

INSIDE

Meadowbrook Road bridge

City council earmarked \$74,000 for design and construction of the bridge, which is scheduled to reopen August 18.
— Page 5A

Excellent drivers

Novi's Linda McEachian was one of three school bus drivers from the Walled Lake and Novi school districts given an Excellence in Transportation Award.
— Page 11A

Personality Profile

Get to know a little bit more about Novi Building Inspector Don Saven in our 15 Minutes With... feature.
— Page 23A

SPORTS



Soaring with the Eagles

Soon-to-be-former Novi Wildcat Rachel Folino shoots some hoops in the high school gymnasium. She'll be heading to Division One school Niagara University this fall.
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Austin, Glubzinski win

10 percent of voters decide

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The people, albeit only 10 percent of them, have spoken. And Tuesday they chose Ann Harold Glubzinski and Danford Austin to be on the Novi Community School District Board of Education.

The two beat out five other candidates including Katie Raeon, Lisa-Ann Smith, Dennis O'Connor, Paul Flavin and Mario Fundarski. Incumbents John Streit and John Balagna did not seek re-election.

Austin tallied the most votes with 1,122, followed by Glubzinski with 969. Only 10 percent of the 30,966 registered voters in Northville,



D. Austin

Walled Lake and Novi made their voices heard this year. That number is down from the record total of 4,240 votes cast in last year's election, which included a millage and two board seats.

Austin and Glubzinski's four-year terms will begin July 1.

The win came as a pleasant surprise for Glubzinski, who celebrated with family and friends at her home.

"I was not expecting this," she said. "It was an awesome surprise. I think that the endorsement by the Novi News was a big deal last week, and I also think that the support I received from the absentee ballot base was what made the difference."



A. Glubzinski

The city received over 700 absentee ballots, with 336 going to Glubzinski. She felt that the League of Women's Voters Candidate Forum, which took place on April 13 and was rebroadcast many times on cable, was also very helpful for the public to make up their minds.

Kolleen O'Leary, a Novi resident, was one who voted for Glubzinski. "Ann Glubzinski stands out for us," she said. "We know her outside of school and support her views and how she supports the school."

While visiting the polls throughout the day, Glubzinski heard from a lot of voters who felt that five of the candidates were very qualified for

the job.

"It's too bad there were only two openings," she said. "It was hard for many people to decide, and I think that really showed in the results."

A totally new experience for Glubzinski, she prepared herself well by reading books on running for local elections.

Dave Medved, a Novi resident, cast his vote at Village Oaks Elementary School early on in the day.

"It was a fairly tough decision," he said. "I just went by word of mouth and what people were saying about the candidates. I didn't feel there was a great differentiation between several of them. They all seemed to be very good candidates."

Austin celebrated his victory with a few close campaign colleagues at his home.

"It's nice to have this done. I feel good about the experience, and I

FINAL TALLY

* Dan Austin	1,122
Paul Flavin	76
Mario Fundarski	51
* Ann Glubzinski	969
Dennis O'Connor	575
Katie Raeon	859
Lisa-Ann Smith	789

* winners of four-year seats

feel good about all the candidates," he said. "I thought they all did a great job, and I'm very pleased to be a part of the good history of the Novi Board of Education."

Austin attributed his success to his communication skills and the fact that he's a straight-forward person who is data-driven.

"I think we have a good legacy of education in Novi, and I certainly want to contribute any way I can," he said. "I'm very appreciative of the work the two retiring board members put in. I think they have a terrific legacy they're leaving for all of us to aspire to."



Mothers Day
Sunday, May 8

As friend Ainsley Crum, 12, center looks in, sisters Natalie, 12, left, and Stefania, 14, watch as their mom, Linda Blain, works on her city of Novi office computer on "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day" last week. Blain is an accountant for the city whose work includes payroll.

Working mom sets examples for daughters

Blain's focused on family, kids, kindness

By Kim Kovellev
STAFF WRITER

Since they were young, Linda Blain's two daughters have helped their mom tend to children on a 10-acre New Hudson farm.

Blain, now a city of Novi accountant, for years ran a day care center on the old stead. At the time, that was just what the full-time working mother and student wanted.

"It begs to have children running around," Blain said of the farm. "It was also an opportunity to stay with mine when they were young."

Last week, she brought Stefani, 14, and Natalie, 12, to her post at the Novi Civic Center for "Take Our Daughters and Sons to

Work Day."

Friend Ainsley Crum, 12, came, too, along with about 17 other kids interested in seeing how government jobs work.

True, the girls are more intrigued by massage therapy and the theater stage than accounts payable. But both say they've learned from a busy mom.

"She taught me how not to yell and have more patience," Natalie said. "I don't think I've ever heard my mom yell."

Making work work

When growing up in Pennsylvania, Linda Blain said her mother stayed at home early on. But after a divorce sent Blain's mom to the work force, the matriarch set two examples: baker of homemade bread and university law reviewer.

"She was just a tireless worker," Blain said. "She was very nurturing. Maybe that's what

enabled me to have the temperament to have a lot of kids."

Bookkeeping at corporate offices was Blain's earliest experience.

When Stefani was born, she said, a trusted family friend helped baby-sit.

"We are a two-wages family," Blain said. "I unfortunately did not have the choice to stay home. It's very difficult to turn around and leave your child."

By the time Natalie was 1, Blain said, the family had moved to the farm. Soon, she switched gears, earning a childcare license.

With two barns and 60 Araucana chickens, the land offered plenty of hands-on opportunities.

"I'm selling kindness," Blain said. "I had to totally reeducate myself."

Her daughters helped pluck eggs, clean coops and supervise kids making crafts.

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Crash kills 3

Drunk driver takes Weinstein mom, two sons

By Kim Kovellev
STAFF WRITER

In an instant, a Novi jeweler lost his wife and two sons

Tuesday when a drunk driver crashed into the family vehicle in Farmington Hills.

Police said speeding and alcohol — more than five times the state's legal limit for safe driving — were to blame.

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It's a FIRST!

Frog Force 503 takes first in Robotics national competition

By Courtney Ratkowiak
SPECIAL WRITER

Apoorva Rastogi knew that it was going to be a long day.

The din of over 20,000 people and the oppressive humidity in Atlanta's Georgia Dome made it difficult for the anxious high school junior to concentrate on the task at hand. Despite these distractions, from the first time

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Chamber hosts Novi Hold 'Em Casino Night

Tickets still available for May 14 event

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

If you want to play the hottest poker game around, it's not too late to purchase tickets for the First Annual Novi Hold 'Em Casino Night this month.

This new event, produced by the Novi Chamber of Commerce, will be from 6-10 p.m. on

Saturday, May 14, at Lucky's in Fountain Walk (northwest corner of Novi Road and I-96).

Sponsorships are still available, too.

For a tax deductible donation of \$75, donors can enjoy a strolling dinner from Lucky's menu, two tickets for cocktails, a \$20 arcade pass, plus a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle.

The Novi Hold 'Em Poker Tournament is an additional \$75 per person. Two \$500 cash prizes and one championship trophy will be awarded.

Attire for the 21-and-older event is business casual.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the chamber relocation fund.

With the Novi Expo Center moving to Grand River Avenue, the Novi Chamber of Commerce is losing its home and facing relocation and rent expenses for the first time.

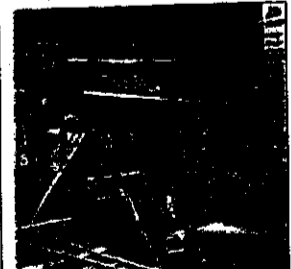
P. Hayes

The fund-raiser is sponsored by Bob Sellers Pontiac-GMC.

Toll Brothers, Varsity Lincoln-Mercury, Community Financial Credit Union, Fox Run, Johnson's Printing & Marketing Services, Lucky's, Providence Hospital and Medical Centers, TDS Metrocom, Triangle Development/Gateway Village and Twelve Oaks Mall.

"We're really excited to try this new program," said Peggy Hayes, chair of the chamber board of directors. "It's different than what I've done in the past. We think it's going to be a lot of fun for everyone involved."

continued on page 3



Courtesy photo
The Novi Robotics team prepares for its division finals match in Atlanta's Georgia Dome. The Novi robot, 503, is in the middle.

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Mom heads out for big adventure

Campbell will bicycle across the country

By Kim Kovelie
STAFF WRITER

Growing up in Switzerland, Doris Campbell's mother often took the family on a *spatziertour* — a leisurely walk. "But that wasn't quite the way it was," laughed Campbell, 64. "You put your hiking boots on and you went and trudged up a mountain."
The Northville Township resident now has decided to take a 4,000-mile detour.
This Sunday, her own four children will see their mother off from New Jersey on a canary-yellow recumbent bicycle.
Her destination, along with six others, is Astoria, Oregon — the other side of the country.
Daughter Terry Kotlensky, who works in Novi, said her mom made the announcement in December.
"I just thought, 'Wow,'" she said, "but it doesn't surprise me, because I know she could do it."

DETAILS

Starting May 7, Doris Campbell of Northville Township will bicycle across the country. Track her journeys at www.nr2005.crazyguyon-bike.com

On the go

Since her youngest days in Europe, Campbell said an active lifestyle has been the norm. "I've always been a wanderer," Campbell said. "I like extreme things that go all day."
Badminton, hiking and folk dancing were hobbies as she moved to locales worldwide.
Settling in Michigan during the 1980s, she decided to pursue a mechanical engineering degree. Daughter Becky Campbell was 16 when mom returned to college. "She was determined to get it no matter what age," she said. "It doesn't matter how old you are. It doesn't mean you can't get there."
Moving to Northville, Doris Campbell soon took to the road on a bicycle.
After 10 saddles caused plenty of pain, she discovered recumbent

bikes — the reclining style. Before long, she was hooked. "Just for laughs and giggles, I go from my house here to Ford Road and back on Hines Drive," Campbell said. "That's 38 miles."
Her Easy Rider Gold Fold is painted canary yellow. On May 7, she'll dip its rear wheels in the Atlantic Ocean — a tradition for those cycling the country.
Then, she'll head west with a group of others, mostly seniors, for a road tour sprinkled with plenty of stops at historic sight-seeing spots.
Traveling light, they'll put on 60 miles a day, ending their journey in three months' time.
The entourage calls themselves "Six Warriors and a Wench." Campbell, who learned of about the group in a bicycling magazine, had long clipped out stories of those who'd made similar treks.
"I had a passion for the Lewis and Clark route," she explained. "I thought, 'Oh my God, I've gotta be in on this!'"
Back roads will be a standard path, but out west, interstates may be thoroughfares, too.
Food will be snagged at local cafes. Some nights, motels will offer shelter; others, pitched tents.

High-power winds in Kansas steep Colorado terrain are expected to demand harder pedaling. "It's the same thing as eating an elephant," Campbell said. "One bite at a time."
Heading to Becky's home in Atlanta, Campbell's ridden the 80-mile Silver Comet Trail.
She's also training six days a week, often on Hines Drive. "They've all got a sense of humor. I think it's going to be a fun group," Campbell said.
Bear on board
Recently, Campbell sat down with her granddaughter to map out her ride.
Plenty of pushpins show where she'll be stopping. Grandmas plans to send post cards to all her family members along the way.
On the ride, she'll also bring a family memento: a teddy bear.
Designed by Becky and her daughter, the bear is clad in a red shirt and khaki pants that come up to its armpits — just like her mom's, Becky said.
Campbell outfitted her friend in a crash helmet and a raincoat. "He is riding with me," she explained. "When I told my daughter and granddaughter, they



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Terry Kotlensky said goodbye to her mom, Doris Campbell, 64, is leaving Northville for a three-month cross-country bike tour, spanning New Jersey to Oregon.

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

Blain's focused on family, kids and kindness

continued from front

The girls have kept busy at home, too. Blain said she's tried to teach her daughters life skills.
"Chores is the most important thing," Stefani said. She pitches in with Ramen Noodle dinners.
She and Natalie made special spinach pies, too. While managing her company, their mom even returned to school to get an accounting degree.
Joining the city of Novi last July, Blain aims to renovate a barn into another childcare center.
In the meantime, she'll keep guiding her daughters from allowance budgeting to generosity.
"They're very hands-on with everything," Blain said. "I think being kind is a reward to yourself, as well as a reward to others."
Kim Kovelie is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or via e-mail at kkovelie@ht.homecomm.net.

Drunk driver takes Weinstein mother and two sons

continued from front

At 3:30 p.m., Judith Weinstein, 49, was taking children Alex, 12, and Sam, 9, to the dentist.
Their Honda Accord was in a center-turn lane on 12 Mile Road when it was hit by a 2005 GMC Denali, police said.
A four-vehicle crash resulted near a medical center east of Orchard Lake Road. All three Weinsteins, who live in Farmington Hills, were killed.
Judith's husband, Gary, who owns Weinstein Jewelers of Novi, was not in the vehicle.
The family has no other children, police said.
Suspect Thomas Wellinger, 48, of Farmington Hills, reportedly had a blood alcohol content of .43. Police said he is in critical condition at Royal Oak's William Beaumont Hospital.
Michigan's legal limit is .08, and police said .3 is the point at which most people are hospitalized.
Police Chief William Dwyer said, "The mother and children never had a chance. I don't think in the history of this department we've ever had anyone that intoxicated."

"We're not even sure how he's alive."
Police released Wellinger's name early Wednesday prior to issuing an arrest warrant.
Traveling alone, the suspect may have been driving from Traverse City, police said.
"We assume that he started (drinking) very early in the morning," Dwyer said.
Authorities said the man had no prior alcohol-related offenses on his record.
Wellinger's vehicle reportedly was impounded, but as of yesterday police were unsure if alcohol was inside.
Pronounced dead on the scene, Judith and Alex were seat-belted in the front seats of the family's car, police said.
Sam, who police said was sitting in the back, was ejected 20 feet from the car, landing in the medical center's driveway.
Police said he died en route to Beaumont.
Two other vehicles also were involved in the crash, police said — a Ford Escort and a Jaguar, each had a lone driver and neither was injured.
The speed limit on 12 Mile Road is 45 mph.

"We do know that he was exceeding that," Dwyer said.
There were several witnesses, and police expect an Oakland County prosecutor to handle the case today or tomorrow.
Wellinger could be arraigned at the hospital, police said, where he's under police guard.
Details on Wellinger weren't released, but police said he lives near Halsted and 12 Mile roads in Farmington Hills.
As of yesterday, a house search had not yet been performed.
Police said Wellinger faces charges of operating under the influence of liquor and causing death, a felony carrying a 15-year jail sentence.
"Alcohol and speed has again killed and basically wiped out an entire family," Dwyer said. "The entire community sympathizes with the husband, relatives and friends."
Weinstein Jewelers has been part of Novi for 18 years.
Funerals will be at 11 a.m. tomorrow at Dorfan Chapel in Farmington Hills (248-406-4000).
The speed limit on 12 Mile Road is 45 mph.
Kim Kovelie is a staff writer for the Novi News.

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Frog Force 503 takes first place in competition

continued from front

Rastogi and her teammates took the field, the Novi Robotics team never looked back on their way to capturing first place in the Robotics World Championship.
On April 21-23, 340 teams from six countries competed in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics World Championship Event. FIRST, an international, non-profit organization, started the competition to provide an interesting way for students to learn about science and technology by building robots to solve engineering challenges.
The Novi Robotics team, sponsored by Inter Automotive, includes 40 students and over 20 mentors. Within the team, students join sub-groups to focus on a specific aspect of designing and creating a robot.
The groups are supervised by mentors, which are adults who typically have interest or experience in engineering.
Jennifer Harvey, a Parkview Elementary School art teacher and mentor of the marketing group, founded the Novi Robotics team five years ago after attending a robotics competition at Eastern Michigan University.
Although Harvey is not in the engineering industry, she found it easy to relate her creative background to the experience of mentoring robotics students.
"Robotics is all about what you need to accomplish and what you are going to do to get there," Harvey said. "It's the same thing with painting. You have an idea and you want to capture it, so the painter sketches out the idea and considers all the principles and elements of design."
"The robotics students have an idea, and they need to capture it and choose the abilities that

"The teamwork, the relationships that I built with people on the team are amazing. I talk to (mentors) who are four times my age... and I talk to them like I would talk to my regular friends. The whole team is very close, and we help each other out."

Apoorva Rastogi
Novi High School Junior

they want their robot to attain. It's the same concept with different material."
To promote teamwork during the competition, FIRST requires each team to work with two other teams in an "alliance." Junior Ryan Gee, president of Novi Robotics, said that working in an alliance with unfamiliar people was not a problem for the Novi team.
"It wasn't a big factor that we hadn't met the other people because we all came to the table with a common goal of winning," she said. "Between our three teams, we worked together and made a strategy to complement

each other's robots."
This year, the challenge was titled "Triple Play." According to the official FIRST Web site, two alliances compete to score as many points as possible in the two minute and 15 second time limit.
To score points, robots must stack tetrahedron-shaped game pieces in at least one of nine goals, set up like a tic-tac-toe grid.
At the world championship, teams were divided into four divisions and were assigned to an alliance. After playing seven qualification matches, the top eight teams in each division advanced to the championship and chose two other teams to join them in a new alliance.
The Novi team, in an alliance with teams from Hermosa Beach, Calif., and Milford became world champions after winning the finals match.
"To be the (one alliance) out of 340 teams that gets the win, you can't put it into words. It's just amazing," Gee said.
The success of Novi Robotics can be greatly attributed to the presence of team chemistry.
"The teamwork, the relationships that I built with people on the team are amazing," Rastogi said. "I talk to (mentors) who are four times my age... and I talk to them like I would talk to my regular friends. The whole team is very close, and we help each other out," Rastogi said.
Harvey added, "FIRST is all about helping each other, and that's truly exemplified in our team. A lot of the time, I'm helping students discuss their thoughts, just like a mother or a friend. We're a family... when the (team) gets together, it's like having a family reunion every night. I've never had anything like this."
Gourney Ratkowiak is a junior at Novi High School.

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Tickets still available for chamber's May 14 event

continued from front

Hayes said she was thrilled with the venue, too. "Lucky's has been so helpful to us throughout this whole process. Whether you play poker or not, there's something for everybody."
Nora Champion, chamber president, hopes at least 300 will attend.
"It looks like it's going to be a really fun event. There's a lot

spectacular event, like nothing else they've ever attended," he said. "Hopefully, it will be what we'll be doing from here on out. It should be an absolute blast."
Contact the Novi Chamber of Commerce at (248) 349-3743 to make reservations.
Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homecomm.net.

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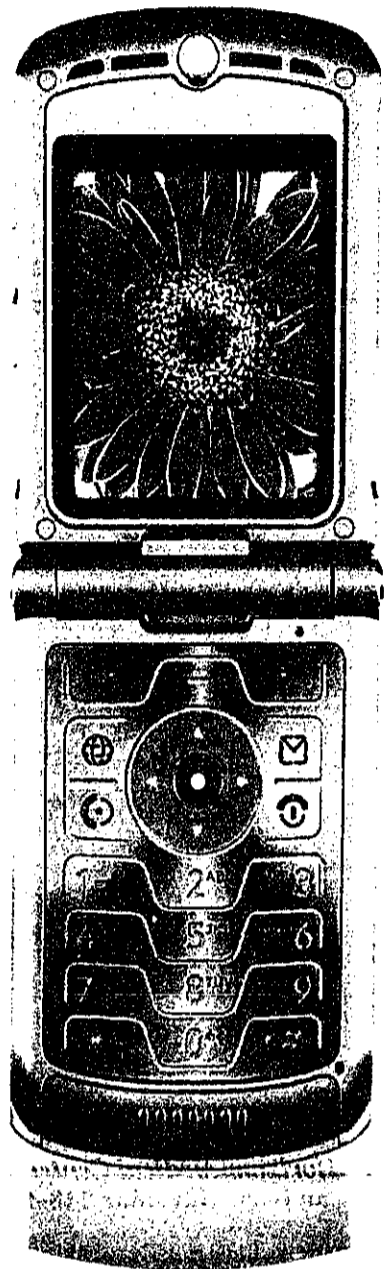
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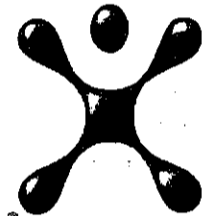
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Population up, crime down in Novi

■ Chief says the force has been with us

By Pam Fleming
 STAFF WRITER

Even though population and the number of calls for service have increased, the crime rate has actually gone down in Novi.

And, this phenomenon is a testament to the work of the Novi Police Department, according to Chief of Police Doug Shaeffer.

Shaeffer talked about the department as the guest speaker at the April 28 Novi Rotary Club meeting at the United Methodist Church on 10 Mile Road in Novi.

He noted that the average length of time for a chief of police is only 2.8 years in the U.S., when there have been only two in Novi's entire history — Shaeffer, who has served for 14 years, and Lee BeGoo, who served from 1954 until Shaeffer assumed the post in 1991.

Shaeffer said Novi is fortunate because in an era when many police departments can't afford to place a patch on an officers' uniform, the Novi Police Department is financially sound and poised to obtain several million dollars soon from a March 2004 drug money seizure in Novi and Northville.

The growth in Novi in recent years has been tremendous,

according to Shaeffer. In 1990, Novi's population was 33,000. Today, it's at about 52,000, representing a 58 percent increase in a 15-year period.

Arrests have gone up 61 percent since 1990, with calls for service increasing 144 percent. But crime has gone down 42 percent.

Staff of the Novi Police Department rose from 50 officers to 68, a 36 percent growth in the same 15-year period.

But, how does one measure Novi against other communities? Farmington Hills, for example, has a population of 82,000 with 149 officers.

Traditionally, in law enforcement, the ratio of one officer for every 1,000 citizens is used, Shaeffer said. Novi currently has 13 officers for every thousand residents. The national average is two officers for every thousand citizens.

The current average in the immediate area is 1.5 officers per thousand, which means Novi would need to add eight officers to achieve this average.

Startup costs for a new officer, however, are \$110,000 for the first year.

Motor vehicle accidents have gone up 37 percent since 1990, and traffic is a big concern in Novi. Tickets written by Novi officers have increased 170 percent over the last 15 years.

"In 1990, we wrote 6,000 tickets a year," Shaeffer said. "We write over 16,000 tickets a year now."

Vehicular theft down
 Motor vehicle theft decreased from 81 thefts in 2003 to 74 in 2004, according to most calls. Shaeffer added that most calls are not about crimes, and, in fact,

AUTO THEFT IN NOVI

Auto theft in Novi decreased 8.64 percent in 2004 compared to 2003.

• Vehicle thefts in 2003 — 81
 • Vehicle thefts in 2004 — 74

Source: Novi Police Department

week in May designated as Auto Theft Awareness Week in Michigan. Shaeffer addressed the audience during opening ceremonies May 2 of an auto theft investigators conference May 1-5 at the Sheraton Detroit-Novi. Investigators from 13 states and Canada are in Novi for the event.

Others who addressed the group included Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox, Director of the Michigan State Police Col. Tadarial Sturdivant, Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans, Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bowland and Macomb County Sheriff Mark Hackel.

A featured topic will be Michigan's approach to fighting auto theft, which has produced a 26 percent decrease in thefts since 1986.

As for motor vehicle accidents in Novi, road improvements will help drive the number of accidents down in the city, Shaeffer said.

But, with six malls and the Novi Expo Center within a mile of I-96 and Novi Road, Novi has become a destination city which increases calls for service, according to the chief. The city also has 84 liquor licenses, with 42 within a mile of I-96 and Novi Road.

Shaeffer added that most calls are not about crimes, and, in fact,

The national average is two officers for every thousand citizens. The current average in the immediate area is 1.5 officers per thousand, which means Novi would need to add eight officers to achieve this average.

Many are for false alarms, both from residences and businesses. "One gentleman ran up 46 false alarms in one year," Shaeffer said.

The chief credits the high standards set for Novi police officers as one reason crime is down in the city. The minimum requirements are a bachelor's degree plus two years of experience in a law enforcement-related job.

The chief currently has two positions open on the force and is interviewing six candidates, including one female.

"People want to work for the city of Novi," Shaeffer said.

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

Wireless network would go countywide

■ Novi could become pilot community

By Pam Fleming
 STAFF WRITER

Oakland County Commissioner Hugh Crawford of Novi addressed city council members May 2 to ask for support of a pilot project that would bring a wireless network to Oakland County.



H. Crawford

He will discuss the initiative at their May 9 meeting.

"What the county needs is a letter of interest this week, which is in process. I would encourage you to support it," Crawford said.

The new wireless network would cover all of Oakland County.

"To kick it off, they're looking for pilot cities, townships and

villages. As of today, there are 17 communities that have expressed an interest, and more are coming in from Oakland County," he said.

Crawford added that some of those communities are partnering with other communities, and that that could be an option for Novi, too.

The pilot program represents no expense to the city. It just requires the cooperation from the city to go into the community and designate sites for the towers, whose antennas are usually no bigger than a microphone, according to Crawford.

"It's not going to be visually objectionable to the community," he said. "They won't even know it's there."

The commissioner encouraged the city of Novi to become a pilot community in the project.

"I can't think of a better spot in the southwest part of the county than Novi with all the technology we have and what we want to bring to the county," he said.

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

"It's not going to be visually objectionable to the community. They won't even know it's there."

Hugh Crawford
 Oakland County commissioner

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PEOPLE

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

IN THE SERVICE

Army Spec. Richard A. Elliott is deploying to Afghanistan to serve as a member of Combined Joint Task Force-76 (CJTF-76). The soldier is regularly assigned to the Southern European Task Force (Airborne) based at Caserma Labele, Vicenza, Italy. CJTF-76 is a combined and joint rotation unit supporting Operations Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. The soldier will join other units that comprise CJTF-76 to help the Afghan people continue on their progress to a free society. Mission objectives of the combined joint task force include

establishing security, defeating Al-Qaida and Taliban forces, and deterring the re-emergence of terrorism. The soldiers are committed to staying the course in Afghanistan and standing firm with the Afghan people against forces actively working to prevent the establishment of a stable and secure environment. Elliott is an infantryman with more than two years of military service. He is the son of Laura H. and Dan B. Elliott of Walled Lake. The specialist is a 2002 graduate of Walled Lake Western High School.

Send us your announcements!
For more information, call the Novi News at (248) 349-1700.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Angela Hospice celebrated the dedication of its 450 volunteers at a volunteer appreciation dinner held at Westland's Hawthorne Valley Country Club on April 18. Receiving special recognition were volunteers who logged from 500-5,500 lifetime hours, or marked five-15 years of service. Among those honored were Novi residents Karen Dreesowsky and Peggy Malloy, recognized for five years of service; and Terry Gahman, honored for 1,000 lifetime service hours.

"Angela Hospice volunteers are a truly remarkable group of people who give from the heart," said Donna Kolditsick, Angela Hospice's volunteer and spiritual care manager. "Our volunteers do so much for Angela Hospice, and this is just one way for us to say thank you for their support." Volunteers support Angela

Hospice in a variety of ways including patient companionship, mealtime assistance, bereavement support, spiritual care, clerical duties, gardening and flower arranging, fundraising and event planning, and wherever any other help is needed. Volunteers logged over 34,000 hours in 2004 alone, supporting Angela Hospice's programs of care.

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Walled Lake Middle School
Saturday, June 4 - Sunday, June 5, 2005
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FAITH

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

Faith Community Presbyterian Church invites you to worship at 9 and 10:30 a.m. each Sunday. Sunday School is offered at both services for children of all ages, preschool through 12th grade. This week, Director of Family Ministry Jann Martin will preach on "Love is Obedient." The golf league has started, and 20 men and women play at Coyote Creek Golf Course each Monday night. Dr. Henderson is leading a class on world religions at 7 p.m. on Tuesday nights. The class started on May 3. Everyone is welcome to attend. The cost is \$5 to cover materials.

The ongoing women's Bible study is Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and again on Thursdays at 7 p.m. The Empty Nester group will be traveling to see the Mud Hen's baseball team on Saturday, May 7. The Christa Grix Hary group will be performing at Faith on Sunday, May 22, at 7 p.m. This group has performed world wide. On Saturday, May 7, the Christian rock band, "Unsung Hero" will be performing at 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

The church is located at 44400 W. 10 Mile Road in Novi. For more information, call (248) 349-2345. Visit www.faithcommunity-novi.org

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross offers a worship service every Wednesday from 12:10-12:50 p.m. Come and share your lunch hour with God at a worship service that includes scripture and Holy Communion. The church invites all to worship Sundays at 7:45 and 10 a.m. Nursery care is available at the 10 a.m. worship service. (The nursery is coordinated by a registered pediatric nurse.)

Adult Bible Study is on Sunday at 9 a.m. Worship Center for children ages 3-7, and Sunday School is at 10 a.m. Rev. Karen Henry is pastor and priest in charge, and Rev. John W. Henry II is assistant priest. Worship Service of Compliment

is held at 8:30 p.m. Rite 13 (ages 11-14) and J2A (ages 14 and up) groups meet at 5 p.m. each Sunday. Sunday School is held the second and fourth Sunday of every month; all are welcome.

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross has moved to 40700 W. 10 Mile Road (between Meadowbrook and Haggerty roads), Novi. Call (248) 427-1175 or visit www.churchoftheholycross.com

Meadowbrook Congregational Church invites everyone to attend a Sunday Worship Service at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 7. Pigeon Fellowship members will be holding a car wash from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the church parking lot. Langford Men's Choir will perform at 7:30 p.m. and there will be a free will offering. The choir will present its Spring Concert, which will include musical styles that vary from sacred to classical to popular spirituals.

Monday, May 9 - Meadowbrook Academy of Religious Studies: 7:30 p.m. Book series, "The Heart of Christianity."

Wednesday, May 11 - Meadowbrook Academy of Religious Studies: 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Book series, "Meeting Jesus for the First Time." The church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads. Call (248) 348-7757 for more information.

Oak Pointe Church service times will be at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. every Sunday. For more information, visit www.oakpointe.org or call (248) 912-0043.

St. James Catholic Church is located at 46325 10 Mile Road, Novi. Call (248) 347-7778.

First United Methodist Church of Northville presents a community-wide healing service with prayers for healing of

body, mind, relationship and spirit on the first Monday of each month at 4 p.m. The service is open to the Northville/Novi community and persons of all faiths. It is a service of hope.

The church is located at 777 W. Eight Mile Road (at Taft Road), Northville. Phone (248) 349-1144.

The Holy Family Church "What it means to be Catholic. Are you interested in the Catholic Church? An invitation to come in and get your questions answered will take place on June 6 at 7 p.m. at the church. It will be an informal, social evening. Bring a friend and save room for dessert. Please RSVP or call the church at 21000 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org

The church "Theology on Tap" program is designed for young adults, but all are welcome to come in and get your questions answered will take place on June 6 at 7 p.m. at the church. It will be an informal, social evening. Bring a friend and save room for dessert. Please RSVP or call the church at 21000 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org

It will be held at Gus O'Connor's on the corner of Grand River Avenue and Market Street from 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. The schedule is: Monday, May 9 - "Yes Lord, BUT... Discerning God's Will for Me"

Moderator: Fr. John Budde, Pastor, Holy Family, Novi
Monday, May 16 - "Are You Saved? Is Baptism Enough? Understanding that Key Question"

Moderator: Fr. John Budde, Pastor, Holy Family, Novi
The Church of the Holy Family is located at 24505 Meadowbrook Road, between Grand River and 10 Mile Road.

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St. John Lutheran Church is located at 23225 Gill Road in Farmington Hills. Call (248) 988-0604 or (248) 474-8521 for more information.

The Novi United Methodist Church is located at 41671 W. 10 Mile Road. Sunday worship is at 9:45 a.m. with Rev. Jacqueline E. Holdsworth. Call (248) 349-2652 for more information.

The First Presbyterian Church of Northville phone number is (248) 349-0911.

Church of the Holy Cross' Outreach Committee presents its first annual Mother's Day Tea on Saturday, May 7. Experience chic fashions presented by Smart Chicks, a Novi clothing consignment shop, while nibbling on fresh fruit and scrumptious desserts. Relax with a steaming cup of coffee, hot tea, or try a refreshing glass of iced cold punch. Surround yourself with family, old friends and new friends. Share

an afternoon of pampering with a neighbor. Come and smell the roses. We'll even capture the memory of your special moment, immortalized in a keepsake picture frame. Raffle tickets will be available. Purchase a chance to win one or all of the following items:

- A gift certificate for Smart Chicks Consignment
- A handmade music box
- A one-of-a-kind necklace
- A floral arrangement.

The event is for mothers, grandmothers, children and non-moms as well. It will be held from 1-3:30 p.m. at the Church of the Holy Cross, 40700 W. 10 Mile Road (between Meadowbrook & Haggerty roads). Tickets are \$12 a piece, but children 3 and under get in free. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$13 a piece. Make checks payable to Church of the Holy Cross and note Mothers Day

Tea on the checks. Mail checks to Church of the Holy Cross no later than Saturday, May 7. Funds raised will support Church of the Holy Cross Outreach Missions, including Crossroads Soup Kitchen and Detroit Area Haiti Mission. Visit www.churchoftheholycross.com for more information.

Crosspointe Meadows Church meets Sundays at Meadowbrook Elementary School. Services are at 9 and 10:30 a.m. Fresh brewed hot coffee is available from 10-10:30 a.m. The church also has children's programs for all ages and a nursery. The church is located at 29200 Meadowbrook Road, just south of Thirteen Mile Road. For more information, call (248) 427-2700 or visit www.crosspointe-meadows.org.

Compiled by Ramez Khuri

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SENIORS

Kim Kovel, staff writer (248) 349-1700; ext. 107 kikelove@hlhomecomm.net

Men are really cooking now

Senior men decide to fend for themselves

By Aileen Wingblad
STAFF WRITER

They are dicing and slicing, measuring and stirring, sprinkling and sautéing — and ultimately learning their way around a kitchen and tending a path to healthier, tastier eating.

They're "Men Making Meals," a group of live senior guys, widowed, married or divorced, who decided it was time to fend for themselves for breakfast, lunch and dinner, or to pick up some new tips on how to do a better job.

The next, Joe Quinlan, Mel Friedman, Jerry Connor, Mel Preuter and Paul Motloch, participated in the first Men Making Meals program at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital in Commerce last month. Held at the hospital's Krieger Center, the class is run by Rich Kelley, hospital community health educator, and Samara Long, a registered dietitian at the hospital. It is designed for men age 60 and up with little cooking experience — or none at all.

"My wife did all of the cooking. She kept everybody out of the kitchen," said Jerry Connor, a Novi resident who was widowed about eight months ago. "And like

my daughter said, my generation (of men) just didn't cook."

Connor said his kids have been helping him with meals since his wife died, but he's now ready to start cooking on his own. "They've done real good, but I can't expect them to do it forever," he said.

The class meets once a week for four weeks, beginning with the basics. Students are quizzed on "Kitchen IQ," where they're asked to identify common utensils like a spatula, ball of cheese grater. They learn measuring techniques and how to substitute ingredients in recipes when necessary, such as sugar for honey or soy sauce for ketchup. Session two meets at a local grocery store, where students learn about wine food choices and how to read labels.

Session three focuses on food safety, including effective hand washing, avoiding contamination while food is prepared and proper food storage. For that class, Sylvia Treiman, a food and nutrition educator from Michigan State University Extension is brought in. Treiman, whose specialty is food safety, helped write the Men Making Meals program with staff from Area Agency on Aging, modeling it after a similar course developed a few years ago in New York.

"A lot of men have no experience in the kitchen, and then find their wife is not able to prepare

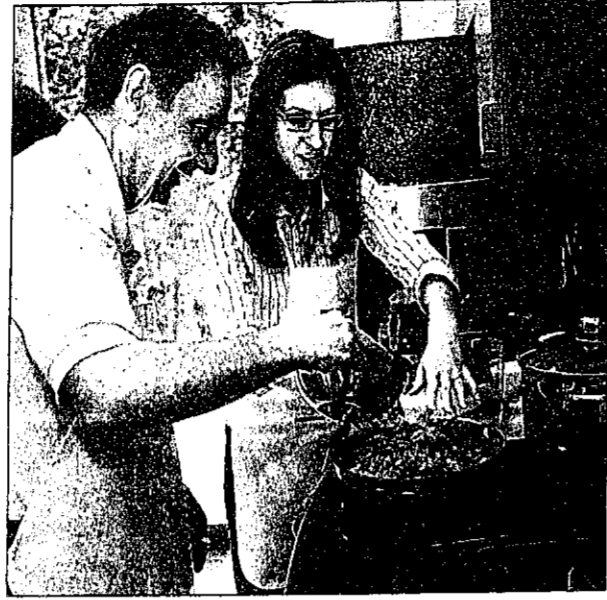


Photo by HAL GOULD

Jerry Connor of Novi gets some tips for making stir fry from Samara Long, a registered dietitian, during a session of Men Making Meals at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital.

Aileen Wingblad is a reporter for the *Novi Times*. She can be reached by phone at (248) 685-1507 ext. 22 or by e-mail at awingblad@hlhomecomm.net.

CITY OF NOVI FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 05-016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Motor City Golf Warehouse is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow a publicly event be held at 42875 Grand River on May 14, 2005.

A public hearing meeting to consider this request will be held at 11:00 am on Tuesday, May 10, 2005. The meeting is at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Written and signed approvals or objections will be accepted into the file if received prior to the scheduled meeting. Please address all communications to Gail U. Backus at the City of Novi Building Department 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.

GAIL U. BACKUS
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY
(248) 347-0415
(5-5-05 NN 210134)

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by Donald M. Wayne, D.D.S., M.S.
Orthodontic Specialist

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Making last rites more manageable

Funeral pre-planning and paying ease burden

By Kim Kovel
STAFF WRITER

Audrey Wright still has a few good years to live, but she's planned ahead.

The 81-year-old Novi resident already has purchased a gravesite and marker. She's interested in pre-arranging other details with her children.

"I'm a realist," she said. "I just want to get it all in place. You just never know."

Last week, she and a handful of other seniors attended a seminar on pre-arranging and funding their funerals at the Novi Senior Center.

Joe Plekacz, family service manager at Novi's Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens cemetery, was on hand to address the increasingly common practice.

As basic as funeral home and grave plot and specific casket scattering or casket material, early plans can save extra grief — and money.

"It's not so hard on the family," Plekacz said. "It's the worst possible day of your life to pick out a casket or make arrangements."

Preparations can be daunting. A casket and vault alone can cost \$6,000, according to the U.S. Federal Trade Commission.

That doesn't include flowers, hearse, church services, embal-



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Oakland Hills cemetery representative Joe Plekacz talks with a group at the Novi Senior Center on "Your Last Wishes, Prearranging Funerals" on a recent Wednesday afternoon.

ing or newspaper obituaries.

Pre-paying freezes costs, which for cemeteries can double in eight years, Plekacz said.

"The money goes into a trust that nobody can touch," said Plekacz. "Because it's an insurance policy, it accrues value. The benefit is reimbursed to your beneficiary."

Over 40 years, Northville funeral director John Sassaman has helped families at Northville's Northrop-Sassaman Funeral Directors.

"Whatever you put into the contract is guaranteed," he said.

When a check is written to a funeral home, Sassaman said, money is kept in trust accounts or insurance policies and monitored until needed.

Interest stays with the account. Michigan funeral homes ultimately can keep up to 10 percent of the funds as a fee, according to the Michigan Funeral Directors Association.

People on the move have helped bolster the trend.

"Today's families are not as close-knit as they used to be where everyone lives in the geographic area," Sassaman said. "In the last 10 years or so, people are becoming more and more aware."

For that reason, two-grave sites are more common. Even so, mausoleum arrangements or cremation details also can be planned in advance.

Locals can vary widely, too, from waterfronts to backyards.

"There's also a flood of last rites. Will it be a quick cremation or traditional, full-service burial? Are one or three viewing days preferred? Is the locale a church or a park? Will the locale be solid oak or stainless steel?"

OTHER RESOURCES

- Funeral Consumers Alliance, (800) 765-0107, www.funerals.org
- International Cemetery and Funeral Association (800) 645-7700, www.icfa.org
- National Funeral Directors Association, (800) 228-6332, www.nfda.org/resources
- Funeral Service Consumer Assistance Program, (800) 662-7666
- Funeral Service Educational Foundation, (877) 402-5900
- Federal Trade Commission: www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/services/funeral.htm

Source: Federal Trade Commission

- Funeral pre-planning**
- Have last wishes in writing, with the individual's signature
 - Shop around and compare prices from at least two funeral homes*
 - Ask for a price list of products and services; funeral homes by law are required to have these
 - Know what merchandise and services are included in cost quotes
 - If pre-paying, find out what happens to interest and whether cancellations are allowed
 - Resist pressure to buy unnecessary goods and services
 - Avoid emotional overspending
 - Learn your rights; funeral and burial laws vary from state to state
 - To cut costs, limit viewing to a day (or hour) before the funeral or dress a loved one in a favorite outfit

* Note: by federal law, funeral homes must accept and handle urns and caskets purchased elsewhere

Source: Federal Trade Commission

"A lot of times there's a lot of guilt," Plekacz said. "You end up spending more money than you would have had you consulted with your partner."

"A final key is having funeral plans written out and preferably signed. Last wills might be locked up and not handy in time for funerals, Sassaman said.

When the death certificate is in hand, he said, that's when funds are tapped, and plans are put into action.

"Someday we will die," Plekacz said. "We want to do it with dignity."

SENIOR CALENDAR

Friday 5/5

- 8:45 a.m. Panera Bread
- 9 a.m. Stretch and Strength
- 10 a.m. Body Recall
- noon Lunch/Clogging
- 12:30 p.m. Bingo
- 12:30 p.m. Duplicate Bridge

From the Heart of the Classics Trip

Monday 5/9

- 8:45 a.m. Men's Golf Begins
- 9 a.m. Stretch and Strength
- 10 a.m. Body Recall
- noon Lunch and 12:30 p.m. Pinocchio*
- 1:30 p.m. Mother's Day Party (adv. ticket req.)
- 6:30 p.m. Clogging*

Tuesday 5/10

- 9 a.m. Panera Bread
- 9 a.m. Line Dance
- 10 a.m. Asian Pacific
- 11:30 a.m. Sexuality and Aging by Sharon Tomaszewski, R.N.
- noon Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Bingo

12:30 p.m. Focus Hope

Wednesday 5/11

- 9 a.m. Stretch and Strength
- 9 a.m. Women's Golf Begins
- 10 a.m. Body Recall
- 10:30 a.m. Quilting
- 11 a.m. Blood Pressure
- 11 a.m. Taking Off Pounds Sensibly class
- noon Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Clogging*
- 1:20 p.m. Massage/Healing Touch
- 1:30-2:30 p.m. Sing-Along with George and Caroline Show Boat Trip

Thursday 5/12

- 9 a.m. Line dance*
- 9 a.m. Mixed Golf begins
- noon Lunch
- 12:15 Bridge*
- 1:2 p.m. Line Dance
- 1:30-3 p.m. Book Discussion "A Hidden Place"

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

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15 MINUTES WITH ... DON SAVEN, CITY OF NOVI BUILDING OFFICIAL

National Building Safety Week is May 8-14. With the city of Novi expecting to issue about 1,000 building permits for homes this year, Novi Building Official Don Saven keeps busy. He recently took a few moments to talk about his job — and life beyond.

Building official

- **Full name:** Donald M. Saven
- **Age:** 58
- **Marital status:** Kathleen; married 37 years
- **Children:** Mary Ellen, 27; Mark, 25
- **Hometown:** Detroit, east side
- **Current residence:** South Lyon, 30 years
- **Education:** Associate's degree in construction engineering from Lawrence Technological University
- **Community involvement/activities:** Veterans of Foreign Wars; den leader, assistant scout master for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts
- **Faith/religious affiliation:** Roman Catholic, St. Joseph in South Lyon

On the Job

- **Place of employment:** city of Novi
- **Title:** building official
- **Length of time in that position:** since 1991
- **Previous experience:** city of Novi deputy building official, 1985-91; Highland Township building official, circa 1979-84; licensed builder, circa 1977-78
- **Job description:** Making sure the buildings are safe for the public by inspections, plan reviews. I'm kind of like the center of a wheel, the hub of a wheel where all the information is fit to the concepts and ideas. You're putting the project together and actually putting a shovel to the ground. It's probably anywhere from 65-70 hours a week.
- **Favorite aspect of job:** The people. Love the people. I love putting packages together. This city is so exciting and so dynamic. I can't say enough about my staff.
- **Least favorite aspect of job:** When people don't understand why certain things are done. It's just that they haven't done a thorough job in investigating what needed to be done before they

build. **Biggest challenge you face:** Dealing with major projects and making sure everything's going right, specifically for those which were involved in litigation.

If you could have any other job: I think I'd like to be a teacher. It's primarily a pipe dream. I have the opportunity to talk to third-year architects and teach them a little bit about building codes. I used to do this at Lawrence Tech. It's really exciting. You've got people that want to learn.

Personal side

- **Your best advice:** Be thorough. From a building code standpoint, just remember the environmental concerns are so important. If you're talking about life in general, life's almost like a milking stool, with each leg representing life in itself, where religion becomes a balance in your life, your work and your family.
- **Three words to describe you:** A people person, without a doubt. Nothing matters more than your family. I like to see end results — goal oriented.
- **Most influential person:** That can go back to my father. That's Ernie Harwell. That man is the greatest person that I've ever run across.
- **Quality you most admire in a person:** Honesty and integrity. Those are two major, major issues.
- **Pet peeve:** Negativity. I hate people saying "no" sometimes without really reviewing all the facts.
- **Greatest fear:** Stress.
- **Most treasured possession:** That's my wife. She is love of my life.
- **If you could change one thing about yourself:** Stop taking things to heart too much. I beat myself up too much. I want to see things go well.
- **First car:** A 1952 Ford. It was sea mist green.
- **Favorite writer:** Clive Cussler ("Raise the Titanic"). The guy does so much research before he writes the book it just makes you sick. It was unreal.
- **Favorite film:** The Rock
- **Favorite music:** Easy listening jazz. George Howard, Dancing in the Sun, that type of thing.
- **Favorite restaurant:**



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi Building Inspector Don Saven takes a look at some blueprints in the building department at the Novi Civic Center.

Everybody here knows that I go to Kim's Gardens. I love that place.

• **Preferred TV shows:** Really not into it, except ESPN Sports. Baseball, definitely.

• **Any hobbies:** I collect baseball cards. I got interested because they changed their style. They're a little more elaborate now... but I still like the old ones. I collect the 1959 All Stars — Mickey Mantle, Ted Williams. I do have a signed Babe Ruth picture. Those are my pride and joys.

I love to do a lot of water sports. I swam with the manatees and definitely the sting rays. I'm a critter person, and so is my wife. We love getting out snorkeling.

• **If you won \$10 million in the lottery tomorrow:** Probably pay off the bills, my house, certainly take care of my church, my kids — just the normal things.

Compiled by Kim Kovelte

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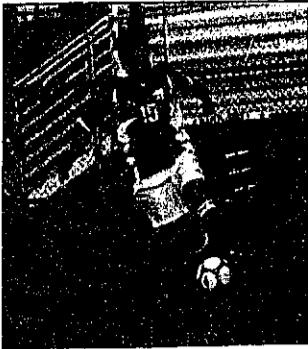
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Infinity's finest

Novi Middle School student Julie Sheeran is one of Infinity Gymnastics best. She competed in the state and regional competitions recently and represented Novi well.

— Page 3B



Kicking and screaming

The Novi Wildcats soccer team never goes down without a fight, but they'd probably like if one of the teams they played actually put one up. Novi has been dominating foes all week long.

— Page 2B



Regional Marketplace

Chris Meredith's Milford shop, Your Nesting Place, is celebrating its 10th year offering one-of-a-kind boutique items.

— Page 6B

SPORTS

Thursday, May 5, 2005

www.hometownlife.com

B1 Novi News

Season switch stalled

The Michigan High School Athletic Association announced Monday the expected change of seasons will not take place — for now.

The United States Supreme Court granted the MHSAA's request for an appeal in the sports season litigation. Had the seasons switched, as ordered by a lower court, volleyball would have moved to the fall while girls basketball would have moved to the winter season. Also switching would have been girls golf and boys tennis to the fall and girls tennis and boys golf to the spring.

"Thousands of student-athletes, parents, coaches, administrators, officials, board of education members, sports media and fans of high school sports are breathing a sigh of relief that they will have another day in court," said John Roberts, the executive director of the MHSAA.

The Supreme Court's decision sends the case back to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, which previously upheld the ruling in the case. In granting the appeal, the Supreme Court vacated previous orders in the gender equity lawsuit by the Sixth Circuit Court.

According to a prepared statement by the MHSAA, all indication are that no chance in tournament dates or seasons will occur in the 2005-06 school year.

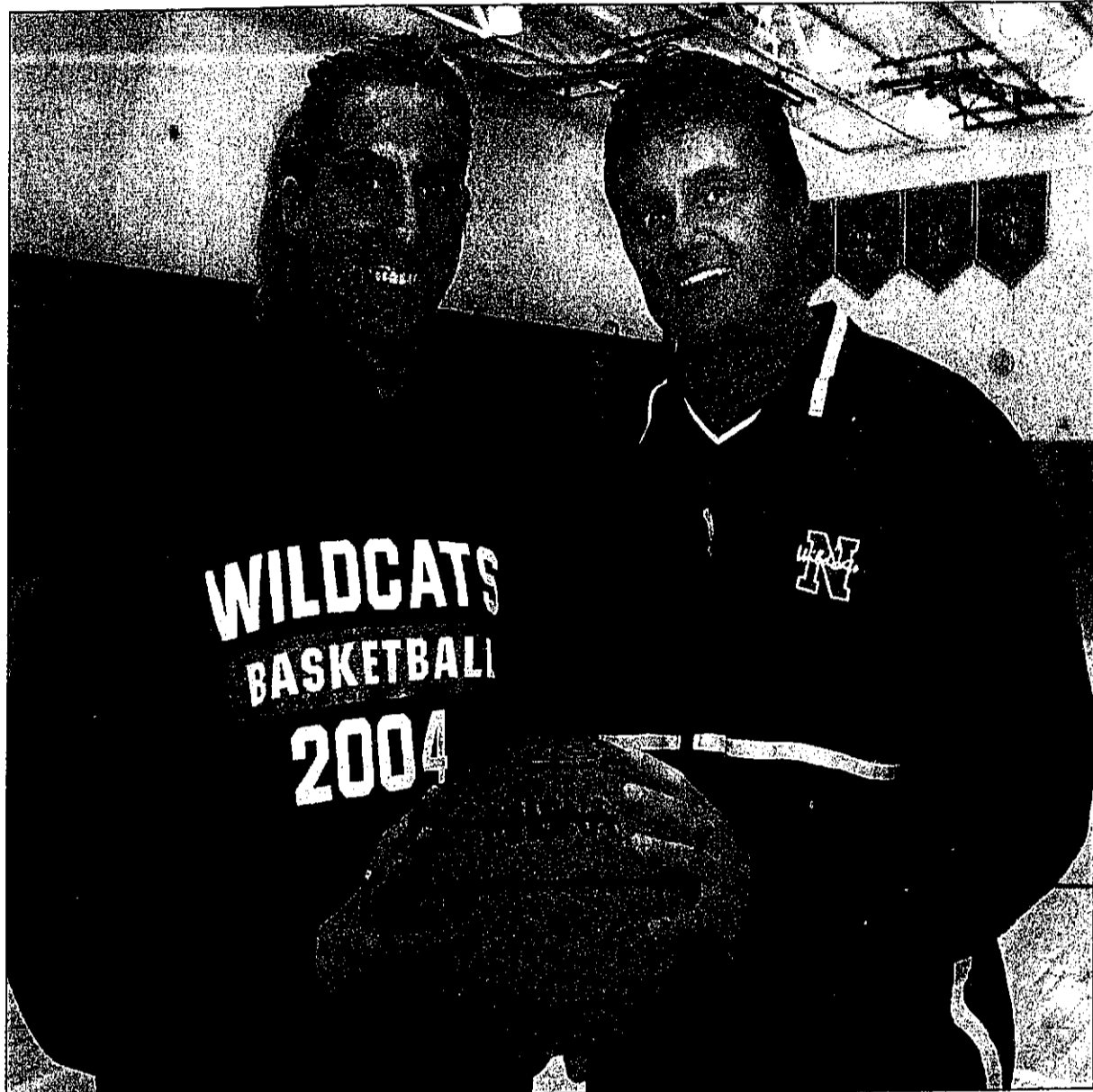


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi High School Varsity Basketball Coach Bill Kelp, right, will be losing star player Rachel Folino to Division One school Niagara University this fall.

Quick Hits

Well done!

Jessica Westfall, a Novi golfer, set two school records when the team made the trek to Traverse City last weekend.

The golfer set the school's nine-hole and 18-hole records for low strokes.

Speaking of golf...

Novi graduate J.J. Balagna is well known at the high school for his work with the wrestling and boys golf teams.

Balagna decided to spread the wealth though, picking up a coaching gig with the Northville Mustangs girls golf team.

When the head varsity coach was away, Balagna even helped the Mustangs to a victory!

Whew!

We're not sure the games could get any closer for Novi's girls soccer team.

Let's see — in just the past three games they've managed to secure 23 goals while earning three shutouts.

Yeah, that's right, 23-0 over the past three games. The KVC is theirs unless something goes horribly wrong.

The team is ranked 18th in the entire country right now and 1st in the state. That's what we like to call serious recognition here at the Novi News.

SOARING WITH THE EAGLES

Novi standout verbally commits to Niagara University

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It was only a matter of time before Rachele Folino found the right home for her basketball skills.

Niagara University, in New York, was the lucky team to earn her ability in exchange for a scholarship.

"I really like the atmosphere there," said Folino. "The coaches are great too and I really feel comfortable there."

"Academically and athletically, it's the best step for me."

The Novi junior, who averaged 14 points and 8.8 rebounds a game this year, hasn't signed her name to the dotted line as of yet — she can't officially until November. However, the Wildcat standout can give a verbal commitment to the school of her choice.

"I think it's a great choice for Rachele," said Jim Halverson, the coach for Folino's club team, the Michigan Belles. "She's an outstanding, versatile player. She can play just about any position on the floor. Niagara's lucky to have her."

Folino said though she's excited about playing for the Eagles, she also plans on focusing a lot of her time and energy on studies.

Niagara is a top-flight educational school. "Freshmen need to have a 3.0 or better," she said of grade-point averages. "There's a study hall, every week, that's mandatory if you need it or not. They definitely stress academics there."

The Eagles play in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference and are Division I. Folino is the first Division I recruit out of Novi's girls basketball program.

"We're really proud of her," said Novi coach Bill Kelp. "She brings everything to the court. I think she can do everything well, but her biggest strength is her work ethic and her dedication to being the best basketball

player she can be."

Folino is well aware she'll have to continue striving to be that kind of player if she hopes to continue her success at Novi. She's already adding strength to her already-impressive arsenal as she's been hitting the weights three days a week at the high school.

She's going to keep playing with the Belles and with the Wildcats as well, hoping to add to every facet of her game.

The Novi junior's going to have to overcome a lot this year.

"I'm definitely going to have to learn to deal with that in the KVC this year," she said. "They know who you are after three years. They know your flaws because they know what you're good at and what you need to work on."

"I've got to work on all aspects of my game if I want to overcome what I'll face in the KVC this year."

Picking a college means Folino has a lot of weight lifted off her shoulders. She had several interested in her, asking her to come out for visits and to meet with the coaches.

Despite having Niagara nearly a done deal, she said there is still pressure to showcase her ability on the hardwood.

"There's always going to be stress," she said. "I want to win because I never want to lose. I'm always out to impress people because I'm always out to play my best. I'm not going to play any worse just because I know where I'm going to college. I'm not that kind of person. I want to make my senior year the best I can."

Kelp said he'd expect nothing less from a player like Folino, who he hopes will help lead his team to a KVC title next year.

He added his star forward will most likely have even more tools for the job this fall.

"I expect her to be even better and not just the same-old Rachele," he said. "I believe she can be better because I know how hard she works."

Halverson said Folino brings more to the table than many players. Players are normally capable of being good at offense, defense, shooting or rebounding. Folino has all of it.

"I liken her to Tayshaun Prince," he said. "He's not a great rebounder or a great defender, but he sets screens, rolls off of them and does everything you want him to



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Soon-to-be-former Novi Wildcat Rachel Folino shoots some hoops in the high school gymnasium.

do. He may not lead the Pistons in scoring, but Tayshaun is always doing something to win a game. That's exactly what Rachele does."

And that's exactly what Folino hopes to continue to do. She said it's nice to be able to lead a team in scoring, but she hopes it's all the little things that continue making her capable of being named All-Area Player of

the Year. "It's not all about scoring," she said. "It's about defense and it's about the little things. How do you move without the ball? How well do you set screens? Roll off them? It's all the little details that improve all the aspects of the game."

"I hope to be the best I can be in all of the little things."

By the numbers

38

Jessica Westfall's new school record for 9 holes of golf.

82

Westfall's new Novi High School record for 18 holes of golf.

8

Shutouts earned by senior soccer goalie Kim Herbst so far this season.

8

Goals scored by Stephanie Crawford over three games. The team has scored 23.

1st

Place the Novi Wildcats boys track team took at the Holly Invitational.

3

Points by which the Novi girls track team lost to Brighton last week.

2003

Last time boys track lost a dual meet.



Shannon Cody and Kelly Herbert defend against Brighton.



Jessica Barndt goes for a header against Pioneer.



Kristi Timar runs past a Hartland player.

HAVING A BALL!



Megan Stec splits a pair of Canton defenders.

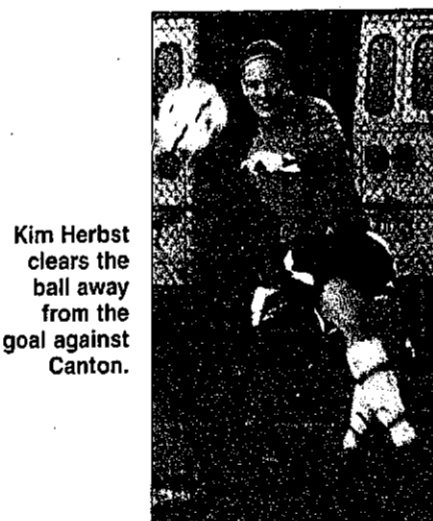
Wildcats: #1 in state; #18 in nation; 23-0 last three games



Jessica Barndt kicks against Pioneer.



Above, Shannon Cody battles for the ball against Hartland.



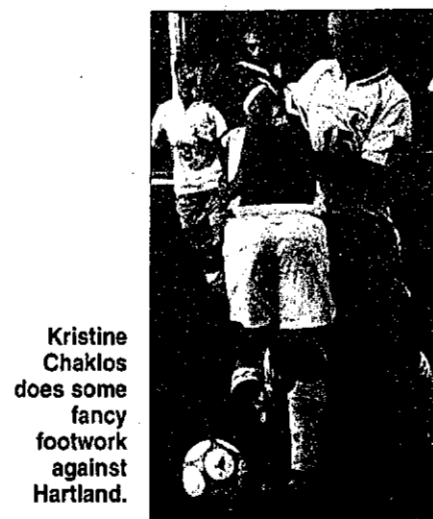
Kim Herbst clears the ball away from the goal against Canton.



A Wildcat goes up for a header against Pioneer.



Below, Jamie Fratto and Emily Esbrook take on Pioneer player.



Kristine Chaklos does some fancy footwork against Hartland.



Shannon Cody clears against Hartland.



Katie Chaklos hits a header against Canton.

Photos by Barbara Herbst

Julie Sheeran succeeding with Infinity Gymnastics

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

At 13 years old, Novi's Julie Sheeran already puts in more hours than many young adults apply toward their part-time jobs.

Sheeran, who goes to Novi Middle School, is a member of the Infinity Gymnastics team. She's a level eight gymnast out of the Brighton-based club. "I tried out a couple of other

gymnastics and thought they were way too serious," Sheeran said. "I didn't think they cared about the gymnast and didn't appreciate them. When I went to Infinity they showed me around and how they did things. I liked the gym and the coaches."

The eighth grader has had plenty of success at with Infinity. This year she qualified for the regional competition but couldn't compete on the vault due to an injured ankle. She did, however, compete on the bars and the beam.

"I did well on the bars and placed," she said. "I fell on the beam though, but still got a pretty high score. If I wouldn't have fell I would have probably done real good."

To qualify for the regional, Sheeran had to showcase her ability at the state level. There she took an all-around score of 35.425. She took fifth on the vault with a season-high score of 9.35.

It wasn't just the state finals or the regional where Sheeran showcased her ability. "Her best overall performance was at the Chicago Style Invitational," said Darlene Hadley of Infinity. "There she earned a third place all-around with her season high of 36.175."

Sheeran put in plenty of hours of practice to get at the level where she currently competes. On an average week she puts in anywhere from 16-20 hours in preparation for her meets.

It's worth it though. Beyond placing in events, Sheeran just enjoys being involved in the sport. "I really love gymnastics," she said. "It's fun. You get to flip around and then you say 'Wow, I can do that. I don't know too many people that can do that.' It's cool and it's fun."

Though Sheeran has the option of joining the high school's gymnastics team next year, she said she'll most likely choose to stick with Infinity. She said out of all of the events she prefers to participate in the bars and the beam. The Novi Middle School student said she clearly remembers when she first started in gymnastics. She wasn't nearly at the level she is now.



Novi Middle School student Julie Sheeran is a standout gymnast with the Infinity club.



Infinity Gymnastics' Julie Sheeran performs a handstand.

She's currently working on some of her floor routine, including a very difficult-sounding maneuver. "Right now, on the floor, I'm working on my front round off back handspring full twist," she said.

Working on those skills will help Sheeran advance to the next level. "I'm almost positive I'll be at level nine next year," she said. "We're finished with the season now, so I'm working toward all new skills for next season."

Sheeran, who's also a good student with mostly As and Bs on her report card — will hope to become an English teacher when she gets older, though she said that's not set in stone. "Until the day she has to decide, Sheeran has plenty to keep her busy, like back handsprings and balance beams."

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

King fighting for NFL roster spot

When Walled Lake Western graduate James King was growing up, he made a casual mention to his mother, Judy, that he'd like to play in the National Football League.

Judy smiled and patted him on the head and nodded in his direction. She probably even told him he'd be able to grow up and be what he wanted to be.

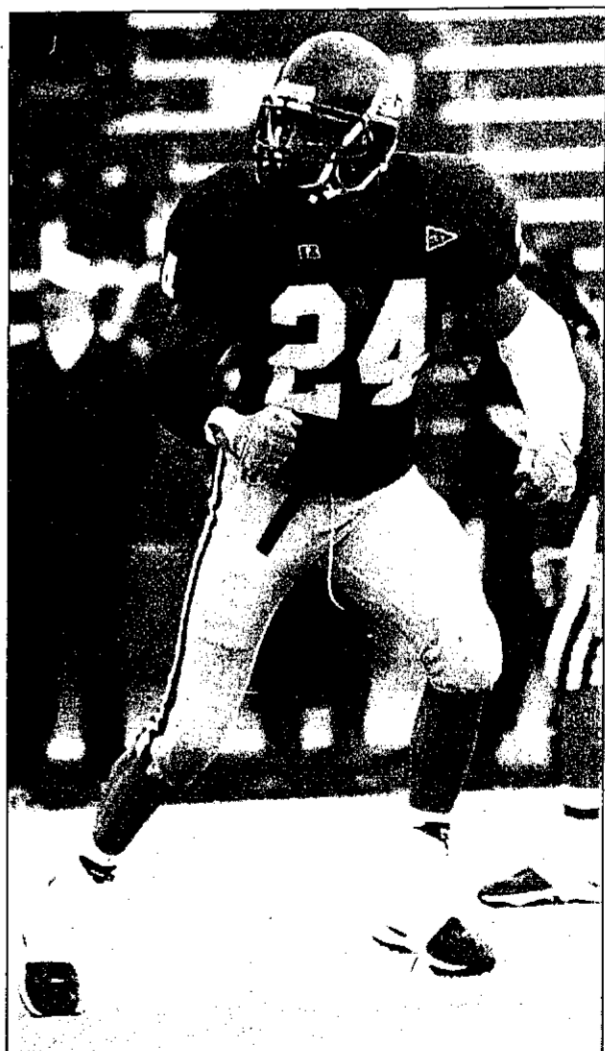
King had already decided. He wanted to be in the NFL. The NFL hopeful said the four-day stint was nerve-racking. "Honestly, I was really kind of paranoid," King said. "They were cutting people left and right. My heart was racing a thousand miles per hour because guys who they had signed came up to me later on and would tell me they had been cut."

"I thought 'Oh my goodness, I didn't know they cut the guys they had already signed.'"

The Browns didn't hand King his walking papers. Instead, they've invited him back to training camp May 16 where he'll prepare for passing camp, then mini camp and then training camp where the team will make their final cuts.

"I'm looking to up my stock on special teams right now," King said of one way to make the final roster. "If all else fails and they decided I can't play defense for whatever reason, I'll get in there on special teams."

King said he's looking forward to playing in front of true football fans, like rabid Walled Lake Western fans. His Central Michigan University experience was different. "I can't wait to be around other fans," he said. "I want fans who care about players and fans who are in the stands during the good times and the bad. That will be a significant difference from Mt. Pleasant."



James King, of Walled Lake, is turning in his Central Michigan uniform for one from the Cleveland Browns.

"I'd be lying if I said I didn't regret it," he said. "I still feel God lets everything happen for a reason. There's a reason I went there and there's a reason I'm in the position I am right now. I have to keep my faith in that because if I don't I'll drive myself crazy."

He knows he has a lot to prove — to the Browns and to himself. "I think he can do it, with a little push from me," said his mother, Judy. "I'm very proud of him. I'm proud of all (five) of my kids."

King can play defense, tackle, block punts and, most importantly, he knows he can outwork anyone on the field. "I've got to let my work ethic speak for me over the course of the summer," he said. "I've got to let my talent show."

SPORTS SHORTS

Girls basketball camp

The Novi Wildcats girls basketball team will be hosting a girls basketball camp June 27-July 1 at the Novi High School Field House.

The camp, hosted by varsity coach Bill Kopf and members of the girls varsity basketball team, will teach girls, grades 2-9, the fundamentals of the game of basketball.

Cost is \$126 and includes a T-shirt and a basketball in addition to the experienced coaching of skills and basketball basics. Registration begins May 2.

For more information, please call Novi Community Education at (248) 449-1206.

A ride of silence

In honor of cyclists killed or injured on the roads, a group of cyclists invites interested participants to a silent ride May 18 at 7 p.m.

The ride will be a 10-mile loop, in silence, and traveling no faster than 12 miles per hour. There is no fee, no registration and no T-shirt.

The ride will start at Nankin Mills Pavilion on Hines Drive just east of Ann Arbor Trail. Please arrive early to line up. For more information, please contact Jeffrey Osowski via email at jeffrey.osowski@sbcglobal.net.

Golf classic

A 19-year NFL veteran and former Detroit Lion, Eddie Murray will be one of the players taking to the greens as an honorary co-chairperson of the Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit's 22nd Annual Goodwill Classic on Monday, June 6, 2005. The Classic is moving this year to the Meadowbrook Country Club at 40941 Eight Mile Road in Northville.

Featured this year will be a special Corporate Cup, with companies challenging each other to win this inaugural traveling award. In addition to the Corporate

Cup, the Goodwill Cup will be awarded to the most successful women's, men's and mixed teams. Also new at this year's Classic will be the presence of golf pros who will provide mini-lessons on the driving range throughout the day.

There will be two shotgun starts. The 8 a.m. shotgun start includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Costs are \$195 per person for a four-person scramble, with morning players having the option of adding the dinner package for \$50.

The afternoon package for \$250 includes the 1 p.m. shotgun start, lunch and dinner. Evening activities begin at 6:30 p.m. A live auction and a silent auction will be held, with items including a ride for two in the WJR Traffic Copier and four (4) suite tickets for a Tigers game at Comerica Park. Dinner packages for \$50 also will be available for non-golfers wishing to participate in the Classic.

Registration deadline is May 30, 2005. Individuals who do not register a full foursome will be matched up with others on the day.

For information on the Golf Classic, or a registration form, visit www.goodwillclassic.com, or call 313-964-3900, ext. 302.

Northville coaching positions open

The Northville High School athletics department recently announced several openings with athletics teams.

The high school recently announced an opening for head football coach at the varsity level.

The Mustangs are also looking for an assistant swimming coach for the girls swimming and diving team as well as an assistant gymnastics coach who has spotting experience in all of the events. Northville still has open assistant coaching positions with the Northville football teams.

For more information or to apply, please contact Bryan Masi at (248) 344-8414.

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 6B

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Why most Web sites don't work

Have you ever wondered why your Web site is not getting you any sales? Do you even know how many people are coming to your site and when?

Do you think that the money you spent on getting a Web site developed could have been better spent on other marketing methods? Are small changes to the site taking weeks to implement?

Or are you just so fed-up with the hassles of managing your Web site, that you don't want to have anything to do with it anymore?

Well, read below to see if these may be the reasons why your Web site may not be working for you.

Amateur Hour

Would you show a potential client a homemade business card printed on flimsy paper? Why then, would you allow your company to be represented by a Web site that was not designed by an experienced solutions company?

The following are reasons why people may come to your site but not stay there.



N. Shah

1. **Excessive load times:** Remember, your Web site should be designed with those customers in mind that have a slow, dial-up connection. Not everyone has cable or a high-speed connection and therefore go easy on the graphics that contribute to excessive load times.

2. **Small or unclear text:** Many Web sites have real small print or information that is sales-focused. This type of information fails to provide a customer with information related to the value that the company provides. Many sites have spelling mistakes and grammatical errors that really turn people off. Make sure that your Web site content is written by someone who knows how to write and always make sure that someone proofreads the written text to eliminate errors.

3. **Lack of functionality:** Do you have a site that requires a customer to call for more information? Or do you have product information that is incomplete and therefore does not allow you to complete a sale with a potential customer? If yes, you must recognize that nowadays, most users want to be done with their shopping in three or four clicks. I know that I get annoyed when I am unable to buy a product online because the Web site is not an e-commerce site or because the company did not post the product price on their site. Provide customers with all the necessary information so that they can purchase your products online or have the interactivity needed to make their shopping experience pleasurable.

4. **Poor navigation:** Are customers able to logical find information on your Web site? Is there a site plan available for them to navigate to the page that is of interest to them? If you go to your own Web site, are you able to answer the following questions: What does the company do, what products/services do they offer, what is their experience in this industry, etc? If you can't, then I would recommend that you reorganize your Web site so that it "flows" better.

Nipa Shah is a local e-commerce solutions provider who specializes in providing affordable solutions for small and medium sized companies. She can be reached via e-mail at nshah@nweb.com or via phone (248) 470-6299.

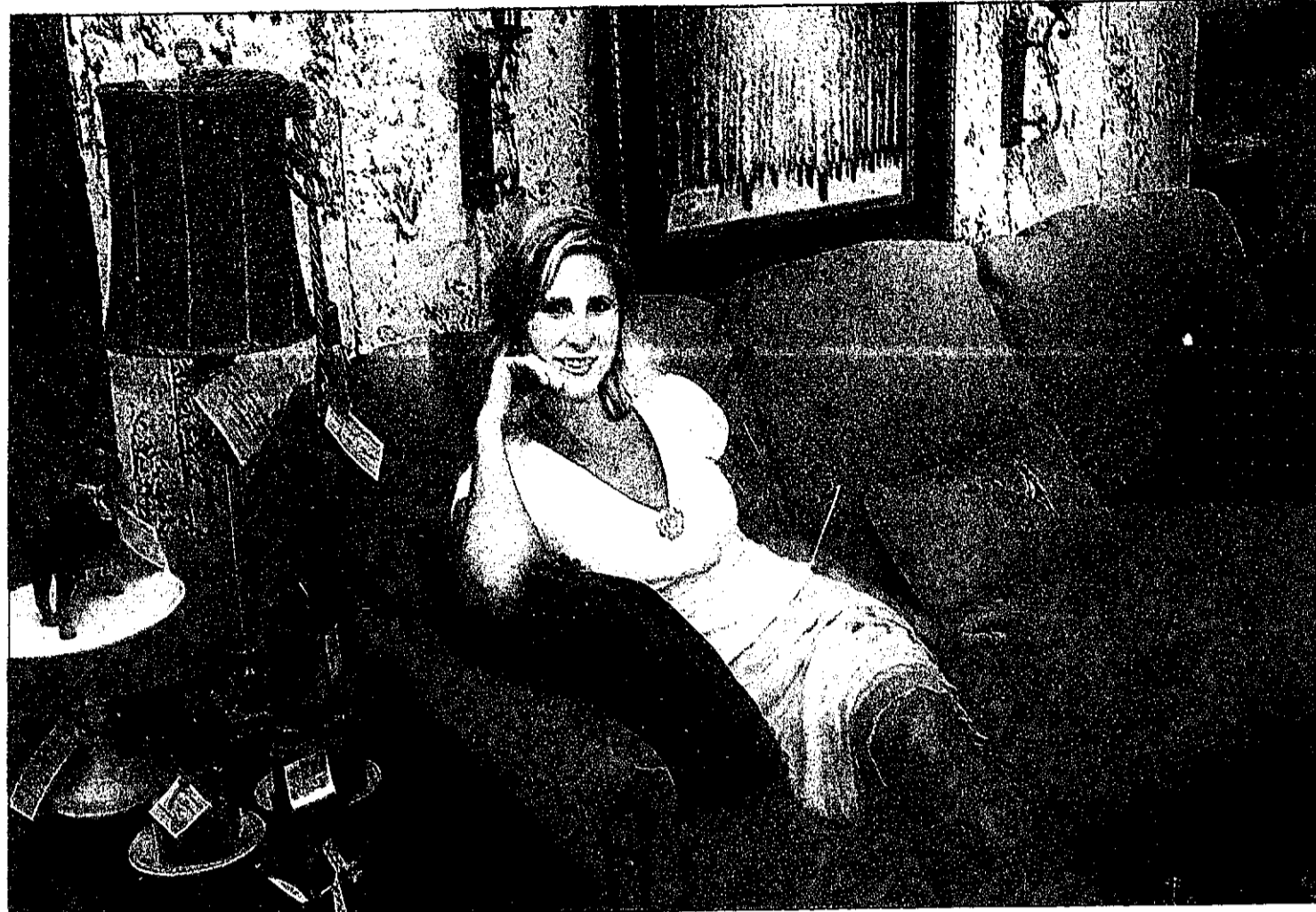
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ADVERTORIAL



Photos by Hal Gould

(Above) Chris Meredith's Milford shop, Your Nesting Place, is celebrating its 10th year offering one-of-a-kind boutique items (below).

Your Nesting Place

Call it high fashion for the home

By Annette Jaworski
STAFF WRITER

You could wait for the latest trends and pay higher prices, or you can find it now at Chris Meredith's Your Nesting Place. Faithful customers know they can find the latest in home décor from Flexsteel furniture to fine art at the Milford shop right now. Celebrating their tenth year in business, they've become a destination stop for those who've discovered Meredith's one-of-a-kind boutique style furniture store.

Whether you window shop or browse inside, you never know what you might discover. Rest assured it's one of a kind. Your first clue the store is different might be the vibrant colors, like robin's egg blue wall or leopard print crown moulding. Inside are fresh and fun displays, where you'll find everything from fuzzy frogs and toadstools to elegant crystal and antique furniture. A collection of china dogs might be grouped with an antique hanky or country French curio.

As a designer, Chris Meredith refuses to play it safe. Rather, she dares clients to be different.

"If it's not fun, what's the point?" she asks. "My philosophy of design is still the same. It's eclectic, not stuffy. It doesn't need to match it just needs to flow. We get people to think outside the box," she explains.

Although her taste favors the girly side of shabby chic, the store is a warehouse of ideas in every style and taste. For example, clocks might include a funky art deco square, a delicate white porcelain piece or an intricate wire design. Best of all they keep the prices affordable.

Meredith prides herself on continuously providing fresh and exciting pieces, trends and ideas. Along with the new and larger facility, they've picked up new vendors to offer even more of a good thing. There are no specific guidelines other than it's unique and catches her eye.

"We like to keep them guessing," she smiles. Although it's bigger and better at 3,900 square feet, they continue to maintain their same high standards for merchandise and customer service. With the larger facility, they've also found more clients are traveling from farther destinations specifically to shop there. Many make regular visits to the store for ideas.

"Talk about very stimulating. People come in here for inspiration. We're changing the floor constantly so they can see something they might not notice the first time." The storescape is ever evolving as Meredith moves a candle or picture here, and a pillow there. Just like the big overstuffed chair that is their logo, the store is warm, comfortable and inviting. Even the expansion won't change the way they deal with customers.

"We still knock ourselves out with service and personal attention. We know people by name and they know we'll help them put things together." Not a consignment shop, Meredith selects a combination of new and refinished pieces for her collection. When it comes to merchandise, move quickly to avoid disappointment, she advises. Since the merchandise is literally one of a kind, if you love it, buy it, because it won't be featured again.

"We never have duplicate things, so if you see it, buy it," said Jeanne Imboden, member of the design crew.

"People who hem and haw can be disappointed," says Meredith. "It blows my mind to see how quickly stuff moves."

True to her free spirit, Meredith's sales and specials are also unplanned, unstructured and at a whim - so always check the window, or come inside to say hello. You might be surprised at what you'll find.

Your Nesting Place is currently featuring one of their rare sales of 30 per cent off their entire line of merchandise with floor samples up to 60 per cent off. It's a great time to add a major piece at a great price, such as sofas, chairs, armoires and table.

Because of their expanded facilities, they can feature an even larger display of Flexsteel sofa and chairs, which is the backbone of their furniture offerings. There are literally 1,000's of fabric options. The new addition of the Wrangler and Christopher Lowell lines will add approximately 400 more fabrics.

"We just went to market and bought tons of new stuff. There's a lot of new spring merchandise. It's a good time to come to come check us out."

Due to popular request, they've also purchased large wall art objects for those larger homes with cathedrals.

Their design service has grown to become a larger piece of Your Nesting Place's business. So popular, those clients who are interested should schedule a few weeks in advance, so plan ahead, she recommends.

"We help a lot of people pull their places together," she says proudly.

Kimberly Dyczkowski of Milford recently used the service to redesign her living room and plans on using it exclusively for all of her home decorating needs.

"She (Chris Meredith) took a

RULES OF DESIGN

Although Meredith doesn't believe in rules, she does notice the following trends.

Vibrant colors include shades of pink, spring green and orange, more like melon, taking the lead.

"Let's punch up the orange. All the latest home magazines have it paired with chocolate, not black."

Brown and animal prints continue to be popular neutral pieces. Furniture is no longer the overstuffed look of the past, but featuring smaller pieces with clean lines.

"Everyone can use a little bamboo. It's one of the latest accents."

Don't be afraid to ask for help. An objective person with a designer's eye can work miracles.



French country design without being too stuffy and made it livable. When you have children, you can't be stuffy. It's elegant but comfortable, it's furniture you can use and live in," said Dyczkowski.

Other changes, Some Gals will be moving in upstairs, to offer a complimentary blend of merchandise. Along with expanded facilities, Your

Nesting Place also offers expanded hours. Business hours are Monday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tues and Weds 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Your Nesting Place is happy to be where the action is at 332 North Main Street in downtown Milford, Or, call (248) 685-7314.

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