



# PUBLIC SAFETY

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

## Rifles or shotguns?

■ Technological advances prompt Novi Police to re-evaluate weapons

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Novi police officers will soon have 30 rifles and associated equipment valued at about \$66,610 funded from the Police Department drug forfeiture account.

Members of city council approved the solicitation of bids from vendors at their June 21 meeting so that the rifles can be purchased.

Novi police have traditionally been issued and trained in the use of shotguns as the primary long gun. However, technological advances in rifles and sighting systems have prompted a re-examination of that standard.

The proposal is to replace the shotgun with rifles as the primary long gun used by officers. Officers would receive training on the rifles and each on-duty officer, investigator and supervisor would carry a

rifle in their vehicle. The shotgun application would be redefined as a tactical or specialty firearm for projecting less than lethal projectiles. The shotguns would also be marked for easy identification.

After the rifles arrive and officers have been trained, excess shotguns will be sold according to city ordinances.

Chief Douglas Shaeffer said in a letter to Richard Helwig, city manager, that contemporary law enforcement philosophy regards a police officer's handgun as a secondary weapon used to defend against unexpected attacks.

Officers are instructed to use a long gun (rifle or shotgun) any time they are going into a known dangerous situation. The long gun's accuracy, range and firepower are superior to a handgun.

Shotguns are designed to project up to 12 pellets per shot in a wide-

ly dispersed pattern. This is intended to make it easier to hit a difficult target at ranges up to 50 yards. Shotguns are generally regarded as ineffective for use at ranges of 40 yards or more.

However, the wide dispersal of pellets from a shotgun can create problems in an urban — or suburban — environment. There are many incidents of shotgun pellets missing their mark and hitting innocent bystanders and other officers. Beyond 18 yards, the pattern of a shotgun loaded with 00 buckshot is wider than a human torso.

The shotgun weight, recoil, mechanics of reloading and aiming technique also causes problems for officers. Shaeffer cited the Ford Wixom Plant shooting several years ago in which a person armed with a rifle shot at several people in the plant, killing one.

A Novi police officer and two Oakland County Sheriff's deputies

were shot at a distance of more than 100 yards. The shooter was far enough away that officers and deputies had no effective means of returning fire with shotguns or handguns. The shooter was finally forced to move by a tactical assault group of officers.

"Had the deputies or Novi officer been equipped with rifles, they could have returned fire initially and possibly prevented the deputies from being shot," Shaeffer said.

Rifles can effectively be shot at ranges of 200 yards or more by the average officer. Reloading of a rifle is also relatively simple and comparable to reloading the semi-automatic pistol officers currently use.

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.



Photo by Hans Nyberg

### Firey crash

A Ford Contour caught fire Tuesday afternoon when it was struck from behind by a Ford Taurus on east-bound I-96 before the Meadowbrook Road overpass. Novi firefighters were dispatched at 2:06 p.m. and arrived at the scene at 2:09 p.m. "We were able to extinguish the fire very quickly, within about 10 minutes, shortening the traffic jam," said Jeff Johnson, assistant fire chief. The Contour was fully engulfed in flames from the gas tank rupturing. The driver was pulled out by a Michigan State Police Officer. "He's lucky to be alive," Johnson said. Both drivers were transported to a local hospital. An investigation is ongoing by the Michigan State Police.

## Sexual predators arrested

■ One man drove 600 miles to meet a 14-year-old girl

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Novi was the site of two recent arrests involving sexual predators using the Internet.

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox announced the June 20 arrest of Leo Stanley Desrocher, a 46-year-old computer technician from Pennsylvania who traveled more than 600 miles for a sexual encounter with who he thought was a 14-year-old girl.

Desrocher arranged the meeting with investigators who were posing as the 14-year-old would-be partner. Investigators arrested Desrocher

the evening of June 20 at the Sheraton Detroit Novi on Haggerty Road just north of Eight Mile Road. He was arraigned in 52-1 District Court in Novi June 21 on charges that he used a computer to solicit a minor for sexual activity. He waived his right to a preliminary hearing and is in custody at the Oakland County Jail on \$600,000 bond.

Desrocher faces four felony charges following the June 20 arrest: one count of child sexually abusive activity, a 20-year felony; one count of using a computer to communicate with another to commit child sexually abusive activity, a 20-year felony; and two counts of using a computer to distribute obscene material, a four-year felony.

The Attorney General's office also announced the arrest June 16 of James William Howcroft, a 51-year-old convicted drug felon from Capac, Mich., for using a computer to solicit a minor for sexual activity. Howcroft, on probation in St.

Chair County, was arraigned June 18 in 52-1 District Court in Novi on the charges. He has also waived his right to a preliminary hearing and is awaiting an arraignment date in Oakland County Circuit Court.

The Attorney General's office arrested Howcroft the afternoon of June 16 near the intersection of Ten Mile and Haggerty roads in Novi. Howcroft traveled more than 60 miles by bus to meet with who he thought was a 14-year-old girl for sex.

Undercover investigators from the Attorney General's office have made five arrests in a new campaign to identify and prosecute online child predators.

"The arrests of the past weeks should serve as a wake-up call to parents that Internet predators will go to great lengths to harm our children," Cox said. "I ask parents to join my office in protecting Michigan's children by carefully monitoring their Internet usage."

Many Internet service providers now offer the option of parental controls.

Howcroft served two terms in Michigan prisons and is on probation until March 2005. He served 18 months for a 1999 felony drug conviction and a year for a 2001 conviction when he fled police and the scene of a serious accident involving personal injury.

He faces four felony charges from the June 16 arrest: one count of child sexually abusive activity, a 20-year felony; one count of using a computer to communicate with another to commit child sexually abusive activity, a 20-year felony; and two counts of using a computer to distribute obscene material, a four-year felony.

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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## POLICE REPORT

### Thirsty thieves

A burglary of a garage took place between midnight and 7 a.m. June 14 at a residence on Cidermill near Beck and Riverview roads.

The resident's father told police that about \$600 worth of beer and liquor was stolen from his daughter's garage.

Rubber molding around the bottom of the garage door was torn off, and the door was bent in the center. Police said the suspects must have pried the door from the bottom until the catch on the drive train broke or became dislodged.

### Burglar wanted new tunes

A theft over \$200 occurred between 10 p.m. June 8 and 6 a.m. June 9 at a residence on Shadybrook near Ladene and Sunrise roads.

A 28-year-old man told police that about 20 CDs had been stolen from his white Ford Escort while he was staying with his friend on Shadybrook.

The man let his dog out at about 10:30 p.m. June 8, and there seemed to be no problems with his car at that time. When he let his dog out again at 6 a.m., he noticed that the right front driver's side window had been smashed.

Estimated value of the compact discs was \$225.

### Drinking, smoking, driving

A 21-year-old Novi man was arrested for Operating Under the Influence of Liquor at 8:25 p.m. June 9 at Grand River Avenue and Taft Road.

An officer was heading west-bound on Grand River Avenue west of Taft when he saw a red Pontiac going 54 mph in a 35 mph construction zone eastbound on Grand

River Avenue west of Taft Road. After stopping the driver, the officer noticed the odor of intoxicants coming from the vehicle. The driver's eyes were also red and glassy. The officer asked who in the vehicle had been drinking, and the driver said that his female friend had been.

Although he refused to admit that he had been drinking, when asked if he had been using any drugs like marijuana that day, the man told the officer that he had taken about three hits of marijuana about 45 minutes ago.

Results of a blood alcohol test revealed a level of .12 percent.

### Two drinks too many

A 37-year-old Farmington Hills man was arrested for Operating Under the Influence of Liquor at 11:57 p.m. June 9 at Novi Road and Grand River Avenue.

An officer heard on the police radio that another patrol car was following a vehicle that was all over the road and ran a red light.

The officer caught up to the patrol car and vehicle in question, a red 2004 Nissan Quest traveling east on Grand River east of Meadowbrook Road. The officer could see that the vehicle was swerving and pulled the car over.

After asking for the man's driver's license, the officer detected a strong odor of intoxicants coming from the man. He asked if he had been drinking, and the man responded that he had had two drinks.

A breath test produced a blood alcohol level of .12 percent.

### Blazer was a buy

A 42-year-old Walled Lake woman was arrested for retail fraud about 3 p.m. June 8 at Lord &

Taylor department store at Twelve Oaks Mall.

The officer met with loss prevention officers who told police that they saw a woman select an ivory blazer and ivory shirt and took both items downstairs. Loss prevention officers watched the woman remove the price tag from the ivory shirt and place it onto the blazer.

The woman then proceeded to the register and paid \$32.98 for the blazer, which actually cost \$158. The difference in price tags resulted in a theft of \$125.02.

Loss prevention officers told police that the woman had been previously arrested for retail fraud at Lord & Taylor last year and that a trespassing warning had been issued at that time.

### Switch leads to loss

An 18-year-old Farmington Hills woman was arrested for retail fraud at 9:38 p.m. June 16 at Lord & Taylor department store at Twelve Oaks Mall.

A loss prevention officer at the store told police that she observed a woman remove a pair of earrings from their price card and place them on another cheaper price card. She then purchased the \$48 Givenchy earrings on the \$18 card, causing a \$30 loss.

The loss prevention officer watched the woman pass by several registers without making an attempt to remedy the fraud. She admitted to switching the price cards to save money.

Compiled by Pam Fleming

## ROAD REPORT

**I-96 / Beck Road Interchange:** The I-96 eastbound 12 Mile Road entrance ramp between Beck and Wixom Roads reopened Monday. Construction of the new I-96 ramps is underway. Rump work will require several road closures throughout the project duration, including:

\* Twelve Mile Road is closed to through traffic for realignment from Beck Road easterly to West Park Drive through August.

Motorists are asked to follow the posted detour routes utilizing West Park Drive, West Road and Beck Road. All business access remains open from the east.

\* In August, Beck Road north of Twelve Mile Road to just south of West Road will be closed for reconstruction through September.

Full completion of the new single-point urban interchange is scheduled for November 2005. The interchange will be the first of its kind in metro Detroit and will reduce land impacts to adjoining properties while maximizing traffic flow.

**Eight Mile Road / Haggerty Road / I-275:** The Wayne County Road Commission is reconstructing and widening Eight Mile Road, improving traffic signalization and reconfiguring expressway ramps.

Construction includes:  
\* The ramp to south bound I-275 from east bound Eight Mile Road is open. The north bound exit ramp from I-275 to Eight Mile Road is closed and will reopen in mid-July.



Photo by John Halder

### Taft work begins

A delivery truck makes its way north on Novi's new gravel-based Taft Road last Monday. The road is beginning to undergo a major resurfacing which should be complete by the end of summer.

\* In late July, construction will shift to the north side of Eight Mile Road. Anticipate delays. Project completion is scheduled for this fall.

**Taft Road:** Taft Road is being repaved from Ten Mile Road to Grand River Avenue. Construction began on June 23 and will be complete in mid-August. The roadway will remain open to local traffic throughout construction. Through traffic is asked to follow the posted detour route.

**CSX Railroad Crossing Replacement at Nine Mile Road:** Nine Mile Road will be closed at the crossing beginning Monday, June 28, also for approximately one week. Motorists are

asked to follow the posted detour. Ten Mile Road was improved at the railroad crossing and completed within the scheduled timeframe.

**Meadowbrook Road:** Reconstruction of Meadowbrook Road from Twelve Mile Road south to Grand River Avenue is currently in the design process. Improvements will widen the roadway to a continuous three-lane section and will be completed in two phases - Phase I: Twelve Mile Road to expressway bridge, Phase II: expressway bridge to Grand River Avenue. No work is scheduled for the bridge. Construction on Phase I is anticipated to begin in early September 2004, with Phase II work to begin in Spring 2005.

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# COMMUNITY

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## Woman makes a difference halfway around the world

By Kim Baker  
SPECIAL WRITER

Michele Dixon isn't paid for her full-time job, but she isn't quitting any time soon either.

For the past two years, she has dedicated her days to gathering funds and supplies for the children at the New Life Center orphanage in Malawi, Africa, through Touching Hearts Inc., the non-profit organization she founded in Novi.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world so the government cannot afford programs to better the lives of the people. The orphans there have no one to depend on but people like Dixon and her organization.

"Without our help, they would die," she said.

Dixon first learned about the terrible conditions in Malawi after her niece returned from a mission trip there. People were forced to drink swamp water and were getting sick and often dying as a result.

Dixon and her husband, Roger, decided to send money for a water pump. After that, there were no reported deaths from water illnesses. After Dixon saw what a difference their donation made, she decided to form Touching Hearts.

Though her husband could not leave his job for the organization, Dixon said he has encouraged her from day one. "He's a saint for letting me do this. There's a lot to be said for somebody that stands by

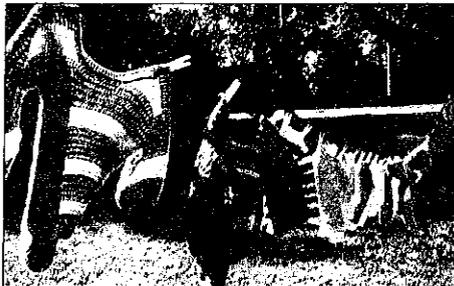


Photo by Kathleen Thompson

**Touching Hearts is in need of monetary donations to cover the cost (about \$500) of shipping these sweaters to Africa for the kids at the New Life Center orphanage. Please send donations to: Touching Hearts, P.O. Box 761, Novi MI, 48376. Donations must be received by July 15.**

your side and supports you." Dixon recruited some friends, all 23 years she's lived here, to serve as board members and join her for the cause. "We're all just women wanting to help these children," she said.

Touching Hearts receives a lot of help and support from the community, as well. In June, a small group of Novi senior citizens volunteered to knit sweaters for the kids, as did inmates from Scott Correctional Facility, giving the New Life Center a total of 120 sweaters.

Dixon knows the sweaters will be well appreciated in Africa. "It lets these kids know someone cares about them," she said.

Dixon makes sure her own kids, 10-year-old Alex and 12-year-old Evan, are involved in fund-raising in school and for Touching Hearts. "I've really tried to help empower (them) to know they are capable of making a difference," she said.

Kim Baker is a University of Michigan-Dearborn journalism student and a Novi News intern. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 109 or by e-mail kbaker@hi.homescomm.net.

## Residents purchase green space acreage

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Residents of Westmont Village in Novi recently acquired almost 30 acres in the subdivision that will be turned into a preservation area.

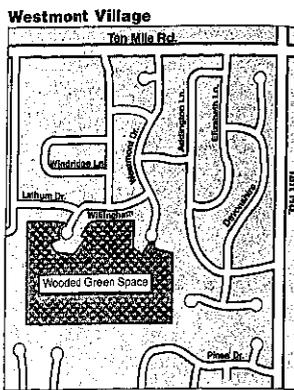
City council unanimously approved the residents' request June 7 for the city's "Declaration of Preservation Covenant" in partnership with the residents for them to acquire 29.6501 acres of wooded green space in the subdivision south of Ten Mile and west of Taft roads.

The homeowners paid \$12,500 in a transaction with the Oakland County treasurer for the undeveloped property so that it could be designated as Non-Use Park Land. The Conservation Easement limits how the property can be used. The purchasers want to protect the land so that many generations of community residents can benefit from its preservation.

Now the property cannot be subdivided or sold for 100 years. It will be recognized as a wildlife preserve and can be used for passive natural study and education.

Toni Nagy, council member, praised residents who appeared before city council June 7 on purchasing the land for preservation.

"I think the city owes you a great deal of gratitude. I commend you for this because it took a lot of your time and money," she said.



Member Lynne Paul excused herself from the vote because she is one of the residents who helped purchase the property.

The council's approval means that the city attorney can proceed with drafting and executing the agreement and purchase of the property.

"It is our belief that after taking into consideration our vested interest in the natural and undeveloped state of the property as homeowners, and the fiscal position of the City, this offer presents benefits to all parties," the residents wrote in a May 17 letter to Richard Helwig, city manager.

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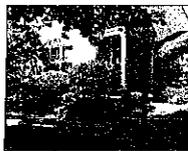
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# LIFESTYLES

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

## OBITUARIES

### Rachel M. Lypka

Rachel Lypka of Novi died June 27, 2004. She was 43. Mrs. Lypka was born May 24, 1961 in Milwaukee, Wis. to Richard Knoblock and Chieko Murakami. She had been a resident of Novi for 11 years, and was previously of Ann Arbor. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial administration at General Motors Institute and received an MBA from Wayne State University. She was employed in purchasing with General Motors.

Mrs. Lypka was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church in Novi, a member and former president of Theta Phi Alpha Sorority at GMU, and a member of Northville Women's Club. She enjoyed scrapbooking, photography, was an avid letter writer, enjoyed cooking with the ladies of the gourmet club, and was active in the Novi Jaguars Soccer Club. She was very involved with her family, friends and sorority sisters.

In addition to her parents, survivors include her husband, Michael "Mike" Lypka; two sons, Matthew Lypka of Novi and Mark Lypka of Novi; and one sister, Michelle Knoblock of Wise.

A funeral mass will be held Friday, July 2 at 10 a.m. in Holy Family Catholic Church in Novi. Father John Hudde will officiate. Interment will be in St. Hedwig Cemetery, Dearborn Heights, Mich.

Memorials may be made to the U. of M. Comprehensive Cancer Center, 6312 CCGC, 1500 E. Medical Center Drive, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48109-0942.

### Glenn Carl Fredrick Salow

Glenn Carl Fredrick Salow of Ida, Mich. died June 27, 2004. He was 91. Mr. Salow was born April 19, 1913 in Novi to Glenn L. and Ethel (Taylor) Salow. He was employed by Pontiac Motors, the City of Farmington Hills, the City of Northville and

the City of Novi. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Wickenburg, Ariz., and attended the Ida United Methodist Church. He was also a member of the Novi Twp. Volunteer Fire Department for 25 years, and its chief for five years. Mr. Salow resided to the Walled Lake Lodge #528, F&AM, the Monroe Senior Citizens, the Farmington Senior Citizens, Monroe, and the Wise Owl Senior Center in Wickenburg, Ariz.

Survivors include two stepsons, Larry (Gilda) Knapp of Park City, Fla. and Verle (Vicki) Knapp of Ida, one step-daughter, Beverly (Merlyn) Knapp of Lakeland, Fla., two cousins, Ronald Salow and Mary Louise Taylor of Novi; one nephew, Marvin Kiser of Kendall, Mich.; five nieces, Leta Jacobs of Clayton, Ardena Palmer of Crossville, Tenn., Lois Matthews of Lakeland, Fla., Darlene Hardwick of Hillsboro, Tenn., and Leona Kiser of Adrian; one sister-in-law, Vera Kiser of St. Clair, Mich.; four step-grandchildren and four step-great-grandchildren.

Preceding him in death was his wife, Roseanna Root (1982) and his wife, Doris Knapp (1998).

A funeral service was held June 30 at Capaul Funeral Home, Ida, Mich., with Rev. Robert Taylor and Rev. Wayne Hawley officiating. Interment will be in Oakland Hills Cemetery, Novi.

Memorials may be made to the Masonic Home, Alma, Mich. or the Ida United Methodist Church.

Arrangements were made by Capaul Funeral Home, Ida, Mich. 48109-0942.

### Brian F. Falardeau

Brian Falardeau died June 21, 2004. He was 64. Survivors include his wife, Deana; one daughter, Janine (John) Mueller, two grandchildren, Emma and Dylan; four siblings, Sandra (Charles) Hahn, Don, Jim (Donna), and Michael (Mary Ann); two brothers-in-law, Bob Baubitz and Bill (Karen) Baubitz; and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held June 25 at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, Northville. Interment will be at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association. Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi. Online sympathy messages: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com.

### Louis R. Merlo

Louis Merlo died June 22, 2004. He was 16. Mr. Merlo was a student at Cloverdale Development Center, Farmington, for 13 years. He died peacefully at home with his whole family around him in care of Angela Hospice.

Survivors include his parents, Raymond and Nancy Merlo; one brother, Rick; grandparents, Reno and Gloria Merlo and Louis and Ann Bokshan; and many cousins. A funeral mass was held June 25 at St. James Catholic Church, Novi. Interment will be at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Memorials may be made to Cloverdale Development Center, 33000 Freedom Rd., Farmington, MI 48336-4029.

Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi.

### Thomas J. Colina

Thomas Colina died June 23, 2004. He was 65. Survivors include his wife, Elsie; five children, Cathy (Mike) Brakers, Brian (Carla) Colina, Sue (Jay) Acce, Kelly (Danny) Williams and Marc (Lynne) Greer; his mother, Lucila A. Colina; one grandchild, Cassie; Cayla, Carlene, Tony, Matt, All, Courtney, Davey, and Jennifer; and three siblings, JoAnn Jansen, Timothy R. Colina, and Patricia Goodwin.

Preceding him in death was his father, James Colina.

A funeral mass was held June 29 at St. John Newman Church, Fairfield, Ohio. Interment will be at Crown Hill Memorial Cemetery, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 2680, North Canton, Ohio 44720. Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi. Online sympathy messages: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com.

### James J. McGlynn

James McGlynn died June 23, 2004. He was 67. Survivor include his wife, Mary; three children, James (Rose Marie), Kathleen (Mark) Tane and Patrick; seven grandchildren, Justin, Brett, Ryan, Aaron, Drew, Megan and James; two siblings, Marlene DiGeronimo and William McGlynn. Visitation will be Friday, July 2

at O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. A funeral mass will be held Sunday, July 4, at St. James Catholic Church, 46325 W. Ten Mile Rd., Novi at 10 a.m. Online sympathy messages: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com.

### Jerome J. Roy

Jerome Roy died June 24, 2004. He was 83. Survivors include four children, Mary Ellen Kramer, Lawrence, Rosanne (Bill Holmes), and Donna (Chris Earle); nine grandchildren, Brian & Theresa Kramer, Ryan & Kelly Holmes, Christina & Patrick Roy, and

Marc, Brian & Brett Earle. A funeral mass was held June 28 at Holy Family Catholic Church, Novi. Interment will be at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Family would appreciate and prefer masses or memorial donations to Anna Community Meals, 1950 Trumbull, Detroit, MI 48216, St. Patrick's Senior Center, 58 Parsons, Detroit, MI 48201, (Hospice & Palliative Care) or Alzheimer's Association, Greater Michigan Chapter, 20400 Civic Center Drive #100, Southfield, MI 48076. Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi. Online sympathy messages: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com.

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# HEALTH

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

## Men's health from a woman's perspective? What gives?

By Elaine Horowitz  
PROVIDENCE NURSE NAVIGATOR

Men's health from a woman's perspective? What gives? We all know, and research confirms, that men are less likely to seek routine medical care than women. Like it or not, we are often the ones encouraging them to get a checkup or even making the appointment for them.



E. Horowitz

"If it's not broke, don't fix it." They feel fine and don't see the point of seeing a doctor until their symptoms are too severe to ignore. Additionally, some men may fear what may be uncovered during a physical exam. They just prefer not to know.

As with women, many of the main health issues affecting men are preventable or easily treated if

diagnosed early. The first step is to decide that health is an important priority. Stress, long workdays, poor eating habits and lack of exercise can take its toll on everyone's health.

According to the American Heart Association, 67 percent of men are overweight, 33 percent have high blood pressure and 50 percent have a total cholesterol of over 200 mg/dL.

Is it a surprise that heart disease is the number one killer of men? Instead of avoiding the issues, the regular screenings and small changes in lifestyle can yield healthy results. The AHA recommends cholesterol checks every five years beginning at age 35 (earlier if heart disease runs in the family) and blood pressure checks at least every two years.

### The issues

Cancer is the second leading cause of death for men. According to the American Cancer Society, lung cancer is the most deadly, followed by prostate and colon cancer. Since 90 percent of lung cancers are related to smoking, avoiding cigarettes is obviously the best prevention against this

disease. Prostate health is one of those topics most men prefer to avoid. Yet, approximately 220,000 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed each year.

The prostate is a doughnut-shaped gland located at the bottom of the bladder. It encircles the urethra (the tube that carries urine from the bladder) and produces most of the fluid in semen. It is not unusual for the prostate to become enlarged as a natural part of the aging process. As the prostate enlarges, it may squeeze the urethra, causing urinary problems. This is called benign prostatic hyperplasia. The type of treatment depends on the type and severity of the symptoms.

Prostate cancer most often occurs in men over age 65. It is relatively slow growing and often has no specific symptoms. There is some disagreement about when to begin screening tests for prostate cancer, so the best thing to do is to discuss it with your health care provider.

Testicular cancer most often occurs in men in their 20s and 30s. It is the most common malignancy in American men between the ages of 15 and 35. Compared

to other cancers it is relatively rare, with approximately 8,900 new cases diagnosed this year. When diagnosed early, the cure rate is over 90 percent. An examination of the testicles should be included in every physical exam and young men should be instructed to do self-examination on a regular basis.

Colon cancer is another disease that when diagnosed early can be successfully treated. Unfortunately, most people put off getting screened because the testing may be somewhat uncomfortable. The American Cancer Society recommends that those 50 and older have yearly fecal occult blood screening and either a sigmoidoscopy every five years or a colonoscopy every 10 years. Of course, if you are at higher risk, screening may need to be done more often. Add this to the list to discuss with your health care provider.

Emotional health is an area that many men prefer not to explore, yet men commit suicide four times more often than

Don't ignore those signs that something is not right. Early intervention can prevent a minor problem from becoming a life-threatening situation.

Elaine Horowitz is a 2000 Nightingale Award recipient for Excellence in Nursing Education from Oakland University School of Nursing. Elaine Horowitz is a magna cum laude graduate of the WSU College of Nursing, and her career has given her hands on experience as a social worker, labor and delivery nurse, public health nurse, clinical research nurse, and community health educator. She is the past president of the Hudson River Nurses Council, and a member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, and the International Childbirth Education Association. Elaine can be reached at Providence, a member of St. John Health, at 1-800-896-2229.

## Ernie Harwell leading health walks

Walking is booming among Boomers. In a national survey by Harris Interactive published in 2003, Baby Boomers (the survey targeted a group of more than 1,000 adults age 44 to 56) rated walking as the number one form of exercise they plan to pursue when they retire. Can walking be good for all ages? Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network are working to make the answer "yes."

The Michigan Blues are sponsoring a second round of free WalkingWorks fitness walks led by the company's health and fitness advocates. Legendary baseball broadcaster, Ernie Harwell, whose health column appears in the *Novi News*.

Harwell will lead walks on July 25 in Lansing; Aug. 1 in Grand Rapids; Oct. 9 in Marquette; and Oct. 30 in Frankenmuth. The Detroit walk will start at 10:30 a.m. in the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan courtyard at Congress and the I-75 service drive in downtown Detroit. Registration, warm ups, family festivities and a Harwell autograph session begin around 9 a.m.

This year the Detroit walk will end at Comerica Park just prior to pre-game festivities honoring the 1984 Tigers World Series championship team. Walkers pre-registering with the Blues before June 20 will be eligible for a \$10 discount on \$20 tickets to see the Tigers play the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Several Tiger legends and other sports greats and celebrities will join Harwell in the Blues courtyard for a pre-walk pep rally. Other pre-walk activities will include face painting and a visit from Tigers mascot "Paws" for children, massage therapy and Tai Chi for adults. All are free to registered walkers. People can register

by phone at 1-800-733-BLUE (2583) or at www.bcbssm.com. A majority of Michigan adults (53 percent) reported in 2002 that they do not meet recommended levels of physical activity (30 minutes a day for five or more days a week). Nearly a quarter of Michigan adults reported that they don't engage in any leisure time physical activity at all.

In the same year, 62 percent of Michigan adults were either overweight or obese. Michigan has the third highest rate of obesity in the nation.

A report released last year showed that the 4 million Michigan residents who are physically inactive generated costs of nearly \$8.9 billion in 2002, or \$1,175 for each adult. These costs are borne largely by employers — through health insurance premiums and lost productivity — and by the state, through Medicaid payments.

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## Excellence prevails at Providence

Providence Hospital and Medical Centers and St. John Hospital and Medical Center, members of St. John Health, have been designated a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan's (BCBSM) Cardiac Center of Excellence. The program is comprised of select hospitals whose cardiac programs and staffs meet BCBSM's established criteria. The selection process includes a review of staff credentials, cardiac procedure volumes and frequency of medical complications and deaths associated with cardiac procedures. The hospital's quality assurance program for monitoring and evaluating care is also a major consideration.

Providence Hospital is the only hospital in Southern Oakland County and St. John Hospital is the only hospital on the east side of Metropolitan Detroit to receive the designation. Both St. John Hospital and Providence have received the designation since

BCBSM established the designation in 1996.

"As the leading provider of cardiac care in Michigan, this important designation is yet one more example of the high quality cardiac service our customers can expect from St. John Health," says Paul Van Tiem, chief operating officer of St. John Health. "Providence and St. John Hospital have also received national recognition in the past as one of the top 100 heart centers in the country."



**Grillin' at the gardens**  
Construction of Providence Hospital's cafe patio project will begin the second week of July, thanks to the approximately 200 individuals who attended a fund-raising event June 18 at the MSU Tollgate Education Center in Novi. Shown grilling chicken at the Karaoke Sing-along & Evening at the Gardens are Lou Cranshaw (left) and Linda Hubbert.

Photo by John Heider

## Enjoy every cigarette you don't smoke

By Ernie Harwell

I'm very anti-smoking, though I did smoke 10 to 12 cigarettes a day until quitting in 1951. So I wasn't a real fanatic, certainly not a two-pack-a-day guy.

I'm thankful that it was a habit I didn't need, and I quit cold turkey. Of course, I know quitting is not as easy for many smokers because smoking is very addictive. But it's very encouraging that so many people leave quit smoking — or never start.

For instance, when I came to the big leagues in 1948, 23 or 24 players on every 25-man roster smoked tobacco, chewed it or both. Someday, the average major league team might have one or two players who smoke. And

most players have learned that tobacco chewing can be even harder to quit, because the nicotine gets into your system faster.

So when young people ask me about smoking, I tell them it's far easier — and healthier — to never start, than it will be to quit. For smokers who ask for advice on how to quit, I pass along a novel technique another former smoker once shared with me. He told me that every time he put the urge to smoke, he thought of all the cigarettes he had not smoked since quitting. Each day, the number is greater, and provides greater motivation and pride in having quit.

Using his formula, I'm spending 2004 enjoying the 185,000 cigarettes I did not smoke, since



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# FAITH

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113, [calstone@ht.homecomm.net](mailto:calstone@ht.homecomm.net)

## TEEN CHAT - "FAMILY TROUBLES"

We live in a culture of family dysfunction. The "Leave it to Beaver" families rarely exist anymore, almost never in fact. Families now consist of single-parent families and stepparent families, among others. No, the norm is no longer the norm. Dysfunction has had to become a function, and it's taken its toll on our society.

Now before someone gets unduly mad at me, let me just say that abusive family situations sometimes causes single parent families to exist, which in turn leads to step-parent families. I once wrote an article for a local magazine on the effects of divorce on teens. I listed several effects of divorce with commentary for each. About a week later, I received an email from a local woman who said I failed to mention another one of the byproducts of divorce.

"Peace" her e-mail read, "also comes when the husband leaves."

Sally, too often this reader is absolutely correct. It's probably true, also, that at times peace comes when the woman leaves the relationship. Just to be fair...

Today's article is about troubles in today's families. It hurts me as a youth pastor to see the devastation occurring in our society's families. It especially hurts me to see the devastation caused to male teens when they are raised without their fathers. Or when teen girls fail to see a good role model in their fathers.

According to NewsScientist.com, "if their father was absent from the home from when they were young... numerous studies show that girls reach puberty younger, become sexually active earlier and are more likely to get pregnant in their teens."

While the exact reasons of these stats are not known, it is definitely clear that a father's healthy interaction with his children is crucial in their growing-up years.

(I) have seen many, many hurting teens in my years of youth work. There have been a couple of young men in my church with whom I have been able to empathize. It's been years since they've seen their dad, and he wasn't much to see even then. Their hearts have been unable

to heal because they've held so much against their biological father. They have had a good stepfather in their lives for years now, but have never been able to develop a good relationship with him. It's true — troubles in today's families are causing devastating effects.

Because I didn't meet my biological father until the age of 10, I always viewed him to be the best dad in the world. Sure, I fail at times as a father, but I have promised my kids and will always continue to promise them that I will never leave them.

"Our Father which art in heaven" has promised to "never leave us, nor forsake us," and it's because of that scripture promise that I had a character to "make it" in life.

If you are on the parenting end of a single-parent home (which my mom was until I turned 20) or a stepparent home, I feel for you. I empathize with you. I hurt for you. And I hurt for your family. Some of you may be surviving, and some may be doing very well, but many teens are hurting and having a tough time making the transition. And that makes it even more difficult for you, parents.

Step-parents, if I could just be helpful to you for a moment. Be careful not to overstep your boundaries. Yes, you are in a position of authority, but position alone doesn't encourage "today's teens" to listen to you. In fact, because you are the "step" parent, you may be disrespected even more because, in your spouse's teens, you are trying to take over as their new dad/mom. Don't force the issue. If anything, just try to win their friendship, and don't force the issue. Do deliberate things to win them over to your side, and don't force the issue. Did I mention not forcing the issue? That is key. Once you have done that, you will have a much bigger uphill battle.

These are difficult issues for a difficult time to be living in, and there are few easy answers, if any. But with God's help, we can make it. We can survive and thrive in the midst of this society in which dysfunction rules.

It may not be "June and Ward" anymore. Now it's my mom and stepdad who both work a lot, but I know we can make it. With God's help...

Pastor Sam Belanger can be reached at (810) 923-4910 or [pastorsamb@hotmail.com](mailto:pastorsamb@hotmail.com). Copyright 2004 © Pastor Sam Belanger.

## Who's in a pew? Churches reflect on why people flock to certain seats

Kim Kovelie  
 STAFF WRITER

Since 1985, Pat Hauser and her husband, Dick, have attended Sunday services at First United Methodist Church in Northville.

Without hesitation, she can name just where they've been sitting for the 8 a.m. service in the chapel. It's in the second row to the right; if at the later ceremony in the main sanctuary they can be found on the left-hand side, about halfway down.

"It's a feeling somewhat of a closeness of God," explained Hauser of her perch. And, "It's a habit."

Some stake out a poor based on their own sense of creativity and, at times, suggest.

"We can't expand our seating any more than our parking lot will allow," said Hice. Due to city green space mandates of 25 percent, only 1,000 square acres more can be developed.

Hence, a folding chair is placed at the end of each row, off the center aisle. During major services such as Palm Sunday, the sanctuary

what's comfortable for them, and everybody respects that," said Elmer. "We try not to put stigmas on people. The families work together."

Through activities such as potluck held every fourth Sunday, people are drawn in, creating an atmosphere that Elmer compares to a "family reunion."

The Detroit Japanese Christian Fellowship also makes its home at the church. In services led by Rev. Kanji Fuki, traditional gospel music played on bright red drums located stage right of the altar adds a focused dynamic that encourages more interaction.

At Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Novi, Senior Warden Larry Jansen suspects that the recently tweaked seating arrangement plays a factor in poor selection.

At the front of the church, three rows on either side of sanctuary were shifted to face towards each other rather than being positioned point-blank at the altar.

"If you're sitting in rigid rows all facing forward you tend to interact less," said Senior Warden Larry Jansen. "Our church tends to be a little more fluid. Very few people have a traditional place they sit. People are always sliding around and making sure



Photo by JOHN HEIDER  
 Jay Armstrong, an attendee of services at Holy Cross Episcopal, said he knows when others are missing by an empty space in their normal pew seating area.

No matter what the reason, Sunday crowds will continue to flock to their favorite people and pews.

Kim Kovelie is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or via e-mail at [kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net](mailto:kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net).

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**The Michigan Association of Physicians of Indian Origin And Guranak Sikh Temple**  
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**FREE ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR**  
 Sunday, July 18, 2004  
 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

At  
**Providence Medical Center, Providence Park, Novi**  
 47601 Grand River Ave, Conference Rooms A, B, C and D

- Bone density screenings, Blood Pressure Check-ups and Health related discussions with Primary Care Physicians and specialist from several other specialties.
- Full blood screening panel including sugar, cholesterol, hemoglobin, and PSA will be conducted. **Note: For Blood Test (Pre-Registration required) in person or by calling 1-888-257-5463. Overnight fasting is required. NO FOOD IN STOMACH AFTER MIDNIGHT. Minimum age for Blood test is 25 years and older.**
- Information will be available on various health issues including Hormone Replacement Therapy, Breast Cancer, Mammogram, Prostate, Cataract, Nutrition, Exercise, Life Style Enhancements, Osteoporosis, Diabetes, Heart Disease etc.
- Cardiologist, Urologists, OB-GYNs, Ophthalmologists, Rheumatologists, Endocrinologists, Internists, Dentists and various other specialists will be on hand for guidance.

**All test are FREE and light refreshments provided**  
 Entrance off of Beck Road Just South of Grand River  
 Park in lot at Southeast Entrance

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**the Novi News**

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**Novi News**

Novi Chamber of Commerce Chairman Keith Wilson and City of Novi Mayor Lou Corleone

# Novi News

Part of HomeTown Communications Network™

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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.

## Take time to enjoy the ride

I've got to gear back down. I learned that this past weekend when I went to visit some old friends in Virginia. It's been quite a few years since I've seen Dean and Tara Kurtz. He's been my closest friend since I was 15 and we moved to California together a few years later.

His wife went to college with us, and we've all bounced around to different cities and jobs in search of the golden goose. They found theirs in the form of an Arabian horse farm just outside Charlottesville. Although she can't keep a secret, Tara flew me down for a "surprise" 50th birthday party for Dean. I spent two and a half days forgetting about deadlines, stories, meetings and everything else associated with a newspaper.

I also did not drive a car (tractors don't count), which was an incredible relief for a too-brief

period. This was the first time in my life I've been on a farm. Actually, it was the first time I've ever even touched a horse. Bouncing around from Pontiac to Los Angeles to Lansing, etc., it just never happened.

I always thought I was a laid back person in a high-stress job. But even though there's just as much (if not more) to do on a farm, my friends have found a way to take it all in stride, get the job done and enjoy life to the fullest.

A lot of that has to do with the fact that they're Christians and they put it all in God's hands. Being a believer myself, they've reaffirmed to me that He's running the show and we're just along for the ride. Might as well enjoy it.

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



Cal Stone

## 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 need 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  
senator2@levin.senate.gov  
Local office:  
124 W. Allegan  
Suite 1810  
Lansing, MI 48933  
(517) 377-1508  
FAX: (517) 377-1506

(517) 373-1799  
FAX: (517) 373-5777  
mshulman@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

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

### United States Congress

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

9th Commission  
Hugh D. Crawford  
46275 11 Mile Road  
Novi, MI 48374  
(248) 349-5079  
hughtorcrawford@msn.com

### Townships

Novi  
Raymond Schovers,  
supervisor  
PO Box 924  
Northville, MI 48167  
(248) 349-0365

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

### Cities

Novi  
45175 West Ten Mile Road  
(248) 487-3024  
(248) 347-0460  
FAX: (248) 347-0577

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

Wixom  
49045 Portlax Trail  
Wixom, MI 48393-2567  
(248) 824-4537  
FAX: (248) 824-0863

39th District  
Marc Shulman (R-West Bloomfield)  
351 Capitol Building  
PO Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

# OPINION

novinews.com

## GUEST COLUMNISTS

### Take a look inside Novi politics

A City of Novi Charter Amendment seems to be necessary. During the City Budget discussions this spring something happened for the first time and it was not good. The City Budget was not approved by the third Monday of May. This violated the City Charter and placed the city in a potentially perilous position.

The Novi City Charter mandates that City Council approve a budget by the third Monday of May. If this is not done, and a budget is not submitted to the State by June 30, the City would have to shut down all operations — no police, no fire, no

Works, no 911 dispatching... no nothing! This is not a good thing. The budget discussions had underlying agendas and required additional meetings to ratify. The budget should not be used to promote personal agendas or provide pork barrel spending for special interest groups. The 2004-2005 Budget was adopted on May 26. Regardless, I am requesting the Council to approve a ballot issue for the November 2004 election.

I will propose to City Council the following amendment to the Charter: "In the event that the City Council fails to agree upon a budget as required under the current section 8.5 of the Charter by the third Monday in May, the budget submitted by the City Manager pursuant to Section 8.2 of the Charter will be automatically adopted."

Very simple language that will keep the city out of harms way. Who could object to this common sense amendment? I am certain that our City Council will see the wisdom in this amendment.

On another note, ever wonder how folks are appointed to the Boards and Commissions in our city? These are your neighbors that provide their time to help with decisions that influence the direction

and reputation of our city. They are not elected. They are appointed by your City Council.

These generous residents populate groups such as the Parks and Recreation & Forestry Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Library Board and the Planning Commission. Some Boards are more intense than others, but all are important. In Novi, we are fortunate to have very competent and hard working volunteers.

I want to ensure that all interested residents have the opportunity to experience the opportunity to give back to our community.

City Council is in the process of interviewing residents that would like to serve. Some are interviewing for the first time and others have terms that are expiring. You would not think that these are politically driven appointments, but they can be.

It is my desire to allow more people to become involved. I believe that one term on some boards is plenty of time to serve, especially when you have other residents with talent to offer. Just like elected officials, the members of boards and commissions should be rotated.

This does not mean that members are not doing a good job. It just means that every qualified resident, that is interested, should have a chance to serve. The perception of favored reappointments probably keeps others from even going through the interview process.

I just thought you might be interested in the process. I hope you take the opportunity to serve your community. It is a great experience and one that you would always treasure. If you are interested, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (248) 347-0458 for more information.

And, before I close, I want to share one last item of interest. Recently, the City honored our fallen veterans on Memorial Day and the country celebrated the presidency of Ronald Reagan. These were events that

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make us proud to be Americans. In addition to participating in the annual parade, I had the opportunity to participate in a quiet and respectful ceremony in one of Novi's historic locations, the Novi Cemetery.

Each year, members of the Stigute Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol conduct a United States flag retirement ceremony at the Novi Cemetery on Novi Road (by the railroad tracks). They clean the cemetery grounds and place new flags on the gravesites of our veterans.

Part of this ceremony is the traditional and respectful burning of the old flags from the prior year. Thank you to Lieutenant Gregory Lis for inviting me to participate in this quiet and little known event. And thanks to the Squadron for remembering these veterans in their own way.

Did you know that veterans of the Civil War and the War of 1812 are buried here? This is a beautiful and historic two-and-a-half acre parcel of land within our city. The rolling grounds are bordered on the west by a ravine with a stream passing quietly by. Someday you might take a minute to walk the grounds.

Lou Cordas is mayor of the City of Novi. He can be reached at (248) 347-0460.

## 50's Festival ready to rock again

Brighthouse Networks is please to present the 17th Annual Michigan 50's Festival, scheduled to kick off July 28-31. Fountain Walk Mall is the new venue and that brings some new surprises and some old favorites.

It has been a long ride for one of Michigan's most popular community festivals and this year it promises to be one of the best. Back again is the old name, the Michigan 50's Festival.

For the past 17 years, event organizers have tried to update the event with somewhat more contemporary artists under the name Music and Motor Fest. One of the ongoing struggles had been finding original artists from the '50's era to perform. Considering the fact that the rock era began almost 50 years ago, it is easy to understand that many of the popular artists from that era are no longer around. Nonetheless, the Festival wanted to return to its roots and bring back that happy-go-lucky time when cruising.

Whether you're driving, boating, watching poolside skirts, ponytails, saddle shoes and music ruled the world.

Although it may have to be done in the '60's a bit for entertainment, the spirit of the '50's is alive!



One of the most popular attractions at the festival, this and every year, is the Car Show and Cruise. This year these events will take place on Saturday (July 31) and will also feature a new route for the cruise. The show itself is open to all classes of cars, will feature participant judging, entertainment by "Boogie" and an outstanding array of awards sponsored by Varsity Lincoln Mercury.

Whether you a car show participant or just like to stroll through and take in the aura of these incredible machines, it is one of those

rare opportunities you'll have to see hundreds of these beauties all together, and one you won't want to miss!

There is plenty more to do at this year's festival, a full carnival, family entertainment, commercial vendors, car dealer displays, great food and drink, free concerts, the Ice Cream Social, fireworks, helicopter rides, all the great shops at Fountain Walk Mall, and most of all, a chance to have fun spend time with your family and friends right here in Novi.

All of these events do not happen without the tremendous support of the local businesses and the hard work of all the dedicated volunteers. If you would like to be a part of this year's event, whether through a sponsorship or as a volunteer, we encourage you to contact the festival office at (248) 349-1950.

Look for our upcoming insert in the HomeTown Newspapers, which will be your official guide to the festival. You can also learn more about the event by visiting the festival's Web site at [www.michigan50sfestival.com](http://www.michigan50sfestival.com).

Festival organizer Bob McCann can be reached at (248) 349-1950.

Hubert Distributors offers these five simple tips:

• Designate a Driver. Whether you're on the road or on the water, designate a driver when going out with friends and family. Just as designated drivers help save lives on our highways, they also keep our waterways safe.

• Drink Responsibly. Know how alcohol affects the body so that responsible choices can be made about when and how much to drink.

• Be a Responsible Host. Offer non-alcohol beverages for guests who do not drink and others who are designated drivers. Always serve food when serving alcohol beverages and stop serving alcohol beverages at least one hour before the party ends. Last but not least, arrange safe rides home for all guests.

• Drive Safely. Make sure everyone wears a seat belt. Always be alert and in control of your vehicle. Resist the urge to speed by making sure there's plenty of time to reach your destination.

• Be Responsible on the Water. Before hitting the water, check all equipment and brush up on boating safety. When on the water, always obey all rules and regulations regarding distance, buoys, channel markers and "No Wake" zones.

Good times this Fourth of July Holiday means remembering safe boating, party and travel rules — rules designed to make sure your good times are nothing but the best.

Hubert Distributors, Amherst-Busch, and other distributors have invested more than \$465 million over the past two decades on a comprehensive portfolio of more than two dozen community-based programs and national advertising campaigns to fight alcohol abuse, especially underage drinking and drunk driving, and to promote responsible drinking by adults who choose to drink. For more information, visit [www.beeresponsible.com](http://www.beeresponsible.com).

Thomas A. Vella is president of Hubert Distributors, Inc.

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

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

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



# OTHER OPINIONS

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

## Cherry Commission may be ticket to Michigan's future

Last week we had headlines about Michigan's roads (ouch rougher than virtually any other state), shootings in Detroit (a hell to increase cigarette taxes, quarrels between Gov. Jennifer Granholm and the GOP-dominated state legislature, and so forth. Yada, yada, yada.

Virtually ignored by the news media in this portage of insignificance was a story that could have profound impact on Michigan over the next decade. Gov. Granholm appointed a commission charged with finding ways to double the percentage of Michigan citizens who get post-high school credentials as a way to spark economic growth.

From top to bottom, Michigan's economy is becoming more infatuated with jobs that are knowledge-based and require a higher level of technical skill than what a student can receive in high school," Granholm said. "As a state, we must invest in young people that a college education or vocational training is a life necessity."

Serving on the Cherry Commission (so named because it will be chaired by Lt. Gov. John Cherry) are 40 distinguished Michiganders with credentials ranging from university president (University of Michigan's Mary Sue Coleman) to labor leader (Lou Battaglieri, president of the Michigan Education Association) to corporate heavy (Carl J. Tornatore, president of SBC Michigan) to community college president (Paula Cunningham of Lansing Community College).

"When I graduated from high school, you could take your high school diploma to any factory and get a good paying job," said Cherry. "Today, advanced manufacturing jobs require something more, making it imperative that we increase the number citizens

who attend college or vocational schools."

What's really going on, of course, is that Michigan's economy is moving away from its metal-bending base of heavy manufacturing and into a quite different mix of agile manufacturing and design, health science, high tech and services. To make this transition, brains will have to replace brawn. And that requires a radical shift in the skill sets of the Michigan work force.

Today, approximately one quarter of Michigan's population has a post-high school credential of some kind, substantially less than competing, higher tech states. Moreover, while some 90 percent of high school students express an interest in post secondary education, only around 40 percent actually go on to college or vocational school. And only 18 percent graduate with a bachelor's degree within six years.

Naming the commission comes at a good time. Faced with crushing state budget deficits over the past three years, state support for colleges and universities has fallen to the absolutely miserable. Universities, reeling from cut-backs in state support, need this. It is the result of the legislature's long-standing knee-jerk preference for short-term cost cutting over long term investing in the economic future of our state. Part is the result of a long-

term failure of colleges and universities to set out a compelling case for increased state support — a failure amply demonstrated when Gov. Granholm asked audiences around the state what parts of the state budget should be cut. A portion comes from a quirk in the way state budgets are structured, so that the higher education portion of the General Fund is being squeezed out by the very rapidly growing categories of corrections and Medicaid. And part is simply the inertia of past cultural assumptions about post high school skills.

Lt. Gov. Cherry had it dead on when he told me, "The real issue, ultimately, is that the future of any state or community is underpinned by the investments they are prepared to make in the education of their citizens. The real point of the commission is to change how Michigan citizens culturally view higher education."

I'd add a further point. The massive changes now rippling through our economy offer a powerful force to transform the skills basis of the Michigan economy. The vision here is to create a seamless system of lifelong investments in human capital, beginning with very early childhood development, continuing with K-12 schools, moving on to vocational schools, community colleges and universities, and ending with a system of skills training and retraining for those now in the labor force. If you're looking for a way to transform Michigan's economy into a national powerhouse, this is it.

The Commission starts its work in July and is to deliver its report by January 1, 2005. Stay tuned.

Phil Power will be serving as a member of the Cherry Commission. He also was a member of the Commission on the Future of Higher Education, appointed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm in 1992. He welcomes your comments on his and other columns, either by phone at 734.933.2206 or by email at [ppower@homecomm.net](mailto:ppower@homecomm.net)

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Phil Power

## Clinton's lack of self-control begs question: What might have been?

You won't find this in Bill Clinton's autobiography (My Life, Knopf, \$30) but I once got to help put words in the nation's most famous presidential mouth.

During the last summer of his presidency, Bill Clinton decided to award the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, to a dozen or so dignitaries, from John Kenneth Galbraith to George McGovern.

Among them was Mittie Jeffrey, a longtime labor and Democratic party activist.

Somewhat the White House found out I knew her well, and asked me for help drafting his remarks at the award ceremony.

What I wrote was instantly forgettable, but what happened next went a long way to illustrate his appeal.

Mittie was somewhere short of 5-feet tall, and was within months of 90, a number higher than her weight. When the very tall president bent over to put the medal around her tiny neck, she reached up and whispered earnestly in his ear.

The President looked startled, then delighted — and my head bobbed and nodded. What was going on? Later, Mittie told me, "I just said, 'Mr. President, many of us think if you were the candidate this year, you would be re-elected."

Not only was that exactly what the President wanted to hear, it was almost certainly true — and it was even more true in Michigan. Nobody ever remarks on this, but when Bill Clinton first ran, the automobile state had become something of a reliably GOP state in presidential elections.

Michigan had voted Republican five straight times, and hadn't gone for a Democrat since Hubert

Hampshire in 1968. But Clinton smartly reversed that, winning easily in 1992, and taking Michigan by a landslide four years later, holding Bob Dole to an abysmal 38 percent.

Four years later his political heir, Al Gore, again won Michigan fairly easily, despite controversial stands on automobiles and the North American Free Trade Act. This year, if the contest stays close, John Kerry ought to eke out another Michigan win. If he does, he probably has Bill Clinton to thank. Say what you will about him, but there is no denying that yes, Clinton did polarize the nation. But that probably helped him in Michigan, where a majority of Michiganders were more on the former president's side of the cultural divide — or just liked him anyway.

African-Americans seemed to love him in a way they have never loved a politician before. They felt he understood them. Many really did feel that in a sense he really was the "first black president."

Ordinary white people may have joked about Clinton's famous too-earnest "I feel your pain," but many of them also believed that. And though they were more than a little disgusted over his behavior with Monica Lewinsky, most Michigan residents seemed willing to forgive their "Saturday Night Bill." At the scandal's height, Frank Kelly, the state's longtime attorney general, told me it was simple. "We'll write off all the people with perfect marriages and take the rest."

There may have been something to that. Though he seldom got credit for it, Clinton seemed to talk about his own faith, more than most presidents, and to spread references to God through his

speeches like ketchup.

Republicans, in Michigan as elsewhere, missed the public mood on Microsoft. What the voters wanted was for Bill to come clean, be humiliated, do penance, and get back to work. He did all that, even as his enemies sought to drag the nation further through the messy sexual details.

Michigan voters, by sizable margins, preferred Bill Clinton to his enemies. So did the nation, and so he survived. Yet it is a sad price. Twelve years ago, I saw Clinton speak on a variety of issues, and was blown away by his intellectual power and grasp of issues.

Ten years ago I would have hoped that when his memoirs were published, Clinton would be on talk shows explaining how his administration succeeded in realigning labor to compete in the age of globalization, and how he redefined our role in the world as the first President since the fall of the Soviet empire.

Instead, this week we watched this man who had so much promise discuss getting in touch with his inner child, sleeping on the couch, and family therapy sessions. During the worst of the Monica wars, I talked to Frank Kelly, who knew and revered Clinton's old hero, President Kennedy.

JKF was no saint, I observed. What would he think of all this? "I know exactly," Kelly told me. "He's sitting up in heaven right now, looking down and saying, 'Poor Southern boy. I had just as much fun as you did, but I knew how to handle it.'" The rules were different then, but when it mattered most, JFK had self-discipline. The bright boy from Arkansas did not.

And how much we lost as a result we may never know."

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# CALENDAR

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

## EVENTS

### Obtuse Jugglers

DATE: Thursday, July 8  
TIME: 7 p.m.  
LOCATION: Lakeshore Park (located on South Lake Drive, across from Walled Lake)  
DETAILS: Set to lively, beat-driven music, the team's juggling routines are smooth and spectacular. You'll see seven balls bouncing off the floor, five rings zipping through the air and incredible three ball juggling that will make you jaw drop. It's a visual feast you won't soon forget and it is presented with irresistible comic flair. Non-residents charged \$4 per car to enter the park. In case of inclement weather, concerts will be moved indoors at the Novi Civic Center.  
CONTACT: (248) 347-0473

### Amish Country Craft Show

DATE: July 16-17  
TIME: Friday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 10-5  
LOCATION: Novi Expo Center  
DETAILS: Craft show featuring the very best Amish quilts and crafts direct from Lancaster, Penn. Parking is \$5.  
CONTACT: (717) 687-8548 or www.amishcountrytraditions.com

### 8minuteDating Event

DATE: Monday, July 19  
TIME: 6:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Shanahan's Irish Pub, Laurel Park Drive, Livonia  
DETAILS: At each 8minuteDating event, singles meet one-on-one for eight minutes and then move on to the next introduction. Afterward, they log on to www.8minuteDating.com to choose whom they would like to see again. If the feeling is mutual, information is exchanged. Targeted at singles, age 21-29, participants will enjoy the following: cash bar, complimentary appetizers, eight no-commitment dates, a fun, low pressure evening, and a raffle for a \$50 gift certificate to Shanahan's.  
CONTACT: Erin Quinn at www.8minuteDating.com or at (248) 921-590

### Novi High School Band Boosters Car Wash

DATE: Saturday, July 24  
TIME: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
LOCATION: Parking lot of Dr. Spillane's office at Ten Mile/Taft Rd. and Meadowbrook Congregational Church on Meadowbrook Rd/between Eight and Nine Mile.  
CONTACT: Sharon at (248) 349-4461.

### St. Andrew High School (Detroit) 40th Reunion

DATE: Sunday, July 25  
TIME: 2 p.m.-8 p.m.

LOCATION: Pavilion at Beverly Park, Beverly Hills. (Beverly Road aka Thirteen 1/2 Mile between Southfield Road and Evergreen Rd.)  
DETAILS: Free. The reunion is a picnic. Bring your own food and drinks.  
CONTACT: Call Paul Schwab at (248) 559-4535.

### Look for Success 4th annual fundraiser "Boxing for Beauty"

DATE: Thursday, July 29  
TIME: 7 p.m.-9 p.m.  
LOCATION: Shiro's Restaurant, 43180 Nine Mile Rd., Novi  
DETAILS: Monica Gayle from Fox 2 News will host this event along with special guest speaker, Jackie Kallen. Jackie Kallen was the inspiration of Meg Ryan's latest movie "Against the Ropes" and will also be in an upcoming new tv show, "The Contender", which will also star Sylvester Stallone and Sugar Ray Leonard.  
CONTACT: Kim Goedde at (786) 554-0422, www.thelookforsuccess.org.

### Third Annual Christian Conrad Faith Benefit

DATE: Saturday, July 31  
TIME: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.  
LOCATION: Wilcox Picnic Pavilion, Hines Park, Plymouth  
DETAILS: Funds raised will go directly toward helping 4-year-old Christian Conrad get the intense therapy and medical treatment he needs to make progress with his autism, but insurance will not cover. Ten percent of all proceeds will go to William Beaumont Hospital's Hope and Care programs for autistic children. The benefit will have an abundance of information on autism and will feature educational speakers, including Christian's mom, Monique Conrad, and professionals who work with autistic children everyday. For the kids, there will be games, clowns and face painting, as well as free lunch, snacks and drinks, with wheat and dairy-free foods available to meet the special nutritional needs of autistic children. A silent auction, raffles, prizes and sports memorabilia will provide fun for the entire family. The public and donations in any amount are welcome.  
CONTACT: For more information about Christian and the benefit, call (248) 848-0157 or visit www.KeyToChristian.org.

### Novi High School Band Boosters 2nd Annual Golf Outing

DATE: Sunday, August 1  
LOCATION: The Links of Novi  
CONTACT: Sharon at (248) 349-4461.

### Acoustic Music Jam Session

DATE: the second Wednesday of each month

TIME: 7-9 p.m.  
LOCATION: Mill Race Historic Village, Cady Inn, just north of Main Street on Griswold in Northville.  
DETAILS: Bring your traditional acoustic instrument and music to play.  
CONTACT: Mary or Eric at (248) 760-9694 or MaryH@twmi.com

### 17th Annual Tycoon Tee-Off Golf Outing

DATE: Wednesday, August 18  
LOCATION: Links of Novi  
DETAILS: The Novi Chamber of Commerce's 17th annual outing.  
CONTACT: (248) 349-3743

## CLASSES

### Summer Yoga

DATE: through July 22  
TIME: 7 - 8:15 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 520  
DETAILS: This class will center on yoga postures and practices to strengthen, tone and limber the body. This class is intended for beginners and continuing students. Avoid heavy food prior to class. Wear stretchable clothing and bare feet. Bring an exercise mat and water. The fee is \$42.  
CONTACT: (248) 449-1206 for registration

### Providence Center for the Healing Arts "Tuesdays at Assarian"

DATE: every Tuesday night  
TIME: 5-8 p.m.  
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River, Novi.  
DETAILS: Variety of activities for the adult community to come and enjoy a unique mix of classes brought to you by the Providence Center for the Healing Arts. Aug. 26 - Modern Japanese Calligraphy, Ceramics. Some activities may include a supplies fee (no more than \$10).  
CONTACT: (248) 465-5483.

### SWOCC Studio Tours

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

## HEALTH

### Oakland County Health Division Child Health Clinics

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

## BUSINESS

### Chamber After-Hours Mixer

DATE: Thursday, July 22  
TIME: 5:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Cornerstone Dental Studio, Inc. and Goodman Orthodontics, PC, 42430 W. Twelve Mile Road  
DETAILS: Bring your business cards, meet area business representatives, make connections, mix and mingle at this great networking opportunity; cost is \$10.  
CONTACT: (248) 349-3743.

### Business Referrals

DATE: every Wednesday  
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 Mile Rd.  
TIME: 7-8:30 a.m.  
DETAILS: Meeting of local professionals and business looking to increase word-of-mouth referral business. Various classifications open and eager to bring you qualified business leads.  
CONTACT: (734) 462-6460

## FAITH

### Worship Service

DATE: every Wednesday  
TIME: 12:10-12:50 p.m.  
LOCATION: Church of the Holy Cross, 46200W. Ten Mile Road (between Beck and Taft Roads), Novi  
DETAILS: Come and share your lunch hour with God at a worship

service that includes scripture and holy communion.  
CONTACT: (248) 349-1175 or www.churchoftheholycross.com

### St. James Catholic Church Friendship Circle

DATE: second Tuesday of the month  
TIME: 1 p.m.  
DETAILS: Social group for widows and widowers. All are welcome to join us for fellowship and fun.  
LOCATION: St. James Catholic Church, 46325 Ten Mile Rd., (between Taft and Beck)  
CONTACT: (248) 348-9138 or joyiovaldi@earthlink.net

## SUPPORT GROUPS

### Women's Prayer Support

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

### Adoption Playgroup

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

tion contact Michelle Pergeau (248) 887-4955 or Sandra Noonan (248) 960-3257.

### Breast Cancer Support Group

DATES: second and fourth Tuesdays  
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C on the ground floor of the hospital.  
TIME: 10-11:30 a.m.  
DETAILS: There is no need to call ahead and register.  
CONTACT: (248) 937-5017

### Novi Toastmasters

DATE: first and third Tuesdays  
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, activities room  
TIME: 7-8:45 p.m.  
DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills, voice your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.  
CONTACT: Call Colleen at (248) 685-9226.

### Oakland County Health Division Expectant Parent Classes

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

### New TOPS chapter in Novi

DATES: Wednesdays  
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons Activities Room, 25075 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi.  
TIME: 11 a.m. weigh in, 11:30 a.m. meeting  
DETAILS: \$20/yearly membership registration, includes handbook, \$1/meeting. New members welcome.

Send your calendar items to Cal Stone, editor, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-9832; or e-mail to cstone@ht.homecomm.net.

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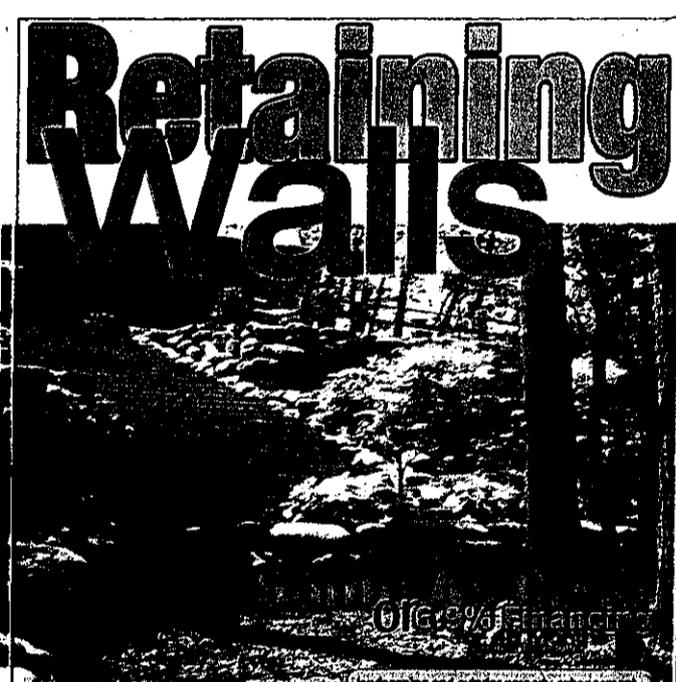
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**Glimpses of Novi**

Sports isn't all about the high school athlete. There are future varsity letter winners in the making right now. Check out some of the local teams that have been making a lot of noise this year.

— Page 2B



**Quite entertaining**

Video game reviews, a feature on a Northville comedian with her own book, DVD and CD hitting the shelves — how much more entertaining can it get?

— Page 3B



**Regional Marketplace**

The Lady Justice statue (left) holds the Scales of Justice with (from right) Brian Lonnerstater, Paula Ferus and Monica Bauer, who comprise the staff at Lonnerstater's law office.

— Page 4B

# SPORTS & MORE

B-1

NOVI NEWS

hometownlife.com

Thursday, July 1, 2004

## How the West was won

By Stan Frank

HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

The high school softball careers of 15 Oakland County graduates and 11 more from neighboring Livingston County officially culminated, June 22, with the Fifth Annual HomeTown Newspapers' All-Star Game.

At Hartland High School, the East All-Stars combined superb pitching and timely hitting to top their West counterparts, 6-3. In doing so, the East grabbed a 3-2 lead in the annual series.

The East All-Stars consisted of Oakland County 2004 graduates from Lakeland, Milford, Northville, Novi and South Lyon, while the West All-Stars consisted of those from Livingston County based Brighton, Fowlerville, Hartland, Howell and Pinckney.

The East rode the right arm of South Lyon's Lindsay Noren, who pitched the distance, fanning five batters while allowing four hits and one walk. Only one of the runs

Noren surrendered was earned. The East grabbed a 3-0 lead on clutch hits by Noren and Lakeland's Lindsay Richmond.

In the top of the third inning, Richmond lined a single down the left field line to drive home Northville's Kim Larson and Novi's Sarah Thelen. Larson had reached base on West's only error of the game, while Thelen's one-out single proved for either side the first hit of the contest.

Richmond was surprised by how well she saw the pitch she laced for a two-run single.

"Let me tell you a secret?" Richmond asked, rhetorically, after the game. "I forgot to wear my contacts today."

During the fourth frame, Noren extended the East's lead to 3-0 with a double to deep left field. Noren's swat sailed past the left fielder and allowed Lakeland's

Amber Firman to easily score from second base. Firman had reached base on a single and advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt by Milford's Katie Adler.

After the game, Milford head coach Terry Frikken, who managed the East, found irony in a Milford player sacrificing oneself for another from Lakeland. Milford and Lakeland are arch-rivals within the Huron Valley School District. Throughout the contest, Frikken was impressed with the All-Stars' willingness to sacrifice themselves for the good of the team.

"Even though most of the girls here have been looked upon to swing away in a situation with nobody out and a runner on first, these girls stepped up when asked to lay down a bunt," Frikken said. "If you're coaching some boys, you might get a little attitude by asking them to bunt in an All-Star game."

The West cut into the East's lead with a pair of runs in the bottom of

the fourth inning. But the East delivered a three-run rally in the sixth inning to mount a 6-2 lead and provide Noren a comfortable cushion.

The East's big inning was mostly the result of wildness by Howell right-hander Mackenzie Lewis, who had relieved Hartland starting pitcher Katie Patrick to start the fifth inning.

In being hit by a pitch, Milford's Laura Hincea followed walks to Lakeland's Lindsey Konarski and Noren to load the bases. Konarski then scored on a wild pitch; Noren crossed the plate on a sacrifice groundout by Novi's Rachel Good; and Hincea came home on a passed ball.

The West closed out the scoring in the bottom half of the sixth with an unearned run. Noren then shut the door, retiring the last five batters she faced.

After the game, Frikken and some of the East stars spoke fondly of the experience.

"It was a good time," Frikken

said. "It was a very light atmosphere. And the cool thing was that the girls knew each other's names. They knew each other's names better than I knew their names."

The players said they enjoyed building camaraderie among teammates who in the past had served as opponents.

"We all had fun joking with each other — we all got along well," Lakeland's Richmond said. "Both sides had a lot of fun. And that was the whole point."

Said Noren: "It was a good way to end our high school careers. Everybody goes out on a friendly note."

Representing Novi High School were Rachel Good, Samantha Stricker, Sarah Thelen, Lindsay Troher and Kim Zarczynski.

Kim Larson was Northville High School's lone representative.

Stan Frank can be reached at (248) 685-1507, ext. 25, or by e-mail at sfrank@h hometown.net.

## Maier gets MVP nod as an All-Star

He hadn't played second base since his Little League days as a 13-year-old boy and suddenly he was the Midwest League All-Star Most Valuable Player at the position.

Mitch Maier, who is a Novi graduate drafted by the Kansas City Royals in 2001, plays for the Burlington Bees. He was selected to play in the 40th Midwest

League All-Star game and found himself playing back-up. Then, a groin injury to second baseman Howie Kendrick of Cedar Rapids gave Maier the start.

When all was said and done, Maier's team — the Western Division — was happy he earned the nod.

Maier went 2-for-3 with an RBI, a run scored and a stolen base to lead the squad past the Eastern Division, 6-3.

Maier wasn't bothered by the crowd either. The game was played at Veterans Memorial Stadium in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in front of 5,589 people.

Three other Burlington players were selected to play in the All-Star game. Chris Lubanski, Dusty Dosssett and Dusty Hughes were selected by the league's field managers.

The intense play and the recognition of that with an MVP honor are just two indications of why Maier was a first-round pick in the 2001 draft. He's a solid hitter that has proven his versatility by moving from his bread-and-butter position of catcher to play at third base for Burlington.

So far this year, Maier is hitting .284 but has a slugging percentage of .415. He has scored 33 runs, had 78 hits including 21 doubles, three triples and three home runs. Maier also had 30 RBIs and 29 stolen bases.

He leads the Bees in runs scored, hits, doubles, triples, runs batted in and stolen bases. He is second on the team in homers and with his batting average.

Maier is also gaining league-wide recognition as one of the speedier players on the field. The Bee is second in the Midwest League in stolen bases.

With his proven ability and determination, one has to wonder just how long it will take before Maier gets the call up to bigger and better things.

Of course, you don't have to wait to get a piece of the future. The Novi News will be giving away 40 signed baseball cards Maier was kind enough to autograph during the Royals' spring training camp.

The cards, one of which can be seen in the photo below, feature Maier's autograph on the front and facts and statistics about him on the back.

To enter, just fill out the form below at mail it to the Novi News, c/o The sports department, 104 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan 48167.

The first 40 entries will receive an autographed card and will be listed in an upcoming sports section of the Novi News. All entries must be original. Photocopies will not be accepted.

Photo by HAL GOULD/Hometown Newspapers

Novi's Chris Scott hauls in the ball at first base for the East as the West's Dustin Jeffrey gets back on an attempted pick-off play. The East won the game yet again, making it five consecutive years of victory for the squad in the All-Star game's history. This year, Novi coach Rick Green led the team, which was comprised of numerous Novi and Northville players.

Freel said the players enjoyed the experience and the light-hearted atmosphere that accompanied it.

"It was fun," Freel said. "Everyone was joking around. There was no pressure at all. We still wanted to win, but we just kept it light."

Representing Novi High School were Doug Benton, Josh Buck, Steve Gawronski, Mike Hart, Dan Morrison, Matt Nickels and Chris Scott.

Representing Northville High School were Brendan Buckley, Jimmy Cicala, Mark Sorensen and Brian Tellish.

Freel, upon realizing that Watson did not break for third, got caught in a pickle when he stopped halfway to second base. Freel got caught in a rundown, but eventually avoided a tag and finally advanced safely to second after a West player turned his attention to Watson.

Watson — while Freel was in the rundown — turned on the jets and beat the throw to home plate to give the East a 9-6 lead.

"I was pretty tired after that one," Watson said with a laugh. "I haven't ran like that in a while. I didn't see the sign, but hey, it all worked out."

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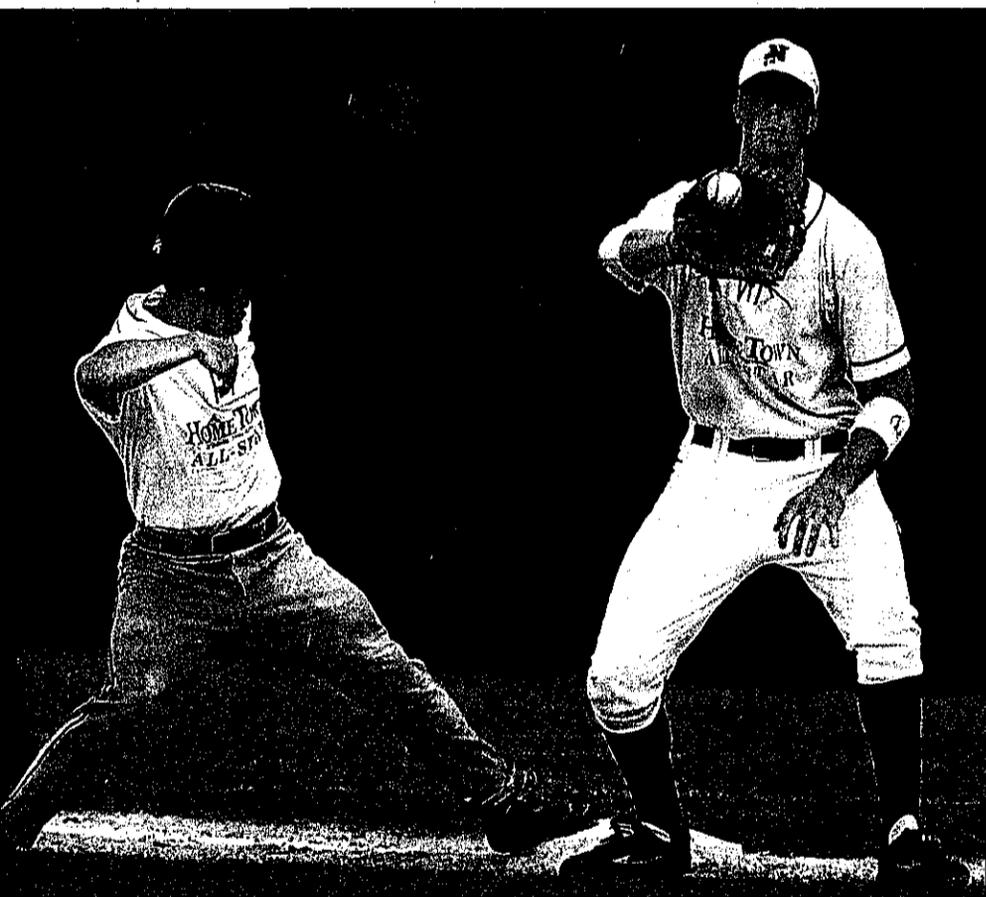
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## Nickels proves All-Star status

Novi graduate dominates every facet of game with top-notch play

By Stan Frank

HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

Led by Novi's Matt Nickels, the East broke a 6-6 tie by scoring four unanswered runs en route to a 10-6 victory over the West in the June 23 Fifth Annual HomeTown Newspapers' All-Star Baseball Game.

The East, consisting of select 2004 graduates from Lakeland, Milford, Northville, Novi and South Lyon, improved to 4-1 in the annual battle against Livingston County's best from Brighton, Fowlerville, Hartland, Howell and Pinckney.

Among the two teams' 37 players, Novi's Nickels won the pre-game batting skills competition and later continued his offensive mastery against a myriad of West pitchers. Nickels, who batted lead-off and started in center field, went 3-for-3 with two walks, two steals, two runs scored and three runs batted in.

"I'm really proud of the way he played," said Novi head coach Rick Green, who managed the

East. "What a way for him to go out."

Green rewarded Nickels for his superb effort by allowing him to remain in the game throughout its entirety. He was the only player from either team to reap such extensive playing time.

In all, the East banged out 10 hits in an eight-inning contest which due to darkness was cut short. The Oakland County team never trailed during the game.

Northville's Brian Tellish picked up the victory. The right-hander surrendered one hit and two walks in two scoreless innings of relief.

Tellish was aided in the top of the fifth inning when the East scored a pair of runs to break a 6-6 tie. During the rally, Milford's Brian Fachie delivered to right field a bloop single that plated Lakeland's Darrin Ward. Nickels followed by stroking a game-winning RBI single, driving home Novi's Steve Gawronski.

Novi pitcher Mike Hart started for the East and pitched well. The right-hander, who will attend

Eastern Michigan University on a baseball scholarship, retired the side in order in the first inning. Hart allowed during the second frame a pair of singles and a walk, but was hurt more by his own two-base throwing error and a passed ball. He exited after pitching two innings with the East leading 4-3.

Things got exciting on the basepaths during the sixth inning. Respectively, South Lyon's Bobby Watson and Lakeland's Brandon Freel each singled to give the East runners at first and second with no outs. With Sorensen at the plate, Manager Green flashed the double-steal sign to Watson and Freel. Watson missed the sign, yet on the following pitch still managed to cross home plate.

Freel, upon realizing that Watson did not break for third, got caught in a pickle when he stopped halfway to second base. Freel got caught in a rundown, but eventually avoided a tag and finally advanced safely to second after a West player turned his attention to Watson.

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Please fill out the form below and mail it to:

The Novi News  
c/o Sports Department  
104 W. Main Street  
Northville, Michigan 48167

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Stan Frank can be reached at (248) 685-1507, ext. 25, or by e-mail at sfrank@h hometown.net.

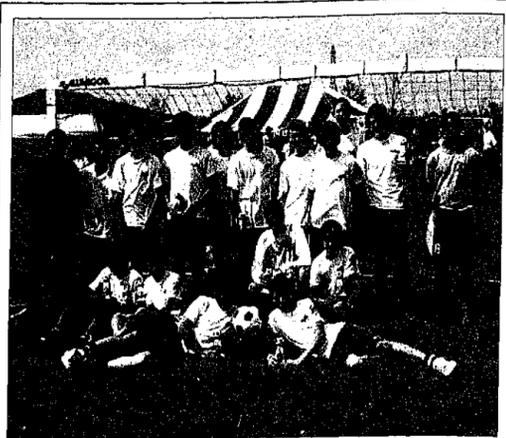
NOVI BIRTHDAY



Submitted Photo

**Headed for the Softball World Series**

Playing six games over two days and capturing a 5-1 victory in the championship game over the Michigan Bulldogs, the U10 Motor City Madness captured first place in the Oakland Sidewinder Shootout U10 Softball Tournament and earned a berth into the USSSA World Series to be held this month in Georgia. Pictured (from left to right), front row: Lindsey Swope, Madeline Hauslein, Becky Reynolds, Emily Blieski, Kayce Nieto; Second row: Abby Hunson, Madeline Sinkovitch, Chelsea Williams, Angela Pavlanis, Katie Enright, Alexa Hart; Back row: Coaches Victoria Kaiser, Darryl Reynolds, Greg Sorrentino and Lindsey Sorrentino. Not Pictured: Taylor Scott and Meredith Williams.



Submitted Photo

**Jaguar Tournament Champions**

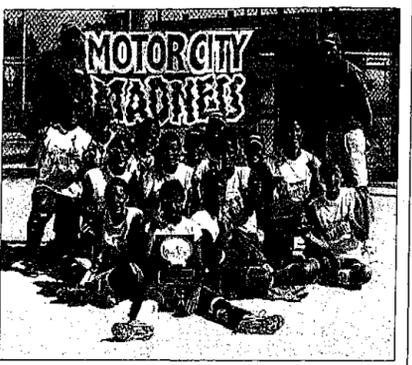
The U15 Novi Jaguars captured the title to their own tournament after winning the championship game in a convincing 6-0 manner. Front Row (L-R): Justin Thompson, Robert Parkins, Stephen Kim, Patrick Haffley; Middle row: Greg Irons, Sean Simms, Adam Herz; Back row: Coach Deepak Shivraman, Evan Danielson, Joey Vingolman, Rick Middlemass, RJ Gordon, Brent Kamster, Adam Ballantyne, Kellen Miglio, Joel Bowser, Hunter Robertson and Assistant Coach Derek Omelka



Submitted Photo

**Going to Florida**

Novi's Motor City Madness U14 Girls fast-pitch softball team won the Riverview Summerfest USSSA Qualifier tournament the weekend of June 18-20, beating out TSI Krush of Canton 4-2 for the title. This qualifies the Novi Madness team for the USSSA Fast Pitch World Series Tournament in Orlando, Florida, July 26-30. Pictured Front Row (left to right): Stephanie Jirasek, Jenny Couch, Danielle Pizzo; Second row: Laura Snelter, Sam Lessard, Janice Couch, Nicole Miller; Back row: Scott Zilch, Jenny Heathfield, Rachel Burris, Courtney "Fred" Zilch, Kelly Hogan, Pam Couch, Veronica Selens, Amanda Diacono and Dan Lessard.



**Jaguars maul the competition**  
 One has to begin to wonder if there's anything this team can't do. The Jaguars Green squad not only won their own Novi Jaguar Invite with a 9-0-1 record, they also dominated the Dayton Warriors Soccer Classic Tourney as well, going 5-0. The team also won the Western Suburban Soccer League Select Division 1 Spring Championship. They were 8-0-1. Pictured (left to right): Kneeling: Tyler Holt, Colin Warner, Zachary Beck, Jacob Bedi, Justin Danks, Cory Odell; Standing: Pierce Tattersall, Craig Latham, Travis Hamers, Alex Robert, Adam Haynes, Phillip Snog, Nick Shelar; Back row: Head Coach Mike Scobie and Assistant Coach Steve McCall

**SPORTS SHORTS**

**Bobcats looking for players**

The Northville-Novi Youth Football Association is looking for additional varsity players that reside in the Novi School District. A second team, Novi Bobcats, was created this year for Novi School District residents. The freshman and junior varsity teams were very successful in meeting the roster sizes. However, 15 additional varsity players are needed that meet the following requirements: Ages 12-13 (As of July 31) with a weight maximum of 165 lbs. Age 14 (As of July 31) with a maximum weight of 130 lbs. The Novi Bobcats Varsity offers increased opportunities for the development of the serious youth football player. Other benefits/advantages of playing for the Bobcats include: roster size capped at 33 players, an

eight-game schedule including playoffs, minimum guaranteed game playing time, lowest youth player to coach ratio in the area and more practice time geared toward teaching the fundamentals of football. The Novi Bobcats provides a fun, family-oriented atmosphere in a variety of on and off the field activities.

If you are going into the seventh or eighth grade and are serious about learning the game of football and developing your skills further, please contact Ken Harse at (248) 347-0343.

**Coaching positions available**

The Northville Mustangs football program is looking for interested candidates to fill two positions on their staff. The freshman, junior varsity and varsity teams have openings for

interested candidates. For more information, please call Clint Alexander at (248) 344-8420.

**Coach Schluter's Novi summer basketball camps**

All of the basketball camps are directed by Novi High School Boys Varsity Basketball Coach Pat Schluter. Schluter was Coach of the Year 2003-2004, and is also a Physical Education Teacher at Novi Meadows School. Camps will be assisted by Novi Basketball Coaching Staff and high school players. All camps will be at the Novi Middle School gym unless noted.

**Novi Wildcat Boys & Girls Shooting Camp (Grades 3-9)**

This shooting camp will be packed with instruction, techniques, and the drills a player needs to shoot the basketball well. Emphasis will be placed on 3-point shooting, free throws, shooting of the dribble, and spot shooting. Awards will be given to shooting contest winners. Gym clothes and shoes are required. Fee \$63.00 July 26-30, Monday-Friday Class #2351.401, Grades 3-5, 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m. Class #2351.402, Grades 6-9, 10:30 a.m.-noon

through Thursday from 9:10-10:30 a.m. each day. The cost of the camps are \$125 per player each week. They will be held at Total Sports on Wixom Road. More details are available at [www.detroitjaguars.com](http://www.detroitjaguars.com) as is the downloadable and printable registration forms.

**Jaguars host soccer camps**

So you want to be trained by the best? Well, the W-League's Detroit Jaguars are prepared to strut their stuff in a very educational environment for soccer players of all skill levels. The fees, which are based out of Novi, will be holding three camps through June and July that will run from Monday

to Tuesday from 9:10-10:30 a.m. each day. The cost of the camps are \$125 per player each week. They will be held at Total Sports on Wixom Road. More details are available at [www.detroitjaguars.com](http://www.detroitjaguars.com) as is the downloadable and printable registration forms.

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**Hard work paying off for Kerri Pomeroli**

By Sam Eggleston  
 RECORD SPORTS WRITER

They say it's about who you know in the game of show business.

Though that may be the case the majority of the time, Kerri Pomeroli has shown that a lot of hard work can get you somewhere in Los Angeles — and beyond.

Pomeroli, who is a stand-up comedian and actress, is going to have a book hitting the shelves this summer as well as a DVD and a comedy CD.

"I've worked so hard for this and it's finally happening," Pomeroli said.

"I've put in the hours at the boot camps, that's for sure."

The book, which she has been working on for over three years, chronicles the journey that has been her dating life. It is titled "If I Am Waiting On God, Than What Am I Doing On The Christian Chatterbox: Confessions Of A Do-It-Yourself Single."

It is scheduled to come out this July.

"It's stories about being single and being in the dating trenches," Pomeroli said. "I just got sick of reading all of the dating books about someone who is 18 and gets married happily ever after. I wanted to write a book about

someone over 21 that has been through it all. It's kind of like a 'Bridget Jones' Diary' tell all without all the steamy details."

Pomeroli said that book is about a real single person on real dates that just wants to live the American dream of a BMW, a house in the suburbs and two-point-five kids.

The person just happens to fail miserably in every attempt. "It goes all the way back to my experiences in third grade," she said. "At one time, I even pretended to like dogs for one guy and it ended up not even being his dog. There are just some ridiculous incidents that a lot of people can relate to."

Many people would be more than happy with their book finally getting published.

Kerri Pomeroli  
 Comedian

Pomeroli, however, had a slew of other things to tack on her to-do list that she can finally cross off.

Her DVD was done with two other comedians while working a show in Ohio while her CD is done with Sherry Shepherd of the television show "Less than Perfect" and the comedian Bone. It is titled "Comedy Without Compromise."

"It's a compilation CD and the best of all of our shows," Pomeroli said. "It's all clean comedy." The book, CD and DVD will



Submitted Photo

Kerri Pomeroli, a Northville High School graduate, is a rising name in the entertainment industry. Not only does she have a recent CD for sale on her Web site, [www.kerripom.com](http://www.kerripom.com), but she also has a book set to hit the shelves this summer as well as a comedy DVD.

all be available through Pomeroli's Web site, [www.kerripom.com](http://www.kerripom.com). She said that the proceeds of the sales will go towards a very good cause.

"The money will go to the trophy-wife-in-training fund," Pomeroli said. "A portion will also go to my mother's need-to-raise-money-for-a-wedding fund."

Even with so much working in her favor right now, Pomeroli isn't forgetting about the career choice that has brought her to this point.

"Comedy is my first love right now," said the stand-up. She's always finding things to supplement her routines, which are all drawn from real-life experiences.

Recently, she took a trip to Italy with some friends only to find out they were on the all-people diets that are popular right now.

"That's an oxymoron when you're in Italy," she said. "Obviously they had never heard of the saying 'When in Rome, I was the traitor. I had spaghetti every day.'"

She managed to get plenty of material for her time on the stage after clipping her tooth on a piece of bread.

"I was the homely friend," she said. "Every group of women has

a 'friend' that is the ugly one. I know I had suddenly become that. The Italians were all flirting with my friends and when they got to me they were quick to say 'Thanks but no thanks.'"

Perhaps Pomeroli has enough material to start on chapter one of the sequel to her own book.

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or via email at [seggleston@hi.homecomm.net](mailto:seggleston@hi.homecomm.net).

**Get your groove on! Eye Toy does it again**

By Sam Eggleston  
 STAFF WRITER

So you want to dance, do you? And you think you've got the moves?

Well, Playstation 2's Eye Toy will be able to tell you if you've got what it takes. In the newest game in the fun little accessory, "Groove" you dance to the music and shake those hips as you try to score as many points as possible in a competition of rhythm-like proportions.

From songs like "Jungle Boogie" to "Y.M.C.A.," all the way to a Madonna release and to a Jessica Simpson, games will get the chance to get in the groove throughout this game.

At first, many gamers may be skeptical about just how fun dancing can be. Heck, this isn't some "Final Fantasy" game or one where you go around using

weapons bigger than the character on the screen. Nope, instead you have to go in and be the character yourself. You have to make the moves yourself. And, you have to score your own points.

The concept of dancing to this song or that one over and over again may seem a little bit boring to some, but the truth is, "Groove" manages to bring a massive variety of ways to enjoy one's self to the platform. Take, for instance, the calorie burner.

You input your weight and then pick from a variety of songs before going to town on the dance floor. As you move and groove, the Eye Toy keeps track of the amount of movement, the rhythm to which you dance and the points you score and takes all of this and calculates it into a total amount of calories burned. Talk about a way to get those



video-game addicted kids off the couch!

Then, when the solo dancer tires of being alone, there is always the multi-player mode. From head-to-head battle

grooves to synchronized grooves, there is something for everyone and the challenges are there for the best gamer in the lands.

Talk about a great idea for a party too. Set this bad boy up, get a few friends and see just who it is who has the most style and the best moves. Eye Toy doesn't lie, so the competition factor will no doubt be present. This is a blast.

This game is even enjoyed by smaller children. Though they may not understand the complete concept of the game at hand, it seems that the majority of them are enthralled at seeing themselves on the screen. They wave their hands, jump up and down and have a good time. There is even a "chill out" area that allows gamers to just dance freestyle with no points being awarded or allows people to make a video message to others — which is especially neat to do with the

youngster crowd.

Overall, "Groove" may not fit in with the die-hard, blood-thumbed, blood-shot-eyed gamer, but the rest of the video-game world should find something to really like about "Groove."

Eye Toy has many possibilities on the horizon, and "Groove" just goes to show that the future of gaming is here today.

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 via email at [seggleston@hi.homecomm.net](mailto:seggleston@hi.homecomm.net).

**Syphon Filter doesn't have the right tools to be a competitive spy game**

■ Newest installment of espionage series doesn't have the originality that made the others so great

By Sam Eggleston  
 STAFF WRITER

The Syphon Filter series has been a staple in Playstation gaming since the first deck hit the market in the 90s. Since that time, it has spawned off three sequels but hasn't made the jump to Playstation 2.

Until now.

The newest installment of the series, Syphon Filter: The Omega Strain, packs plenty of fun levels into a smooth game which features great voice acting and well-done graphics.

Unfortunately, that's the only benefit to this game. Controls are sluggish and very much set in the old style of play and the features which are meant to make the game jump out at gamers make you feel constrained and tied down.

Take, for example, the create your own special agent feature. You have to take a model and turn it into your own player. Unfortunately, there aren't many options and you just can't take up the controls of Gabe Logan, who is the hero of the ongoing series.

This time around, the Syphon Filter gang has to investigate yet another round of mysterious viral outbreaks and Logan is in charge of the Agency. The only time you get to control Logan or Liu Xing — who is another hero — is in unlockable bonus levels that are found by completing very large levels in a certain amount of time or reaching a certain number of objectives.

The levels offer nothing new to the serious gamer. Mostly, you control your character through a variety of levels, collecting samples, flipping toggles and shooting a slew of bad guys. In fact, there are so many bad guys in this game that you practically run out of ammunition before killing them all. That comes from yet another flawed design — resourcing enemies.

They just continue to pop out in the same locations no matter how many you take down. In this day and age of gaming, that's not very acceptable.

The game does have some very bright sides as well. A four-player multigaming in a style none of us are used to. You team up in a squad to reach objectives that a single agent can't manage by themselves. This also reduces the monotony of having your enemies continue to respawn.

Syphon Filter also has a big replay value. You have to unlock all kinds of skills and weapons, so if you are willing to go through a mission at a faster pace, then you're going to be rewarded.

The biggest bright spot of this game is the targeting controls. Other shoot-and-run games could benefit from copying this style as you are capable of locking on to enemies as well as use a first-person sniper mode.

Though Syphon Filter has been a pioneer in the espionage action gaming genre — even being the model many were built on — it has grown too old-style for its own good. The competition, such as Splinter Cell, are beginning to run away with the title of spy-game champions.

If you've grown to love the Syphon Filter series, then this is a

must own. If you're just curious to find out how much fun one can be, then this is a renter.

Of course, serious gamers won't care either way. Syphon Filter can be challenging at times, which is enough to keep most of them at the controls until they've finished the game.

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 via email at [seggleston@hi.homecomm.net](mailto:seggleston@hi.homecomm.net).

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# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Thursday, July 1, 2004

## Helping 'Brood E' to take wing

Although much of the nation's attention in May and June was drawn to Brood X cicadas as they emerged, shrilly heralding their arrival from their 17-year growth cycle, there was no less hoopla and noise created to celebrate the arrival of another brood of 17-year-olds coming of age.

Like genus *Magicada* shedding their shells, millions of American high-school graduates cast off their caps and gowns with great shouts of joy and emerged to take their places in the challenging cycles of life. Some headed for the ivy-covered halls of higher learning, others flow off to test their wings and find their fortunes.

Instead of reproducing and going into hibernation, this generation will seek its way in a world that today offers greater opportunity across a broad spectrum of life's cycles, especially the opportunity to give birth to one's own business.

It may be premature to label the Class of 2004 as "Brood E," but if the plans of the NFIB Education Foundation take hold to encourage young people to consider careers in small business—the ranks of America's entrepreneurs could increase and flourish as never before.



Jack Faris

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, two-thirds of college students intend to be entrepreneurs at some point in their careers. Those with more education, the government agency says, are more likely to become entrepreneurs, and they are more likely to open a business that creates jobs. However, the information shared in business schools focuses more attention on large firms than small ones, which frustrates and hinders those seeking to learn more about basic entrepreneurship.

More focused small-business education and nurturing of fledgling entrepreneurs are keys to providing the necessary skills that will allow tomorrow's business owners to give flight to their visions of the American dream. That's why the NFIB Education Foundation launched its Free Enterprise Scholars Awards program in 2003. The program sets future small-business owners on the path to entrepreneurship by awarding \$1,000 scholarships to high-school seniors who demonstrate a keen interest in learning how to start their own firms and are headed to institutes of higher learning in search of the "how to."

In just two years, the Education Foundation has more than doubled the number of scholarships given. This spring, the Foundation gave a head start to 221 students across the country — the next generation of small-business owners and entrepreneurs.

Not only is the Foundation striving to promote free enterprise as a career path for young people, it has created programs to recognize teachers and other mentors for their efforts in helping students experience the benefits of entrepreneurship.

With support from NFIB members, small-business owners and others interested in strengthening our country's commitment to teaching the values of free enterprise and entrepreneurship, the Education Foundation is feeding and nurturing Brood E and those who follow, playing a key role in the economic life cycle of our nation.

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 the consensus views of its 600,000 members in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals. More information is available on-line at [www.NFIB.com](http://www.NFIB.com).

### Story idea?

Do you have a news brief or story idea about your company?

Send it to:

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Advertorial



Photos by Duane Ramsey

The Lady Justice statue (left) holds the Scales of Justice with (from right) Brian Lonnerstater, Paula Ferus and Monica Bauer, who comprise the staff at Lonnerstater's law office.

## Lonnerstater law practice cares about its clients

By Duane Ramsey  
SPECIAL WRITER

Client service at the Law Office of Brian H. Lonnerstater, P.C., begins with an attorney and staff who serve clients with courtesy and respect no matter how large or small the case. The firm pledges to deliver high quality legal services that tap the lawyer's combined role as adviser, counselor and advocate.

"We focus our representation on legal concerns most people face at one time or another during their life," said Brian Lonnerstater, who offers free initial consultations for potential clients.

"I believe the key to providing clients with the best legal representation is to focus personal attention on them while listening to and addressing their needs," Brian said. "For most of my clients, this is their first encounter with the legal system. Although I work in this field every day, I keep in mind that it is all new to my client. It is my job to help them understand the process while I advocate on their behalf."

Lonnerstater concentrates the majority of his practice on personal injury litigation. He also represents clients charged with traffic violations and provides estate-planning services such as wills, trusts, etc. He strives to provide caring and effective legal representation and to fight aggressively to obtain the best results for his clients.

"It's hard to put a dollar value on the effect an injury has on a person, but by keeping clients informed about the strengths and weaknesses of their case, most clients understand what they might expect in terms of a settlement or verdict," Brian said.

"Legal proceedings are stressful for most people. We want our injured clients to focus their

energy on recovering from their injuries and not to have to worry about the legal aspects. Leave that to me!"

Most of his personal injury clients have suffered injuries in auto accidents, from dog bites, or accidents caused by someone else's negligence. Brian said that they are able to settle about 50 percent of the injury cases without filing a lawsuit.

"It can save time and money to settle claims without going to court," Brian said. "However, when a case calls for vigorous pursuit, we take an aggressive and thorough approach. Although I enjoy the challenge and quick thinking that trial work presents, when a settlement is in a client's best interest, it is pursued as early as possible."

Alternative resolution of disputes, such as arbitration or mediation, is recommended if appropriate, he added.

Regarding clients that are charged with traffic violations, Lonnerstater believes that his experience is helpful in protecting their rights and working out the best possible resolution of their situations.

"Most people are concerned with the points that they are charged with as the result of a traffic offense. Many times, there are ways of reducing the points and fines associated with various traffic offenses," Brian said. "My experience with proper negotiation techniques usually works to the benefit of my clients."

The firm also handles wills, trusts and estate planning for clients. An effective estate plan will make sure that the client's wishes are carried out upon their death and will avoid the costly and lengthy probate process, according to Lonnerstater, who is currently in the process of obtaining his certificate as a Certified Estate Planner.

Brian advises clients on a wide

range of estate planning tools, such as trusts, health care directives, and durable powers of attorney. He also offers legal advice regarding guardianship and conservatorship matters and related issues to provide for the care of children after the death of their parents. A new area of Michigan law even allows people to set up trusts for the care of their pets.

Once the appropriate course of action has been determined, the law office will draft and execute the necessary documents to carry out the client's wishes. If the estate involves complex issues, they will arrange for consultation with attorneys who focus on tax issues, Medicare or Medicaid planning, or whatever is needed to ensure an effective estate plan.

"A lawyer needs to know when to refer a case to a specialist, just like a doctor," Brian said. "This is especially true in the area of estate planning."

The firm offers a complimentary consultation on all cases and maintains flexible office hours to respond promptly to any questions or concerns a client may have. Brian will even make house calls or visit clients in the hospital.

"We will listen to your concerns and do everything in our power to make you feel at ease while we tackle your legal matters," Brian said.

Lonnerstater, who has practicing law more than 16 years, started his firm in January. He graduated from Wayne State University Law School and

passed the Michigan Bar in 1987. He also holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Michigan. His practice is located in a historic house on Seven Mile Road — between I-275 and Haggerty Road in Livonia.

### DETAILS

Law Office of  
Brian Lonnerstater, P.C.

39040 W. Seven Mile Road,  
just east of Haggerty

734-464-1700  
800-872-7119

[www.lonnerstaterlaw.com](http://www.lonnerstaterlaw.com)



People recognize the historic house on Seven Mile Road just east of Haggerty that was built in 1899 where Lonnerstater's law practice is located.

## FREE CONSULTATION

Contact Brian Lonnerstater at  
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For a FREE consultation regarding your legal matters.

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