

REUNIONS

Madonna University All Alumni Reunion 2004
Madonna University invites alumni to join in sharing fun, food and friendship at the Alumni Reunion 2004, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 9 on campus.

A palate-pleasing extravaganza

Schoolcraft's fundraising event will feature 50 local vendors

By Kim Kovelle
STAFF WRITER

In the butcher shop at Schoolcraft College's American Harvest Kitchen, culinary students were hard at work last week learning the ancient art of charcuterie—preserving meat, fish and poultry.

This weekend, they'll be among those creating feasts with the restaurant's state-of-the-art cooking utilities for the 2004 Culinary Extravaganza.

Hosted for its 13th year by the Schoolcraft College Foundation, the event will be held Sept. 19 from 2-5 p.m. at the school's new VistaTech Center in Livonia.

"I think there's a definite need for this type of establishment," she said. "It would be a new, unique, sophisticated place for adults. I think it's something that Novi needs and is looking for."

Lynne Paul, council member, said that the Main Street project is hurting and that she thought there was a need for entertainment like blues and jazz in Novi.

"We have a chance to bring a bar to Novi that's upscale," she said.

Council member Bob Gatt said he did not see the uniqueness of the proposed establishment and could not support it coming to Novi.

Tom Nagy, council member,

Schoolcraft College's 2004 Culinary Extravaganza

Date: Sunday, Sept. 19
Place: Schoolcraft College's VistaTech Center, 18600 Happy Road in Livonia
Time: 2-5 p.m. Pre-event champagne reception at 1 p.m. for high-end sponsors
Price: \$50 per person. Sponsorship packages begin at the Bronze level for \$300, and work up through the Silver, Gold, Diamond and Platinum levels.



Individual tickets are \$50, and sponsorship package levels range from \$300 to \$5,000. Visitors to the event are able to take self-guided tours of American Harvest's extensive kitchens.

Other fundraising events during the year include a June golf outing and November craft show. In 2003-04, the foundation distributed 476 scholarships to students totaling nearly \$381,690.

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- Invited Candidates: Phil Truran - US House of Rep. 11th District, Mark Mitchell - Oakland County Sheriff, Joan Margen - State Representative 39th District, Donna Williams - County Comm. 2nd Dist., Kathleen Leep - County Comm. 7th Dist., Marilyn Morgan - County Comm. 8th Dist., Marilyn Kelly and Deborah Thomas - Justice, Michigan State Supreme Court Education Board Candidates State, University of Michigan, Michigan State, Wayne State, Sheryl Mitchell - West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Commission

School board delays decision on phones

Continued from page 1

Legislature decided to get out of the business of regulating whether students are allowed to carry cell phones or other electronic communication devices in school or not.

The state said that those devices would still be prohibited for the year 2004-04, but starting in the current year, 2004-05, that law would be rescinded, there would not be any prohibition at the state level and that they would leave it up to local school districts to set their own policies.

"The Legislature is obviously getting heat because parents want their children to have cell phones, but the education community is telling the state that they can be a real nuisance and a real problem in school," Schram said. "This policy is really what we had in place anyway, so this is no different than we had in the past."

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

A touch of Broadway comes to town

Continued from page 1

"We don't seem to mind how high the lights go on the legs but we don't want our arms all flapping about," Cowan laughed. "It's pretty wonderful. We have a wonderful rapport. Some of us sort of get together on Fridays and play cards. I don't know what I'd do without it."

"I live there and offered to help," said Don Cook, one of the volunteers. "This'll be my first time to see this one."

City manager's raise voted down, 4-2

Continued from page 1

needs improvement in others," Paul said. "He's a great cheerleader for all of us and does a good job on neighborhood concerns. I don't have concerns about numerous building department complaints and the situation at South Pointe Condominiums."

Landy pointed out that at the Aug. 23 meeting that 2.3 percent was suggested, and that the difference between 2.3 percent and 4 percent of Helwig's current salary is only \$1,935.

"I think his performance has been excellent," Landy said. He noted that city managers in other cities received a bigger increase in their last salary negotiations than Novi was considering.

Landy said the Southfield city manager received a 4.6 percent increase; the Troy manager earned a 5.4 percent increase; the Bloomfield Township manager received a 4.1 percent increase; and the Farmington Hills manager

earned a 3.4 percent raise. Council member Kim Capello said, "I think it's unfair to say the city manager has not met expectations. I don't see where his department is not sufficient at all. I think you're doing a fine job."

"I've found Mr. Helwig to be a professional, intelligent and articulate man," Nagy said. "One area of concern is communication. The city felled trees and put in parking spaces at South Pointe condos. Council wasn't informed right away. Those funds just can't be allocated by the city without our approval," Nagy said.

She also mentioned the South Lake Drive project, where residents have complained about drainage problems on the road and in their yards.

"There is still ponding, and drainage issues still exist," Nagy said. "This is not personal. There are areas I'd like to see improvement in regard to residential issues."

"I recognize and commend the

"I think it really takes a lot of courage for people... especially some of these older ladies with their shapies," Fricda said. "I think it's great."

Next year's show will be "Route 66," a travelogue across the country, Wickert said. Until then, many in the group will continue their "regards" in a small Birmingham show in October, and two dates at the City of Novi Meadowbrook Commons in early December.

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

Council votes down liquor license for Mixx martini bar

Continued from page 1

ple meet to meet," Gregory said. "I think you have a great concept, but I guess I have a problem with it because it's our last liquor license," council member Kim Capello said.

"I would love to see you come to Novi. The problem I have is you had a liquor license and sold it," Mayor Pro Tem David Landry said.

Lynne Paul, council member, said that the Main Street project is hurting and that she thought there was a need for entertainment like blues and jazz in Novi.

"We have a chance to bring a bar to Novi that's upscale," she said.

Council member Bob Gatt said he did not see the uniqueness of the proposed establishment and could not support it coming to Novi.

Tom Nagy, council member,

said she felt that most of the entertainment venues in Novi are geared toward families and people in their 20s.

"I think there's a definite need for this type of establishment," she said. "It would be a new, unique, sophisticated place for adults. I think it's something that Novi needs and is looking for."

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Tom Nagy, council member,

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ON CAMPUS

Novi resident Nicole Walters was among the graduates at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. during spring, 2004, commencement exercises.

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'Got milk?' Allie does

Novi teen wins second place in national contest

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Allie Karagozian of Novi loves milk. And her love of the white liquid led her recently to being named a winner in a national contest.

Karagozian, 15, a sophomore at Walled Lake Western High School, was one of 10 second-place winners in the eighth annual "Secret to Success" contest.

The daughter of Jack and Marion Karagozian of Novi, she decided to enter the contest when she read about it in the magazine. "I really like milk a lot. All of my friends make fun of me because they're always asking for pop, and I always ask for milk. My doctor even told me that I should stop drinking so much milk and drink more water," she said.

Her favorite type of milk is 2 percent.

"It's really good. I drink it with every meal but lunch, and sometimes I drink it then, too," she said.

Karagozian has been a member of the diving team at Walled Lake Western for two years, plays violin in the school orchestra and is considering joining the Spanish Club. She also works as a waitress at the retirement home Fox Run Village.

In her contest entry, she was photographed drinking a glass of milk while riding a unicycle.

"Originally, I was going to do something with diving, but then I saw my unicycle and decided to use that instead," she said.

The copy she submitted with her entry read: "Get balance. Get milk. Not only does milk have nine essential nutrients, but it balances your meals. Milk makes your bones stronger than ever, so you can do cool things — like ride a unicycle. Milk. A glass of it can go a long way. So ask yourself, GOT MILK?"

The contest's goal was to educate teenage girls about the importance of milk in their diet and the need for calcium during the teenage years.

One lucky teen, Kelly Prime of Phoenix, was named the grand prize winner and had her photo in the October 2004 issue of the magazine showing off her favorite fashion accessory — a milk mustache.

Karagozian received a portable CD player and a Seventeen magazine gift for winning second place.

"I was so excited I started screaming when I learned that I was a winner," she said. "I'd just gotten back from diving camp, and my mom said I had a package in the mail."

This year, teenagers were invited to vote for their favorite entry online at www.whymilk.com. More than 8,000 online votes were cast for the three finalists.

Teenage diets are dangerously

"All of my friends make fun of me because they're always asking for pop, and I always ask for milk."

Allie Karagozian
National contest winner

low in calcium, according to the National Dairy Council in Rosemont, Ill. Nearly 90 percent of teenage girls and 70 percent of teenage boys fall short of current calcium recommendations: 1,300 mg. per day or the equivalent of about four 8-ounce glasses of milk.

"This contest is a great way to reach teen girls and emphasize the importance of drinking milk, since

nearly half of all bone is formed and almost 15 percent of adult height is added during the teen years," said Kurt Graetzer, chief executive officer, Milk Processor Education Program in Washington, D.C.

Teenagers can find information about other milk contests as well as view a series of educational brochures and events by visiting www.whymilk.com.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103, or by e-mail at pfleming@h.honcom.com.



Allie Karagozian of Novi was one of 10 second-place winners in the eighth annual got milk? and Seventeen magazine "Secret to Success" contest. This photo of her drinking milk while riding a unicycle was part of her contest entry. She won a portable CD player and a Seventeen magazine gift.

Courtesy photo



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LIBRARY LINES

LIBRARY HOURS

The Novi Public Library is open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. We are located at 45245 W. Ten Mile Road, just east of Taft Road. For more information, call (248) 349-0720.

"THE TITANIC: THE IMPACT ON INDUSTRY"

After the Bible and the Civil War, the sinking of the Titanic is the most read-about and most researched subject at the Library of Congress. Ed Weichler, who has interviewed survivors, visited the graves of those who perished, and read extensively about the Titanic, shares fascinating stories and little-known facts about the legendary disaster on Tuesday, Sept. 21, at 7 p.m. Please call the library to register for this free program, which is sponsored by the Friends of Novi Public Library.

STARGAZING PARTY

Representatives from Rider's Hobby Shop in Livonia and the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club will set up their telescopes on the lawn on the west side of the library at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 22 (weather permitting). You can peer at the universe through their telescopes, and get your astronomy and telescope questions answered. No registration is required for this free program, which is for all ages.

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

The Novi Library Board of Directors meets Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7 p.m. in the library meet-

ing room. Community members are welcome to attend. (Note: Library Board meetings are normally held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Novi Civic Center. The September meeting was rescheduled due to the Sept. 15 observance of Koshi Hoshinoh.)

TEENS READ

Students in grades 7-9 are invited to join us Saturday, Sept. 25, from 11-11:45 a.m. for pizza, pop, and a discussion of "Surviving the Applewhites" by Stephanie S. Tolan. No registration is necessary.

STORY TIME NOTES

Full 1 Story Times begin Sept. 27. In addition to story times for preschoolers, we now offer weekly story times for tots ages 12-24 months and "big kids" ages 5-8. Brochures listing the days and times of all the drop-in Story Times are available in the library.

STARLIGHT STORY TIME

Bring your children to the library at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 28, for a half-hour of bedtime stories. The stories are appropriate for preschool children, but parents and siblings are encouraged to attend. No registration is necessary; pajamas are optional.

BOOK CLUB FOR GRADES 3-4

Our brand-new-reading group for children in grades 3-4 meets Wednesday, Sept. 29, from 4:15-5 p.m. Hear about three of our favorite mystery series, enjoy a snack, and help us think of a ce-

live name for our group. No registration is necessary.

INTERNET PRACTICE LAB

Practice makes perfect! Join us for an opportunity to practice any of the skills you've learned in our Internet classes on Thursday, Sept. 30, from 1-3 p.m. During this session, you may work on any Internet skills, with librarians to assist you and answer any computer-related questions. Note: There is no set agenda for this class; you may come and go as you please during the session. Please register in advance by calling the library.

HOMEWORK, THE LIBRARY & YOU

Learn how to use the library's materials and Web site to find the best resources for your homework assignments on Thursday, Sept. 30, from 7-8 p.m. The session is for students in elementary or middle school and their parents. Advance registration is required; please call the library to register.

NPL READING BUDDIES

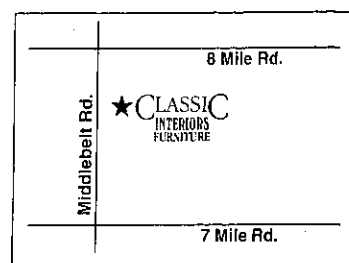
Our Reading Buddy Program pairs older children (grades 5-12) with younger children (kindergarten-grade 4) to improve the younger child's reading skills and encourage a love of reading. There will be a mandatory orientation for Big Buddies on Wednesday, Oct. 6, from 7-7:30 p.m. Reading Buddies will then meet at the library on three Saturdays this fall. Please call the library if you are interested in becoming a Big or Little Reading Buddy.

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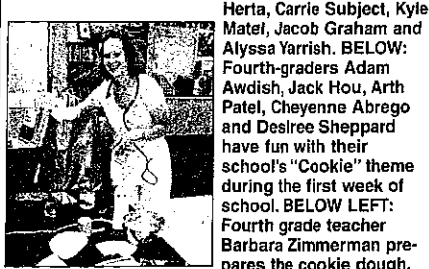
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Cookie Monsters
The first short week of school had a cookie theme at Orchard Hills Elementary School and Barbara Zimmerman's fourth-grade class took full advantage. The students learned about each other by finding out each other's favorite cookies and other personal cookie info. They had to write about memories of their favorite cookies such as what comes to mind when they smell their cookies baking, they got into measurements on recipes as part of their math lessons and they had to research the history of the chocolate chip cookie. They even got to make special cookies. TOP: Fourth-graders make their own cookies as a "sweet treat" at the end of the first week of school's "Cookie" theme. Pictured are Anthony



Herta, Carrie Subject, Kyle Matel, Jacob Graham and Alyssa Yarrish. BELOW: Fourth-graders Adam Awdish, Jack Hou, Arth Patel, Cheyenne Abrego and Desiree Sheppard have fun with their school's "Cookie" theme during the first week of school. BELOW LEFT: Fourth grade teacher Barbara Zimmerman prepares the cookie dough.

Parks & Rec to host sports programs

Area students will have plenty to be involved in this fall

by Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Are you ready for some basketball? How about a little volleyball? Those are the questions that Novi's Parks and Recreation Department will soon be asking residents as they once again introduce their volleyball and basketball programs to the community this fall. "These are wonderful programs for the area. Recreation Coordinator for Youth Sports Wendy DuVall-Angelocci said. "It's a great place for kids to

learn fundamentals of the sports and to meet new kids in Novi and just have some fun. It's all recreational," Ringle said.

The volleyball program will be starting its third season and according to Event/Marketing Coordinator Tracie Ringle, it boasted up to 300 participants last year. That number is only expected to increase this year as a new idea is in the works for organizing a high school freshman girls volleyball program to go along with the traditional programs. Freshman girls who are interested in playing can stop by the Parks and Recreation office at the Novi Civic Center near the end of September for an informational flyer. "That freshman program is

going to run before their season at school, so it could be considered a warm-up for their regular season," Ringle said.

The games are generally played on Saturdays at various Novi school buildings. Unlike volleyball, the basketball program is open to Novi residents only. "It's such a huge program, that's all we can handle," Ringle said. "Generally we have about 650 to 700 players per season." Participants in the basketball program also play on Saturdays in the school buildings. The season has been split where grades one through three are playing October through December and grades four through six are playing January through March.

"The reason that the Parks did that is it allows for full-court practices and it allows for more practice time and space," Ringle said. "Teams get more practice in when there is less teams per season and we get more gym space. It also allows for school basketball participation as well." The Parks and Recreation Department is also taking sponsorships for teams. If a business or a community organization is interested in sponsoring teams, they can call Ringle at (248) 347-0400.

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

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL

Registration: Sept. 20-23. Lottery drawing will be Sept. 24. Placements will be posted in the Novi Civic Center, please do not call the office. Receipts will be mailed the week of Oct. 11. Placements will be posted in the Civic Center. Divisions may be combined or canceled due to registration numbers. Equipment: Kneepads and tennis shoes are mandatory. Mouth guards are highly recommended. Grades one and two use a volleyball trainer volleyball. Grades three through six use a volleyball and grades seven and eight use a regulation volleyball. Season: The price for Novi residents is \$70 and the price for non-residents is \$84. Grades: Four through eight - October through December. Grades: One through three - January through March. Divisions: Coed Grades: One and two Girls Grades: Three Girls Grades: Four Girls Grades: Five Girls Grades: Six Girls Grades: Seven and Eight

YOUTH BASKETBALL

For Novi residents only Registration: Sept. 20-23. This league fills very quickly and the Department uses a lottery system to place players. We make every attempt to place everyone. The drawing will be Sept. 24 and placements will be posted in the Civic Center, please do not call the office. Receipts will be mailed the week of October 11. Equipment: Tennis shoes are mandatory and mouth guards are highly recommended. All divisions will use a 28.5 basketball. Season: The price is \$70. Grades: One through three - October through December Grades: Four through six - January through March Girls Divisions: Grades one and two; Grades three; Grade four; Grades five and six Boys Divisions: Grade one; Grade two; Grade three; Grade four; Grade five; Grade six Travel league: The teams will travel to surrounding cities to play games. This league has a higher level of play and commitment. Price is \$90 for each division. Divisions: Girls Grades seven and eight - January through March - 28.5 basketball, mouth guard, tennis shoes. Boys Grades seven and eight - January through March - Regulation basketball, mouth guard, tennis shoes

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A Growing Place, Inc. admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies and other school administrative programs.

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- \$300 REBATE ON PURCHASES OF \$5000 & UP

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BUSINESS

Fam Fleming, business reporter (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 ffleming@thhomecomm.net

Business women, reunite

The Novi Oaks Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association is celebrating its 15th year anniversary with a reunion meeting Sept. 20. Former members are encouraged to attend.

This event will be held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel at 42100 Crescent Blvd., southeast of I-96 at Novi Road. Networking begins at 6:30 p.m., and dinner at 7 p.m., which will feature herb baked chicken, sirloin beef tips and pasta primavera for \$18. A cash bar also is available.

The chapter was founded by long-time Novi resident Bettie Johnson, a 37-year member with perfect attendance and World War II veteran.

Next month, the group will meet on Oct. 18 and feature Master Quilter Lorna Tippin. All working women are welcome. For more information, call Christina Struwe at (248) 269-2035 or email Christina.Struwe@huntington.com.

They are so ambitious. It will be more of an upscale unique kind of cuisine. It will be a full fledged dining experience."

The owners, who also own a restaurant at Lakeside Mall in Sterling Heights, currently are working at remodeling the 5,000 square foot building.

Cassis said they had about three months total to redecorate and clean the building. Although they'll be ahead of schedule, he said, he's giving an extension due to road construction.

They're also applying for a liquor license, Cassis said, and should open around mid-November. It will seat 175.

Better Health at Luna

The Luna Building soon will see the last 23,000 square feet of its main street building filled in with by Better Health Market.

Owned by Todd Handelsman, who also owns 15 stores in Michigan, said that when it opens, the all-natural health grocery store will be the largest in the Metro Detroit area.

The store will be stocked with fresh organic products, including wild seafood; free-range meat and poultry; prepared gourmet meals; soup and salads; and wines, a bakery, frozen foods and dairy products.

A bulk foods department will have herbs, teas, nuts, flowers and more. Vitamins will be on hand, as well as a nutritional counseling specialist. Handelsman said he anticipates opening around in early January 2005.

Kosinski gets mastership

Novi resident Tim Kosinski, D.D.S., MAGD received his mastership at the Academy of General Dentistry's 2004 Annual Meeting held July 7-11 in Anaheim, Calif.

Graduated from the University of Detroit Mercy in 1984, Kosinski earned his mastership by completing 1100 hours of continuing education courses. He's also been a member of the Michigan Academy of General Dentistry since 1984.

Kosinski practices in Bingham Farms, Mich. since 1991, and lives with his wife Barbara and their three children in Novi.

Restaurant lands in Novi

Come November, the former Oxford Inn Restaurant at 43317 Grand River Rd., just east of Novi Road, will receive new life as home of the new Bangkok Cuisine.

The family newcomers have been hard at work preparing the building, according to its owner, Victor Cassis.

"They are very conscientious about this business because it's their family business," Cassis

Outdoor evening

The Safari Club International Novi Chapter, a non-profit conservation, education and outdoors organization, will host an evening about the outdoors at Garden Mountain on Sept. 22 at 6 p.m.

The firm doesn't sell financial products such as investments or insurance, and since there no "outside influences," Semeyn is "free to be completely objective in his recommendations," the firm noted.

A Novi resident who's lived in the city with his wife and two daughters for the last seven years, Semeyn also focuses on family factors, such as funding college

Financial planning freedom

Triad of the limited accessibility of financial planning. Certified Financial Planner Matt Semeyn decided to establish MWS Financial Planning in Novi. The hourly, independent, "pure Fee-Only" financial planning firm focuses on the needs of middle-income Americans and eliminates the third party.

MWS offers very prospective client receives a free, no-obligation initial consultation, and clients are billed on the same hourly rate, regardless of their net worth.

"I'm not a financial planner," Semeyn said. "I'm a financial planner who focuses on the needs of middle-income Americans and eliminates the third party."

MWS offers very prospective client receives a free, no-obligation initial consultation, and clients are billed on the same hourly rate, regardless of their net worth.

Expo RV show coming

Sponsored by the Michigan Association of Recreation Vehicles and Campgrounds, the 15th Annual Fall Detroit Camper & RV Show will be held at the Novi Expo Center Oct. 6-10.

On display will be the latest 2005 recreation vehicles, including folding campers, motor homes, travel trailers, truck campers, park models and fifth wheel travel trailers.

Models range in price from \$4,000 to more than \$300,000. Year 2004 models will be available at discount prices, and participants can register to win a Fleetwood folding camper from Westland Camping Center.

Seminars and informative video presentations will be available, as

Education, planning a secure retirement

education, planning a secure retirement, managing investments, selecting insurance, building and beverages will be served for a \$10 donation. Visit www.scinovi.com.

Happy 55th, 'Junior'

This fall marks the 55th year that Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan volunteers have brought financial literacy education to local kindergarten-12th grade classrooms.

To volunteer, contact scot@janichigan.org for more information. Alumni may contact the organization via email at mail@janichigan.org to share their memories.

Driving senior safety

Throughout the week, safety representatives from six countries and 17 states gathered in Detroit to participate in Michigan's first North American Conference on Elderly Mobility, called "Best Practices from Around the World."

The focus is preventing crashes while preserving elderly mobility, according to a statement.

Novi Lionses Club Euchre Tournament

DETAILS: Lionsets will be collecting bottles at homes throughout the community and sorting in parking lot of Farmer Jack Supermarket.

CONTACT: Sharon Hoving at (248) 349-4461.

Novi Lionses Club Euchre Tournament Fundraiser

DATE: Saturday, Sept. 25
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center.

DETAILS: All proceeds go to the Lionses charities, 5050 Middle Road, Novi, Mich. 48242. All are welcome.

CONTACT: Pre-register by calling Maggie Meeker at (248) 344-4633.

Novi Lionses Club Euchre Tournament Fundraiser

DATE: Sept. 18
TIME: 7:30-9 p.m.
DETAILS: As summer draws to an end, bring the family and help create a good old-fashioned campfire sing-along. Cust: \$3/person.

CONTACT: Call (248) 437-7345 to register.

Novi Lionses Club Euchre Tournament Fundraiser

DATE: Tuesday, Sept. 21, call-backs Thursday, Sept. 23
TIME: Elementary/middle school, 4:30 p.m.; community, 6 p.m.

LOCATION: Walled Lake Western High School Auditorium
CONTACT: For more information, Web site: wlvhs.com

Novi Lionses Club Euchre Tournament Fundraiser

DATE: Tuesday, Sept. 21, and if needed, Tuesday, Sept. 28
TIME: 9 p.m.
CONTACT: Chorale president Noel Brown at (248) 348-0439 before Sept. 20 to make an appointment for an audition.

Novi Lionses Club Euchre Tournament Fundraiser

The Friends will hold a meeting at the Maybury Park Office on Beck Road, on Wed., Sept. 22 at 7:00 PM.

CONTACT: Registration is underway. Class sizes are limited, so call Novi Ice Arena today at (248) 347-1010 or visit www.novoicearena.com for more information.

Novi Lionses Club Euchre Tournament Fundraiser

DATE: Friday, Oct. 8
TIME: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
LOCATION: Providence Center for the Healing Arts, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi.

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DETAILS: Lionsets will be collecting bottles at homes throughout the community and sorting in parking lot of Farmer Jack Supermarket.

CONTACT: Sharon Hoving at (248) 349-4461.

Novi Lionses Club Euchre Tournament Fundraiser

DATE: Saturday, Sept. 25
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center.

DETAILS: All proceeds go to the Lionses charities, 5050 Middle Road, Novi, Mich. 48242. All are welcome.

CONTACT: Pre-register by calling Maggie Meeker at (248) 344-4633.

Novi Lionses Club Euchre Tournament Fundraiser

DATE: Sept. 18
TIME: 7:30-9 p.m.
DETAILS: As summer draws to an end, bring the family and help create a good old-fashioned campfire sing-along. Cust: \$3/person.

CONTACT: Call (248) 437-7345 to register.

Novi Lionses Club Euchre Tournament Fundraiser

DATE: Tuesday, Sept. 21, call-backs Thursday, Sept. 23
TIME: Elementary/middle school, 4:30 p.m.; community, 6 p.m.

LOCATION: Walled Lake Western High School Auditorium
CONTACT: For more information, Web site: wlvhs.com

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Novi Lionses Club Euchre Tournament Fundraiser

DATE: Friday, Oct. 8
TIME: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
LOCATION: Providence Center for the Healing Arts, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi.

DATE: Tuesday, Sept. 21, and if needed, Tuesday, Sept. 28
TIME: 9 p.m.
CONTACT: Chorale president Noel Brown at (248) 348-0439 before Sept. 20 to make an appointment for an audition.

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Board holds off on residency/enrollment issue

Amendment would allow non-residents to attend district

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Non-resident employees of the Novi School District wishing to enroll their children in Novi schools will have to wait a bit longer for the Board of Education to research the concept further.

The board is now considering whether or not to amend Novi Board of Education Policy 5010. Doing so would allow non-resident district employees to enroll

their children within local schools.

The issue was first brought up during the Aug. 12 board meeting and then again at the Sept. 9 meeting. Most recently, the board decided to take a "wait and see" approach in order to review what will happen to the district's revenues, and any potential loss of students due to this bill.

Bob Schram, executive director of human resources, explained that he first brought the issue to the school board for four specific reasons, which were:

- The district's growth and enrollment has drastically slowed down. "Novi is getting no help," Schram said. "We don't have all the vacant land that Northville, South Lyon, Brighton, Howell and Union Valley has for new housing for new families. We aren't getting new homes built and a lot of people, who's kids graduate, stay in their homes because it's a nice area. We're getting less people and that's why we're not getting enrollment that we used to in the past."
- State funding has not gone up with inflation in all the last few years and there is really no end in sight that.
- Catholic Central is building not only their school, but their future in Novi. "We could either lose students because of that, we could gain students because of that or stay the same," Schram said. "Why would we gain students because of that? I just don't think that's a possibility. Could we lose students? Yes, I'm aware of people who have not gone there

because of its location now. Obviously CC is moving here because it's better for them and they can attract more students. The odds are we're going to lose students, but we're going to try our damndest not to."

The hiring process is competitive. "We are always out there looking for the best teachers, best secretaries, best bus drivers, etc.," Schram said. "We thought that this policy would attract some good staff to Novi."

Though many members of the school board didn't say one way or the other if they agree with the amendment, one made his feelings quite clear.

"If this is purely for revenue, I'd say there isn't that urgent of a need for it right now," School Board Member George Kortlandt said. "Our people have been very generous in granting us this recent recreational millage and renewing all the others. It was said by some that they would support the millages so we would not have to open our boarders up, so I think we would be maintaining our word to them in a sense if we don't adopt it."

Kortlandt pointed out that the people of Novi have been supportive and generous to the school district in allowing the building of state-of-the-art facilities from Kindergarten up through 12th grade.

Novi residents are paying the taxes for those buildings and the proposed policy would permit students to attend Novi schools who are not paying those taxes.

"To me that's unfair to the Novi tax payers," Kortlandt said. "In my opinion, there is nothing for me to wait and see. If some students go to Catholic Central, we'll lose revenue but that's not a good reason to open our boarders up."

Schram said he understood and totally supports the board's decision to wait on the issue.

"It's just open ended right now," he said. "The board has heard from some parents on this issue and they did ask the board to table this to answer some questions. The board did table it and the board responded very appropriately."

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

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Take time Saturday to 'Fall for Novi'

Event offers information, activities, more

By Kim Kovelle
STAFF WRITER

Community organizations, city departments and putt-putt golf will be showcased at the fourth annual Fall for Novi event this weekend.

On Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Novi residents can browse their city's services in the City Civic Center's atrium. Free offerings will range from health screenings by Providence Hospital to an outdoor "Kid City" activity area.

"The event is a way of opening up city hall," Novi Assistant Manager Clay Pearson said. "Easily, during the morning that



is open, several hundred residents come through and take part, collect the information. It cuts down a lot of hunting."

More than 30 city departments will be on hand, from public works and tax assessing to cable television and parks, recreation and forestry. Groups such as the Rotary Club and local public schools — plus Novi newcomer Catholic Central High School —

will have booths, too.

In honor of this year's Ryder Cup event being held at Oakland Hills in Bloomfield Hills this week, kids can play for prizes in the nine-hole "Novi PUTT Cup." Face painting, a moonwalk and a chance to take a picture with "Sparky" the plush Dalmatian (and make a frame) are among the other activities.

Police will have child identification and bike registration services, as well as information on personal identity theft.

The fire department will display a 100-foot ladder and bring back the Dearborn Heights Fire Department's fire safety truck. A mobile-home style vehicle with stadium seating, the popular attraction gives a 20-minute lesson on what to do in a home fire through interactive features, such as heated doors and smoke detectors.

And situated behind Power

Providence Hospital, Inter Automotive and Telcom Credit Union will provide complimentary hot dogs, chips, water, pop and more. And at the Novi Lions' refreshment tent, resident Tom Marcus returns to host his "world famous" Marcus Burgers: top-grade hamburger served on a hot dog bun.

"It's a wonderful thing," said Marcus, who's done Fall for Novi for three years. "There's so many things to learn. It's very educational."

The Novi City Civic Center is located at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, west of Novi Road. For more information, call Cindy Uglow at (248) 347-0437.

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

Barbara Greenberg of Novi digs up a double sunflower in her yard. She will be one of many gardeners at Saturday's Autumn Perennial Exchange on the east side of the Novi Civic Center. The event is presented by the Novi Beautification Commission and the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

Perennial exchange signals start of fall

Event is part of Fall for Novi at Civic Center

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

If you love gardening and free stuff, mark this Saturday on your calendar.

The annual Novi Autumn Perennial Exchange in conjunction with Fall for Novi will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 18 on the east side of the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road.

The event, which takes place rain or shine, is presented by the Novi Beautification Commission and the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

This is a chance for area gardeners to obtain free plants.

Divide your crowded perennials, such as day lilies and hostas,

leaves plants when they go through this process. Sometimes you get more plants than you can use in your own yard.

"The perennial exchange is an opportunity to share them with others rather than throw them on the compost heap. The best thing about the exchange is that after looking at flower catalogs, you see first-hand what you've only dreamed about but didn't have the money for. And it's free for a trade," Greenberg said.

"It's almost like Christmas in September," she said.

"We have people coming from all over the place, even Jackson. We have regulars coming from West Bloomfield who have beautiful specimens and lots of varieties to trade," she said.

Greenberg noted that there's no limit on the number of exchanges. "We have a lot of visitors who offer helpful gardening advice and suggestions on what other plants might look nice with the plants exchanged."

"A lot of people have become close friends through this event," Greenberg said.

If somebody is afraid to come because they don't have any perennials, that shouldn't deter them, because there are always people who bring extras who are willing to just give them a good home.

The best time for picking up these "freebies" is from 1 to 2 p.m. toward the end of the event.

Master gardeners will also be on hand to offer gardening advice and plant identification.

Greenberg noted that each item should be potted if possible and identified as to what it is and what type of conditions it enjoys.

For more information about the Novi Autumn Perennial Exchange, call (248) 347-0400.

Barbara Greenberg of Novi digs up a double sunflower in her yard. She will be one of many gardeners at Saturday's Autumn Perennial Exchange on the east side of the Novi Civic Center. The event is presented by the Novi Beautification Commission and the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.



Photo by PAM FLEMING

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Keith will also be speaking at Crosspointe Meadows Church at the 9:00 am Sunday Service on Sept. 19th, in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, West of Novi Road

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'Oklahoma!' sweeps into Novi

Waltonwood Chorus performs musical revue

By Kim Kovelle
STAFF WRITER

Standing at the handstand and addressing the crowded dining room with jovial ease, Milton Apteckar was in a familiar position in late August.

The former high school music instructor, who turns 89 this week, was introducing the 20 members of the Waltonwood Chorus, a group he and piano player Peg Gray formed at the Waltonwood at Twelve Oaks retirement community.

"Aren't they a great-looking group?" Apteckar asked, grinning. "You won't find a better-looking chorale group anywhere. And they sing great, too."

With that the singers, wearing blue jeans, white button-down shirts and bandanas around their necks, broke into "Oh What a Beautiful Mornin'," the opening

number from the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Oklahoma!"

For the next half hour, they performed a medley of songs from the 1943 Broadway show. Other tunes were tossed in, including two versions of "My Favorite Things" — one traditional, and the other sultry "Back pains, confused brains and no fear of stunts, Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinning."

Resident Hugh Higginbottom joined when Apteckar sought volunteers.

"It seemed like a good idea, and I've always enjoyed singing — at least in the shower," Higginbottom said. "I think I only messed one practice. It's the camaraderie, for one thing, and of course it's a pleasure to sing."

While not keeping beat on the piano — a talent she picked up by ear at age 3 — Peg Gray sang a solo of "I Can't Say No," a tune belted by soubrette Adele Anne in "Oklahoma!" She had the ideal solo performance on Broadway in the 1940s.

"She came all by herself, stage left, and sang that 'I Can't Say No,'" Gray said. "I've sang for most of my life."

The group, all Waltonwood residents, performed their first, patriotic-themed show in July Plaza for another concert already in the works.

Events Coordinator Chris Lee said that the group gathered on their own, like many others in the community.

"I just provide the time slot," Lee said. "They were so proud of what they did. This is the best there can be for independent seniors. It's theirs and they've done it from start to finish."

On Saturday evenings, Apteckar also hosts themed music nights at the community's Festival Movie Theatre. Residents bring in their favorite CDs, and "concerts" are performed by Sinatra, Streisand and others.

Having lived at Waltonwood for more than two years with his wife Anne, Apteckar got the chorus together once Gray moved in.

"We've only been going for about three months," Apteckar

said. "Having been a music teacher, I thought we should have something. You don't have to have a great voice."

Eve Goff, 75, enjoyed the show from the audience. She said that when she was young, she sat on a glider swing on her front porch and sang.

"Why sit my room?" Goff asked. "I thought it was wonderful."



Milton Apteckar (left) directs the Waltonwood Chorus during their recent revue of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Oklahoma!" At far right, Al Howell, 82, sings a solo in the song "Oh What a Beautiful Mornin'."

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SWOCC open house scheduled Sept. 22

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Got cable?
If so, residents of Novi, Farmington and Farmington Hills are urged to come see the inner workings of the local cable access television office at Southwest Oakland Cable Commission's Open House from 5 to 8 p.m. Sept. 22.

Carol Collins, executive director of SWOCC, said the Open House will include refreshments, tours of the facility and an opportunity to sign up for a workshop and get involved in public access programming.

Collins explained that there are actually four types of local cable access channels: the government access channels, which are

Channel 13 in Novi; Channel 8 in Farmington Hills and Channel 15 in Farmington.

Next are the educational access channels — Channels 10 and 20. Then, there's public access, which in Novi appears on Channel 12.

Public access is an opportunity for anybody to come out and produce their own programming.

"We provide classes and an orientation," Collins said.

"Some people don't realize that TV is a lot of work. Before they make the commitment, we fill them in on it. You can just take your portable camcorder and shoot. But, if you want something more professional looking we can help," she said.

Finally, there's community access, which is and produced by

the SWOCC staff on Channel 12. "We cover community events, tours, and such things as an interview shows for nonprofits," said Melissa Cohn, community relations coordinator.

Cohn noted that SWOCC is starting two new programs on INFOTV-12.

"One is called VOX, which is like an open mike night with pre-registration. The other is called 360, and that's where we send volunteers out into the community to cover events and area happenings in a magazine-like format," she said.

Public access programs give people an opportunity to get involved in television production that would cost them if they had to pay for the studio time and equipment or obtain a four-year degree in television production. Residents of the three cities as well as people who work or own a business in one of the three cities are eligible to produce a show.

Collins said that the multijuris-

dictional cable agreement involving Novi, Farmington Hills and Farmington was signed in 1982.

"For the past year, we've been working on updating that agreement. It's 20 years old," she said.

The other member of the board is the city manager or his delegate. For the Novi, City Manager Richard Helwig delegated the task to Craig Klaver, chief operating officer. SWOCC does not control cable TV rates, however.

Congress has deregulated cable rates, which are overseen by the Federal Communications Commission.

Collins noted that most people subscribe to the expanded basic cable TV package, which is about \$45 a month. But most don't know that for \$11 a month plus taxes and fees they can have a basic cable package with about 20 channels.

This would be a good alternative for people on a fixed income or who are just looking for a few channels and good reception.

SWOCC does, however, oversee

What's happening at SWOCC
The following events are scheduled this month at the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission, which serves the residents of Novi, Farmington and Farmington Hills. The studios are located in Farmington at 33300 Nine Mile Rd. at Farmington Road.

- Open House, SWOCC Studios: 5 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 22.
- SWOCC Meeting, City of Farmington Hills, Lower Level Conference Room, 31555 Eleven Mile Rd.: 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 28.
- Access Orientation, SWOCC Studios: 7 to 9 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 29. Must preregister by calling Melissa Cohn at (248) 473-2840.

Bright House Network's cable franchise and serves as a liaison between the cable provider and subscribers.

This means that if subscribers have a problem with their cable connection and the problem isn't resolved by Bright House, then they can go to SWOCC.

For more information about how to become more involved in local

CORRECTION

In an article on the front page of the Sept. 9 edition of the Novi News on the local Cable Access Committee, it stated that members from Novi are appointed by the mayor. This is not a mayoral appointment in Novi. Members interview in front of the city council. Then, at a subsequent meeting, the council votes as a body, with the mayor having one vote, the same as each council member.

Emily Fox is back!

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AT ISSUE

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

BATTLE OVER BEDS To expand or not to expand in Novi?

By Rob Casalou, President, PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL A MEMBER OF ST. JOHN HEALTH

In the late seventies, Providence Hospital made a commitment to provide health care to Novi and the surrounding communities by establishing a small inpatient medical center at the corner of Teu Mile and Meadowbrook roads. Years later, as the western Oakland County suburbs have slowly grown and through much work with the community, we established Providence Park Medical Center, a large outpatient medical center that is essentially a "hospital without beds." This center provides nuclear medicine, cardiac diagnostic testing, endoscopy, radiology, MRI, CT scans, diagnostic ultrasound, laboratory services, rehabilitation services, outpatient surgery, a comprehensive breast center, an institute for sleep medicine, dialysis, medicine, community health education services, 24 hour emergency care and an award winning Assarian Cancer Center co-sponsored with the University of Michigan Health System.

We've planned ahead, forecasting additional growth in the western Oakland County suburbs, and we have been attempting to expand the Providence Park facility for many years. Today, Providence is a proud member of St. John Health, and it is as part of this team that we have been successful. Our competitors have lost their case in court regarding our intended Novi hospital, and we will be transferring back from Oakland and Livingston County to Providence Park.

Our reason for expanding in Novi is simple and clear. We are in the business of providing comprehensive, compassionate care to all of our patients, and our patients have a right to receive this care close to their home or work. It's an issue of access. A real issue that is supported by facts, such as population growth of 50 percent over the last 14 years.

Our competitors claim that Novi and the surrounding communities do not need inpatient care or advanced emergency services nearby. They prefer that the one million people, who live, work and visit the western Oakland County suburbs each day drive 35 to 60 minutes to get to the next closest hospital. In Oakland County, all but one hospital exists on the eastern half of the county. Our competitors look at this very large county and claim that it is "over-bedded." They ignore both the distribution of those beds and the population shifts that have carpeted the western suburbs over the last 20 years.

St. John Health/Providence intends to fund the expansion of our medical center with our own capital and through private fundraising. Our competitors claim that health care costs will increase due to our construction, a claim that ignores the hundreds of millions of dollars on expansions spent by Beaumont, Trinity and the Detroit Medical Center in recent years. Our competitors know that this is a markedly false claim - an easy claim that plays on society's fears, not facts. Today, hospitals operate in a system whereby 94 to 96 percent of our reimbursement from Medicaid, Medicare and other insurers is fixed by contractual agreement prior to service. So it is simply untrue that health care costs would rise due to an extension of our existing campus in Novi for hospital beds.

Providence intends to move forward with our plans to transfer beds from Oakland and Livingston Counties to Novi, as granted and defended through Public Act 619. Our competitors argue that the state's outdated CON laws should determine what is best for Novi. Our competitors are wrong. We believe that Public Act 619 was correct and prudent for providing health care access to Novi and its surrounding communities.

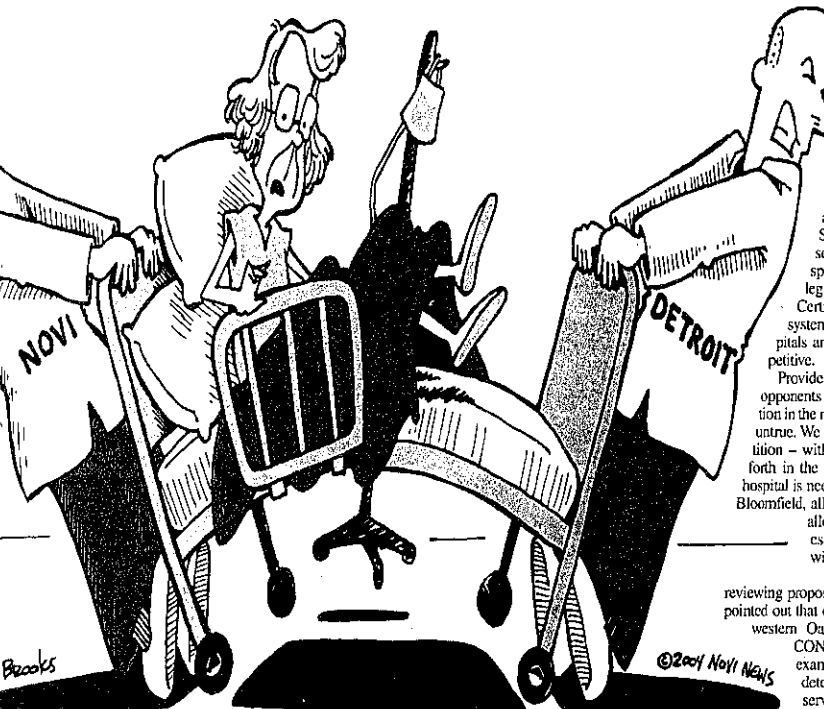
To see if the CON hospital regulatory process has met its intended goals, the State of Michigan had an independent study conducted by Duke University, and the evaluation was released in May of 2003, entitled Evaluation of Certificate of Need in Michigan. Our competitors claim that the CON regulations exist to control health care costs, but the state's own study says that there is "little evidence that CON results in a reduction in costs and some evidence to suggest the opposite." The analysis cannot be clearer.

The study concluded the following: "If CON for beds is continued, the following improvements merit consideration: a) fix bed need methodology so that it is based on more current data; b) increase flexibility by permitting transfers of beds within hospital systems; and c) develop a mechanism to take excess capacity offline."

We agree there is merit in the CON system, which also regulates other aspects of healthcare. But, unlike our opponents, we recognize the need for modification of the outdated CON processes.

Allowing St. John Health to transfer beds to our medical center in Novi from our facilities in Oakland and Livingston County is the right thing to do. Access to hospital care in these growing populations cannot be defined by looking at a map and drawing lines between facilities to determine where hospitals and the surrounding need exists. You must drive the congested two lane roads in varying circumstances to truly understand the reality of access to emergency medical care in the western suburbs. The families that live in Novi and the surrounding communities understand this.

Providence Park is ideally situated in the heart of this major growth, next to two major freeway access points that make it an ideal asset for responding to the areas needs. Adding inpatient capabilities to this existing facility is a responsible investment that does not increase the cost of care. The real issue for St. John Health/Providence is a matter of what is in the best interest of patient care - this is the core of our business.



Cartoon by Bob Casalou. Figures labeled 'NOVI' and 'DETROIT' are shown with a hospital bed on wheels between them. The Novi figure is pushing the bed towards the Detroit figure.

By Michael Slubowski, Executive Vice President, EASTERN DIVISION, TRINITY HEALTH

Nearly two years ago, the debate was renewed over whether new, full-service hospitals should be constructed by Providence in Novi and by Henry Ford Health Systems in West Bloomfield.

The health systems knew they could not justify the construction of 500 beds at a cost of some \$53 million through the State's Certificate of Need (CON) process, so they used their political muscle to pass special legislation in December, 2002. This legislation, Public Act 619, bypasses the Certificate of Need process. It gave the health systems an exclusive franchise to build the hospitals and is, therefore, fundamentally anti-competitive.

Providence and Henry Ford have said that PA 619 opponents do not want competition in the market. That is simply untrue. We welcome the competition - within the processes set forth in the state CON law. If a hospital is needed in Novi or West Bloomfield, all providers should be allowed to compete to provide these services based on the merits of their proposals with regard to cost, quality, and access.

Had the CON process been used in reviewing proposals for the two hospitals, it would have pointed out that only half of the existing licensed beds in western Oakland/Wayne counties are filled. The CON process works because it evaluates need, examines quality, and considers access when determining where capital investment and services should be expanded. As such, it fosters competition through a comparative review process, leading to an outcome that best serves the local community - in this case the residents of western Oakland/Wayne counties.

The special legislation effectively pre-empted the CON process and gives preferential treatment to two health systems at the expense of fair competition and thoughtful study of the area's health needs. That is why Trinity Health, along with Bostonford General Hospital, Covenant Medical Center, Mt. Clemens General Hospital and William Beaumont Hospital, went to court to challenge the law.

When the special legislation was being debated, Henry Ford and Providence argued that they needed new suburban hospitals to subsidize the losses they suffered while caring for the poor and uninsured in the city. Since then, both health systems have shown a steady improvement in their financial condition. Now, they have changed their argument to "improving access" for growing suburbs, such as Novi and West Bloomfield. But full-service hospitals, Bostonford, Huron Valley-Sinai, and St. Mary Mercy are all within 30 minutes' drive time or less. And, building two new hospitals in such close proximity to one another makes little sense. The change in rationale further demonstrates the dubious nature of these proposed facilities.

The CON exemptions for Providence and Henry Ford would have a damaging effect on existing hospitals in western Oakland/Wayne counties - these hospitals could lose as much as \$59 million from their collective income due to an increase in the oversupply of beds. This could cause some hospitals to terminate needed health care services or close entire hospital units. Some hospitals may not survive at all. This income outcome is the "improve access" argument that access may, in fact, be diminished for many residents outside of Novi and West Bloomfield. And, the situation will be worsened through increased labor costs as a result of competition for nurses, physicians and other health professionals in short supply.

Furthermore, since the two hospitals have yet to be proven necessary, the proposed construction would only add to the cost of health care in Metro Detroit. Ultimately, consumers and businesses will end up paying for the new construction, its financing, and operating costs through increased pricing and health insurance premiums. Many of our state's largest employers, unions and business coalitions actively support CON laws to ensure only needed health care services and facilities are developed. They know that increased health care costs in Michigan make our region less competitive and potentially discourage job growth.

Published evidence from major employers shows that CON is successful in balancing cost, quality and access issues. Normal economic and competitive principles do not work in health care. With hospitals in seven states, Trinity Health has witnessed first hand what happens when CON laws are diminished or discontinued. Without CON, the "arms race" for new hospitals and expensive technology escalates dramatically among providers, driving up unnecessary utilization and cost. For-profit, investor-owned facilities spring up and cherry-pick profitable cases from non-profit, community hospitals. Therefore, Trinity Health continues its support of the CON program that has helped promote an appropriate balance of cost, quality, and access to care throughout Michigan.

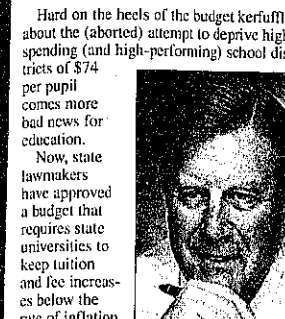
We understand and are sympathetic to the financial challenges incurred by health care providers based in Detroit and other areas with relatively large numbers of low-income, uninsured individuals. Trinity Health, for example, lost nearly \$100 million in 10 years before closing Mercy Detroit Hospital. We continue to subsidize the state's largest employers, unions and business coalitions actively support CON laws to ensure only needed health care services and facilities are developed. It is important to recognize that uncompensated care affects all health care providers in Michigan, not just those based in Detroit.

In summary, our Certificate of Need process has not identified a need for new hospital construction in western Oakland/Wayne counties. Granting an exclusive franchise to Providence and Henry Ford through special legislation is bad public policy that will have an adverse impact on cost, quality and access to care. Ultimately, the exemptions could hurt the very residents they are intended to help.

Every community wants a new hospital, but the Certificate of Need process focuses on what is needed to balance cost, quality, and access based on population, health care use rates, and other important factors. The bottom line is that 500 new beds in Novi and West Bloomfield are simply unnecessary. Trinity Health supports responsible and thoughtful health planning and, through partnerships and collaboration, encourages providers to avoid unnecessary duplication of health facilities and resources, develop appropriate changes to public policy, and sponsor adequate funding for the poor and underserved.

By Douglas Shaefter, Chief of Police, Novi

More bad news for education



Phil Power

On the heels of the budget kerfuffle about the (aborted) attempt to deprive high-performing (and high-performing) school districts of \$74 per pupil comes more bad news for education. Now, state lawmakers have approved a budget that requires state universities to keep tuition and fee increases below the rate of inflation (currently 2.8 percent) to avoid additional cuts in state support. What's wrong with that? Doesn't everyone want to keep costs down? The truth is far more complicated, and if you can plow through the details, you will see yet another shining example of how short-sightedness by our political masters is jeopardizing our higher education system and, thereby, the economic health of our state.

When the recession hit three years ago, the governor and the legislature started cutting state appropriations to universities by means of "Executive Orders," a fancy term for cutting spending. Over this period, some \$250 million in state support was slashed from university budgets, representing a cut of nearly 25 percent from what they had been getting. Not surprisingly, universities laid off faculty and staff, eliminated some classes and increased class size for others, delayed maintenance and a host of other things that cash-strapped universities do to save money (and regretably reduce the quality of the education they provide for their students.)

This produced a large volume of complaints, some whining from university presidents and some serious concern about long-term deterioration of the state's most valuable economic asset. The grumbling got so loud that Gov. Jennifer Granholm finally agreed that if universities kept their tuition and fee increases below the annual rate of inflation (2.8 percent), she would restore three-fifths of the 5 percent reduction in state support that was taken away in her Executive Order of December, 2003. Of course, this left a cut of 2 percent, but at least it was a reduction in a cut, if you follow tortuous accounting logic. A normal human might say "it hurt less bad."

Then last week, the governor and the legislative conference committee, having thrashed out the rest of the budget for the coming fiscal year that starts Oct. 1, finally got around to dealing with higher ed appropriations. But by the end of last week, everybody agreed (sort of) to the deal, and to an overall appropriation of \$1.65 billion for state universities. Okay - so where does this leave us? In three places, all bad.

First, university fiscal years, like those of the schools and most everyone else, begin July 1. (The state switched to Oct. 1 years ago, because of another budget crisis.) So the universities have to adopt budgets by that date, which involves predicting what the governor and the legislature are going to do about state appropriations. And, of course, the governor and the legislature have no idea what they're going to do that early, so the universities have to make budget decisions in an information vacuum. This is, of course, no way to run any kind of business, public or private. Second, alert readers will have noticed that Lansing has not succeeded in achieving what amounts to complete control over the finances of public universities. Up to now, the state could determine the amount of state-appropriated money going to higher education, but what each university did about tuition and fees was pretty much left to the discretion of each school and its governing board.

But as a result of the present deal by which part of a previously imposed cut was "restored," the universities have accepted a should win the state twice more. But there are more reasons than number patterns to think the Democratic candidate may have a slight edge. Michigan's heavy manufacturing-based economy was hurt by the recession more than most other states, and recovery has lagged. President Bush's job approval rating has been consistently poorer here than elsewhere, and the demographics - the makeup of the state's population - isn't all that favorable to Bush.

Back in the old days, the game was simple: Democratic candidates piled up huge margins in Detroit, and then waited to see if it was enough to withstand the Republicans' big percentages outside and in the metropolitan suburbs. Now things are more complex. Detroit is not just a Democratic stronghold. It's also a figure you'd expect to find only in aphony Banana Republic or People's Democracy election. Two years ago, running for governor, Jennifer Granholm also won 94 percent. Yet Detroit has shriveled and the rest of the state has boomed, and it now accounts for far less than 10 percent of the state's vote. Years ago, that would have meant Republicans were a shoo-in statewide.

But not anymore. Oakland County, one of the two or three richest counties in the nation, has been, as they say, Republican since Abraham Lincoln was a boy. It gave solid margins to candidates from Wendell Willkie through Ronald Reagan. Yet Oakland County voted for Gore, and its best-known Republican, L. Brooks Patterson, the county executive, thinks it may vote for Kerry. That's because Oakland County Republicans tend to be highly educated and more socially liberal, or at least tolerant, and uncomfortable with what many feel is an increasingly right-wing image projected by the national party.

Many are fiscally conservative but also pro-choice, and are uncomfortable mingling church and state. Those factors have helped

make the once-Republican university counties of Ingham and Washtenaw now reliably Democratic. But to counterbalance this, blue-collar whites, especially males, are drifting to the Republican Party. The media is Oakland County's next door neighbor, Macomb County. When John F. Kennedy ran, it was the most Democratic suburban county in the nation. Two years ago, it voted for Dick Posthumus, the aggressive, pro-gun and anti-abortion candidate for governor, and Bush "W" bumper stickers adorned many a pickup truck and minivan here.

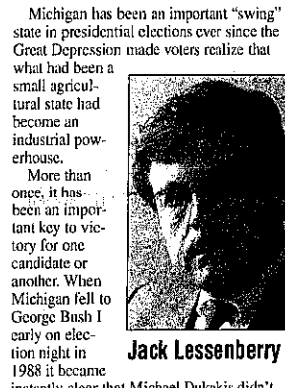
Outstate, the picture is equally mixed. Bush is most popular in politically and socially conservative western Michigan, and in the sugar-beet farming regions of the thumb. He wins the resort areas like Traverse City and Traverse City, but not by as much, like Oakland, they are "some of the last bastions of moderate Mittens Republicans."

John Kerry scores in the old, often hating manufacturing centers of Saginaw and Flint, and in the impoverished acres of the Upper Peninsula. When it all is said and done, who wins? Four years ago, everyone believed it was a toss-up. George Bush was even in the state on the morning of election day. But there was no suspense about Michigan that night. Al Gore won by 27,000. Last week, even in the teeth of President Bush's post-convention "bounce," the Rasmussen tracking poll showed Kerry 48, Bush 44.

That could change dramatically, given some revelation or terrorist attack. There are seven weeks left to go, and many voters are only now beginning to pay attention. But history and demographics suggest if the election is close, and President Bush needs one more state, Michigan isn't likely to be the one.

Jack Lessnerberg is editorial vice president of *Honolulu.com*. He can be reached by phone at (248) 901-2561 or by e-mail at jlessnerb@homcom.net.

Michigan thrives as a 'swing' state



Jack Lessnerberg

Michigan has been an important "swing" state in presidential elections ever since the Great Depression made voters realize that what had been a small agricultural state had become an industrial powerhouse. More than once, it has been an important swing state in the race for one candidate or another. When Michigan fell to George Bush in 2001, it was a surprise. In 1988 it became clear that Michael Dukakis didn't have a prayer. Back in 1960, Michigan was the state that convinced the Secret Service that John F. Kennedy had to be protected. He was called the Wolverine State for JFK at 5-45 a.m. that the service sent agents to protect him. (Nowadays, major candidates get Secret Service protection right from the start.) This time, both George Bush and John Kerry each have been here more than a dozen times, and are certain to be here many more. Each side is convinced it can win, and both expect the race to be very close.

So who should you let go? If you believe in cycles and historical patterns, John Kerry is your man. Since World War II, here's how Michigan has voted for president: Republican the first three times (1948, 1952, 1956). Then Democratic three times. Then Republican an astonishing five times in a row - 1972 through 1988.

The last three times, however, Michigan has voted Democratic. According to this latest cycle, Democrats

should win the state twice more. But there are more reasons than number patterns to think the Democratic candidate may have a slight edge. Michigan's heavy manufacturing-based economy was hurt by the recession more than most other states, and recovery has lagged. President Bush's job approval rating has been consistently poorer here than elsewhere, and the demographics - the makeup of the state's population - isn't all that favorable to Bush.

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WHEN ASTHMA GETS WORSE!
Despite following an asthma management plan and taking medications as prescribed, some asthma patients find little relief. We call it minimum intervention for maximum improvement. When you require rescue inhalers more often, you need to respond to certain treatment protocols. Consider the home and office environment. Have any changes occurred recently, including the addition of a smoker or pet, new cleaning products, or recently installed heating or air conditioning system? If symptoms subside on weekends but worsen during the week, the culprit could be work-related. Medication should also be evaluated. Check labels and medication instructions to ensure accuracy. Many medications are available for asthma treatment, so tell your allergist if current drugs are ineffective. Make sure all asthma monitoring equipment is being used correctly and effectively, including peak flow meters and inhalers. AT THE ALLERGY AND ASTHMA
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LETTERS

We deserve quality care
Providence Hospital proposes to transfer some hospital beds from their other medical care facilities to Providence Park in Novi; however, competitor hospitals have filed lawsuits to prevent it. Do you wonder why when at least one of them is expanding with a massive and very expensive addition? Instead of focusing on health care, is the lawsuit an attempt to stifle competition?
As Chief of Police in Novi, I see our

residents suffer great medical inconveniences. Trauma victims, persons suffering a heart attack, and people in automobile accidents are rushed to Providence Urgent Care in Novi and later put back in an ambulance and taken to the longer stay Providence Hospital in Southfield. Expectant mothers rush to a full service hospital twenty-five to thirty-five minutes away. No beds means substandard service, great inconveniences, and increased costs. There are twenty-seven hospitals east of Telegraph Road but exceptionally few

major hospitals west of Telegraph. The nearest longer term care hospital, sometimes argued that it is only a few miles away, is at least twenty-five minutes away in the best of circumstances. If there is a traffic problem, expect a much longer delay. Not having a hospital near by is ludicrous, treats those west of Telegraph as lesser citizens, and is totally unacceptable.

Some argue that building hospitals results in higher health care cost. The argument relies on the 1960 Roemer's

theory that posited, "it seems that almost any additional hospital beds provided will tend to be used up, to a ceiling not yet determined." Roemer's theory is faulted. It was proclaimed before the onset of strict regulation by insurance companies for hospital admissions, duration of stay, and authorized treatments; when state of the art of medicine mandated lengthier hospitalizations; and when there were insufficient number of hospitals to serve a booming population. In fact, current occupancy of Detroit area hospitals is quoted

by the media as 47%; beds not filled. Problem is, they are in the wrong locations. Novi has safe neighborhoods, a quality school system, great retail and expo centers, fine dining and entertainment venues, and virtually every other quality of life amenity. We top every quality and convenient health care. We want it and we'll support it. It's time we got it.
Douglas Shaefter, Chief of Police, Novi

COMMUNITY

Cal Stone, editor (248) 249-1700, ext. 113 cstone@h1.homecomm.net

Second City gives students a performing outlet

Classes bring out young people's creative juices

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

They came from many cities to learn comedy. And, the best part is they also ended up making a lot of new friends along the way.

One of the first "graduating" classes from The Second City Youth Improv Workshops at the Second City Training Center in Novi completed their class this summer. The center is located at Fountain Walk shopping center at 196 and Novi Road. The students' reasons for attending were as different as they are.

"It's like a team sport. Everybody gets a solo, yet you have the safety net of other people up there with you."

"I thought it was going to be just like acting, but I was surprised, and I'm glad I ended up doing it," she said. "It's been a lot of fun. I know I want to go into theater of some sort. We'll see how it works out."

Jake Drangelis, 17, of Brighton, said the classes were a birthday present from his sister.

"I saw one Second City performance, and it was so funny," he said. Then I found out they were having classes and had to take

Kathy Rawlinson
Teacher, The Second City

"This is one of the coolest things I've done in my life."

"My friend, Brett, got into this, and his mom talked to my mom about it. I've already had some theater, wanted to improve, and we thought this would be a fun thing to do. I really enjoyed it," said Patrick Rooney, 13, of Rochester.

Michelle Resnick, 14, of Farmington Hills, famous comedienne Detroit Gilda Radner's

cousin, knew about The Second City because her late cousin, a "Saturday Night Live" regular, got her start there. Resnick's sister, Carolyn, was in a recent class for younger students.

"I needed something to do, and improv sounded fun. I'm really glad I did this," she said.

Daniel Miller, 13, of Harper Woods, came to The Second City after he won a contest in his journalism class.

Pete Podolski, 17, of Riverview, is into theater but had never experienced improv. "It was really awesome," he said. "If you're into theater or you like comedy, do it."

Bret Kline, 13, of Clarkston, said his dream is to be on "Saturday Night Live."

the class. I liked it a lot," he said. Adam Sion, 17, of Commerce Township, said his family influenced him to take the class.

"My family has a history in entertainment. I started out doing some standup at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak. In all honesty, I'm doing it for the money," he said.

The Second City comedy teacher Kathy Rawlinson loves working with young people. "I think the skills they walk away with are invaluable in terms of building self-confidence and self-awareness," she said.

"It's like a team sport," she said. "Everybody gets a solo, yet you have the safety net of other people up there with you."

Co-teacher Tophir Owen grew up in Oklahoma and has been acting in theater since he was 4. He has been with The Second City for six years. He also enjoys teaching young people.

"It's absolutely amazing. Young people aren't jaded, and they have this wild imagination that's unfettered. It's so great to watch them work with each other and become friends so quickly. They're so trusting," he said. "It's harder for adults to trust each other."

For more information about upcoming comedy classes this fall at the Second City Training Center at Fountain Walk, visit www.secondcity.com.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@h1.homecomm.net.

SPECIAL SCHOOL ELECTION NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION OF THE ELECTORS OF NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WAYNE, OAKLAND AND WASHTENAW COUNTIES, MICHIGAN TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 28, 2004

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT:
Please take notice that a special election of the electors of Northville Public Schools, Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, will be held in the school district on Tuesday, September 28, 2004. THE POLLS OF ELECTION WILL OPEN AT 7 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING AND CLOSE AT 8 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING.

The following proposition will be submitted to the vote of the electors at the special election:
OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL EXEMPTING PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE AND QUALIFIED AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY

This millage will enable the school district to levy the statutory rate of 18 mills on all property except principal residence and qualified agricultural property required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation guarantee.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, exempting therefrom principal residence and qualified agricultural property as defined by law, in Northville Public Schools, Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, be increased by .25 mill (90.25 on each \$1,000.00 of taxable valuation) for a period of 9 years, 2004 to 2012, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2004 is approximately \$20,488.00 (this millage will be levied only to the extent necessary to restore the "Headlee" reduction)?

THE VOTING PLACES ARE AS FOLLOWS:
PRECINCT NO. 1
Voting Place: Northville City Offices, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan
PRECINCT NO. 2
Voting Place: Silver Springs School, 19601 Silver Springs Drive, Northville, Michigan
PRECINCT NO. 3
Voting Place: Winchester School, 16144 Winchester Drive, Northville, Michigan
PRECINCT NO. 4
Voting Place: American Elementary School, 847 North Center, Northville, Michigan
PRECINCT NO. 5
Voting Place: Northville City Offices, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan
PRECINCT NO. 6
Voting Place: Moraine School, 46811 West Eight Mile Road, Northville, Michigan
PRECINCT NO. 7
Voting Place: Thornton Creek Elementary School, 46180 Nine Mile Road, Novi, Michigan
PRECINCT NO. 8
Voting Place: Meads Mill Middle School, 16700 Franklin Road, Northville, Michigan

All school electors who are registered with the city or township clerk of the city or township in which they reside are eligible to vote at this election.

I, RAYMOND J. WOJCIWICZ, Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan, do hereby certify that, as of August 19, 2004, the total of all voted increases in excess of the Constitutional fifteen mill tax rate limitation and the years such increases are effective are as follows affecting the taxable property of Local Unit:

Local Unit	Date of Election	Voted Increases	Years Increases Effective
County of Wayne	August 8, 2000	1 mill	2004 thru 2009
Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency	August 6, 1974 November 9, 1998	1 mill 1.5 mills	2004 indefinitely 2004 indefinitely
Wayne County Jail	August 6, 2002	1 mill	2004 thru 2010
Wayne County Parks	August 8, 2000	0.25 mill	2004 thru 2005
Wayne County Comm. College	November 3, 1998 November 6, 2001	1 mill 1.5 mills	2004 2004 thru 2010
Wayne County Transit Authority	August 6, 2002	0.6 mill	2004
Northville Public School District		18 mills (exempting principal residence and qualified agricultural property), 2004 to 2012, incl.	

I, Patrick M. Dohany, County Treasurer of the County of Oakland, State of Michigan, do hereby certify that according to the records in my office, as of August 19, 2004, the total of all voted increases in the tax rate limitation above the 18 mills established by Section 6 of Article IX of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 affecting taxable property in the Northville Public Schools, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties, Michigan, is as follows:

LOCAL UNIT	VOTED INCREASE	YEARS INCREASE EFFECTIVE
Northville Public Schools	18.00	2003 to 2012 incl. (exempting principal residence and qualified agricultural property)
Township of Lyon	1.00 2.50	Unlimited
Township of Novi	1.00	Unlimited
County of Oakland	2.5257	Unlimited
Dated: August 19, 2004	25	2002 to 2011 Incl.

PATRICK M. DOHANY, TREASURER OAKLAND COUNTY
I, Catherine McClary, Treasurer of Washtenaw County, Michigan, hereby certify that as of Thursday, August 26, 2004, the records of this office indicate that the total of all voted increases over and above the tax limitation established by the Constitution of Michigan, in any local units of government affecting the taxable property located in:

Purpose of Millage	Millage Amount	Expiration of Millage
Northville Public Schools	18 mills (exempting principal residence and qualified agricultural property), 2004 to 2012, incl.	
Salem South Lyon District Library	Operating 1.1316	Indefinite
Schoolcraft College	All Purpose 0.6094	Indefinite
Washtenaw County	All Purpose 0.7915 All Purpose 0.9957 Natural Areas 0.2459 Parks 0.2415 Parks HEMA 0.2401	Indefinite Indefinite 2011 2009 2007 Indefinite
Wayne Regional Educational Services Agency	Operating 0.278 Special Ed 1.5 Operating 0.0687 Special Ed 0.93 Special Ed 0.9378	Indefinite Indefinite Indefinite Indefinite Indefinite

Date: August 26, 2004
CATHERINE MCCLARY
WASHTENAW COUNTY TREASURER
CATHERINE MCCLARY

This Notice is given by order of the Board of Education of Northville Public Schools, Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan.

LIBBY A. SMITH
SECRETARY,
BOARD OF EDUCATION
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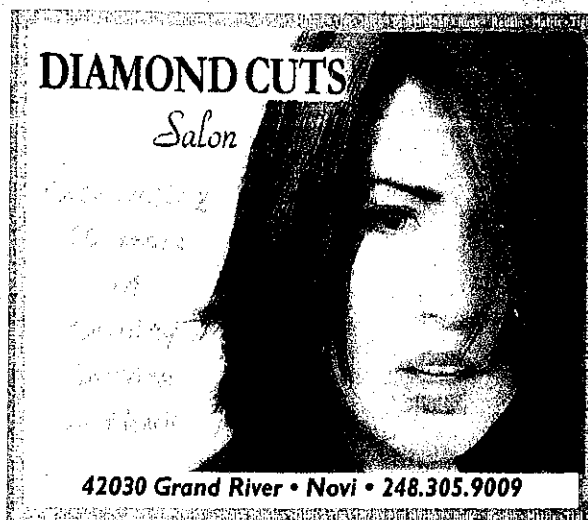
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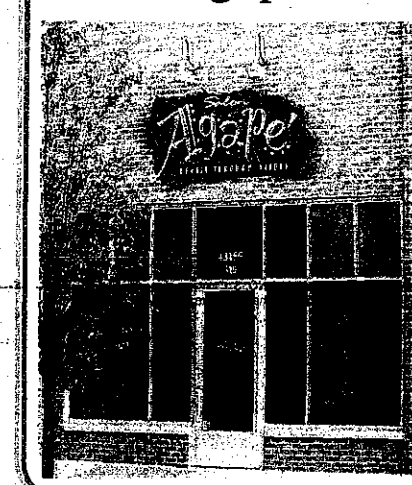
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Salon Agape offers variety of services seven days a week



By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER
Marilyn and Gina Sullins, co-owners of Salon Agape, located at 43155 Main Street in Novi, celebrated four years in the Main Street Project in May.

The shop's name is derived from the Greek word agape meaning unconditional or all-encompassing love.

Gina had been a hair designer for 10 years when she and her mother, Marilyn, decided to open the salon. Gina focuses on the beauty aspects of the business, with Marilyn serving as officer manager and administrator.

The full-service salon is an Aveda concept salon, which means the salon uses all Aveda products in its services.

"The whole Aveda concept emphasizes total well-being and a holistic approach to beauty," Marilyn Sullins said. In fact, each client begins their service with a stress-relieving head, neck and shoulder massage.

Services include haircuts; hair color; facials; body services such as body wraps; natural nails; pedicures; massage; and reflexology.

The salon features 12 hair designers, a massage therapist and reflexologist, two estheticians, a nail specialist and several support staff members.

The salon is open seven days a week and is open every evening, Monday through Friday. Hours are 12:30 to 9 p.m. Monday; 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Walk-ins are welcome, or customers can make an appointment by calling (248) 735-1584.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

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

Brighton man arrested

A 21-year-old Brighton man was arrested for Operating While Intoxicated at 12:50 a.m. Sept. 10 at Town Center Drive and Crescent Boulevard.

An officer was working moving radar when he observed a 2002 black Ford Mustang that appeared to be speeding. The man was driving 35 mph in a 25 mph zone.

The officer stopped the driver, who had bloodshot eyes. The officer could also smell intoxicants coming from inside the vehicle.

The driver said that he thought he was only going 30 mph and that he was heading home from the Post Bar after having four or five beers.

A blood alcohol test showed a level of .12 percent.

Mervyn's theft reported

An 18-year-old Westland woman was arrested for retail

fraud at 1:15 p.m. Sept. 7 at Mervyn's department store at 26100 Ingersol.

An officer was dispatched to the store when loss-prevention employees issued a complaint.

The woman attempted to steal two Ellemenno bracelets valued at \$8 each and a set of Fiesta earrings valued at \$12 each.

More than a Pepsi

A 42-year-old Novi man was arrested for Operating While Intoxicated at 9:14 p.m. Sept. 2 at Novi and Ten Mile roads.

An officer was dispatched to Novi Road north of Ten Mile Road to an accident. When he arrived on the scene, he had all four vehicles pull off the road into Pine Ridge Plaza. When the officer approached this driver, who was standing outside his car, the officer noticed that the man's eyes were very red and glassy.

When the officer asked the man if he had been drinking, the man said, "I haven't drank anything but Pepsi. I just got off work." A breath test showed a blood alcohol level of .12 percent.

Smoking and drinking

A 21-year-old Commerce Township man was arrested for Operating While Intoxicated, Violation of the Controlled Substance Act and possession of narcotics equipment at 12:01 a.m. Sept. 5 at Meadowbrook and Eight Mile roads.

Two officers were driving south on Meadowbrook north of Nine Mile Road when one saw a 2002 yellow Ford Ranger driving at about 40 mph in a 30 mph zone.

The officer initiated a traffic stop on Mission west of Meadowbrook.

The officer could immediately smell an odor of intoxicants coming from the vehicle. The officer greeted the driver by saying, "Good evening, sir." To this, he responded, "I'm good. How are you?"

The officer could see that the driver's eyes were bloodshot and saw a cooler sitting on the floor in front of the passenger seat.

The man said he was coming

from a friend's house and was going to Redford. He said the cooler contained beer and that he had had a couple of beers earlier in the day.

After receiving consent to search the vehicle, the officer found a marijuana pipe with marijuana residue.

The officer then asked the man to empty his pockets, which contained a pack of rolling papers and a cigarette box with a small bag of marijuana. Officers also found an open, half-full can of Natural Ice beer behind the center front seat, and the carpet was soaked with beer.

Police also found a burnt marijuana cigarette in the front seat center console and another marijuana pipe with residue.

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

Wixom man stopped

A 29-year-old Wixom man was arrested for Operating While Intoxicated at 2:11 a.m. Sept. 9 at West and Beck roads.

An officer was on routine stationary enforcement on West Park Road north of Twelve Mile Road when he saw a vehicle driving north on West Park from Twelve Mile Road that appeared to be

speeding.

After activating his radar, the officer clocked the car at 61 in a 40 mph zone.

The officer stopped the driver, who had red, glassy eyes. A strong odor of intoxicants also came from the vehicle.

The driver said that he had had a couple of beers at a bowling alley.

A breath test revealed a blood alcohol level of .09 percent.

Watch that curb

A 42-year-old Walled Lake man was arrested for Operating While Intoxicated at 1:47 a.m. at Novi and Thirteen Mile roads.

An officer was driving north on Novi Road, approaching Thirteen Mile Road when he stopped at the intersection of Novi and Thirteen Mile. After the light changed, the officer noticed that the car in front of him was weaving. At one point, the driver was seen moving onto the gutter portion of the roadway, almost hitting the curb.

When he pulled the man over, the officer immediately smelled intoxicants inside the silver 2002 Lincoln and noticed that the driver had red, watery eyes.

When asked how much he had had to drink, the man said that he

had five beers at the Fifth Avenue ballroom.

A breath test showed a blood alcohol level of .14 percent.

Three beers and more

A 47-year-old Ypsilanti man was arrested for Operating While Intoxicated, Possession of Marijuana and Narcotics Paraphernalia at 12:24 a.m. Aug. 28 at Main Street and Novi Road.

An officer saw a vehicle traveling northbound on Novi Road from Ten Mile Road that had a left brake and tail light out. The officer then conducted a traffic stop on the older model red-and-white pickup, smelling a strong odor of intoxicants coming from the vehicle.

The man's eyes were also red and glassy, police said. When asked how much he had had to drink, the man replied "three beers."

Upon searching the vehicle, the officer found 1.1 grams of marijuana in a Marlboro Lights cigarette package on the floor of the driver's side.

The officer also found a metal and wood marijuana pipe in the ashtray of the truck.

A blood alcohol test produced a level of .19 percent.

STUDENT NEWS

Elyse Baker, a freshman member of the color guard at Walled Lake Central High School, has been selected for the Bands of America Honor Band that will march in the next Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif., on Jan. 1, 2005. Elyse is an outstanding twirler who competes

nationally. Dave Rogers, band instructor at Central, said, "This is a tremendous accomplishment. I could not be prouder of Elyse. I am confident she will represent the Walled Lake Central Band, our school, our district, and community with dedication, pride, and excellence."

SPOTLIGHT ON: ORTHODONTIC NEWS
by Donald M. Wayne, D.D.S., M.S.
Orthodontic Specialist

KEEPING YOUR TEETH INTACT

If you wear braces, it is particularly important to wear a mouthguard while playing sports. Youngsters who play soccer, basketball, softball and other sports have to protect their teeth, lips and gums from blows to the mouth from an errant elbow or ball. The resultant trauma can cause tooth loss or breakage without braces. With braces, a blow to the teeth can result in even greater consequences. For these reasons, children who play sports and wear braces are advised to ask the orthodontist for an orthodontic mouthguard for wear during these activities. Beyond that, it goes without saying that a mouthguard does little good if it is not worn. Consider it a piece of athletic equipment.

Any time there is a strong chance for contact with other participants or hard surfaces, it is advisable to wear a mouthguard. Players who participate in basketball, softball, football, wrestling, soccer, lacrosse, rugby, in-line skating, martial arts, as well as recreational sports such as skateboarding, and bicycling should wear mouthguards while competing. For more information about mouthguards, or to schedule a convenient appointment, call 248-471-1581. My office is located at 39595 W. Ten Mile Road, Suite 111.

P.S. Custom mouthguards are more comfortable to wear and provide greater protection than the "boil and bite" mouthguards found in pharmacies and sporting stores.

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-EBERT & ROEPER

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State ranked
The Novi golf team noted they wanted to be back in the running for a KVC title and to be recognized in the state. They've achieved that, earning a state ranking and beating some rivals. — Page 2B



Forever an Olympian
Novi's own Kate MacKenzie writes of her top five experiences while in Athens. She represented the United States as any Olympic rower, placing ninth in the world with partner Sarah Jones. — Page 3B



Regional Marketplace
Cooler weather is on its way to Michigan. It's a good time to take care of those home repairs. You don't have to worry about finding the time with My Handyman. — Page 4B

SPORTS & MORE

B-1

NOVI NEWS

hometownlife.com

Thursday, September 16, 2004

'Cats beat up Walled Lake

Cagers top Western, Central in pre-KVC action

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

For Novi basketball coach Bill Kelp, being able to see what his team needs to work on before getting involved in league play is as sweet as any win.

Though Kelp watched his squad put up two big wins against Walled Lake Central and Walled Lake Western — 42-36 and 52-22, respectively — he was watching just what his squad needed to improve on while they were on the court.

"There are a lot of things we need to improve on," said Kelp. "The Kensington Valley Conference is going to be as tough as ever. We have to continue to work at our game if we hope to have success."

Against their foes from the Western Lakes Activities Association, the Wildcats were able to put in plenty of practice.

Last Thursday the squad took on Walled Lake Western and earned a crushing 52-22 victory over their foes. With three players out of the game due to injury, the 'Cats found themselves with just 10 players on the bench. That was the bad news. The good news was every player got in the game and every one of them scored.

Rachele Folino led the attack, putting up 18 points in the dominating win. Nicole Stephen scored six in the win while Amanda Diacono, Jessica Haggerty and Jessica Gasiorok scored five each. Earning four points was Kelly Hebert, while Brittany Safford added three and Kristine Chalkos, Lisa Harden and Katelyn Tuck all had two points.

Novi jumped to an impressive lead against their foes, putting up 15 points to the Warriors' seven at the half. By the end of three, Novi was cruising to a 32-14 victory and finished the game out with ease.

However, Kelp is sure the contests that lay ahead of his squad on the schedule are hardly going to be such a breeze. Next up for the Wildcats is Pinckney, scheduled for Tuesday with a 7 p.m. tip, at home.

"Pinckney should be the favorite to win the KVC at this point," said Kelp. "It's going to be a big challenge for us. They've got some big post players that will be attacking the boards and looking to get some buckets."

That's where Stephen and Folino come in.

"It will be a test for those two," Kelp noted. "Not only a test to see if they can score against them, but to also see if they can stop them and rebound the basketball."

Novi 42, WL Central 36

The Wildcats didn't have such an easy time with the other Walled Lake school they played last week. Instead, the Vikings forced Folino to the bench with two fouls in the first quarter and kept the game closer than Kelp would have liked.

"Central has a bit more experience when it comes to varsity players than Western does," said Kelp when asked what the difference between the two teams was. "At times, against Central, we struggled defensively."

But on the offensive end of the game, two Wildcats climbed into the spotlight. Haggerty, a senior point guard, put up 15 points with the help of three three-point field goals. Stephen added 10 in the victory. Working the boards was Folino, who gathered 11 despite missing nearly a full quarter of basketball.

Central made a run in the second half of play, but the Wildcats were able to hold them off and secure the victory. The Vikings' tenacity was a good way for the 'Cats to prepare for their own league play.

"They play pretty aggressive on defense and press and trap," said Kelp. "It was a good experience."

And a game the squad learned quite a bit from.

"It showed us that we need to definitely have to get better defensively," Kelp said. "We will keep working on the defense every day. Right now, that's what we're going to stress. Even if we're not hitting some shots, defense is the key for us to win. That needs to be our focus right now."



Novi's Rachele Folino goes up for a basket against Walled Lake Western as teammate Nicole Stephen prepares for a possible rebound opportunity. Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Wildcats swim earning tough victories

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats swimming and diving team found out just how important having a decent amount of depth and a strong talent pool factors into a victory.

Against the Livonia Churchill Chargers, the 'Cats escaped with a 96-90 victory, pulling out the win with their strong depth and ability.

"It was a very good meet for us," said coach Larry Tehan. "Churchill got more first places than we did, but we used our depth to get second, third and fourth places. That and a couple of strong showings in the relays helped us outscore them."

One of the strong relay showings was from the team of Julia Schramm, Mary Rudzinski, Jen Mu and Dana Hapanowicz that put up a time of 2:02.97 in the 200-medley relay.

Another strong showing was in the 200-free relay with a team of Megan BuWalda, Rudzinski, Emily Erickson and Hapanowicz taking first in 1:52.09.

Also earning first was Amy Glubzinski took first in diving, making a nice showing and winning by over 30 points with a 172.90. Another first place finish came in the 200 free as Laura Lynch narrowly winning with a 2:09.76. The next-nearest finish was from Churchill, who had a second-place showing in 2:09.77.

Novi had 10 second-place finishes and five third-place finishes to help seal the victory over the Chargers.

Next up for the Wildcats (3-0 overall) is the Pinckney Pirates, who Novi will host at 6 p.m.

Lakers Invitational

The Novi Wildcats were quick to make a point — they belong at the top of a whole lot of lists when it comes to teams to beat.

The swim team took second place in the West Bloomfield Lakers Invitational swim meet. Novi scored 203.50 while first-place North Farmington captured 248 points.

Novi earned four first-places in diving from four heats of competition. Glubzinski took first in heat one, while Jenna Ramsey took first in the second heat, Chelsea Brodfeher took first in the third and Jen Piatek took first in the fourth heat.

The 200 yard medley team swam a 2:22.74 to win a heat. Marybeth Miles, a senior, took a time of 1:18.51 to win a heat of the 100 butterfly, while Mu did the same in her respective heat with a 1:13.66.

In the 100 free, Lauren Paquett, a freshman, won her heat in 1:03.86 while the 200 free relay team from Novi won their own heat in 1:53.15. The Wildcat 400 relay team earned a win in 4:20.02 in their heat while Rudzinski earned a 1:15.58 to notch a win in the fast heat of the 100 yard breast-stroke.

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

WELL DONE, SWIMMERS

The Novi Wildcats swimming and diving team is out to a fantastic start this season, going 3-0 in dual meets as they prepare for the Kensington Valley Conference portion of their schedule.

The squad is coached by Larry Tehan and has a strong corps of captains to lead them into some intense competition this season.

Also assisting Tehan this season are assistant coaches Erin Worde and Ken Stark.

Novi hands Howell first gridiron loss

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

How would a varsity Novi football player get to Carnegie Hall? Practice, practice, practice — of course.

Coincidentally, that's also how a Carnegie ends up being a varsity Novi football player. The Wildcats, no doubt, are happy the Carnegies have spent so much time practicing, especially considering brothers Brandon and David were key performers in Novi's come-from-behind 24-14 victory over KVC rival

Howell last week.

"Coach (Dave) Hartman made some adjustments on the defensive side of the ball and the kids settled down quite a bit," said Novi head coach Tab Kellepourey of Novi's comeback after being down 14-0. "The kids started playing the defensive football we've come to expect out of them."

The Highlanders came into the game and proved right away they intended on not letting the Wildcats, who are defending KVC champions, get out early on them. Howell drove 73 yards

and went up 7-0 before finding the endzone late in the first quarter to take a 14-0 lead.

Novi's defense faltered in the early minutes, but that was the last time they would wobble on the day. Even as the tenacious defense began to batten down the hatches, the offense was preparing to be a tidal wave over the Highlanders for the rest of the game.

The first drops of rain in the scoring storm came in the final minutes of the first quarter as senior runningback Jarrell Woods hauled the ball 65 yards

for the 'Cats first score. With Pat Sijan hitting the extra point, Novi cut the lead to 14-7.

Howell tried to pressure midway through the second quarter when they assembled an offensive drive. Unfortunately for the Highlanders, a pass was suddenly found heading in the wrong direction when sophomore Brandon Carnegie snagged an interception thanks to pressure put on the quarterback by Ryan Pritchard and Brendan Buff.

"He's doing a very nice job out there," said Kellepourey of Carnegie. "The pressure makes it a lot easier for our defensive backs to catch the ball, but Brandon did a real nice job in terms of catching the football."

Not long after the picked pass, following a fumble by each squad, Sijan pegged a 25-yard field goal to cut Howell's lead to 14-10 heading into the half.

The Wildcats were dominating in the second half. Carnegie snagged his second interception of the night on Howell's first possession in the third quarter and returned it deep into Highlander territory. The interception was made possible by a blitz by Josh Woods that threatened a sack before the Howell quarterback dumped the football.

Novi didn't take long to punch the ball into the endzone, taking it in on the backs of the offensive line as quarterback Kevin Cisko carried the ball in from one yard out. The point-after attempt split the uprights off of Sijan's foot, putting Novi in the lead for the first time in the game, 17-14.

Not letting his brother out shine him, junior David Carnegie did his fair share of damage to the Highlanders as well. He sliced through the defense on a 19-yard jaunt into the endzone to put his squad up for good and to seal the scoring on the night. Sijan was perfect on the extra point once again, going 3-for-3 on point-after through the night, to put Novi up 24-14 for the final.

Leading the way in the game was Jarrell Woods with the ground attack, gathering 105 yards on just six carries while Josh Woods picked up 88 on 12 hauls. Cisko went 2-for-10 for 48 yards passing while back-up Steve Hart hit one pass out of three for 29 yards.

On the defensive end of the game, Novi picked up two interceptions, both by Brandon Carnegie, and Josh Woods scooped up one fumble.

Leading tackler was Josh Woods with nine solo and one assisted while brother Jarrell picked up seven solo. Brandon Carnegie had five solo and Pritchard had four individual tackles and three assisted. Sean Costello picked up the team's lone sack, bringing down the Howell quarterback in the fourth quarter.

Novi and Brighton are the only two teams standing in the Kensington Valley Conference without a league loss. However, Novi is keeping its sights settled on a much closer target — the Lakeland Eagles, who are 1-2 on the season and 1-1 in the league.

Novi will visit the Eagles tomorrow at 7 p.m.



The Wildcats' O-line, lead by center Ryan Pritchard, far right, begin their forward push in a play against the Howell Highlanders. Photo by JOHN HEIDER



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Part of Novi's #1 doubles team, Lauren Thomas, swings into action during a meet at Northville High in August.

Wildcats compete in tough tournament

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's all about the competition and seeing just where you are as a team during tournament play this time of year.

The Novi Wildcats tennis team, coached by Jim Hanson, found out they aren't too shabby right now, taking sixth in the Grosse Pointe South Invitational last week against a field of some incredibly deep and talented teams.

"It was a very, very good invitational," said Hanson. "It's probably the strongest from top to bottom we've played it. It was really a regional (tournament) kind of atmosphere."

In fact, Clarkston and Farmington Mercy, two teams at the invite, are in Novi's regional territory. Finishing first at the invite was Grosse Pointe South, while Flint Powers Catholic took second and Grand Haven and Clarkson tied for third.

"This is a good way to gauge where we are at this point in the season. I'm happy with how they are playing."

The Wildcats also earned an 8-0 victory over the Pinckney Pirates in their final match.

Novi is slated to be back in action when they take a trip to the Saline Invitational at 8 a.m. Saturday before visiting the Brighton Bulldogs in a classic KVC showdown Monday at 4 p.m. Novi will host South Lyon Sept. 22 at 4 p.m.

Novi continues soccer dominance

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats soccer team isn't the kind of squad which lets one bad half ruin their whole night. They made a point of making that very clear when they took on and defeated the Lakeland Eagles, 2-0, in a Kensington Valley Conference showdown.

"In the first half, we played poorly, but still managed to score a goal," Novi coach Brian O'Leary noted.

The score came when they Love, one of the team's top defenders, stole the ball from a Lakeland forward and dribbled that forward a milefield and dribbled the ball into the goal around the 30th minute.

Novi led 1-0 at the half but knew they'd have to see some changes

made if they wanted to continue to hold the lead.

"We made many adjustments at halftime and played much better in the second half," O'Leary noted. "But, we couldn't capitalize on our many chances."

Until, that is, Todd Janer snagged an A.W. Stanek pass over the top of the defense and scored on a breakaway to seal the victory, 2-0.

Playing between the posts was captain A.J. Glubzinski, who made multiple saves to hold on to the shutout — even in the waning minutes of the game.

The Wildcats, currently undefeated with a 4-0-1 record, are slated to take to the road against South Lyon today at 7 p.m. before hosting an undefeated Northville team, ranked first in the state, Saturday at 7 p.m.

'Cats now ranked

■ Golf team in hunt for KVC title

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats golf team made it very clear in the beginning of the season that they intended to be recognized as one of the top teams in the state.

Well, they're officially recognized.

The golf coaches association recently announced Novi as the eighth-ranked team in the state of Michigan for their division, giving the squad the honors they were looking for.

The Wildcats were quick to prove their ranking with a 146-166 win over Pinckney and a 137-148 victory against Howell.

"Howell was ranked fifth in the state and were undefeated," Novi coach Brad Huss said. "The boys are playing well. R.J. (Makoski) and Brett (Jausi) are having great seasons."

Makoski is most definitely looking impressive. The senior captain chipped out a 32 against the Howell Highlanders last Thursday for a two-under showing.

"That's just one of the school records," Huss noted.

Jausi shot a 34 in that match while Alex Lyall recorded

a 35 and Mark Eberline carded a 36 in the victory.

"Alex Lyall and Nick Prokop are great additions to our team," said Huss. "Both have scored in varsity matches for us and they're just freshmen."

Other underclassmen have also made the best out of this season thus far.

"Scott Czepak is having a very solid year as a sophomore," Huss said.

Novi 146, Pinckney 166

Against Pinckney, the Wildcats had another impressive showing.

Their three top players in Jausi, Makoski and Czepak all recorded 36s on the day to make their mark.

Eberline was no slouch either, showing a 38 to help his team to the impressive win over a tough conference team.

The Wildcats will face Brighton today at home with a 3 p.m. start time. Just two days ago (after the Novi News went to print), the 'Cats took on a strong Lakeland squad.

"If we can beat both teams, then we are back in the hunt for another KVC title," said Huss.

And that is right where this team wants to be.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Wildcat golfer R.J. Makoski fires a shot out of a sand trap on the fourth hole at the Links of Novi. After this shot, Makoski needed one more stroke to sink the ball.

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An Olympian forever: MacKenzie recalls top five experiences in Athens Games

By Kate MacKenzie
OLYMPIC ATHLETE

Making the Olympic team was a dream come true for me. I have wanted to be an Olympian since the age of five in every sport I ever played, from gymnastics to volleyball, and finally to rowing.

Trying to put into words what this whole experience was like and what it meant would fill a book. So here are the top five things that made my Olympics special.

Intense competition

The most amazing part of being at the games was the competition itself. The rowing venue was in Schinias, about an hour outside of Athens. One of my most vivid memories was our first practice on the course. I knew that my Olympic dream was truly a reality when my partner Sarah Jones and I took our first strokes off the dock.

We were at the Olympics and we were going to race. And race we did.

I have raced at World Cup and World Championship competitions, but nothing could prepare me for this experience. Every team found a higher level for this regatta. Crews that have never won medals won them here and same crews that had been World Champions for years faltered.

For Sarah and I, it was a much deeper test. We had only rowed together for six weeks prior to the games and we were competing against crews that had been together for more than a year. We were going out there to do our best, hoping it might be enough to challenge for a medal. We didn't end up doing that, but we were really happy with our racing. It was the best we had — and being ninth in the world isn't too shabby!

Celebrations

The final moment was closing ceremonies. It was just out of this world.

Walking into the stadium with all those people cheering and being surrounded by all these amazing athletes was the experience of a lifetime — one I will never forget. I had so much fun that night saying good-bye to something I had wanted my whole life.

All in all, this experience was everything that I could have hoped and dreamed for. It would have been nice to have a medal, but in the end the Olympics ended up being about so much more than just the competition. I needed harder than I have ever raced in my life. I made new friends. I experienced a new culture. The list could go on and on.

The Olympic spirit is alive and well after Athens, and I expect that in four years a new bunch of athletes from all over the world will have the wonderful experiences I did.

For me, this was the only games I will ever attend as an athlete. There is a wedding to plan, a job to find and a family to begin.

No matter what I do during the rest of my life, I will get to be an Olympian forever.

Kate MacKenzie is at Novi High School graduate and an Olympian in the sport of rowing. Comments can be directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

had such doubts about whether or not the Greeks could pull it off. Not only did they pull it off, they did a phenomenal job. The venues were amazing and well done.

The Greek people were so welcoming and proud of hosting the Olympic Games. They opened their city and their hearts to us.

I really can't say enough wonderful things about Athens. It was amazing to walk through the city and see the combination of the ancient and the modern blend together. I hope to make it back there some day.

Luckily for me, I now have an adopted Greek family who is insisting that I come back and visit next summer. The Giannakis family housed me and my family for the whole two weeks of the games. They are among the most wonderful and giving people I have ever met. They fed us, housed us and showed us how the Greek people live. I only hope that they come visit us here so we can return the hospitality.

Saying good-bye, Olympic style

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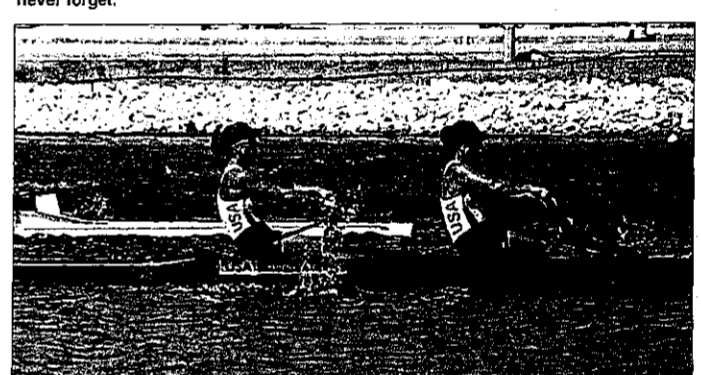
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Photos Courtesy of KATE MACKENZIE

TOP: The flags of the Olympic nations. ABOVE: Kate MacKenzie takes a moment out of rowing through the Greek waters to smile at the camera. She has plenty to smile about — though she didn't know it at the time, MacKenzie and her partner would go on to be the ninth-best two-person crew team in the world. BELOW: MacKenzie (right) and her partner, Sarah Jones, push themselves in some intense competition at the Olympic Games held in Athens, Greece. MacKenzie said it was an experience she will never forget.



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SHOWCASE WESTLAND	STAR FAIRLANE 21	STAR GRATIOT
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STARTS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th

AMC FORUM 30	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC LIVONIA 20	REARON EAST
CANTON 6	EMAGINE NOVI	MJR SOUTHGATE 20	PHOENIX SHELBY
PHOENIX WEST RIVER	SHOWCASE DEARBORN	SHOWCASE WESTLAND	STAR FAIRLANE
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SHOWCASE WESTLAND STAR FAIRLANE 21 STAR GRATIOT

STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING STAR JOHN R STAR ROCHESTER
STAR SOUTHFIELD STAR TAYLOR UA COMMERCIAL PARK 14

Novi Wildcats girls' cross country finds hard work paying off

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

For the Novi girls' cross country team, coming out of the starting gate as strong as they have is a good sign — it means hard work and persistence does indeed pay off.

The squad, coached by Norm Norgren, has known all summer long as they've run individually by themselves that they would have to have their best races each week if they wanted to compete with their league opponents.

They did just that last week, and more as they earned an impressive 22-29 win over the Pinckney Pirates in Kensington Valley Conference action. The squad also had some applaud-worthy showings at the Walled Lake Western Invitational as well.

"With temperatures in the mid-70s and cloud cover, it made for a good day of running," said Norgren of the day his team took on the Pinckney Pirates.

Good day of running, indeed. Novi had a great pack race, finishing in second, third, fourth, fifth, eighth, ninth and 10th to round out the top places.

Taking the top spot for the Wildcats was none other than Pat Ramos, a spiffy senior who put in plenty of miles over the summer to prepare herself for this season. She ran the course in 20:34 to take the top spot on her team.

Not far behind her was Meghan Barnatz, who ran a 21:03 for third place overall while Laura Brunner took fourth in 21:12 and Katie Shannon took fifth in 21:19. Earning the eighth-overall place was Erica Howard, who completed her run in 22:03, while Erin Hayes ran a 22:12 for ninth and Lauren Kava rounded out the top 10 with a time of 22:36.

Walled Lake Invitational

It was the tale of two races for the

Novi Wildcats girls' cross country team, the first race was that of the freshmen and sophomore runners who took third place overall on the hilly terrain of Willis Park in Wixom. The second race was that of the seniors and juniors, who rallied together to take first overall in their field.

"The ninth- and 10th-grade girls have a lot of work in front of them for the remainder of the season," said Norgren. "The 11th- and 12th-grade girls did a very good job under the hot condition, hill and dust of Willis Park."

In the 9th/10th grade competition, the Wildcats placed third behind Hartland and Walled Lake Northern with 38 and 67 points, respectively. The Wildcats earned 80 in the showing.

For the underclassmen, however, Novi shined in a very competitive field. The 'Cats earned 17 points for the top place in the field of six teams, while Hartland took second with 82 and Walled Lake was third with 102.

Leading the way for the seniors and juniors was Ramos, running a 21:14 for first place overall, while Brunner turned in a 21:5 for second.

Earning third place was Barnatz, who ran a 21:48 over the difficult course, while Shannon took fourth in 22:04 and Erica Howard finished sixth with a 22:10. Taking eighth

was Kava, running a 22:20, while Hayes was ninth with a 22:47 and Kaitlyn Koss finished 10th in a time of 23:14.

Andrea Kramer leading the way with an seventh-place showing in a time of 23:00. Taking 11th was Lillian Xiao while Shannon Sparrow rounded out the scores with a 26th-place showing in a time of 26:05.

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Page B4

Thursday, September 16, 2004

Due process overdue at tax court

The words are old, rarely heard in public and often buried in long and overly-wordy legal documents that interest only lawyers, historians or government officials. But the phrase "without due process of law" is one of those ancient challenges to the basic freedoms of Americans that set liberty-loving peoples' blood to boiling and raise cries for fairness and honesty from their government.

While many of the nation's small-business owners may not be able to pinpoint the location of the phrase, which is tucked away in the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States,



Jack Faris

they instinctively understand that their continued economic survival is dependent upon a properly-functioning system that recognizes and holds sacred the rights it implies.

That's why the NFIB Legal Foundation, upon learning that the U.S. Tax Court recently refused to disclose information in a case involving a small-business owner, has taken up this challenge before the U.S. Supreme Court. The tax court's refusal to allow access to special trial judges' reports, the Foundation asserts, is a clear violation of a taxpayer's right to due process.

The issues under review in the case of *Ballard v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue* are of considerable importance to all taxpaying Americans, especially small-business owners. Similar to many other tax cases, the underlying case started in the U.S. Tax Court where a Chief Judge appoints a special trial judge (STJ) to conduct the trial. At the conclusion of the trial, the STJ submits a report to the Chief Judge who can then accept, reject or modify the report. However, due to a change of direction by the Tax Court in 1983, the STJ reports are no longer disclosed to the parties, nor are the reports included in the court record.

Currently, the tax court is the only forum in which a small-business owner or an individual (nearly 85 percent of small businesses file taxes as an individual) can contest an income tax without first paying the deficiency in full. Therefore, many small businesses choose to try their tax disputes in tax court. But denied the ability to review the STJ reports, a taxpayer's ability to appeal the court's decision is severely hampered because they have no way of knowing why the decision was made.

In its friend-of-the-court filing, the NFIB Legal Foundation points to that ancient language contained in the due process clause claiming that the case is founded upon two simple principles of democracy: fairness and transparency. These are true hallmarks of the judicial process.

It's bad enough that these entrepreneurs must face an increasingly complex federal tax code that bleeds them of time and money that they could be investing to make their businesses bigger and stronger. Requiring full-disclosure and transparency for all records is essential to ensuring that small-business owners have the ability to properly challenge decisions by the tax court or any other office of our nation's legal system.

The U.S. Tax Court is long overdue for a refresher course in due process.

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.

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Advertisorial



Submitted photos

Dayn Benson, owner and president of the local branch of My Handyman, hires professional workers with years of experience to get the job done right. He also requires employee drug testing and often hires pros with 15 to 20 years of experience.

My Handyman solves problems

Cooler weather is on its way to Michigan. It's a good time to take care of those home repairs. You don't have to worry about finding the time with My Handyman.

One call does it all. Just sit back, relax and let them get your home in tip-top shape for fall and holiday entertaining, without all the work.

"Really what our customers say they value and appreciate the most is the time they save for tasks they didn't have time to do," said Benson.

My Handyman provides a perfect way for working families to keep up with those frustrating chores they never seem to get around to. When left unattended, those problems don't go away, they only grow more burdensome in size and cost.

"Most of my customers are working couples, who have to get the kids to ballet and soccer.

They just don't have the time," he pointed out.

Never clean your gutters

Fall is a good time to ensure that gutters are clean and free of debris. My Handyman now distributes and installs GutterStuff, a foam filter insert that allows water to flow through, while leaves blow away. The product is a convenient and lightweight foam designed to fit completely inside any 5-inch or 6-inch K style gutter. GutterStuff makes it nearly impossible for leaves to get inside. Once installed by My Handyman it saves the headache of cleaning gutters and comes with a 25-year warranty.*

One call does it

My Handyman provides a one-stop shop where customers can

get five different trades with just one visit. No need to call several tradesmen.

"In one visit we can do multiple takes, such as fix drywall, minor plumbing or electrical, put up those shelves and clean the gutters," said Benson.

When Benson opened his franchise three years ago, he realized that many people lacked the skills or time to perform most of the everyday tasks needed to maintain their home.

Benson notes that customers have commented there's a true euphoria when their phone call is answered promptly and technicians do exactly what they need them to do, and more. It's why their motto is On Time, Done Right.

Michael Brueger of Mercedes Benz in Ann Arbor was impressed at the level of professionalism he experienced when using My Handyman. He admits, that he doesn't have the time or skills for those projects, for example, some finish carpentry work they completed in his home. It's a relief to have someone with the proper skills that can be trusted.

"He's got professional help that takes care of all the things I need them to do. They're the kind of people you can let in your home, you know when they're done, they'll clean up, lock up and they're gone," said Brueger.

Benson is proud to note that

one of their technicians was a national finalist for Mr. Handyman of the Year, Mike Morton. It's a prestigious honor for the local franchise that Morton was in the top 1 percent of all technicians nationally; judged on customer satisfaction, prompt arrival and experience. The Mr. Handyman franchise was also featured this year on a segment of the Oprah show.

Benson notes they do more than repairs; think of them for routine chores. In fact, this time of year, they can tackle those tasks removing screens and installing storm windows and doors as well as cleaning gutters.

FALL 'TO DO' CHECKLIST

Your home is a large investment and needs continuous maintenance. Have you remembered these fall chores?

- Repair Cracked Windows
- Inspect exterior caulking
- Clean and install storm windows and doors
- Repair siding or damaged soffit panels
- Gutter and downspout cleaning and repair
- Check for and seal cracks and leaks in walls or floors
- Power wash exterior surfaces, including decks
- Check wood on decks or home exterior
- Look for signs of roof or flashing leaks
- Repair drippy faucets
- Insulate outside of water heater
- Drain and shut off sprinkler system and other lines
- Remove all hoses from outside spigots
- Fix sticky door jams and hinges

My Handyman can handle repairs for homeowners and commercial businesses in western Wayne, Livingston, Washtenaw and Oakland counties. Charges are by the hour. Small jobs don't lend themselves to estimates; however they can give you an idea about the cost of most routine chores. Call (877) MYHANDY, (877) 694-2639 or visit their website at www.myhandyman.com.

Professionals only

Benson also realized that frequently the handyman trade lacked a level of professionalism. He decided to change that with the opening of his franchise. He's careful in selecting and coordinating employees with the appropriate talent and skills.

"We hire technicians with 15-20 years practical experience. We screen them and require a drug test," he explained.

For an added sense of security, My Handyman employees wear uniforms and drive a company truck. They're also geographically located throughout many local communities, and are often residents of the local neighborhood.

"We're different. We're different than the guy with the station wagon and a ladder," he added.

They believe in the simple courtesies of cleaning up after their job as well. Most people are so happy with the results and relieved that their problems are solved, they wonder why they've waited so long.



Mike Morton was named a national finalist for Mr. Handyman of the Year. It's a prestigious honor for the local franchise that Morton was in the top 1 percent of all technicians nationally; judged on customer satisfaction, prompt arrival and experience.

248-486-9305



On time. Done right.™

All your household maintenance and repairs. Large or small.