.

"My mission is to help young people make good life choices for themselves," Baker said. "They often know the correct choices already, but our show tries to highlight the reasons why they are correct."

Baker sang eight original songs during the one-hour show — "It's just a little bitty attitude," "I need a friend," "Her crayons are better than mine," "This time I'm telling you the truth," "Thoughtless moment," "He took out," "Tangled lines" and "We're cooler because we're older." Each one had messages such as, having a good attitude, befriending different people, my life is just fine, not telling untrue stories, not trying to act cool just to impress someone, not taking cuts and getting through a bad day the best way you can.

One of the more remarkable aspects of the presentation was that Baker did it for free.

"This is a situation where I



Clyde "CJ" Baker

picked one school per month to do a free show at," he said. "Novi Meadows called me and said that what I do is exactly what they teach, so I came."

Baker said that his compensation when he does free shows is to watch the kids learn.

"I don't think you can over-teach this character thing," he said. "Let's face it, there are an awful lot of people out there who are selfish and all they worry about is what they want. This is to try to keep reiterating what they are teaching in this school already about building character. I don't care if someone is a genius — if they have no character, what kind of person will they be?"

Baker taught junior high for 15 years and high school for another 15 years before retiring, teaching everything from law, government and history. Instead of just sitting at home, Baker decided to put his presentation about a year ago that kids can learn from.

"The pay was good, and I loved my job when I was a teacher, but just really thought it was time to find something else," he said. "Playing the guitar was something I've always done and I didn't want to retire and do nothing. This was just something I wanted to do. This is my first year doing it."

Now, doing a couple shows per month is fine with Baker, but he hopes that that pace will soon pick up. His goal is to get more jobs so he can charge less. He would also like to expand, but he knows he needs to take it one step at a time.

"I've never had a career that I didn't love," Baker said. "I loved teaching and I love doing this as well."

For more information, visit www.charactercountry.com, or call (248) 477-4485.

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.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Sale to benefit TACC

Brian Langley, a Novi High School science teacher, is designing and selling T-shirts, sweatshirts and sweatpants, with all profits benefiting Teens Aiding the Cancer Community this semester. The design on the apparel will promote learning in the classroom and the clothes will be sold to students in his classroom. It is a tradition for Langley to raise money for a charity every semester. Last time he raised over \$1,000 for the American Cancer Society.

Building a balance

The Novi Community School District is hosting a Healthy Families Build Balance Workshop on Saturday, March 27 at Novi Middle School. Times are 8:45 a.m. — 12:30 p.m. There will be many activities for parents and kids alike. Special guests include popular fitness show host Peter Nielsen, Dr. C.J. Trupp III, Jo Ann Clements, Jennifer Kachalla, the Novi Sports Club and more. The registration fee is \$5 per adult and children are admitted free. The minimum age is three and a half years old and toddlers must be toilet trained. All participants must be pre-registered by Monday, March 22. For more information or to register, call (248) 449-1206.

School board election info

Novi School Board Elections will take place on Monday, June 14, but there are plenty of important dates before that.

Of the seven members, the terms of two — Bruce Bagdady and Julie Abrams — are up this year. Both plan to run again.

New terms start on Thursday, July 1 and each one is for four years. Monday, April 12 marks the nominating petitions deadline for candidates. Candidates can either turn in nominating petitions or pay a \$100 filing fee by that date. Thursday, April 15 is the candidate withdrawal deadline.

Those interested can file at the Educational Services Building located on Taft Road between 10 and 11 Mile Roads.

The Novi Community School District Board of Education meets on the first and third Thursday of each month during the school year. The

Scholarships available

The Novi Educational Foundation announced that applications for the 2004 Fuertel Scholarships are now available.

The Fuertel Scholarships are awarded with funds from the estate of Ruby Fuertel, a long-time Novi resident. The scholarships total \$20,000 per year and are distributed and administered by the Novi Educational Foundation.

Qualification criteria require all applicants to be residents of the Novi Community School District. Applicants need not be current graduates, but must be pursuing post high school education at an accredited community college, college, university, technical or vocational school. Scholarships will be awarded primarily on the basis of the applicants financial need.

Applications are available at the Novi High School Counseling Office, the Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Road, Novi or by calling (248) 449-1200. The deadline for submitting an application is Friday, March 31.

For additional information, contact Bob Strann at (248) 449-1203.

Several speakers are popular repeats from prior years, such as Jeff West, owner of Head West Salon; Dave Ray, FBI agent; Debbie Nudle, director of group exercise at Novi Sports Club; and Tim Prokop, firefighter.

A new format is in place for the eighth graders this year. Each student will have a chance to go through financial need. The student will choose a profession, find out his/her estimated salary and then visit "stations" such as housing, insurance, day care, groceries, etc. The student will try to determine what portion of the salary will be used for each of these necessities.

The Reality Store is a concept developed by Canton's Business and Professional Women's Association and will be sponsored in part by Schoolcraft College.

Novi Middle School's 14th annual Career Day will take place on Friday,

Compiled by Ramez Khuri

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 18.182

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Novi City Council has adopted Ordinance No. 18.182 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE, APPENDIX A, ORDINANCE 97-18, AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED, TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS 303.2, 303.2(a)(1)(b), 303.2(a)(1)(c), 303.2(a)(1)(d), AND 303.2(a)(1)(e) TO MODIFY THE STANDARDS FOR SINGLE-FAMILY DETACHED APPEARANCE VARIATIONS TO ALSO INCLUDE THE REAR BUILDING ELEVATIONS OF SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES WHICH ABUT MAJOR THOROUGHFARES.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, March 15, 2004 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

(3-25-04 NN 1203193) MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

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Novi News

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(3-25-04 NN 120318) MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF PROPOSALS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MINOR HOME REPAIR

The City of Novi is seeking bid proposals from qualified service providers to manage and administer a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Minor Home Repair Program for the 2004 Program year beginning July 1, 2004. The program will provide minor home repairs to qualified low and moderate-low income residents of the City of Novi.

Bid packages are available at the City of Novi, Office of the Purchasing Director, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi MI 48375.

Bid proposals must include a detailed outline on how the program will be managed and administered.

Bid proposals will be funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and the administrator must be familiar with, and comply with, all applicable CDBG regulations. When awarded, the term length of the contract will be two (2) years.

Sealed proposals will be received until 3:00 P.M., prevailing Eastern Time, Thursday, April 15, 2004, at which time proposals will be opened and read. Proposals shall be addressed as follows:

CITY OF NOVI
CAROL J. KALINOVIK, PURCHASING DIRECTOR
45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48375-3024

All proposals must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the proposing firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE PLAINLY MARKED "CDBG MINOR HOME REPAIR" AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE PROPOSER.

The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informalities or both; to reject any or all proposals; and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the City of Novi.

Notice Dated: March 16, 2004

CAROL J. KALINOVIK
PURCHASING DIRECTOR
(248) 347-0446

(3-25-04 NN 120987)

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For more information, contact your local participating State Farm agent about State Farm back-to-back insurance.

Mike Gabriel 43901 10 Mile Road Novi, MI 48375 248-477-8303

Veronica Moeff 43380 W. Ten Mile Rd. Ste 120 Novi, MI 48375 248-360-6446

Teri Anderson-Berger 43341 Grand River Novi, MI 48375 248-361-1150

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It's Fiesta Time at Novi Meadows

After a successful semester of learning the basics in four different foreign languages, Laura Pennycuff's fifth grade foreign language classes celebrated with a fiesta. The students each brought in foods that are representative of different countries, such as fortune cookies, Scottish shortbread, French mousse, Mexican bean dips and several Japanese and Korean dishes. Pennycuff supplied the Mexican pic. Pictured are Winston Chen, Justin Antolee and Justin Mustonen.



Raising money at McDonald's

The McDonald's restaurant on Ten Mile Road, east of Haggerty, is a great community partner with Novi Community Schools. On March 15, McDonald's sponsored "Village Oaks Night," whereby a portion of the food receipts taken from 5 to 7 p.m. were donated to Village Oaks Elementary School in Novi. More than \$350 was collected and will be used for school field trips. Everyone had a great time sharing a French fry or two and the children loved seeing their favorite friend, Ronald McDonald. These Village Oaks teachers and staff members took food orders, cooked, and had lots of fun at the McDonald's night. Pictured (l to r) are Jill Pennabaker, Vida Chirgwin, Ellen Zatalokin, Karen Brostman and Linda McGulgan.



Novi Meadows Fun Fest

Face painting is always a favorite at the Novi Meadows spring festival, the Fun Fest. Here, fifth grade student teacher Maria Rosta decorates the cheeks of sixth grader Chloe Ketchum.



Novi Middle School Quest Volunteer Club

The Novi Middle School Quest Volunteer Club took an after-school field trip to the Detroit Ronald McDonald House a few weeks ago to promote donations from the entire school. The students delivered hundreds of pounds of needed household supplies. They also made and provided a four course dinner for 60 parents of seriously ill children. They toured the 26 bedroom facility and talked with parents and staff. The students had a wonderful time and are looking forward to a similar experience at the Ann Arbor Ronald McDonald House on Monday, May 3. The students learned the value of supporting one another in difficult times, appreciating their health and the joy of volunteering. Pat Holt joined them as the Ronald McDonald Corporation liaison. Pictured (l to r) Danielle Petz, Taylor Spears, Chelsea Budlong, Elise Schubring, Rachel Winegar and Kate Schulhoff.



'M' is for Music

Parkview Elementary showcased third and fourth graders in an annual music program with this year's theme: "M is for Music" a few weeks ago. Music teacher Suzanne H. Korzyn brought together more than 200 students to perform a tribute to the many facets of music. Through the 10 musical numbers performed, the students demonstrated that not only "M is for Music, but also 'L' is for learning. The variety of songs performed confirmed the students' understanding of the many styles of music from Traditional to Classical; and from Musical Theater to Rap. Each number was performed with an enthusiasm and gusto which conveyed their appreciation and love of the subject. This year's program took everyone through a musical tour of the alphabet. The students highlighted how music is part of our daily lives from Anthems to Zither with Karaoke and Mozart in between. Some of the highlights of the programs were: a two part round, "The Rain Song", which produced a thunder storm using nothing more than the student's hands, feet and voices. And finally, a "Kazoo Concerto" featuring themes from Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" and Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus". The program will be broadcast locally on channel 10. For details and times go to www.novi.k12.mi.us/Spotlight/channel10.html.

It's spring time....at Parkview

All four first grade classes at Parkview Elementary tried to help the new season arrive quicker by dressing up in their spring clothes. The children wore shorts, hats, sunglasses and they brought their beach towels as well. They all hoped that their enthusiasm will help Spring come to Novi. Pictured (l to r) Cassie Lawler, John Hamilton, Katie Wheeler and Avery Ragatzki



Novi Meadows Disco Day

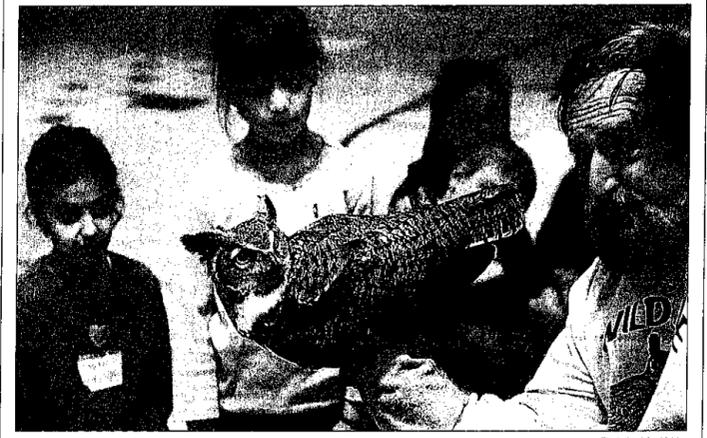
The Novi Meadows student council sponsored another "Spirit Day" with the theme being "Disco Day." Several teachers donned some of their special 1970s clothes, but the students had to borrow clothes, as they weren't even born for the disco era. There are several Spirit Days throughout the year. These days allow both teachers and students to have some extra fun during the school day. Pictured here are Abigail Glenn, Megan Henry, fifth grade teacher Catherine Verduce, Chris Muncie, Dean Ripper, Jackie Tressler, Rachel Staudt and Stephanie Low.

No Title One funds spells possible doom for Village Oaks

Funfeld fighting for continuation of program

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Book Buddies, a successful reading program which was brought to Village Oaks Elementary School by Literacy Specialist Jane Funfeld in the 2002-03 school year, may have to be cut before the 2004-05 school year because of financial issues. Title One funds are used to make this program work. According to Funfeld, other elementary schools in Novi use these funds to pay a half-time certified teacher, whereas Village Oaks uses them to hire two half-time paraprofessionals for the Book Buddies program. At the end of last school year, Novi Schools was no longer identified as a Title One district because there aren't enough students who need free or reduced hot lunches. That means a decision must be made about the Book Buddies program soon. "Though Title One funds were cut at the end of last school year, the program was not cut for this school year (2003-04) because Residual Title One funds were used to keep it going. Residual funds are moneys that weren't used up last year. Village Oaks was able to use that money and document that it was used effectively. "Really, we thought the program was going to be over this year, but (Village Oaks Principal) Mary Goedert has really backed it up wonderfully and she went to the administration and sold the program. Now there are definitely no Title One funds, so the district has to look at it as, is Book Buddies something worthwhile for its low cost for us to pick up the price tag for?" Funfeld thinks so. She explained that there are a lot of programs out there that Novi has put into place because they claim to be something that can move academic scores up - and some of them are expensive. An example she cited was full-day kindergarten, which is an expensive intervention for academic growth. "We were given a charge to find something that's going to bring test scores up for kids with No Child Left Behind," Funfeld said. "We were told to think outside the box, research things and to try and prove things. The school board was waiting for me to come to them with the scores I shared at the board meeting. It took a lot of time to go into the data five years out. Now that the data is out there, I'm sure everybody in the administration is going to want to see what scores will look like in May." Funfeld knows Book Buddies is successful because they had eight years of good data in Virginia with thousands of kids when they did it there. "That's how I was able to come to the board and pitch this program in the first place for us," she said. "We are showing similar growth here at Village Oaks." Funfeld explained that with a different group of first graders this year participating in the program, she would need at least three more years to get two years of data. "Every year is always different," Funfeld said. "If we can get the same results as the traditional reading program and save money at the same time, that's big for the district." 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.



Who? Joe Rogers of the Wildlife Recovery Association, holds a great horned owl for students at Novi's Village Oaks Elementary School during last Friday's all-day Science Workshop. Rogers, who cares for birds of prey who've been injured, also displayed a snowy, barn and savet owl and a red tail hawk.

Home & Garden

Home & Garden is a special section that is filled with all kinds of gardening and improvement ideas.

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"...somebody has to be an advocate for the elementaries, the young kids.. I want us in our planning for next year, to seriously take into consideration programs like this [Book Buddies]."

Dave Brown
Novi School Board

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Deadline for submission April 16th
Pictures will run on April 22nd

For further information or to submit your picture and outline contact Laurie Lamey
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HomeTown Heroes OF OAKLAND COUNTY

Do You Want to Honor a HomeTown Hero?

Your Observer & Eccentric, Mirror and HomeTown Newspapers, in conjunction with the United Way Volunteer Center of Oakland, are calling for nominations for the HomeTown Heroes™ Awards, which recognizes, encourages and rewards outstanding volunteers who have given selflessly of themselves to support non-profit organizations in Oakland County. Nominees and awardees will be recognized at the Fifth Annual HomeTown Heroes™ Luncheon that will take place on June 3, 2004 at Marriott at Centerpoint in Pontiac, Michigan.

NOMINATOR: _____ IF GROUP, CONTACT PERSON: _____
ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP: _____
DAYTIME PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ E-MAIL: _____
NOMINATING CATEGORY: _____ DIRECT SERVICE _____ YOUNG ADULT _____ SENIOR
_____ YOUTH _____ GOVERNANCE _____ FAITH-BASED _____ BUSINESS
NAME OF NOMINEE: _____ AGE: _____
(Must volunteer for an Oakland County non-profit organization)
ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP: _____
DAYTIME PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ E-MAIL: _____
SCHOOL ATTENDING (if appropriate): _____
PLACE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE: _____
YEARS OF SERVICE: _____ AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS WORKS PER MONTH: _____
TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED: _____
On a separate sheet, in 300 words or less, tell why you have nominated this individual, group or business. Describe the nominee's major accomplishments, commitment, self-motivation, problem-solving skills, and measurable impact upon the community. Entries must be typewritten. Do not staple pages. Include a photo (no larger than 5" x 7") of the nominated person or group, or for Business nominees, include a photo of persons participating in the volunteer activity.

Entries must be received by Friday, April 16, 2004.
Mail or fax forms to: HomeTown Heroes™ Awards • c/o United Way Volunteer Center
50 Wayne Street • Pontiac, MI 48342 • Fax: 248-456-8809
For questions, further information, or more applications go to
www.unitedwayoakland.org/hero or call 248-874-1601.

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Courtesy photo
Carly Mach, Kyle Girvan, Jon Thompson, Jessica Snider and Lexie Martin play the Orff instruments.

Children of the World

By Charlene Dibble
VILLAGE OAKS MUSIC TEACHER

special with magical folk songs for that country with student accompaniment using Orff instruments.

The Village Oaks third grade students celebrated their theme, "It's a Small World...Tales to Tell," by performing the musical "Children of the World" on March 2 with a visual art show at Fierst Auditorium on the high school campus.

The children visited several countries, including China, India, Japan and Ghana. This beautiful extravaganza was presented as a wonderful story told by the students.

The children shared their stories explaining the next country to visit, mode of transportation and the traditions and customs of the country. Beautiful costumes and set decorations made each journey

The audience loved the appearance of a huge, colorful Chinese dragon which entered from the back of the stage and snaked its way through the audience and then on to stage. This wonderful presentation was a culmination of a story telling theme that integrated language arts, art, social studies, dancing and music. A special thanks to all the Village Oaks staff, parents and students for their hard work and a superb presentation! It was a great trip around the world!

Charlene Dibble is the music teacher at Village Oaks Elementary School. She can be reached at (248) 449-1300.

Quilting with the three R's

Village Oaks students learn the art of quilting

By Bette Born

It all started with good books, a suggestion and parent volunteers.

The students in Lori Gilbo's third grade class at Village Oaks Elementary read the story "The Patchwork Quilt" by Valerie Flournoy. It is a story of a young child who was very sick and could not go outside. So to pass her time inside, she sewed a very special quilt that incorporated memories of her family.



Courtesy photo
Parent volunteer, Angela Johnson assists Felicia Angelosanto, while Professional Seamstress and Classroom Parent Sharon Moses, dressed in her pioneer dress and apron, helps Prany Kothepalli with her quilting project.

Next, the class read "Log Cabin Quilt" by Ellen Howard. This story is about a family who travels from Carolina to Michigan after the death of their mother to start a new life. On a very cold, winter night the mud chinking in the log cabin falls out, letting in all the cold air. The oldest daughter, who brought her mother's material scraps, began to think the walls with the material scraps filling the cabin with memories of their mother.

Reading these stories truly peaked the curiosity of the students and soon they thought

about quilting and learning to sew. With the help of Sharon Moses, a professional seamstress and classroom mother, each student would complete their own quilting project—a quilted patchwork potholder. First, they had to decide their colors. Then, the stu-

dents used their "Rhythmic" skills to calculate the sizes of their pieces, carefully measure, and then cut each piece. All the pieces were then pinned together, and then it was time to learn how to sew. As the projects progressed, the students also learned the importance of following directions, sharing materials, and cooperating with one another.

To incorporate "Riting," Gilbo had each student use their Weekly Journal to write about special topics such as "What two objects in your home bring back special memories in your life?"

The quilting project in this classroom became more than just another assignment. All the students, both boys and girls alike, worked with great pride and enthusiasm to see their own unique design actually come to life. Gilbo included Reading, "Riting," and "Rhythmic" staying true to the curriculum goals and the joy of learning.

Bette Born is a PTO mother for Village Oaks Elementary School.

Outstanding Novi teachers sought

The Novi News will recognize monthly a local teacher for his or her excellence in the classroom. Nominations can come from students, teachers, parents, administrators or community residents who have contact or knowledge of a teacher's classroom activities.

Nominations can be mailed to Novi News, Cal Stone, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167; faxed to (248) 349-9832; or sent by e-mail to csstone@hl.homecomm.net.

The deadline for nominations is the last day of the month. The Novi News staff will select the winner and a feature story and photograph will appear in the Novi News on the second Thursday of the following month. Those not selected as the Outstanding Teacher of the Month will be considered for subsequent months.

To nominate a teacher, please send the teacher's name, school address and the school's telephone number along with a statement of no more than 200 words telling us why this teacher deserves to be the Outstanding Teacher of the Month.

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HEALTHY LIVING

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

For those who want to be healthier "in the worst way"

By Ernie Harwell

I'm often asked whether I dreamed of being a major league broadcaster as a child. My answer is always the same: I became a broadcaster because I grew up wanting to play baseball in the worst way — and that's exactly how I played it.

Through this tongue-in-cheek reply gets a chuckle or two, it also reminds me that there's often a best way, and a worst way, to do things.



So if you have decided to exercise to improve your health, here are three important things to remember about the best way to begin.

First, consult your doctor. Next, start slow and increase your level of exercise gradually. Even a little exercise is better than none. Just walking three to four times each week for 30 to

40 minutes will deliver many benefits. In fact, the U.S. Surgeon General says 30 minutes of moderate exercise cumulative each day is enough to keep us in shape.

Finally, remember that pain during exercise is a sign that something is wrong. If you experience unusual pain while exercising, slow down or stop until you have again talked to your doctor.

These three simple tips are your keys to improving your health "in the best way."

And please remember to take care of your health before it's too late.

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns entitled "Life After Baseball," is available in bookstores beginning April 2004.

Providence promotes patient safety and "The Power of Partnership"

"Patient Safety Awareness" is the highlight during March 2004 by the National Patient Safety Foundation's Patient and Family Advisory Council. Originally launched in March 2002, the purpose of this campaign is to increase the public's awareness of specific actions they can take, and to encourage patients to partner with their health care providers (physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, hospitalists, etc.) to make sure they are receiving care that is safe.

"We encourage all patients to take an active role in the health care they receive," states Dr. Jeffrey Zaks, vice-president for Medical Affairs. "We are committed to providing the safest, and most up-to-date personal care, addressing each patient's values and interests. We have created a work-culture where safety is everyone's job, where the patient in front of you is the only one you are caring for."

There are numerous ways to be involved in your own personal health care, and here are a few recommendations from Providence:

1. Become an active member of your health team — this is the single most important thing you can do. If you don't understand something, ask questions and keep asking until you do understand.

2. Make sure that your doctors know about all medications you are taking, including over-the-counter medications, vitamins and herbs. At least once a year, bring your medications to your doctor or pharmacist for review.

3. Clean out your medicine cabinets of old or expired medications.

4. Write down, and carry with you, a list of all medications you are taking. If you need to visit an Emergency Center, they may not have access to your records.

5. Talk with your family or other close individuals about your what your wishes are for your health care, in case you are unable to speak for yourself. Let your healthcare provider know who your advocate is.

6. When your doctor writes a prescription, make sure you can read it.

7. If you are a patient in the hospital, always remind those around you (visitors and health care workers alike) to wash their hands. Handwashing is an important way to prevent the spread of infections in hospital.

8. Ask your doctor, hospital representative or healthcare professional about patient safety and how you believe he/she may be able to help. Starting this dialogue is a great first step to being actively involved in your healthcare.

Providence is a member of St. John Health — a network of community-based hospitals and health care services in Southeast Michigan and one of the largest employers in metro Detroit. St. John Health provides comprehensive prevention, primary care and advanced treatment programs with more than 125 medical centers, and eight hospitals spanning five counties.

Dr. Zaks

"Our perspective on safety goes beyond meeting a statistical percentage," said Zaks. "We have a 'mission' that calls us to provide healthcare that is safe, that works, and that leaves no one behind. We take this mission very seriously, and accomplish our aggressive patient safety goals in many ways."

For example, Providence has recently implemented a computerized "physician order entry" system in its Cardiac Care Unit. This means that "orders" from physicians regarding medications, treatments, diet plans, and more are now computerized. The computerized system eliminates previous handwritten orders and ensures legibility/readability and accuracy of the information being communicated. This is a large and effective step in patient safety.

In addition, on a regular basis, Providence audits the healthcare services that it provides. This is accomplished by a dynamic team called the "Performance, Improvement and Patient Safety Council" led by the vice-president for Medical Affairs. The group includes a clinical safety manager, registered nurses, physicians, pharmacists and risk management personnel all solely focused on patient safety and providing leadership to associates who work at Providence.

101 Things to do in SUMMER

The Special Section that shines its focus on Fun activities for all in the Good Ol' Summertime!

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'Take me to your leader'

Runners, walkers 'think green' at Martian Marathon

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

March is the month to "think green."

It's the month of St. Patrick's Day, and it's named for the planet Mars with its hypothetical green residents.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

What better way to "think green" and be a Martian for a day by competing in the Fourth Annual Martian Marathon.

The charity event will take place at 8 a.m. March 27 at Schoolcraft College in Northville Township.

"We do the Martian Marathon for two different charities — the Michigan Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the Schoolcraft College Cross Country program," said sponsor Randy Step of Novi, owner of Running Fit stores in Novi and Northville.

The event also gives area walking and running enthusiasts a chance to show off their best attempts to look like a Martian, as well as walk or run like one.

More than 1,000 people will compete in the race, said Step.

The course starts at Haggerty Road across from Schoolcraft College with parking available at the college.

There are three categories to the event:

- 26.2 miles for the marathon at a cost of \$40
- 13.1 miles for half marathon at a cost of \$35
- 20 mile training run at a cost of \$7

Fees on race day are \$50, \$40 and \$10, respectively.

"People can run in the training run for as much or as little as they want," noted Dave Henner, night manager at the Northville Running Fit store.

"People who are running the Boston Marathon use this event as a training run. It's tradition to schedule a 20-mile run three weeks before a marathon, and then rest until marathon time. This event is designed specifically for that purpose," Step said.

"We have the more serious runners show up for this event."

Lora Obranovic of Novi will be walking in the half marathon event. "This will be my third year," she said.

Runners and walkers can enter online at www.runningfit.com or stop by one of the stores. The Northville store is located at 17783 Haggerty Road in Northville Township. The Novi store's address is 26140 Ingersol Drive. Other area Running Fit stores are located in Ann Arbor and West Bloomfield, with two stores in Traverse City.

Entrants can also register online at www.martianmarathon.com.

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@hl.homecomm.net.

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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.

Handful know cool when they hear it

About 150 people found out just how cool Novi is Saturday night. That's when jazz artist Eric Reed took the stage at the middle school and blistered through two sets of incredible piano playing.

that are astounding. It's a far cry from the type of auditoriums (i.e., pullout bleachers in a room that doubled as the cafeteria) that were in vogue when I went to school.

This community has been blessed with the resources to build such a structure here. If you've already read our front page story on Nathan George, the soundman for the evening, you'll be lucky to hear a show that fine even in New York City.

Reed was accompanied by bassist Rodney "Big Money" Whitaker and Randy Gillespie on drums.

The event was a fund-raiser for Novi Coalition That Cares, and hopefully it raised a little more awareness of this type of music along the way.

If you've never been to Novi Middle School's auditorium, do yourself a favor and go. It is a beautiful, state-of-the-art facility with acoustics



Cal Stone

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

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN NEF accepting scholarship applications

The Novi Educational Foundation is pleased to announce that applications for the Fuerst, David Langham, Marilyn Renee Carnegie and Providence Hospital scholarships are currently being accepted. Applications are available at Novi High School and the Educational Services building located at 25345 74th Rd. in Novi.

The deadline for submitting applications is March 31. Applicants for the Fuerst Scholarship must also complete an interview which will be conducted in April. Recipients of the other scholarships are determined on the application alone.

Each year in conjunction with its benefactors, the Novi Educational Foundation awards scholarships exceeding \$25,000. Approximately \$20,000 of this sum is awarded to recipients of the Fuerst Scholarship. This scholarship was funded through a donation from Ruby and Ila Fuerst. The Fuerst Scholarship is available to residents of the Novi Community School District regardless of age. Other than residency, the only other requirement is that the applicant must be pursuing or intend on pursuing an undergraduate degree of some other acceptable form of post secondary school training or instruction.

The Fuerst Scholarship is not available to those pursuing graduate degrees. Factors considered in determining the recipients of the Fuerst Scholarship are the interview, academic record, citizenship and financial need. The scholarship funds are typically divided between a number of deserving students. Previous recipients as well as unsuccessful applicants are eligible to reapply provided they are

pursuing an undergraduate degree or other form of acceptable post high school instruction. Non-traditional students are also encouraged to apply. Applicants for the Fuerst Scholarship must attend an interview conducted by the scholarship committee of the foundation. Interviews are held mid-April. The interview process is focused upon the applicant. When appropriate, the applicant's parent or guardian is also invited to attend the interview.

This is the second year for the Providence Hospital Health Career Scholarship which has been made available through the generosity of Providence Hospital. Realizing there is a shortage of medical personnel, Providence Hospital created this scholarship in hopes of stimulating interest in pursuing careers in the medical field. Five \$1,000 scholarships are available. This scholarship is open to all graduating Novi High School students who intend on pursuing a career in the medical field. Recipients are selected on the basis of the contents of their application, academic history, citizenship, and family finances. These applications are also reviewed by the members of the foundation scholarship committee.

The remaining two scholarships have been made possible through the generosity of families from the Novi Community School District. In an effort to honor the memory of deceased family members, the families of David Langham (Novi High School class of 2000) and Marilyn Renee Carnegie have created memorial scholarships. This is the second year for the Marilyn Renee Carnegie Scholarship and the fifth year for the

David Langham Scholarship. Although the foundation administers these two scholarships, recipients are chosen by the respective families. These scholarships are available to seniors graduating from Novi High School who plan on pursuing post secondary education.

Additional information regarding these scholarships may be obtained by contacting the Counselor Department of Novi High School at (248) 449-1516 or Bob Schram at (248) 449-1203.

The Novi Educational Foundation is a non-profit organization whose primary goal is to raise money in order to increase the educational opportunities of Novi Community School District students. Money is raised through a number of fund raising events including the sale of inscribed paper bricks at Novi High School; a golf outing scheduled for June 24 at the Links of Novi Golf Course; and a winner-take-all raffle culminating in a drawing held at a Novi High School football game in October each year. For further information on any of these fund raisers or on the Novi Educational Foundation itself, contact Bob Schram or Dennis Haggerty (dnhaggerty@hotmail.com).

By the NEF's Dennis Haggerty. Call (248) 449-1200 for more information.

THE MAYOR'S CORNER Novi's future lies in water and beds

Novi's future is exciting and coming on fast. There will be many new projects in the next few years, but two projects are critical. These are our water supply plan and a new hospital with a couple of hundred beds.

Water is one of those things that we just take for granted. At home, when I turn the handle, water comes out just about every time. In the last couple of years I even have precious water in the summer. Well, the city is not taking this as a commodity for granted.

In Novi we are used to seeing construction. New homes, road improvements and new commercial buildings have been a part of our lives for many years. However, you may not notice the work that continues underground. There is some pretty heavy stuff happening down there.

If you ever pass through the intersection of 12 Mile Road and West Park, you may notice some activity on the northeast side of the road. This is where the city is installing a new water booster station. This will improve the water pressure to the southwest portion of our city. This station will move water through the new water line being installed under 1.96 just east of Beck Road.

This new water line is critical to Novi as it provides a backup source of water, south of I-96, from our main intake at 14 Mile and Haggerty. By the way, did you know that our main water intake source is Lake Huron in the Port Huron area? I'll bet you didn't know that.

There is also an additional connection to the Detroit water system being constructed at West Park Drive and Pontiac Trail.

Novi's main water entry point is at 14 Mile and Haggerty. The next time you pass that intersection see if you can spot the 10,000,000 gallon water storage tank. It is in the southeast quadrant of that corner. It sure doesn't look like the storage tanks of old.

The two water storage tanks most people associate with Novi are at 12 Oaks and the Novi Expo Center. These tanks are not used for city water. They are private and provide water pressure to the Expo Center and 12 Oaks. The Novi tower is fed by a well. Actually there is a third tower on Novi Road with a picture of the Novi Special. I am told that all of the water leaked out of that one. It is turning into a historical landmark.

So Novi is on the case. We have a water supply plan that takes us to build out and we will review it frequently.

Now for the beds - the future hospital beds at Providence Medical Center. Rob Casala and the folks at St. John Hospital System are doing their best to fight through the political and competitive resistance to expand their Novi facility. What's the big deal? Why should the residents of Novi, South Lyon, Milford, Wixom and Walled Lake travel to Southfield to get the excellent attention that Providence / St. John offers. Just this month there was a serious accident

near Novi Road and I-96. A person that needed emergency procedures had to be taken to a hospital in Royal Oak. That is a long way to go when time is critical. The same holds true for other emergency health episodes. Heart attack? Hey, it's drive to Southfield.

Our emergency response time from fire and police departments is very good and so is the staff at Providence Novi. But if you are taken to Providence in Novi for a critical emergency, chances are you will head to I-96 for a serious drive to a hospital out of town.

Opponents to Novi's new hospital say it will drive up the cost of health care. Are you kidding me? That makes no sense. No matter how much hospitals spend, they still get paid a fixed amount for the services they render. Also, hospitals do not pass along capital expenses to taxpayers, and haven't for many years.

Opponents say there are five hospitals within a 10-mile radius of the proposed hospital. Really? There is only one hospital in the west side of Oakland County. Novi/Providence would improve access for a growing suburban area that needs a nearby hospital. This would also improve the hospital's payor mix and allow Providence to continue to service the poor and underserved throughout southeast Michigan.

Let's get real here. The population is moving west and we need the hospital beds. Keep up the good fight. Mr. Casala, I have had the opportunity to see your plans for the site and, I believe, in the end it will be another crown jewel for the residents of Novi.

Lou Czoradas is the mayor of the City of Novi. He can be reached through the city offices at (248) 347-0460.

LETTERS

Running for school board

The Novi Board of Education is facing tough decisions at this time. Although the Class of 2004 is looking at graduation less than 90 days from now, the school board is already working on the budget for the 2004-2005 school year. Over the past three years, funding for Novi schools from the state of Michigan has not increased as fast as the cost of least, electricity, staff, etc. A task force was formed to look at what programs would make the least student impact if cut from the budget. This year, our school board faces the responsibility of cutting programs and staff in reaction to this deficit funding.

I believe that as a new member of the Novi Board of Education, I will bring new ideas to the decision making process. As a board of education, we must provide transportation, staffing, space and supplies for all our students. Funding for our newest students may take up to a year to arrive, but we are still responsible for their educational costs from the day they enter one of our schools.

Through my years of involvement in Novi and Novi schools, I have taken the time to learn and understand the issues that the board of education is facing today. I will work diligently to continue the effective handling of money by the Novi schools. I care about education and I care about our community. I believe that it's time for new ideas on the board of education.

Becky Staab
Candidate for Novi Board of Education

Thank you, Kathy

The City of Novi has just experienced the loss of service of a wonderful lady, Kathy Crawford who was born and raised in Novi and never left. Kathy is remembered by me as a member of a dynamic Jaycee organization that was at one time the largest and most active civic organization in the City of Novi. The Novi Jaycees brought forward community leaders that served the City of Novi in the formative years. The Matt Quins, the Hugh Crawford, the Ed Leiningers, the John Balagnas and of course Kathy Crawford. That was a special time and a time marked now by the coming and going of Kathy Crawford as the Novi Senior Coordinator.

Kathy and Hugh have been special community supporters. Kathy created the Novi senior programs and continued to press for senior housing until it was a reality. Kathy was and is the senior soul of everything that has evolved over 25 years. There is a large hole on Meadowbrook Rd. that may never be filled or fixed. Kathy has left a void of great magnitude. Team Novi has just been dealt a blow. Good luck to Kathy and Hugh.

Ed Kriewall
Novi

Bowl-a-thon thanks

Thank you to all those bowlers, businesses, and sponsors that made the 22 annual Novi Youth Assistance Bowl-a-thon a success. I would

like to thank our sponsor Providence Hospital, Brighton Hospital and St. Johns Health. Thank you to our late sponsors Drs. Andrew, Efring, Jr. and Novak, Bank One, Dr. Robert Bateman, M.D.P.C., C.T.I. & Associates, Inc., Senator Nancy Cassis, City of Novi, Church of the Holy Family, Diamond Jim Brady's, Dick's Don's, Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Larson Jewelry Design, Inc., Lindsey & Katie Nicholson, Dr. Stephen Mims, D.D.S., Novi Community Education, Novi Community Schools, Novi Expo Center, Inc., O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Flek 1 Int./Progressive Dental Group, Quality Drive Testing, Inc., Lisa & Michael Rice, The Bob Steeh. Thank you to the businesses that donated prizes: Applebee's, Charter One, City of Novi, Coffee Trader, Dominois Chiropractic, Life Ctr. Exceptional Buy, Bob Gatt, Grady's, Gensmy Farms Dairy, Italian Epicure, Majestic Kap-Opposer, Jane Kallen, Linda's Hair and more, Brian Burke and Tom Holzer Ford Dealer Colten M. Mahan, Max & Emma's, Max Printing & Copy Center, Michigan Heritage Bank, Novi Community School, Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry, Novi Police Department, Number Six Salon, Picasso Cafe, President Family Dentistry, Salon Agape, The Little Flower Shop, The Vintage Wine Shoppe, Wyndham Garden Hotels. Thanks again to all those that help Novi Youth Assistance bring the Jeanne Clarke Summer Teen Center, Camp, Mentors PLUS, Youth Recognition, Alcohol & Drug Awareness and Scholarships to the families of Novi.

John P. O'Brien
Novi Youth Assistance

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

Mail: Letters to the Editor, Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167
E-mail: cstone@ht.homecomm.net Fax to: (248) 349-9832

OTHER OPINIONS

Reshaping workforce is vitally important

Job training is vitally important — but has got to be one of the more boring subjects around. I should know since I've put more than my share of audiences to sleep while serving as Chair of the Michigan Job Training Coordinating Council back in the 1980s.

At the end of the day, however, job training turns out to be one of those things — like eating spinach, flossing your teeth, avoiding fatty foods — that might be tedious, but turn out to be an essential part of a healthy lifestyle. For the economy of any state, an effective job training system — or, to make it sound more sexy, a cutting edge system to invest in human capital — is an essential part of any economic growth strategy.

Consider the facts we face in Michigan. We have lost more than 175,000 manufacturing jobs over the past four years, and our economy is still shedding jobs in the midst of what's being called a national "jobless" economic recovery. But blue- and white-collar jobs are being outsourced to other countries, and Michigan firms are suddenly finding themselves competing around the globe with companies that pay their workers \$10-20 less per hour than they do.

Moreover, Michigan is gaining population much more slowly than most other states, which is why we have lost four congressional seats since 1980. Worse, we are losing precisely the kinds of people we need to be competitive in the future: Young, highly skilled, college educated citizens.

Fewer Michigan citizens now earn degrees beyond high school than the national average, and too many of those that do move away from Michigan after graduation, supposedly drawn by "cool" cities and "vibrant" lifestyles... one key aspect of which has to be the opportunity for a good job.

And the various impacts of the state's long-running budget crisis are beginning to add up. Funding

levels for K-12 schools have been essentially flat for three years, and anecdotal evidence — as well as stories I've reported in these pages in recent weeks — suggests the impact of Proposal A on those few first-class school systems has been disastrous. State support for public universities has

fallen by 15 percent over the past two years. All this spells trouble for a state now reeling from an unprecedented challenge in which it is necessary to shift from our traditional base in mass manufacturing to one focusing on flexible manufacturing and the service sector. These are things Michigan must do in order to prosper in a very competitive global economy.

One part of the solution is obvious: A wholesale change in the way we think about workforce skills. More than strong backs, our workers need to be innovative and adaptable. Instead of accepting their fate when laid off for lack of skills, our workers need to seize the opportunity of lifelong learning to master new skills to get new and better jobs. Instead of being judgmental of mass manufacturing, our firms need to be more entrepreneurial, agile, and quick.

Reshaping Michigan's workforce is a fundamentally important initiative. If it succeeds, it will eventually pay enormous dividends in helping our workers and our firms succeed in an environment of very tough global competition. The alternative is something we don't want to think about.

Phil Power is Vice Chair of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and 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) 952-2047 or ppower@homecomm.net.

ACLU's Moss celebrates victory on one front

Kary Moss looks tired, which is not surprising, given that she has spent another 70-80 hour week fighting for mostly unpopular causes. On top of that, she comes from Ann Arbor to Detroit, and is the mother of a teenager.

But the executive director of the Michigan branch of the American Civil Liberties Union is a bit optimistic on one front, anyway. Perhaps thanks to a little ACLU lobbying, supporters of the death penalty failed decisively last week to get enough votes in the Michigan House to put a constitutional amendment on the November ballot that would have allowed capital punishment.

Michigan, which hasn't put anyone to death since it was a territory, was the first state to abolish executions. But homicides are soaring again in the Motor City, and there was an enormous outcry when two very young officers, Matthew Bowens, 21, and Jennifer Freij, 26, were brutally gunned down last month after they made what seemed to be a routine traffic stop.

Moss, a native New Yorker who has very vivid memories of Sept. 11, understands the anger. But the ACLU is firmly against capital punishment on a variety of grounds, not least of which, she says, is that it is pretty clear that innocent people have been executed. In the last decade, scores of prisoners have been released from death row, and sometimes from prison altogether, when DNA evidence proved conclusively they were not guilty of their supposed crimes.

"At a time when Illinois and other states are putting a moratorium on capital punishment, Michigan should not consider the death penalty," Moss testified before the state legislature earlier this month. She

noted that when the U.S. Supreme Court set-legalized capital punishment in 1976, it said had to be "fairly and consistently administered."

But capital punishment is far from the only item on the ACLU's plate. For more than two years, she and her staff, who are based in a small building on the fringe of Wayne State University's campus, have been primarily occupied with civil liberties concerns stemming from the Patriot Act.

Last year, the main concern was an expanded "Patriot Act II," and when that was off the table, they lobbied against something called the "Total Information Awareness Program," which later died in Congress.

These days, the ACLU's key focus is on something called MATRIX, short for the Multi-State Anti-Terrorism Information Exchange system, a program that ties together government and commercial databases in order to allow state and local police to conduct detailed searches on particular individuals.

"It's really the same thing as TIA, except they've brought it back and privatized it," she said. "It is unclear what data will be compiled, who else may have access to it, or what standards would trigger the creation of a file," she said. "They won't tell us what's in the database — except that it includes both government and commercial data — nor is it clear what it will cost to use it."

Traditionally, the ACLU has fought most of its battles on a case-by-case basis. Ms. Moss's management skills — and the times — have

and jobs can move literally anywhere — but our prosperity will be determined by our ability to enhance the unique assets that give our state an economic advantage.

The core idea, elegant in power and simplicity, is to directly connect economic development with workforce development. Hence the newly named Department of Labor and Economic Growth. In past years, the structure of state government confined various activities to separate, unconnected silos of bureaucratic jurisdiction: Unemployment compensation, post-secondary school training, labor market information, and various federal programs such as the Workforce Investment Act. Never have these components of state workforce policy ever been linked with the gritty realities of economic development.

Now, the specific charge of the Department of Labor and Economic Growth is "to align policy, management and resources in support ... of an integrated economic and workforce development action plan."

There are lots of very useful ideas scattered through the report, and measurable outcomes for both workforce and economic development. He would link the economic development functions of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation with state workforce policies and research, and do other such sensible things.

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But taken together, the attempt to reshape Michigan's workforce is a fundamentally important initiative. If it succeeds, it will eventually pay enormous dividends in helping our workers and our firms succeed in an environment of very tough global competition. The alternative is something we don't want to think about.

Phil Power is Vice Chair of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and 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) 952-2047 or ppower@homecomm.net.

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The Livonia Stevenson High School Booster Club Presents The...
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Saturday, March 27, 2004
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LET'S TALK
Jewelry
WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN
GEMOLOGIST
TAKING SHAPE
When shopping for gemstone jewelry, be careful to differentiate "cut" from "carat." Cut describes the way a gem is faceted, while shape refers to the actual form of the stone. Common shapes include round, square, oval, pear, heart, marquise (teardrop with pointed ends), brilliant (triangular with additional facets on its underside) and baguette (a long, narrow rectangle). All except round are classified as fancy shapes. With advances in faceting technology, there is scarcely a limit to the available shapes. Personal preferences aside, there are some factors to take into consideration when selecting gemstone shapes. Choose those shapes that best flatter your hand.
We invite you to come into WEINSTEIN JEWELERS OF NOVI at 41990 Grand River Ave. (248-347-4903). Open: Mon. - Fri. 10a.m. - 6p.m. Sat. 10a.m. - 5p.m. Sun. 12p.m. - 5p.m.
PS: The most popular of all the brilliant cut. While many shapes lend themselves to the brilliant cut, the most popular by far is the round.
gemstones of all shapes and colors, size to meet your particular tastes as well as your budget. We will be holding a free Diamond Grading in June. Come learn about the 4C's of Diamond Grading in a relaxed no pressure atmosphere. Please call for the date and time. Most major credit cards accepted. We are now offering a complimentary jewelry appraisal service to the city of Novi to offer loans on jewelry. We are "The name you know and trust." Need repairs? Come on in for repairs of all kinds including ring and emergency. If you have any questions please contact "Jeweler Gary" at wjps@jpsd.com.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Running a Campaign

DATE: Saturday, March 27
TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile Rd., between Orchard Lake and Farmington Roads.
DETAILS: "Money, Organization & Media" will help candidates for local public office learn what it takes to organize a successful campaign. People who plan to work on such campaigns are also welcome.
PHONE: Visit www.liviva.org/calendar.html or call the League of Women Voters office at (248) 647-1350 to obtain a brochure and registration form.

8th Annual Canine Companions for Independence Bowl-A-Thon

DATE: Saturday, March 27
TIME: 11:30 a.m. or 2:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Bowl, 21700 Novi Rd., Novi.
DETAILS: To raise \$150 per bowler in pledges to enable more people with disabilities receiving the gift of independence through a Canine Companion, and to support Area 27 Special Olympics. Submit entry ASAP to Novi Bowl or Fay Johnson, 6515 Yale St., Apt. 104-2, Westland, MI 48185.

Educator Appreciation Weekend

DATE: Friday, March 26-Sunday, March 28
LOCATION: Borders Novi, 43745 Crescent Blvd., Novi Town Center
DETAILS: The store will offer educators a 25% discount on regularly priced items, including items not intended for classroom use. On the designated weekend, teachers, librarians, principals, home educators and other educators can stop by their local Borders to enjoy special deals, CDs and videos/DVDs to use in

their classrooms or for personal enjoyment. Borders will also treat them to free coffee and tea and a 40% discount on food and beverage items from Café Borders during the weekend.
PHONE: (248) 347-1643

Mid-Michigan Cat Fanciers CFACFries "March Madness Cat Show"

DATE: Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28
TIME: 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Expo Center
DETAILS: Adults/\$8, Seniors/\$5 (5-12 yrs.). Proceeds support Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society, The Michigan Humane Society, and The Morris Animal Foundation.
PHONE: (734) 651-2302 or www.midmichigancatfanciers.com

Oakland County Office of Emergency Response and Preparedness "Skywarn" Classes

DATES: March 27, April 6, April 7, April 15 and 21
TIME: Varies according to dates.
DETAILS: Skywarn is an effort to save lives during severe weather emergencies by expanding networks of spotters and by encouraging the widest possible participation in tornado warning programs. One class, with both basic and advanced materials is offered. Public invited to attend. Limited space available.
PHONE: Call (248) 858-530 to register.

Friends of Maybury meeting

DATE: Thursday, April 1
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Northville Public Library
DETAILS: Discussion of upcoming events
PHONE: (248) 348-2687

"Rose Workshop" Roses-West Rose Society

DATE: Thursday, April 1
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Community Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile, Novi.
DETAILS: Pruning, Fertilizers, Sprays, Top American Rose Society members will demonstrate and answer your rose questions. Handouts and social hour.
PHONE: Call 248/449-4626 for info.

Spring Home and Garden Show

DATE: Friday, April 2, Saturday, April 3 and Sunday, April 4
TIME: Friday, noon-9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Expo Center
DETAILS: Featuring more than 200 exhibitors displaying the products, services and technology for kitchens, baths, windows, doors, spas, remodeling, interior design, home offices, furniture, arts and crafts, decorative accessories, electronics, heating, cooling and appliances. Tickets are \$9/adults; \$7/senior citizens. Children under 12 are admitted free.

"The Power of His Love" Cantata

DATE: Palm Sunday, April 4
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Faith Community Presbyterian Church, 44400 West 10 Mile Road, Novi.
DETAILS: The community is invited to enjoy the musical gifts of the Faith Community Choir and Orchestra.

Cornic Starttelling

DATE: Friday, April 16
TIME: 11 a.m.
LOCATION: Novi Center Center, Meadowbrook Rd., Novi
DETAILS: Master Yohoku is

Free Spring Kids Show Movies

This spring, children and parents alike can spy like the best of them, travel with Daffy Duck, enjoy some Seussian rhymes or learn the magic of Christmas. All of this is possible as the Novi Town Center 8 Theater presents its Free Spring Kids Show series starting March 27.
Local children and their families can enjoy movies free of charge every Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. through May 9.
The series is designed to allow everyone the opportunity to enjoy quality family oriented films. Each week the theater presents a different movie free of charge. Anyone wishing to see one of the free films simply goes to the theater. No ticket is necessary.
"We know that basic monthly expenses can add up and make the decision of where to have a good time a question of economics," says Matthew Johnson, marketing manager for Goodrich Quality Theaters. "This series is designed to provide the quality family entertainment of going to the movies at our facilities absolutely free. It's our way of saying "thanks" to the local communities for their support every year."

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Team In Training

DATE: Wednesday, April 21
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, Ten Mile Rd., Novi
DETAILS: Join Team In Training, the world's largest endurance sports training program, and help support The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. To learn more about TNT contact our office at 1.800.456.5413. Or visit www.teamintraining.org/mi, or email Hemandez@lls.org, <http://www.lls.org>
Novi Chamber of Commerce 12th Annual Charity Auction
DATE: Saturday, April 24
LOCATION: Hotel Barometre, Novi.
DETAILS: Partial proceeds from this year's auction will benefit "Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit." The organization provides bed-time essentials for a good night's rest to grade school children in need throughout Southeastern Michigan.
PHONE: (248) 349-3743.

Career Opportunity Forum

DATE: Tuesday, April 27
TIME: 5:30 p.m., hors d'oeuvres and wine: 6-7:30, presentation
LOCATION: Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and its Eastern Great Lake Region Regional Financial Office (RFO) at 39500 High Point Blvd., Suite 300, Novi
DETAILS: Forum is targeted at women looking for a new avenue in the workplace. It will feature 10 female financial associates who will give brief presentations on working in the financial services field.
PHONE: Peggy Kalis, (248) 380-4300 or peggy.kalis@thrivent.com

Free Blood pressure screening

DATES: every Monday
TIME: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
DETAILS: This service will be available until Jan. 31.
LOCATION: Charter House of Novi, 24500 Meadowbrook Road, Novi, MI 48375
PHONE: (248) 477-2000

Oakland County Health Division Child Health Clinics

DETAILS: Free wellness check-ups, immunizations, physical exams, guidance/referrals on behavioral, learning, and health problems.
PHONE: Oakland County Health Division, Mary White, Program Coordinator, Child Health Clinics, (248) 858-1380.

Providence Center for the Healing Arts "Tuesday at Assarian"

DATE: every Tuesday night
TIME: 5-8 p.m.
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River, Novi.
DETAILS: Variety of activities for the adult community to come and enjoy a unique mix of classes brought to you by the Providence Center for the Healing Arts, Aug. 26 - Modern Japanese Calligraphy, Ceramics. Some activities may include a supplies fee (no more than \$10).

Southwestern Oakland County Commission (SWOCC) special meeting notice

DATE: Wednesday, April 28
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi City Hall, Mayor's Conference Room

ON-GOING

SWOCC Studio Tours
DATE: On-going
LOCATION: 33300 Nine Mile Road, Farmington
DETAILS: Have you wondered what goes on behind the scenes a television studio? Why not come in for an up close and personal look at SWOCC Studios, your local community television studio. SWOCC offers tours to many organizations such as Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and service clubs. The groups also have an opportunity to make a short promo for the public access channel, INFO TV-12.
PHONE: Melissa Cohn at (248) 473-2840 to schedule your group.

Oil Painting Sculpture Show "Escape to Tranquility" by artist Theresa Lauen

DATE: through April 9
TIME: 5-7 p.m.
LOCATION: Nancy A. Fox Art Gallery, Assarian Cancer Center, Providence Center for the Healing Arts, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi.
DETAILS: Free, gallery hours, Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
PHONE: (248) 465-5455

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Penalties for Patients program

DATES: now through April 10
LOCATION: Church of the Holy Cross, Novi
DETAILS: Parishioners and youth group are raising funds for the program. If you would like to make a donation, please drop it off at the church. This has a double benefit in that it allows students to develop compassion and learn the value of helping others while they are working for a good cause.
PHONE: (800) 456-5413.

Acoustic music jam session

DATE: the second Wednesday of each month
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Mill Race Historic Village, Cady Inn, just north of Main Street on Griswold in Northville.
DETAILS: Bring your traditional acoustic instrument and music to play.
For more information, contact Mary or Eric at (248) 760-9694 or MaryH@vniw.com

Worship service

DATE: every Wednesday
TIME: 12:10-12:50 p.m.
LOCATION: Church of the Holy Cross, 46200W, Ten Mile Road (between Beck and Taft Roads), Novi
DETAILS: Come and share your lunch hour with God at a worship service that includes scripture and holy communion.
PHONE: (248) 349-1175 or

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ON-GOING

SWOCC Studio Tours
DATE: On-going
LOCATION: 33300 Nine Mile Road, Farmington
DETAILS: Have you wondered what goes on behind the scenes a television studio? Why not come in for an up close and personal look at SWOCC Studios, your local community television studio. SWOCC offers tours to many organizations such as Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and service clubs. The groups also have an opportunity to make a short promo for the public access channel, INFO TV-12.
PHONE: Melissa Cohn at (248) 473-2840 to schedule your group.

Oil Painting Sculpture Show "Escape to Tranquility" by artist Theresa Lauen

DATE: through April 9
TIME: 5-7 p.m.
LOCATION: Nancy A. Fox Art Gallery, Assarian Cancer Center, Providence Center for the Healing Arts, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi.
DETAILS: Free, gallery hours, Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
PHONE: (248) 465-5455

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Penalties for Patients program

DATES: now through April 10
LOCATION: Church of the Holy Cross, Novi
DETAILS: Parishioners and youth group are raising funds for the program. If you would like to make a donation, please drop it off at the church. This has a double benefit in that it allows students to develop compassion and learn the value of helping others while they are working for a good cause.
PHONE: (800) 456-5413.

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DETAILS: Come and share your lunch hour with God at a worship service that includes scripture and holy communion.
PHONE: (248) 349-1175 or

Women's Prayer Support

DATE: every Saturday
TIME: 9-10:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49329 Pentiac Trail, Wilson (Parking is behind the church)
DETAILS: You are welcome to come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer as you face life's problems, issues and frustrations. Drop in for five minutes or longer.
PHONE: Nancy & Susan, (248) 926-8332 or by e-mail at harvest-fellowship@comcast.net

Adoption Playgroup

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

Breast Cancer Support Group

DATES: second and fourth Tuesdays
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C
Send your calendar items to Cal Stone, editor, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-5832; or e-mail to costone@hvtl.com.

Free Blood pressure screening

DATES: every Monday
TIME: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
DETAILS: This service will be available until Jan. 31.
LOCATION: Charter House of Novi, 24500 Meadowbrook Road, Novi, MI 48375
PHONE: (248) 477-2000

Oakland County Health Division Child Health Clinics

DETAILS: Free wellness check-ups, immunizations, physical exams, guidance/referrals on behavioral, learning, and health problems.
PHONE: Oakland County Health Division, Mary White, Program Coordinator, Child Health Clinics, (248) 858-1380.

Providence Center for the Healing Arts "Tuesday at Assarian"

DATE: every Tuesday night
TIME: 5-8 p.m.
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River, Novi.
DETAILS: Variety of activities for the adult community to come and enjoy a unique mix of classes brought to you by the Providence Center for the Healing Arts, Aug. 26 - Modern Japanese Calligraphy, Ceramics. Some activities may include a supplies fee (no more than \$10).

Women's Prayer Support

DATE: every Saturday
TIME: 9-10:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49329 Pentiac Trail, Wilson (Parking is behind the church)
DETAILS: You are welcome to come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer as you face life's problems, issues and frustrations. Drop in for five minutes or longer.
PHONE: Nancy & Susan, (248) 926-8332 or by e-mail at harvest-fellowship@comcast.net

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PHONE: For more information contact Michelle Pergau (248) 887-4955 or Sandra Noonan (248) 960-3257.

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LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C
Send your calendar items to Cal Stone, editor, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-5832; or e-mail to costone@hvtl.com.

Business referrals

DATE: every Wednesday
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 Mile Rd.
TIME: 7:30 a.m.
DETAILS: Meeting of local professionals and business looking to increase word-of-mouth referral business. Various classifications open and eager to bring you qualified business leads.
PHONE: (734) 462-6460

Novi Toastmasters

DATE: first and third Tuesdays
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, activities room
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills, voice your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.
PHONE: Call Colleen at (248) 685-9226.

Breast Cancer Support Group

DATES: second and fourth Tuesdays
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C
Send your calendar items to Cal Stone, editor, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-5832; or e-mail to costone@hvtl.com.

on the ground floor of the hospital.

TIME: 10-11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: There is no need to call ahead and register.
PHONE: (248) 937-5017

Oakland County Health Division Expectant Parent Classes

DATE: ongoing series
LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple, Walled Lake
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
DETAILS: Classes will be taught by Public Health Nurses. Topics will include childbirth preparation, labor and delivery, care of the newborn baby, breastfeeding, bottle-feeding, information about keeping children safe, and caring for them when they are ill. Cost is \$25.
PHONE: (248) 858-4003, or (888) 350-0900 ext. 84003

Novi Toastmasters

DATES: second and fourth Tuesdays
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C
Send your calendar items to Cal Stone, editor, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-5832; or e-mail to costone@hvtl.com.

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SCREEN BEAT

By Brian Renner

Romantic "Jersey Girl," directed by Kevin Smith, stars Ollie Trinke (Ben Affleck), a Manhattan music publicist, who has just married the love of his life (Jennifer Lopez) and has a child on the way. The perfect life is tragically turned upside when he suddenly finds himself a single father unqualified for his new role. He loses his job and is forced to move back in with his father (George Carlin) to the New Jersey suburb where he grew up. A beautiful young friend (Liv Tyler) opens him up to love again and his daughter (Raquel Castro) gives him the courage to keep going. "Jersey Girl" is a Miramax Films release and rated PG-13 by the MPAA for language and sexual content including frank dialogue.

Scoby and the Mystery Inc. gang return in the sequel adventure "Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed." The gang confronts an anonymous masked villain who is plotting to take over the city of Coolsville by wreaking mayhem with a monster machine that creates several of the creatures from the classic TV show like The Pterodactyl Ghost, The Black Knight Ghost and The 10,000 Volt Ghost. "Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed" is a Warner Bros. Pictures release and rated PG by the MPAA for some scary action, rude humor and language.

Tom Hanks stars in "The Ladykillers" as professor-turned-criminal-mastermind, who tries to

pull off a massive heist of a New Orleans riverboat casino and underestimates Mrs. Munson, the seemingly-innocent little old landlady of the house that he and his three accomplices are staying in. The house is integral to their scheme (they want to dig a tunnel from the house to where the casino's money is kept). So they decide that they need to "remove" her, but doing so might prove to be more difficult than they expect. "The Ladykillers" is a Touchstone Pictures release and rated R by the MPAA for language including sexual references.

Exclusively playing at the Landmark Maple Art, the 14th Century set "The Reckoning" is the story of a fugitive priest (Paul Bettany) who fills in with a troupe of traveling actors (led by Willem Dafoe). As they arrive in a small town, the actors encounter a woman being sentenced to death for witchcraft and murder. Discarding the expected bible stories, the actors stage a performance based on the crime. Through the performance of the play, they discover that the townspeople know the woman did not, in fact, commit the murder. The stage becomes a place where the vital human truth is told. "The Reckoning" is a Paramount Classics release and rated R by the MPAA some sexuality and violent images.

For more information, please log on to *The Movie Insider* at www.themovieinsider.com. Please direct any questions, comments, and/or feedback to brian@themovieinsider.com.

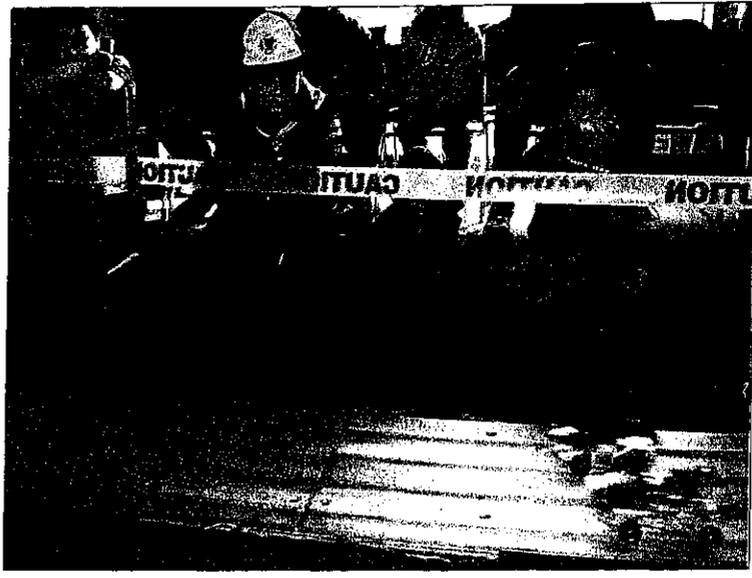


Photo by John Helder

And they're off!

Novi Cub Scout Pack 54 kids watch a quartet of Pinewood Derby cars go whizzing by during their rally last Saturday at Meadowbrook Congregational Church. From left are William, 7, and Jordan Horan, 9, and Jason, 3, and Bradley Wrennar, 6.

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SPORTS

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Quick



Hits

Bulbuk earns first-team All-Area honors

Was there really any doubt about it? The powerful skater and goal-scorer wasn't about to be denied this season — either on the ice or in our HomeTown Newspapers All-Area team. Bulbuk earned first-team honors while John Janssens and Darryl Morrison received honorable mention.

— See Page B4 for details

Did you know?

Spring has sprung — at least in the world of athletics and on the calendar. The weather, on the other hand, can't seem to decide.

March 20 was the official first day of spring according to those nifty little calendars that seem to be hanging everywhere in the Novi News office. The athletes, however, couldn't wait until the date was "officially" announced, so they went about starting spring a little early as practice began on March 15. Expect Novi to be extremely competitive in pretty much every sport they play this season — we know we're expecting it!

Spring Preview coming soon

So you want to know just how the spring sports season might shape up? Well, check back next week for some in-depth coverage of the teams and who may be making some impacts this year. Schedules will also be available. Just because the issue comes out April 1 doesn't mean we'll be making a laughing matter out of it — we take our sports seriously around here, just like you and the athletes you love to read about do.

Volleyball Dream Team

Don't miss out on the rest of the Dream Team volleyball team this year. Novi earned three nods in total on the first and second teams and received an honorable mention as well. It shouldn't come as any surprise that the squad has a good Wildcat turnout — they practically turned the volleyball world upside down with their impressive performances this year and definitely proved that it's a very, very bad idea to underestimate a Wildcat.

— See Page B3 for details

Dream Team wrestling will be in next week's edition

Sometimes there just seems to never be enough room no matter how you try to cut the stories. The 2004 All-Area Wrestling Dream Team, as selected by sports writers Sam Eggleston and Stan Frank, will be in next week's edition of the Novi News. Players from every weight class and representing Novi, Northville, South Lyon, Milford and Lakeland have all earned spots.

Chandler, Simpson make All-Area first team

The Wildcats boys basketball team earned two spots on the All-Area first team and one on the second team. Brad Chandler and Brad Simpson both earned nods in the voting for their performances this year and were named to the first-team of the Dream Team. Anthony Harbin was selected as a second-team player and Mark Angelucci and Trevor Hoover received honorable mention.

— Full Story, Page B2

NOVI NEWS

hometownlife.com

Thursday, March 25, 2004



Photo by John Heider

Wildcats Anthony Harbin, center, and Brad Chandler put some pressure on a Troy basketball player - forcing him to call a timeout - late in their playoff game at Birmingham Groves High School.

Troy edges Wildcats

Novi falls short in Regional

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It started off like a game that the Novi Wildcats boys' basketball team was going to make history with — but it didn't end that way.

The Wildcats, who are coached by Pat Schluter, jumped to an early lead and fought with the Troy Colts through much of the first-round Regional tournament contest before eventually falling, 44-35.

"We just didn't shoot well," Schluter said. "We had our opportunities and were even up with about four minutes to play."

In fact, the Wildcats looked poised to control the game in a slow-style of play from the opening tip off. Anthony Harbin, a junior that was really coming into his own late in the season, snatched the tip for Novi and helped lead his squad to a 10-9 first quarter lead along with senior Brad Chandler.

In the second quarter, the "Cats notched eight more points while holding the Colts to nine for an 18-18 tie heading into the locker room.

"We played hard," Schluter said. "I can't take that away from the guys."

Coming out in the second half, the Wildcats looked drained — but so did the Colts. Both teams had come out of daunting District tournaments and both had pushed themselves to the limits just days before and through the entire season and it was readily apparent. The first four minutes of the third stanza were scoreless as both teams tried and failed to find the bottom of the net. As both teams began to find their footing again, it was the Wildcats who started to hit their shots with more regularity and pulled ahead 29-25 by the end of the third.

With just over four minutes left, the Colts began to cut the Novi lead and finally tied the game with 4:25 left in the contest, 33-33.

"After that, we missed two easy lay-ups and just couldn't win," Schluter said.

With just about three minutes left, the Colts slowly chipped out a 37-35 lead and then fire on their afterburners to go on a 7-0 run in the final three minutes and earn the 44-35 victory.

Chandler led the squad on the scoring end of the game, netting

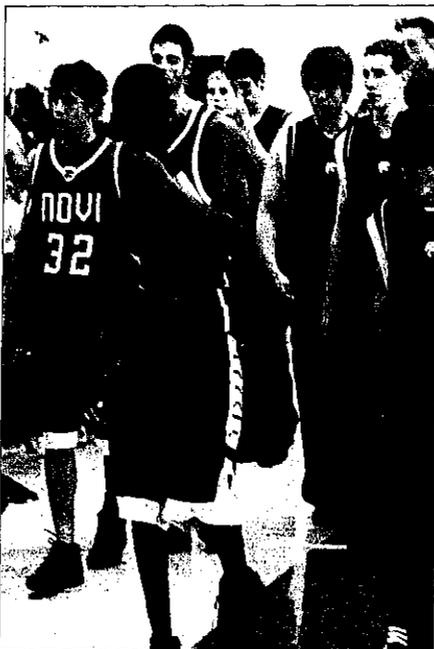


Photo by John Heider

Anthony Harbin, center, hangs his head as he departs the floor after Novi's loss to Troy and a well-played basketball season.

11 points while Trevor Hoover and Harbin both added 10 in the losing effort.

Troy went on to lose the Regional championship game to perennial powerhouse Pontiac Northern, 84-64.

Novi headed into the contest with plenty of expectations for themselves — and plenty of confidence as well.

"They were pretty confident," Schluter said. "They played Troy in the summer about three times and believed they could win. We just seemed a little tired."

"We wanted to win the KVC, win Districts and win a game in the Regional," Schluter said. "We accomplished the first two but couldn't get the third."

And the seniors on the squad had plenty to be proud of even beyond this season. Two 20-win seasons back-to-back and two Regional berths sure didn't hurt when it came to proving their basketball prowess.

"The seniors are going to be missed," Schluter said. "They helped make us the team we have been for the past two seasons. This

year, they turned us into the best defensive team in Oakland County again. We had a great year."

But the pain of losing seems to resonate after such a great run and a 20-4 record.

"After you've had so much success and you lose a game, everyone is saying 'Oh my God, you lost!'" Schluter said.

Next season is full of question marks for the Wildcats. The only junior with significant experience returning will be Harbin — a player that a squad could definitely be built around. Mark Moore, also a junior, found some playing time in the past but not near what this year's seniors had experienced during their own juniors years.

Unfortunately, experience is something that will be hard to come by to help fill in the obvious gaps on the Novi squad come next season.

"We had seven seniors this year and they all played," Schluter said. "We had some juniors on the team, but the just didn't play a lot. We don't have a lot coming back and we're going to have to see what we have when the time comes."

2004 All-Area Volleyball Dream Team

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Whitney Fuelling

Senior

Milford

- KVC and Regional Player of the Year
- Registered team-high 396 kills, a team-high 72 aces, a Registered team-high 377 digs and ranked third on team with 74 blocks

"Whitney is by far the most athletic volleyball player we have ever had," Mavericks head coach Jim Marszalek said. "She has a 30-inch vertical. She's never played club ball, but was still being scouted by Division I schools. She's the only player in the conference that, no matter how well you defend her, can still put the ball away. There were several times this year where I saw her go up against a double block with the whole defense set to dig up her ball, and she hits some crazy shot that has every kid on the other team looking at each other or their coach saying 'What can I do?' More times than not, she's going to get the best of you."



Whitney Fuelling

First-Team Selection

Bella Feldbaum

Senior

Novi

- Led team in kills with 192 and earned an 88-percent attack average
- Led team in blocks with 82 solo and 73 assisted
- Second on Novi's squad in aces and had an 89-percent serving average

"Bella is the kind of player that can change the course of a match," Novi coach Julie Fisetle said. "She's very aggressive and always seems to be in the right place at the right time. This year, we didn't really have anyone that was a star, but Bella stood out. She is a team player that wants to win and it shows when she plays."



Bella Feldbaum

First-Team Selection

Kim Zarczynski

Senior

Novi

- Third year on varsity program
- Second on squad in kills with 182 and earned an 88-percent attack average
- Collected 34 solo blocks and 52 assisted

"Kim's experience definitely played a factor in our success this season," Novi coach Julie Fisetle said. "She has spent three years on this team and has been a part of the successes we've had in the past. She carried that over to this year and helped us to a finish that most people didn't expect from us. We're going to miss her next year."



Kim Zarczynski

First-Team Selection

Jessica Petkus

Senior

Milford

- Named first team All-KVC and second team All-Region
- Maintained team-high 9.5 assists per game average, registered 37 aces, a team-high 98-percent serving percentage and ranked third on team with 274 digs

"Jessica did exactly what we asked her to do this year," Mavericks head coach Jim Marszalek said. "She continued to grow and develop. She's the type of kid that has the perfect mentality to be a setter. She wants to put everything on her shoulders and take responsibility, whether what happens is good or bad. And you don't get too many kids that are that way, but she definitely is that type of person. She is by far the best setter I have ever coached."



Jessica Petkus

More volleyball on page B3

Julie Fisetle
Coach
Volleyball

Fisetle was determined at the beginning of this year to prove a lot of critics wrong about the ability of her volleyball team — and she did just that. A team that was projected to finish near last in their conference finished second in the KVC instead and then escaped to their first-ever Regional tournament to make school history. Fisetle and her squad did more than prove their ability — they proved their heart and determination as well.



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Pat Schluter
Coach
Basketball

Schluter knew this year that he had a team that was capable of winning the conference and the District title yet again — but he had to get the players to understand their roles and accept them first. He did just that and watched as his squad jumped out to a 20-4 season and earned their second-straight trip to the Regional tournament. His squad has had back-to-back 20-win seasons.



Home is where the hardwood is

2004 All-Area Basketball Dream Team

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Brett Asher
Senior
Northville

- All-Western Lakes Activities Association selection
- 14 points and 11 rebounds averaged a game

"Brett's work ethic is just outstanding," Northville coach Darel Schumacher said. "No matter what it took, he always found ways to help the team. He did what was necessary, even if that included becoming a passer or primarily a rebounder. Brett Asher was always willing to do whatever it took to win. He's a strong inside presence and kept us in quite a few contests with his ability. Brett never quits and plays until the game is over. His heart and dedication were tremendous."



Brett Asher

First-Team Selection

Brad Chandler
Senior
Novi

- Second-team All-Kensington Valley Conference selection
- Averaged 9 points per game
- Led team in assists

"Chandler really stepped up his game in the Districts," Novi coach Pat Schuler said. "His performances were very impressive, including 22 points against Northville. His job was always to cover the opposing team's best guard, and that's saying a lot considering we faced some outstanding guards this year. He did his job well though. He definitely stepped his game up this year, and then some."



Brad Chandler

First-Team Selection

Nathan Kunst
Sophomore
Milford

- Named first team All-KVC
- Team-high 13.1 points average
- Shot 75-percent (97-of-130) from free-throw line

"Nathan's the first sophomore that I've had that ever made the first team as an All-Leaguer," Mavericks' 26-year head coach Don Palmer said. "He has enough of a perimeter game that you have to honor it. But his knack is really getting to the basket and beating people off the dribble, regardless of whether or not he is quicker than the defender. He just has a nice sense of angles. And I think that's where his strength is — he's able to get to that rim, get a shot off or at least draw a foul."



Nathan Kunst

First-Team Selection

Nathan Spurgess
Junior
South Lyon

- Named first team All-KVC
- Maintained 9 points and 4.4 rebounds per game

"The first thing that comes to mind with Nate is his toughness," Lions head coach Daren Clayton said. "He's just a fierce competitor. He's not afraid to mix it up with anybody on defense. He's one of our best defenders at stopping our opponents' best scorers. He's a good rebounder and comes up with big plays and big steals on the defensive end. On the offensive end he was one of our more consistent players all year, in terms of inside-outside scoring attack. He's a good penetrator and he also has a pretty good jump shot."



Nathan Spurgess

First-Team Selection

Brad Simpson
Senior
Novi

- All-Kensington Valley Conference selection
- Averaged 13 points per game
- Led team in steals, was second in assists and second in rebounds

"He's one of the best defensive players I've coached," Novi's Pat Schuler said. "He did a lot for us when we needed it. He is a great scorer and led the team this year. He had a great free-throw percentage, could shoot for three and could play defense against some of the best players around. He did a lot for our team."



Brad Simpson

First-Team Selection

Mark Sorensen
Senior
Northville

- All-Western Lakes Activities Association selection
- Averaged 11 points and four rebounds per contest

"There's one word that sums up Mark Sorensen: Leader," said Darel Schumacher, the Northville basketball coach. "I don't know if I have ever met a better leader than Mark. He leads on and off the floor. When the game is on the line, he wants the ball in his hands and when he's on defense he's always covering the best offensive player on the other team. That often put him out of position and against bigger players, but he didn't mind and he proved that he was our best defender."



Mark Sorensen

Second-Team Selection

Pat Petrucci
Senior
Milford

- Named second team All-KVC
- Maintained 9 points per game and averaged team-high 2.2 assists and team-high 5.1 rebounds

"Pat is more of a competitive kid and leader than he is a talented basketball player," Mavericks' head coach Don Palmer said. "I think he's a good basketball player, but he succeeds on attitude and confidence. You look at Pat and he is what he is — an offensive tackle. But he was our second leading scorer and led us in rebounds and led us in assists and led us in threes. He got a lot out of his ability with his desire."



Pat Petrucci

Second-Team Selection

Omeed Firoozgan
Sophomore
Lakeland

- Honorable mention All-KVC
- Maintained 6 points per game scoring average, 3.4 assists and 2.5 steals per game

"Omeed is one of the most gifted ballhandlers in the area," Eagles head coach Bob Brugger said. "His ability to break down defenders off the dribble is what separates him from other point guards. As a sophomore he had to learn on the fly this season and didn't disappoint. He is a tenacious competitor who always gives everything he has at both ends of the court. As he matures and becomes stronger he is going to be not only one of the top point guards in this area, but one of the best all-around players."



Omeed Firoozgan

Second-Team Selection

Marcus Davis
Junior
Northville

- Averaged eight points and eight rebounds a game
- All-Western Division player

"Marcus is an all-around athlete," Northville coach Darel Schumacher said. "He can do it all. The only negative about him is that he is so unselfish. He was always looking for the other players to help them score and passed more than most. In the district games, he really came into his own though and started taking more shots and squaring his shoulders. He almost got us back in the last game and gave us the initial lead over Novi. Marcus is going to be a big part of our team working for the future."



Marcus Davis

Second-Team Selection

Tim Singleton
Senior
Northville

- Averaged 13 points and eight rebounds a game
- All-Western Division selection

"Tim is a pure shooter and probably the best shooter on our team," Northville coach Darel Schumacher said. "He's very quick and always looking for ways to help others score. When it came to passing, he was the best at getting the ball inside and making the plays. He's also a decent defender and has some extremely quick feet."



Tim Singleton

Second-Team Selection

Bryan 'Bubba' Thomas
Junior
South Lyon

- Named second team All-KVC
- 6.1 points per game and averaged team-high 3.7 assists and 4.6 rebounds

"The greatest thing about Bubba, skill-wise, is his passing," Lions head coach Daren Clayton said. "He's an incredible passer. He's got eyes behind his head and sees the floor very well. And the other thing about Bryan is he's just very calm, cool and collected in pressure situations and at the end of games. He just doesn't get rattled in pressure situations. He takes good care of the ball and very rarely has a turnover. Another thing that he does well is defend the post."



Bryan Thomas

Second-Team Selection

Anthony Harbin
Junior
Novi

- Earned 11 points per game
- All-KVC selection

"Anthony actually led the team in scoring in KVC games," Novi coach Pat Schuler said. "He improved as the year went on. In the early games, he scored seven or eight, but by mid- and end-season, he was scoring in double digits nearly every game. I think he gained a lot of confidence. His outside shot improved, as did his rebounding. As he became more comfortable as the year went on, his game improved. He'll be a big factor come next year."



Anthony Harbin

HONORABLE MENTION

- Trevor Hoover, Senior, Novi
- Mark Angelucci, Senior, Novi
- Austin McMullen, Senior, South Lyon
- Alan Shanoski, Junior, Northville

All-Area teams selected by Sam Eggleston of the Novi News and the Northville Record and Stan Frank of the Milford Times and the South Lyon Herald.
Comments can be directed to (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or to seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

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Sweet smiles but vicious spikes

2004 All-Area Volleyball Dream Team

First-Team Selection

Katie Thomas
Senior
Lakeland

- Named first team All-KVC
- Registered team high 212 kills
- Registered team-high 201 blocks, 77 of which were solo
- Registered 44 aces

"Katie was a big factor on the net," Eagles head coach Owen Nakamura said. "Defensively, she was just one-on-one in both the front and back rows. She's a very quick player, so she had a lot of quick kills from the middle. She really became a very good player this year."



Katie Thomas

First-Team Selection

Alex Preiditis
Sophomore
Milford

- Named second team All-KVC and second team All-Region
- Registered team-high 191 blocks and third on team with 290 kills

"Alex, in my opinion, was the best middle in our conference," Mavericks' head coach Jim Marszalek said. "By the end of the season, if I had to pick a middle from any team, I would pick Alex. She's gifted and you can't teach someone to be 6-1, like Alex is. I've had several coaches tell me how well she moves for a big kid — up and down the net, transitioning off the net, and her approach. And as her skills develop, she's just going to be a phenomenal middle for years to come."



Alex Preiditis

Second-Team Selection

Evonna Karchon
Junior
Northville

Karchon is the kind of player that made an impact on just about every team she played. Her speed and leaping ability made her a vicious entity in the middle of the court and near the net. Karchon's desire to excel at the sports she plays was apparent all season long as she helped her squad show a marked improvement over last year. Expect to see this particular Mustang back in action and better than ever come next year in her senior season.



Evonna Karchon

Second-Team Selection

Laura Rybicki
Senior
Novi

- Led team in assists with 789 and had 50 total blocks on the year

"All of our seniors were very important this year and Lauren was no exception," Novi coach Julie Frette said. "She is a very balanced player who helps everyone on the court just by being out there. She is one of the captains on the team this year and a leader in every sense of the word. She was an asset to this program all year and contributed heavily to the success we had."



Laura Rybicki

Second-Team Selection

Andrea Ashburn
Senior
Lakeland

- Named second team All-KVC
- Registered team-high 84 aces
- Registered 165 kills

"Andrea was a leader on the court," Eagles head coach Owen Nakamura said. "When we were at the Michigan State team camp, she took over leadership. The kids respected her and she guided the team, and that's something that every coach looks for in a player. She also was our No. 1 server."

PHOTO UNAVAILABLE

Andrea Ashburn

Second-Team Selection

Marissa Bober
Junior
Milford

- Honorable mention All-KVC
- Ranked second on team with 243 kills, second on team with 351 digs and registered 32 aces and a 95 percent serving percentage

"Marissa was our most consistent player, especially on defense," Mavericks' head coach Jim Marszalek said. "The last half of the season she was our best player defensive player in the back row. She's just very consistent and, at times, can catch on fire in the front row. But she's always playing well in the back row on defense. When Whitney (Fuchling) was struggling at the beginning of the season, Bober put the team on her shoulders and played very well to compensate for that."



Marissa Bober

Second-Team Selection

Christa Dominick
Junior
Lakeland

- Named second team All-KVC
- Ranked second on team with 171 kills
- Registered 125 blocks, 60 of which were solo

"Christa is one of those game stoppers," Eagles head coach Owen Nakamura said. "She hits quick from the middle and people just kind of back up and go 'Wow.' She jumps high and really has a lot of hang time. If she sets a little too high, she'll just kind of float and wait for the ball to come down."



Christa Dominick

Second-Team Selection

Sarah Gardner
Senior
South Lyon

- Named second team All-KVC
- Maintained team-high 5.5 assists per game average and registered 45 aces while maintaining 86 percent serving percentage

"Sarah played in all but five games out of 117," Lions head coach Jen Maunula said. "Her setting percentage does not accurately display her talent, because our hitters had difficulty hitting in bounds and out of the net, prohibiting her from turning a great set into an assist. As one of our captains, she had a great attitude."



Sarah Gardner

HONORABLE MENTION

- Sam Stricker, Senior, Novi
- Nicky Horn, Senior, Northville
- Kelly Wasalaski, Senior, Northville

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Novi News

Thursday, March 25, 2004

Avoid Uncle Sam's scrutiny

By Mary Davis
MICHIGAN CREDIT UNION LEAGUE

Few experiences can get a taxpayer's adrenaline pumping like receiving a tax return audit notice from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Unfortunately there's no guarantee that your return won't be selected for closer scrutiny. However, there are measures you can take to minimize your risk.

Who's at risk for an audit?

Most returns selected for audit are flagged by a computer program called the discriminate function system, otherwise known as DIF.

The DIF compares your income and deductions on your tax return to others in your income bracket. It weighs the differences and then assigns your return a score. The higher the DIF Score, that is, the more your deductions deviate from others in your income bracket, the more likely it will be passed on for closer inspection by an IRS employee.

For example, if you make \$50,000 and claim to give \$5,000 in charitable contributions, and other people in your income bracket claim to only make \$500 in charitable contributions, then you'll likely receive a high DIF score. This doesn't mean that you shouldn't claim the \$5,000, it only means you should have supporting documentation to prove your contributions in case the IRS comes knocking.

You could also increase your chances of being audited if you include certain "high profile" deductions for home office expenses, large business meals, business auto usage and large non-cash charitable contributions.

Low wage earners claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) are also candidates for audits because the complexity of the EITC often results in errors on returns.

Tips for avoiding an audit

If you haven't prepared your taxes this season, consider employing some strategies to minimize your risk of being audited.

Don't submit a handwritten form. Use tax software to help you prepare your taxes; it guides through the tax preparation process and performs the mathematical computations for you. Or, hire a tax professional to prepare your returns, but be wary of preparers who say they will guarantee a refund. It's likely these companies will come up with "creative" deductions that will be flagged by the DIF.

Don't neglect to include other forms taxable income or capital gains. Be sure and include any lottery winnings, jury duty pay, property you've sold and state tax refunds on your return.

Document everything. If you're going to list large or unusual deductions on your tax return, include an explanation why you're claiming them. For example, if you want to deduct a significant number of miscellaneous work-related expenses that your company hasn't reimbursed you for, include the receipts and tell the IRS that you have not been reimbursed by your company for the expenses.

Don't list crazy deductions. Ignore the impulse to claim your dog as a dependent (yes, it's happened). Should something as innocent as missing signature on your return attract attention from the IRS and they discover you've been fudging your returns, you could face excessive penalties and possible jail time.

You've checked and re-checked, but...

Many returns are randomly selected for audit. File away all documentation that supports your deductions in a safe place. The IRS can audit you up to three years after you file a return.

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

Advertorial



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Building a dream

Toll Brothers delivers homes for a lifetime

By Annette Jaworski
SPECIAL WRITER

Imagine living in the home of your dreams. You've found the perfect location in a luxurious neighborhood. There's plenty of room in the four-bedroom design. The estate-size home sites are one acre and two acres in a desirable community.

The perfect home is closer than you think in a Toll Brothers community. With interest rates at an all-time low, it's a great time for customers to upgrade to the home of their dreams, said Keith Anderson, vice president for Toll Brothers.

"At these rates a brand new home is very affordable, and can be customized with all the things you wish your home currently had," said Anderson. "You don't have to settle for an ordinary home when you can have Toll Brothers quality. Many homes are award-winning designs, including the Elkton, which is the current model on display at The Reserve at Lakes of Milford."

"We're constantly upgrading and refining our designs," said Anderson.

Why consider a Toll Brothers community?

"Obviously, we think our quality is substantially above the industry standard," said Anderson. "Our customer service and commitment is second to

none with programs such as a two-stage pre-settlement walk."

It works something like this. Five to seven days before settlement, Toll Brothers conducts a 300-point inspection with the home buyer. A second home buyer orientation prior to settlement guarantees that the checklist has been addressed.

The objective is to make the home-buying experience as smooth as possible for a Toll Brothers client. For example, Toll Brothers operates its own landscape company. Buyers can take advantage of this service by meeting with the landscaper who'll design their site. The cost will be included in the mortgage.

Speaking of which, Toll Brothers owns its own mortgage company. This makes managing the financing uncomplicated.

"We can pre-qualify our clients which increases the efficiency of the process," Anderson added.

As a result, home buyers are free to concentrate on customizing their home with a full range of additional options including skylights, sunroom, wet bar, additional fireplaces, solarium, first-floor guest suite with private bath or conservatory and more. All building selections can be made at the model.

"The convenience of full-service, one-stop shopping is another Toll advantage," Anderson explains.

Luxurious standard features include impressive two-story grand entrances in the foyer as well as nine-foot ceilings. You'll find elegant moldings and fine detailing in the grand entrance foyer, living room and dining room. A second staircase to the

upper floor is available in select models. The master bath includes the lavish Roman-style soaking tub and separate shower. A three-car garage is also standard.

Toll Brothers aims to deliver a lifestyle of luxury that radiates throughout its communities. The selection of high quality land in desirable locations and the care in which the communities are developed is another plus.

A good example of premium land includes The Preserve at Maple Lake and The Reserve at Lakes of Milford in Milford and Steeplechase of Northville. Generously-sized home sites and attractive landscaping is also a hallmark of a Toll Brothers community.

"We frequently hear from our clients that the size of the home sites and the beauty of the surrounding area makes this a desirable neighborhood," said Becky Halpin, sales associate for The Reserve at Lakes of Milford.

The Reserve at Lakes of Milford. The Reserve at Lakes of Milford is graced with natural beauty in three lakes and abundant woods. The recreation area includes walking trails, bike paths and private picnic areas.

The Reserve at Lakes of Milford offers 141 estate home sites priced from the upper \$300,000s. These home designs feature handsome architecture, dramatic interior trim, soaring ceilings and hundreds of available options. For more information call (248) 685-2717.

The Preserve at Maple Lake. The Preserve at Maple Lake features 27 waterfront walkout



Toll Brothers offers lakefront homes at The Reserve at Lakes of Milford and The Preserve at Maple Lake. Steeplechase of Northville offers homes on wooded and rolling home sites near Maybury State Park.

homes on crystal clear Maple Lake. Four additional sites offer spectacular views of the lake and surrounding woodland in the prestigious neighborhood. The nearby community of Milford is minutes away.

"It's the old-fashioned kind of town people grew up in. It's perfect for raising a family," said Anderson.

The Preserve at Maple Lake features a variety of home designs from the Signature Collection priced in the \$700,000s, with 4,000-plus square feet of living space and spacious one-plus acre home sites. The Preserve is located on Milford Road, with convenient access to I-96, and is just minutes from downtown Milford and Novi. Call (248) 676-9100 for more information.

Steeplechase of Northville. Steeplechase of Northville is located near the quaint historic district of downtown Northville. The community features 274 sin-



gle-family homes on wooded and rolling home sites in a country setting. Amenities include a pool and clubhouse fitness facility, or enjoy the miles of walking trails at nearby Maybury State Park. Home designs are from Toll Brothers' Executive Collection priced from the \$500,000s. Choose from a number of floor plans that include dramatic soaring ceilings, well-appointed kitchens and more. For additional information, call (248) 924-2601.

For a wealth of information on all the Toll Brothers communities in Michigan and across the country, visit tollbrothers.com.

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