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HandyPro

What began as a local handyman service, HandyPro Handyman Service of Plymouth has evolved into a business that is now offering franchise opportunities nationally. The business continues to provide affordable handyman services to homeowners in the metro Detroit area.

— Page 6B

SPORTS

It's soccer time

The Novi Wildcats soccer team is kicking their season into high gear already — and they're just three games in so far. They've topped both Northville and Churchill, but fell to Canton in a game that found Novi dominating every statistic except the score.

— Page 1B

OBITUARIES

Ray J. "Butch" Casterline
Salim G. Abraham

HAPPY EASTER

Easter Services

The churches of Novi are geared up and ready to go for Easter Sunday. Find out when your churches will be having their Good Friday and Easter Sunday services.

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First fatal Novi fire in 10 years

House fire claims life of 48-year-old Novi resident

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

A blaze caused by a sofa catching fire due to a burning cigarette took the life of a 48-year-old man last week in Novi. Richard Jones was pronounced dead at the scene at his home on the Walled Lake shoreline by the Oakland County Medical Examiner the evening of March 31.

The man died of smoke inhalation and burns, according to medical reports.

Oakland County Sheriff Department Arson Investigators were called to the scene to assist with establishing the cause and origin of the fire.

Reports from the city and Sheriff's Department have not yet been completed.

Statements at the scene, however, indicated that the man's mother, Juanita Jones, had attempted to put out a sofa fire in the living room.

When her efforts failed, she called 911.

Another son who lived in the house escaped unharmed.

Fire Chief Art Lenaghan said that Station No. 2 was dispatched to the fire at 9:34 p.m. March 3. The response time was about 10 minutes, according to Lenaghan.

"It was reported initially as a sofa fire. However, a second call to 911 changed it to a building fire. At the same time, Engine No. 2 was on the way, saw the fire across the lake and requested additional help," Lenaghan said.

While in route to the burning



Photo by Bill Grimshaw

Nearby residents watch the blaze that destroyed a home and took the life of 48-year-old Richard Jones of Novi. The fire, which was caused by a sofa catching fire, completely destroyed the home on West Lake Drive and severely damaged the house next door.

home, dispatch notified responding units, which included the Walled Lake Fire Department, that there was someone trapped inside.

It was not possible to attempt a rescue, and operations were directed toward preventing further damage to the house next door.

"This fire was so intense that it spread to the home next door at 1259 West Lake Drive," Lenaghan said. Heavy winds off the lake contributed to the fire. The neighboring home received extensive damage to the exterior and roof.

The house where the blaze

originated at 1251 West Lake Drive is a total loss.

One firefighter, Lt. Thomas Greenwald, was injured on the scene. Lt. Greenwald received second degree burns to his face and was taken to Providence Hospital at Grand River and Beck where he was treated and released.

"It's been more than 10 years since we've had a fatality related to fire in Novi," Lenaghan noted. "The last fatality occurred when a fuel tanker caught fire on I-96 near Meadowbrook Road."

Residents of the home at 1259 escaped uninjured but had to

evacuate the home due to the extensive damage caused by the fire.

Friends and neighbors addressed members of city council Monday night about the fire.

"I think we all want answers to what happened that night. Who was in charge?" asked a woman who lives on West Lake Drive.

"A friend lost his home and his life."

Reports on the blaze should be completed later this month, according to Lenaghan, who has talked to friends and relatives of the victims about the fire.

Fatal Fire



SOURCE: City of Novi

Yay or nay for Hooters?

Council postpones decision on Hooters liquor license

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

City leaders came to a standoff Monday night on approving the transfer of a liquor license for the restaurant Hooters of America at Fountain Walk shopping center.

The vote was 3-3 at city council, which meant the motion failed. However, members voted after that to postpone the vote until a full council was present on April 19.

Council Member Lynne Paul was absent from the meeting.

Those voting to approve the request of Hooters of Novi, LLC, to transfer ownership of a 2001 Class C liquor license with dance permit and request for a new

entertainment permit to Fountain Walk included Mayor Lou Csordas and Council Members David Landry and Kim Capello.

Those voting to deny the request included Council Members Bob Gatt, Laura Lorenzo and Toni Nagy.

Charles Lane, the Clinton Township-based attorney for Hooters, addressed city council, noting that Hooters of America is based in Atlanta. The business currently has 359 restaurants in 43 states and 12 foreign countries, 116 of which are actually company owned and operated, with the remainder operating as franchises.

Hooters of Novi would be a company-owned location. There

are currently 10 Hooters in Michigan located in Grand Rapids, Lansing, Roseville, Flint, Muskegon, Sterling Heights, Troy, Taylor, Bay City and Saginaw.

The company, which started in 1984 in Clearwater Beach, Fla., Robert Brooks of Fayetteville, Ga., is the owner of Hooters of America. Koby Brooks is president of Hooters of America.

The restaurant has a casual beach theme featuring music from the 1950s and 1960s, sports on television, a menu with seafood, sandwiches, salads and spicy chicken wings, and the world famous Hooters Girls.

Lorenzo said she thought that the Novi Police Department



should do a background check on Koby Brooks, president of the company, rather than just Robert Brooks, the owner.

She noted that Fountain Walk officials have been marketing the shopping center as a family-oriented venue, citing a full-page newspaper add promoting this theme.

Lorenzo is also concerned about several violations stemming from the sale of liquor to minors at Hooters restaurants in Michigan.

Novi Police Chief Doug Shaeffer addressed this issue.

Continued on 4A

Trooper served bleach

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

A Michigan State Police Officer who was accidentally served some household bleach recently at a Novi restaurant returned to work Tuesday afternoon.

Trooper Paul Flores, who is assigned to the Oak Park Metro North Post, was on duty when he drank the bleach at Don's of Traverse City, a restaurant located at 48730 Grand River Ave. in Novi.

The incident occurred about 8 p.m. March 25, according to Sgt. G. Patterson, a shift supervisor at the Oak Park Metro North Post.

Flores drove himself to Providence Hospital, where he was treated and released following the incident, according to Patterson.

Flores did not return calls concerning the incident, and the manager at Don's of Traverse City would also not comment on the mishap.

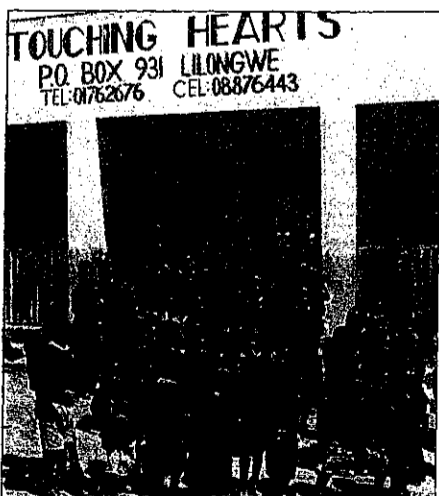
"No charges have been filed to my knowledge," Patterson said.

Another shift supervisor at the Oak Park Post said April 2 that Flores' throat was still sore last week.

No police report was filed at the Novi Police Department following the incident, according to Lt. David Molloy.

Don's of Traverse City features an old-fashioned diner theme and is located on the west north side of Grand River Avenue between Beck and Wixom roads.

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.



Courtesy Photo

Orphaned children in Africa gather around a Touching Hearts building.

Touching the hearts of African children

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

It may be a long way from Novi, but residents came out to support an orphanage in Malawi, Africa, at a special benefit April 2 at the Central Park Estates Clubhouse.

Proceeds from the benefit, "An Evening Benefit Coffee House" which featured acoustic music performed by area residents, went to Touching Hearts, Inc. This grassroots charity, established two years ago by Michele Dixon of Novi, helps residents in the impoverished African country of Malawi.

Sponsors of the benefit included Cheryl Csordas, wife of Novi Mayor Lou Csordas; Jodi Capello, wife of City Council

Member Kim Capello; Julie Landry, wife of City Council Member David Landry; and Lorena Shaeffer, wife of Novi Police Chief Doug Shaeffer.

City Council Member Victor Cassis; his wife, State Sen. Nancy Cassis; Rep. Craig DeRoche; City Council Member Toni Nagy; and other community leaders also attended the event.

"I was reading on the Internet about life in Malawi recently," Julie Landry said. "The conditions are deplorable. They're literally living in the streets. In one family, an 11-year-old was left to care for her four younger siblings," she said.

"The problem is that the country is one of the poorest in the

Continued on 3A

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John Lawrence

The people's principal

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER



Novi High School Principal John Lawrence has to pinch himself every morning when he pulls up to work. As a kid he never thought in a million years that he would end up being a teacher, much less a principal, but here he is — and he's loving every bit of it.

It wasn't an accident that Lawrence eventually became principal, however. He has a saying, which he repeats to students quite often: "If you pour 150 percent of what you have into what you do, people will notice your potential and you'll be nudged or guided in directions that you may have never dreamed of going in."

A perfect example of that would be Lawrence's life. Early on, he described his teachers as faces. He was not really geared to the whole aspect of school as a kid, until he had a transformation and found out that that's where his passion really was.

"I had a very rocky start as a student. I was not an exemplary student and in fact, I wanted to drop out of school in the third grade," Lawrence joked. "But I had people who believed in me, not just my teachers, but my parents gave me a very strong sense of a 'can do' attitude. I had a lot of people nudging me and I came to

a part of my life, when I was in the eighth grade, where I had an industrial arts teacher/football coach who I admired named Jim Miller. I looked at this guy and every day he came in he just loved what he did. It was written all over his face, the passion for what he did oozed out of him and I thought that I would really like to do that too."

From that time on, Lawrence wanted to live his life like that for everything. He wanted to have a passion for something, so he decided he wanted to be a shop teacher. He got started on his dream at Redford Union High School, taking many college prep classes. After high school, he prepared industrial arts at Western Michigan University.

Lawrence's father worked for Ford Motor Company and he was always told, along with his brother and sister, not to work for an automotive company. Not that his dad hated his job, but he knew that there were other things out there that his children probably had an aptitude for, and he was

right. Lawrence's sister is currently an assistant superintendent in the Lincoln School District and his brother works for a communications company in Jackson.

Teaching and becoming a principal

There are many aspects about his job that Lawrence loves. As a shop teacher at Novi Middle School, which he spent 23 years doing, he picked up a lot of valuable knowledge that helps him in his daily challenges today.

"Teaching at the middle school age, the students are very impressionable," he said. "They were always looking for role models. I think it's just having the ability to work with young people and to be able to have a positive effect on their lives, certainly through their education, but also through other aspects, is what I like. You deal with students on a day-to-day basis and what I have enjoyed about being a principal or assistant principal at the high school is being able to deal with those issues on a bigger scale. I not only work with students, but I work with faculty and parents and the community. I'm very much a people person."

Every day is a memorable moment for Lawrence because every day is different. For that reason, he can't say that he has one most memorable moment in his career.

"I come to this job every day and I try to do the very best I can and each day hopefully will be a good memory for me," he said. "There are some days I would like to try to forget, but you're going to have that in any job."

The hardest part of his job is trying to make sure that he and his staff are providing the necessary programs or the necessary strategies to reach every child.

"I would like every student to feel the same kind of passion that I had when I was in school," Lawrence said. "All the way from moving forward in a positive direction in their academics to participating in after school activities and knowing that we're continuing to provide those type of programs for students so they don't get left behind."

If he sees a student who doesn't



Photo by Ramez Khuri
John Lawrence smiles for the camera as he sits at his desk at Novi High School. Lawrence, who is the principal, never thought he'd be doing what he does now when he was just a kid.

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Continued on A5

EASTER SERVICES

NOVI CHURCHES EASTER SERVICES

- Brightmore Christian Church**
40800 13 Mile Rd., Novi
Good Friday-noon
Easter Sunday-9 a.m., 10:45 a.m.
- Church of the Holy Cross Episcopal**
46300 10 Mile Rd., Novi
Good Friday-noon
Easter Sunday-7:45 a.m., 10 a.m.
- Church of the Holy Family**
24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi
Good Friday-noon, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday Vigil-8:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday-7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m.
- Faith Community Presbyterian Church**
44400 West 10 Mile Road, Novi
Good Friday-noon
Easter Sunday-7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
- First Baptist Church of Novi**
45301 11 Mile Rd., Novi
Good Friday-noon
Easter Sunday-8 p.m.
Family Catholic Church
Easter Sunday-11 a.m.
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**
41415 W. 9 Mile Rd., Novi
Good Friday-7 p.m.
Easter Sunday-7:30 a.m., 10 a.m.
- Meadowbrook Congregational Church**
21355 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi
Good Friday-no service
Easter Sunday-9 a.m., 11 a.m.
- Novi United Methodist Church**
41671 W. 10 Mile Rd., Novi
Good Friday-noon
Ecumenical service at Holy Family Catholic Church
Easter Sunday-7:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m.
- Oakland Baptist Church**
23893 Beck Rd., Novi
Good Friday-no service
Easter Sunday-11 a.m.
- Orchard Hills Baptist Church**
23455 Novi Rd., Novi
Good Friday-no service
Easter Sunday-8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
- St. James Catholic Church**
46325 10 Mile Rd., Novi
Good Friday-1 p.m.
Saturday Vigil-8 p.m.
Easter Sunday-8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

Touching Hearts helps orphans

Continued from Front Page

Even families that are together are living in extreme poverty," she said.

"There is a serious lack of education, and a lot of people don't have access to clean drinking water. They are drinking water from streams alongside animals," she noted.

Dixon's first project was to contribute funds to install a community well in the village of Chinko, Malawi.

"She started out small, not 'knowing where it would go,' Landry said.

Dixon immediately received a letter thanking her for the well. Landry noted that after the well was installed that there were no more deaths reported from water-borne illnesses in the country.

Dixon learned about the impoverished country through her niece, who went there on a mission.

"We've gotten sponsors and donors and have been sending money consistently. She was amazed at the community's response to her efforts," Julie Landry said.

"I've wanted to do something for her for a long time, so I decided to have a benefit concert," she added.

Dixon explained that the benefit

that she met Max Javati from Malawi when a church in New Baltimore sent funds for him and his wife to visit the United States.

"We had a meal together in which he sat with tears in his eyes at the abundance of food before him, knowing the hardships of his country. He shared with me the conditions of the orphaned children in Malawi, how they dug through garbage looking for a morsel of rotten food to eat and their dim chance of survival.

"It was during his visit that the idea of the New Life Centre was born. It was our dream to make a difference in the lives of these orphaned children to give them hope and let them know that someone cared about them — to give them a chance at not only surviving but thriving," Dixon said.

Since then, Touching Hearts supporters have rented a building for the orphans, who lost their parents to AIDS. This building, the New Life Centre, has been open and running for almost two years now, according to Dixon.

"Thanks to the generosity of many of the citizens of Novi and other communities, we have taken in 73 children and hired eight employees who look after and teach the children. They also receive medical attention," Dixon

TO MAKE A DONATION

Want to make a donation to Touching Hearts, Inc. to help orphaned children in Malawi, Africa? Sponsorship programs are available at all levels. For more information, contact Michelle Dixon, (248) 921-4699, or Katie Siegmund, (248) 709-9324. Or visit the charity's Web site, www.touchinghearts.net.

Donations can also be mailed to:
Touching Hearts, Inc.
P.O. Box 761
Novi, MI 48376.

own residents but to those halfway across the world," Dixon said.

"I am also grateful to Cheryl Courdos, Loretta Shaeffer, Jodi Capello and Julie Landry. When these amazing women heard of our mission without hesitation they wanted to help," she said.

For more information, visit www.touchinghearts.net.

Ram 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.home.com.net.

"I am proud to live in a community that reaches out its hand not only to its own residents but to those halfway across the world."

Michelle Dixon
Touching Hearts

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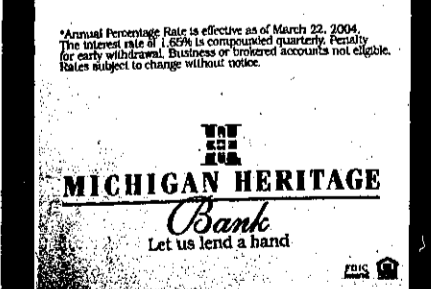
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Hooters decision on temporary hold

Continued from Front Page

"We are concerned that violations may occur. One restaurant had two violations," Shafter said. "I consider this to be an adult-oriented theme incompatible with other stores in the development," Lorenz said. "The all-boy Catholic Central High School will be within two miles of the location, and there is residential property to the north. I have a serious concern about its impact."

"I don't feel that your establishment would be appropriate to the area. The major objection I have is the choice of location," Nays said. "I don't think it will add to the family environment."

"I think there are a lot of new concerns about these places," Fain's said. "There's no industry law that prevents this. It's just a sports bar. I don't think that the city has the ability to refuse it. I've seen baby strollers parked outside and moms inside having a burger at some locations. And I don't think the waitress' attire is a lot different than the catboys of the 1980s."

"I wouldn't want my family to eat in a restaurant that promotes Bowler Girls," Gan said. "I don't remember Fountain

"I consider this to be an adult-oriented theme incompatible with other stores in the development."

Laura Lorenz
Member, Novi City Council

Walk being referred to as a family center. It's been known as an entertainment center," Cordas said.

The Novi Police Department plans to do a background check on Kelly Brooks, and have the results by the next council meeting.

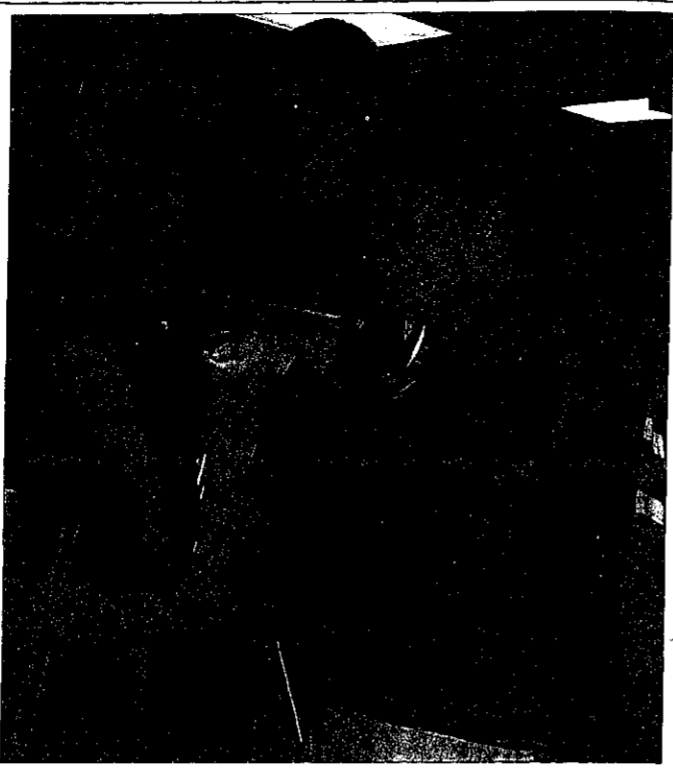
Lane noted that Koby Brooks was interviewed by a writer from *Fortune* magazine recently since Hooters is one of the top five national chain restaurants as far as growth.

"When asked what was the secret of Hooters' success, he said, 'Good food, cold beer and pretty girls never go out of style,'" Lane said.

Taking aim

Wixom Elementary student Evan Mitchell tries his luck at the cross-bow while Sarah Banks Middle School student Steven Carley waits his turn at the Wixom Elementary School Annual Spring Fair. The heavily attended event, taking place Saturday March 27, is the school's biggest festivity of the year. Fair activities included a moon and cake walk, multiple games of chance, face painting, sand art and a raffle with many desirable prizes. But the most anticipated activity of the day was the opportunity to send a friend or family member to the school's home-made gymnasium jail.

Photo by Victoria Sadlocha



City in budget work sessions

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Solving budget issues for a city with 50,000 people is never easy. But Novi city officials have several ideas in mind to solve money issues facing the community in fiscal year 2004-2005.

Work sessions on the budget started Saturday and will continue April 24 and May 5.

In a recent letter from City Manager Richard Helwig to Mayor Lou Cordas and members of city council, Helwig outlined some key points to consider.

"While the City of Novi is blessed with a continued, sound financial condition, we are holding our breath during turbulent financial times in Michigan," Helwig said in the letter.

Helwig said that since fiscal year 2001-2002, the state has reduced the city's second highest revenue source, State Shared Revenue, by 14.6 percent of about \$38.000 annually.

However, Novi, unlike many other communities in the state, has been able to handle this reduction due to ongoing investment and growth in the community.

The city has also been able to maintain at least a 14 percent rainy day fund reserve.

Helwig believes, however, that the city is not keeping up in such areas as police, fire and public works basic services.

Sufficient funds are also not available for capital improvements and equipment needs identified by various department directors, according to Helwig.

To add insult to injury, there is

one additional pay period in fiscal year 2004-2005, totaling about \$600,000 from the General Fund. "This extra pay annually occurs every 12 years," Helwig noted.

The Master Plan Update and Development Plan will include a Fiscal Analysis, which will be available this summer, Helwig said. Helwig sees the following as budget plan priorities:

- Maintain the same city property tax millage of 10.5

- Maintain a rainy day fund of 14 percent of annual general fund expenditures

- Earmark \$100,000 for the Judgment Trust Fund established in 2000 to prepare for meeting future costs involved with litigation involving the city

- Earmark public safety funds to replace three police cruisers valued at \$87,550, hire two new police sergeants in January totaling \$149,039, and hire a new Fire Lieutenant and Fire Captain at \$104,292 for both positions

- Maintain the same levels of basic services, including the freeze on conferences and workshops except those needed to renew professional certifications

- Lessen the impact of increasing health insurance costs by implementing a prescription drug co-payment, an employee contribution of 2.5 percent of the monthly premium and a 50 percent employee payment for the monthly premium on policies including dependents ages 19-25.

These insurance co-pay policies would begin July 1, 2004; Jan. 1, 2005; and July 1, 2005, respectively.



Deerfield conga line

Deerfield students Matthew Patton, Michael Werth, Ozair Arif and Vignesh Bharadwaj take part in a classroom conga line as part of a recent classroom celebration.

Photo by Elaine Mayen

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 W. 10 Mile Road, just east of Taft Road. For more information, call (248) 349-0920.

Story Time Notes

Our Winter 2 Story Time session ends April 8. Watch this spot for information on our Super-Duper Special Spring Story Times, coming soon.

Easter Holiday Hours

The library will be closed April 9 for Good Friday and April 11 for Easter Sunday.

Basically Bats

The Organization for Bat Conservation brings live bats and insect-eating bats to the library for an introductory program on these fascinating animals on Wednesday, April 14, at 7 p.m. Children of all ages are welcome at the 45-minute program. No registration is necessary.

Karate for Kids

Chris Heltman presents an interactive demonstration with local youngsters that focuses on the fun and practical benefits of karate on Thursday, April 15, at 1 p.m. No registration is necessary for the 45-minute program, which is for children age four and up.

Big Kid Story Time

Kids ages 5-8 are invited to join us for stories, special activities,

and a snack on Tuesday, April 26, from 4:30-5 p.m. No registration is necessary.

Evening Story Time

Bring your children to the library at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, for a half hour of bedtime stories celebrating "National Library Week - Michigan Reads!" The stories are appropriate for preschool children, but parents and siblings are encouraged to attend. No registration is necessary; pajamas are optional.

Board Meeting

The Novi Library Board of Directors meets Wednesday, April 21, at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at the Novi Civic Center. Community members are welcome to attend the meeting, which will be broadcast live on cable channel 13.

An Easter Celebration at Church of the Holy Cross, Novi

This Easter at Holy Cross, our doors are wide open to you as we host a service that will touch your heart and give you hope - not just hope for today or tomorrow, but...

April 11, 2004
10 a.m.

Festive Holy Eucharist with special music, organ and choir. Nursery Care.

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist



Hope

that will last

Forever!

The Church of the Holy Cross is an Episcopal Church, part of the worldwide Anglican Communion.
46200 W. Ten Mile Rd., (Between Beck & Taft Roads), Novi, MI 48374
248-349-1175
www.churchoftheholycross.com

John Lawrence is a people's principal

Continued from P.2A

share that kind of passion, he doesn't get upset. Instead, Lawrence just starts asking questions like, "Where is this student falling short?" and "What is happening here?"

"It's not always in a student's school life, but it can be outside factors as well that are causing it," Lawrence said. "I show more empathy because I know that I was once like that. I look for what we can do to provide the spark that can turn that child around. In many cases it's right in the classroom and I have seen it happen."

Lawrence spoke of a student who graduated last year that, from the time he came to Novi High as a ninth grader, until the time that he left, he was a totally different person.

"He had focus, he knew where he was going and he's probably out there doing very well right now," Lawrence said. "Those are one of those success stories that you don't always see."

Difficult aspects of the job

After students graduate from Novi High School and move on with their lives, Lawrence hopes they remember him as being fair, always wanting to listen, always wanting to help in any way and being compassionate. He wants them to think of him as a person who showed compassion for what they did.

Though he does love his job, there are some things that Lawrence would change about it.

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 170 or by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net.

NOVI TOWN CENTER 8

6.99 for 100¢ 8¢ Candy Bars
1248 455-SHOW
\$5.99 Kids all shows \$5.75 Seniors
\$7.99 Students & Late Shows \$7.50
\$9.99 Adults & Seniors \$9.50
No passes DIGITAL STEREO
Includes Free Movie Rentals & 30¢ Soda Refill

MOVIE GUIDE

FREE
SPRING MATINEES
FOR EVERYONE
NATURALLY & SUNSHINE 10:45 AM
CAT IN THE HAT (PG)

Anne Hathaway
ELLA ENCHANTED
SHOWTIMES 4:02 - 4:08

OBELISK (PG)
11.15, 11.30, 11.45, 11.55, 12.10, 12.25, 12.40, 12.55
OPIUM OF THE TANGS (PG-13)
12.10, 12.25, 12.40, 12.55, 1:10, 1:25, 1:40, 1:55, 2:10, 2:25, 2:40, 2:55, 3:10, 3:25, 3:40, 3:55, 4:10, 4:25, 4:40, 4:55, 5:10, 5:25, 5:40, 5:55, 6:10, 6:25, 6:40, 6:55, 7:10, 7:25, 7:40, 7:55, 8:10, 8:25, 8:40, 8:55, 9:10, 9:25, 9:40, 9:55, 10:10, 10:25, 10:40, 10:55, 11:10, 11:25, 11:40, 11:55, 12:10, 12:25, 12:40, 12:55, 1:10, 1:25, 1:40, 1:55, 2:10, 2:25, 2:40, 2:55, 3:10, 3:25, 3:40, 3:55, 4:10, 4:25, 4:40, 4:55, 5:10, 5:25, 5:40, 5:55, 6:10, 6:25, 6:40, 6:55, 7:10, 7:25, 7:40, 7:55, 8:10, 8:25, 8:40, 8:55, 9:10, 9:25, 9:40, 9:55, 10:10, 10:25, 10:40, 10:55, 11:10, 11:25, 11:40, 11:55, 12:10, 12:25, 12:40, 12:55, 1:10, 1:25, 1:40, 1:55, 2:10, 2:25, 2:40, 2:55, 3:10, 3:25, 3:40, 3:55, 4:10, 4:25, 4:40, 4:55, 5:10, 5:25, 5:40, 5:55, 6:10, 6:25, 6:40, 6:55, 7:10, 7:25, 7:40, 7:55, 8:10, 8:25, 8:40, 8:55, 9:10, 9:25, 9:40, 9:55, 10:10, 10:25, 10:40, 10:55, 11:10, 11:25, 11:40, 11:55, 12:10, 12:25, 12:40, 12:55, 1:10, 1:25, 1:40, 1:55, 2:10, 2:25, 2:40, 2:55, 3:10, 3:25, 3:40, 3:55, 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Courtesy photo
An employee at Lord Corporation's new Wixom facility applies a special adhesive on an auto part. Around 20 staff members transferred from Lord's Farmington Hills site.

Lord Corp. opens facility

Lord Corporation, a producer of specialty adhesives, polyurethane castings as well as electronic, vibration and noise control solutions for the automotive market, has expanded its Detroit area facility in an effort to better serve the automotive market.

Located on 4.8 acres at 28655 Automation Blvd. in Wixom, the newly constructed 190,000 square foot facility houses the automotive sales office and includes a 7.5-acre test high-technology formulation and testing laboratory, automotive aftermarket training classroom, as well as a garage suitable for hands-on automotive application training.

Lord Corporation's new facility is indicative of the company's growth and its commitment to the automotive industry. Having served the automotive marketplace for more than 30 years, Lord has had a presence in the greater Detroit area since the 1980s.

Responding to a growing product line and development opportunities for the automotive OEMs, Lord Corporation expanded their operations in the 1990s to better serve both the auto assembly and repair markets. However, according to Brent A. Luketic, Lord Corporation Market Manager, Automotive - OE/Aftersales, Lord's dedication to automotive solutions necessitated the construction of a new space in Wixom for enhanced testing and prototyping capabilities.

"Key to our product design and development process is realistic testing," said Luketic. "As such, we needed an area that would allow for activities ranging from process qualification to durability testing."

According to Dan Adams, Lord's general account manager, Lord's investment in this new facility is in direct response to the company's commitment to serving the automotive market. Lord currently serves the industry throughout the complete automotive life cycle. This includes pre-assembly components to "Tiers," direct sales to automotive OEMs, as well as vehicle repair.

"The new facility will allow our technology-based company to better serve and train automotive customers on a variety of industry issues - ranging from acrylic, epoxy, and urethane adhesive solutions to application know-how," said Adams.

"The larger building includes space for meeting rooms and an automotive applications lab for product assembly, component, and demonstration. These additions allow us to offer a complete solutions center."

Approximately 20 staff members transferred to the Wixom site from Lord Corporation's Farmington Hills, Mich. facility.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Cooper may sell automotive firm

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company announced March 24 that it is exploring the possibility of selling its Cooper-Standard Automotive Group headquartered in Novi.

If the sale occurs, the company may use the net proceeds to reduce debt, invest in tire operations, return capital to stockholders, repurchase shares or a combination of these options.

Cooper-Standard Automotive is a leading manufacturer of fluid handling systems, body sealing systems, and active and passive vibration control systems, primarily for automotive manufacturers. The Novi group reported revenue of about \$1.6 billion in 2003.

Yoga program offered in April

A seven-day intensive program on Isha Yoga will be offered April 28 through May 4 in Farmington Hills by Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, an international speaker, spiritual leader and author from southern India. Vasudev spoke to more than 200 people Jan. 6 at the Sports Club of Novi.

The program runs weekdays from 6:15 to 9:30 p.m. and from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends. It will take place at St. John Banquet Hall at 25600 Drake Road.

Cost for the program is \$275 per person. For more information, call (248) 478-4786 or visit www.ishafoundation.org.

ABWA to have wine tasting event

Members of the Novi Oaks Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) invites area residents to enjoy and learn about wine in a friendly and fun environment.

The Wine Tasting & Networking event begins at 6 p.m. April 19 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, 42100 Crescent Blvd., in Novi.

Cost of \$20 per person includes Wine Tasting and hors d'oeuvres.

Non-alcoholic sparkling grape juice will also be available.

Registration begins at 6 p.m., with the wine tasting at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person. For more information, contact Tricia at (248) 788-9032. Attendees must be age 21 to participate in wine tasting.

To register, mail a check payable to ABWA to P. Cornea, c/o 6960 Orchard Lake Rd., #205, West Bloomfield, MI 48322, by April 14.

Real Estate One honors top producers

Real Estate One honored its top performers at its annual awards convention recently at the Ford Convention and Events Center at Greenfield Village in Dearborn.

Those recognized at the event were Realtors and branch offices with the most outstanding performance and customer satisfaction. Several of the most prestigious awards went to Realtors in the Novi office, including the actual office, and the following Realtors:

Office: Performance Leadership Award — The Novi office, managed by Kathy O'Neill, was among the top 12 in the company in total sales volume.

President's Circle — Fil Superfisky, Gail Turner and Margie Wells were honored among the top 28 producing Realtors, teams or partnerships in the company.

Affiliated Achievement Award — Fil Superfisky was recognized among the top 13 producing Realtors, teams or partnerships for assistance to the customer in either a home sale, mortgage, title and/or insurance transaction.

Wise Foods documented a \$500,000 savings within three months after working with the Lean Learning Center and its affiliate company Achievement Dynamics (ADL), a nationally recognized lean consulting firm. After only a year of lean implementation, Wise achieved a net cost reduction of \$2.2 million.

The food industry is taking advantage of lean manufacturing as a successful strategy to improve processes.

Companies like snack food manufacturer Wise Foods in Atlanta, dairy producer Land O'Lakes in Minneapolis and poultry processor Simmons Foods in Silex Springs, Ark., have taken advantage of the lean services offered by the Lean Learning Center in Novi.

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Career Day allows students to gain life experiences

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Amid tough economic times, area workers gave students at Novi Middle School a dose of optimism at the 14th Annual Career Day on March 26.

This year the program included 20 top caliber speakers for the seventh grade classes and something new for eighth grade called The Reality Store. Students were exposed to the six different career pathways: Arts and Communications, Business-Management-Marketing & Technology, Engineering/Manufacturing-Industrial Technology, Health Sciences, Human Services, & Natural Resources-Agriculture.

Career Day helps students learn about emerging career opportunities while exposing them to post-secondary education and the world of work, budgets and lifestyles.

In the past the format of Career Day has been the same for both seventh and eighth grades, where students were exposed to 40 speakers. This is the first year, however, that it was changed up a little bit.

More money was taken out of their salaries when they had to pay for transportation, auto insurance, child care, if they chose to have kids, food, clothing, personal care and medical and life insurance.

After that there was a reality check, where the kids had to reach into a bag and choose a number and depending on which number was chosen, they could either gain or lose money through everything from winning the lottery to getting into a bad car crash.

Later medical and dental expenses were taken out, they put some of their money into a savings account or investments, they needed some spending money for travel and entertainment and at the end of the day they were asked if they wanted to contribute to any charities. Those students who had money left over came out on top, but most of them were in a lot of debt.

A good example of what the kids learned was when they had to choose groceries," Robinson said. "They all chose the generic brand, but when they asked the question, 'would you like it if your parents brought home generic,' they said 'no way.' It gives them a new appreciation of what their parents are providing for them now. It's

Robinson said, "I decided that would break the career day up." Robinson and the rest of the Career Day volunteers decided to have speakers for just the seventh grade. Since there would be less speakers, the quality of the presentations could be elevated, which would in turn, be more impactful for the students.

As for the eighth grade, the program was totally different. "We thought we would bring a new program to the eighth graders so the seventh graders would have something to look forward to," Robinson said. "The eighth graders would have the Reality Store, which has a lot of benefits to it. Not only are the kids learning that they have to make good choices early on, but I think they can also get an appreciation for what their parents provide to them."

For the Reality Store, students were told to choose a career, which came with a certain salary. Then monthly taxes were taken out and they were told to pay for housing, home insurance and utilities. Next, students had to decide if they wanted a land line phone and/or a cell phone, cable television and/or a pager.

Novi Police Officer Kristie Gruenwald talks with Novi Middle School student Steven Huang during last Friday's Career Day seminar. Novi PD's Lt. Tim McNamara talked to the class and told them of the importance of maintaining consistently good character as a student: when he applied for a job as a police officer, his junior high academics were researched."

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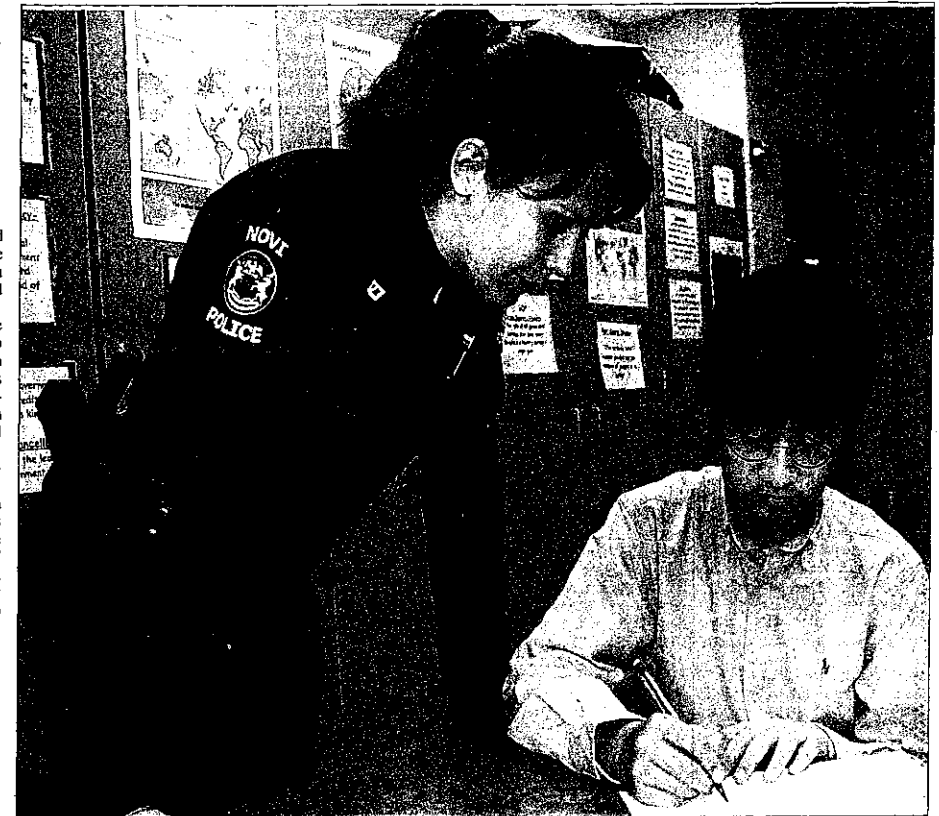
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CLASS NOTES

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



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Novi Schools to participate in 'The Novi Project'

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Community School District Board of Education agreed on March 18, to participate in and be the fiscal agent for "The Novi Project," a collaborative research project committed to developing and implementing a continuous improvement process for evaluating professional development and its impact on student achievement.



Jane Hesse

In other words, it's a way for school staffs in Novi, Southfield and Troy to track student achievement through an upgraded version of the KALPA Professional Development Management System, which is a computer program, by tracking their own professional development.

"The Novi Project" would help the Novi School District to improve professional development in two ways. One, by involving teachers in the process of professional development and two, by helping all the teachers collaborate with teachers from other districts, who could be trying to solve the same questions.

"Teachers could ask each other, 'how did this professional development experience work out in the three areas of content, context and process and actually solve these different students in your classroom?'" Jane Hesse said, director of K-12 curriculum and assessment. "Initially we are asking our teachers to think about the process of professional development and give us feedback so we can make it better, but we're also asking them to collaborate across districts to figure out how those other teachers made it work. It's a way to get at deepening our understanding of what functions best."

"The board gave the Novi District permission to seek the grant, but short of any grant coming our way to fund this fully, we're not going to be able to do it," Hesse said.

How do students benefit?

Presently, it would be Troy, Southfield and Novi teachers that would collaborate together. KALPA is used in many school districts in Michigan, but an upgraded version of it will get into the feedback that teachers provide. Right now KALPA is a system that helps school districts produce a state report that actually keeps track of the numbers of hours that teachers spend using professional development. KALPA checks the number of hours. Through an upgraded version of it, however, Novi wants to take its knowledge to another level. Novi, Southfield

and Troy will have that upgrade if there are funds granted to obtain it.

Hesse explains that on paper, this sounds like a good idea, but with all of the paper work involved in it, it can be overwhelming. Short of putting more paper work in the teacher's days, an electronic system that can capture what the teachers think about a certain professional development experience was needed.

"If an electronic system can capture that feedback instantly and keep a record of that, we can go back and see which experience would pay off in the classroom or not," Hesse said. "KALPA is the electronic system that captures our teachers' feedback and helps us to put it together in data form."

"If the project does get funding it will not come from any schools," Hesse said. "The school board approved that Novi would become the organizing agent that sends out applications to foundations for funding to do this. Getting teachers together takes time, which translates into resources and money. That means the project won't go forward unless the district gets funding."

"On one hand, you have professional staff development and the more we know about teaching and learning, the more we know what this professional development has to look like," Hesse said. "On the other hand, we have our students and we

of course those needs change when the state changes their grade level benchmarks. The more we get into higher expectations, the more the professional development is really critical."

Novi's teachers constantly have new learning to do in order to help students. The connection is to always improve the professional development so that what students experience in the classroom is at the highest caliber of teaching.

Hesse explained that hypothetically, if the state comes through with grade level benchmarks in mathematics and there are many changes involved, different teachers would have different needs because they have different kinds of educational backgrounds, but now across the level, we have a different kind of experience and we're hoping to gain some new knowledge about that."

According to Hesse, "The Novi Project" came from the Novi district's experience with finely tuned professional development for teachers.

"Another part of the professional development is in terms of what a teacher learns in professional development," Hesse said. "In this case it would be about mathematics and it might be a specific part of mathematics."

Another part of the professional development is the context, which can be many things. Most

of the time, the same teacher who teaches mathematics for fourth grade students also teaches English language arts, science and social studies, but that's not true with 10th grade teachers and above. It's one thing to teach math computations to a fourth grader, but how do you teach it to other students? In a classroom, he or she might have three who have a particular way of learning and four others who have a different way of learning it, so this is also part of the process. The professional development experience that teachers go to have to involve all of these and have to be in a finely manner.

Novi Project going national?

The other dimension of this that has a national perspective is that, this kind of connection between professional learning and specific student needs and achievement is somewhat of a novel idea. If this system, through KALPA and through what Novi teachers discover, has effective results, then this can potentially be a national project. If it can maximize professional development, maximize student achievement and help any district use their resources as wisely as possible, it will be a success.

"If it is a success, we'll know what works and what doesn't work, so why spend dollars on something that may or may not work if we can find out right away that it's not going to work?" Hesse asked. "That would save everyone dollars and of course we're interested in doing that. I would imagine a foundation would be interested in helping any organization to save dollars."

Why is it called the Novi Project?

The idea for an upgrade came from Novi. The Novi School Board ruled that the district, through Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Jim Koster and Executive Director of Administrative Services Bob Schram, will be the fiduciary agents for the whole project. They'll help to manage the funding for if the project gets funded from a grant. A year ago, when Hesse sat down with representatives from KALPA, they quickly realized that this system had a lot more capability that the district needed, so they started thinking

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.home.com.net.

NOTICE

is hereby given that on 4/22/04 at 2:30pm the following will be sold by competitive bidding at American Self Storage, 24985 Haggerty Road, Novi, MI.

Space Number: P-1013
Ron Lupinski
Misc. Household items

Space Number: C-166
Nicole Williams
Misc. Household items

Space Number: M-733
Claudia Martin
Misc. Household items

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South Lyon Herald .248-437-2011
Novi News
Northville Record . 248-349-1700

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Join your community to kick-off the 2nd annual American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Walled Lake.

Relay For Life Cancer Survivor's Victory Lap
Saturday, May 22, 2004
10:00 a.m. start time
Walled Lake Events Field

To learn more about the Survivor's Victory Lap please call Barb Iovan at 248.483.4317.

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RELAY FOR LIFE
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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.

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 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 current board is President Jagdally, Vice President John Street, Treasurer George Kortlandt, Secretary Abrams, Carol Ellring, John Balagana and Dave Brown.

Oakland Schools Board selects superintendent finalists

At a special meeting of the Oakland Schools Board of Education, the Board reviewed applications from 22 candidates for the position of superintendent. The field has now been narrowed to five candidates, whom the board plans to interview on April 21 and 22. There will be opportunities for stakeholder representatives to take part in the screening process. Additional information will be posted on the Oakland Schools website, www.oakland.k12.mi.us, as it becomes available.

Finalists for the position are:

- Charles Breiner, Superintendent, Howell Public Schools
- Vickie L. Markavitch, Superintendent, Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation, IN
- William H. Mayes, Superintendent, Huron ISD

Scholarships available

The Novi Educational Foundation announced that applications for the 2004 Fuert Scholarships are now available. The Fuert Scholarships are awarded with funds from the estate of Ruby Fuert, 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 applicant's 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 Wednesday, March 31.

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

Glenn M. Pelecky, Chief Administrator, Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency, IA

Sally A. Vaughn, Superintendent, Livingston ESA

The superintendent position has been vacant since the Board fired former superintendent, Dr. Jim Reimold, on January 31, 2003. He was succeeded by Interim Superintendent Dr. Dan Austin in February, 2003 then Interim Superintendent Dr. Bill Keane in November, 2003. A new superintendent is expected to be in place by July 1, 2004.

Carl Hartman of the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) is assisting the Oakland Schools Board of Education in the superintendent selection process. The deadline for applications was March 19, 2004.

George Ehler, President, Oakland Schools Board of Education said, "We are looking forward to the interviews and strongly encourage stakeholder participation in the process, which we will make every effort to keep as open as possible."

For more information on the superintendent selection process, please contact Carl Hartman, MASB at (517) 327-5927.

Outstanding Novi teachers sought

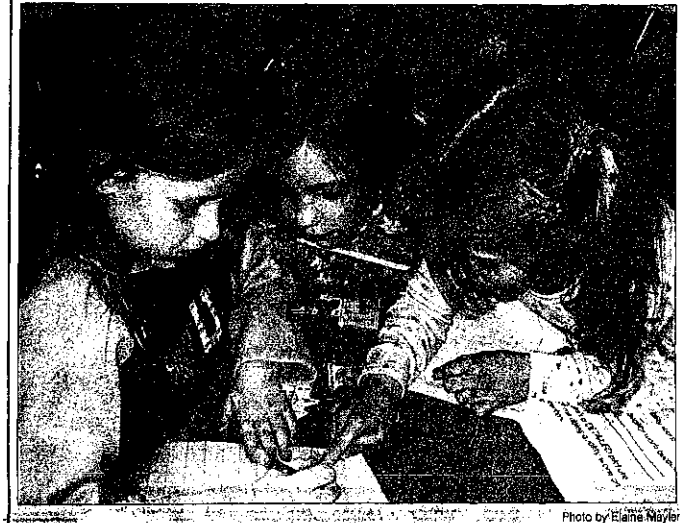
The Novi News will recognize monthly a local teacher for his or her excellence in the classroom.

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 estone@ht.home.com.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 300 words explaining why this teacher deserves to be the Outstanding Teacher of the Month.



Pajama party at Deerfield!
Wearing their favorite pajamas, first graders Krystina Giroux, Logan Flynn and Rose Maylen work on their language arts studies. The students were participating in the Pajama Day Celebration held in the Treehouse at Deerfield Elementary School.

MOTHERS DAY is Sunday, May 9th

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Enclose this entry form along with your letter of 200 words or less and be eligible to win a spa package for your mother.

Mother's Name _____
Your Name _____
Your Address _____
Your Phone _____

Hometown Newspapers
Mail to: c/o Pamper Your Mom
101 N. Lafayette
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**Consult a tax advisor regarding deductibility of interest. APRs effective as of April 1, 2004.

Member FDIC

Frank Raburn is Teacher of the Year

Honor lands Middle School computer teacher in a new Honda Pilot

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

It has been quite a school year for Novi Middle School Computer Teacher Frank Raburn. Not only was he honored as the Novi News Feature Teacher for the month of February, but just recently, he was named Teacher of the Year by Novi Educational Foundation and the Suburban Collection.

The practice of awarding a teacher this honor started two years ago when the Suburban Collection gave to the Novi Educational Foundation and said it wanted to do a program in Novi, which had been awarded the honor.

According to Haggerty, it appears the program is going to be stepping through the Suburban Collection Teachers who win get to use a brand new car for one year, he or she gets a lot of recognition and when the presentation is done in his or her classroom in the middle of the school day, they get the rest of the day off.

"When he saw a white entourage, including members of his family,

representatives from the Suburban Collection and Novi Superintendent Emanuel Lippe, among others, entering his classroom last Tuesday, Raburn really wasn't sure what to expect.

"I knew that I had been recommended and so when I saw everyone walking in, that's the first thing that came to my mind, but still it's just a shock to be selected teacher of the year and an honor and a privilege," Raburn said. "I didn't anticipate it at all. I was totally taken by surprise."

In his classroom, Lippe said a few weeks ago with Dan Hiller, general manager of the Suburban Collection, and finally Raburn himself. Then photos were taken of Raburn with his visitors and with his students before he was driven off to Suburban Honda in Farmington Hills to begin the process of test driving different cars.

"The lease on the car that we currently have is up in November and it's an SUV," Raburn said before going to the dealership. "So I might look at the SUVs. On the other hand I've always wanted something sporty, so I'm not sure which way to go yet."

The Suburban Collection has many different dealerships on this side of town and a list containing a representative sampling of cars from the different dealerships was given to Raburn. All the cars were available for him to test drive. After driving a few of them, Raburn picked a Honda Pilot.

"When we walked in I had seen the Pilot in the parking lot and commented on it to my wife that it was a nice vehicle, but it wasn't on the list," Raburn said. "As we walked in Mr. Hiller heard that conversation and added it to the list. I sat in one in the show room and liked it a lot. I then came out to look at some of the others."

Raburn drove the Honda TSX first, which is a little sports car. He said he enjoyed it, but was a little concerned with how small it was. Next he drove the Jeep Wrangler because he always wanted to drive one, but he said he wasn't seriously considering buying it. After that he drove the Volkswagen Passat.

"I really felt the Passat was a nice Sedan," Raburn said. "I considered that one, but when I took the Pilot for a test drive, it just felt comfortable. That's probably because I'm accustomed to driving larger vehicles."

"I can't say enough how much I appreciate Suburban for offering this kind of program to teachers," Raburn added. "I've been teaching for 28 years and nothing like this has ever happened, not only to me but it wasn't available until a year ago. As I said to my classroom, there are so many good teachers in Novi that are every bit as deserving, if not more so than I. But I'm not going to turn this down either."

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.commi.net.



Courtesy Photo
Suburban Collection General Manager Dan Hiller, Novi Educational Foundation Chairperson Dennis Haggerty and Novi Community School District Superintendent Emmett Lippe award Frank Raburn Teacher of the Year honors in his classroom last Tuesday.



Teacher of the Year Frank Raburn sits in a show-room model of his new lease car, a Honda Pilot.

get pictured

In this year's

Gentlemen in Business
coming in June!

Reserve your space by April 27, 2004
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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.

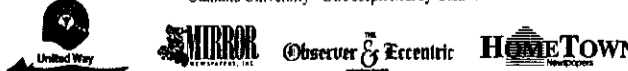
NOMINATOR: _____ IF GROUP CONTACT PERSON: _____
 ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP: _____
 DAYTIME PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ E-MAIL: _____
 NOMINATING CATEGORY: DIRECT SERVICE YOUNG ADULT SENIOR
 YOUTH GOVERNANCE FAITH-BASED BUSINESS
 NAME OF NOMINEE: _____ AGE: _____
 (Must volunteer for an Oakland County non-profit 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.

HomeTown Heroes Planning Committee:
Active Faith • Assistance League of Southeastern Michigan • Birmingham Rotary Club •
Junior League of Birmingham • Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency •
Oakland University • St. Joseph Mercy Oakland



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Space Reservation Deadline:
Wednesday, April 14, 2004
Copy Deadline:
Thursday, April 15, 2004
Publication Date:
Thursday, May 6, 2004

HomeTown

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South Lyon Herald248-437-2011
Northville Record248-349-1700
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Daily Press & Argus517-548-7060



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Novi Ice Arena Leans to Skate Camp/Spring Break on Ice

DATES: Monday, April 12-Wednesday, April 14
TIME: 11:00-11:45 a.m.

DETAILS: For skaters ages 6 and up. The cost of enrollment is \$56, and skate rental is available for \$6 (\$2 per day). As an added bonus, Spring Break on Ice participants are welcome to attend open skating immediately following class from Noon-1:30 pm free of charge.

PHONE: Register immediately, as enrollment is limited. Call the Novi Ice Arena at 248-347-1010.

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

DATES: 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.

Sugarloaf Art Fair

DATES: Friday, April 16, Saturday, April 17 and Sunday, April 18

TIME: All days, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Expo Center
DETAILS: Over 300 nationally recognized craft designers and fine artists from 39 states and Canada. Demonstrations and entertainment. Tickets are \$6, under 12 free. Parking free.

PHONE: 1-800-210-9900 or www.SugarloafCrafts.com

Comic Storytelling

DATE: Friday, April 16
TIME: 7 p.m.

LOCATION: Novi Senior Center, Meadowbrook Rd., Novi
DETAILS: Master Kyoraku is from Tokyo, Japan. He is a master His performance will be interpreted by susukimyers.com of Novi. While his language is Japanese, his gestures are easy for anyone to recognize. This is a wonderful opportunity to get a look at this popular form of story-telling outside of Japan. Admission is free.

PHONE: Rachel Zagaroli, (248) 347-0403 or at zagaroli@c3.novi.mi.us before 4/12

Novi Borders Bookstore Happenings

DATE: Friday, April 16
TIME: 7 p.m.

LOCATION: Novi Town Center

DETAILS: Meet author Richard Kincaide. Richard Kincaide will sign copies of his new book The Gods of Olympia Stadium: Legends of the Detroit

Financial for Lutherans and its

Red Wings Author Richard Kincaide

DETAILS: For skaters ages 6 and up. The cost of enrollment is \$56, and skate rental is available for \$6 (\$2 per day). As an added bonus, Spring Break on Ice participants are welcome to attend open skating immediately following class from Noon-1:30 pm free of charge.

PHONE: Register immediately, as enrollment is limited. Call the Novi Ice Arena at 248-347-1010.

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.teamtraining.org/ml, or email htranzette@lls.org, http://www.teamtraining.org or http://www.lls.org.

Novi Borders Bookstore Happenings

DATE: Friday, April 23
TIME: 10 a.m.

LOCATION: Novi Town Center

DETAILS: Meet children's author Andrew Clements. He will read from and sign copies of his new book The Report Card. Andrew Clements is the multi-faceted author of picture books, including Big Al, and two other novels about school life, Frindle and The Laundry News.

Novi Chamber of Commerce 12th Annual Charity Auction

DATE: Saturday, April 24
LOCATION: Hotel Baronette, Novi

DETAILS: Primit proceeds from this year's auction will benefit "Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit." The organization provides bedtime essentials for a good night's rest to grade school children in need throughout Southeastern Michigan.

PHONE: (248) 349-3743.

Church of the Holy Cross Charity Golf Scramble and Auctions

DATE: Saturday, June 26
TIME: 1:15 p.m. shot gun tee-off

LOCATION: Coyote Golf Club, on Milford Rd., in New Hudson.

DETAILS: Join us for 18 holes of golf, prize holes, betting holes, silent auction and live auction, dinner and music. Benefiting the Detroit Area Haiti Missing school sponsorship program, medical aid, and building program. Cost is \$125/person.

PHONE: www.coyotegolf-club.com

Career Opportunity Forum

DATE: Tuesday, April 27
TIME: 5:30 p.m., hors d'oeuvres and wine; 6:30, presentation

LOCATION: Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and its

Eastern Great Lake Region Regional Financial Office (RFO)

at 39500 High Pointe 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@trivent.com

Southwestern Oakland-Cleare Commission(SWOC) special meeting

DATE: Wednesday, April 28
TIME: 5:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Novi City Hall, Mayor's Conference Room

"Hollywood Nights" 24-hours Marathon

DATE: Friday, April 30 until Saturday, May 1

TIME: begins 10 a.m. Friday, ending 10 a.m. Saturday

LOCATION: Emagine Theatre, Fountain Walk in Novi, 1/4 mile west of Novi Rd. at 12 Mile.

DETAILS: Benefiting Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan, participants raise a minimum of \$94.70 in pledges, bring the money in and then sit back and watch as many movies as they want in 24 hours. Food provided. Must be 18 or older to participate.

PHONE: 1-800-825-2536 or leukemiainchicago.org.

Michigan International Women's Show

DATE: Thursday, April 29-Sunday, May 2

TIME: Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

LOCATION: Novi Expo Center

DETAILS: \$8/ at the door, \$7/advance (purchase online at www.internationalwomenshow.com or in person at Meijer), \$6/each for groups of 20 or more, \$4/youth 6-12, free for children under 6. Unique shopping, treats and surprises from Meijer's, fashion shows, food samples, author appearances, prizes.

PHONE: 1-800-849-0248

Boost Camp Day

DATE: Friday, April 30
TIME: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

LOCATION: Providence Medical Building, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi.

DETAILS: Sponsored by Providence Center for the Healing Arts. A day of enrichment and personal exploration designed to provide valuable tools, information and a new perspective on healthier living through wholeness that can be very beneficial to the participants. Cost is \$45/person. Open to the public.

PHONE: Registration required, call 248-465-5455.



Cascarones invade Novi Woods

Novi Woods Spanish teacher Agnes Lee introduced students to cascarones - colorful Mexican egg shells filled with confetti. Students enjoyed the idea that a cascarone broken over someone's head is said to bring the person good luck, along with a confetti shower. Pictured, parent volunteer Laura Ramirez helps third grader Stefanie Papesoglu make her cascarone.

People's Choice Awards

People from all over the area responded to our People's Choice Awards promotion!

We have tallied hundreds of votes and the winners have been declared. Take this opportunity to capitalize on your popularity and build the image of your business. The name of your business will be published as a winner, but emphasize this honor bestowed by your customers to earn still more customer loyalties through recognition.



Space Reservation Deadline:
Monday, April 12, 2004
Copy Deadline:
Tuesday, April 13, 2004
Publication Date:
Thursday, May 15, 2004

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Novi News248-349-1700
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Home & Garden II

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



Space Reservation Deadline:
Monday, April 26, 2004
Copy Deadline:
Tuesday, April 27, 2004
Publication Date:
Thursday, May 13, 2004

Pick-up the ad you ran in Home & Garden I and receive a 25% Discount!
Pick-up with changes receive a 15% Discount!

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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.

Always remember to just keep swinging

In baseball there is an old saying that if you get three hits out of 10 times at bat, you're a big league star. A guy who in his whole career makes seven mistakes out of 10 is considered a superstar.

I think we all have to remember that we all make mistakes. We just have to accept them, hitch up our britches, pull up our socks and go ahead and get to the next project.

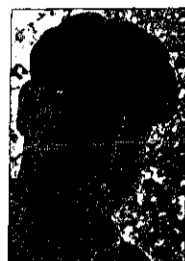
A perfectionist really has a tough time in life, because we're all human and we're all going to fall short once in a while. If we just realize that, we can save ourselves a lot of worry and stress that can affect our mental and physical health.

That doesn't mean we don't try to do our best. But if we accept that we can't always be

perfect, we can keep our feet on the ground and our heads up. We won't always get a hit, but we can keep on swinging.

And please remember to take care of your health before it's longggg gone!

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers," 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



Ernie Harwell

for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, public appearances, writing, 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 at local bookstores or by calling (800) 245-5082.

GOVERNMENT

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

United States Senate

Carl Levin (D-Detroit)
259 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
(202) 224-6221
senator2@levin.senate.gov
Local office:
124 W. Allegan
Suite 1810
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 377-1508
FAX: (517) 377-1506

(517) 373-1799
FAX: (517) 373-5777
mstruiman@house.mi.gov

Oakland County

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

7th Commission

Christine Long
1342 E. Commerce Road
Commerce Twp., MI 48382
(248) 366-2666
longc@co.oakland.mi.us

8th Commission

Jeff Potter
1036 Stable Lane
South Lyon, MI 48178
(248) 437-7567
potterj@co.oakland.mi.us

United States Congress

11th District
Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia)
415 Cannon HOB
Washington D.C. 20515-8171
(202) 225-8171
FAX: (202) 225-2667
Local office:
17197 N. Laurel Park Drive
Suite 161
Livonia, MI 48152

9th Commission

Hugh D. Crawford
46275 11 Mile Road
Novi, MI 48374
(248) 349-5079
hughcrawford@msn.com

Townships

Novi
Raymond Schovers,
supervisor
PO Box 924
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 348-0365

Governor

Jennifer Granholm (D-Northville Twp.)
PO Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 333-7858

Commerce - Charter

Thomas K. Zoner, supervisor
2840 Fisher Avenue
Commerce Twp., MI 48390
(248) 624-0110
FAX: (248) 624-5834

State Senate

15th District
Nancy Cassia (R-Nov)
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48906-7535
(517) 373-1758
senncassia@senate.michigan.gov

Cities

Novi
45175 West Ten Mile Road
Novi, MI 48375-3024
(248) 347-0460
FAX: (248) 347-0577

State House of Reps

38th District
Craig DeRoche (R-Nov)
S0887 House Office Building
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
(517) 373-5827
FAX: (517) 373-5873
craigderoche@house.mi.gov

Walled Lake

1499 E. West Maple Road
PO Box 99
Walled Lake, MI 48390-0099
(248) 624-4847
FAX: (248) 624-1616

Wixom

42045 Pontiac Trail
Wixom, MI 48393-2567
(248) 624-4557
FAX: (248) 624-0863

OPINION

novinews.com

LETTERS



Congratulations to Library Winners

On Saturday, March 27, 2004, The Novi Public Library sponsored a Battle of the Books for fifth and sixth graders. The purpose of this program was to encourage reading and to recognize young people who like to read. We would like to congratulate all the participants in the Battle, whose teams and individual participants are as follows:

Korean Dudes Minus One:
Joan Chung
Andrew Lu
Spencer Kim
John Shoop
Philip Lee
Ben Yoon
Team Coach: Liz Yoon-Kim

The Reading Rockets:
Joanna Beaton
Max Shanker
Michael Cauchi
Madeline Sinkovich
Stephanie Lou
Team Coach: Denise Sinkovich

Silver Starz:
Tina Katopodis
Amanda Sackett
Haley Kehus
Paige Trestler
Naomi Kiura
Team Coach: Deborah Kiura

Victory:
Katherine Appleman
John Lee
Janani Jaidu
Alexandra Provost
Andrew Lee
Team Coach: Hojeong Lee

Novi
Raymond Schovers,
supervisor
PO Box 924
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 348-0365

Commerce - Charter
Thomas K. Zoner, supervisor
2840 Fisher Avenue
Commerce Twp., MI 48390
(248) 624-0110
FAX: (248) 624-5834

Novi
45175 West Ten Mile Road
Novi, MI 48375-3024
(248) 347-0460
FAX: (248) 347-0577

Walled Lake
1499 E. West Maple Road
PO Box 99
Walled Lake, MI 48390-0099
(248) 624-4847
FAX: (248) 624-1616

Wixom
42045 Pontiac Trail
Wixom, MI 48393-2567
(248) 624-4557
FAX: (248) 624-0863

Wildcat Readers:
Daniel Burris
Madhu Sanam
Joe Burns
Kate Wilkerson
Michelle Medved
Maria Watson
Team Coach: Jeannine Dial

AM Bobcat Squad:
Fatai Alalaye
Grady Darnell
Joseph Bennett
Robert Singletary
Team Coach: Polly Alalaye

The Book Monkeys:
Chase Conrad
Jay Raina
AJ Heinrichs
Rebecca Richter
Joe Mickelson
Kelly Savella
Team Coach: Glen Walthall

The Book Raiders:
Rahul Ahluwalia
Scott Stanford
John DeLeon
Brandon Walker
Joe Leppke
Kevin Yang
Team Coach: Kris Stanford

The Book Worms:
Makena Bauss
Samantha Macy
Erin Kowderie
Connie Robbins
Team Coach: Jennie Macy

Funky Monkeys:
Steve Cullen
Joan Kim
Kaitlyn Hart
Colleen McClure
Jon Hart
Courtney Smith
Team Coach: Alena Chaps

KKBLAM:
Brianna Blossfeld
Melissa Hulverson
Laura Drew
Katie Murphy
Ariqian Glenn
Krista Tice
Team Coach: Daniel Blossfeld

We would like to congratulate all of the participants and recognize our winners: Tied for third place were A.M. Dubcats and Funky Monkeys. Second place went to Korean Dudes Minus One, and our first place team was KKBLAM.

It would not have been possible to have this program were it not for the Friends of the Library, who underwrote our awards as well as providing volunteer help, and Cold Stone Creamery, who gave each participant a coupon for a free treat. Teen volunteers Shanti Agrawal, Shivani Agrawal, Camille, and Ellen Storch were invaluable in their help. We would also like to thank Brenda Evans, Library Director, Terry Margolis, President of the Library Board, and Mayor Lou Cordas, all of whom spoke eloquently to our group about the importance of reading. The Parks and Recreation and Forestry Department allowed us the use of their multi-purpose room, and SWOCC was kind enough to record our event for our children and parents to enjoy on CD. Finally, we thank the parents and especially the coaches of the participants, who provided practice, snacks, and moral support to our Battle participants. This was a job well done by all!

Marjorie Karp-Opperer

Kelly Kolchuk

Mary Storch

Phyllis Weeks

Novi Public Library Youth Librarians

Hot issues in Novi

Main Street Novi is, was, and will continue to be a "hot issue." During the campaign for City Council last fall, many questions concerning this area of the city were raised by voters, news media and other groups. It's incumbent upon all of us to be patient with the present business population locating there. Time will be the best judge as to whether or not they are "good for Novi" or not. In my long career with the Novi Police Department I witnessed many different businesses that started off good, then turned sour, and many that started with a myriad of problems that required police scrutiny, that turned out very good. Let's be patient. And observe.

Another "hot" issue, Hoosters is coming to Novi. I have received more phone calls, emails and other correspondence on this matter than any other in my short career on City Council. I will go on the record and tell you that I have never been in a Hoosters in my life. I don't even know where one is. The name of

the establishment is offensive to me and to many other people. Although advertised as a "place families can go to", I would never expose my children in Hoosters. Having said that, however, if a vote comes before City Council as to whether to allow Hoosters in the City or not, I will most likely vote yes. Simply because there is no LEGAL reason to keep them out. To vote NO based on feelings and my learned morality could result in litigation that would be difficult to win. And very expensive. If Hoosters locates in Novi, I would expect our outstanding police department to keep a close eye on the place to ensure that they are complying with all the laws on the books in our city.

Finally, we in the metro Detroit area were deeply saddened by the news of two Detroit Police Officers murdered while they were simply doing their job. I had to hold back tears as a group of my fellow employees gathered around a television set on Friday and watched the funeral service. In my career as a Novi Police Officer, I have been to many police funerals. Too many. Can you even imagine a world without police? Can you

even fathom how lawless, how dangerous, how ugly it would be? The weak would not, could not, survive. Women would be prey. Children would be victimized at every turn in their life. It would be a world of darkness and tragedy. People who murder our police officers in this country should be put to death. The murder of a police officer or any other official who is employed to PROTECT US should be a federal offense, punishable by death. This jerk who doubted two of our finest a few days ago will no longer be put into the Michigan Penitentiary system for the rest of his life. Do you know how much that will cost you and me? This is not a matter for Novi City Council. But, I urge everyone who reads this to write to your State and Federal elected officials urging them to consider a law that would force those who murder our police officers to pay the ultimate price themselves. We owe it to our protectors. We owe it to ourselves.

Bob Gaff

Novi City Council Member

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: cstoney@htlhomecomm.net **Fax to:** (248) 349-9832



OTHER OPINIONS

Page 17A

Thursday, April 8, 2003

I need energy to figure this out

You've probably seen the ads DTE Energy (formerly Detroit Edison) has been running in the papers lately. They talk about the wolf being in Edison's door. "Because of flaws in the electric deregulation law, Public Act 141," one ad says, "out-of-state companies are coming, snatching up the biggest electricity customers and leaving the rest of us to pay the price to keep the entire system running."



Phil Power

I had regarded this campaign with mild curiosity until last Friday, when I read a letter from an outfit with a Southfield office that explained "July 25 percent of DTE's large commercial electricity customers have begun to reduce and control their electricity costs by participating in the Electric Choice Program established by the Michigan Public Services Commission." The letter helpfully included a form authorizing Detroit Edison to release my company's electric consumption history, so they could examine the details, and show me how to save some money.

By chance, DTE Energy chairman Anthony Earley and Eric Schneidewind, a lawyer representing the Customer Choice Coalition, had arranged to meet with a group of our editors that same morning. Their discussion was illuminating.

Basically, DTE contends that the Michigan deregulation law allowing indus-

trial, commercial and residential electric users to choose their electric utility has resulted in the loss of 12,000 customers, a 20 percent drop in business, and an 18 percent decline in earnings from the previous year. "We're a fixed cost company with a declining customer base," Earley explained, "so that with some of our large customers leaving the system, it's the residential and small commercial users that are left. They could see electric rates going up by as much as 30 percent or utilities like Detroit Edison winding up bankrupt."

What's causing large customers to leave the Edison system? Public Act 141, passed four years ago, allows just that, and the act requires Edison to make available to competitors details of its customers' usage and bills. And the act also allows those customers that leave the Edison system to return at its most favorable rates. Earley argues that Edison has to operate in a regulated manner, generating electric power (including a 15 percent margin of reserve) and maintaining its entire distribution infrastructure to deliver electricity to all customers in the region. Its competitors operate with none of these requirements. They are essentially electricity brokers that buy electricity from the national electricity pool and cherry-pick Edison's best customers.

What's the solution? Earley argues that big issue should be doing everything we can to avoid a repeat in Michigan of the electric utility disaster in California that resulted from a botched attempt to deregulate the market. He says Edison is perfectly prepared to operate "on a level playing field" — a market either completely deregulated or entirely regulated — but argues that as a regulated company, Edison can't compete with electricity brokers that are largely unregulated.

He proposes amending Public Act 141 to create an electricity market split into two parts: One unregulated market for bigger customers who are presumably able to shop for electricity from a range of providers and separate regulated market to serve residen-

tial and small commercial customers who are not equipped to survive in an unregulated market. He suggests an easy demarcation line is one megawatt (about the amount of energy a big Meijer store uses in a year) which would leave about two-thirds of electric customers in the regulated market and about one-third free to buy however they choose.

Schneidewind, in opposing these proposals, argues that Edison, instead of facing the wolf at the door, is crying that the sky is falling. A temporary dip in earnings is not conclusive, he points out, and in any event, the Public Service Commission could easily intervene if Edison begins to look as though it could go bust under present market conditions.

Maybe so, but the PSC has never been noted for acting quickly or timely, even in dire situations. And once a large, fixed-cost firm like Edison starts getting in trouble, the downward spiral can accelerate very quickly. Plainly, nobody wants to see here in Michigan a repeat of California's experience, where one of the state's major electric utilities went bust and customers were faced with blackouts and enormous rate increases that will saddle them for years with very expensive power.

To my mind, Edison's Earley makes a lot of sense. Public Act 141 should be amended to solve this problem before it gets out of control. State Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton Township, who chairs the Technology and Energy Committee, is holding hearings around the state, asking both utilities and their customers for their input. Good. Possibly the state senate, instead of obsessing over world-shaking matters like the hunting of mourning doves, ought to turn its attention to something genuinely important for everyone in this state. Or would that seem too much to ask?

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

She's Michigan's political Superwoman

Everyone knows that Gov. Jennifer Granholm is the most powerful female politician in the state. But who is the most politically potent Michigan woman who has never been elected to anything?

Logically, you might guess Mary Sue Coleman, president of the University of Michigan. Not even close, political insiders say. The right answer: Debbie Dingell, a tiny, intense blonde dynamo who runs campaigns, does good deeds for General Motors, and is most of all the protector, champion and guardian of the interests of her husband, U.S. Rep. John Dingell, D-Dearborn.

"She is the most politically powerful non-elected official in Michigan," noted Melvin "Butch" Hollowell, state party chair, carefully searching for the right words.

He likes her. But not everyone does. When you ask some politicians for a comment they roll their eyes. Uh-uh. Some plainly don't care for her because, as the party chairman said, "She is a stinking violet."

"Sometimes you have to have somebody who is willing to knock heads together," he notes. That was the case four years ago, when she was put in charge of the Democrats' somewhat muddled presidential campaign in Michigan. She ran it like George Patton, and

in the end, Al Gore won a surprisingly easy victory in the holly convented state.

When the governor's mansion was in need of renovation and repair last year, and the state budget was strapped, Debbie took the lead and managed to raise a few million without much fuss, fuss or bother.

Nobody disputes her skills. But some complain — always off the record — that she has the last word she does only because of who her husband is.

That worries her. Privately, Deborah Insley Dingell is surprisingly sensitive. "Discrimination still exists... A man can be tough and effective. A woman who shows the same qualities is a pain-." She shrugs.

That goes with the territory. "I still care about what people think, but you can't be effective and let how people think impact your dealing with the problem," she said, in what sounded partly like an attempt to convince herself.

Her devotion to her husband is unquestioned. But she was not at his side the day he was first sworn in as a congressman, taking over a seat held for decades by his father, who died in office. Debbie was not there largely because she was only 2 years old.

John Dingell had been divorced for some time when he met her on an airplane in the mid-70s. Anybody who assumes she was a gold-digger looking for a rich and powerful husband is way off. He had only his salary and custody of four small children. She, on the other hand, was descended from the Fisher brothers of General Motors fame. She was a Republican and hated guns.

He is a staunch New Deal Democrat and loves blowing away large animals. On some issues, they agree to disagree. They had fierce arguments while dating, and resolved them only by getting married in 1981.

Neither has seemingly had a regret since. "I

adore him. There is no reason that we are together except that God wanted it to be," she said.

"But I do believe that. We are each other's other half. We have different strengths but we make each other whole. He has allowed me to be who I am, to grow and develop... I worry about him not stop."

Listening to her talk in their Dearborn townhouse, John Dingell grins. "I am married to a beautiful woman. I don't have any problems."

He has, however, had a few health problems, including two heart procedures last year. This November, he will roll over some token Republican opponent and be elected to Congress for the 25th time. If his health holds and he stays in Congress until March 2009, he will become the longest-serving member in history. Should Democrats take the lower house back Big John will be, once again, the immensely powerful chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

But nothing is forever. What both Dingells also know is that he will be 78 this summer; Deborah is 50. When the time comes, will she try to succeed him?

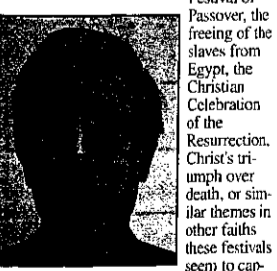
"I do not know what my future holds," she says, measuring her words. "This is what I know right now. I know that as long as the people of this district want John Dingell and he is in good health, that is what he should do."

And after that? "I don't know. I would like to be in public service of some kind," she says. There has been a John Dingell in congressional seat ever since 1932. I wouldn't bet on that changing soon.

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

Liberation is a liberating feeling

There is a powerful theme in many of the world's religions: it could be called "liberation." That is a term for being set free. In the spring it seems we are set free from the bleak and gray winter, the cold and brought out into new life, as flowers begin to blossom, leaves return to the trees and the birds return or fly through our way to their summer home. Whether we think of the Jewish



Paul Melrose

Festival of Passover, the freeing of the slaves from Egypt, the Christian Celebration of the Resurrection, Christ's triumph over death, or similar themes in other faiths these festivals seem to capture a truth, that we can move to a better place in life.

As a pastoral psychotherapist the importance of this theme both psychologically and spiritually is a tremendous guide for my work with people. First these themes tell us that life has its dark times, places, moments. A fight with a friend, a break up

with a loved one, a child who rebels so strongly because of too tight a control on the part of anxious parents, a remark, that is critical or prejudicial of another race, faith, style of life, are all indications of the human capacity to not only live in darkness but to perpetuate darkness. There is a kind of child-sab approach which might say that if life has to be bad for me than I will make it bad for the other one, too. Depression may take over, there may be a set of circumstances in my life which leads me to become very angry quickly, or I may want to the world to serve me because I deserve it. These and many other attitudes and the lifestyles which emanate from them all seem to be in the thinking of many of us and sometimes turn to action or behaviors.

The above list of circumstances and approaches to situations are all limiting. The hurt and pain of one gets thrust upon another because one cannot behave any other way or think any differently. The more I learn about the darkness in one's life the more I understand how these forces and influences are so powerful. But this is where the spiritual/psychological theme of liberation, supported by the seasonal change, becomes the second part of the helpfulness. A combination of stories, religious and spiritual truths, and historical documents tell us that liberation is real and opens up possibilities for life to go on, in a new way. There can be freedom from bondage. The gray of the winter sky and the bleak track of a tree trunk give way to the

beauty of new leaves or the bright sun and warmth of the weather change. So, with patience, understanding, and the ability to appreciate the particular circumstances of a person's prison it is possible to discover the key to open the door to get out.

It takes courage and time and patience to move into a new life situation. It is not only anger management which supports a change in behavior. That is a first step until the forces which shaped one's anger are understood and worked through. Similarly other life situations require that same approach but the hope of new life gains more power as just a little light is shed on the subject, or the first breath of fresh air is taken. In the early days of civilization the religious or spiritual leader of the community was also the medical, psychological, emotional and relational healer for the people as well. So, in the work I do it is as important to help one with their sense of belief and how they make sense of the world as one way that they can be a partner in the freeing of themselves from a life of darkness to a life of light. May the change of seasons bring you a new look on your life.

Dr. Paul Melrose is Director of Clinical Services at the Samaritan Counseling Center of SE Michigan. The Center has an office in Northville. The staff of the center can be reached at www.samaritancounseling.com or through 248-474-4701. Dr. Melrose can be reached at wpa@paulmelrose.com or through 248-474-4701.

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Jim Seghi Renovations

Land owner: Water damaging old Novi Depot

■ Bridge construction may be hurting historical Novi building

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Like most communities, the City of Novi wants to preserve its historical buildings.

But the old Novi Depot, the former railroad depot used in the early days of the community, may be facing destruction due to the recent construction of the Grand River Avenue/SX Railroad bridge.

The bridge, which was just recently dedicated, left in its aftermath dirt and water that are now running under the old depot.

Dennis Mouser, owner of Novi Feed & Supply at 43963 Grand River, owns the property where the depot is located. He is concerned about the structure and believes the dirt and water may damage the historical building, which is more than 100 years old.

However, when he approached Dan's Excavating, the Shelby Township company that did the work on the bridge, company officials said it wasn't their problem, according to Mouser.

"They said they couldn't take responsibility for the damage because they were just following a blueprint," Mouser said.

The depot, officially known as the Pere Marquette Depot at Novi, was a familiar stop on the old Detroit-to-Lansing plank road. Although it's never been fully established, many people believe the name "Novi" comes from the town's stop on this journey. Novi was stop "No. 11" on this route to the state capital.

"I brought this to the attention of Dan's Excavating last November. If something isn't done, it's going to ruin the building," Mouser said. "I'd hate to see the building destroyed."

He still uses the building to store hay and straw.

Mouser noted that the City of Novi really had little to do with the construction of the new bridge. The project was mostly under the direction of the Road Commission for Oakland County.

Dave Archer Johnson, a local architect who teaches in the School of Architecture at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, said state agencies should have been informed and involved if any historically significant buildings were to be affected by the construction project.

Mouser hopes members of the Novi Historical Commission and Preservation Novi will become involved in correcting the problem before even more damage occurs to the historical depot.

Anyone who has suggestions about how to deal with the water damage problem on the old depot can contact Mouser at (248) 349-3133.

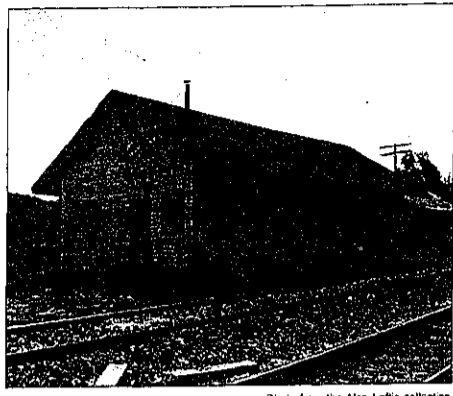


Photo from the Alan Loftis collection

This photo of the Novi Depot was taken in 2003 before the construction on Grand River Avenue was completed. Dennis Mouser, owner of the property where the depot is located, says water and dirt is running under the historic building following the project. Mouser is afraid damage may be occurring to the structure.

Dennis Mouser
Novi Feed & Supply

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@lnjournal.com.

Paralyzed veterans sponsor open house

The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America, headquartered at 40550 Grand River Ave. in Novi, will have an open house from noon to 4 p.m. April 15 to observe Paralyzed Veterans of America Awareness Week.

The public is invited to come to the open house to meet area paralyzed veterans and enjoy refreshments. Vendors who cater to the disabled will also be present.

"The week long series of public education activities allows PVA and its members to showcase how we improve lives and build futures. This underscores our theme for this year's observance, 'Improve Lives and Build Futures,'" said Mike Harris, deputy executive director.

Harris received a framed proclamation from Novi Mayor Lou Cordas at the April 5 city council meeting in observance of Paralyzed Veterans of America Awareness Week, April 11-17.

PVA members are veterans who have suffered spinal cord injuries and/or disease.

"Our mission is to advocate on these veterans' behalf to make sure that they receive the benefits that they have earned through service to their country," Harris said.

"A lot of people don't know we're in Novi. We take great pride in the partnership that we've had with the community over the years," he said.

Duo hopes to help children through difficult times with book on divorce

By Erin Johnson
HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

Divorce can be difficult on the adults in a family but can be even harder on children. They may be able to find some comfort, though, from a new book that deals with the problems of divorce.

"Children's Family Divorce" is the first in a planned series of books about mental health issues written by family psychologist SueAnne Magyar-Hill and Janice Krupic.

Magyar-Hill, whose office is in Highland, said she started with divorce because that seems to be the one social variable she sees everyday in her practice.

"The more we understand the journey of it, the more we are able to work through it," she said.

She said writing books about such issues was something she had intended to do in her retirement but Krupic thought the idea should be shared sooner. As a divorced parent herself, Krupic thought the book would be a way to give parents a better understanding of what children go through during a divorce.

Magyar-Hill said parts of the book were designed to be interactive so children could write down what they are feeling, as well as draw pictures.

"I have always used books that way in her practice," she said.

She and Krupic said a book about divorce geared toward children reaches more than just the child.

"By writing a children's book you address the entire family system," Magyar-Hill said.

The pair began work on the book more than two years ago but ran into problems when it came to finding a publisher.

"We learned that is not so easy," Krupic said.

She said many publishing houses only accepted work from authors with literary agents so Krupic and Magyar-Hill self-published and Child's Concept Publishing was born.

The book is currently available at Read Between the Lines in Milford and through the Web site www.childrensconcept.org. Krupic said several judges and other legal professionals have endorsed the book and it has received positive reviews.

Magyar-Hill and Krupic have already begun work on the next book in the Felicia series. They hope to deal with topics such as adoption, depression, death of a loved one and terrorism. Parts of the proceeds from the book will go to designated charity, in this case that will be Crossroads for Youth.

"It's about giving back," Krupic, a Novi resident, said.

For more information about the book, visit www.childrensconcept.org.

Erin Johnson is a reporter for the Milford Times. She can be reached at (248) 685-1507, ext. 21, or by e-mail at ejohnson@ht.hometown.com.

CITY OF NOVI
NOTICE OF MEETING CANCELLATION
PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the Regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission scheduled for Thursday, April 8, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. has been cancelled. This notice has also been posted at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, on table Channel 13, the City of Novi's website: www.ci.novi.mi.us and the Novi Public Library.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CMC,
CITY CLERK

(4-8-04 NN 123279)

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI
REQUEST FOR BIDS
POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT
UNIFORM CLEANING CONTRACT

The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for a Uniform Cleaning Contract for the Police and Fire Departments according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Bid packages are available at the Office of the Purchasing Director.

Sealed bids will be received until 3:00 P.M. prevailing Eastern Time, Wednesday, April 21, 2004 at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:

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

All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE PLAINLY MARKED

"Police and Fire Department Uniform Cleaning Contract"

AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER.

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 informally 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.

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We're Making Tomorrow!

Civil strife delays Novi missionaries' trip to Haiti

By Phil Foley
HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

"Nobody I know does this for the 'me' in it. It's exciting. It's rewarding. But I can't say it's fun."

Jay Armstrong
Missionary

In the mountains west of Haiti's capital, Port Au Prince, lies the town of Mirebalais. Like Novi, it has a population of 50,000, but the similarities end abruptly there. The town has no doctors and the average resident has no reasonable expectation of making the half-century mark.

Four the past four years Jay Armstrong, his wife, Susan, and other members of Novi's Holy Cross Episcopal Church, have been traveling to Mirebalais annually as part of the Detroit Area Haiti Mission. The group was scheduled to go to the island nation late last month. However, armed revolt on the island has put that off to November.

"The only thing these people have is hope," said Roger Matthews, who with his wife, Dominique, founded the Detroit Area Haiti Mission with the help of Southfield's St. David's Catholic Church six years ago. In the last eight years the Matthews have seen their efforts to bring medical supplies to the impoverished nation grow from a suitcase a year to a semi-trailer annually.

But for the people he's met there, Armstrong said Haiti would be a pretty grim place. "They are the warmest, friendliest people I've ever met," he said.

They are a people with little to be happy about.

While places where tourists go, such as Port Au Prince, are ablaze with the blues, reds and pinks of the Caribbean, Armstrong said Mirebalais is a sea of mainly unpainted concrete block buildings. He said as a result of poverty and turmoil, both internal and international, most of the trees were long ago cut down for firewood for cooking and the city's park is a grassless expanse of

"we got to car and she said, 'Well I'll be going Haiti for a week' and I said, 'Well, I'll have been there a week ahead of you.'"

While Susan had volunteered to spend a week working with the mission's medical team, Jay had volunteered for two weeks on its construction team. He described himself as "one of those people who can get by at home." He's put those skills to work helping to wire the medical clinic in Mirebalais and adding a second floor to the town's Episcopal school.

Susan has helped the medical team with inoculations for the population and photographed the children the mission helps. "We can actually physically hand sponsors a picture of a kid we saw two weeks ago," said Armstrong.

He said it's likely the members of the Detroit Area Haiti Mission are the only medical personnel the children of Mirebalais will see in a year. He said that while the growing violence in the country makes him wonder if he'll see his friends there again, it's a question he asks himself every time he leaves the country.

"We diagnosed 16 members of a family with TB two years ago," he said, "and last year there were only two left."

Matthews said there's an image that keeps drawing him back to Haiti. He said it's the image of a mother deciding every night which child will eat and which child will not.

Armstrong denies that he and his wife do this for the "me" in it. He said, "It's exciting. It's rewarding. But I can't say it's fun."

For more information on the Detroit Area Haiti Mission, call Holy Cross Episcopal Church at (248) 349-1175 or visit the church's Web site at www.churchofholycross.com.



Photo courtesy Holy Cross/Bill McNeese

The Rev. Karen Henry (right) became the first female Episcopal priest to participate in a Haitian church service when she assisted Fr. Ambroise Rospiencac (left) and Bishop Duracin, the Episcopalian Bishop of Haiti, in a Confirmation Service at St. Pierre's Episcopal Church in Mirebalais. Fr. Rospiencac is the pastor of St. Pierre's, which volunteers from Novi and other Detroit area churches do medical missionary work annually.

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Timeless Enterprise

Munro's Saw Mill a constant in a sea of change

By Maureen Johnston
STAFF WRITER

Gilbert Van Sickle this summer can look down his road as new asphalt is poured, across his yard as new homes are built, then back at his familiar own enterprise, unchanged for decades.

The owner of Munro's Saw Mill at 25650 Taft Road, across from Novi Meadows, is the third generation of his family to operate the business. The lifelong resident — who maintains one of Novi's oldest businesses by daily wielding a chain saw, cant hook and axe — stoically takes in the transformation of the once-rural area around him.

The city is scheduled to start resurfacing Taft in June. Just last week developers cleared trees to make room for 22 Taft Knolls homes just to the south of Munro's. "I grew up here," Van Sickle said. "Ever since I was born, this has been

my whole life." The paid-on-call Station 4 captain with the Novi Fire department takes pride in being the most senior city employee. Even further back than his 36 years as a firefighter, he has known a career in the mill and still moves nimbly among saws, planers and hanging power tools.

Munro's mostly saws area-grown hardwood planks and stakes, Van Sickle said, although he frequently accommodates custom orders. Sales and service of Stihl power tools — chainsaws, blowers, line trimmers and so on — is the other part of the business.

"It's not a job you get rich at, but there's plenty of work," Van Sickle said. In a tight teaching market after he earned his degree in education, the mill owner joined his uncle, John Munro, in the family business in 1968. He has run the mill with the help of one hired hand since his uncle died in 1985.

His grandfather, Burton Munro, in 1933 set up the mill on the family's original 80-acre farm, which Van Sickle traced back to 1874. The farm has dwindled to his 15 acres and his mom's 10. With the recent sale of 10 acres of the original farm, he said he is watching for construction to start this summer on the 22 homes just outside his shed door.

"It's not something I want to see, but there's nothing I can do about it," he said. "It's breaking up the family farm. I'm not excited about it."

A step back in time

A visit to the long, open-raftered shed that houses Munro's Saw Mill assaults the senses: the smell of fresh-cut lumber, the nose tickle of floating dust particles, the wade through inches of sawdust, the rooster crow and dog bark, and taste of another era. Amidst the dusting of the saw, sights in the cramped quar-

ters dart from neatly bundled hardwood stakes, to random pieces of wood, to a huge John Deere front-end loader poking into the overhead door, to power equipment, to ancient-appearing machinery.

All the milling equipment dates back to the 1800s, Van Sickle said. When his grandfather set up the main saw, he powered it with a 1928 Buick engine. In 1950, they replaced that motor with a 1921 electric engine; a 1904 street car control turns it off and on to this day.

An example of a recent one-of-a-kind project that Munro's tackled was creation of a mantel for the new Main Street senior center in neighboring Northville. Last fall, Van Sickle seriously stepped to the task of cutting into shape the 1,500-pound cherry log that a senior advisory council member hauled to his yard.

Prior to the first runs through his main saw, Van Sickle chopped at the cherry log with an axe, removing loose bark. He then maneuvered the mighty log toward the whirl of the large-toothed, 54-inch circular blade.

In a couple of concessions to the advance of technology, the mill acquired a red laser light to show where the oversized blade would

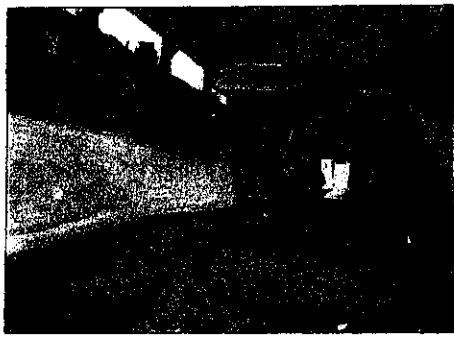


Photo by John Heider

Gilbert Van Sickle, right, runs Jim Nield's black cherry tree log through his Taft Rd. lumber mill's saw. Nield intends to donate the log (which came from his Northville property) to be used as the fireplace mantel at the new Northville/Northville Township Senior Center.

bite, as well as a metal detector to scan the log before the cut. An imbedded nail from a decades-ago clothesline could cost the mill a \$2,000 blade, the owner said.

Before he started the senior center's chunk of cherry, Van Sickle had reached with familiarity to tend to a dulling chainsaw blade. Using a hand file, the mill owner adeptly sharpened each blade, bare-handedly advancing the studded links along the bar.

Like most of the hand tools at his fingertips, Van Sickle has used that same chainsaw for 30 years. Longer

than that his family has sold Stihl products. The family-owned business continues to pride itself on value-priced goods and repair service, Van Sickle said.

Another family tradition is the 1912 Sears kit house at the front of the Taft Road location where Van Sickle and his wife, Judy, raised their two children, Kristin and Matthew. Neither plan to follow him into the saw mill, he said.

But their dad out back wields his tools like natural extensions of his arms, just like the Munros two generations before him.

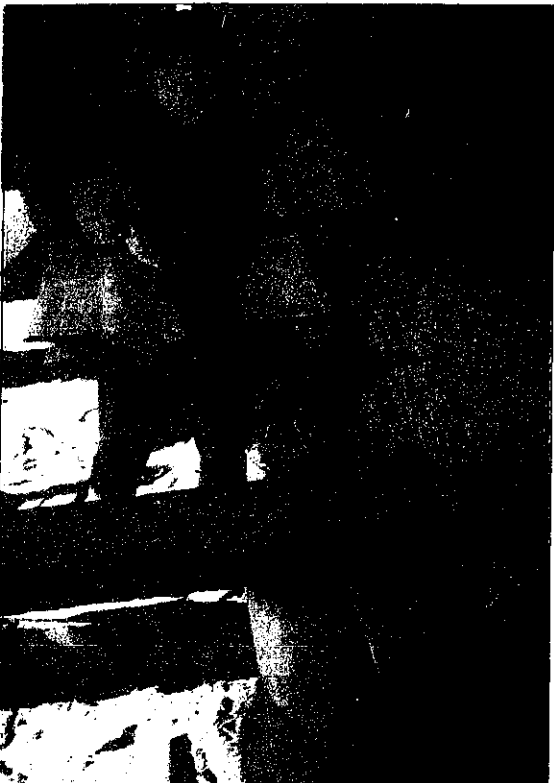


Photo by John Heider

Using a cant hook, sawmill operator Gilbert Van Sickle wrestles a 1,500 lb. black cherry tree log onto a carrier system that will transport it towards the mill's huge cutting blade.

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Yearning for the good days

Remember those days in school when you'd line up to get picked for teams and then get on the diamond for a mean game of kickball? Well, those days don't have to be just memories anymore. Thanks to Northville Parks and Recreation, you can relive those days on the new adult coed kickball league. The league starts May 14 with an entry fee of \$240 per team and a minimum of 15 games being offered to the teams that participate. Umpire fees, however, are extra. And for those faithful diehards, have no fear, doubleheaders are even expected in this season of all out kickball action.

We don't know about you, but the memories of being beamed by the biggest kid on the block with a ball that may feel soft when you hold it but stings like heck when it ricochets off your head are enough to keep us off the fields of play — but each to their own, right?

For more information, call Northville Parks and Recreation at 248-449-9947.

Oh, and for those of you that are like us and don't feel like being on the wrong end of losing in kickball yet again (we were always picked last!), there are also softball leagues, golf leagues and even badminton for those who like to hit the shuttlecock back and forth.

The rugby team is back

The Northville-Nowi Knights rugby football club is back again for some more action. This year, the squad is looking to use some incredible athletic talent as well as some good returning experience to boost them back into the running for the state title as they have been in years past.

Coach Ron Cornell is looking forward to his team coming on strong this year and plans on rebounding nicely from the rough season his squad has last year.

— Full Story, Page B2

It's soccer time in Novi

Wildcats drop one game, but go on to top rivals



Photo by Barbara Herbst

Novi's Maureen Pawlak (left) scored her 100th and 101st goals against the Livonia Churchill Chargers — making her just the eighth girl in the history of Michigan soccer to reach the century mark.

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Early season tests either equal jubilation or disappointment — the first was the feeling that the Novi Wildcats soccer team walked away with April 2 and the latter was the feeling the Northville Mustangs received.

The Novi Wildcats earned a convincing 4-1 victory over their cross-town rivals on their home turf.

The Mustangs were the first to get on the board, scoring just 1:30 into the game.

"I was very happy with the way we reacted," Novi coach Brian O'Leary said.

It was a reaction O'Leary and the Wildcats weren't sure they could muster. Just a few days prior against Canton, the Wildcats allowed a score and soon found themselves falling even further behind.

"That was not the case tonight," O'Leary noted. "We kept playing our game and were rewarded."

Down 1-0, that reward came in the form of a tie game at the 20 minute mark. Maureen Pawlak added to her 100-plus career goals as she took a pass from Nikki Hermann and fired it home for the 1-1 knot.

Just five minutes later, Pawlak fired a hard corner kick towards the Northville goal and Nicole Barnitt showed off her impressive vertical ability before heading the ball into the net for Novi's first lead of the game, 2-1.

The Mustangs, who have a slew of talented players returned from last year, just couldn't seem to get their offense rolling in the right direction. The Novi defense was able to stall the Northville charge on more than one occasion.

"Our defense once again played a very strong game," O'Leary noted.

The Wildcats basically controlled the second half, scoring twice to secure their victory. The first came as Sarah Schmitt slid a cross to Kristi Timar, who fired it home for the 3-1 lead to mark her third goal of the year.

The fourth and final goal for Novi came with just six minutes left in the game. Chelsea Attyeh fired a through ball through the Northville defense and watched as a foot race burst into action between Pawlak and the Northville goalie. Pawlak won, taking the ball and firing

Novi falls to Plymouth Canton in non-league play

It's amazing how a team can control every aspect of a game and still end up on the losing end when all is said and done.

That happened to the Novi Wildcats girls' soccer team, which is coached by Brian O'Leary. After taking on the Plymouth Canton Chiefs, the Wildcats found themselves leading in every category but one — the score. Novi lost the game, 3-1.

"Never in my 11 years of coaching have I experienced such domination by a team that lost," O'Leary said.

The Wildcats out shot the Chiefs an amazing 25-3 but found themselves on the wrong end of the loss.

"We possessed the ball about 75-percent of the time," O'Leary said.

The only Novi goal came off the foot of Kristi Timar as she notched her second score of the season. She took a pass from Maureen Pawlak and fired it home to cut the Canton lead to 2-1 with about 25 minutes left in the game.

The rest of the game was played, for the most part, in Canton's end. The Chiefs scored the final goal of the game on a free kick with just three seconds left.

Though his squad lost, O'Leary said it's not something he's going to lose sleep over.

"It's not something I am tremendously worried about," he said. "With players like Maureen Pawlak and Kristi Timar, it's only a matter of time before we start scoring some goals."

The defense, led by Lauren Marchioni, Jessica Barnitt, Kelly Hebert and Kelli Corless were key during the game and played, according to O'Leary, "outstanding."

home a shot for the 4-1 decision and the victory.

The Northville Mustangs and the Novi Wildcats will be off for spring break and will not return to action until late in the month.

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



Photo by Barbara Herbst

Novi's Emily Esbrook (3) makes her way up field with the ball.

GAME OF THE WEEK

Novi Wildcats

Spring Break

Bring on the Eagles

So what do you do when there's absolutely no sports to write about thanks to a pesky thing called Spring Break? Beats us, but sports writer Sam Eggleston claims that he has a few tricks up his sleeve to help him keep his sports pages filled to the brim for your reading enjoyment.

It's never easy to take a week off in the middle of all the action, but no doubt the Wildcats will no be any worse for wear because of their nice, relaxing time away from school.

—See Page B3

Jeff Policchio
Junior
Lacrosse

Policchio was on fire as he and his squad blasted through the competition that was L'Anse Creuse last week. The game was a good signal to what the Wildcats are looking to do this year under the guidance of coach Brad Muston, who graduated from Novi.

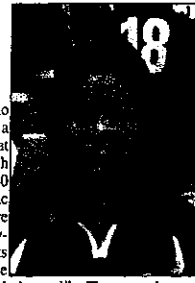


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Kristi Timar
Junior
Soccer

Timar managed to sneak in a nice goal off a pass from fellow Wildcat Maureen Pawlak to notch the only score of a 1-0 victory over Grand Blanc before going on to score two more in the following week. The Wildcats are favored to win the KVC again this year, and players like Timar are the reason why. She is a three-year starter on the squad as of this season.



Mustangs dominate opponents

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

There's really no better way to open up the season other than with a win. The Northville Mustangs lacrosse team did just that as they went into a very cold weekend and walked away on fire with two impressive victories.

Lacrosse tops foes

Aggression. It's not something that's always considered to be the best way of dealing with life, but it sure doesn't hurt to have a ton of it during a sports season.

The Northville Mustangs lacrosse team has plenty of aggression to pass around, and they didn't mind sharing that with Avondale April 2 when they pounded out their first win of the season, 4-1.

With cool temperatures and not-so-dry conditions, the Mustangs jumped into action and took an early lead in the contest as senior attack Richard Grajewski took a pass from Zach Elker and fired home a hard shot for the 1-0 lead.

Minutes later, Elker was sent a swift pass from midfielder Mike Bernabei and launched a goal for the 2-0 advantage.

The third goal was another smooth operation by the Mustangs. Nick Thurber, a midfielder, slipped a pass to Mike Monticicchio, who made his way past a defensive front and nudged the third goal of the game for the 3-0 lead.

With their fourth and final goal of the game, the Mustangs showed the patience is indeed a virtue on the playing field. Thurber took the ball down field before passing off to Monticicchio, who then found a streaking Grajewski heading towards the goal. Grajewski drew back and launched a rocket into the back of the net for his second goal of the game and a 4-0 lead.

The Yellow Jackets weren't going to be denied though, and with just 30 seconds left in the game they managed to put on enough pressure to collect a goal of their own to end the contest, 4-1.

Andrew Baran, the Northville goalie, played an outstanding game between the posts. He had a remarkable amount of assistance from the defense corps, which was headed by junior Ryan Wales and sophomores Grant Ponce and Tim Street.

By Sam Eggleston



Undefeated Wolfpack
Northville's U13 Western Wayne Wolfpack AAU basketball team remained undefeated at 10-0 after topping the Downriver Ravens in a recent tournament. Prior to that victory, the squad was undefeated at the Adrian Tournament in late February and defeated the Southfield Heat in an overtime period of the championship game. Annie Tasse was selected as tournament MVP while Brittany Birdsall and Allison Holmes were named to the All-Tournament team. Members of the Wolfpack include: Casey Neville, Hillary Weaver, Megan Brennen, Coach Jeanne Holmes, Marie Hourouan, Brittany Birdsall, Jackie Blasius, Allison Holmes, Annie Tasse, Mackenzie Lebel, Kelsy Whelan, Coach Mark Stern, Kelsy Lewis and Sarah Stern, who was absent from the above photo.

Northville golf has solid day

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It was the kind of weather that could be incredibly deceiving. There were few clouds in the sky, a bright sun over head and not-too-chilly temperatures.

A great day for golf — well, it is if you like wet and soggy courses.

The Northville Mustangs golf team, coached by Irish Murray, had to endure a beautiful Saturday and not-so-beautiful course conditions as they earned a fourth-place finish in the Grosse Ile Invitational.

Northville shot a 353 for the top-five finish out of 12 teams in attendance, while Grand Blanc carded a 321 for first. Grosse Ile took second with a 333 and Ann Arbor Pioneer recorded a 338 for third.

"We were basically just going down to see what we could do," Murray said. "We definitely have to work on our short game. It's pure and simple. We're striking the ball pretty well, but once we get

around the green we're just not putting it away."
The course conditions didn't help the cause, but Murray said that wasn't an excuse for the lack of adjustments throughout the day.

"If you weren't picking it clean, you were wearing it," Murray said of the course. "But, we have to adjust and the girls should have known that by the first or second hole. This team knows how to do that."

The Mustangs had a top-10 individual finisher on the day as well in Layne Scherer. The senior put up a 38/46 through the front and back nine for a total of 84 on the day.

Marie Snyder shot a 46-41 for an 87, while Theresa Hutchings recorded an 89 with a

46-43 showing. Andrea Filippis carded a 45-48 for a 93, while Alfron Grant recorded a 45-50 for a total of 95. Rounding out the Mustangs scores for the day was Brittany Filippis, who shot a 56-55 for a 111.

The Mustangs will have quite a break in the way of Spring Break to put a cramp in their season — but Murray said that better not make too much of a difference with her senior-year scoring squad.

"I usually give them the Spring Break talk, and the pron talk and when I coached the boys, I gave them the Homecoming talk," she said. "I hope they'll use the time to get in a little practice and they'll be getting some homework from me as well."

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

Homework? From a coach? "They tell me I can't do that, but I'm a teacher so I can give them homework," Murray said. "I have them do a rules test and a skills worksheet."

Lucky for many of the golfers going on vacation, there will probably be a beach close by — a perfect place to practice some sand play.

"They're a good group," Murray said. "They've got a lot ahead of them this year and I'm sure none of them will go out and do something stupid."

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

Knights looking to restore glory days

Squad deep in talent but low in numbers as they compete for title

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

This year won't be a repeat of last year for the Northville-Novu Knights rugby football club — at least not of the players on the team have anything to say about it.

This year is one of rebound for the Knights. They may not have the numbers that the squad has boasted on the roster in years past, but they have just as much true

athletic ability as before if not more.
"We've got a good, talented team albeit not a lot in numbers," Knights coach Ron Cornell said.

The Knights return a slew of players as well, and those who aren't returning are pretty stacked in athletic talent.

The squad is full of names that many will recognize as impact players in a variety of other sports.
Nathan Cranston, Shadi

Deabis, Liam Dillon, Patrick Harris, Brandon Heffernan, Dana Hlavaty, Taylor Lebeis, Amir Makled, Ben Mason, Jack Mason, Maxwell Mayer, Mike Menghini, Steve Miner, A.J. Morris, Ian O'Gieblyn, Dave Okster, John Postema, Joe Prain, Bill Riegner, David Ruprecht, Jake Simkins, Mike Subu and Kyle Teevens will take on the task of playing some of the toughest teams in the state this year.

"We're stacked against the toughest teams and in the toughest division again this year," Cornell said. "We'll be facing most of our traditional rivals in Brighton, Wadsworth and Howell."

Other teams in the division along with Northville-Novu are Dearborn and Anthony Wayne. Their division, known as the East "Blue" team is among two others along with the East "Green" with Birmingham, St. Joseph, Livonia, Berkeley and Lakeview. The West division is comprised of Grand Rapids CC, Traverse City, Forest Hills, Rockford and Battle Creek.

"The Knights will be looking to challenge the top teams again this year — a difference compared to a tough year in the 2003 campaign.

"Last year we didn't fare too well," Cornell said. "It was the first losing season in my six."

The Knights have plenty to bring to the pitch this year. "I like the outlook this year," Cornell noted. "We're smaller in

numbers, but have plenty of quality, experienced players to help us do very well this year."

Northville-Novu will have opened up their season yesterday at Wadsworth, and will be back in action when they host Dearborn April 21.

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

Novi falls to Mustangs in final race of meet

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's always a showdown when these two teams face off — and that can be in absolutely any sport you can think of.

Track and field is no exception, and the Northville and Novi boys' track and field teams were eager not to disappoint.

With all of the events behind them except the two mile run, the Wildcats and Mustangs found themselves tied up in scoring. When all was said and done, it was Northville that escaped with a 73-64 victory.

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According to Cornelius, things got quite heated during their run. With two All-State cross country runners in Mark Moore and Amol Huprikar, beating Novi was no small task.

Turnbull, who is a freshman, looked poised to do just that.

"During lap six, Novi's Moore lost his cool and elbowed Jasen 10 feet off the track," Cornelius said. "He should have been disqualified, but the official didn't see it."

And even if the contact between the two runners was deliberate, it didn't slow Turnbull any. The young distance runner kept running and finished a strong second place in a time of 10:21.3. Moore finished third in 11:5.

"It was quite a race," Cornelius commented. "Though the Wildcats weren't able to pull out the win in their opening track meet, Novi coach Bob Smith said there wasn't anything to be ashamed of."

"I am very proud of them," he said of his team. "We are more than 50-percent new, so I suspect that the learning curve will be great for our next meet."

"Jasen (Turnbull) looked shocked, then he took a big gulp, the gun went off to start the race and Jasen took off like a rabbit and led the first laps."

Bill Cornelius
Northville Boys' Track and Field Coach

It would have been good to win the first one, but it's not too high on our priority list."

The entire meet was a back and forth affair for both squads with a second showing on either side of the victory. The first race of the day, the 3,200 meter relay, found Northville winning by over 11 seconds, but Novi fought back in the second race with a second and third place finish in the 110 high hurdles.

Northville's Momchil Filev took first in 15.9 seconds, while Jerod Schell and Mark Sauerer took second and third with times of 16.6 and 17.2 respectively.

In the 100 meter dash, Northville's Bill Brown took first in a blazing race that found him finishing in 11.1 seconds, while Novi's Justin Davis took second in 11.3 and Mustang senior Tim Downing took third in 11.5.

The 800 meter relay found Novi winning in 1:36.4 before the field events began to make all the difference. Novi won the pole vault with Albery clearing 9 feet. Northville's Mike Yassay went 8-feet-6-inches and Brad Larson, a Novi Wildcat, took third with a vault of 8-0.

The shot put and discus both found Novi's Ryan Prichard taking first with throws of 44-

feet-10-inches in the shot and 123-7.5 in the discus. Taking second and third in the shot were Novi's John Brown and Trent Sisson with throws of 39-3 and 38-10 respectively. The discus found Ken Schlich of Northville taking second with a throw of 113-8, while fellow Mustang Matt Simich unleashed a 109-0.5 throw for third.

The high jump was one of the closer events of the day as Northville's stellar jumper Alan Svanoski only managed a leap of 5-8 for first and Novi's Brent Brown took third with a jump of 5-2.

In the long jump, Brown escaped with an 18-10 jump and Novi's David Carnegie

jumped 23 feet and land.

In the 400 meter relay, the Mustangs took first in 45.2 seconds and Novi finished in 45.5 for second.

The 1,600-meter run found Northville's Tim Dalton taking first in 4:44, while Moore took second in 4:48.4 and Huprikar took third in 4:51.5.

The 400 dash resulted in Rob Steiner of Northville taking first, Sisson taking second and Northville's Colin Keiffer taking third. In the 300 hurdles, Novi's Carl Yui took first in 42.8 seconds, Filev took second in 43.4 and Sauerer finished third in 44.1. The 800 run ended with Dalton taking first in 2:08.8, Novi's Spencer Ornes taking second in 2:11.1 and Northville's BURKOSKI taking third in 2:13.

The 200 dash was a close event of its own. Josh Woods sprinted to a 23.3 second victory and Northville's Downing took second in 23.8. Mike Cornelius finished third in 24.3.

"We needed to get a good look at our team and this gave us plenty of information," Smith said. "I really enjoyed the meet. Northville is a good, solid team. They have their holes, so do we. It ended up coming down to the last race, so that's quite exciting from a fan's point of view."



Novi's Nikki Herrmann, left, goes airborne to head a ball past a waiting defender in an early-season scrimmage. Coach Brian O'Leary, background, watches.

'Cats dominate Chargers

It really wasn't too much of a challenge and proved to be one of the quickest games any of the Novi Wildcats girls' soccer players have been a part of.

The Wildcats, who are coached by Brian O'Leary, took a mercy-rule victory over the Churchill Chargers with over 20 minutes left in the contest March 31.

"The game was called with 20 minutes left due to the 10-goal mercy rule," O'Leary noted.

The star of the game was no doubt Maureen Pawlak, who notched her 100th and 101st goals of her career with two shots against the Charger's goal. The feat made her just the eighth player in the history of girls' soccer in Michigan to accomplish the century mark.

Though the two goal performance made Pawlak the queen of the ball, it was Nicole Barnik who led her team in scoring as she notched three to help decimate the Chargers.

Stephanie Crawford had two assists, while Pawlak and Schmitt each had one.

Freshman Colleen Dougherty earned the shoutout in the goal.

Sarah Schmitt tapped in two of her own in the winning effort, while Lauren Trost, Stephanie Crawford and Emily Eschroer took the first goals of their high school careers.

Stephanie Crawford had two assists, while Pawlak and Schmitt each had one.

Freshman Colleen Dougherty earned the shoutout in the goal.

By Sam Eggleston

SPORTS SHORTS

Learn to Skate/Tot Time

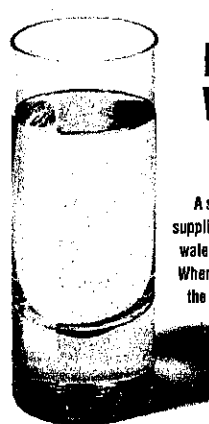
The Artic Edge Ice Arena in Canton, located at 4415 Michigan Avenue, is offering a Spring Learn to Skate program for various levels of instruction. Tot Time is held on Tuesdays or Thursdays, classes for Learn to Skate will be held on Thursday and Saturday. A new Adult class is starting this session on Thursday from 6-7. All classes are eight weeks ending June 5th, 2004. Call (734) 487-7777 for more information.

Ice Skating Workshops

The Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club is presenting a series of seven ice skating workshops for adult ice skaters interested in synchronized skating. Sessions are held at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Drive in Ann Arbor on Sundays through May 16th. Skating times vary from week to week. Additional information is available from AAFC's Synchro Director, Erin Donovan at erin@hockeys.com or Debonairs team member Donnie Durant at (734) 434-7076.

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6B

Thursday, April 8, 2004

Teach kids value of money

Mary Davis
MICHIGAN CREDIT UNION LEAGUE

High school seniors are graduating with few of the personal financial skills they need to support themselves, according to a 2004 survey by the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, a conglomeration of organizations-public, private and non profit-that works to improve the financial literacy of youth.

A similar study was conducted with Michigan high school students in 2001. The statewide survey sponsored by the Michigan JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy and conducted by the National Institute for Consumer Education (NICE) looked at 12th graders' level of knowledge within four areas: income, money management, saving and investment, and spending. Students were asked questions on a wide range of topics and concepts such as taxes, retirement, insurance, credit use, inflation and budgeting. On average, survey participants answered 49 percent of the questions correctly - a failing grade based upon the typical grade scale used by schools.

Here are simple ideas collected from sources like the National Youth Involvement Board (NYIB) and NICE that parents can employ.

Get them saving at an early age

When your kids are young, about 3 or 4, show them how to tell coins apart. Then give them three clear piggy banks-label one for saving, one for spending and one for charity.

Give allowances on a regular basis

Regular allowances give children ample opportunities to practice saving and spending. When deciding on an appropriate amount, be sure to include enough money for some discretionary spending on top of what they'll need to cover lunches and bus fare. A popular idea is to give kids a weekly allowance of \$1 per age.

Central to the process of making wise spending decisions is being able to differentiate between wants and needs. Each time your child wants something, such as a pair of expensive jeans, ask if she really needs the jeans, or if she simply wants the jeans because her friend has a pair. Your intention shouldn't be to say "no" each time she asks; rather, you should want to get her into the habit of asking herself: "do I need this" or "do I want this."

Open a savings account for them

Open a savings account in your child's name. Many banks and credit unions have special youth savings programs for kids 12 and under. Accounts typically only require a \$5 deposit. In addition to earning dividends on their savings, kids can participate in a variety of fun activities designed to educate them about the wise use of money. Participation is key to instilling lifelong money lessons.

Make saving a routine

Make it a rule that your kids save a percentage of their allowance, birthday money, or part-time neighborhood job earnings.

Craft a budget

Before doing an allowance each week, have your kids write down what they expect to purchase and spend for the week. Include both necessities such as lunch and discretionary items like comic books or games. By regularly budgeting, they learn early on to spend within their means.

Set goals

Have your kids write out a wish list of all they wish to purchase this summer, and rank them according to importance. Then, help them determine how much they need to save each week to reach their goals.

Encourage them to work

When your child is old enough, encourage him to find creative ways to make money. Suggest he do some extra chores, walk a neighbor's dog, baby-sit or rake leaves. When he gets paid, take the opportunity to talk about the exchange of money for wages.

Habit of spending responsibly

Have your child plan a family meal, and then take him to the store with \$25 and have him buy the food. Encourage him to compare prices for the best deal.

For more information visit www.chicagofed.org/mon-cysmart.

Send comments about this article to mcad@mcui.org.

Advertorial



Keith and Debra Paul stand in front of one of their HandyPro vans that are equipped to provide home improvements and repairs to people in southeastern Michigan.

HandyPro offers handyman services

From painting, to remodeling HandyPro gives professional help

By Duane Ramsey
SPECIAL WRITER

What began as a local handyman service, HandyPro Handyman Service of Plymouth has evolved into a business that is now offering franchise opportunities nationally. The business continues to provide affordable handyman services to homeowners in the metro Detroit area.

A local couple, Keith and Debra Paul of Canton, began the business in 1993 as a referral service for home improvement contractors. Having received so many calls they couldn't keep up with the demand for handymen,

they hired a handyman and now have 12 full-time employees to provide those services directly to customers.

"With the slogans, 'every home needs a handyman' and 'let us finish your 'to do' list,' HandyPro has provided home improvement and repairs for more than 15,000 residents in southeastern Michigan with locations in Plymouth, Ann Arbor and St. Clair Shores.

"The handyman service appeals to the growing white-collar society of people who are not inclined or equipped or don't have the time to do it themselves," said Keith Paul, president of HandyPro Handyman Service, Inc.

"Cable TV shows - like 'Trading Spaces' make people realize they can get this kind of work done for them," he added. HandyPro provides nearly everything from carpentry, dry-wall, painting, remodeling, minor electrical and plumbing for home improvements and repairs in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties. It offers free estimates and guaranteed, on-time service for all work that is bonded and insured.

"The work completed at my home was truly professional. I would recommend this company to all my friends and neighbors," said Matthew Keil, a banker from West Bloomfield.

HandyPro also cleans and repairs gutters on homes or will install new seamless gutters to prevent leaky gutters. It offers year-round, one-to-two-day gutter installation service.

"We also do a lot of insurance repair work for homeowners," Paul said.

HandyPro is a member of the Better Business Bureau with no complaints and participates in CARE, the BBB's Customer Assurance Program. It was voted one of the "101 Best Companies to Work for in Detroit" in 2002.

The handyman business has been referred by Joe Gagnon, the "Appliance Doctor" on television and in newspapers.

"We couldn't do it without the dedicated people on our staff," Paul said. "We put our customers and employees first."

HandyPro now offers Home Seller Program

The handyman service recently began offering the new HandyPro's Home Seller Program for people who are selling their home and need to fix it up first.

HandyPro will fix and repair things for the homeowner who doesn't pay for those services until they close on the sale of their home.

HandyPro provides a list of the top low-cost, highest return improvements and repairs before selling a home. They will provide free estimates with no obligation to anyone interested in the Home Seller Program.

Paul pointed out that homes sell faster and for more money if they are well polished and maintained, according to the National Association of Realtors. HandyPro is currently promoting the Home Seller Program through local real estate firms.

"HandyPro is a company you can trust. I've even used them on my own home," said Sandy McKeloy, a real estate agent in Canton.

Franchises now available for handyman service

HandyPro also offers franchise opportunities for individuals to operate a proven, professional handyman service. The business franchise is developed for entrepreneurs with a drive to succeed using a complete turnkey operation, Paul said.

"We worked with a management and franchising consultant who helped us set up our program," Paul said.

HandyPro opened its first franchise in Ann Arbor in March 2001 and the business continues to grow there. Paul is traveling to Honolulu on April 5 to open its first franchise in Hawaii and fifth overall. It also has franchises in St. Clair Shores, Dallas and Minneapolis.

"We have only a few territories left in Michigan, including

HANDYPRO HANDYMAN SERVICES

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1-734-254-9160

Allen Park
734-362-0656

Farmington Hills
248-476-4435

one in Oakland County," he said.

HandyPro was featured among the listing of Top Low Cost Franchises of 2003 in Entrepreneur magazine's "Be Your Own Boss" annual edition.

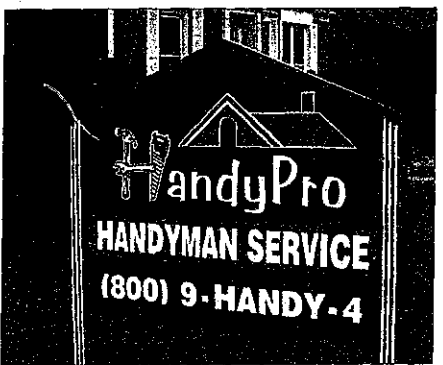
Information about the HandyPro franchise is available at 1800-942-6394 or at www.handypro.com.

CHOOSING A CONTRACTOR

5 Things to Know Before Hiring a Contractor

- Verify Insurance
- Get Estimates in Writing
- Check References
- How long has company been in business?
- Verify State License

■ For more details, see HandyPro's web site at www.handypro.com



The HandyPro logo and sign, designed by Debra Paul, is a few of the amenities that help franchise holders succeed in a competitive market place.

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