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'Rip Van Winkle'

The Novi Theatres will present the play 'Rip Van Winkle' at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Bradley Lonsway, 13, of Novi, plays the young Rip. -- Page 4A



Swingin' seniors

Bob Radtke (shown with his wife, Jean) started playing golf 40 years ago, when it helped him forget about the problems of his workdays at the telephone company. Now, at age 75, he makes tri-weekly treks to the Riverbank Golf Course in South Lyon to play on three senior leagues, two of which have been offered by the City of Novi Senior Center for years. -- Page 16A

OBITUARIES

James Robert Aldrich, 80

Eva I. Berry, 84

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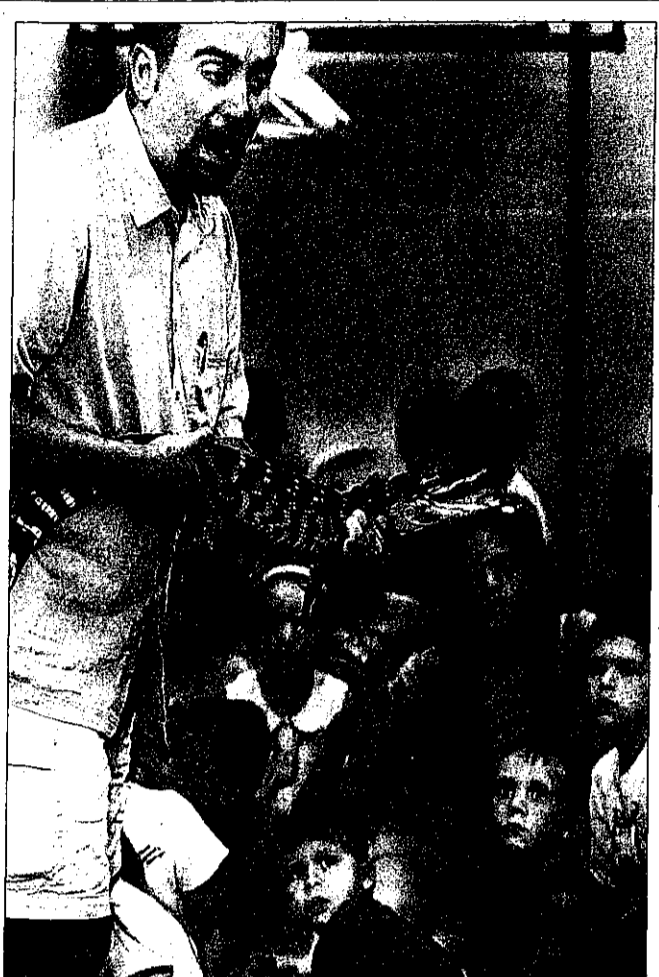


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Gettin' wild

Daniel Briere of Royal Oak's Wildlife Programs introduces a crowd of Novi Public Library summer reading program kids to an American alligator. To encourage its young visitors to stop by and pick up a book throughout the summer, the library hosts special programs and assemblies and days of arts and crafts.

Providence prevails

Hospital wins approval for 200-bed transfer

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

Providence Park Medical Center in Novi will increase by about 200 beds in the near future following a ruling Tuesday in Ingham County Circuit Court in Lansing.

Judge James Giddings upheld the constitutionality of an amendment to Public Act 619, passed by the Michigan Legislature in December 2002 allowing the transfer of about one-third of the beds within the St. John and Henry Ford health systems.

Public Act 619 amended the Certificate of Need law allowing Henry Ford and Providence, through the St. John Health System, to move beds from their existing locations to Novi and West Bloomfield.

'We won't be adding new beds in the state of Michigan, just transferring existing beds. In our case, we'll be relocating 200 total beds from our Oakland County and Livingston County hospitals,' said Rob Casalou, president, Providence Hospital.

Providence Hospital, a member of St. John Health, based in Warren, consists of Providence Hospital in Southfield and a network of more than 25 outpatient medical and specialty centers, such as Providence Park Medical Center at Grand River Avenue and Beck roads in Novi.

'This has been an ongoing struggle for more than 10 years to see Providence be able to establish a full hospital facility here in Novi.'

Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi)

St. John Health System has three hospitals in Oakland and Livingston counties — Providence Hospital in Southfield, St. John Oakland Hospital in Madison Heights and Brighton Hospital in Brighton Township.

Casalou said that Henry Ford Health System's initial request was to transfer 300 beds to its West Bloomfield facility on Maple Road west of Haggerty Road.

Casalou noted that more than a third of the patients admitted to the Providence's Southfield location are from the Novi market, which includes South Lyon, Wixom, Walled Lake and other areas.

'So, when we move beds from the Southfield hospital to the Novi

continued on page 3

Rumors of Wixom plant closing denied

UAW Local 36 president says new model may be coming

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

As famous late author Mark Twain might have said, reports of the death of the Ford Motor Co.'s Wixom Assembly Plant have been greatly exaggerated.

Ford's response to recent news reports last week on the closing of the plant were met with a flat denial this week.

'We have a strong workforce at the Wixom Assembly Plant, a solid relationship with the UAW and the local community,' said Anne Marie Gattari, Ford spokesperson.



D. Berry

'And we don't comment on rumor and speculation regarding our facilities.'

Ford points to the fact that there's a lot of activity going on at the plant. Ford GT production started this summer, so delivery will also start this summer on this limited production vehicle. About 3,500 of the sports car, which retails at about \$160,000, will be produced in the two-year run.

The Thunderbird is still selling well, and there will be celebrations surrounding that vehicle in 2005, the 50th anniversary of the Ford Thunderbird, according to Ford spokesperson Miles Johnson. Thunderbird sales average about 18,000 vehicles a year for Ford.

Members of United Auto Workers Local 36 represents about 1,750 hourly workers who currently build the Lincoln Town Car, Lincoln LS, Ford Thunderbird and the new Ford GT in Wixom. The Wixom Assembly Plant was built in 1957.

'We cut one shift in 2002. We've lost about 2,000 members, but they've all been placed at other plants,' Berry said. He noted, however, that other plants have gone to one shift as well.

Berry said they have a few skilled tradesmen who are still cur-

rently on layoff, but the union is working with the company to get them placed.

'Through all of the turmoil and upheaval, the membership has kept a focus on quality, safety, and we've led the way for Ford,' Berry said.

'We're very optimistic. We're just now launching the GT, which is Ford's super car. They had to entrust a lot into this plant and the workforce to give us that product.'

'So, just the prestige of this super car, the first one Ford has built, that says a lot. There's a lot of confidence in this plant.'

Berry said there has not been any indication from Ford Motor Company to the UAW about any plant closures or actions to this plant.

'In fact, we are currently awaiting a favorable future product announcement,' Berry said. 'Now, with the reorganization of Ford

Motor Company's new products, I think it's just a matter of time before we get that announcement.'

Berry said he has also not heard of any plans to shift production of some Lincoln models from Wixom to Atlanta.

'Ford Motor Company has not indicated that they are sending any of those cars to Atlanta,' Berry said. 'It's a perception and a rumor. I have heard nothing at all about any plans to shift production to the Atlanta factory.'

One of the Wixom plant's strong points, Berry said, is its versatility.

'We're a multi-line plant. There aren't many plants that can build different products,' he said.

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

Birthday boy asks for presents for troops

Public invited to bring items to 'Freedom Party' today

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

There are a lot of people committing random acts of kindness every day, but 7-year-old Peter Kennedy of Highland is a special case.

The third-grader at St. Patrick's School in White Lake and son of David and Julianne Kennedy, who turns 8 on Friday, July 23, is having a "Freedom Party" instead of a birthday party today.

He's asking his guests, and oth-

ers who would like to stop by, to donate an item for U.S. troops in Iraq instead of bringing presents to him.

'This was his idea. He did not think twice about giving up gifts to do something for the soldiers,' his mother said.

The inspiration for his "Freedom Party" came from one of his classmates who had a birthday party in November, and the guests brought gifts for Toys for Tots.

After watching news reports about the war in Iraq, the third-grader decided that the troops overseas needed help.

'He's interested on what's going on over there,' said his mother.

His "Freedom Party" will take

continued on page 3

WHAT'S NEEDED

Following is a list of items needed by the troops:

- Sunglasses and sunscreen
Lip balm
Insect repellent
Toilet paper
Baby wipes/sanitary wipes
Large, heavy, black socks
Large sweatpants and sweatshirts, thermal wear, hats and gloves
Hard candy, soft melts, sugarless gum, snacks (no pork or chocolate)
Small toys from McDonald's or Burger King
Soft-cover books and magazines
Letters, cards, homemade pictures, photos
CDs, small CD players, AA batteries
DVDs and small DVD players
Money for military families in need (checks made payable to Michigan National Guard Family Fund)

Budget balanced

District has enough money for next two school years

By Ramez Khuri STAFF WRITER

Last month voters in the Novi School District said yes — twice — but the district will still need to dip into its savings and pull out nearly \$850,000 to balance the 2004-05 year budget.

The recently-released budget figures show that the district will spend a total of \$65.2 million in the 2004-05 school year, an amount that's up from \$61.5 million last year.

Total receipts in the 2004-05 school year are \$64.3 million, which leaves \$849,199 in excess disbursements. That amount will

be covered by the district's fund equity, leaving an equity balance of \$8.7 million.

Jim Koster, assistant superintendent of business and finance, said that even though the recre-

ation millage and the two millage renewals were passed by voters June 14, the overall effect of the millage is not .98, as was originally anticipated. That's good news for residents who will only have to pay a millage increase of .6573 because the general operating millage as well as the debt millage had both gone down.

In the budget this year is a

continued on page 3

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COMMUNITY

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

Novi Theatres to present sleepy story of 'Rip Van Winkle'

Novi Middle School student stars in lead

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

"Rip Van Winkle," the classic fairy tale written by Washington Irving in 1819, is a story with a touch of magic about a young man who drinks a beverage from a gnomish character, falls asleep, wakes up 20 years later and the ramifications of this event.

As the story goes, he fell asleep on July 3, 1786, and woke up on July 5, 1796. Talk about a nap! The Novi Theatres will present the play "Rip Van Winkle" at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.

The story unfolds with sympathetic understanding of Rip and communicates his deep love for his daughter throughout the play. It is told with humor and offers the audience a good dose of common sense, according to Sheri Sawson, theater assistant.

"I think the other thing that's interesting about this show is that we have the young Rip Van Winkle, and then we show him as he gets older," she said.

"The staging is absolutely interesting as the set designer has built a mountain stage. Sometimes there



Photo by Pam Fleming

Pictured at rehearsal for "Rip Van Winkle" July 15 are, from left, Stephanie Bommarito, Tim Markham, Katie Kowal and Bradley Lonsway, all of Novi.

are several cast members at once on the mountain," Sawson said.

Bradley Lonsway, 13, of Novi, an eighth-grader at Novi Middle School, plays the young Rip Van Winkle. Stephanie Bommarito of Northville plays the female lead, Dan Van Winkle.

Lonsway has starred in other local performances with the Novi Theatres. He was a pirate in "Sleepy Hollow" and played the dentist in

"Stuart Little."

He said he enjoys playing the part of Rip Van Winkle. "It's a fun part to play," Lonsway said.

For information about tickets and performances, call (248) 347-0400.

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

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Castile Asmann, Novi	Lesley Harrington, Novi
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Stephanie Bommarito, Northville	Alex Hayek, Novi
Tessa Brinza, Novi	Kelli Herrick, Northville
Elysa Brusher, Novi	Sara Kalinowsky, Novi
Andrew Burkhardt, Novi	Christopher Kennedy, Novi
Kristyn Cordes, Novi	Katey Kennedy, Novi
Aly D'Annibale, Novi	Katie Kowal, Novi
Christy D'Annibale, Novi	Bradley Lonsway, Novi
Morgan Dalrymple, Novi	Lauren Lonsway, Novi
Rylee Davis, Novi	Tim Markham, Novi
Theresa Drafta, Novi	Kendall Raymond, West
Nick Farrant, Novi	Bloomfield
Michelle Ferrini, Novi	Lindsey Smith, Novi
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'Boxing for Beauty'

Shiro's Restaurant to host July 29 fund-raiser

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Some area disadvantaged women will be looking good in the near future following a fund-raiser for them at a local restaurant.

Shiro's Restaurant in Novi will be the site of the fourth annual The Look for Success charity's "Boxing for Beauty" fund-raiser July 29.

The event, slated at 43180 Nine Mile Road just east of Novi Road, will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. Monica Gayle from Fox 2 News will host this event along with special guest speaker Jackie Kallen.

Kallen was the inspiration of actress Meg Ryan's latest movie, "Against the Ropes." Fans will also see her again in her upcoming new NBC TV show, "The Contender," also starring Sylvester Stallone and former

boxer Sugar Ray Leonard.

The Look for Success charity's goal is to impact at-risk individuals' lives through makeup, no matter what barriers they may face. The charity says that young or old, an individual's first steps toward realizing their personal potential, achieving career goals and lifting their spirits most often start with improving appearance.

The charity is dedicated to assisting all individuals facing hardships and physical barriers through its makeover programs, makeup training and strong peer support designed to improve their quality of life and build self-esteem and self-confidence.

The charity is dedicated to assisting all individuals facing hardships with an emphasis on women and youth in South Florida, the greater Detroit area in Michigan and Los Angeles.

Tickets to the event are \$75 in advance, \$85 at the door, \$125 per couple and \$1,000 for a table of 10.

Founder Kim Goedde, who grew up in Wixom, started the charity when she moved to Florida. When she moved back to Michigan, she began a chapter



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

here with the help of her mother, Karlene. Her mother now serves as the program director in Michigan.

"I'm just at the point now where I'm getting celebrities involved," Goedde said. "She loved the place and talked to us about having the function there," Goedde said.

Goedde said in Michigan, The

Look for Success staff focus mostly on women diagnosed with cancer, cancer survivors and women in assisted living facilities.

"I've also helped single mothers and former inmates re-enter society," Goedde said. The organization also helps women suffering from domestic violence.

Two years ago, the charity started to focus on underprivileged high-school students, both boys and girls, in Los Angeles.

"We're in the process of establishing a chapter in Los Angeles and have scheduled events for a couple of years," Goedde said.

Goedde, who expects about 150 people at the July 29 fund-raiser at Shiro's, noted that cosmetic firms Estee Lauder and Neutrogena have donated products for the makeovers.

For more information or to obtain tickets, call Goedde at (734) 554-0422 or visit www.thelookforsuccess.org.

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



Good time for Goodfellows

A visitor to Saturday night's VIP opening of Novi's Hooters gets some encouragement from waitresses to don fun wear and act like a duck. The event raised more than \$1,200 for Novi Goodfellows. City council is to acknowledge the community partnership at Monday evening's meeting.

Kallen winning in sports world

A former journalist, TV host and radio personality, Detroit native Jackie Kallen is a motivational speaker who travels the country addressing women's groups, conventions and college audiences.

A mother of two sons and grandmother of two young boys, she was one of the first females to succeed in the male-dominated world of professional boxing. As a manager, she guided four boxers to world titles; was at one time the commissioner of the International

Female Boxers Association and has won numerous awards and honors.



J. Kallen decided to try her hand at managing.

The results wildly exceeded her expectations.

Now living in Los Angeles, Kallen is involved with various charities, is developing a TV show, has written a Broadway musical and is still managing boxers. Her current fighters include former champ Bronco McKart and heavyweight Kevin Monty.

Besides being the inspiration for the new movie "Against the Ropes" starring Meg Ryan, she is the author of the book "Hit Me With Your Best Shot."

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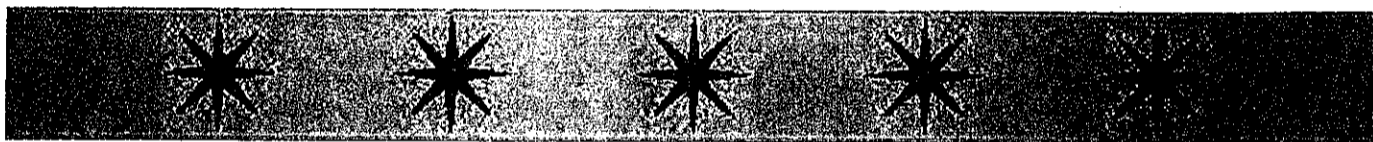
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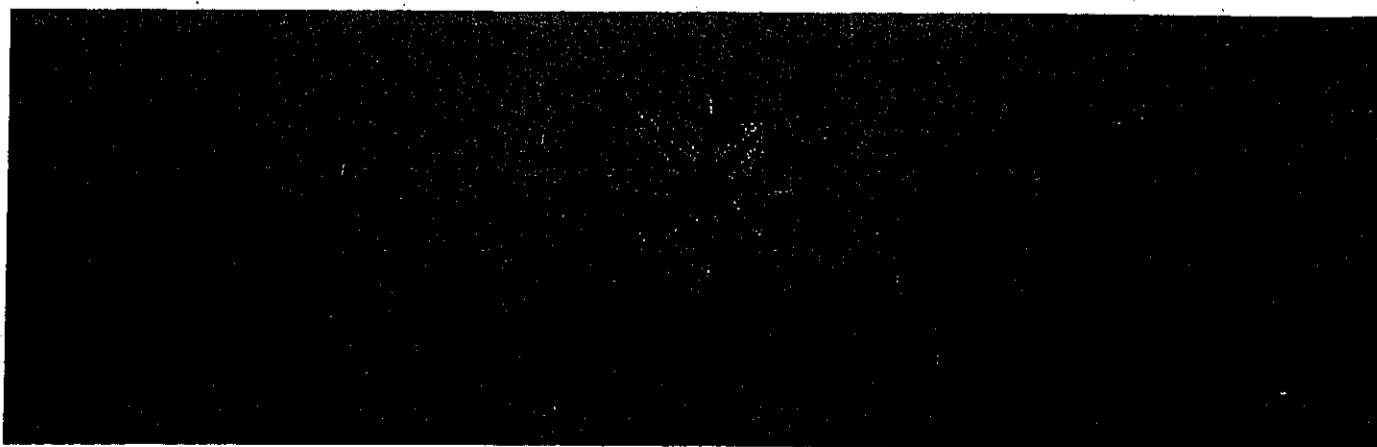


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BUSINESS

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi Twelve Oaks' Point A Luggage employees John Latham, left, and Demetrius Stephens take a look at a \$600, nearly indestructible, water resistant Zero Halliburton case. Point A sells everything from the multi-hundred dollar Halliburtons to \$10 passport holder wallets.



Luggage shop goes upscale

By Kim Kovelie
STAFF WRITER

There's a new destination in town for the upscale traveler, and it's nestled right in Twelve Oaks Mall.

Point A Luggage, which opened in the JCPenney wing across from The Gap in late April, prides itself on stocking a wide variety of premium travel brands such as Tumi, Hugo Boss, Travel Pro, Swiss Army, Hartman and Zero Halliburton.

Launched by Samsonite Company Stores in October 2002, Point A has only five other locations in the U.S., in addition to European shops. This is Michigan's first.

"We're very careful about what markets we open in," said Michael Zucker, Samsonite's vice president of merchandising and marketing. "Of all the centers we'd seen in the Michigan market, Twelve Oaks was the best one out there."

This Point A replaces a Travel 2000 formerly located in the mall, which had been there for

about 11 years. Samsonite purchased the Travel 2000 chain in late 2002 and decided to "upgrade" from the "more moderate" outlet to better suit area travelers, according to Zucker.

The same four employees — three of whom live in the Novi vicinity — simply moved from the old location to the new.

John Latham, Samsonite's district manager for southeast Michigan, says that it's their expertise and service that gives Point A an added edge. "I think you go into a department store looking for luggage, and the guy from men's shoes comes running over and wants to see if he can help you," Latham said. "At Point A, our customer service is top-notch. Our associates know the store front and back. They know more about this product than perhaps the vendors even do."

Aside from luggage, the selection includes high-class Mont Blanc pens and pencils, casual bags, men's and ladies' wallets by Hugo Boss and Kenneth Cole, stationery, business cases, leather

goods and personalized travel accessories.

With a dozen glossy catalogues at hand, shoppers' options go even further.

"If we don't have it (and) they're interested, we'll always go out and order it," Zucker said. "We offer a much broader assortment than you would see within the four walls."

Special orders cover thousands of items, according to both Zucker and Latham.

Personalizing typically can be completed in a matter of a day or two, thanks to an on-site machine. One will be arriving at Twelve Oaks soon.

Ultimately, there's something suitable for every discriminating business, leisure or international

traveler. Point A's five other locales include Orlando, Washington, D.C., Boston, and two Baltimore stores. They hope to expand globally in the future.

"It's a 'small box' concept," Latham said. "It's a very intimate concept. We build long-term relationships with a lot of our customers."

Added Zucker, "We'd like them to feel like they'd like to come to us every time they travel."

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

Hoa Hoa Inn brings Asian cuisine to Novi

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

The Hoa Hoa Inn, a restaurant that just opened on the north side of Novi in the Maple Place strip mall, may be new, but its owner has been cooking Asian cuisine for almost half a century.

Owner Gene Woo, of West Bloomfield, said his father's uncle owned a restaurant by the same name but spelled differently, the Hoe Hoe Inn, at Second and Alexander in downtown Detroit. The restaurant was quite popular in the 1940s.

Hoa Hoa (pronounced Ho Ho) means "noble house" in Chinese, Woo explained.

Woo's father, Daniel, was also in the restaurant business for 40 years and owned the Hoa Kow Inn in Oak Park. Woo took over the restaurant for his father in 1976, eventually closing that one and opening another by the same name on Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield.

He recently closed that location to open the Hoa Hoa Inn at 31162 Novi Road on the southeast corner of Novi Road and Fourteen Mile on the border of Novi and Walled Lake.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday; noon to 10 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday.

One of the most interesting aspects of the new restaurant is its innovative contemporary interior design by the late Metro Detroit architect Gene Baker.

Baker had cancer and died just two weeks before the opening of the restaurant, according to Woo.

"He'd never done a Chinese restaurant before," Woo said. "He did a good job. People enjoy it."

The restaurant features wood of various colors halfway up the walls

with a sculpted edge at the top. Drawers at the back of the front counter are also constructed of various colors of wood.

Red and blue lights hang at different lengths from the ceiling with coordinating lighted scones completing the look. Woo said many customers have commented on the relaxing environment.

Hoa Hoa Inn specials include lettuce wraps with lobster, crab and shrimp, sauteed assorted mushrooms with oyster sauce and hoisen sauce and a touch of garlic; and Dragon and Phoenix, with lobster meat and white meat of chicken, vegetables sauteed with hoisen sauce and a touch of garlic.

Other specials are Dynasty Shrimp, with sauteed shrimp, vegetables with pinenuts, oyster sauce, hoisen sauce and a touch of garlic; Imperial Phoenix, with sauteed white meat of chicken, oyster, mushroom and oyster sauce; and Orange White Fish, broiled white fish with mandarin orange.

Two more specialties are Chilean Sea Bass, lightly breaded with hot spicy sauce or seasoning soy sauce, and Mongolian Rack of Lamb, grilled neck of lamb with hoisen sauce.

Woo, who won approval from the City of Novi to transfer his liquor license, said he decided to close the West Bloomfield restaurant and open one in Novi because it was a better location.

"On Orchard Lake Road from Twelve Mile Road to Pontiac Trail there are 130 restaurants. There's less competition at this location," he said. "The neighbors at Maple Place are glad we're here because we're attracting more business."

The restaurant can seat 70. For reservations, call the Hoa Hoa Inn at (248) 926-8013.

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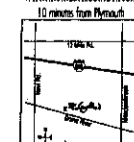
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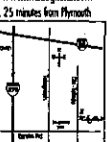
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Notice is given that the Novi City Council will be meeting to interview applicants for appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals on Monday, July 26, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. If you are a qualified voter in the City of Novi and interested in volunteering to serve on this board, applications are available in the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile, or by calling (248) 347-0456 to receive an application by mail or fax, or log onto the City Web Site at www.ci.novi.mi.us to print out an application.

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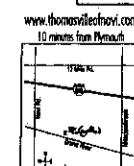
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LIFESTYLES

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

OBITUARIES

James Robert Aldrich, 80

James Aldrich died July 12, 2004. He was 80.

Mr. Aldrich was a WWII veteran of the U.S. Navy serving in the Pacific from 1943 to 1946. He was a life member of the Knights of Columbus, Farmington Hills Elks, and VFW #412. Mr. Aldrich was employed for 25 years as a funeral arranger with Ross B. Nothrup. He enjoyed fishing and hunting.

Survivors include his wife and best friend of almost 58 years, Shirley Ann (Petz) one daughter, Linda Mary Aldrich Regier; one granddaughter, Cristina Marie Regier; and two step-sons, Sally Beth Pasnik of Saugeen, Ariz., and Mary Esther Slay at Cold Springs, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charlotte Nothrup (Ress) and Clarence Aldrich (Islette); and one step-son, Blake Nothrup. A funeral mass was held July 17, 2004, at Holy Family Church, Novi. On-line sympathy messages at www.eriensullivanfuneralhome.com. Memorials may be made to Providence Hospital Hospice, Suite

228, 22255 Greenfield Rd., Southfield, MI 48075-9923. Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi.

Eva J. Berry, 84

Eva Berry died July 14, 2004. She was 84.

Mrs. Berry was a resident of Walkerswood and a member of the Eastern Star. Survivors include two daughters, Michele Berry and Denise (Jay) Smith; three grandchildren, Clinton (Loni) Duke, Brittany and Ashley Smith; three great-grandchildren; and three siblings, James (Margaret) Davis, Clifford (Barbara) Davis and Rosie (Jack) Thomas.

The groom-elect is a 1993 graduate of West Bloomfield High School, a 1997 graduate of Michigan State University, and is currently employed with M & W Industries. A September 2004 wedding is planned.

ENGAGEMENTS



Fitzpatrick-Accardo

John and Linda Fitzpatrick of Novi announce the engagement of their daughter, Colleen Fitzpatrick, to Michael Accardo, son of Joe and Marilyn Accardo of West Bloomfield.

The bride-elect is a 1993 graduate of Novi High School, a 1998 graduate of Michigan State University, and is currently employed as a landscape architect. The groom-elect is a 1997 graduate of West Bloomfield High School and a 2002 graduate of Eastern Michigan University. He is currently employed by Taylor School District, Taylor. An October 2004 wedding is planned.



Ponder-Romero

John and Charlene Ponder of Northville, formerly of Ypsilanti, announce the engagement of their daughter, Sarah Marie Ponder, to Eric Alan Romero, son of Raymond and Rosanne Romero of Rolland.

The bride-elect is a 1996 graduate of Lincoln Consolidated High School and a 2001 graduate of Eastern Michigan University. She is currently employed by Adrian Public Schools, Adrian. The groom-elect is a 1997 graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School and a 2002 graduate of Eastern Michigan University. He is currently employed by Taylor School District, Taylor. An October 2004 wedding is planned.

HEALTH

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

Good health tips are where you find 'em

By Ernie Harwell

I'm always on the lookout for tips on better health. They're everywhere lately. For instance, the following "Make Time for Fitness" tips flashed across the Pacific Bell Park scoreboard between innings at a recent San Francisco Giants game.

Park two walks away: Park your car far enough away from your job, the mall or even the ballpark to take in a good walk when you arrive and another when you leave.

While you're in the swing: While there, walk for 20 minutes (or for 10 minutes twice) without stopping, throw in a bit of stair climbing and you will have invested at least a half-hour's time toward better health.

When you reach home - Instead of sitting down when you return home, take just one more brisk 10-minute walk and you're on your way to a healthier tomorrow.

The U.S. Surgeon General says we can all stay fit with just 30 minutes of moderate exercise cumulative each day. I think it's worth it to get out there and walk.

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

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns entitled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.

Successful strategies for dealing with stress

By Elaine Horowitz

Stress is something we all deal with every day. It's our body's response to stimuli or stressors in our environment. How we react to stressors is a very individual and psychological make-up, past experiences, cultural background and perceptions of the situation.

The slightest change in routine can cause some people to go into a tizzy, while others seldom seem to get flustered. Where you fall on this continuum is less important than learning where your stress comes from and finding ways to deal with it.

Modern life is full of stress. Along with the usual family and work stressors, we are also faced with an unstable world and loss of the security we've always enjoyed.

Having access to news 24/7 does nothing to allay these fears and, in fact, may make matters worse. In a stressful situation, your body reacts by going into "fight or flight" mode. The release of hormones into the bloodstream causes you to become more alert, increases your heart rate and blood pressure and generally prepares you to meet the stressor head on. While this may be good in the short run when a situation requires alertness and quick thinking, long-term stress can have a negative effect on your health and well being.

Some symptoms associated with chronic stress include:
■ Headaches
■ Joint and muscle pain
■ Heart palpitations
■ Stomach upsets, indigestion
■ Depression
■ Sleeplessness

Stress can also make chronic conditions such as arthritis, hypertension and diabetes more difficult to control. Additionally, stress can impair your immune system, making you more susceptible to infectious diseases.

According to the American Medical Women's Association, women appear to be more vulnerable to stress-induced illnesses for a number of reasons. Women have been shown to be caretakers and thereby take on additional responsibilities, especially in the area of family. They are also less likely to be in positions of power.



E. Horowitz

decreasing the amount of control over their environment and making them feel unable to make changes to decrease the stress. Finally, women with families are on call 24 hours a day. Even in homes where the husbands share household and parenting chores, in the long run, the woman is still in charge. Men come home to relax and recharge their batteries. Women rarely feel that they are completely off duty.

We all have more or less successful ways of dealing with stress. Some head straight for the refrigerator when events get out of hand. According to the Mayo Clinic, eating becomes a way of suppressing or dealing with negative emotions such as anxiety or stress. Emotional sweets tend to cr - starchy, sweet, salty or fatty foods.

That's why chocolate is the ultimate comfort food. It's sweet and has just the right amount of fat to satisfy that craving.

Research indicates that small amounts of mood-elevating hormones released when you eat these types of food help you feel better, at least temporarily. Combating emotional eating takes serious determination. The first step is identifying triggers. Other suggestions are:
■ Eat a balanced diet.

Exercise regularly.
■ Don't keep unhealthy foods around.
■ Snack healthy. Substitute high fat foods for others.

Find other ways to get the comfort you are seeking. When the refrigerator calls, call a friend or purposely engage in another activity.

So, how can we tame this beast called stress? First, recognize where your stress is coming from and find ways to decrease or eliminate it. Work-related stress can be multifaceted. Long hours, increased work-loads, dealing with office politics and just generally feeling unsatisfied can make you feel stressed.

Sometimes, taking a step back and looking realistically at what you are doing can help you identify where to make changes. Make choices and set priorities. Realize that you can't do it all and that is ok. Accept that there are many things over which you have no control. Let them go.

Family can cause stress, too, especially when you try to be all things to all people. Learn to say "No" and not feel guilty. Set reasonable expectations for yourself and others. Ask for help when you need it. Superwoman is dead - if she was ever really alive. Communicate within your family; don't assume everyone

knows how you feel. Realize that things change as you and your family move through life. Toddlers become teenagers and healthy, independent parents become elderly and in need. You may begin to feel like the baloney in the middle of the family sandwich.

Finally, stress can come from living in a world where we've lost some of our connection to our community. How many neighbors do you know well? In times past, extended families often lived within blocks of each other. Now we are spread out all over the country.

Children feel stress too. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, pressures placed on children from parents, teachers, peers and society are stresses they face everyday. Children who are overscheduled without enough down time or time with parents become exhausted and less able to cope.

The AAP concludes that children who have a clear sense of personal competence and who feel loved and supported generally do well. Having previously handled challenges well helps them to succeed in the future.

So, now what? Schedule regular time for yourself, whether it's time with friends or just down time with a good book and cup

of coffee. Develop a positive attitude and avoid negative people. They will only get you down. Take care of your health, exercise regularly, eat a balanced diet and get adequate rest. It is amazing how much better you can cope when you feel good physically. Try some relaxation techniques such as meditation or yoga or maybe an occasional massage. If you don't take care of yourself, who will?

Elaine Horowitz, is a 2000 Nightingale Award recipient for Excellence in Nursing Education from Oakland University School of Nursing. 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 Haudusnah 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. She can be reached at Providence, at 1-800-806-2229

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SENIORS

Kim Kovelle, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net

Swingin' Seniors

Novi seniors have fun, take best shot at golf

By Kim Kovelle
STAFF WRITER

Bob Radtke started playing golf 40 years ago, when it helped him forget about the problems of his workdays at the telephone company.

Now, at age 75, he makes tri-weekly treks to the Riverbank Golf Course in South Lyon to play on three senior leagues, two of which have been offered by the City of Novi Senior Center for years.

"The idea is just to come out," Radtke said while at the second hole. "It's a course that we can play. It's not too tough."

Last Thursday, he was on the green with wife, Jean, and their friends Gary and Jean DeVriese by 8:30 a.m. for a game of nine holes on the mixed doubles league. It also was an opportunity to share laughs — lots of them — and zip around in golf carts.

Jean Radtke got hooked on the game by her husband years ago.

"The first time I ever played on a golf course in Topeka, Kan. I got a hole-in-one," Jean laughed. "I had no idea what I was doing. I'm not that good of a golfer, but I enjoy the people and I enjoy the food."

Bob admits that he has yet to

add the coveted hole-in-one to his handicap card. Despite that, he's currently second place in the league with 212.5 points, and enjoys the atmosphere.

"I like the people that run it," Bob said. "They will listen to anybody, and they will try to accommodate anyone they can."

Tracy Farmer, assistant general manager, knows most of the senior golfers by name.

"You want to make it personal," said Farmer, a school teacher by trade. "You have to know likes, dislikes. It makes them feel like someone's paying attention to them."

On the mixed doubles league, pairs rotate each week, according to Farmer. The cost per person is \$9 to walk nine holes, or \$13 to ride. An additional nine holes can be purchased for \$5 more.

For memberships, which allow privileges Monday through Friday, the cost is \$400 per individual and \$600 per couple. The senior start age at the course is 50.

Tea times are blocked for seniors three times per week. Mondays are reserved for the men's league, which has 72 golfers. The 40-players strong women's league meets on Wednesdays, and on Thursdays the course hosts the 64 members of the mixed league.

Northville and South Lyon senior leagues play the course as well. Many also play on the "Old Geezers League" on Wednesday mornings.

"The golf course is a shorter

golf course, and it's very affordable," course owner Todd Gerhart said. "We don't force anybody to take a golf cart. A lot of seniors do walk. When they're playing two or three times a week here, you get to know them and you talk to them."

The nearby clubhouse also offers specials on food and a place for chatting and camaraderie. Couples golf together, but those who are single or may have lost a spouse don't feel out of place.

"We have a lot of where they'll just buddy up with someone," Farmer said. "It's not unusual to see three men and a woman" on mixed teams.

The league begins in early May



Photo by Kim Kovelle

Bob Radtke and his wife, Jean, prepare to take off from the second hole of the Riverbank Golf Course in South Lyon. Both were playing in the mixed doubles senior league.

and lasts until the second or third week of August. Each week, the person with the lowest net score in each league receives a free sleeve of golf balls.

Up ahead near the 14th hole was another group of four including Doug Arnold of Novi. Like Radtke, he's been golfing for 40 years, 12 of those with the senior leagues.

He travels out to the course three to four times a week. One of his buddies, Ron Goebel, is currently leading the mixed league.

"I'm fortunate enough to have good golfers," Arnold quipped. "Just enjoy golfing. When you're retired, you have a good time."

Kim Kovelle is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or via email at kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net.

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 Detroit Junior soccer player Abby Shepherd has played soccer her whole life. It has taken her places, brought her happiness and taught her the value of a loss and a victory. Read all about her. — Page 2B



Swing for the fences
 HomeTown Newspapers announced the 2004 All-Area Softball Dream Team. Find out who made the cut and who didn't this season. — Page 3B



Regional Marketplace
 Hidden Lake features this European-style gatehouse and fountain for a distinctive entrance to the residential community. — Page 4B

SPORTS & MORE

B1

NOVI NEWS

hometownlife.com

Thursday, July 22, 2004

NABF World Series starts today

Indians looking to have fun, win

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

For the first time in the history of Northville hosting the NABF World Series baseball tournament, it won't be a Northville Broncos team taking the field.

That's not necessarily a bad thing.

"I'm real excited about the team itself for two reasons," said Carl Patterson, manager of the Michigan Indians. "We're going to be competitive in every game of this World Series, and I've been excited all year because I've been able to be around a great bunch of young men."

The Indians, a travel team made up of players from the local area as well as beyond, will be looking to get things started off on the right foot when they play in the first game of the tournament at 9 a.m. at the Hillside Middle School diamond today.

Thus far this season, the Indians have amassed a 14-4 record in the Northwest Suburban League, taking second place overall. Throughout the entire year, Patterson said his squad, which is officially coached by Scott Gardner, has played the most difficult schedule they could muster in preparation for the Series.

"It was something we felt we had to do in order to be competitive in the World Series," Patterson said. "The games we won we didn't blow anyone out and the games we lost were close. We played a lot of one-run games."

"I think it really gave us experience to compete against the teams coming in."

Patterson noted the Series isn't like any other tournament he and his boys have been a part of. Instead, he's the first to admit there's a lot of quality talent coming into Northville today.

"I think this will be the toughest tournament we have played in," he said. "I've been going to this tournament for quite a few years. There are always perennial teams that keep coming back like the Indiana Bulls and the Bayside Yankees. Teams like that are put together with the specific goal of winning their regions and coming to this tournament. It's by far going to be the toughest games we've played."

Though the temptation of wanting to put winning the Series as goal number one is always there, Patterson and the Indians aren't about to cross the line of sports for fun and sports for other reasons.

"The number one goal on every team I have ever coached was to have the young men to their very best and enjoy playing baseball," Patterson said.

That, of course, doesn't mean they aren't out there to get a few wins while enjoying themselves.

"Winning helps you do that," he added. "We do strive to win every single game, but that's not our number one concern. We want the young men to come back the next day and the day after that and the day after that and continue to enjoy playing the game the entire time."

With the amount of enjoyment, talent and competition the NABF World Series brings to Northville, as long as the Indians are enjoying themselves, it's going to be a home run.

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.



Northville's Corey Patterson, left, and his Baseline buddy, Novi's Steve Hart, will be uniting to conquer the best 15-and-under baseball players in the nation in the upcoming NABF world series at the Eight Mile field.

Indians boast diverse tribe

Baseball roster filled with players from across area

By Sam Eggleston
 RECORD SPORTS WRITER

Can two baseball players who have been raised to compete against each other ever find a common bond and play on the same team?

They sure can. Novi's Steve Hart and Northville's Cory Patterson have come through the grades in their respective school systems knowing their schools were meant to be rivals. A single road, Eight Mile, separates them.

And, yet, they can still be teammates and learn to combine their skills and talents for a common goal: Winning the NABF World Series.

"This is a great team," Patterson said of the Michigan Indians, a squad which will compete in the Series starting today. "Everyone is very talented and everyone gets along. When we're playing our best, we're a tough team to beat."

With so much competitive baseball around the Metro Detroit area, both Patterson and Hart could have easily found themselves on any team. Last year, Patterson was a member of the NABF's Northville Broncos. Hart was playing with another team as well.

"The Indians have been a good organization for as long as I remember," Hart said. "The players are nice and the coaches are cool. Plus, there really aren't any teams in Novi to play for."

Both Hart and Patterson were quick to agree they joined the Indians for a chance to play at a higher level of competition.

This season marks the first for the Indians to play in the NABF World Series, which is hosted by Northville and given an automatic berth into the tournament. In years

past, it has always been the Northville Broncos playing.

"There's a big difference," Patterson responded when asked about playing for the Broncos and the Indians. He is the only returning World Series player from last season. "This year we have much more talent, better coaching and pretty much an all-around better team."

The difference? The Northville Broncos are forced to have home-grown talent with only one or two kids a year hailing from outside of its borders. The Indians are allowed to grab players from any city they like. Kids from Waterford, Plymouth, South Lyon, Pontiac and even Traverse City are part of the Indians' team.

"We're just a bunch of guys from different schools that get to play together on a team," Patterson said. "They're all baseball players to me."

Heading into the Series today, the Indians will be playing Team Ontario at 9 a.m. at Hillside Field. The Indians are looking to become

the host team to earn the most victories during the Series. The most ever won in the 22 years Northville has hosted the Series is four.

"The team goal is to go out and try our best," Hart said. "To win the whole thing would be good, especially since we're playing on our home field."

Patterson agreed and added the best way for the Indians to make a run in the Series would be to come out strong.

"If we play like we usually do we can come in first if we really want to," he said. "We've got to play all the teams as hard as we can. The big challenge here is to show we belong. We've got to at least get a couple of wins. That's what we're in it for."

But no matter if they win all their games or none, the Indians will have made every moment worth while.

"It's the memories that count," Patterson said. "We're going to be playing some really good, solid teams. As long as we play our best it will be a great Series."

Making the trek for good baseball

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

Most teams draw from an area the size of a city or maybe even a county. The Michigan Indians, it seems, draws from an entire state.

The Indians, a squad playing host to the NABF World Series today through Sunday, has players hailing from Northville, Novi, South Lyon, Plymouth and even Pontiac.

Erik Wojtkowiak, one of the team's pitchers, is a member of the roster as well. He hails from Traverse City — nearly five hours away.



Wojtkowiak

"Last summer I didn't have a lot of good competition with my summer league team," Wojtkowiak said when asked what brought him to the Indians. "I heard down state in Detroit there was some pretty good competition. I also heard the Michigan Indians were a pretty good team."

And so his journey from Traverse City to Northville began. His father and mother, Mike and Shauna, contacted Indians' coach Carl Patterson and soon found themselves coming down for a tryout.

Not long after, Wojtkowiak was selected to the team.

"He's a solid player," Patterson said. "We're happy to have him as a member of this team."

During the competition schedule, Wojtkowiak said he normally stays with his grandparents outside of East Lansing. When he's not playing, he takes the trip back up north and home.

Wojtkowiak attends Traverse City St. Francis and plays varsity baseball and football in the Lake Michigan Conference. Last year, his football team won the Division VII state finals.

His time with the Indians has found him exercising his various pitches. Wojtkowiak throws both the two- and four-seam fastball as well as a knuckle curve and a splitter. He's currently working on a change-up to add to his arsenal as well.

His move from America Legion ball in Traverse City to NABF baseball has proven to be the right choice so far.

"It's very good competition," he said. "All the players on the team are extremely talented and they all want to be there. It's definitely what I wanted in a baseball team."

Though when he first signed on to the Indians Wojtkowiak had no clue they were going to participate in the World Series, he said he is looking forward to it.

"It should be really good," he said. "Teams are coming from all over the country and there should be some great competition."

Being four and a half hours from home can start to wear on a player if he's not prepared for the drain on himself. It's even worse on his parents.

Wojtkowiak said he's lucky though. His folks are the first to cheer him on.

"They've been real supportive," he said. "They've been taking me down here every weekend and constantly dragging me back and forth. I'm really happy they've been there for me."

Win or lose in the World Series, Wojtkowiak said he has already been well rewarded for his troubles of finding a quality travel team.

Of course, he's still hoping to get some big wins.

"I know if we play our best we're really a tough team," he said. "We've all got to be ready. We've got to come out throwing, come out swinging and come out playing our best. We're going to do good, I just know it."

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY



Playing through the rain at her home field, Detroit Jaguar Abby Shepherd (left) stays between her opponent and any potential shot she may have during a recent home game.

Soccer a big part of Detroit Jaguar Abby Shepherd's life

By Sam Eggleston

For 2001 Millford graduate Abby Shepherd, soccer has always been a way for her to do the things she longed to do and see the places she longed to see. She was a member of the Michigan Hawks, a premier club team, while in high school before moving on to the University of Connecticut to play for the Huskies. A brief stint on East quickly found the outgoing midfielder coming back to Michigan to become a Spartan at Michigan State.

Now, she's a Detroit Jaguar. "It has been a great opportunity," Shepherd said of playing for the "micro-league" soccer team. "I've been able to play during the summer which is definitely going to help me this fall in my first year at school. It has also been a great opportunity to stay in shape and play at such a high level."

Shepherd, who will be a senior at Michigan State this fall and will graduate with a degree in kinesiology in the spring, is a starting midfielder for the Jaguars, who compete in the W-League. In the team's final home game of the season last Friday, she didn't see a minute off the field. "I enjoy playing that role," she said when asked of starting and earning so much playing time. "It's a great feeling."

Summer league results mean 'nothing at all'



Sam Eggleston

Anyone who follows girls high school basketball in Novi has probably already heard the rumbles about the Wildcats and the summer league season they've been having. Not only have they put up some remarkable numbers in the pre-season play, but they even managed to beat the very powerful Northville Mustangs last Friday, 37-29 — and that was without their top scorer, Rachele Foinin.

What does this all mean for the Novi Wildcats this season? "Absolutely nothing," Novi coach Bill Kelp was quick to state after his team's come-from-behind victory over Northville. "It means absolutely nothing at all."

Kelp has been here before. Last season, which was his first at the helm of the Novi Wildcats girls program, his team was impressive indeed. They were winning tournament after tournament in the summer league, dominating team after team. The rumbles started soon after: Novi was going to win the Kensington Valley Conference and possibly the District tournament title.

ly looking to resume play at point guard he has already started to look at a few other faces that could play the role as well. "We've had as many as 17 girls out looking to tryout for varsity," he said. "That number may drop during the tryouts, but we've had that many at one time this summer."

With the Jaguars' calling Wisconsin home this season, the commute for games has been relatively short. This summer, Shepherd is calling Millford home before returning to East Lansing for pre-season preparation in mid-August. Through Shepherd has only been away from Millford for three years, she says it seems like the city

And Kelp is definitely not going to stand for it if he sees any coacting going on. Already he has made it fairly clear no position is safe on his court. Though he has talent in the likes of Jessica Hogarty eager to play some hoops.

"I'm not sure she feels the same rivalry as I do," Shepherd said with a laugh. "She's from out of state so she wasn't raised with the Michigan versus Michigan

Swinging for the fences

Hometown Newspapers 2004 All-Area Softball Dream Team

Lindsay Noren

Senior

South Lyon

• Named first team All-Kensington Valley Conference
• Named All-District, All-Region and All-State
• Compiled an 11-10 record with a 0.60 earned run average
• Struck out 160 batters in 129 1/3 innings pitched
• Batted 360 with 15 RBI
• "Lindsay was always willing to do the grunt work," Lions manager Jeff Gale said. "Pitching involves a lot of grunt work and a lot of sacrifice. And that separated her from the rest."

Player of the Year

"It allowed us to be calm, sending Lindsay to the mound every game and knowing that we were going to get a great performance. She always gave us an opportunity to win. "And it wasn't just her pitching, it was also her bat. She had a career batting average of .348. And sometimes, because of her pitching, people overlooked her bat."

Lindsay is a person who has invested a ton of time into this game. And it came back to serve her well. She's very passionate about it, and I think when she goes on to college (Saginaw Valley State University), she's going to really enjoy joining up with other people who are willing to commit to much of their time to the game."

Jessica Wojcik

Sophomore

Millford

• Named first team All-Kensington Valley Conference
• Halted a no-hitter in complete-game shutout of Novi
• Maintained 1.20 earned run average
• Went 20-10 with 211 strikeouts in 192 innings pitched
• "Jessica is going to be a great one," Mavericks manager Terry Frikken said. "She was already dam near that for us this year. As a 15-year-old girl, I think she's leaps and bounds ahead of most others in that age group. She has the potential to be a very hard thrower, and her off-speed pitches are getting better as we speak. She consistently throws four pitches, and I guarantee she'll be throwing five solid pitches next year."

"Jessica has that perfect mental approach to the game — she'll go after a batter. This year she had no fear of going inside, and a pitcher has to have no fear."

Amy Vibber

Junior

South Lyon

• Named honorable mention All-KVC
• Batted .253 and scored team-leading 23 runs
• "Because of graduation and injuries we were left to start the season without a catcher," Lions manager Jeff Gale said. "And Amy just came up and volunteered and said, 'You know, Mr. Gale, I'll catch.' And she performed superbly. And that was a real treat, because when you have a pitching ace like Lindsay (Noren) and you don't have anybody to receive her it can make for a long season. You can strike people out, but when you're not catching the third strike, what good does it do. I think Amy

will have an even better year next year, coming in with that experience behind her."

yet she still had the best batting average on the team. "Alison's refining her skills in the field. She's our backup catcher, and that has everything to do with the fact that she's tough. She'll be vying for the first base spot next year."

Kristen Zawacki

Junior

Northville

• .462 on-base average
• .364 batting average
• "Kristen started the season injured but came back extremely strong for us this year," Northville coach Jean Calabrese said. "She has such a quick, hard throw that no one could get a jump on us. She's smart too, which helped her learn to call all the pitches. She was responsible for telling our pitchers when, where and what location she wanted the pitch. We can't wait to have her back next year."

Christy Badoen

Sophomore

Northville

• Named honorable mention All-Western Division
• Compiled a .350 batting average and a .462 on-base percentage
• "Christy is definitely one of the leaders on our team," Northville head coach Jean Calabrese said. "She protects us over at first base with some great plays. She does the splits if she has to, jumps for a ball if she has to. She's remarkable at saying 'hulk.' We know that if the ball is thrown to her, she's going to stop it and make the play."

Alison Mally

Sophomore

Millford

• Named first team All-KVC
• Batted .361 with two home runs and 32 runs batted in
• "Alison has an extraordinary amount of strength and is a very aggressive hitter," Mavericks manager Terry Frikken said. "She goes up there swinging. If you put the ball over the plate, Alison's going to hit, and she'll hit it hard. She's a free-swinger,

with her quickness, the chances of her getting on are pretty good. And if she gets on, she's probably going to steal second."

Audrey Sabourin

Sophomore

Lakeland

• Named first team All-KVC
• All-District, All-Region and All-State
• Batted 431 with two home runs and 40 runs batted in
• Compiled 32 stolen bases and a .523 on-base percentage
• "Audrey's a tremendous catcher, but we really needed somebody to kind of stabilize the infield — and she did that," Eagles manager Joe Alsop said. "I didn't see a kid who played better at shortstop than she did this year. She would take a bad hop to the face and get right back in there the next time. She anticipates tremendously. She's the kind of kid that will go into the outfield and catch that looper, when most kids will just hope the outfielder gets it. She is one of the best athletes I've ever had and makes great decisions."

Lindsay Richmond

Senior

Lakeland

• Named first team All-KVC
• Named All-District, All-Region and honorable mention All-State
• Batted 394 with 42 RBI
• Compiled 16 stolen bases
• "Lindsay was the captain of our team," Eagles manager Joe Alsop said. "She was a great leader and kind of kept the kids together. She knew when there were problems and was able to resolve any that I didn't know about. She was able to take care of things and keep a little bit of tranquility on the team. She did a great job defensively for us all year and came up with some key hits. She's a very determined kid."

Nicole Sarver

Sophomore

Lakeland

• Named first team All-KVC
• Batted .309 with 12 RBI
• Compiled 21 stolen bases
• "I call Nicole 'Dirty Gurdy,'" Eagles manager Joe Alsop said. "She comes into the dugout after the game and her uniform is just filthy. She's just constantly diving and giving it everything she's got. She's very special, and I really think she's one of the best center fielders around. She's a tremendous bunter and she's smart and she's solid."

Laura Zima

Northville

• Compiled a .306 batting average and a .469 on-base percentage
• "Laura is an incredible hitter," Northville coach Jean Calabrese said. "When Laura is on, she can really hit the ball. She has just gotten better and better with her hitting and defense. It's a fact that people just can't bunt on us very easily. She just scoops the ball up and fires it across the diamond. She's quick, she's smart and she's solid."

SPORTS SHORTS

Novi Wild Prep tryouts

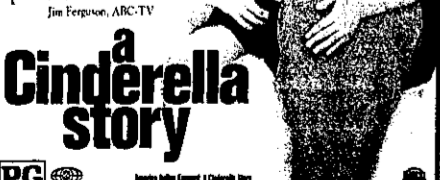
Tryouts for the 2004-2005 Novi Wild Prep/IV Hockey team will take place at the Novi Ice Arena on August 5 from 8:30 to 11 p.m. and August 6 and 7 from 8 to 9:30 p.m. The purpose of this team is to develop Novi High School Varsity Hockey players. Any hockey player interested in joining the Novi Wild Prep/IV Hockey Team must be a student at Novi High School for the 2004-2005 school year. The Novi Wild Prep/IV Hockey Team will be participating in a league that will compete against the other 40-plus teams in the Detroit Metro area. Cost for each tryout will be \$15. If you have any questions, call Paul Havin at (248) 380-5142.

"THE PERFECT SUMMER COMEDY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY." JIM FERROUSON, ABC-TV

"Awesome! This is the 'Cinderella' to remember." Mark S. Allen, CNN-TV

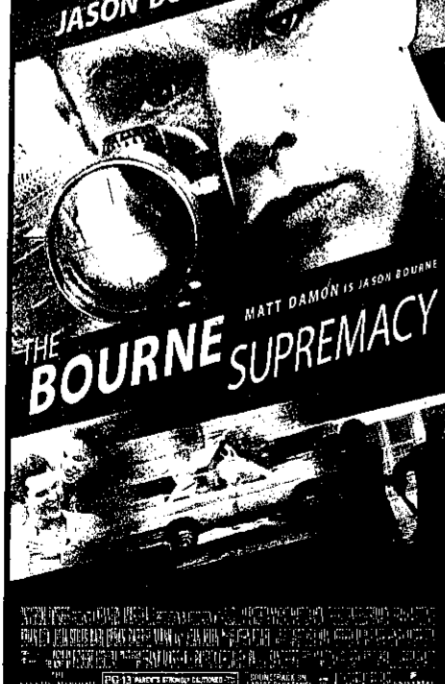
"Sweet and romantic. A cool modern twist on the classic tale." Maria Salas, Rick Sanchez, Show (NBC-TV)

"Hilary Duff makes the perfect 'Cinderella.'" Jim Ferreros, ABC-TV



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SOMETHING HAS BROUGHT JASON BOURNE OUT OF HIDING



STARTS FRIDAY AT THESE THEATRES
AMC LAUREL PARK AMC LIVONIA 20 BIRMINGHAM PALLADIUM PHOENIX 6
MIR SOUTHWEST 20 NOVI TOWN CTR. 6 CHANTON 6
SHOWCASE 20 STAR FAIRLANE 21 STAR GRADTIT
STAR SOUTHFIELD 21 STAR JOHN R STAR ROCHESTER
STAR SOUTHFIELD STAR TAYLOR UA COMMERCE

THIS FRIDAY FREEDOM IS POWER.



STARTS FRIDAY, JULY 23RD
AFC AT LIVONIA 20 AMC FORUM 30 AMC LAUREL PARK
AMC LIVONIA 20 BEACON EAST BIRMINGHAM PALLADIUM
ENAGINE NOVI MIR SOUTHWEST 20 PHOENIX AT BEL AIR CTR.
PHOENIX WEST RIVER SHOWCASE DEARBORN SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR FAIRLANE 21 STAR GRADTIT STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING
STAR JOHN R STAR ROCHESTER STAR SOUTHFIELD
STAR TAYLOR UA COMMERCE FORD WYOMING

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Hand it over
A couple of football players practice hand-offs during Monday morning's camp at Novi High. The camp was open to any player from any school looking to learn some new skills.

Table with columns for church names, addresses, phone numbers, and service times. Includes churches like St. Paul's Lutheran, Bethel Evangelical, First Church of the Nazarene, etc.

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

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Novi News

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Research opens doors to homes

By Mary Davis
MICHIGAN CREDIT UNION LEAGUE

Whether you're considering a modest starter home or a posh five-bedroom house, you'll do well to familiarize yourself with the ins and outs of buying a home.

Ask plenty of questions. Begin by quizzing your friends and family who have recently bought a home. Did they do something they shouldn't have; should they have done something they didn't? Besides offering some good general information, they can provide you with real estate agent and lender referrals.

Call your financial institution to learn of possible home buying seminars, or look in your local newspaper for sessions hosted by community groups. These sessions are usually offered free or for a nominal cost. And they often feature a speaker with a financial background who can, in addition to explaining the home buying process, offer strategies for budgeting and improving credit scores.

Your local book bookstore is always a good resource. Or, if you'd rather learn about the process from your desk, consider online sources such as Bankrate.com, which offers tutorials.

Understand your finances. So the handsome center entry colonial you've been admiring for the last year has been put on the market. Before you put your big toe over the threshold, calculate how much you can spend on a home. Shopping for unaffordable homes is an exercise in futility and a real spirit dampener. By learning how much house you can realistically afford, you can pour your time and energy into finding the ideal home in your price range.

The rule of thumb says your house payment shouldn't exceed 28 percent of your income. In other words, if your annual household income is \$70,000, your monthly house payment shouldn't be any more than \$1,633. This amount should not only include your mortgage, but your property taxes, homeowners insurance and private mortgage insurance (providing you have less than a 20 percent down payment) and any association fees. You'll also want to figure in the cost of yearly maintenance, which is about 3 percent of the home's total value.

Phone your local property appraiser's office for an estimate on property taxes on the homes in your price range. When you phone an insurance company to inquire how much it will cost to insure the home, have details ready such as the address, square footage and the distance to the nearest fire department. For a list of companies licensed to issue insurance in the state of Michigan and other helpful information on how to save money on homeowners insurance, read the Office of Financial and Insurance Services' (OFIS) "Interactive Buyers' Guide to Home and Renters Insurance in Michigan" at www.michigan.gov.

Even though your yearly income will grow over time, you may wish to allot a smaller percentage of your income to your housing expenses, if, for instance, you plan to have children, or you're late on paying into your retirement fund and want to increase your contributions to make up for lost time. You can reduce your monthly mortgage payments by putting a substantial down payment on your house, or by buying a more modest house until you're financially ready, to shoulder a large mortgage.

About the same time you figure out how much you can spend on a house, you'll want to order copies of your credit report from each of the three credit reporting bureaus. Examine your report for things like accounts that belong to someone else and closed lines of credit that are being reported as open. If your credit has some blemishes, you may want to put off purchasing a home until you clean up your credit rating.

Making your car payments on time for at least three consecutive months and paying down credit card debt will show creditors you're responsible enough to take on a mortgage. With an improved credit, you'll have a better chance of qualifying for a good interest rate.

Lenders like to see a debt to income ratio of less than 36 percent, depending on the lender. That means that no more than 36 percent of your pre-tax income should go to paying your mortgage, credit cards, alimony, student and auto loans. (You still may qualify at a higher debt to income ratio, but you'll likely feel financially squeezed.)

Paid Advertisement



Photos by Duane Ramsey

Hidden Lake features this European-style gatehouse and fountain for a distinctive entrance to the residential community.

Hidden Lake offers resort living in rural setting

By Duane Ramsey
SPECIAL WRITER

Hidden Lake is a lakefront community of upscale homes that offers the ultimate lifestyle of resort living in a rural setting. The planned mixed-use residential development is conveniently located off Silver Lake Road, one mile east of U.S. 23 just southeast of Brighton in Livingston County.

Beck Development Company has created a community where families and individuals can enjoy a luxurious lifestyle that fulfills a dream. The Hidden Lake community is fulfilling Earl and Steven LaFave's vision for the property.

"Our mission is to create an environment that allows you to define your lifestyle as one that rivals that of the finest resorts," the LaFave brothers have stated.

The brothers and partners in Hidden Lake and Beck

Development assumed an existing mining operation on the site in 1988. They are completing the land reclamation project with their vision to create a developed community on the property.

Hidden Lake is a 376-acre residential development surrounding the 110-acre, spring-fed lake. It will consist of 425 residences including single-family homes, attached and detached condominiums with a private marina and community center on the lake.

"It's a diamond in the rough coming from the mining operations to become a beautiful upscale, all-sports lake community," said Diane Pazas, marketing director for Beck Development.

Hidden Lake offers easy access to U.S. 23 and I-96 for people commuting to nearby Ann Arbor, Flint, Lansing or the Detroit metro area. Located in the Brighton School District, it

also provides municipal services that include a private water system and connection to sewers maintained by Green Oak Township.

Custom-built homes begin with minimums of 2,500 to 2,750 square feet of living space and prices ranging from \$450,000 to more than \$1 million. Hidden Lake has established detailed architectural and landscaping requirements to maintain the high quality of the residential development.

The developers have selected a small group of custom builders to build homes at Hidden Lake. People may choose from a wide variety of designs and floor plans for single-family homes from among those builders.

The homes built at Hidden Lake have the presence of country estates with a timeless elegance in a setting with beautiful views, gardens and areas where nature is the architect. The project's designers have blended the natural areas with the residential landscaping.

The new Falls of Hidden Lake offers luxury waterfront attached condominiums with a maintenance-free lifestyle in an upscale lakeside community. Four distinct floor plans are available from 2,200 to 2,700 square feet with walkout levels available on most sites, starting in the high \$300,000's.

The Coves at Hidden Lake is a limited edition of individual condominium homes, featuring French Country style residences. The Coves offers three ranch and 1.5-story Cape Cod plans ranging from 2,200 to 2,760 square feet priced from \$490,000 to \$526,000.

The Hidden Lake Community Association represents the entire development and is responsible for maintaining the private roads and all common areas. There are separate associations for the single-family homes, attached and

HIDDEN LAKE

Location: off Silver Lake Road, one mile east of US 23 (exit 55)

Marketing Center open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (248) 446-3541 www.hiddenlakeonline.com

absentee developers of Hidden Lake. Earl lives in a home on the lake while Steve has a lot where he plans to build a home. He currently lives with his family in Brighton.

The Beck Development Company is located on Silver Lake Road near the entrance to Hidden Lake. The developers are no strangers when it comes to creating residential projects in the area.

In 1987, they embarked on their first planned community development, Blue Heron Point in Northville. The firm has been involved in other residential ventures such as The Villas in Livonia and Condominiums at Oak Pointe in Brighton.

However, it was their award-winning Blue Heron Point that inspired the brothers' desire to create the lakefront community of Hidden Lake that set the standards by which others can only attempt to imitate.

detached condominiums.

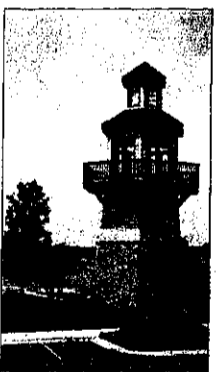
Hidden Lake is not only where the home is but also where people come to play with boating, fishing, swimming and walking trails just out your front or back door. Six miles of paved walkway meander throughout the community with access to all the amenities and is ideal for bird watching, jogging or leisurely walks.

The community center was created to be the foundation for the Hidden Lake lifestyle where family, friends and neighbors gather to enjoy the beach, gardens, lake or open green spaces. The private marina offers permanent docking slips for lease or purchase, a boat launch and fishing pier.

A small amphitheater was created on the lakeshore to bring people together with events for adults and children. They have an adult music series with country and western, jazz bands, '50s music and comedians. They hold carnivals, picnics, puppet shows or have magicians and storytellers for the children on weekends.

Hidden Lake received two prestigious awards in 2003. It was named Development of the Year by the Building Industry of Southeast Michigan and received the Outstanding Planning Project Award from the Michigan Society of Planning.

The LaFave brothers are not



Hidden Lake received two prestigious awards in 2003, including Development of the Year by the Building Industry of Southeast Michigan.



The community commons area at Hidden Lake includes an amphitheater, swimming beach, light house, marina and marketing center pictured here with luxurious homes located across the lake. The private marina at Hidden Lake offers permanent docking slips for lease or purchase, a boat launch and fishing pier.

A HOME For All Seasons...

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Hidden Lake is located one mile east of US-23, Take Silver Lake Road (Exit 55) off US-23, just three miles south of I-96.

Priced from the upper \$300s to \$1 million plus