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Thursday, April 15, 2004

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Volume 44 Number 46

Novi, Michigan

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Thesier Equipment

Thesier Equipment Co. has been a fixture in the South Lyon community since Tom Thesier first opened the business in 1965. Now the next generation has followed in his footsteps and continues the family reputation for quality sales and service. Tom's sons, Bill and Jim Thesier, their wives, Mary and Pat, along with Bill's daughter, Sara, lead a staff of 18 employees in the family-held business.

— Page 4B

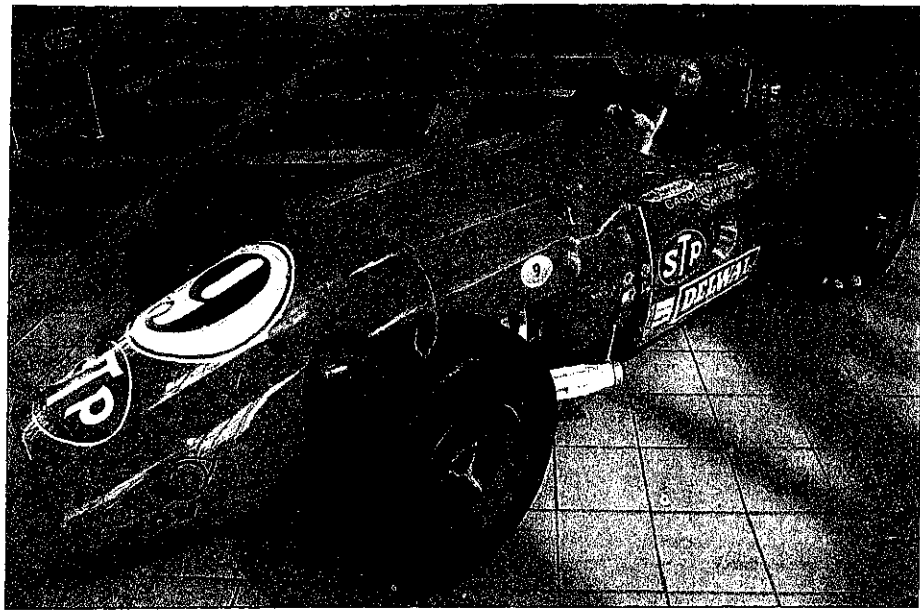


Photo by John Hilder

Novi Parks and Recreation employee Tina Greulich takes a seat behind the Novi Special racing car that's on display inside the Novi Civic Center.

A SPECIAL DISPLAY

■ Civic Center hosts famous racer that competed in Indianapolis 500

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Special was a legendary Indianapolis race car retired in the 1960s. Although it never won an Indianapolis 500 race, the car did compete in the event several times and is an important part of Novi's history.

The sports car, normally housed at the Motorsports Museum & Hall of Fame at 43700 Expo Center Drive, is currently on display in the Novi Civic Center Atrium at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. The car is actually owned by the City of Novi through the Economic Development Corporation.

The car will remain on display in the atrium through mid-May. Mayor Lou Csordas requested that the car be displayed at the Civic Center this spring, where the citizens of Novi could have better access to a piece of Novi's history.

"People see a picture of the car on the old water tower on Novi Road and wonder why it's there. I also hand out Novi race car pins to the youth of our city at many events, and they are always curious about the car. I think by displaying the car at the Civic Center we can share with the residents a little bit of Novi's history and help the exposure of the Motorsports Museum located in the Novi Expo Center," Csordas said.

"We really do have people from across the world — New Zealand, Switzerland, Germany and other countries — who come to see this car," said Ron Watson, president of the Motorsports Museum & Hall of Fame.

continued on page 4

Jewelry robbers guilty

■ Thieves stole \$1 million from Jared in Novi

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Reginald and Jerome Montgomery, two of the defendants convicted in the kidnapping and \$1 million robbery last winter involving the store manager of Jared The Gallery of Jewelry in Novi, are slated to be sentenced at 2 p.m. April 28 in Genesee County Circuit Court.

Jared's is a nationwide chain with several company-owned stores in the Detroit area.

The crime took place on the night of March 19, 2003, when a band of thieves headed up by the Montgomery brothers surprised Deborah Harrington, manager of the jewelry store, and her husband, Leonard, as they got out of their car at their Fenton Township home.

Two of the defendants wore masks and were armed. They took the Leonards and their 22-year-old son hostage, tied them up and then explained that unless Deborah Harrington went back to the store and opened up the safe that her husband and son would be killed.

"They were ambushed at their home about 9:30 p.m. March 19 and were held in their home about six hours," according to Richmond Riggs, Genesee County Prosecutor.

"She had to leave the home about 5 a.m. the next day accompanied by the leader of the band of thieves, Jerome Montgomery," Riggs said.

"They wanted to go in before the store opened. They made her disable the alarm system and open the safe before the rest of the employees got to work. The crooks explained to the Harringtons that they had been following them for a couple of months. This was a highly intricate operation. They targeted her and surveilled her for weeks. This was a highly-organized attack," Riggs said.

Riggs noted that the Harringtons were tied up with plastic zip ties. "They even used some of zip ties that belonged to Leonard Harrington when they ran out," he said.

The husband and son were locked in a bathroom in the basement of the home while Deborah Harrington was driven back to the jewelry store at West Oaks Shopping Center in Novi.

The thieves stole about \$1 mil-

continued on page 3



Celebrating 50th

Novi police officers chose Cameron Lewis to design their 50th anniversary badge. Now every officer at the Novi Police Department is proudly displaying the badge around town.

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Auction's a 'sweet one'

■ Tickets still available for Chamber's April 24 gala event

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Area residents are encouraged to purchase tickets for the upcoming Annual Novi Chamber of Commerce Charity Auction, scheduled for 6 p.m. April 24 at the Hotel Baronette in Novi.

Proceeds from the event will go to the charity Sweet Dreamzz Detroit, headquartered in downtown Farmington. The charity, which became a nonprofit organi-

zation in 2001, helps children in the City of Detroit area by providing a sleep education program and bedtime essentials.

"We have served 12,500 children so far, since the work began in 1998," said Kathleen Donnelly, founder of the organization.

Donnelly remembers a 6-year-old boy from an area school who wanted to make sure that his sleep kit from Sweet Dreamzz Detroit contained a pillow.

"He went on to tell me that there were six people who slept in his bed — a grandmother and five siblings. He slept on the floor next to the dresser, because it was just

too crowded in the bed. However, the floor was bare, and there was no pillow," Donnelly said.

Another aspect of the charity is a field trip program.

"We decided that it would be nice if we could create a field trip

for these children. Many schools where they attend cannot afford to have field trips, so these children rarely have such an opportunity. We have started a partnership with the Detroit Children's Museum in which we bus 100 children an hour from their school to the museum.

"They are greeted by our volunteers, who are dressed in flannel

pajamas, bathrobes and sleep hats holding oversized alarm clocks and books. They are then led off the bus to a canteen provided by the Salvation Army, where the children receive hot chocolate and a snack.

"They are then guided into the museum and divided into three groups where they learn about sleep and its importance," Donnelly said.

"What we have found after talking with teachers and principals and people within the educational system is that people aren't getting enough sleep. Children are falling asleep before the end of class. Many children are also misdiagnosed as hyperactive when in

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Thorpe's "Swan Lake" earns gold medal in national competition

■ Novi High student headed to New York for award ceremony

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

It's been about 10 years since Novi High School had a student who won the National Scholastics Art and Writing Award, but now the facility can boast another winner.

Chelsea Thorpe, a sophomore who entered the competition with a piece she called "Swan Lake," at the end of her freshman year won a gold medal award in the national competition. According to Novi High School Art Teacher Erin Worden, Thorpe is one of only 100 people who were chosen to go on to the national competition from regional competition.

"It is the nation's largest art and writing competition," Worden said. "It started on the regional level with 6,000 entries that were submitted; 1,000 were chosen to be hung at College for Creative Studies in Washington DC. From those 1,000, 100 were chosen to move on to New York City for national competition. The 100 pieces competed against 80 other regions. From my understanding, there were 1,000 national award winners. Those are tremendous odds."

Thorpe's piece was able to go into the junior competition. For her achievement, Thorpe, her mother and Worden are invited to go to an award ceremony in New York City on June 10 and later they are going to hang all of the awards at a gallery in Washington DC.

"I'm sort of surprised I won," Thorpe said. "The awards are kind of objective because the judges decide which they are affected by most. I did 'Swan Lake' to display

minority cultures being changed over time by European cultures. That's why it has the name 'Swan Lake.'"

Thorpe said that "Swan Lake" shows a picture of an African man wearing a ceremonial swan mask and there is a picture of a little Taiwanese boy holding a brick and umbrella while dancing.

"I sort of wanted to show the beauty and minority of cultures," she said. "I wanted people to be affected by looking at it and looking at the title."

Worden believes that winning the gold medal is a big honor for her student.

"It's not something that everyone gets and I'm very proud and pleased of her accomplishments," she said. "We are able to enter 25 pieces per teacher, so between (Gary) Boyer, (another art teacher at Novi High) and I, we have entered 50 pieces. Out of the 50, we had three get sent to New York



Courtesy photo

continued on page 4 Chelsea Thorpe with her winning entry, "Swan Lake."

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Jared Jewelry robbers found guilty

continued from front

The thieves stole about \$1 million worth of jewelry — half in watches and the other half in diamonds and necklaces.

The other three defendants, Darrell Shipman, Yoland Price and Lashawn Montgomery, were cousins of the ringleaders, Reginald and Jerome Montgomery. These three will go to trial in late April or early May, depending on the schedule of Judge Richard Yault, Genesee County Circuit Court, according to Riggs.

Reginald, 33, and Jerome Montgomery, 38, both of Detroit, were found guilty March 31.

Jerome Montgomery was convicted of multiple life felonies, including three counts of kidnapping, which is a felony punishable up to life in prison. He was also convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping, a felony punishable up to life in prison, and of home invasion in the first degree, punishable up to 20 years in prison, consecutive to the four life counts.

Finally, he was convicted of possession of stolen property over \$20,000, punishable up to 10 years in prison.

Reginald Montgomery was convicted of 11 counts, including

"Novi has a group of detectives that are just outstanding. Having the resources that you can devote to a case often makes the difference between solving it or not."

Richmond Riggs
Genesee County Prosecutor

case was able to be solved," Riggs said. "Novi has a group of detectives that are just outstanding."

"Having the resources that you can devote to a case often makes the difference between solving it or not," he added.

Riggs noted that Detective David Dwyer of the Genesee County Sheriff's Office also worked on this case intensely at the beginning, which contributed to the case being solved.

"If these detectives had not been able to devote the time that they did immediately after the crime occurred, these defendants could have gotten away with over \$1 million in jewelry as well as kidnapping, armed robbery, home invasion and a host of other crimes," Riggs said.

Riggs said that several of the attorneys for the remaining three defendants have inquired about the possibility of plea bargains for the accused.

"However, nothing has been worked out at this point," Riggs said.

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



Photo by Pam Fleming

Easter fashion show
Members of the Novi Rotary Club and residents of The Manor of Novi and Whitehall nursing homes in Novi were invited to a children's Easter Fashion Show and Luncheon at Waltonwood Retirement Community April 8 in Novi. Pictured at the event are, front row, models David Markey, 7; and his sister, Grace, of West Bloomfield; back row, Victor Merritt, Rotary Club president; and Colleen DeBard, Waltonwood administrator. The Markeys are the grandchildren of Dr. Alex and Vera Markey, residents of Waltonwood.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TAKE NOTICE that the Geological and Land Management Division of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will hold a public hearing at the City of Novi, Civic Center, Council Chambers, 45175 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48227, on Thursday, April 29, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

The purpose of this hearing is to ensure the views of interested persons concerning the following application for permit:
Application for Permit 02-03-032-P under Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams, of the National Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1971 PA 451, as amended, by Amant, Chawney, Suite 200, 23555 West Road, Novi, Michigan. The applicant proposes to create two storm water retention basins and proposes to place 18 within a wetland area as part of the construction of Phases II, IV, and V of the Hartman Woods office complex, to be located near the intersection of Novi and Ten Mile Roads. A total of 1,000 cubic yards of fill material is proposed to be placed within 0.28 acres of wetland area for this project. Two storm water retention basins are also proposed with this project, with discharge outlets to the adjacent wetland area. Mitigation is proposed with this project. The project is located in T1N, R9E, Section 27, Novi Township, Oakland County, Michigan.

The application is available for review at the DEQ website, www.deq.state.mi.us/CWR-301, or may be reviewed in the Geological and Land Management Division, DEC, 38555 Seven Mile Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152-1006, by calling 734-963-1492. The public hearing record will remain open for 10 days after the public hearing date. Any written comments to be submitted for the public hearing record must be received at the address on or before the close of the record.

The hearing will be held pursuant to Section 30105 of the cited statute. The hearing will not be a court-type proceeding; witnesses will not be sworn, and there will be no cross-examination. Public hearings are primarily informational and intended to ensure the expression of views and presentation of facts.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will, upon written request, provide a copy of the Department's decision on the application.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
BY: WENDY FITZNER
PERMITTING DIVISION
GEOLOGICAL AND LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
38555 SEVEN MILE ROAD, LIVONIA, MI 48152-1006
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Dated March 29, 2004
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King and Queen for a day

Fox Run Village retirement community residents Mabel Fike and Bob Murray of Novi were recently crowned King and Queen of the "Spring Back in Time" dance hosted by Walled Lake Western High School students. The April 2 event, coordinated entirely by National Honor Society students at the school, included refreshments donated by Panera Bread, the school's jazz band, choir and a DJ. More than 30 students, along with the school's principal and counselor attended the dance.



Thorpe's "Swan Lake" wins gold

continued from front

for national evaluation and one made the show. That's highly unusual, so I'm really pleased about that."

Thorpe's work will also be published and put onto the National Scholastics Web site. She will be open for publishing and for further scholarships as the year progresses and the scholastics committee will probably have her painting for the next two years.

"Probably every high school art teacher is familiar with this competition," Worden said. "It's a competition I entered as a high school student and probably Mr. Boyer did as well, as did anyone who has ever participated successfully in the arts in their high school career. It's also the nation's largest non-profit scholarship art competition."

Thorpe attributes her success to her teachers. "I couldn't have done it without Mr. Boyer and Miss Worden," she said.

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

Novi Special racer now on display at Civic Center

continued from front

The Novi Special is absolutely known worldwide. The Indianapolis 500 is so big, and that car just had a special mystique to it in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. It really ran as the Novi Special from 1946 through 1965, so it was about a 20-year run," he said.

"If you go to Indianapolis in May, the local newspapers will carry at least one or two stories about the legend of the Novi."

When the community of Novi progressed from a farming community to a more industrial one, the city's look changed. Small factories and businesses began to replace agricultural areas, and the city entered into an industrialized society, according to the book, "NO. VI on the Trail: A History of Novi, Michigan," by Barbara G. Loeie.

One of the first companies to establish itself in Novi was the

Novi Equipment Company. Owned by industrialist Lewis Welch, the firm was destined to make a name for itself, and for the City of Novi, in auto racing history.

The story of the Novi Special started when a California inventor, Ed Winfield, built a race car in 1941. Welch eventually funded the project, and the inventor's unconventional engine was named "The Novi Governor Special," or simply "The Novi Special," in recognition of Welch's company.

Because the engine was named "Novi," every car it was put into incorporated the name, too. The engine went through quite a few race car models in its lifetime. When Winfield created the first supercharged V8, he wasn't able to test its full potential at the six-year-old car where it was housed.

When Welch agreed to finance the car, however, Winfield was able to place the engine in a large

race car. With this bigger car, the engine was finally able to reach its full potential.

In 1946, driver Ralph Hepburn recorded the fastest lap in the Indianapolis 500 history at 134.288 mph. The Novi Special set numerous records during its 20 years, including times for the fastest in the field and fastest qualification.

However, the engine was plagued by problems because the high-powered engine tended to overheat the cars in which it was placed.

Three crashes — two of them fatal — as well as the inability to win an Indianapolis 500 eventually sealed the fate of the Novi Special.

By 1961, Welch sold the remaining cars to Andy Joe and Vince Granatelli. These brothers tried to race various cars with the Novi Special engine until 1966. That year, the car crashed in qualifying at Indianapolis, and the engine's long reign finally came to an end.

Former Novi City Manager Ed Kriewall worked to secure one of the actual models, which is the one currently on display. This model, which was the city acquired in 1983, was driven by Bobby Unser in 1965. The car was purchased from Andy Granatelli with funds obtained from the Novi Economic Development Corporation.

In 1988, the Novi Special made a guest appearance on a float at the Indianapolis 500.

In fact, the engine and car became the inspiration behind the establishment of the city's Motorsports Museum & Hall of Fame.

Kriewall has called the Novi Special the most important historic item in the community. Residents who want a look at the famous sports car now have a brief opportunity to see it at city hall.

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.

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Big Kid Story Time

Kids ages 5-8 are invited to join us for stories, special activities, and a snack on Tuesday, April 20, 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.

Chapter Club

The Chapter Club, our book discussion group for grades 4-6, meets Saturday, April 24, from 11-1:45 a.m. We'll be discussing "The Word Fairy" by Mary Ann, snacking on goodies, and playing games. Drop-ins are welcome.

Middle School Book Discussion

Our book discussion group for teens in grades 7-9 meets for food, fun, and a lively discussion of "Silent to the Bone" by E.L. Konigsburg on Saturday, April 24, from 11-1:45 a.m. No registration is necessary.

Super-Duper Spring Story Times

Join us for special drop-in story times for all kids ages 2-5 from

10:30-11 a.m. on Monday, April 26, and Wednesday, April 28. No registration is required.

Internet Practice Lab for Seniors

Practice makes perfect! Join us for an opportunity to practice any of the skills you've learned in our Internet classes on Thursday, April 29, from 1-3 p.m. During this two-hour session, you may choose to work on any Internet skills, with librarians to assist you and answer any computer-related questions. Note: There is no set agenda for this class; you may come and go as you please during the two-hour session. Please call the library to register in advance.

The Louisiana Purchase

The 1803 Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the United States "with just the stroke of a pen." Join retired social studies teacher Tom Barrett on Thursday, April 29, at 7 p.m. to learn why the size and scope of this historic event could be titled "The Louisiana Purchase-What a Deal!" Please call the library to register for this free program, which is sponsored by the Friends of Novi Public Library.

SENIOR CALENDAR

Thursday 4/15

9:30 a.m. Line Dance
9:30 a.m. Trivet Meeting
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open noon
12:15 p.m. Lunch
1 p.m.-2 p.m. Computer-Beginner
2 p.m. Adv. Line Dancing
3:30 p.m. Irish Dancers in Community Room

2 p.m.-3 p.m. Computer Class-Beg. Cloning*

Tuesday 4/20

9 a.m. Purner Bread
9 a.m.-11 a.m. Computer Class-Windows
9:30 a.m. Line Dance
10 a.m. Asian Pacific
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. 55 Alive Driving Class
10:30 a.m. Bookmobile
noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Bingo
1 p.m.-3 p.m. Computer Class-Internet
Taste of the Lakes Trip

Wednesday 4/21

9 a.m. Stretch & Strengthen
9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Massage Therapy
10 a.m. Body Recall
11 a.m. Blood Pressure
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open
11 a.m. TOPS Class
noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Jerry's Movies-Highlights of Fred Astaire
12:30 p.m. Cloning*
2 p.m.-4 p.m. Estate Planning by Appt.

Friday 4/16

9 a.m. Stretch & Strengthen
9 a.m. Panera Bread
10 a.m. Body Recall
11 a.m. Japanese Storyteller and Comedian, Kyoraku Sarutai, call 248-347-0414 to RSVP
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop open noon
12:30 p.m. Lunch
12:30 p.m. Cloning 12:30 p.m. Dupl. Bridge
Thunder Over Louisville Trip

Monday 4/19

9 a.m. Stretch & Strengthen
10 a.m. Body Recall
11 a.m. Goodie Lady
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundry Shop Open noon
12:30 p.m. Lunch
12:30 p.m. Music Rehearsal
1 p.m.-3 p.m. Healing Touch

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

ENGAGEMENT



Oppat-Wydenorff
Ronald and Joanne Oppat of Novi announce the engagement.

of their son, Ron Oppat, Jr. to Coleen Wydenorff, daughter of Daniel and Cecilia Hinks of Canton and David and Linda Wydenorff of Lakeland, Fla.

The groom-elect is a 1998 graduate of Novi High School and a 2002 graduate of Western Michigan University, majoring in integrated supply matrix management. He is currently employed with Visteon Corporation in Material, Planning and Logistics.

The bride-elect is a 1997 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School and a 2001 graduate of Western Michigan University, majoring in biomedical science. She is currently employed with Lincatec as a patient care coordinator.

A July 2004 wedding is planned.

NOTICE

PUBLIC SALE. Pursuant to state law, a public sale will be held on April 24, 2004 at 11:00AM at COLONIAL MINI STORAGE, 48200 West Road, Wixom, Michigan 48393. Contents will be sold by competitive bidding for cash only to the highest bidder and include miscellaneous household, furniture, tools and personal items including clothing. Units are as follows:
359 John Lipchick
408 Glenn Grainger
619 Sheila MacDougall
646 Crystal Hartless
808 Timothy Swickard
888 Rishkavi Raghudas
1014 Troy Farnwall

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 Marlin
Misc. Household items

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Chamber auction's a 'sweet one'

continued from front page

reality they are just sleep-deprived." Donnelly said. "Children need about nine hours of sleep a night," she said. "After the children receive the sleep education information, a basic 'sleep kit' is distributed to each child. The kit includes a sleeping bag, pillow, nightshirt, toothbrush and toothpaste, stuffed animal, activity book of sleep tips, crayons and socks. "The children we serve aren't sleeping for a lot of reasons. One reason is parental ignorance -- they don't know that children need to go to bed by 8:30 or 9 p.m. every night. None of these children have a parent to put them to bed. Maybe mom's working midnight, and they're by themselves," Donnelly said. "Many of these children are sleeping on the floor of their closet. We had a hooter/sister team that took turns sleeping on the couch, but the person who had to sleep on the floor didn't even have a blanket. Many of these kids have never seen a pillow."

"Many of these children are sleeping on the floor of their closet. We had a brother/sister team that took turns sleeping on the couch, but the person who had to sleep on the floor didn't even have a blanket. Many of these kids have never seen a pillow."

Kathleen Donnelly
Founder, Sweet Dreams Detroit

low," Donnelly said. "Thirty dollars sponsors a sleep kit for one child. Those who are unable to attend the charity auction and would like to make a donation, can do so by sending a check made payable to Sweet Dreams, Detroit, P.O. Box 6085, Farmington, MI 48332-0608. For more information, visit the Web site, www.sweetdreamsdetroit.org. "This is a unique charity. There have been days when we have handed out sleep essentials to more than 700 children. We look at each other, and ask ourselves, 'Why didn't we think about this before,'" Donnelly said. "We're really serving a very basic but very necessary need for young children," Donnelly said.

The details
Cocktails and a viewing of auction items will take place from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by dinner. A live auction and their music performed by members of the Professors of Jazz at Michigan State University. Chuck Gaideca, weatherman on WDM Channel 4, will serve as the Master of Ceremonies for the April 24 event. Nikki Pearce, a member of the Novi Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, is serving as co-chair for the event with Mayor Lou Cosentino as honorary co-chair and auctioneer.

Sponsors still needed
Major sponsors include Platinum Sponsors: Varsity Lincoln Mercury and Grand Mountain. Gold Sponsors include Bob Sellers, Pontiac-GMC, Hotel Baromette and Novi Expo Center. Silver Sponsors are Community Financial, Novi News, Providence Hospital & Medical Center, UAW Region I and Twelve Oaks Mall. Sweet Table Sponsors include Bob Sellers, Pontiac-GMC, Brit Irrigation, Cityscape Architects, Inc., Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Hotel Baromette, Joe Stuebel, Marty Feldman Chevrolet, Republic Bank, Ronald Baldwin, TDS Metrocom, Tetra

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NOVI CHAMBER AUCTION ITEMS

- Two \$50 gift certificates for Twelve Oaks Mall donated by AAA Novi Agency
- Birthday Party for 12 children donated by All Star Gymnastics
- One night Jacuzzi Room stay at Baymont Inn & Suites and dinner certificate at Applebee's Restaurant
- Treasure Chest Toy Box donated by Baby W Kirt's Bedroom and toys donated by Toys R Us
- Party pack basket with \$30 gift certificate donated by Baja Fresh
- One night Jacuzzi Room stay at Baymont Inn & Suites and dinner certificate donated by Mesquite Grill
- One night Jacuzzi Room stay at Baymont Inn & Suites and dinner certificate donated by Mesquite Grill
- Resorts USA Gift certificate for \$100 worth of Veterinary services including exams and vaccines donated by Briarpointe Veterinary Clinic
- Four day on site evaluation of recipient's information technology infrastructure valued at \$2,499 donated by BRY Inc.
- \$250 gift certificate for design consultation and window treatment donated by Budget Blinds of Novi
- Silk decorative pillow donated by Calico Corners
- Overnight stay donated by Candlewood Suites and dinner certificate donated by Carrabba's Italian Restaurant
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101 Things to do in SUMMER

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Space Reservation Deadline: **April 26, 2004**
Copy Deadline: **April 27, 2004**
Publication Date: **May 27, 2004**

Milford Times248-685-1507
South Lyon Herald .248-437-2011
Novi News
Northville Record .248-349-1700

AUCTION ITEMS

- Certificate donated by Max & Ermas
- Gift Certificate for 18 holes with cart donated by Catalis Golf Club
- Pool party for twenty donated by Central Park Estates with food prepared by Johnny Carino's Restaurant
- Dinner for two prepared in your home donated by Chef on The Run Personal Chef Service
- Sign with recipient's name displayed by City Hall donated by the City of Novi
- Two custom made rugs donated by Classic Carpet Corporation
- \$10,000 for dental makeover donated by Dr. Toupin and Cornerstone Dental
- Two Gift Certificates Pizzas donated by Cottage Inn Pizza
- On weekend night stay donated by Courtyard by Marriott Detroit-Novi and dinner certificate donated by Diamond Jim Brady's
- One Night Jacuzzi room stay donated by Country Inn Suites and dinner at Grady's American Grill
- One Night Jacuzzi room stay donated by Country Inn Suites and dinner at Benihana Japanese Steak House & Sushi Bar
- One Night jacuzzi room stay donated by Country Inn Suites and dinner for two at Maisano's Italian Restaurant
- Professional Resume Service valued at \$300 donated by Create your own Career
- Humidifier and installation donated by Dan Wood Plumbing & Heating Services, Inc.
- Lube, oil and filter change every 3,000 miles for a year or 15,000 miles donated by Dan's Auto Repair
- Two nights at Bay Harbor Resort & Marina not valid June
- One night stay including breakfast and evening manager's reception donated by the Embassy Suites and dinner certificate donated by On The Border Restaurant
- Free weekend rental valued at \$75 donated by Enterprise Rent A Car
- Fun package includes 2 tickets to Emagine's Tisatra, 4 tickets to Putting Edge and 250 Gift Certificate for Buffalo Wild Wings donated by Fountain Walk
- Two rounds of golf donated by Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center
- Computer scanner donated by Friend of the Novi Chamber of Commerce
- Honeywell Humidifier donated by the Friends of the Novi Chamber of Commerce
- Garage wall storage unit donated by Garage Interiors
- Hand blown vase donated by Gateway Village of Novi
- A "Head to Toe" spa package

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 04-014

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, Brinner Restaurant Corporation of On the Border Mexican Cafe is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow placement of a tent for Cinco de Mayo (Mexican Independence Day) on Wednesday, May 5, 2004 at 21091 Haggerty Road. On the Border Mexican Cafe is located in the High Point Shopping Center on Haggerty Road north of Eight Mile Road.

A public hearing meeting to consider this request will be held at 3:00 pm on Wednesday, April 21, 2004. The meeting is at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Written and signed approvals or objections will be accepted into the file at the scheduled meeting. Please address all communications to Denise Anderson at the City of Novi Building Department 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48275.

DEANISE ANDERSON
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY
(4-15-04 NN 125277)

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 2004-18.167

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 18.167. AN ORDINANCE TO ADD A DEFINITION OF "ADULT DAY CARE CENTER" TO SECTION 201 DEFINITIONS; A.C. OF ORDINANCE NO. 97-18, AS AMENDED; THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE TO ADD A DEFINITION OF "DAY CARE CENTER" TO SECTION 201 DEFINITIONS; D.F. OF SAID ORDINANCE TO ADD A DEFINITION OF "FAMILY DAY CARE HOME" TO SECTION 201 DEFINITIONS; D.F. OF SAID ORDINANCE TO ADD A DEFINITION OF "GROUP DAY CARE HOME" TO SECTION 201 DEFINITIONS; G.K. OF SAID ORDINANCE TO AMEND SUBSECTIONS 402.4, 902.2, 1102.4, 1202.5, 1401.3, 1601.11 AND TO ADD SUBSECTIONS 301.8, 401.8 AND 2002.6 TO SAID ORDINANCE; TO MODIFY THE STANDARDS FOR CHILD DAY CARE AND ADULT DAY CARE ESTABLISHMENTS WITHIN THE CITY OF NOVI.

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

MARYANNE CORNELIUS
CITY CLERK
(4-15-04 NN 125393)

CITY OF NOVI WOODHAM DRIVE WATER MAIN EXTENSION SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 171

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
(Hearing No. 2 - Assessment Roll)

Date: May 3, 2004
Time: 7:30 p.m.
In the Council Chambers at the Novi City Hall
45175 West Ten Mile Road
Novi, Michigan

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by previous resolution adopted following a public hearing, the Novi City Council has determined to proceed with this improvement project, and has specified the properties to be included in the district to be specially assessed for the costs of the project. On May 3, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Novi City Hall, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan, the City Council shall meet for the purpose of hearing comments and objections from interested persons regarding the proposed special assessment roll for this project, known as **Woodham Drive Water Main Extension, Special Assessment District No. 171**.

The proposed improvement is as further described in Exhibit A, which is intended to specially benefit the properties described on attached Exhibit B, the Special Assessment District. The cost for the Project as approved by the Council following the first public hearing has not increased by five (5%) per cent or more. Accompanying this Notice is a card to be completed and returned to the City Clerk's office, indicating whether you as a property owner wish to be included in the special assessment district support or disapprove of the proposed public improvement and special assessment district.

A copy of the Special Assessment Roll for this Project is on file at the City Clerk's Office, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan, for public examination during normal business hours.

Appearance and protest at the hearing is required in order to appeal the matters to be considered at the hearing to the State Tax Tribunal. An owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter at or before the hearing and his or her personal appearance in such case shall not be required.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK
CITY OF NOVI
(4-15-04 NN 124853)

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MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK
CITY OF NOVI
(4-15-04 NN 124853)

- For her including facial, pedicure, manicure, haircut & style and makeup donated by Gina Acosta
- \$50 gift certificate towards an Ocean Essence Body Wrap donated by Gjeeto's Salon & Day Spa
- One Week use of a 2 Bedroom/2 Bath Oceanfront Villa with pool set in a Beautiful Garden in St. Martin, N.A
- Gift Basket w/family pack, ceramic braces upgrade, T-shirts, mugs, notepad valued at \$1,000 donated by Goodman Orthodontics
- Theatre passes for four donated by Goodrich Quality Theatres
- Waterford Hurricane style lamp donated by Gorman's of Novi
- Deluxe Gift Basket donated by Great Harvest Bread Company
- "Ladro Breezy Afternoon" figurine valued at \$200 donated by Heslop's China & Gifts
- Overnight stay at Holiday Inn and \$100 gift certificate for any EPOCH Restaurant
- HUSKY power washer 1850 and RIDGID 3 piece set (clogless saw, drill and light) donated by Home Depot
- Jolene Blalock, officer T-Pol on Start Trek, autographed 8x10 photo and Shi: The Illustrated Warrior signed by artist William Tucci donated by Sam Eggleston at Hometown Newspaper
- One weekend in Mackinac Island
- 4 rounds of 18 hole Golf including carts at Glen Oaks, Lyon Oaks, Springfield Oaks or White Lake Oaks donated by Hugh Crawford & Oakland County Parks and Recreation
- Summer Fun Passbook and Ten admission passbooks to Waterford Oaks or Red Oaks Waterpark valued at \$300 donated by Hugh Crawford & Oakland County Parks and Recreation
- Free Attendance for two adults to Huron Valley-Sinal's CPA for Family and Friends or Heartsaver CPR class a donated by Huron Valley Sinal
- Digital Camera
- Four Gift Certificates (6 month membership, Pilates class, Tanning visit and Sauna visit valued at \$400 donated by Ladies Workout Express
- \$1000 pendant and 10 gold nomination bracelets with charms donated by Larson Jewelry Design Inc.
- Arbonne gift basket donated by Laurie Bates of Arbonne
- Omelette pan donated by Linen N Things
- Four 18 hole green fees for golf with carts at Westbrooke Golf Course valued at \$220.00 donated by Links of Novi
- Two 18 hole golf passes with cart for four donated by Lou Martin/Providence Hospital and dinner certificate donated by Library Sports Pub
- Two 18 hole golf passes with cart for four donated by Lou Martin/Providence Hospital and dinner certificate donated by Benihana Japanese Steak House & Sushi Bar
- Gift Certificate for Dinner/Theatre for two at Genetti's donated by LOC Credit Union
- Two treasure tins with pills donated by Lover's Lane
- Two treasure tins with pills donated by Lover's Lane
- \$25 gift certificate donated by Maria's Italian Bakery

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BUSINESS

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

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Credit union changes names

The Novi Community Credit Union has a new name, effective today.

The credit union, located at 22235 Haggerty Road, between Eight Mile and Nine Mile roads, is now known as HomeTown Community Credit Union.

"We requested a change name change from the state of Michigan in order to not only serve our existing members in Novi but also to serve the surrounding communities," said Tracy Moser, sales manager of HomeTown Community Credit Union.

"We're doing this to enhance the products and services to our members. While reaching out into other communities, we can maintain a high level of service and continue to offer many of our services at no cost to our members," Moser said.

HomeTown Community Credit Union is a full-service credit union offering free checking accounts, savings accounts, auto loans, mortgage loans and other services. For membership information, contact Moser at (248) 348-8500, Ext. 304.

Automation Alley has new logo

Automation Alley launched a dynamic new logo April 5 reflecting the continued growth of the regional technology cluster, the evolution of its membership and expansion of benefits to members.

Unlike the previous logo, which represented just the technology cluster and its member consortium, the new logo reflects the new positioning of Automation Alley and all of its lines of activity. The new logo will appear on the organization's Web site April 19.

Automation Alley is Southeast Michigan's regional technology cluster, attracting the creators and consumers of diverse technologies from a variety of industries around the world.

Journalist to speak in Walled Lake

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church in Walled Lake will host a talk by local celebrity Mort Crim at 8:30 a.m. April 24.

As a renowned broadcast journalist, national correspondent, ABC anchor and author of six books, Crim will pull from these publications, concentrating on the theme, "How to Hold It Together When the World is Falling Apart."

The event will include coffee and registration from 8:30 to 9 a.m., followed by breakout sessions, refreshments and the keynote speaker. A book signing, more breakout sessions, refreshments, and door prize drawing will take place from 11 a.m. to noon. The door prize will be a complete set of Crim's books.

Tickets are available at the church located across the street from Walled Lake Central High School at 2905 S. Commerce Road. Tickets are \$7 prior to the event and \$10 at the door.

For more information, call the church at (248) 624-4238.

Local RE/MAX honored

RE/MAX of Southeastern Michigan received the coveted "Region of the Year" award for 2003 from RE/MAX International at the recent RE/MAX International Convention held in San Diego, Calif.

This is a first-time win for the southeastern Michigan region, which incorporates Oakland, Macomb, Monroe and Wayne counties.

The award won by RE/MAX of Southeastern Michigan is particularly noteworthy because of the 28 RE/MAX regions across the United States. RE/MAX of Southeastern Michigan is the smallest geographically, comprised of just four counties, while other regions are made up of an entire state or multiple states.

The award is a testament to the highest honor presented to a senior. Her current areas of interest are labor and delivery and neonatal care. She is the daughter

State economy improving

The Michigan Business Activity Index, compiled by Commerce Bank, closed at 113 points in February, compared with a revised

114-point reading in January. A year earlier, the index was at 110.

"Despite minor slippage between January and February, Michigan's economy, for the first time in 12 months, at last showed a year-to-date gain in real activity that exceeded the comparable period from a year earlier by 3 percent," said David Littmann, chief economist at Commerce Bank.

"Were it not for a dip in auto sales, February would have been about January's business activity levels," he said.

Friedman announces Novi lease

Friedman Real Estate Group, Inc. in Farmington Hills recently negotiated the lease of 92,733 square feet of industrial space at 4000 Grand River Ave. in Novi.

The new tenant, P&C Group, and the landlord, Ericar, LLC, were both represented by Friedman's Roxanne Larson.

Friedman Real Estate Group, Inc. is one of Michigan's largest locally owned and operated commercial real estate organizations.

Hotel Baronette to host course

Organizations are struggling to speed up. They are trying to improve, embrace new technologies and respond to a rapidly changing marketplace.

In an effort to help companies along these lines, the Center for Corporate Financial Leadership in Chicago will present "Leadership: Leading and Managing Change through Teamwork and Strategic Thinking" at the Hotel Baronette in Novi April 26-27.

The two-day interactive course will feature Dennis L. Latorre, president of the Fanuc Group and adjunct professor at Indiana University Kelley School of Business.

Latorre's experiences give him an insider's and personal look at the issues, challenges and opportunities of a global environment.

Participants will earn 16 Continuing Education credits for a cost of \$850 for Illinois CPA Society members and \$920 for nonmembers. For more information, visit

Local RE/MAX honored

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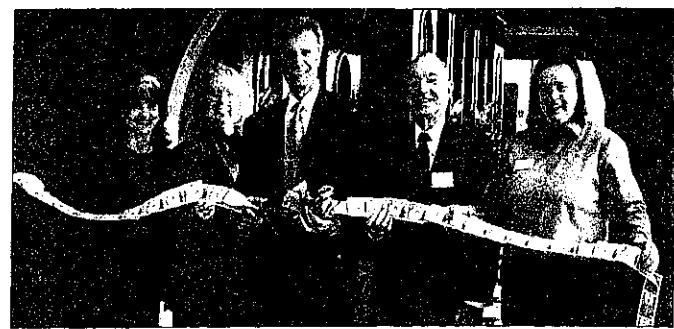
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State economy improving

The Michigan Business Activity Index, compiled by Commerce Bank, closed at 113 points in February, compared with a revised



Courtesy photo

McDonald's has new look

Members of the Novi Chamber of Commerce, City of Novi and McDonald's had a grand re-opening celebration for the newly remodeled McDonald's restaurant on Haggerty Road north of Eight Mile Road April 7. Pictured, from left: Nora Champlin, president, Novi Chamber of Commerce; Cheryl Csordas and husband Novi Mayor Lou Csordas; Keith Wilson, chairman, Chamber Board of Directors; and Michelle Overly-Long, restaurant manager.

Home & Garden II

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

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Copy Deadline: Tuesday, April 27, 2004
Publication Date: Thursday, May 13, 2004

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 101 N. Lafayette
 South Lyon, MI 48178

CLASS NOTES

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

High schooler designs 50th anniversary Novi police badge

Multi-talented Cameron Lewis makes his school proud

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

It's not every day that police officers visit a classroom at Novi High School, asking to speak privately with a student. Especially if that student is an upstanding person, like junior Cameron Lewis.

That very thing happened last school year, but it wasn't because Lewis did anything wrong. It was because of all the right things he has done in the past. The Novi officers said that they chose him to design their 50th anniversary badge, which he did. Now every officer at the Novi Police Department is proudly displaying the badge around town.

"Last year in my art class, Miss (Erin) Worden, my art teacher, told me that two police officers were going to come in and talk to me about something," Lewis said. "That's kind of a scary thought. When they came in we just went to the back



Courtesy photo

Cameron Lewis designed this award winning badge commemorating the Novi Police Department's 50th anniversary.

of the room and they started asking me about designing a badge because their 50th anniversary is this year."

The officers gave Lewis an idea of what they were looking for, how big they wanted the badge, and the basic design. From there it took Lewis three weeks to come up with two designs; one with an eagle on the top and the another round one, which was the one that was ultimately chosen.

ON CAMPUS

Novi resident Lauren Oates was named a 2004 Presidential Scholar in Nursing at Western Michigan University. The award is the WMU's highest honor presented to a senior. Her current areas of interest are labor and delivery and neonatal care. She is the daughter of Dave and Lynn Oates.

Nicholas Hurwittich of Novi has been named to the Dean's Honors at Michigan State University for fall 2003 semester.

Novi resident Katy Staab was named to the Dean's List at Eastern Michigan University for fall 2003 semester. She is the daughter of Charles and Becky Staab.

Novi resident Kyle Smith has been named a recipient of the RE/MAX of Southeastern Michigan 2004 "American Dream" Scholarship.

"I wasn't exactly sure why they came to me for this project, but my best guess would be because I'm starting to get more into art," Lewis said. "I have had some pieces up around the school, but not really out in the public world."

Worden knew why he was chosen, however. "I recommended him to the officers because I knew he could come up with something and he is able to draw technically enough to where he could achieve something like a badge," she said. "I think they were very pleased. He did two drafts for them and they picked the one they liked."

After the design was chosen by the police department, a professional artist took Lewis' two dimensional design and made it into a three dimensional model. "It worked out very well," Worden said. "I'm very proud and honored that he is my student and I'm glad that I was

asked to have one of our kids to do it. It shows me that they have a lot of faith in our students and in their abilities."

As a kid, Lewis was always drawing. More recently however, he has been taking different approaches with it, like looking into political cartooning with newspapers.

"I've done some of that already so I'm looking at a career in journalism and art together as a career," he said.

As a multi-talented individual, Lewis is also the drummer in a band and is trying to teach himself how to play the piano.

"I play drums and I also take part in the music program in the high school," he said. "The band is mostly rock and roll, similar to Third Eye Blind. It has been going since around October. We played the prom fashion show and the talent show."

"It worked out very well," Worden said. "I'm very proud and honored that he is my student and I'm glad that I was

They are Ben Landry, who is the lead singer and plays guitar, Max Landry, his younger brother, who plays bass and is a backup vocalist, and Uday Vadala on lead guitar and backup vocals.

"In college I'll just try to zero in on one thing to take and everything else is a hobby, so probably just journalism and then take art as well," Lewis said. "I have been looking into different schools, but I haven't made any decisions yet."

Worden had nothing but kind words to say about her student. "Cameron is a reliable student as well as a good art student," she said. "He wants to go into political cartoons and he is really excellent with designs. He just seemed the appropriate candidate for the project."

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

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†Consult a tax advisor regarding deductibility of interest. APRs effective as of April 1, 2004.

Portraits in Education



Fiesta time at Orchard Hills

The Spanish classes at Orchard Hills participated in a Mexican Fiesta with Cascarones (confetti-filled eggs) and piñatas. As a Mexican tradition, Cascarones are broken over people's heads for good luck. This tradition has carried over into the American culture as part of Easter celebrations, especially in the southwestern states. Here, Spanish Teacher Senora Diane McCurdy breaks a Cascarone over the head of Madison McDonald. Looking on are other first graders, Nicholas Sylvestre, Aaron Pringle, Danny Savela and Ian Hanley.



Susan Wainwright recognized

Novi Meadows fifth grade teacher Susan Wainwright was recently recognized as the Michigan Science Teacher Association's "Elementary Science Teacher of the Year." Each year the Michigan Science Teacher Association recognizes four individuals for their outstanding instruction and dedication to science education. One individual is recognized for elementary, middle school, high school and higher education. The Michigan Science Teacher Association, as the largest science teachers' organization in the state, is recognized as a leader in promoting science education.



Novi Meadows Read In

There was a "Read In" in the fifth grade house at Novi Meadows last week. In conjunction with "Stuffed Animal Day," the whole class brought in pillows and sleeping bags so they could be comfy as they read for a good portion of their half day of school before spring break.

All courtesy photos



Getting healthy at Orchard Hills

All the gym classes at Orchard Hills are participating in an aerobic program to strengthen their hearts in preparation for "Jump Rope for Heart." Left, fourth grader Andrea Rybicki helps kindergartners Carmen Nieto, Alexandra Cartez, Owen Wooster, Danielle Fortier and Sakura Ogino to do their step exercises.



Deerfield Science Fair

Over 280 people enjoyed the Deerfield Science Fair, held on April 2. The students displayed projects and the Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum had 24 chemistry experiments for the families to perform. Pictured from left to right: Steffen Werth and Justin Lipski work on the "Tricky Trash" experiment with father Michael Werth and son Michael Werth.



C.A.R.E. kids participate in floor exercises on their field trip to Conrad's Gymnastics in Farmington Hills.

Summer Care registration beginning

Registration for Novi Community Education's C.A.R.E. (P.T. Club) all day summer camp is beginning April 19. This program is offered to children first through eighth grades, and for the first time, will include Preschool Summer C.A.R.E. for children ages 3-5 who are completely potty-trained.

The theme is "Outdoor Adventures" and each grade will develop unique activities incorporating this, enhancing the daily schedule of athletics, arts and crafts, drama, computers and outdoor play.

Field trip destinations include visits to Kensington Metro Park, the IMAX and Imagine theaters, Proud Lake Recreation area, Waterford Oaks Water Park and many more. Resource programs are also brought in to the school from the Novi Library, Michigan State University and more.

Registration fees include a morning and afternoon snack and a program T-shirt. An optional lunch will be provided for an additional fee. The program begins June 17 and runs through August 19 from 7:00 am - 6:00 p.m., Monday - Friday and will be held at Orchard Hills Elementary School.

Registration fees are as follows:

- C.A.R.E. /P.T. Club
 - Novi School District Residents
 - Registration Fee: \$125.00/child
 - Daily rate: \$30.00/child per day
 - Additional sibling: \$26.00/child per day
 - City of Novi: (Out of school district)
 - Registration Fee: \$150.00/child
 - Daily rate: \$35.00/child per day
 - Additional sibling: \$32.00/child per day
- PRE-K SUMMER C.A.R.E.
 - Novi School District Residents
 - Registration Fee: \$100.00/child
 - Daily rate: \$30.00/child per day
 - Additional sibling: \$26.00/child per day
 - City of Novi: (out of school district)
 - Registration Fee: \$120.00/child
 - Daily rate: \$32.00/child per day
 - Additional sibling: \$30.00/child per day

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NOVI COMMUNITY EDUCATION CORNER

Yoga for Weight Loss

DATE: Monday, April 26 - June 7
TIME: 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Village Oaks Gym
DETAILS: Foundations of breathing, sun salutations, and basic postures are developed in this class. Yoga strengthens and lengthens your body, relaxes and unclutters the mind, promotes better posture, improves overall health and supports natural weight loss.
FEE: \$59

Yoga Basics

DATE: Monday, April 26 - June 7
TIME: 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Woods Music Room
DETAILS: Class is designed to familiarize beginners with basic Yoga postures and breathing techniques. With an emphasis on personal instruction, this class gives you a solid foundation before moving into other yoga classes. All levels are welcome.
FEE: \$59

Belly Dancing

DATE: Tuesday, April 27 -

May 25

TIME: 8 - 9 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Meadows 6 Cafeteria
DETAILS: Look at the newest dance craze! In this belly dancing class you will learn positioning, posture, hip, chest and arm movement, basic steps and walking, including how to use costumes and scarves.
FEE: \$55

Builder's License Seminar

DATE: Tuesday, April 27 - May 25
TIME: 5:30 - 9 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 520
DETAILS: Prepare for the State Builder's License Exam. This course includes 18 hours of instruction and is approved by the Michigan State Assessors Board. For 6 hours of recertification for Level 3 & 4. Additional information may be obtained at www.getlegalbuilders.com.
FEE: \$165 (plus \$20 material fee)

Landscaping

DATE: Thursday, April 29 - May 6
TIME: 7 - 8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 524

School Room 524

DETAILS: Are you bewildered when it comes to landscaping? Do you have a landscape that needs improvement, or are you starting with a clean slate? Work with a professional in selecting the right plant for the right place for your specific needs. Bring in a sketch or survey and photos of your property or problem area. You will apply the information covered in class to your own specific landscape needs.
FEE: \$45

Sign Language Basics

DATE: Thursday, April 29 - June 3
TIME: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 506
DETAILS: Learn basic vocabulary and practical conversational phrases taught by class discussion, watching video lessons, playing word games and skits. The history of sign language, deaf culture and language skills are taught in a fun and entertaining way. Before you know it, you will be able to take part in a general conversation! Bring a notebook or folder for weekly handouts.
FEE: \$62 (plus \$13 Book/material fee)
PHONE: (248) 449-1206

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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.

My apologies to Bob Gatt

I took a vacation last week, heading down to South Carolina with my family for some time off the computer and on the beach. Finding places to eat is always a challenge when you're in an unfamiliar area. Every day was another round of, "Where do you wanna eat?" "I don't know. Let's see what's out there."

That went on for seven days. On the drive home Saturday afternoon, we decided to take the route borne of Savannah to Atlanta then up I-75.

We got hungry for lunch in Atlanta, and the restaurant search began. We were having a tough time and getting frustrated. As a joke (tho-estly), I suggested we stop at Hooters. My wife just rolled her eyes, and gave me that "yeah, right" look.

So I get back to work Monday and take a look at the Novi News to see the Hooters dilemma on our front page.

"This I saw," Councilman Bob Gatt's letter to the editor.

I immediately e-mailed Bob with the explanation. He had originally written that letter February 21, just a week or so after we had published another



Cal Stone

one of his letters. I figured I would hold it for a bit in the hopes that Bob was not developing into an habitual letter to the editor writer.

While on vacation, my sports writer, Sam Eggleston, did a great job of filling in for me and laying out the pages for the A section. He did not know the letter was old and placed it. My mistake. I should have killed the letter after it was shelved for several weeks.

"...when I wrote that the way I felt," Bob replied to me via e-mail. "Since then, I do believe that I have found legal reasons to vote no on Hooters. And, I will continue to vote no for those reasons."

My apologies to the councilman for publishing that letter. He knows, and I hope every reader knows, that I would never intentionally do something to make a person look bad.

Did I just see my wife roll her eyes?

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

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)
269 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
(202) 224-6221
senator@levin.senate.gov
Local office:
124 W. Allegan
Suite 1610
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 377-1508
FAX: (517) 377-1506

39th District
Marc Stulman (R-West Bloomfield)
351 Capitol Building
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
(517) 373-1799
FAX: (517) 373-5777
mstulman@house.mi.gov

Oakland County

Executive
L. Brooks 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

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

Governor

Jennifer Granholm (D-Northville Twp.)
PO Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 335-7858

State Senate

15th District
Nancy Cassis (R-Novi)
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
(517) 373-1758
sencassis@senate.michigan.gov

State House of Reps

38th District
Craig DeRoche (R-Novi)
50887 House Office Building
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
(517) 373-0827
FAX: (517) 373-5873
craigderoche@house.mi.gov

8th Commission
Jeff Potter
1099 Stable Lane
South Lyon, MI 48178
(248) 437-7597
potterj@co.oakland.mi.us

9th Commission
Hugh D. Crawford
46275 11 Mile Road
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hughcrawford@msn.com

Townships

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

Commerce - Charter
Thomas K. Zoner, supervisor
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OPINION

novinews.com



Napping like Nap
While on vacation on the east coast, HomeTown photographer John Heider spied this interesting scene at the west wing of the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C.: a portrait of Napoleon Bonaparte and a slumbering tourist with a certain similarity.

Photo by John Heider

LETTERS

Say no to Hooters

I read in today's paper that there was a vote on give a liquor license to "Hooters" for a Fountain Walk location. I am against this establishment coming to Novi. Why? I have seen at several Hooters locations, waitresses inside the establishment trying to entice customer into their location when business is slow. Although this is billed as a family establishment, it is a bar/cafe for adults and marketed to adult males. Is this type of business legal? Yes. Is there anything wrong with giving this type of place? No. Is this type of business a family establishment? No.

As for comments by Lew Corda, in the paper, that Fountain Walk has not been promoted or referred to as a "family center," he needs to think about that again. For several years Fountain Walk has promoted family activities with events with crafts, activities and bringing in Disney and Nickelodeon characters to promote its family oriented events. Fountain walk also has many family-type business, such as Chucky Cheese. The Putting Edge, Van's Skatepark, Emagine Theater and Cold Stone Ice Cream. Do we want to walk around Fountain Walk in the summer with our kids and be exposed to Hooters?

I would ask the City Council to think hard and long about the consequences of allowing Hooters into our community before voting yes to this license.

Lynn Bond
Shinsho American Corporation

"Leland" movie is not entertainment

The newspapers each day report yet another heinous crime against helpless children.

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

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OTHER OPINIONS

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

Racino bill is not the answer to budget woes

Winston Churchill once famously called Russia "a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma." A fair description, it seems to me, of the so-called "racino" bill, now mysteriously Topic A in Lansing scuttlebut.

There's no mystery about what the bill would do. It would authorize placing slot machines - "video lottery terminals" in bowdlerized legislative language - at Michigan's seven horse racing tracks, including Northville Downs in Southeastern Michigan. The measure would allow a permit as many as 2,000 machines at each track, yielding the hair-raising prospect of as many as another 14,000 slots in Michigan, not counting the four new "tracks" investors want to build as convention locations for more slots.



Phil Power

Readers of a statistical bent will be interested to learn that slots are already spinning at the three Indian casinos in Detroit and 21 other tribal locations around the state. Indeed, devices for gambling now abound in Michigan: slots, roulette wheels, lottery games, Keno and pull-tab lottery tickets. When he learned I intended to write about racinos in this column, my colleague at this newspaper, Jack Lessnerberry, snorted "Personally, I think we need another 2,000 video gaming terminals like we need another poisoned cat to be scolded."

What is mysterious is just why such a blatantly single-purpose bill - a favorite of House Representatives Speaker Rick Johnson, the Michigan Farm Bureau and various owners of horse tracks, who feel racinos are the best way to save the ailing horse racing industry in Michigan from competition by the gambling casinos - has stayed alive for so long.

"Greed is the root of all this on all sides," explained Bill

Balleger, publisher of Inside Michigan Politics. The state is experiencing its third straight year of \$1 billion-plus budget deficits, and after two years of hard budget cutting there's not a whole lot left to cut. Terrified of being charged with raising taxes, however, the Lansing political class is dovetailing its considerable

collective imagination to drearying up ways to increase state income without calling it a tax. The House Fiscal Agency estimates that the number of slots initially authorized if the bill passes - 500 at each of seven tracks or 3,500 in all - would yield \$73 million and \$137 million to whatever governmental unit gets a slice of the take. Eventually, Lansing insiders are talking \$200-\$400 million, which would go a long way to help balance the state's budget.

Which, in turn, explains why Gov. Jennifer Granholm has a low-bait relationship with racinos. She doesn't like the House version of the bill and, in any event, doesn't want it to come to a vote in the Senate "until the budget has been taken care of." But for a governor trying to balance a budget badly in deficit, several hundred million dollars of added revenue (arguably not the result of a tax increase) is not to be taken lightly. A long-time Lansing lobbyist recently told me, "Without the budget crisis, there would be no chance - no chance! - this bill would ever see the light of day."

Another problem with the racino bill is that it would cost state a vital income stream for economic development and jobs. At present, certain American Indian tribes with gaming casinos have agreements with the slot machine take to the Michigan Strategic Fund; last year, the state's share amounted to more than \$13 million. These agreements would be legally terminated if casino-style gaming were to be extended by the state, and "casino-style gaming" certainly includes racinos. Losing this funding for the Strategic Fund would certainly end an effective and successful state economic development program.

Worse, the prevailing Lansing gossip is that a clever deal is cooking to link the racino bill to an effort to raise cigarette taxes by 75 cents a pack. Under the scheme, racinos, having already passed the House, will be brought to a vote in a skeptical Senate. Meanwhile, the cigarette tax increase, now the subject of intense debate in the House Republican caucus, would be brought to a vote in the House.

This kind of cynical log-rolling should be exposed for what it is: Linking a bad idea (racinos) to what might well be a good idea (increasing the cigarette tax). Added to prevailing cynicism about the bill is all the talk about finding ways to deliver a slice of the racino take to Detroit (to buy the votes of the Detroit legislative delegation), to various state agriculture programs (to buy the votes of rural legislators), etc. etc.

As if all this were not enough, a low-poll (including some paid for by horse track interests) indicate most voters don't want Michigan to turn into Las Vegas Now.

The racino bill represents a mysterious desire to resolve the deficit of the state's budget deficit. The enigma to me is why the legislature and Gov. Granholm don't simply say "no" to a bad idea and get on with the business of trying to lead the state.

Phil Power, in addition to being the Chairman of the company that owns this newspaper, is also the Vice Chairman of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, which uses funds from American Indian casinos in some of its programs. He would be pleased to get your reactions to this column either at (734) 953-2010 or at ppower@homecomm.net.

Teddy Roosevelt's last Bull Moose

The leading representative of the party of Teddy Roosevelt came to Michigan last week, to hold a town hall meeting in a city where there really aren't any Republicans, and visit a state where, four years ago, he overwhelmingly won the Republican presidential primary.

Hundreds crowded into a law school auditorium at Wayne State University in Detroit to see Sen. John McCain.

McCain, one of the very few politicians today that has what used to be called charisma, and who small children might think of as a hero.

"This is a man who should have been president," said former State Sen. Joe Schwarz, a friend and admirer who is now running for congress from a southern mid-Michigan district that includes Lenawee and Hillsdale counties.

That answer showed, I thought, a deep understanding of our political system - and also some shrewd common sense. Many Democrats who are ecstatic about the thought of a McCain-Kerry ticket would have a fast change of heart once they discovered that on many issues, ranging from labor to the military, McCain is a conservative Republican.

Republicans would forever regard him as a traitor, and Democrats would never really trust him. Besides, it seemed clear McCain would feel that to do something like that would be bailing out on his commander-in-chief in wartime. So he'll campaign for President Bush's re-election.

Not that this is easy. "We are no close friends, but we have a cordial relationship," he told me when I asked about how he got along with the President. Others say only the first part of that is really true.



Jack Lessnerberry

But whether or not that's true, it's not going to happen. The vice president has only two duties, "Presiding over the Senate and inquiring after the health of the president." Turning serious, he told them he thought he could get a lot more done in Congress.

Later, when I had a chance to talk to him privately, I asked him directly whether there was any way he would be leaving my party, whether I nominally did so or not, and I don't want to do that. I am a Republican. I believe in the party of Lincoln and (Theodore) Roosevelt.

That answer showed, I thought, a deep understanding of our political system - and also some shrewd common sense. Many Democrats who are ecstatic about the thought of a McCain-Kerry ticket would have a fast change of heart once they discovered that on many issues, ranging from labor to the military, McCain is a conservative Republican.

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John McCain would love to be president. But he is 68 now, and realistically will be too old for another year. Four years ago, he came out of nowhere to give Bush a stiff challenge for the Republican nomination, winning a shocking upset in New Hampshire.

Nobody gave him any chance in Michigan, and indeed the party snubbed him, something that outraged Schwarz, who like McCain, had served in Vietnam. Schwarz ended up running a McCain primary campaign that ended in humiliation for former Gov. John Engler. McCain's candidacy later ran out of money and steam, partly because hard-line conservatives didn't trust his talk about campaign finance reform and criticism of tax breaks that gave too much to the rich.

But I made him a national figure, and also resulted in a lasting friendship between himself and Joe Schwarz, two gruff straight shooters who have a politically unusual attachment to integrity, honesty and common sense.

While many like to talk about how hard-line conservatives really are Republicans in this mold. They believe in rugged individualism - but they also believed in fair play, the environment, and that government has a duty to prevent monopoly corporations from strangling the economy.

They know that many in their party are closer to Enron and Ken Lay than to Roosevelt and Lincoln, and they hate that more than they can say.

But they intend to go on trying to redeem their party. I asked John McCain if he remembered what TR had done when he lost the nomination. "It was stolen from him!" he said. He knew, as did I, that Teddy then started his own party. But he wouldn't go there, not even verbally, not, at any rate, yet.

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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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"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. The 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: 1-800-210-0900 or www.sugarloafcrafts.com

39th Tri-State Memorial Free Skating Championships

DATE: Friday, April 16th and Saturday, April 17th.

TIME: events will run all day on Friday and Saturday.

LOCATION: Novi Ice Arena, Novi Rd.

DETAILS: Sanctioned by U.S. Figure Skating Association, the competition is open to eligible skaters from Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Western Pennsylvania, and other invited guests who are registered members of the USFSA or Canadian Figure Skating Association. There is no charge for admission.

PHONE: For more information, call the Novi Ice Arena at (248) 347-1010.

Comic Storytelling

DATE: Friday, April 16

TIME: 11 a.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 suzukimyers.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 Zagorhi, (248) 347-0403 or at rzagorhi@ci.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 Kincaid. Richard Kincaid will sign copies of his new book "The Gods of Olympia Stadium: Legends of the Detroit Red Wings." Author Richard Kincaid brings to life what was at once the most glorious and the most tumultuous time in Detroit hockey history, the original Six Era.

2004 Michigan Retail Technology Seminar

DATE: Tuesday, April 20

TIME: 8:30 a.m. to noon

LOCATION: Sheraton Novi Hotel, Novi, 21111 Haggerty Rd. (south of 9 Mile Rd.)

DETAILS: Sponsors are Retail Technologies International, HiltiStar

and Jordan Harrington of RTI.

PHONE: Call (248) 449-1206

will present innovations in Point-of-Sale and Inventory Management. Discover real time sales and inventory reports that pinpoint best selling items and provide hard data to maximize revenue and margins. Learn how Customer Relationship Management and Less Prevention technology can significantly reduce expenses. Brett Williams of Shift4 will discuss high speed internet payment processing, e-Cards and electronic gift certificates. Learn the tools to remain competitive in your market today.

PHONE: To register call 248-360-8400. Space limited.

Democrats of West Oakland County regular meeting

DATE: Tuesday, April 20

TIME: pizza social at 6 PM, followed by business at 7 PM

LOCATION: Ma Ma Mia's Restaurant, 1403 S. Commerce, Wilded Lake.

DETAILS: The meeting will feature Tyrone Chittam, Associate Executive Director of the Michigan Veterans Foundation. He will speak on the topic, "Are We Really Supporting Our Troops?"

PHONE: For more information call Jack Schneider at (248) 685-1882.

Cooking Class by Personal Chef, Chad Davis-Santaling and Pan Sauces

DATE: Tuesday, April 20

LOCATION: Novi Middle School, 49000 11 Mile Road.

DETAILS: Learn the special technique that works for chicken and turkey cutlets, duck breasts, pork chops and fish fillets. Learn how to make a variety of pan sauces from ingredients in your pantry. \$20 per person plus a \$10 material fee payable to the instructor. Instructor is Personal Chef, Chad Davis.

PHONE: Call (248) 449-1206

to register.

AANW Northville/Novi Branch Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, April 20

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Hillside Middle School (775N. Center St. Northville)

DETAILS: Senator Natey Cassis will speak to us on the issues of education and taxation in Michigan - issues that are

important to women and our community. Her current committee leadership assignments are the Taxation Policy Committee and the Education Committee.

Lake Area Chamber of Commerce Employee Appreciation Day Luncheon

DATE: Wednesday, April 21

TIME: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

LOCATION: Maples Country Club, 31260 Wakefield, Novi.

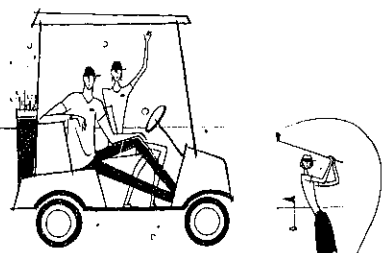
DETAILS: This is the day to show your employees that you appreciate them. Each attendee will enjoy a delicious lunch and receive a gift bag of goodies. \$16/pre-paid reservations, \$20/door.

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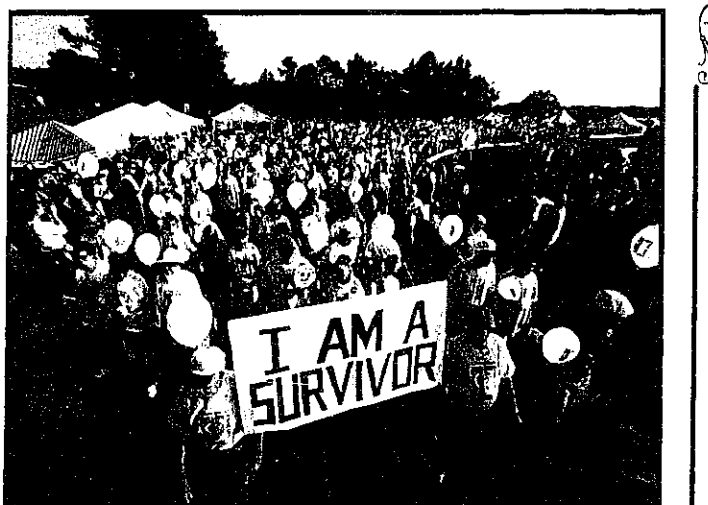
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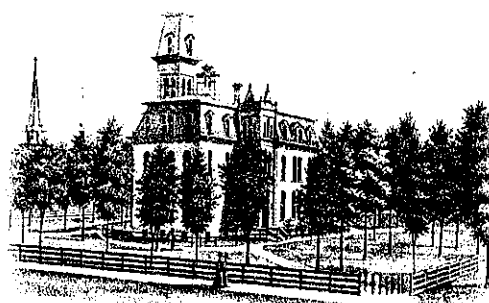
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SCREEN BEAT

By Brian Renner

Opening in theaters this weekend

"Comie and Carla" stars Nia Vardalos of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" fame and Toni Collette as struggling diner theatre performers who accidentally witness a mafia hit. To avoid being "hit" themselves, they head to Los Angeles, assume new identities and find their talent as drag queens. As the mafia closes in, they soon discover both the power of not compromising to pursue their dreams and the magical properties of cosmetics. "Comie and Carla" is a Universal Pictures release and rated PG-13 by the MPAA for thematic elements, sexual humor and drug references.

Opening in theaters last weekend

Elisha Cuthbert stars in teen comedy "The Girl Next Door" as a teenage boy's new neighbor who happens to have a former life as a porn star. The film follows high school senior, Matthew (Emile Hirsch), who has dreams of a career in politics, is overjoyed to discover that his new neighbor, 19-year-old Danielle (Cuthbert), is absolutely beautiful, and they fall in love quickly. Their relationship is put to the test, when he discov-

"The Punisher," based on a popular Marvel comic, features Frank Castle (Thomas Jane), who is completing his undercover final assignment before retiring to a more normal life. The operation goes wrong when Tampa businessman Howard Saint (John Travolta), who has strong ties to the underworld, murders Castle's family. Castle puts in motion a plan to seek revenge. "The Punisher" is a Lions Gate Film release and is rated R by the MPAA for pervasive brutal violence, language and brief nudity.

Historical epic "The Alamo" is the story of the nearly 200 Texans, who held the fort for thirteen days under siege by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, ruler of Mexico. Led by three men—the young Colonel William Travis, the passionate James Bowie, and the living legend Davy Crockett—the Texans and their deeds at the Alamo would pass into history as General Sam Houston's rallying cry for Texas independence. (The Alamo) is a Touchstone Pictures release and rated PG-13 by the MPAA for sustained intense battle sequences.

"Ella Enchanted" stars Anne Hathaway of "The Princess Diaries" fame as Ella, who lives in a magical world where all children are given a "gift" from a fairy Godmother at the moment of their birth. Ella was given the gift of obedience. As a result, Ella cannot

refuse any command, and is often left at the mercy of devious personalities. In a bid to regain control of her life, Ella goes on a quest to free herself from the mysterious curse. "Ella Enchanted" is a Miramax Films release and rated PG for some crude humor and language.

Comedy flavored "Johnson Family Vacation" follows Nate Johnson (Cedric the Entertainer) and his family as they trek cross-country to their annual family reunion. The film asks, "Can the Johnsons survive each other and all the obstacles the road throws at them to make it to Carthersville, Missouri? Can they find Missouri?" "Johnson Family Vacation" is a Fox Searchlight Pictures release and rated PG-13 by the MPAA for some sexual references, crude humor and brief drug material.

Exclusively showing at the Landmark Art, "Intermission" is the story of a break-up between two young lovers, which causes a series of interwoven events affecting everyone around them. The film stars Colin Farrell, Kelly Macdonald, Shirley Henderson, Colin Meenan, and Rory Keenan. "Intermission" is an IFC Films release and rated R by the MPAA for pervasive language, some sexual content and violence.

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

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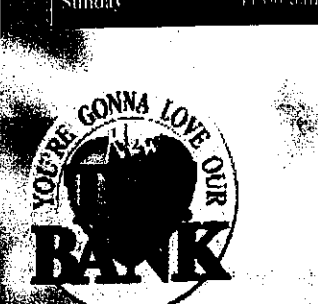
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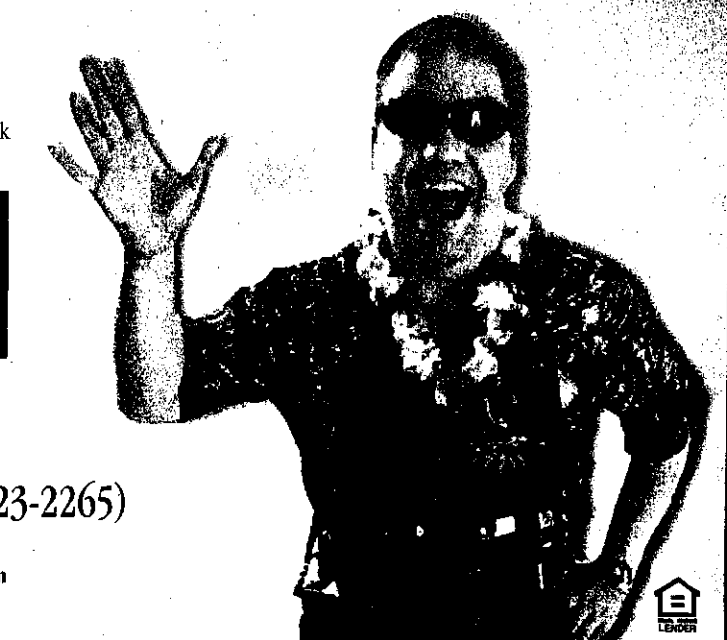
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National Tartan Day at Jaguar of Novi
 United States Congress and Senate ratified April 6 annually as National Tartan Day as resolution 155 decreed. For a number of years now, this has been a national event which is now a week-long celebration in New York. This has seen the world record number of bagpipe players being assembled there in a previous year. Humble a celebrator though it may be, Lance Jeffrey (from Edinburgh, Scotland) is using the day to wear his kilt at work in Jaguar of Novi.

Even superstars make mistakes

By Ernie Harwell

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" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 85, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns entitled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling (800) 245-5082.



Ernie Harwell

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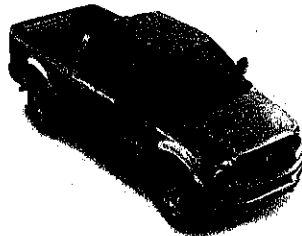
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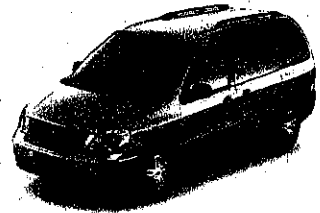
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SPORTS

B¹

Quick Hits

Northville tops Novi
The Northville Mustangs girls golf team had to take on Novi at the Wildcats' home course. In the past, that might not have been a big deal, but this year the Wildcats are much improved and had a decent showing. Northville had a better one with some of their top players coming through for them yet again. Novi wasn't the only team Northville beat. The Mustangs also filled an open date on their schedule with a match against the South Lyon Lions at Downing Farms. The result? Northville had their best showing of the season thus far and are looking to improve their game even more.
— See Page B3 for details

Good cause and good bread

So you want to run, do you? Oh, and you want to raise some money for a good cause while you're doing it? Well, we have just the answer for you — the Solstice Run.

In its second year of existence, the Solstice Run is currently accepting registrations for runners in its summer event. Last year, the impressive turnout during the inaugural year produced \$12,000 for Northville Parks and Recreation. This year, just imagine what it could raise with your help.

The race will be having a promotional stop at Great Harvest Bread Company in Northville, located on East Main Street across from the band shell. There, prospective runners can pick up a race application and ask questions of legendary runner Doug Kurtis as well as Alan Whitehead.

The event will be April 24 from 9:30 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. and will give runners the chance to sign up, ask questions and even snag an autograph from Kurtis himself.

Don't miss out on the race event, the autographs or even the tasty bread that owners David and Julia Cole produce for your taste buds' delight.

Did you know?

The Northville-Novi Colts are expanding? Due to the high volume of interested participants each and every year, they cheer-leading and football squads have decided to allow an increased number of individuals to join their ranks.

As many of you know, the Northville-Novi Colts have a strong tradition in this area and to become a part of that is nothing to scoff at. Sports teaches team work, leadership and responsibility to our youth. Why not let your kid in on some of the action too?

— Full Story, Page B2

Underclassman Scores

Freshman Softball Overall Record: 2-0
The Novi freshman girls softball team won both ends of its doubleheader against Howell last week, 20-7 and 19-5. Pitcher Rachel Burris struck out 19 batters and ripped a home-run and a triple.
Amanda Diacono also clocked a homerun, as part of an 8-for-8 day with six RBI. Emily Jilg and Kristen Lowney each hit a triple and a double, while Kelly Hogan and Amy Bielski chipped in with doubles.

NOVI NEWS

hometownlife.com

Thursday, April 15, 2004



Four Novi Wildcats tennis players gather after a recent tournament. Most currently, the Wildcats topped cross-town rival Northville in a tightly-contested matchup.

Courtesy Photo

Wildcats top 'Stangs

Close meet comes down to final match

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It was as close as they come in terms of winning and losing in tennis.

The Northville Mustangs tennis team, coached by Chris Ford, knew they would have their hands full against cross-town rival Novi, which is coached by Jim Hanson. What neither team expected was the fact that they would make it such a close contest.

In the end, it was the Wildcats of Novi that escaped with the non-conference win, beating out Northville 5-3.

"It was a very close game," Ford said. "It came right down to the wire."

That it did. The Wildcats and the Mustangs were pretty much evenly matched from head to toe, with both squads bringing plenty of experience and talent to the table.

In the first singles match-up, senior Suraj Ramachandran squared off against Northville

"The winning team in this one was going to be the team that made the fewest mistakes."

Jim Hanson
Novi Tennis Coach

junior Jason Spruit. Ramachandran brought his state-tournament experience to the court and escaped with a convincing 6-1, 6-0 win over his opponent.

In two singles, Northville senior Brian Bessette just couldn't get the best of Novi junior Prasanna Venugopal. The Wildcat earned a tough-fought 6-2, 6-1 win over his Northville foe.

Three singles went to the Mustangs. Chris Irvine, a junior, slammed out a 6-3, 6-3 victory over freshman Wildcat Roshan Ramachandran. The victory must have inspired Ashlyn Saltz of Northville. Though the junior didn't win, he fought a 6-2, 7-6(4) duel with sophomore Kyle Goodman.

In one doubles play, the Mustangs got the edge on the Wildcats. Seniors Matt Lewicki and Jackson Knoll scraped together a 7-5, 6-4 win over Novi seniors Drew Doster and James Pourach.

The results weren't the same in two of the next three doubles matches. The victor took the upper hand in three set matches across the board, forcing some of the tightest play either of these teams will see all year.

"The winning team in this one was going to be the team that made the fewest mistakes," Hanson said. "Northville played hard, but we managed to get some tough wins away from

them."

In the second flight of doubles play, Kevin Lai, a freshman, and sophomore Eric McQueen of Novi topped senior Jeremy Reisman and junior Colin Ackerman, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4.

In the third doubles flight, Northville seniors Nate McMillan and Lance Dehne topped junior Richie Fetters and senior Jeff Korby, 6-7, 6-1, 6-2.

With one more flight left, the Mustangs and Wildcats knew it all came down to this. Novi sophomore Ryan Heffernan and junior Justin Namm escaped the barrage of seniors Bret Bathune and Varun Shekhar for a 2-6, 7-6(5), 6-3 victory.

"That was the kind of meet that could go either way," Ford said. "Both teams played good tennis matches."

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

Continued on B2

'Cats quickly restoring faith in program

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

If they won, they made a statement that they could compete in Division I. If they lost, they just reaffirmed what was being said about Novi lacrosse losing its once-well-known lethal style of play.

So they went out and won. The Wildcats lacrosse team, which is coached by Brad Muston, earned a 9-7 victory over Division I foe Catholic Central in a game that was not nearly as close as the score indicated.

"We were leading 9-3 in the fourth quarter and they scored a couple of goals," Muston said. "We weren't concerned about it."

In fact, Muston wasn't concerned about his defense at all,

which has been doing a swell job keeping opponents below double digit scoring.

"Keeping a team below double digits is a sign your defense is doing its job," Muston noted.

And it doesn't help to have a pretty darn good goalie either. Junior Corey Simone had 17 saves for a 74-percent save rate in the contest.

The Wildcats knew their defense was going to do its job, but Muston wanted to sit down and talk with his potential offensive producers.

"I had a talk with my attackmen," Muston said. "I told them that any attackman that wants to start on my team should score four goals a game. That's what they score in Division I and that's what any good attackman can score."

And so far, the Wildcats

haven't had to worry

about who was going to answer that call.

Junior Jeff

Policicchio scored four goals and three assists in the winning effort. Kevin Gee added one goal and two assists in the contest, as did sophomore midfielder John Favorite. Junior Attack Parker Beard added two goals in the fierce offensive production, while junior defenseman Sean Costello added one goal.

The Wildcats also benefited from some serious play at the center of the field as Favorite and junior Robbie Carter teamed up to win 9-of-19 face offs for

Novi.

"We're averaging about 60-percent right now," Muston said on face offs wins. "I'd like to improve on that."

And improve on penalties is probably something else he'd like to see. Novi collected six penalties in the game. Jacob Haf, Kyle Safford, Brad Hunt, Carier, Costello and Jason Erickson each had one penalty in the contest.

Shots on goal were no doubt a deciding factor in the game as well.

The Wildcats kept the Shamrock defense and goalie quite busy as they put up 35 shots on goal — 11 of which came from Policicchio and eight from Beard.

The performances the Wildcats, who are now 2-1, have put forth must be almost enough

to convince their fans that they could compete in Division I again — not to mention they've done a good job appeasing their expectant fans.

"I would absolutely say yes," Muston responded when asked if he thought his squad was living up to the expectations of fans and critics alike.

"I haven't seen one kid on the team show any kind of give up or lay down attitude like I heard was going on in the past. Every kid is always going 100 percent and I'm very pleased."

"We're taking steps forward, and that's the most important thing."

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.

Mike Hart

Senior

Baseball

Some have to start wondering if there's anything Mike Hart can't do. Can he throw a football? Yes. Can he throw a baseball? Yes. Can he play basketball? Yes. How about yodel? Ummm... ok, maybe there are some things Hart can't do, but on the baseball diamond he's been on the money thus far this year and will probably keep doing so.



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Maureen Pawlak

Senior

Soccer

Just how good is the player that is simply referred to as "Mo"? How about as good as just seven others have managed to be. Pawlak notched her 100th goal early this year, making her just number eight in the world of girls' soccer in good old Michigan to reach the century mark. The next step? Well, she and her Wildcats are no doubt looking to win the KVC — and then they'll start thinking about the post-season.



SPORTS SHORTS

Northville Mustangs football meeting

The Northville Mustangs football team will hold a meeting for players and parents April 27 at 7 p.m. in the forum at Northville High School. The meeting is open to all interested players, as well as interested eighth grade students. It is a chance to meet the coaches and to learn about the Northville football program.

For more information, call Bill or Judy Prain at (248) 348-2073.

Learn to Skate/Tot Time

The Arts & 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 Synchro Director, Erin Donovan at erin@hockette.com or Donovan's team member Dominic Durant at (734) 434-7076.

Kickball League

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 kickball league. The league starts May 14 with an entry fee of \$20 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, double-headers are even on the agenda this season of all out kickball action.

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

Wildcats get first victory

It was a game that each and every member of the Novi Wildcats softball team knew they could put together.

The Cats, who are coached by Kevin Sutherland in his first season of the varsity level, put up a 7-3 victory over the Walled Lake Northern Knights for their first win of the season.

"The team played solid defense and Alyssa Wagner pitched a good game," Sutherland said of the contest.

A good game could be considered a slight understatement on his part. The stellar junior hurler, who will face the team of the games on the mound this year, tossed just four hits while whiffing 13 batters.

On the offensive end of the game, the Wildcats looked like a team determined to escape with the victory. Sarah Thelen, who has been a member of the varsity squad through her entire high school career, went 3-for-4 with two triples and a single. Courtney Kolb also went 3-for-4, slapping three singles to help her squad to victory.

The only home run of the game came off the powerful swing of senior slugger Kim Zaregynski, who went 2-for-4 at the plate and added a single for scoring hit. Beth Ballo also went 2-for-4 while at bat, cranking out two singles in the winning effort.

The Wildcats will be back in action after resting themselves during Spring Break. The squad is slated to take on a slew of talented team at the Tecumseh Invitational April 17 at 9 a.m. before visiting Brighton April 21 at 4 p.m.

Wildcats haven't been stopped on diamond

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

There doesn't seem to be anyone who is going to stand in the way of the Novi Wildcats baseball team this year.

Sure, the team can be beat — every team can be beat. It's just that no team has been able to find out how as yet.

The Wildcats, who are coached by Rick Green, continued their hunt for the Kensington Valley Conference title as well as a slew of other goals as they topped the Lakeland Eagles 11-1 after beating Walled Lake Central 10-0 and Troy Athens in both games of a double header.

Against KVC rival Lakeland, the game was all about Mike Bart from the mound. He pitched a four-hitter with four strikeouts on his way to earning the win. Kerry Krantzberg slammed a two-run blast on an impressive day at bat while Chris Scott was simply perfection at the plate. Scott went 3-for-3 with one RBI.

The victors, pushed the Wildcats to 6-0 overall and 2-0 in the Kensington Valley Conference after an earlier win over Howell helped put them in first place in the league running.

Against Walled Lake Central, the Wildcats were looking to make some noise with their bats. The loudest crack came from the swing of Zach Flavin, who cranked out two home runs including a three-run homer that helped account for his best RBIs on the day. Doug Benton added three more RBIs with a solid performance at bat as he went 2-for-3 in offensive production.

On the mound, the Wildcats led the way as the whiffed three batters and allowed just three hits in the no-runs allowed showing.

As if cranking out those wins weren't enough for the Wildcats, they showed that double headers don't bother them either. The squad took on a traditionally tough Troy Athens squad and came away with two wins, 15-3, 9-5. The dual games, which were played at "home" at South Lyon, found Novi's Matt Nickels lighting it up from the plate as he went 5-for-6 with three RBIs and crossing the plate five times on runs scored. Flavin, who is looking to lead the conference in homers this year, cranked out an impressive blast and allowed six to score for the Wildcats. Scott also had a home run on the day to help pound Athens.

The Wildcats will be back in action when they "host" Detroit Country Day April 19 at 4 p.m. The game will be played at Ford Field in Northville. Then, Novi will be back in the hunt for the Kensington Valley Conference crown for the fifth-straight year when they visit the Brighton Bulldogs April 21 at 4 p.m.

NOVI PUBLIC NEWS
Novi undefeated



The Novi Wildcats baseball team is more than happy to get together for this team picture. The squad, which is coached by Rick Green, has jumped out to a 6-0 start overall and is leading the Kensington Valley Conference with a 2-0 record with wins over Lakeland and Howell.

Country Day April 19 at 4 p.m. Kensington Valley Conference crown for the fifth-straight year when they visit the Brighton Bulldogs April 21 at 4 p.m.

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'Cats dominate Novi Relays

Continued from B1

4-by-1600 event with a 19:39.9 while Alberts, Samer, Brendan Newble and Andrew Lee, went the shortest hurdles in 1:08.

In the spirit medley, Brad Sison started the Wildcats off on their way to victory, followed by David Carnegie,

and Moore were the key members of that winning squad.

"They beauty of the relays is that it teaches the guys to be part of a team instead of competitors on their own team," Smith said. "It makes them encourage their teammates instead of trying to beat a teammate."

Robert Duquette and Amol Huprikar for a time of 3:54.1. In the 4-by-800, Ornes and Moore flanked freshmen Kip Miller and Richard Moore and led them to victory in 9:00.7.

The final victory for Novi came in the distance medley with a time of 11:39.4. Mark DuFresne, Bo Xiao, Huprikar

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National Champions!

Northville tops Novi Wildcats

Mustang golf still looking to shave strokes off overall scores

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Both teams were well aware of the fact that there is still much improvement that needs to be made — thankfully it is still very early in the season.

The Northville Mustangs escaped with a 187-212 victory over their cross-town rivals in the ever-improving Novi Wildcats last week.

"They have some very good players," Northville coach Trish Murray said of the Mustangs. "It was one of their first matches of the year and ours too. There's just a feeling of nervousness at this point in the year. Everyone just has to settle into their gear."

The Mustangs and the Wildcats showed that they are both capable of putting up some good numbers. Leading the way for the victorious Northville squad was Layne Scherer with a 41. Novi's leader was senior Laura Vaughn, who shot a 48.

Northville also turned in a 47

'Stangs fill open date with victory

The Northville Mustangs had a date to fill and what better to fill it with than yet another round of golf?

Of course, that's why their one of the top competitors on the courses this year — because they love the game they play.

The Mustangs, who are coached by Trish Murray, filled an open slot with a scrimmage against the South Lyon Lions and came away successful with a 169-223 pounding of their cross-conference foes.

"The course was actually in really good shape," Murray said of Downing Farms. "This time of year, you practically swim at most courses. I had my winter boots on an everything. The girls were all laughing at me."

But no one was laughing at their scores. The Mustangs shot a 169 — which is just seven strokes off the school record.

"I feel pretty good about the spot we're in right now," Murray said.

Leading Northville was Therese Juthage, who shot a 39 to help her squad to a nice finish. Layne Scherer and Andrea Phillips each put up a 42, while Mickey Snyder and Allison Grant carded a 46 each.

— By Sam Eggleston

NORTHVILLE-NOVI COLTS NEWS

The Northville Novi Colts Youth Football and Cheerleading programs are expanding for the 2004 seasons to allow for more participants. This educational and fun program is available to boys and girls from ages 8 through 14, with certain weight and residency restrictions.

New registration forms will be accepted in fill available spots effective through May 1 at 11 a.m. Registration forms are available at both the Novi Civic Center located on 10 Mile Road just south of Taft and at the Northville Parks & Recreation Department located at Hillsdale Middle School at 8 Mile and Center. You can also download forms from our web site www.nordvillecolts.com and mail them.

A lottery drawing will take place May 1 at 11 a.m. at the Novi Civic Center. All new registrations will be drawn randomly. If a team becomes full, the remainder of registrations will be placed on a waiting list. All individuals will be notified of the results of the lottery drawing. You need not be present to participate in the lottery process.

Members of the Colts organization will be present at the Novi Civic Center May 1 from 9 a.m. until noon to answer questions. You may also contact the following individuals with questions about the program and registration process:

Football: Renee & Bill Ince, (248) 349-6734
Cheerleading: Brenati Polanski, (248) 374-0897

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Mustangs go easy on Edsel Ford

Sometimes, you just have to go easy on your opponents.

That was the case when the Northville Mustangs baseball team took on Dearborn Edsel Ford in a double header last week. Northville won both games convincingly, 11-1 and 12-8.

"Game one was all about Doug Thomssen," Northville coach Mickey Newman said.

Thomssen went all five innings in a mercy victory as he had no earned runs, allowed just two hits and two walks and struck out eight.

Northville leapt out to an 8-0 lead in the first inning off of key hits by Brett Aster and a bases-loaded double by sophomore Charlie Thomas that drove in three runs.

"That really helped us out," Newman said. "They're definitely not as deep as we are in either pitching or hitting."

In game two, the contest was much closer. Aster went four innings on the mound and earned the win. He was relieved by Dave Van Horn, Andrew Smith and Mark Sorensen before the day was done.

Northville scored five runs in the combined showing of the fifth and sixth inning with the benefit of yet another double by Thomas with bases loaded the drive in three runs. Thomas went 4-for-4 in the contest.

"I had a great game," Newman said. "It was a great day for a young kid. We expect some good things from him."

Sorensen went 2-for-3 and scored two runs while knocking two doubles off the pitching staff. Brendan Buckley had another solid performance, going 1-for-3, scoring two runs and sealing numerous bases.

"We could have stolen bases all day," Newman said. "Their catcher couldn't throw to second base without hitting the ground. We could have stolen 25 bases easily."

But, like any true sportsman, the Mustangs were more content with going easy on a fellow baseball team.

— By Sam Eggleston

TRYOUTS

Basketball Club Tryouts

The NOYS Basketball Club will hold its annual tryouts April 27 and April 28 at Northville High School.

Players currently in fifth, sixth or seventh grade will have their tryout from 6-7:30 p.m. each night while current eighth, ninth, 10th and 11th graders will be required to tryout from 7:30-9 p.m. on those same nights.

Questions? Call (248) 348-6677 for more information.

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Worship Services: 8:30 a.m. (11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays)
Church: 349-3140 School: 349-3146
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.
Consecrated Service of 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
200 E. Main St. at Hudson (248) 311-0500
Worship Services: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Children's Church: 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Singer Place Ministry: Thurs. 7:30 p.m.
Rev. James P. Kuehl, Associate Pastor

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH
770 Hayes Northville
Worship Services: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Religious Education: 349-2809
Rev. Terrence Kenney, Pastor

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
21555 Meadowbrook, 2 1/2 miles N of I-76
Worship Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday School: 9 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Ministry: Rev. G. S. Wall Hunt
Minister: Rev. G. S. Wall Hunt
Ministry of Music: Patrick Kuhl

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
9 Mile & Meadowbrook
Worship Services: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Adult Bible Class: 8:50 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Thomasi E. Schrage, Pastor: 349-4565

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL (Anglican)
3611 1st
10 Mile between 1st & 2nd, Novi
Phone: 349-1175
Sun. 7:45 & 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Sunday School & Nursery: 10 a.m.
Rev. Karen Henry, Pastor
www.churchoftheholycross.com

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
3611 1st
8 Mile & 1st
Worship Services: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Rev. John Hee
Rev. Jenelle Bady

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
4400 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-349-2345
12 1/2 mile west of Novi Rd.
Dr. Richard J. Henderson, Pastor
Worship & Church School: 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday

ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI
46325 10 Mile Rd.
Phone: 482-2434
Worship: 8:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Reverend George Chazy, Pastor
248-349-7797

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
2925 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48217
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun. 7:30 a.m.
8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.
Holy Days: 9 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
Fr. John G. Budde, Pastor
10 Mile between Woodward & Center
Pastor Office: 349-8847

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Web site: 200.com

WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. James H. Middleton, Senior Pastor
Worship Services: 7:30, 10:15, 11:30 a.m.
Sunday School & Nursery: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service: 7:30 p.m.
Live Service Broadcast: 10:30 AM (11:00 a.m.)

BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
12745 20th Ave. Northville, MI 48166
Phone: 349-2200
3400 W. 10 Mile Farmington Rd., MI (248) 478-6820
(1/2 mile S of Woodward, N. side of 8 Mile)
Sunday Morning Worship: 8:30 & 10:45 AM
Sunday School (All Ages): 9:30 AM

HARVEST FELLOWSHIP
49339 Pontiac Trail
Livonia
248-928-8332
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
32225 6th Road
Between Grand River & Freedom
Worship Services: 8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Contemporary Service: 10:30 A.M.
9:15 traditional 11:15 Contemporary
Sunday School 10:30
Dorothy Cowie, Pastor
Stephen Bock, Interim

CROSSPOINT MEADOWS CHURCH
Pastor: Danny L. Langley
Traditional Service: 8:00 A.M.
Contemporary Service: 10:30 A.M.
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248-444-7755
crosspointmeadows.org

CHURCH DIRECTORY

For information regarding rates call The Novi Record or Novi News (248) 349-1700

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

4B

Novi News

Thursday, April 15, 2004

Businesses plead for health care assistance

It's impossible these days to avoid advertisements for the latest abdominal shapers or aerobics machines, not to mention the guaranteed weight-loss gimmicks. Judging by the audiences that tune in the mega-sports events such as March Madness, one would think that America is a nation obsessed with fitness and physical activity.

But that's a false assumption, says the U.S. Department of Human Services, which notes that fitness problems such as obesity have reached epidemic proportions in the United States.

Faced with unlimited options for comfort, an over-abundance of food and entertainment delivered right to our overstuffed recliners, we Americans are gorging ourselves on the good life. We deserve it, we rationalize, because we work hard and spend long hours at our chosen occupations.

It's also virtually impossible these days to avoid advertisements and news reports about another favorite American contact sport, the upcoming Nov. 2 election. Like March Madness, November Nottiness has become a made-for-television event filled with fouls, fights and free throws.

But this is no spectator sport. It calls for participation. Unfortunately, the participants — registered voters — may head for the exits before the final playoff begins. Four years ago, barely half of the nation's voting age population of 205 million people even bothered to show up at the polls. Like our weakening physical condition, we are also in danger of letting our political muscles atrophy.

That's one reason the National Federation of Independent Business is about to launch a fitness program for small-business owners and politicians alike that is not based on a passing fad, but whose roots can be found in a document more than 200 years old. The First Amendment to the Constitution, better known for its protection of free speech, also asserts our national right "to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Small businesses in America have a big grievance: conditions preventing them from obtaining fair and affordable health-insurance coverage for their employees and themselves have become unbearable. In the last decade, employer-sponsored health coverage has changed dramatically. Premium increases, which were virtually non-existent in the mid-1990s, have re-emerged with a vengeance. In 2003, increases of 15 percent to 20 percent were common.

To ensure that the increasingly grim health-insurance picture for small business is clearly understood by those who will be facing voters in November, NFIB is preparing a nationwide effort to petition the government, primarily the U.S. Senate, to pass legislation allowing small businesses to band together to purchase affordable health insurance.

The Senate, having swallowed a heaping helping of hokum by labor unions, big businesses, liberal health groups and state officials threatened by the idea of Small-Business Health Plans, has let its legislative system become clogged.

By exercising their political muscle with a national petition drive, small-business owners are going to send politicians a strong message that obtaining fair and affordable health coverage is their Number-One priority. They will hold those who fail to shape up accountable on Election Day.

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

Story idea?

Send it to:
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104 W. Main
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Advertorial



Photo by Hal Gould

Tom Thesier's sons, Bill (left) and Jim Thesier, lead the charge for customer service at Thesier Equipment on Pontiac Trail in South Lyon.

Thesier Equipment gives trustworthy service

When you are investing in lawn and garden equipment, it makes sense to look for the best deal. But price alone isn't enough these days. What you also want is reliability, top notch service, and a company you can trust.

Thesier Equipment Co. has been a fixture in the South Lyon community since Tom Thesier first opened the business in 1965. Now the next generation has followed in his footsteps and continues the family reputation for quality sales and service. Tom's sons, Bill and Jim Thesier, their wives, Mary and Patt, along with Bill's daughter, Sara, lead a staff of 18 employees in the family-held business.

"Customers tell us that, when they come here, they're treated with respect, and we take the time to care for their needs properly," said Jim Thesier. "Our staff is more professional, and most of our core group has been with us 10 years, plus."

Bill Thesier adds, "It's a family atmosphere here... it's like we're one big family."

Thesier is a major dealer for the John Deere Equipment Company, which carries one of the broadest lines of lawn, garden, and landscaping products. The reliability of the product is one reason Thesier represents the company.

While you can find John Deere products at the big box stores, Jim notes that Thesier carries the same models at the same price, which is due to contractual agreements with the John Deere Company. The difference, however, can

be found in Thesier's customer service.

"The advantages are the service we provide behind the product. We deliver it to the customer, and during the warranty period we include free transportation if there is ever a warranty problem," Jim said. "The other stores don't have a parts and service department. So, during the life of the machine, you are dealing with just one company. And," he added, "We are experts in what we do because we have been doing it for so long."

Inside the store and at the outdoor displays are a wide range of full-size tractors, tractor attachments, commercial mowers, and walk-behind equipment such as mowers, blowers, and spreaders. All the hand-held tools needed for gardening and landscaping are also displayed, such as trimmers, chain saws, blowers, cut off saws, power pruners, hedge trimmers and tillers. Thinking ahead to next winter, Thesier is the place for snow equipment, such as truck blades, salt spreaders and snow-melting products. And there are also fun accessories and even replica toys made to scale for the young at heart.

"There are people that come in every year to get a John Deere hat, or to let the kids sit on the equipment," Bill said.

Now that spring has finally decided to make an appearance, it might be wise to get the mower or tractor in top running condition. Thesier is the place to go for seasonal tune-ups. "Some want us to do it for them, and others want to do it themselves," observed Jim.

For those who are of the do-it-yourself

variety, Thesier offers a tune-up kit and all the accessories needed to get your lawn and garden equipment in top shape.

John Deere is not the only major brand name that Thesier Equipment carries. They also offer other reliable resources such as Scag power equipment, Sthl chain saws, LandPride landscaping and agri-maintenance equipment, Curtis tractor cab systems, Redmax commercial power equipment, Bobcat, Kawasaki, Toro walk behind mowers and Briggs and Stratton, to name a few. Thesier also carries a number of brands of zero-turn-radius mowers in a variety of sizes.

When it comes to Thesier's well-known service, it's not just limited to the big names — they will repair any make or model.

"Our philosophy is that if they meet us, try us, and like us, maybe they'll like our products as well," Jim said.

Thesier Equipment is also one of the few businesses that will come to the customer's home to pick up equipment for repair — a great convenience for those with a busy schedule or who don't have the ability to bring in their equipment. Thesier will also provide on-site demonstrations of their products.

Bill Thesier points out they have a large service shop and well-trained technicians to repair, weld, maintain and adjust any equipment. Replacement parts are available for all the brands they sell as well as a wide variety of oils, fluids and filters. In addition, Thesier custom makes hydraulic hoses and battery cables.

DETAILS

You'll find exceptional service, including pickup and delivery, at Thesier Equipment Co. The company has been ranked as one of the top 25 John Deere dealers nationwide every year since 1985, and is located at 28342 Pontiac Trail in South Lyon, just one mile south of I-96.

Call toll-free (800) 870-9791 or (248) 437-2091.

Check out their Web site at www.greentractors.com.

Hours at Thesier Equipment are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Other maintenance tasks they can perform include sharpening mower blades and chain saw chains and repairing small tractor tires. Winter storage is also offered as a service to those with limited space.

Used equipment, leasing options, and on-site financing are other customers options.

Thesier Equipment customers are not only residential homeowners and landscapers, but also governmental organizations such as schools and parks and recreation departments.

"We want your business for the long-term," Jim said. "Our customers are people, not just a sale."

"Our philosophy is that if they meet us, try us, and like us, maybe they'll like our products as well. We want your business for the long-term. Our customers are people, not just a sale."

Jim Thesier

Son of Tom Thesier, who opened Thesier Equipment Co. in 1965



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Autos Under \$2000 (8780)	CAPRICE Classic , 1988 rebuilt motor, no rust, needs flywheel. \$250. (248) 535-1188	FORD 1993 PROBE - 168K needs suspension work \$1,000. (248) 349-5237	PLYMOUTH 1993 COLT 4 dr. auto, air, ps/tp, CD, 3.8L. Runs & looks good. 150K. \$1500/best. (248) 669-1872
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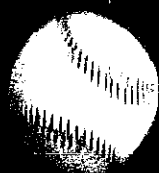
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Ask American Profile

Q I would like to write to Dick Wolf, the creator of *Law & Order*. May I have his address? What can you tell us about him?

—Thelma D., Virginia
A New York City native, Wolf got his start as an advertising copywriter, and eventually turned his talents to writing screenplays. He made his first foray into television police drama as a writer for *Hill Street Blues*, and went on to work on *Miami Vice* as executive producer. He also wrote the prep school-based movie *School Ties*. (Wolf has his own prep school background, attending Andover at the same time as President George W. Bush.) But it was *Law & Order* and its multiple spin-offs that have made him a household name. "When I was growing up," Wolf told *The Boston Phoenix* a few years back, "there were cop shows like *The Defenders* and *Naked City*, and the great thing about them was how real they were. *Law & Order* is a direct descendent of those shows, and it's the most ambitious show I've worked on. But beyond that, it has been an instrument for telling stories in a totally different way than I've ever been able to tell them before." You can write to Wolf at Universal Studios, 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, CA, 91608.



Dick Wolf started as an advertising copywriter.

dries. But, Gill, a father of two daughters who is married to singer Amy Grant, promises with a hint of Arnold Schwarzenegger, "I'll be back!" In the meantime, he's involved in a number of projects, including a studio reunion of the Cherry Berris, Rodney Crowell's old backup band, with Crowell, keyboardist Tony Brown, and steel guitar player Hank DeVito. The idea sprang from Crowell's appearance on a Gill showcase in 2002. "Rodney called the next day and said, 'Hey man, I was so inspired last night,'" Gill recalls. Then the band jammed for a music industry function, and they all knew they wanted to make an album together. "There's something about being with those guys that makes me the most comfortable I ever feel playing music," Gill says. "Rodney's my hero." No release date has been announced.

Q What's happened to Selma Blair? I haven't seen her in anything since last year's *A Guy Thing*.

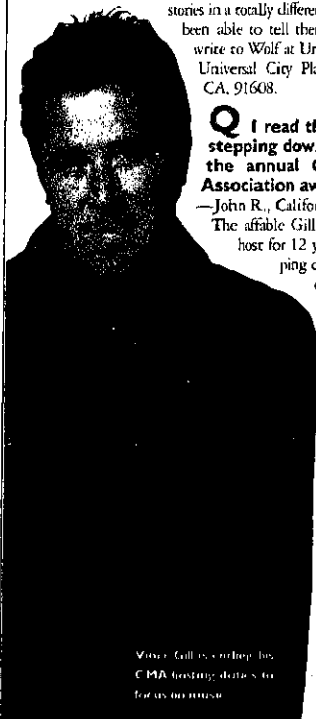
—Louise S., Pennsylvania
She's been busy. In January, after a six-month courtship, the 31-year-old actress married *Star Search* judge Ahmet Zappa, 29, son of the late rocker Frank Zappa. And, the *Cruel Intentions* star has a trio of films scheduled for release this year—the comedy-romance *Hating Her*, with Bridget Moynahan and Blythe Danner; *Helley*, an action-adventure/sci-fi flick co-starring Ron Perlman and John Hurt; and the comedic *A Dirty Shame*, with Tracey Ullman, Johnny Knoxville and Chris Isaak. Blair says she yearns for more dramatic parts, but has learned to appreciate her affinity for the lighter side of life. "I feel like nothing's worth telling unless it haunts somebody," she explains, "but I know I'd rather laugh than be haunted, so I need to keep that in mind." ✨



Selma Blair stars in three upcoming films.

Q I read that Vince Gill is stepping down as the host of the annual Country Music Association awards. Why?

—John R., California
The affable Gill, the award show's host for 12 years, says he's stepping down to concentrate on his music. A song from his 2003 album, *Nash Big Thing*, was nominated for a Grammy, but ignored by CMA voters, who perhaps take the easygoing entertainer for granted. "My greatest fear is that I'll walk out there and people will start rolling their eyes like, 'Oh great, not him again,'" he joked last year about his hosting



Vince Gill is stepping down as CMA award show host to focus on his music.

* Cover photo by David Mudd

■ Would you like to know more about your favorite celebrity or public figure?

Send your questions to: Ask American Profile, 341 Cool Springs Blvd., Suite 400, Franklin, TN 37067 or e-mail us at askus@americanprofile.com.

The volume of mail received prohibits us from giving personal replies through e-mail or other means.

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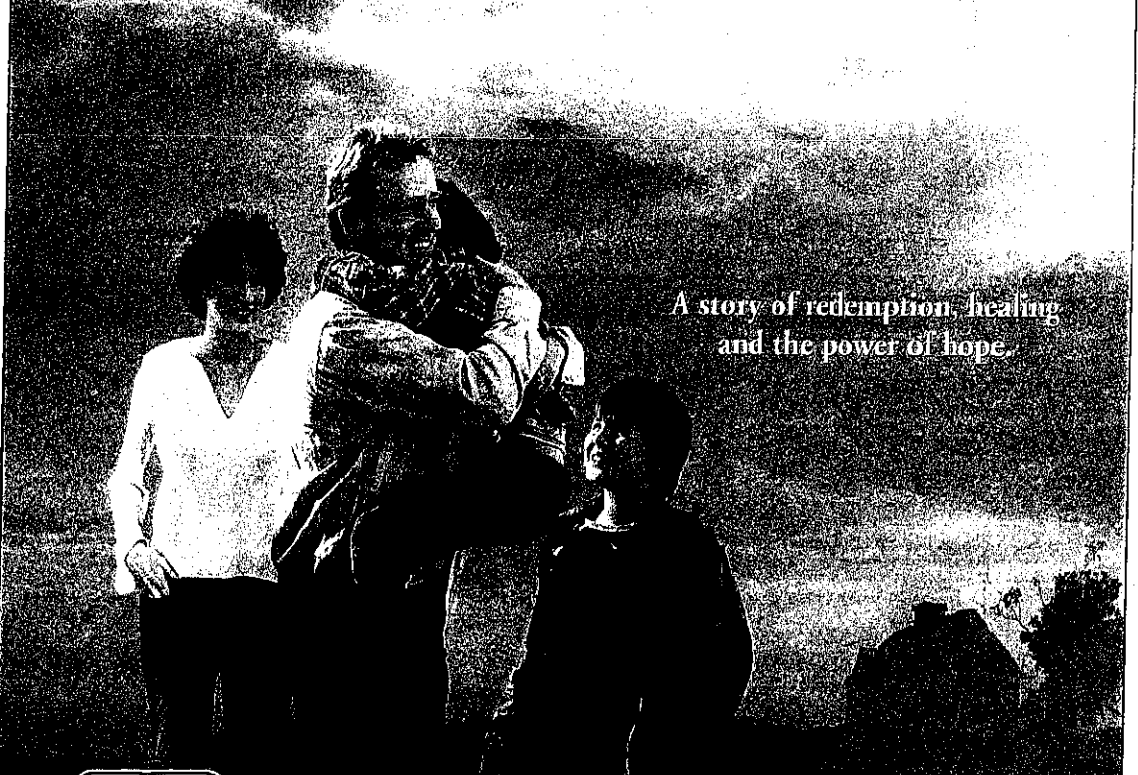
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SUNDAY APRIL 25 9/8c



Cover Story

The hit novelist builds a ballpark and scores a home run

John Grisham's

Field of Dreams

Although novelist John Grisham has created some unforgettable places in his best-selling legal thrillers, perhaps none is more magical than Cove Creek Park, the real-life Little League baseball park that he built amidst Virginia's Blue Ridge mountains.

Cove Creek Park, where Grisham serves as commissioner, is heaven on earth for the boys and girls in Coveseville, Va., and surrounding communities south of Charlottesville. With its seven impeccably manicured fields lined with crushed gravel warning tracks, the 40-acre Cove Creek Park rivals the best Little League facilities in the nation.

However, few parks come close to the breathtaking surroundings offered by Cove Creek, nestled among three expansive mountain ridges. This lush protective border creates a quiet stillness that's only dissipated by the soft rhythm of water sprinklers and light melodies of chirping birds.

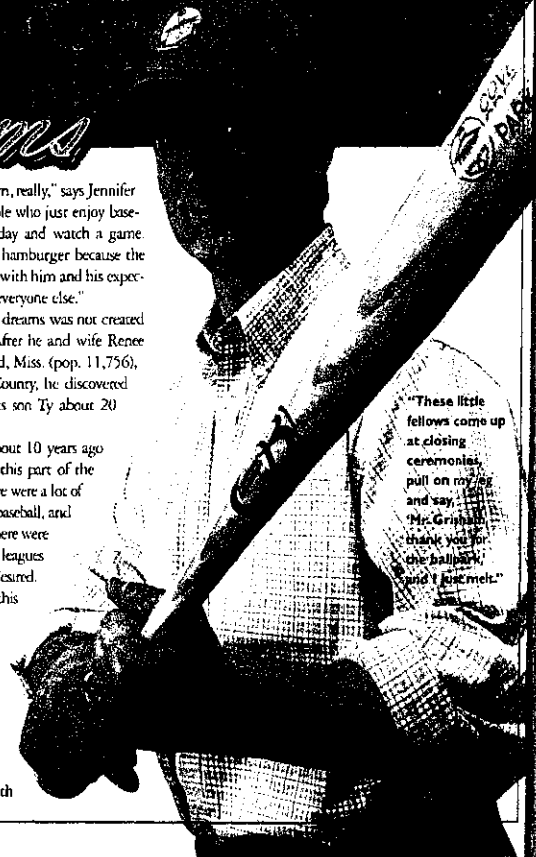


"It's like walking into a dream, really," says Jennifer Williams, park manager. "People who just enjoy baseball will come out on a Saturday and watch a game. They'll come get a hot dog or hamburger because the atmosphere is good. That starts with him and his expectations and it trickles down to everyone else."

However, Grisham's field of dreams was not created from fantasy, but frustration. After he and wife Renee moved their family from Oxford, Miss. (pop. 11,756), to Virginia's rural Albemarle County, he discovered that he would have to drive his son Ty about 20 miles to play Little League.

"It was born out of anger about 10 years ago because there were no fields in this part of the county," says Grisham, 49. "There were a lot of kids here who were not playing baseball, and there is not a lot of flat land, so there were not a lot of fields. Some of the leagues here, I thought, left a lot to be desired. I got mad and started building this place."

He purchased 100 acres, dynamited the hilly terrain and opened Cove Creek Park in 1996. His son played baseball and his daughter, Shea, played softball there until they got too old for the youth



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LOOSE
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4 Cl (SRF)
3 Cl (SRF)
2 Cl (SRF)
1 Cl (SRF)
Shapes:
Round, M
Oval, Pear
"Cl" = car

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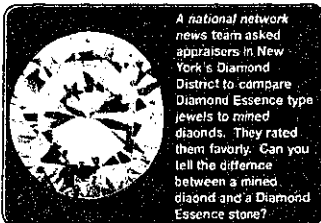
Look at This Chart

Compare Diamond Essence masterpieces against mined diamonds for the properties the diamond industry uses to measure diamond quality.

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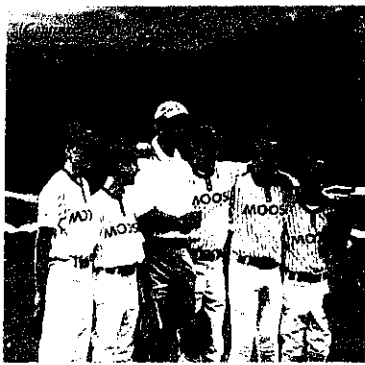
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Grisham joins young actors during a break on the set of *Mickey*.

leagues. Grisham has fronted the entire bill for the multi-million dollar project. "Every year, there's a nice deficit and I cover that and I'm happy to do it," he says. "It's never going to break even. I gave up that dream a long time ago."

Commissioner Grisham kicked off the opening ceremonies of the 2004 season this month after several months of coaches' meetings, player tryouts and drafts—all of which he conducts. "I say pretty close to it," he says. "I still sign every check and see every invoice." He's been known to line the fields himself, and has a friendly competition with Jennifer over who can create the straightest base lines. Neither poor sportsmanship nor profanity is tolerated in the ballpark. At the end of the season, every one of the 450 girls and boys will receive a trophy.

"I am lucky to be able to spend a lot of hours at the ballpark," he says. "I really stopped working 13 years ago. I mean, I don't consider writing to be heavy lifting, and I don't write during baseball season. I write in late summer and throughout the fall and finish a book by Thanksgiving, so when the season starts, I don't do much writing."

Dreaming of Cardinals

While Grisham was growing up in small Southern towns such as Jonesboro, Ark. (pop. 55,515), and Grenshaw, Miss. (pop. 916), baseball was the center of his universe. "The whole world was at that ballpark," says Grisham, the son of a construction worker and a homemaker. "We went there almost every night, either to play or to watch."

"The old men would line up behind the backstop in their lawn chairs and correct the umpires and yell at the players. The ladies would be off in the bleachers watching, stelling peas, knitting quilts and talking about all the social activities. It's just where the whole town went."

Like every other teammate on his Little League team, Grisham dreamed of being a St. Louis Cardinal. "Always in the back-ground, there were two or three radios with (announcer) Harry Caray bringing us the Cardinals every night," he recalls.



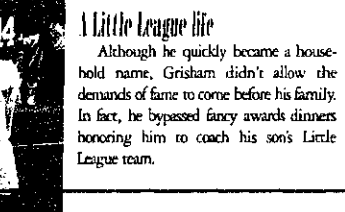
Grisham sits on a bench during a break on the set of *Mickey*.

Although Grisham was forced to set aside his childhood dream of becoming a professional baseball player, and instead found his phenomenal success in penning irresistible novels, baseball still has a firm hold on his heart. "First of all, it's the oldest organized sport; it goes back generations," he says. "The history of baseball is also the history of our country. There are records of Civil War soldiers playing baseball. Also, in areas like race relations and desegregation, baseball mirrors what happened in the country."

After working long hours as a lawyer in Oxford, Miss., Grisham's life was changed forever when his second novel, *The Firm*, became the best-selling novel in 1991 and a successful movie starring Tom Cruise. He followed that with *The Pelican Brief*, *The Client*, *The Chamber*, *The Rainmaker* and other best-selling books. Grisham's 17 books have sold more than 150 million copies in nearly 30 languages, while seven of his novels have been turned into films.

A Little League life

Although he quickly became a household name, Grisham didn't allow the demands of fame to come before his family. In fact, he bypassed fancy awards dinners honoring him to coach his son's Little League team.



Grisham sits on a bench during a break on the set of *Mickey*.



Harry Connick Jr. stars in *Mickey*.

"I kind of got away from baseball until my son came along," he says. "When he was 7, he wanted to play baseball. I had no idea what was coming and how much fun it was going to be. I coached him every year until he was about 15."

"It's a special time in a father's life; it takes you back to your childhood," he adds. "You get to relive a little bit of your childhood in such a positive way with your own kid."

He still vividly recalls the last game of the season when Ty was 12. "We were living in Oxford and I left the field and thought, 'Gosh, I can't believe this is over.' I think every senior Little League dad secretly dreams of just one more year because you just don't want your kid to grow up."

"The age of 12 is a magical year for boys playing baseball. It's the last year the kids are on the small field and they know the game and they are still little boys. After 12, they go to the big field, which is the same size field that the New York Yankees play on. So once they leave this field, they are in a whole different world of baseball."

Spurred by emotion, Grisham started wondering, "How could I do one more year?" That brainstorming led to *Mickey*, a movie starring Harry Connick Jr. as a Little League father who conspires to have one more year of Little League by concealing his son's age. Grisham wrote the screenplay and it was directed by fellow Allentown County resident Hugh Wilson. The duo financed the movie themselves and will release it later this month.

"I don't know what we were trying to do except make a real good baseball movie that both kids and adults would enjoy," he says, noting that *Mickey* was filmed at Cove Creek Park and baseball fields in Petersburg and Richmond, Va., and Williamsport, Pa.

While he's begun the outline for his next legal thriller, he'd like to write a baseball story for kids and a great baseball novel for adults. "I have been desperately waiting for the inspiration for a long time," he says. "I'm playing around with an idea right now that might work or might not work. The literature of baseball is so rich and it goes back 150 years. So many of the stories have already been done."

Despite his international acclaim, one of Grisham's proudest accomplishments is Cove Creek Park. "I don't think about a legacy," he says. "I write popular fiction and by its very nature, it tends to be forgotten fairly soon. I have no illusions of being remembered after I stop writing. I hope this place will always be here."

"I have been blessed beyond my wildest dreams, so it's easy to give back. This place is a lot of fun."

Barry Kael is an American Profile editor.

To read more from *American Profile's* interview with John Grisham, visit www.americanprofile.com.

Teaching Sportsmanship

By Alan Ross

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To read more from *American Profile's* interview with John Grisham, visit www.americanprofile.com.

Alan Ross is a freelance writer based in Boise, Ariz.

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 Can Do Walk—Peoria, May 1. Participants walk to raise \$1,000 Can Do Scholarships for graduating fourth graders at Irving Primary School. The walk begins at 10 a.m. at The Riverfront. (309) 674-8730.

INDIANA
 Arts and Crafts Fair—Greenfield, May 1. This 20th annual event features arts & crafts, live entertainment and lots of square dancing at the Hancock County 4-H Fairgrounds. (765) 763-6289.

IOWA
 Tulip Time Festival—Pella, May 6-8. Some residents wear Dutch costumes and wooden shoes during this festival featuring blooming tulips, a parade, a Dutch marketplace, and a flower show downtown. (641) 628-4311.

KANSAS
 Gem and Mineral Show—McPherson, May 7-9. This event features gems, minerals, rocks and geodes, a live auction, kids' games and a potluck supper at the 4-H McPherson County Fairgrounds. (620) 241-2433.

MICHIGAN
 Old Car Dust Off—Mendon, May 2. Browse hundreds of antique, classic and special interest cars, and enjoy a flea market, arts & crafts, and a pancake breakfast at Mendon High School. (269) 496-7525.

MINNESOTA
 Half Marathon—New Prague, May 8. Individuals and relay teams compete for trophies during this race, which features refreshments, an awards ceremony and free T-shirts for participants. (952) 758-4360.

MISSOURI
 Greater St. Louis Book Fair—Des Peres, April 29-May 3. Browse used children's, large print, antique, fiction and nonfiction books during this 55th annual event at Westfield Shoppingtown West County. (314) 533-0671.

NEBRASKA
 A Garden Gathering—Smithfield, May 1. Features more than 50 exhibitors, arts & crafts, garden programs, plants to purchase, fine arts, antiques, food and entertainment on the outskirts of town. (308) 785-2652.

NORTH DAKOTA
 Rough Rider Art Show—Williston, May 7-9. This juried show features paintings, photography and fiber arts by 50 artists, and live and silent auctions at the Airport International Inn. (800) 615-9041.

OHIO
 OOPS! Storytelling Conference—Chesterville, April 30-May 2. Features story swapping, storytelling workshops and a performance by storyteller Barbara McBride at Highland Elementary School. (216) 991-8428.

SOUTH DAKOTA
 Spring Craft Show—Belle Fourche, May 1. Browse and buy handcrafted pottery, wooden items, floral arrangements, and candles at the Belle Fourche Community Center. (888) 345-5859.

WISCONSIN
 Crane Fest—Baraboo, May 8. Celebrate the crane with crane watching tours, crane flight demonstrations, lectures, arts & crafts, and music during this event at the International Crane Foundation. (608) 356-9462.

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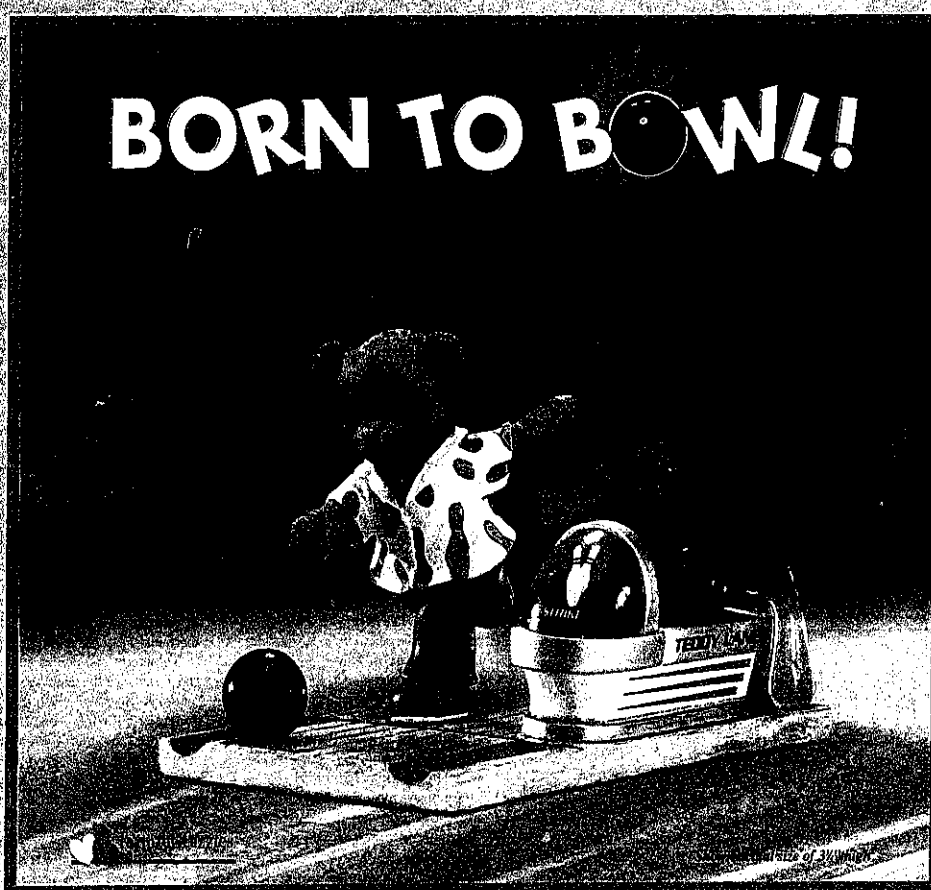
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Hometown Hero

A Big Cat's Best Friend

by KAREN KARVONEN
Photos by Steve Groer

Zeus, a 510-pound lion, sprawls on his back with his legs in the air while Pat Craig talks to him and scratches his belly. The lion is one of the dozens of animals Craig has rescued and provided a home to at the 120-acre Rocky Mountain Wildlife Conservation Center in Keenesburg, Colo. (p. 695).

Craig believes in making the animals happy at the center, one of only 17 sanctuaries in the United States that is federally licensed to house exotic felines and bears. The center, which is closed to the public, is more like a retirement home than a zoo.

With abused animals, Craig works on getting them to trust people again. Entirely self-taught, he admits he's been "knocked down, ripped up, and bit," but each time he says the animal was only issuing a warning and wasn't intending to kill him.

Craig's devotion to saving captive wildlife began 24 years ago when the 19-year-old college student took a tour of the back of a zoo. What he saw behind the main exhibit appalled him—tiny, cramped cages with a surplus of lions, tigers and bears facing euthanasia. Determined to help, he sent a letter to the nation's zoos asking if they had excess animals, which moved him to take

Interacting with Zeus



Pat Craig cradles a black leopard at the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Conservation Center.

in a few creatures on his parent's farm near Boulder, Colo. He now has more than 85 animals at the sanctuary in Keenesburg, 30 miles northeast of Denver.

The center often takes in animals that authorities have confiscated from roadside zoos or unlicensed individuals who attempt to keep them as pets. For instance, Zeus, was found starving in a garage in Denver, where he was fed only cat food.

Craig says more than 15,000 large exotic animals live outside the zoo system. Returning them to the wild is not an option, because they lack hunting skills and are accustomed to people.

"There is a crisis in the captive animal population in our country today," says Craig, who gives presentations to educate the public about the issue. In addition to running educational tours for schools, the center sends out a study curriculum to groups and teachers.

When the center was moved to Keenesburg 10 years ago, Craig invited residents to visit. Ken Barney, who's lived in Keenesburg since 1934 and has made several donations, calls Craig, "a good fellow with a good heart."

Rob Pippin, a former center volunteer, agrees. "He's working for a good cause out there, and I just wanted to help out."

Volunteers and donors such as Barney and Pippin are the mainstays of the labor-intensive program, which has an annual budget of \$400,000—one-third of which goes to feed the animals. Prior to forming a nonprofit organization, Craig and his wife, Shelley, spent their own money to fund the center because they couldn't say no to abused animals like Romeo, a 5-year-old mountain lion.

Several years ago, Romeo was found chained by his neck in a Montana backyard. Today, Romeo leaps and bounds in his 90-foot-long cage and stalks rabbits on the play area. When his topaz eyes spot Craig and he begins purring like a giant kitten and rubbing against the fence, it's hard not to imagine that he is expressing his gratitude.

Karen Korvonen is a freelance writer in Englewood, Colo.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...
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Hydrogen Peroxide for Aches, Pains and Clogged Arteries?

(SPECIAL) - Medical science has discovered that hydrogen peroxide is more than just a disinfectant, it's an amazing healer. Many doctors are using hydrogen peroxide to treat a wide variety of serious ailments such as: heart problems, clogged arteries, chest pain, allergies, asthma, migraine headaches, vascular headaches, cluster headaches, yeast infections, type II diabetes, emphysema, chronic pain syndromes, and more.

Average consumers are also discovering that hydrogen peroxide has tons of health, beauty and household uses. A new handbook called "The Amazing Health and Household Uses of Hydrogen Peroxide" is now available to the general public. It shows you home remedies using diluted hydrogen peroxide and how to mix it with ordinary household items like baking soda, lemon, vinegar and salt to help:

- Soothe ARTHRITIS PAIN
- Make SORE THROATS feel better
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- Treat ATHLETE'S FOOT
- Ease the PAIN OF RHEUMATISM
- Clear up FUNGUS and MINOR INFECTIONS
- Help treat minor BURNS
- Treat BRUISES and RASHES
- Soothe ACHING MUSCLES, JOINTS & SORE FEET

Hydrogen peroxide is truly amazing. Scientists have found it is involved in virtually all of life's vital processes. It stimulates the immune system, helps your body fight off viruses, parasites and bacteria. It also regulates hormones and is involved in the production of energy in the body's cells. That's just a few of the amazing things it does.

It's also a great alternative to harsh toxic chemicals and cleaners around the house. "The Amazing Health and Household Uses of Hydrogen Peroxide" also shows you how to make easy peroxide recipes for:

- A powerful bleaching formula for formica
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- A little known formula that really cleans old porous tubs
- A solution to help house and garden plants flourish
- Use this formula to clean your pets
- This spray keeps a leftover salad fresher
- Ever wonder what happens to meats and fish before you bring them home? Here's a safety-wash for

meat and fish

- A spray that's great for sprouting seeds
- Here's a sanitizing vegetable soak
- A denture soak that works great
- A tooth whitener that makes teeth sparkle
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- A spot lifter for coffee, tea and wine stains

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Hometown Spotlight

How Swede It Is!

by MARTI ATTOUN
Photos by Doug Wells

It may be springtime by the calendar, but it's not official in Stanton, Iowa, until sundown April 30. That's when a group of men will stroll through the streets singing a Swedish folk song heralding happier days, chirping birds, and budding flowers.

The singing of *Skons Maj* or *Beautiful May* has been a tradition in Stanton for 100 years. Donovan Sellergren, 87, knows firsthand about the last '33 and his brother, Leland Sellergren, 86, has

harmonized nearly that long. So has cousin Darland Sellergren, 83.

"We don't know of anyone else in the United States doing this," says Don Peterson, 76, president of the Stanton Historical Society. "A woman from California heard about us and asked if we had a tape of *Skons Maj* so her 94-year-old mother could hear it one more time."

Peterson's son, Stuart, 47, strolls the hilly streets with his son, Neil, 12. "People want to know where



Balladeers herald spring with a Swedish folk song in Stanton, Iowa.

they come from and this is tradition with a capital 'T,' Stuart says. "It's one of those things that makes small towns great."

Neil makes no secret of his favorite part: "free food." Indeed, food and fellowship go hand in hand in the community of 714, which prides itself on its hospitality and staying connected to its roots. About 60 percent of the residents are of Swedish ancestry and downtown shops display Swedish and English signs. Charkuteriaffar (Meat Market); Sakerher State Bank (Security State Bank); and Susie's Kok (kitchen), where \$3 buys a platter of Swedish pancakes.

Even the skyline shouts *Valkommen* (welcome). The town painted its two water towers to resemble a Swedish coffee pot and coffee cup. The towers honor native actress Virginia Christine, who portrayed Mrs. Olson and dispensed advice to newbies in 1950s Folger's coffee commercials. Coffee, Swedish coffee cake, salmon, and heaps of hors d'oeuvres greet the singers throughout the evening. Myra Johnson fills plates at Halland Village, a senior citizen housing complex named after town founder, the Rev. Bengt Magnus Halland, Johnson's late husband, Bob, was an active member of the chorus.

"I had labor induced so our daughter could be born on April 29," she says. "Bob couldn't miss singing. That would have been treason."

She adds, "This means a lot to us. We want our children to know the traditions and to do them. At home, we do our prayers in Swedish."

The town celebrates its heritage with festivals year-round. Midsommar Dag (Midsummer's Day) in June marks the arrival of summer with singing and folk dancing. Svenska skolan (Swedish school) is held in June for children, grades second through sixth, to learn the language, crafts, and culture.

The highlight of the Santa Lucia Festival in December is the crowning of the Santa Lucia queen, a high school girl who marches into the school gym wearing a crown of glowing candles and carrying a coffee pot. She spends the holiday season caroling and visiting homebound residents. As the evening progresses, singers visit the Stanton Care Center. They stroll around town. Residents step onto their porches to listen. Irene Lindner leans on her walker, smiling. Carl Johnson steps outside.

"I'm a better listener than singer," he says and claps.

Thirty-five years ago the celebration continued until 3 a.m., says John Schultz, a retired music teacher who directs the group. Farmers didn't finish in the fields until 9 p.m., so the group started late. Today, few singers farm and they're getting older.

By 10 p.m., they sing one last enthusiastic round of "Welcome, beautiful May!" and head toward home.

A chill is in the air, but make no mistake, it's springtime in Stanton, Iowa.

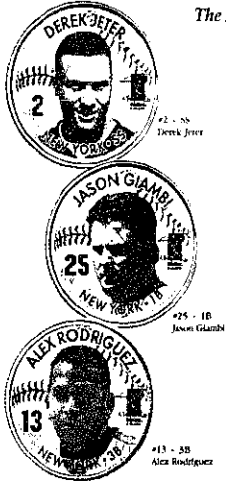
Marti Attoun is a freelance writer in Joplin, Mo.

Valkommen to Stanton
My home town
Virginia Christine
portrayed Mrs. Olson.

For more information on Stanton, call the Swedish Heritage and Cultural Center at (712) 829-2840 or log onto www.stantonia.com

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Tidbits

Did You Know...

ILLINOIS—In the 1960s, U.S. Sen. Everett Dirksen introduced legislation to adopt the marigold as the national flower. The idea didn't take root nationally, but Dirksen's hometown of Pekin (pop. 33,857) planted 2 million marigolds and became the Marigold Capital of the World.

INDIANA—Don Mattingly, six-time All-Star and nine-time Gold Glove winner for the New York Yankees between 1982 to 1995, was born April 20, 1961, in Evansville.

IOWA—The nation's first female lawyer, Arabella Babb Mansfield, was born May 23, 1846, near Burlington (pop. 26,839), and was admitted to the Iowa bar in 1869.

KANSAS—Black squirrels are protected in Maysville (pop. 3,271), where they are the town mascot. It's believed that the critters escaped from a traveling carnival in the 1920s and proliferated.

MICHIGAN—Students at Paddock Elementary School in Milan (pop. 4,775) set a world record for the biggest hug in June 2001, when 1,478 student and adult huggers stood hand-to-shoulder for 10 seconds.

MINNESOTA—Snowmobilers race on grass each September at Hay Days Grass Drags, a popular competition begun in 1967 by the Sno Barons Snowmobile Club in Blaine (pop. 44,942).

MISSOURI—In 1935, Lester Dill opened Meramec Caverns in Stanton and promoted the attraction nationwide by painting barns for free in exchange for their use as billboards. Dill also reportedly wired ads for the cavern onto car bumpers, creating the first bumper stickers.

NEBRASKA—With 450,000 square feet of retail space, the Nebraska Furniture Mart in Omaha is among the nation's largest home furnishings retailers.

NORTH DAKOTA—In 1908, the arrival of the railroad spurred the establishment of Marmarth (pop. 140), named after Margaret Martha Fitch, granddaughter of the president of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad.

OHIO—Ohio leads the nation in tomato juice production and adopted it as the state beverage in 1965.

SOUTH DAKOTA—Horseback riders and bicyclists share the 114-mile George S. Mickelson Trail, which follows an abandoned railway track from Deadwood (pop. 1,380) to Edgemont (pop. 867).

WISCONSIN—Actress Ellen Corby, who played Grandma Esther Walton in the 1970s television series *The Waltons*, was born June 3, 1913, in Racine.

Compiled by Marti Attoun of Joplin, Mo.

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Include a color photo of yourself, your name, address, and telephone number. If we publish your recipe, we'll send you an American Profile apron. All submissions and photos become the property of American Profile. (Sorry, we can't return any materials.)

RECIPE: Nutty Rhubarb Muffins



Nutty Rhubarb Muffins

3/4 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup buttermilk
1/3 cup vegetable oil
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup diced rhubarb
1/2 cup chopped nuts

Topping:

1/4 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup chopped nuts
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a small bowl, mix sugar, egg, vanilla, oil, and buttermilk. In a medium-size bowl, mix flour, baking soda and

salt. Stir sugar mixture into flour mixture and blend until evenly moistened. Stir in rhubarb and nuts. Spoon into well-greased and floured muffin tins. Stir together topping ingredients and sprinkle evenly over the top of each muffin. Bake about 20 minutes, or until center springs up when touched. Makes one dozen muffins.

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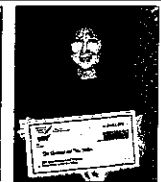
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