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LOCAL NEWS, A3

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Be friends with Scoop the NewsHour, mascot for the Hometown, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, on Facebook by Sept. 4 and you will be entered to win a package for up to 10 guests to the Novi Putting Edge featuring Glow-in-the-Dark Mini Golf & Arcades. No purchase required. See Scoop's page for all of the details.

Can, bottle drive

Doing some fall clean-up? Bag your empties for the annual "Fall Can and Bottle Drive" from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10. Novi High School band and colorguard students will be going door-to-door collecting clean, returnable cans and bottles to support the band program. Novi residents can leave their returnables on their porches, marked for the band, or they will be accepted at the Band Boosters tent behind Busch's Supermarket (on 10 Mile just west of Meadowcroft) if you'd like to drop them off.

RCOC work stops for holiday

Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) Managing Director Brent Bair says that most RCOC road construction projects will be suspended at 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 2, for the Labor Day holiday. Work will resume after 6 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 6. "The Road Commission wants to ensure that its roads are as free of obstructions as possible during this period because of the increased holiday traffic we typically see on the Labor Day weekend," Bair stated.

Playing catchup on Novi Road

Construction two to three weeks behind schedule

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

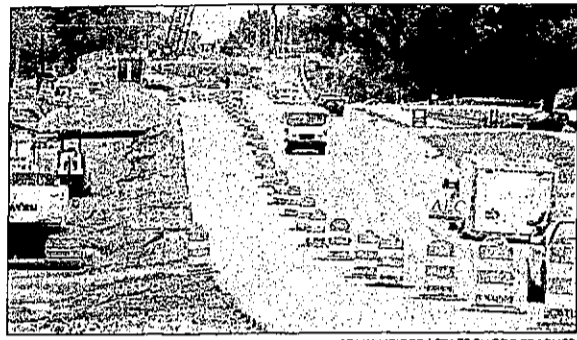
Construction crews on the Novi Road Link Project are ramping up their efforts in an attempt to get back on schedule and meet the Dec. 1 deadline for reopening the road.

Issues with relocating utilities delayed the start of the \$25 million road widening project about two and a half months. Because of that, the project is behind

schedule by two to three weeks. The Road Commission for Oakland County, which is overseeing the project, approved a \$432,613 change order to help get the project back on line. The contractor has had up to five separate crews working 15 hours a day, six days a week since early June.

Rob Hayes, public services director for the city of Novi,

Please see **ROAD, A2**



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Novi Road Link Project, which includes completing a bridge over Novi Road at the train tracks south of Grand River Avenue was given additional funding in June so that the project could get back on schedule and the road can be reopened by Dec. 1.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A group of daring men, including (from left) Richard Reising and George Giese, take to the stage of the Novi Civic Center on Aug. 22 for a rehearsal of their synchronized swimming number that'll be part of the Novi Senior Center's "Vaudeville to Video" review this fall.

Senior show packed with fun

'Only show like it in the area'

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Don't let the word "senior" fool you.

Because when the 40-plus performers in the Novi Civic Theatre's Senior Variety Series take the stage on Sept. 8 for their annual show, they aren't acting their age.

Or as Gail LeVan put it, "we are always really 15 years old." "It's really fun and everything is upbeat," she said. "Even my grandchildren love to come to this show more than anything because it's so much fun."

This is the 16th annu-

DETAILS

Sept. 8 — Noon luncheon
Sept. 9 — Noon luncheon
Sept. 11 — 2 p.m. matinee
Sept. 15 — Noon luncheon
Sept. 16 — Noon luncheon
Sept. 18 — 2 p.m. matinee
Tickets:
\$20 Luncheon Performance
\$15 Matinee

The group has been working on the show since May, meeting twice a week. It has grown in popularity every year, and senior centers and groups from all over the area make the trip to Novi to see it.

"This is the only show like it in the area," said Lauren Nowakowski, cultural arts supervisor for the city of Novi.

Florence Baptist has been with the group since its beginning and is excited about the show because it's something the group hasn't done before.

Please see **SHOW, A2**

Japanese school is in session

Novi Meadows to host nearly 750 students every Saturday

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

The ribbon has been cut and the ceremonial cherry tree has been planted, paving the way for the Detroit Ringo Kai Japanese School's first day of school last Saturday.

Novi Community School District Superintendent Steve Mathews, joined by Novi Mayor David Landry, Consul General of Japan in Detroit Kuninori Matsuda and President of Ringo Kai Yasuhiko Amari celebrated the newly-formed partnership between the city, school district and Japanese school last Friday with several local leaders from each group.

Mathews calls the location of the school in Novi a "tremendous opportunity" for the district, and looks forward to the benefits he thinks are sure to come in the future.

"It reinforces the notion in the school district of how diverse we are and the positive nature of this diversity," he said. "Great opportunities will come from having Ringo Kai in the community."

The idea of a possible partnership has been in

Please see **SCHOOL, A2**



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Consul-General of Japan Kuninori Matsuda speaks at the dedication of the Detroit Ringo Kai Japanese School on Aug. 26. The school will be based at Novi Meadows on Saturdays where it will lease space in order to educate Japanese students whose families live in the Detroit area.

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Bert Weening belts out a tune during an Aug. 22 rehearsal for the Novi Senior Center's upcoming review "Vaudeville to Video."

SHOW

Continued from page A1
"It's just a lot of fun and everyone has worked so hard," she said.

care for each other. "It's like having a family of people who understand," she said.

range in age from some people in their 50s to the oldest member who is 97, but the show will take the audience back to their youth.

ROAD

Continued from page A1

said the site is "saturated" with workers, and he's hopeful it will "bring them back to where they need to be."

"They have made a lot of good progress recently, and we are pleased they have been able to recover as much of the schedule as they have," he said.

The placement of the bridge beams is expected to begin after Labor Day and the deck should be poured about five or six weeks after those are in place.

Dennis Kolar, deputy managing director and county highway engineer

for RCOC, said the reason for the change order was to hit the deadline, and he thinks they will make it.

"We don't think we are that far behind right now," he said.

Some of the work that has already been completed includes the new northbound and center lanes from Ten Mile Road to the south bridge approach; paving of the realigned portion of Trans-X; new alignment of Gen Mar Drive; pier work for the bridge which eliminates loud work during the day; and more.

Incident weather could play a factor in whether or not the deadline is reached, but they are still shooting for a

December reopening.
Beck Road to reopen

Barring any weather-related issues, Beck Road and Cheltenham Drive should be open to north and southbound traffic after this weekend.

The project, which was mostly funded by federal dollars, included 900 feet of full asphalt pavement reconstruction and 1,100 feet of milling/overlaying the existing asphalt pavement. Another key aspect of the project is the installation of a new culvert and grading of the existing low-points near the Beck and Nine Mile Road intersection that have flooded in the past.

SCHOOL

Continued from page A1

the works for over three years, culminating late last December when officials from the school decided to leave its roots in Birmingham after 30 years and agree to a 10-year contract to use Novi Meadows.

One of the selling points of Novi was its large Japanese population. Matsuda said the city has been extremely grateful to them throughout

the entire process, and he noted that they treasure the individual relationships that have been formed.

"Our Japanese community has become very strong here," he said. The school, which will have nearly 750 students from kindergarten to high school and is one of the largest of its kind in the nation, will use classrooms on 42 Saturdays per year and office space in Novi Meadows Tuesdays through Fridays.

The Japanese School of Detroit was founded in 1973 by local Japanese companies to give children of transfer employees the opportunity to attend Japanese school and not be behind when

they returned home. It is a supplementary school operated by the Detroit Ringo Kai, and the academic instruction comes from principals and locally employed instructors. Some students who attend Novi schools during the week also will be going to school there on Saturdays.

"It has been a great learning experience, and it has been fun," Brady said. "Obviously it has been a very frustrating time, but we worked through it."

The new restaurant, while nearly half the size of the old one, will feature

Diamond Jim Brady's ready to shine
Longtime Novi restaurant expected to reopen by end of month

By Nathan Mueller Staff Writer

Mary Brady and Sharon Juergens can practically hear their customer's stomachs grumbling as Diamond Jim Brady's doors reopen.

The two women have been working frantically since the restaurant closed last September—finding a new location in April in the "clock tower" building in the Novi Town Center near Crescent Boulevard—and plan to welcome customers back by the end of this month.

Brady was enjoying her best year ever when the restaurant closed last year and is excited about the opportunities the new place will provide.

"It has been a great learning experience, and it has been fun," Brady said. "Obviously it has been a very frustrating time, but we worked through it."

The new restaurant, while nearly half the size of the old one, will feature



Mary Brady, right, and chef partner Sharon Juergens are preparing to reopen Diamond Jim Brady's bistro at a new location at the Novi Town Center. After a year-long hiatus, the popular eatery will reopen by late September.

many notable items from the old building including the bar and some of the high top tables among other things. There also will be plenty of new features

that Brady did not want to share because she wants her customers to be surprised. "It's been a good opportunity for us to do some-

thing differently and fresh," said Juergens, who was brought on as chef partner.

The menu also will feature the old favorites, but it will also have a new look with a snacks feature and rush hour portion.

ing back, and will start training in the coming weeks.

"It's very important," Brady said of rehiring former employees. "It has been heartbreaking for a year because many of them did not have jobs."

This is Brady's third time opening a restaurant, and she hinted that she may be opening another one soon. The first bistro was opened in 1994 in Detroit by Mary's father-in-law, Jim Brady, growing from a more bar-type restaurant to the bistro it is today. It relocated to Southfield before coming to Novi in 1991.

But for now, the focus is on the Novi location. Brady said the plan is to host charity dinners the week before opening to the public, and they are "more than ready" to get going.

"It's going to be emotional for a lot of us," she said.

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Novi continues to connect the community with pathways

Encouraging healthy, active lifestyles through pathway connectivity continues to be a priority in the City of Novi. The Novi City Council on Aug. 22 awarded a construction contract to Italia Construction, Inc., the lowest bidder, for the construction of a six-foot-wide concrete pedestrian pathway along the north side of Nine Mile Road between Meadowbrook and Haggerty Road in the amount of \$167,857.

Construction is expected to begin this Sept. and be completed in the fall. Currently, the City has over 200 miles of pathways and sidewalks. The Nine Mile Road Pathway Project is one of four 2011 projects identified for construction in the City's Pathway and Sidewalk Prioritization Analysis and Process Plan. The plan recognizes the importance of providing

bicycle path and sidewalk connectivity to destination points such as:

- Schools, Novi Public Library, and places of worship;
- Retail centers, local shops and restaurants;
- Parks, natural areas, Novi Ice Arena, and
- Regional trail systems and path systems of neighboring communities.

Six sidewalk and pathway segments were completed in 2007-2008, eight segments in 2008-2009 and six segments in 2009-2010. The completed work equates to seven important pedestrian and bicycle route connections between homes and schools, four connections to retail areas, and a total of nine connections to and from the Novi neighborhoods.

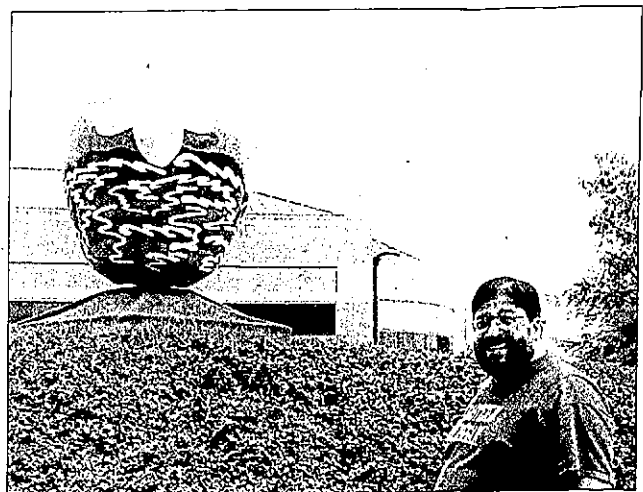
Originally slated to be funded by a federal grant, which required a minimum pathway width of ten feet with additional

two-foot wide clear zones on each side. City Council voted on May 9 to reduce the width of the pathway to six feet to "better meet the needs of the community and the character of the Nine Mile corridor," making it ineligible for federal grant funding. As a result, the pathway construction will be completed solely with local funds from the 2010-2011 Capital Improvements Program. In addition to the \$167,857 paid to Italia Construction, \$30,200 will be awarded to Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment for construction engineering services, bringing the total cost to \$198,057, which is less than the original budget estimate of \$225,000.

City of Novi staff worked to reduce the impact to adjacent residential properties by reducing the number of easements and tree removals, retaining as much natural screening as possible. The final design includes a more meaningful alignment than previously proposed and includes some additional ditch enclosures. As with the previous design, the pathway will not impact any private fences.

Completion of the Nine Mile pathway will provide an alternate means of transportation that will benefit residents and businesses in Novi by connecting a large residential area with nearby non-motorized pathway systems such as the recently completed I-275 pathway. The existing and proposed pathways are planned to provide seamless walking and bicycling access in parallel with nearly all the main vehicular routes through the City.

Found the apple



Above, Harry Katopodis is the first winner in the Novi Chamber of Commerce's Novi Apple Trail Photo Contest, shown in front of Providence Hospital. Each Monday the apple's secret location will change and the clue will be given on Saturdays during the Farmers Market at Furst Park (southwest corner of 10 Mile and Taft roads). Find the apple at its secret location Monday through Thursday; take a picture of yourself with the apple; and e-mail the photo to info@novichamber.com. The first three contestants to send in a photo win a prize and the winning photos will appear in the Novi News. First prize is a \$50 Carabba's gift card; second and third prizes are \$10 gift certificates to the Farmers Market. Left, the second week's winner, Reid Wilk, in front of Hagopian Carpet.

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Fox Run residents clip coupons for military personnel

Fox Run retirement community residents in Novi are now meeting two hours each week to cut manufacturer's coupons from newspapers and send them to commissaries overseas for use by military personnel.

This project, which is being held under the auspices of AMVETS, has resulted in more than 5,000 coupons being cut and shipped in the past two weeks alone. It, according to resident Lucille Hubbard, will continue for as long as residents want to keep it going.

"Our residents really enjoy doing what they can to help our troops and military personnel," said Hubbard, who moved to Fox Run in 2003 after having worked as a record keeper for Baltimore Gas & Electric Company in Maryland. "They also like the sociability of this project."

She said the project now involves scores of residents who cut coupons from inside their own apartment homes and on their own schedules.

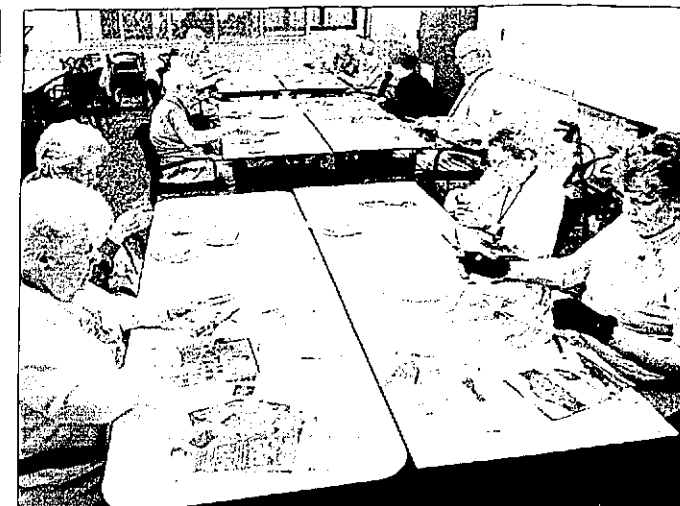
Weekend newspaper coupon pamphlets are targeted by the residents, with manufacturers ranging from Proctor and Gamble, Kellogg's, Dove, Jimmy Dean, and Tyson's



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Judy Maslanik clips coupons at Novi's Fox Run Village on Aug. 18 for U.S. service members overseas. A coupon-clipping club meet every Thursday there for two hours to try to save money for military families while they're away from the U.S.

in the mix. Blue crates marked "Coupons for Troops" are located in Fox Run's crafts studios. Coupons are cut and sorted by residents in three different lengths (small, medium and large). AMVETS ships the coupons, which are bundled, overseas. "We have more coupons than we know what to do with," said Hubbard. "And we are just getting started."



Fox Run Village coupon-clippers get busy on Aug. 18.

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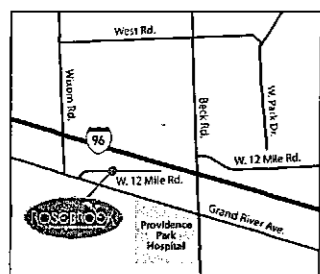
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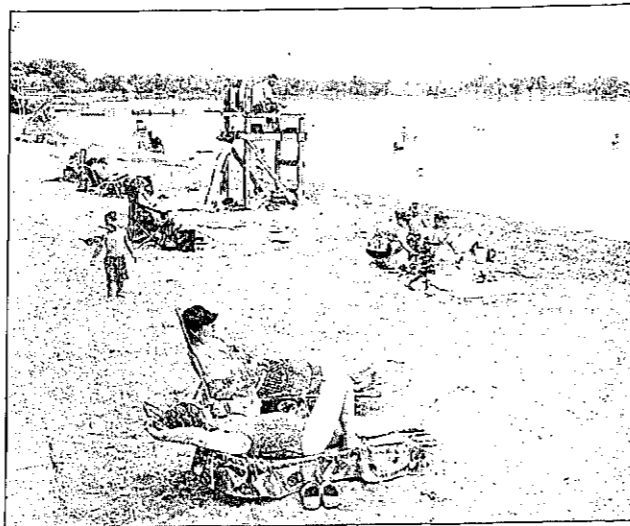
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The end is near



John Heider | Staff Photographer
About a dozen beach-goers enjoy Novis Lakeshore Park beach on July 7. The beach, located at 601 South Lake Dr. in Novi, is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and is free to Novi residents.

Schoolcraft's Culinary Extravaganza set for Sept. 25

The Schoolcraft College Foundation presents its annual Culinary Extravaganza, a premier food and wine event that highlights the culinary talent of metro area restaurants, pastry shops and beverage vendors.

This year's event, 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 25, marks two special anniversaries — the 20th year of the food and wine event and the college's 50th.

The extravaganza allows guests to sample a variety of fine food, wine, beverages and desserts in one afternoon, while at the same time support student scholarships. Proceeds from the event provide scholarships and grants for students. Individual tickets are \$50 each and available at the college or online.

This year's event will feature more than 50 food, wine and dessert stations, a silent auction and raffle, along with a wine-tasting seminar led by vintner Lee Hershey and a wholesome healthy foods demonstration by master chef Jeff Gabriel.

Featured Food and beverage vendors include Sive Restaurant at St. John's Inn in Plymouth Township, Toasted Oak Grill and Market in Novi, Old World Olive Press in Plymouth, McCormick Distilling Co. and many more.

In addition to food, attendees can bid on a variety of gifts cards and baskets, including a VIP wine-tasting at Chateau Chantal, a weekend stay

at the Townsend Hotel in downtown Birmingham or sports and entertainment packages.

Highlight of this year's raffle is a Hearts on Fire Diamond necklace from Orin Jewelers in Garden City and Northville valued at \$3,400. Other raffle prizes include \$500 cash, \$250 cash (two winners) and dinner for two at the American Harvest Restaurant at Schoolcraft (three winners).

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. In addition, each ticket has value even if you don't win a prize. Patrons can redeem the ticket for discounts at the American Harvest, Steve & Rocky's in Novi and the Ironwood Grill in Plymouth. Raffle tickets are available at the college.

EDUCATION

Ready for students



John Heider | Staff Photographer
Parkview Elementary School teacher Megan Baloh prep her second grade classroom on Aug. 30 for the upcoming school year. Novi's classes will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 6.

Novi AD Ellis heads home to Saline

Football game between two schools will be 'a tough night'

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer



Novi Athletic Director Curt Ellis is heading back home after announcing Monday that he is leaving the district to take the position of executive director of human resources for Saline Area Schools.

Ellis, who lives in Saline with his wife and two children and graduated from Saline High School in 1985, has been the athletic director in Novi since 2001, and worked in athletics for more than 20 years.

He called the decision "bittersweet," but noted one of the key factors in his decision was that both his children play sports and he wanted to be able to watch them more.

"The time spent watching other kids play and missing my own kids' activities got tougher and tougher to deal with," he said. "I have absolutely loved my time here in Novi because of the people I have worked with, and I don't know if I could have asked for a better situation in terms of an alternative to working in Novi."

Ellis' goal, it appears, was to stay in Novi but change jobs. He applied

for the assistant superintendent of human resources position when Bob Schirani retired, but Bonnie Lobart was chosen instead.

Novi Superintendent Steve Matthews said Ellis leaving is a big loss, but the district is confident it will be able to attract a high-quality candidate to replace him.

"He has a lot of history with the district and clearly created a good athletic program here," Matthews said.

During his tenure, Ellis oversaw several conference, district and state title teams as well as watching many student athletes take their skills to the collegiate level.

While he is quick to deflect the praise to the coaches and players, they had equally high praise for him.

Julie Fiset, who coached at Novi for 18 years, said he was the best athletic director she ever worked with, calling him the "god of ADs."

"Curt took care of everything for us," she

said. "He was always there for you and always backed his coach. And that support alone allowed you to do your job."

Two of the things that Ellis said stood out to him as his Novi career comes to a close is that the district was able to create a distinct identity and that girls sports don't feel like "second-class citizens" anymore.

"I have a daughter myself, and to hear those girls 10 years ago talk about their experience and what they wish they had — it was clear to me that the kids that come through the program couldn't have that same experience," he said.

Ellis is expected to start in Saline by mid-September, but he will likely be making a return trip to Novi on Oct. 21 when the Wildcats football team hosts Saline.

"It's going to be a tough night," he said.

Matthews said he plans on meeting with Ellis soon to discuss the program moving forward and could possibly fill the position with an interim athletic director before making a full-time hire.

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Shaking the first-day jitters

By Steve Matthews
Guest Columnist



Super Talk
Steve Matthews

In 1994, the night before the first day of school was very long.

My youngest son was going to start kindergarten the next day, and he was nervous. He could not get to sleep. My wife and I took turns laying with him and talking with him about school. We did our best to reassure him that kindergarten was going to be fun. We talked about the new friends he would make and the things that he would learn. Jake was having none of it.

Finally, about 3 a.m., he rolled over and looked me in the eye.

"What if I can't do it? What if I can't be like Zach?" And with those questions now posed, he rolled over and went to sleep.

Zach was Jake's older brother. Jake evidently thought Zach had all the confidence in the world. Little did Jake know that Zach was as scared as Jake was the night before the first day of school.

While waiting outside on his first day at kindergarten, Zach and an equally scared little girl found each other. They held hands and walked into school together and were fast friends all the way

through high school graduations.

This week preparations are culminating for Sept. 6 — the first day of school in Novi.

Our teachers officially returned this past week, although most of them have already been in their buildings and classrooms preparing for the first day of school.

My hope as we enter this school year is that we continue to do what the Novi Community Schools have done well in the past and, in addition, that we can find ways to improve.

This past week the state of Michigan's top-to-bottom rankings of every public school in Michigan were released. There were over 1000 schools on the list. Novi had three schools in the top 10 percent of all the schools in the state, and six of our schools were in the top 15 percent in the state.

Clearly, Novi Community Schools does many things well. But there is room for improvement.

As we make preparations for the 2011-2012 school year and beyond, the focus of the district is on identifying the steps we can take this school year to improve. What changes can we make to how we deliver our service? How can we improve instructional practice? What can the district do to become more efficient and effective?

As I look toward the first day of school here in Novi next week, am I as scared as my young son was those many years ago?

My young son Jake understood that there is a lot of pressure in school. The world that we live in is competitive and it requires our school district to take seriously our responsibility to educate the students in Novi.

While I do have some butterflies as I think about the first day of school, I am confident that we can step forward into the 2011-2012 school year knowing that we have a strong past and a promising future.

Steve Matthews is the superintendent of the Novi Community Schools district. He can be reached at smatthews@novi.k12.mi.us; (248) 449-1204; www.twitter.com/docsmatthews; or www.novisuperintendent.blogspot.com.

NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS

Community Ed preschool
Preschool registration for Novi's 2011-12 school is now open for full-day and half-day morning or afternoon classes. To secure a spot in the fall's 2011-12 sessions, parents must register their child at the Community Education office in the Community Education/ITC Building, 25345 Taft, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile roads. Child care is also available for students attending preschool. Space is limited. Call (248) 449-1206 for rates and availability. Class programs focus on social, emotional, physical and cognitive development.

The program follows the State of Michigan Standards and Benchmarks

for Preschool along with the Creative Curriculum. The Creative Curriculum includes language arts, social studies, science, math, music and movements. Novi Community Education Preschool provides all children with experiences and opportunities that allow them to meet the State Early Learning Expectations for 3s, 4s and young 5s.

Classes are three hours for the half-day and six and a half hours for the all-day program. Children must be 3, 4 or 5 years old by Dec. 1, 2011. Children also must be completely toilet trained.

All preschool classes follow the Novi Community School District calendar and will begin Tuesday, Sept. 6.

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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Recycled food feeds National's success

Tell us about your business, including types of services and/or products you feature. For 20 years, we've sourced high-value, high-quality food products for correctional facilities, K-12 schools, business and industry, college and university, and health care facilities. We sell and own the trademark to Opportunity Buys, which is another definition for food manufacture overruns, out of specification, close outs, irregular and cosmetically challenged food items. We work with the USDA to process agricultural commodities, and we have value products made for us. We sell value food to large volume accounts.



National Food Group is located on Magellan Drive in Novi.

DETAILS

Business Name: National Food Group
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Your Name/Title: Sean H. Zecman/President
Your Hometown: Novi
Business Opened When: 1990
Number of Employees: 43
Hours of Operation: 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Your Business Specialty: value food distribution to institutional accounts
Phone: (800) 888-6866
Website: www.nationalfoodgroup.com

for a chain restaurant, but for some reason the commercial entities don't want them anymore. It could be that the product is varied in size, bread, etc. Who knows? That's where we step in. We empower our employees to make decisions and to do the right thing for our customers.

How has it changed since you opened?
I could never have imagined when we opened the company 21 years ago that I would have an opportunity to work with the most dynamic group of people in our industry. When you surround yourself with great people, great things happen. We are growing bigger by the minute; it's amazing to see where we are now and envision where we will be soon.

Do you have a funny habit or story about your experience as a small business owner to share with our readers?
The ultimate end users of our product are inmates, K-12 students, college students, employees, and people in the hospital. I love getting their feedback! It is great when an inmate or a K-12 student reaches out to

us to tell us how we made a difference in their lives. Also, we are a family business, and my biggest test market for our K-12 segment is my 7-year-old daughter Erin. If you would like true market feedback and honesty, just ask her.

How has the recent economy affected your business?
A recession forces buyers to look for value food. We supply value food. We can help our customers save money while providing variety and better foods. We provide a win-win.

Any advice for business owners?
Work harder than your competition. Believe in yourself and your product. Never stop innovating your product line. Do the right thing, always! Exercise (physically and mentally). Have fun!

What's in store for the future of your business?
The future for us, to put it bluntly, is to become the brand in the industry through ingenuity and enthusiastic execution. We are going to continue to hire and add the best people. We are going to make a difference in peoples' lives.

NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

Schoolcraft hosts export boot camp

The Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center will present a new series, "Export Boot Camp for Small Businesses," a five-class program starting Sept. 15 at Schoolcraft College in Livonia on initiating or expanding into international markets. Topics covered include risk assessment, supply-chain management, finance, freight forwarding, insurance, product classification, export regulations and marketing.

Trained MI-SBTDC counselors and export experts from the Small Business Administration will guide participants through the class. The cost is \$245 per person. (Senior citizen cost is \$196 per person.) Register online or call (734) 462-4438. Schoolcraft College is at 18900 Haggerty Road. The five-class program runs from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center (MI-SBTDC) is a statewide business assistance program.

Michigan retail sales and forecasts rise

More Michigan retailers improved their sales in July, as well as their expectations for the rest of summer and early fall, according to the latest Michigan Retail Index survey conducted by Michigan Retailers Association (MRA) and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

The future-outlook portion of the Index rose by nearly 11 points, while current performance rose by 1.5 points. Nationally, the U.S. Commerce Department reported that retail sales climbed 0.5 percent for the month, the best in four months. Michigan's results were the best since February. The Michigan Retail Index for July found that 48 percent of retailers increased sales over the same month last year, while 36 percent recorded declines and 16 percent saw no change.

The results create a seasonally adjusted performance index of 53.6, up from 52.1 in June and the best since 55.2 in February. Index values above 50 generally indicate an increase in overall retail activity.

Year-over-year misses the mark

By Rick Radners
Guest Columnist



Takin' Care of Business

Rick Radners

It still amazes me that so many companies use the 'year-over-year' concept regarding forecasting initiatives for sales and profits. With the onset of sophisticated models and data techniques to drive business companies, both large and small rely on information that is not only a year old, but occurred in a very different environment. Often managers will communicate instructions to their teams that send subordinates on a rampage to find out exactly what was sold, last year, at this time and how much we spent. Once the data is resuscitated, it is instantly compared to what is happening this year and a determination of better or worse is made. Why is it that manager's still use the year-over-year concept? In today's world where consumer data is collected, developed and analyzed at record speed, leaders are still charmed by the concept of year-over-year comparisons. A process specialist could author a book discussing the problems with the year-over-year concept. Using the year-over-year method takes into account some risky notions.

The first assumption is that the business climate is identical today as it was one year ago. No matter what line of business an organization is in, the climate, product, or service line, technology, economy, and customer base is forever morphing. In some industries, the changes can occur overnight. With this concept

in mind, why would any establishment want to keep their forecasts and operations consistent? Keeping in mind that things like the pet rock and the mood ring had rather short product life spans.

The next short coming around year-over-year forecasting is that it's easier than working with a sophisticated model or method. Not true! The one catch around year-over-year is that in most cases this type of forecast causes a trickle down process of operation. Because it can be derived from data stored in a dusty data base somewhere, it can be reviewed, plugged into a spreadsheet, and sent for approval with minimal effort. In most cases it is easy to develop however, when inaccuracies begin to show up in base ordering, staffing and financial forecasting, and more effort is needed to recover versus putting the work in up front. Therefore, what are the alternatives to this simple method of forecasting and how can it help the small business owner to the larger corporation?

The first step is in education. All businesses, big or small need to take the time to educate themselves on the various methods of accurate forecasting. Colleges and universities everywhere are now offering pick up

courses in data analysis, data mining, data security and forecasting. With these courses, most professionals find that the concepts are not as hard to understand as they are often enlightening. In addition, with the development of various software packages and modeling programs, forecasting your business revenue and costs can be as easy as pointing and clicking a computer program.

The second step is education as well. However, this education has to do with using the data that your business already develops. Learning how to data mine and organize is equally as important. Don't run your business without data.

Finally, no business should completely throw out the year-over-year concept. Some very high level information can be learned when studying last year's trends and habits. If you are stuck on the drug of year-over-year forecasting that compliment it with a more sophisticated method. Educate yourself on proper forecasting methods and realize that running a business involves projecting revenue and costs on a constant basis and not just year-over-year. If you don't do it, your competition will!

Rick Radners Jr., EDD, has worked for Ford Motor Company for 13 years and has taught quantitative methods at Walsh college for a over six years. He has degrees in marketing and sales, business management, an MBA, and a doctorate in education. Radners can be reached at radners@walshcollege.edu.

Juvenile arrested with pot pipe

Novi police arrested a juvenile for possession of marijuana paraphernalia at 9:40 a.m. on Southlake Court after he ran from an officer who was patrolling the area. According to the police report, the officer found him between two homes and observed him drop the marijuana pipe on the ground before stopping. He was arrested and transported to the Novi Police Department.

The juvenile's mother came to pick him up and informed police that the iPod he had was not his. He admitted to stealing it from a car in Commerce Township.

The case has been turned over to the juvenile detective for review of possible charges.

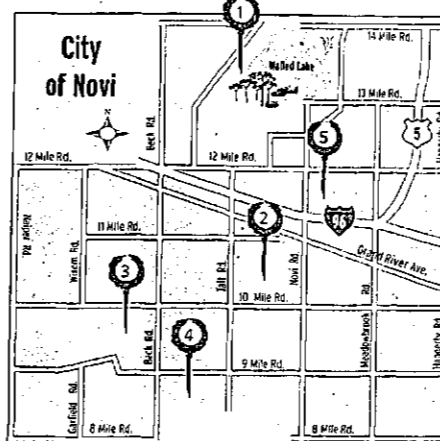
Houses damaged

Two group of homes on W. Cavendish Avenue

were vandalized overnight on Aug. 28, and one of the residents has video evidence of the suspects committing the crime.

According to police, an officer was finishing up a report at one house when another homeowner came to tell him about damage to his home.

It was not the first it



NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Residents victims of lawn jobs

Several laws were damaged overnight on Aug. 16 on Cedarwood Drive by unknown suspects who allegedly drove their cars through them.

According to police, one of the residents said the vehicle the suspects were driving was damaged because it drove into his ditch and they heard it driving away but were unable to get a description. Police were unable to find a suspect.

Gazing ball stolen

A Novi resident had his gazing ball smashed in the middle of Worcester Drive sometime overnight on Aug. 20.

According to the police report, the man did not notice the damage until the morning and just wanted to advise police of the incident. Police have no suspects at this time.

Car keyed at Twelve Oaks

A Farmington Hills woman had her Lincoln keyed between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Aug. 15 while it was parked in the parking lot at Twelve Oaks

Mall. According to the police report, she noticed the damage when she returned to her car and did not see anyone suspicious around it. She estimated the damage would cost an estimated \$300 to repair. Police have no suspects.

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OUR VIEWS

Saying bye to summer

Enjoy the holiday, get ready for school

The beginning of the school year is kind of like the unofficial end of summer. All we have left, then, is this weekend — a three-day holiday weekend in which we celebrate Labor Day.

While Labor Day has come to signify summer barbecues and family vacations for most people, its origins date back to the late 1800s and the beginnings of the trade union movement. While it is still a big deal for most union members, many people don't really appreciate the meaning of this annual holiday. Of course, with so many people unemployed these days (Michigan is currently at 10.9 percent), the appreciation level has probably gained some momentum.

Let's all have a fun (and safe) holiday weekend, but also take a moment and reflect on the meaning of Labor Day and the importance of having a job, and how many people right now are without one. Keep them in your thoughts. If you are fortunate enough to be employed in this job market, you should give thanks. There are far too many who would be happy to change places with you.

As you enjoy this final summer weekend, your kids are probably thinking about school. Yes, it's hard to believe, but the football teams at Northville and Novi high schools took to the field for the first time last week to kick off the 2011 season. Activity has picked up at all the schools during the last week or so, as teachers and administrators begin getting ready for a new school year, which starts on Tuesday. While many parents are probably celebrating the milestone, and the fact that the kids will be out of their hair, it still seems like yesterday when the kids got out of school in June.

More than New Year's Eve, the back-to-school season is when many families resolve to make changes for the better. And why not? The start of school is the best time to establish good habits that will help kids succeed in class.

After a summer of staying up late, spending too much time in front of the TV and computer and eating too much junk food, children are ready for a little more structure in their lives.

Here are several common-sense tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics and other child-advocacy organizations to help your child get off to a good start.

- Start the day off right by getting your children up in enough time to get ready without rushing and to eat a healthy breakfast.
- Develop a homework routine.
- Communicate with your child about his/her day. Ask specific questions.
- Check younger students' backpacks for notes, missed assignments, book orders, etc.
- Limit the time your child spends in front of the TV and computer.
- Communicate with your child's teacher.
- Spend time at your child's school.
- Set a bedtime and stick to it.
- Read with and to your child; get your child a library card.
- Be supportive of your child's teachers and the school system.
- Be a positive role model for your children.

So, as you and your kids gear up for the start of school — and as you are grilling that burger or hot dog, sipping a cold drink and spending time with family — remember how nice Michigan summers are. Autumn is right around the corner, and we all know what comes after that.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What is your advice for living a long, healthy life?



"You have to do a lot of exercise because physical activity is important, don't sweat the small stuff ... Also buy a lot of shoes."
Marion Cowan
Northville



"Compromise. Have to compromise with yourself and your views to fit into your culture and society, and compromise in your relationships with other people."
Jerry Haran
Novi



"Keep dancing, music is your soul."
Marie Macura
Northville



"Always stay active. I exercise three times a week and take tap dancing lessons."
Virginia Whing
Walled Lake

LETTERS

Is McCotter listening?

I had the opportunity to be at the rally at your Plymouth office on Friday, Aug. 26. Participants were picketing for "Jobs," as well as "Good Jobs." These citizens were upset and loud because of the government's inability to effectively address this issue.

When I attempted to contact you, my elected leader, through your staff, they locked the door. When I knocked on the door they just looked at me. Regretfully your staff showed no interest in making contact with us about our issue.

You are someone who wishes to be president of the United States yet you have difficulty in appointing a local staff that knows how to effectively communicate with the people you serve. Your staff is a reflection of you and how you choose to represent your constituents. Your staff's actions reflected the mindset of many in Washington who lock themselves away from the problem without looking for a solution. I was appalled that all they could think of was to barricade the door and seek no citizen input.

I remind you and your staff that the office you barred us from is not yours. It belongs to your constituents — the people. You and your staff must be open to divergent opinions. How else can you make up your mind about the issues facing our nation? You work for the people of the 11th Congressional District — not a certain political party or a leader of the House of Representatives.

I was saddened by the display of disrespect shown to Michigan citizens by your employees. You need to explain how, as an elected leader, you can sanction this type of behavior.

Ted Peters
Northville

Support Obama's jobs effort

This current Republican focus on debt and deficit reduction under Tea Party influence is certain to have a negative effect on the more urgent problem of a 9 percent national unemployment level. Common sense tells us that cutting state and federal workers can only increase job loss.

President Obama understands the need for action and will soon propose increased expenditures on infrastructure projects to stimulate short-term employment. Since an uphill battle in this Republican congress is to be expected, all of us in Michigan should support the president with letters or e-mails to our senators and congressmen, and vote Democratic in 2012.

Dr. Robert Katz
West Bloomfield

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

E-mail: cbstone@gannett.com

Read or comment online: www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com.

Why Obama will be re-elected

The extreme right wing of the Republican Party, spurred by the newly-elected, known/nothing faction, is determined to continue to inject religion into politics.

Currently the two top contenders (Michele Bachman and Rick Perry) to oppose President Obama in 2012 are fundamentalist, evangelical Christians. The third (Mitt Romney) is Mormon. These Republicans quote and interpret the secular Constitution to fulfill their ideology. They insist falsely our country was founded as a Christian nation. There is no mention of God or Christianity in the document which guides our nation.

Though the term "separation of church and state" does not appear in the Constitution, the Supreme Court and lower courts have used Thomas Jefferson's phrase in upholding neutrality in matters of religion. ("Separation of powers," "interstate commerce," "right to privacy" are not in the Constitution but, like "separation of church and state" and other phrases, are well-established constitutional principles.)

Reasonable citizens will work for and re-elect President Obama with his inclusive, humanistic belief system which recognizes diversity and knows the true meaning of democracy and works toward perfecting it.

Hannah Provence Donigan
Commerce

Where do Northville schools rank?

In yesterday's Detroit Free Press (Aug. 27, 2011, page A5), I was stunned to read that the Northville school district does not have one school in Metro Detroit's listing of the top 12 schools.

We moved into Northville 33 years ago mainly to provide our children with one of the best educations in the state of Michigan. In our research we found that Northville Schools' have always been ranked first or second best in the state. This inaccuracy was perpetuated by the Northville Record

article in the front page (Thursday, Aug. 25, 2011) in an article by staff writer Cal Stone titled "Northville Students excel in ACT, AP." Mr. Robert Behnke, Northville assistant superintendent, stated that the state average test scores were .3 percent points below the Northville average. Actual scores for Northville were 24.3 in 2009, 24.1 in 2010, and 24.4 in 2011. An increase of .1 percent in two years.

Mr. Rob Watson, principal at Northville High School, was equally enthused with the school district numbers stating "they're killing it," in reference to a score of 3 points higher than the state per-cent average of 65.5 percent.

The bottom line is that while the Northville schools administration feels our scores are outstanding, the Michigan superintendent of education feels they are somewhat lower than the top 12 metro area schools.

It begs the question "is the Northville School Board of Education and administration providing a smoke screen to disguise a significant deterioration of our schools standing in the State Educational System?" It is difficult to comprehend that we have fallen so far so fast. It is our hope that the results of this survey are a wake-up call to the Northville school system from the board and the superintendent on down. They must be aware of the implications that this will have on the approval of future funding for our schools, decrease in property values, etc.

As a start, it might be worthwhile for a member of the school board to contact the three Northville resident volunteers who were featured on the opposite page of this newspaper article, as Detroit Public School reading volunteers. Their efforts may be better utilized as reading volunteers for their own Northville school district.

Raymond A. Reame
Northville

Progressive proposal

Gov. Snyder's inclusionary school of choice proposal is the progressive leadership our state needs. The education of all students in our state is a foundational building block that will help our state's future growth and development.

During our country's civil rights movement many groups, especially in the South, would hide behind deceptive names, slogans, platitudes to deny black citizens full rights as Americans.

I applaud the governor for ignoring the false fiction of local control and local rule advocates which seek to block the entrances of schools here in Michigan for many students.

Greg Thrasher
Birmingham

Sizzlin' music



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Jill Jack (above) and her bandmates entertain a July 29 Sizzling Summer Series Friday night gathering at Novi's Fuerst Park. A good-sized crowd (below) takes in the concert.



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Also, meet and greet Lila after the race!

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Coach Babcock to tell of his winning ways

Detroit Red Wings Head Coach Mike Babcock is scheduled to speak at a joint luncheon for the Livonia and Novi chambers of commerce from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8 at the Schoolcraft College VisiTech Center.

Babcock, who led the Red Wings to the 2008 Stanley Cup championship and the Canadian Olympic Team to a gold medal in 2010, will share how he contributes to the championship-caliber environment of the Detroit Red Wings, his methods of motivating and managing his play-

ers, and his thoughts on the upcoming 2011-12 season.

"Coach Babcock spoke at a preseason luncheon for the Livonia Chamber last year, and our audience was captivated by what he said as a hockey coach and as a business manager," Livonia Chamber President Dan West. "This year, we are pleased to involve our friends from Novi and grow the event."

Babcock will be available for autographs and pictures for a short period at the end of the program. The Red Wings will provide some game tickets and other items to raffle off during the program.

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NOVI NEWSMAKERS

Tom Gammon
Tom Gammon, of RE/MAX Classic in Novi, recently earned the Certified Distressed Property Expert (CDPE) designation, having completed extensive training in foreclosure avoidance and short sales. Gammon specializes in residential home sales in Livingston and Oakland counties. A short sale allows the cash-strapped seller to repay the mortgage at the price that the home sells for, even though it is lower than what is owed on the property. With declining property values, this can save many homeowners from foreclosure and even bankruptcy. More and more lenders are willing to consider short sales



Gammon

because they are much less costly than foreclosures. According to ForeclosureDataOnline, an online resource for currently reported foreclosures, 360 properties are already in foreclosure in Oakland County alone. It is happening in all price ranges and from all circumstances. Job loss, illness, divorce and mortgage payment adjustment all account for a major reason why so many homeowners are in dire straits and facing bankruptcy and foreclosure.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tupica & Berard

Sarah Elaine Tupica and Jeremy Robert Berard, both of Berkley, Mich., are engaged to be married Oct. 1 in Farmington Hills with Pastor June Smith officiating. A reception will be held at Longacre House. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Richard Tupica of Wheeler and Elaine Bough of Perry. She earned a bachelor's degree from University of Michigan, a juris doctorate from University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, and is an attorney at Corbet, Shaw, Essad, Tucciarone & Bonasso, PLLC. The groom is the son of Margaret and Robert Berard of Novi. He earned an associate's degree from Oakland Community College and is a certified fire investigator at Herndon & Associates. The bride's attendants will be Angelia Tupica Mirkhani, Reschael Tupica and Richard Tupica. The groom's attendants will be Benjamin Berard, Nicholas Berard and Steven Berard.



Janiga & Ebert

Kimberly Janiga and Chris Ebert, of Delaware, Ohio, were married June 18, 2011, at the Catawba Island Club, Port Clinton, Ohio. The bride is the daughter of Janet Janiga and Bill Janiga, of Northville. She graduated in 2002 from Livonia Stevenson, earned her bachelor's of science in education from Eastern Michigan and is currently working toward her master's. She teaches students with special needs. The groom is the son of Ken and Karen Ebert, of Northwood, Ohio. He graduated from Lake High School in 1998 and earned his bachelor's from Kent State. He is a regional sales manager for Aiphone. The bride's attendants included Marianne Bell (matron-of-honor), Stephanie Janiga, Andrea Falkowski, Amy Shortt, Sara Bohley and Jackie Silora. The groom's attendants included Corey Sharer (best man), Kick Byington, Joe Janiga, Greg Falkowski, Clint Davis and Doug Hartman. The couple honeymooned in Aruba and reside in Delaware, Ohio.



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Dream cruisers



PHOTOS BY JULIE YOLLES

It was prime car viewing for a prime charity on the eve of Dream Cruise. Several hundred patrons attended the 9th Annual Champagne Cruise to benefit Forgotten Harvest. The fundraiser, which has brought in over \$1 million in the past nine years, was held at Westborn Market in Berkley. Founded in 1990, Forgotten Harvest is Metro Detroit's only mobile food rescue organization. Pictured (from left) are Bryan Bandyk of Novi, Bryan Beuckelaere of Dearborn, Sherry Bandyk of Novi and Melissa Beuckelaere of Dearborn.



Susan and Bryan Ludwig of Royal Oak and Maria Anusbigan of Novi at the 9th Annual Champagne Cruise to benefit Forgotten Harvest, held at Westborn Market in Berkley.



At the Girls' Night Out at the Champagne Cruise (from left): Michelle Allread of Sylvan Lake, Joann Hermes of Birmingham, Cheri Warner of Novi and Lori Sandercock of Beverly Hills.



Koko and Elizabeth Oknyan of Novi.

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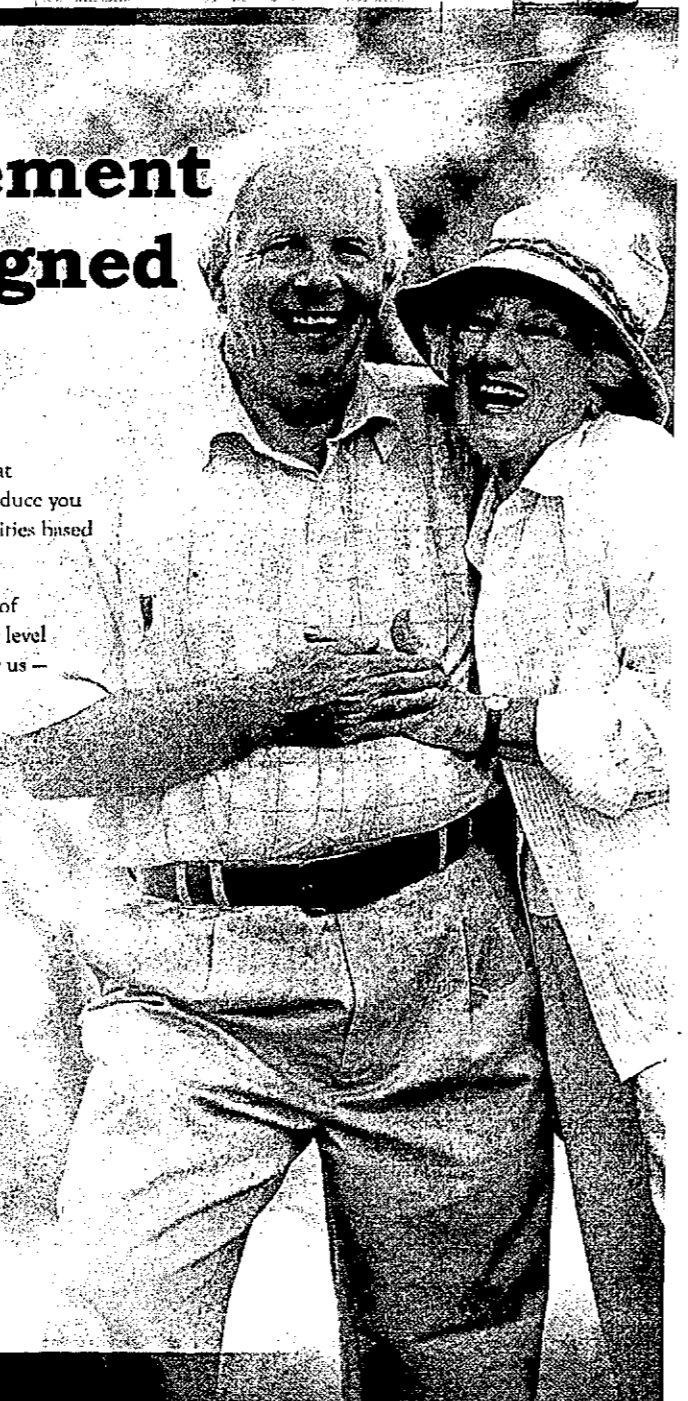
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SUCCESS STARTS WITH APPEARANCE

Alexander's Custom Clothiers helps professionals reach career goals

By KATE PHILLIPS
SPECIAL WRITER

Clothing may not make the man, but it sure helps him get noticed. Alexander's Custom Clothiers of Northville is intertwined with many success stories. After owner, Alexander Hamka, worked with several recent college graduates on image consulting, they both broke through entry-level jobs into the managerial level after only a couple years.

Other clients have increased sales volume or moved towards the top of their profession.

GOING SOMEWHERE?

Everyone knows that it takes talent and hard work to rise to the top. But there is one more key component that is overlooked by many busy professionals - appearance. Alexander Hamka has found that those with a professional appearance will have a much better chance at success than those that look just ordinary.

"Image has a lot to do with how you are perceived by coworkers, clients and supervisors," said Alexander. "To get to a higher level, you have to dress for that position, not where you are at now."

Those who wear fine suits that complement their body type are perceived as more professional, capable and hard working, and leave clients with a good impression of the company. Clients, coworkers and management will see a well-dressed employee or business owner in a different light.

But there is not one formula for successful dressing. Alexander works with clients on image consulting by talking about their current position and their career goals. Those with sales accounts who spend a lot of time on the road will need to choose suits in colors that make them appear friendly and approachable but also can hold up well in the car. Others who work in a casual environment need complementary pieces that can be dressed up with a sports coat for meetings. Professionals in highly visible areas should wear fine suits with brilliant accessories.

Alexander travels to the home or office of clients to discuss image and create the right wardrobe. He looks through crowded closets and weeds out unflattering clothing, then chooses



PHOTO BY KATE PHILLIPS

Alexander's Custom Clothiers of Northville has helped local and well known clients achieve professional success through image consulting. Owner Alexander Hamka travels to homes and businesses to help men develop a powerful appearance and positive image.

The selection of fine wool and blends include British made fabrics like Holland & Sherry, plus Italian fabrics like Ermenegildo Zegna.

Alexander's is proud to offer Vitale Barberis, which was featured in June 2011 as "the best of the best" in Robb Reports.

Some may think that they can't afford to dress well for a big interview or for everyday wear, but Alexander Hamka believes that no one can afford not to. During tight times, when employers are forced to compare many people with similar skills, those that are dressed well are perceived as more capable and hard working.

CUSTOM SUITS FLATTER EVERY MAN

Alexander's Custom Clothiers offers off the rack suits, dress shirts, casual clothes and ties, but it is known for its fine custom suits.

Alexander helps create custom suits that complement the body shape of each client. Practically every piece of the suit is hand stitched to create a one-of-a-kind masterpiece. Custom dress shirts made of fine materials add just the right touch and are extremely comfortable for all-day wear.

Cheap suits might look decent at first, but start to look shoddy very quickly. Alexander offers a wide variety of fine fabrics for custom suits that will still look new after many years. Plus the garments feel more comfortable so they will get more use.

"Nowadays you have to do everything you can to get a job or keep your job," said Alexander. "The price you pay for fine clothing is a small amount compared to the cost of not looking good."

Alexander continues an old world family tradition of tailors and clothiers. He has learned the dying art of fine tailoring from his father, Sam Hamka, who now works at Alexander's.

A beautiful suit can look terrible

Alexander's Custom Clothiers in Northville, Alexander Hamka is part tailor - part artist.

"My job is to make sure you get a perfect fit," said Alexander.

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"My job is to make sure you get a perfect fit," said Alexander.

If it is ill-fitting, and it can look even worse with sloppy tailoring.

"I make sure that made to measure suits fit like a custom suit," said Alexander.

The Northville tailor looks at the current trends and makes sure that clients get the fit that looks best on them.

After six years in business, Alexander's Custom Clothiers has become known for its expert tailoring, which makes fine men's clothing look even better. His careful tailoring is also sought out for women's clothing and special events gowns.

HOW SHOULD IT FIT?

Collar
"The collar should fit comfortably around the neck and lay smooth all around so jacket doesn't bubble up in the back."

Sleeve length
"The sleeve should cover the entire wrist plus show one-quarter inch of dress shirt cuff."

Jacket length
"The jacket length shouldn't exceed more than three-quarters inch below your thumb, when your hands are at your side."

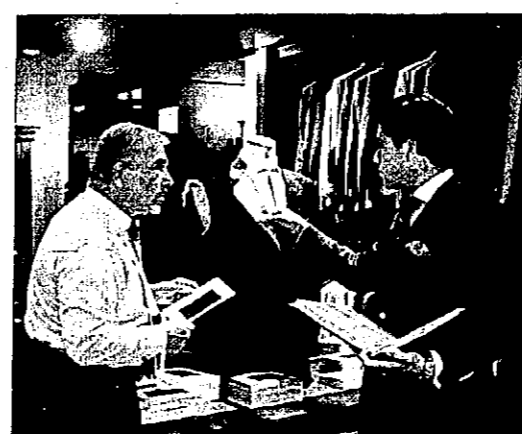
Trousers
"Trousers length should fall one-quarter inch above heel of shoe."

Lapel
"All lapels should lay smooth with a natural roll when jacket is buttoned - not flat."

MANY THANKS

Alexander's is celebrating its sixth anniversary this month. Alexander Hamka is grateful for the opportunity to serve Northville, Novi and the surrounding areas. He is appreciative of all of his friendly neighbors and loyal customers.

"I have had such support from the community," said Alex. "I would like to thank all of the area residents."



Alexander Hamka plans a custom made suit with his father, Sam Hamka. Alexander's Custom Clothiers of Northville specializes in custom-made suits and dress shirts.

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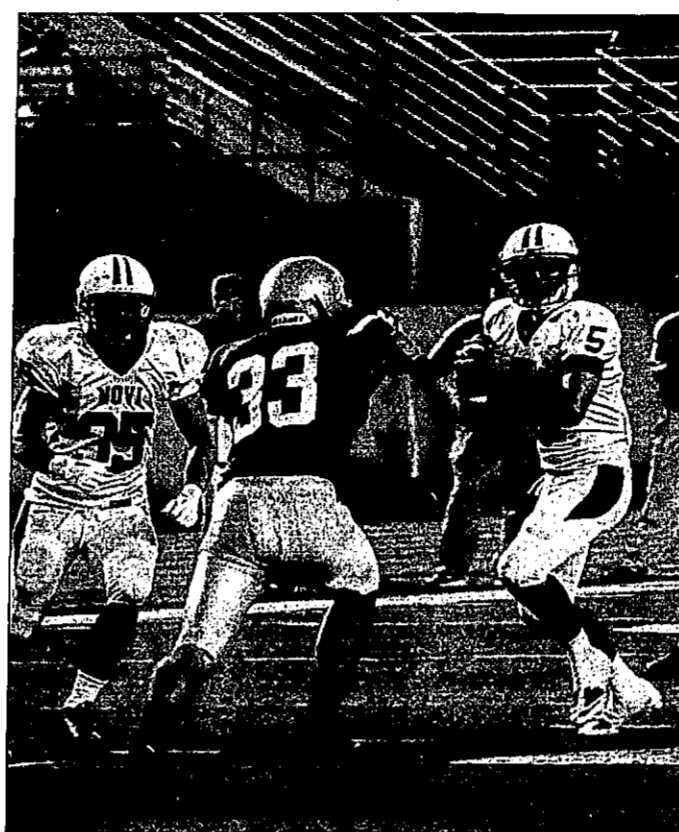
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CHRIS JACKETT

Novi senior quarterback Scotty Kempa, right, looks for an open receiver as Chelsea's Truman Hadley races to make the sack before senior Zach Massarant can make the block. Chelsea won the Aug. 26 contest 24-12.

Bulldogs run over 'Cats

Quarterbacks struggle to put points on board

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Leaving Eastern Michigan University's Rynearson Stadium about 10 p.m. last Friday, Novi's football squad had plenty to evaluate and work on at the following morning's practices.

The Wildcats (0-1) dropped a 24-12 decision to Chelsea (1-0) following a performance marred by ill-timed penalties, two interceptions and just six first downs. Novi was a combined 0-for-14 on third- and fourth-down conversions.

"We beat ourselves tonight, clearly," Novi coach Todd Pennyuff said. "We had too many mistakes, too many penalties. That's something that's correctable. That's the good news."

"The kids played hard. We'll go back to work and try to get those things fixed and we'll move on. They're fixable, so that's the positive. The kids played their hearts out, but we can't make the mistakes that we made."

After a three-and-out start to the Wildcats' season, the Bulldogs took a 3-0 lead on a field goal 2:05 into the contest.

Trading failed drives, Novi had prime field position when they received the ball at Chelsea's 30-yard line. On the first play, senior quarterback Scotty Kempa hit senior Derek Cingel up the left side as Cingel stretched out to make the catch and land in the end zone. Senior Zach Massarant's kick went wide right, but the 'Cats had a 6-3 lead that would hold 'til the end of the first quarter.

"Cingel did a great job," Pennyuff said. "Cingel's got so much athleticism

ON TAP

Novi (0-1) hits the gridiron 7 p.m. tonight when the Wildcats host Walled Lake Western (1-0) in the home opener. The Warriors are coming off a victorious 51-14 stomping at Saline (0-1), who Novi plays in week nine.

In week three, Novi hosts Livonia Stevenson (0-1) 7 p.m. Sept. 9.

and ability and a very gifted athlete and he did a great job."

When Chelsea's Berkley Edwards had open space, he was a nightmare for Novi. He ran for 120 yards and all three Bulldog touchdowns. He started the second quarter with four runs, two which took him 17 yards and then 13 yards up the left side for a touchdown as Wildcats dove and missed their tackles.

After a pass from Kempa was intercepted, a nearly five-minute drive took Edwards into the end zone again on 1-yard run with 48 seconds left until halftime. A successful kick on each touchdown gave Chelsea a 17-6 lead at the break.

"I thought defensively we did a pretty good job," Pennyuff said. "There were a couple questionable calls there, like that goal line stand; I didn't think he was in. I was real proud of the stand our defense did and our defense really came to play today. We can't turn the ball over on special teams and we can't give the ball over to our defense inside our 30-35 yard line."

Things got uglier four minutes into the

Please see FOOTBALL, B5

CC finds success in passing game

Shamrocks upend Dearborn Fordson in opener

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

When long-time Detroit Catholic Central coach Tom Mach was asked during the preseason if he would be sticking to the same old ground game that he has run for more than three decades, the answer was a simple yes.

But, Mach interjected, if he had to have his team throw the ball, he would.

Dearborn Fordson discovered that Mach wasn't just telling tales when he said that. Last Friday, in the season opener, Catholic Central went airborne and earned a 42-0 victory over the Tractors.

Fordson stepped out and did exactly what Mach said would force him to throw the ball. They packed eight defensive players in the box, jamming up the front line. They stopped the first run of the game for no gain and then turned around and caused a loss on the second run.

The third play seemed to catch the Tractors off guard, however, and quarterback Kyle Cooper dropped back and found David Racey with a 41-yard passing play.

"I always tell the kids," Mach said to the Detroit Free Press, "my rule is: If you make me throw, I'll throw."

Catholic Central went on to score five more touchdowns from five



DENNIS BARNES

CC's Clay Behrman hauls in a pass from Kyle Cooper.

ON TAP

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks football team will be back in action when they visit Delphos St. John's in Ohio. St. John's has won three state championships in the past six years.

different players and a big part of their ability to control the game—especially in the second half—was the fact that they forced Fordson to be honest and play defense against all aspects of their offense.

That didn't prevent Cooper, who made his first appearance under Mach at quarterback, from going 8-for-10 for 176 yards and a touchdown.

His two incompletes were dropped passes.

The Shamrocks' defense played top-notch as well, though

they almost gave up a score following the second-half kickoff when Fordson marched down the field and ended their drive with a fourth down when a Tractors player dropped a pass in the endzone. At that point, the Shamrocks were only leading by two scores, 14-0.

Catholic Central will have a test tomorrow when they play in Ohio against Delphos St. John's. But, Mach said, his team will be ready to adapt to any situation they face.

"This is good going into the second week knowing if we get bogged down up front a little bit that we can open it up a little bit," Mach said. "And I think we have the guys to do that."

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News.

Jabori dominates Dow

Scores three goals in 93 seconds as part of five-point night

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Chase Jabori couldn't be stopped Monday night. The senior forward started Novi's (2-1) soccer game against Midland Dow (2-1-2) with a breakaway up the left side 1:17 into the game. Although his baseline shot was blocked and he was thereafter double-teamed in the middle throughout the first half, he went on to assist on both Wildcat goals before half-



JOHN HEDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wildcat Tyler Sloan, right, tries to get around a Midland Dow player to get to the ball.

Please see SOCCER, B6

ON TAP

With a visit to Brighton on deck for last night, Novi (2-1-0) now prepares to visit Northville Tuesday and Plymouth Salem Thursday. Both road games kick off at 7 p.m.

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Wildcats land in middle of pack at two invites

Young Cojei leading way for lady golfers

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Novi's girls golf team got off to a quick start with two tournaments and a tri-meet all in a five-day span.

The team competed in two meets Aug. 18, with the A-team playing at the Milford Invitational at Huron Meadows in Brighton. The Wildcats placed 10th of 20 teams and 100 individuals with a score of 355. The difference between 10th and third place was just 12 strokes.

Sophomore Lauren Cojei led the way for Novi with a career-low of 80, which was ninth of the 100 golfers.

Junior Ally Krick also had a career low of 88, followed by sophomore Hannah Wagen-

ON TAP

After competing in their first dual meet against South Lyon at the Links of Novi yesterday, Novi's lady golfers are off from competition for a week until they visit Northville Wednesday and then Plymouth Salem next Thursday. Both matches are at 3:15 p.m.

Leading scores for the Wildcats were junior Anna Gruelich's 51, junior Aparna Yehoor's 53, junior Lauren Henry's 54 and freshman Katelyn Henry's 57.

After a few days of rest, the Wildcats competed in Birmingham Seaholm's Holiday Inn Express Invitational at Forest Lake Country Club in Bloomfield Township.

Novi placed 11th of 24 teams behind a 380-point effort. Cojei again led the way with a 90, followed by Koomen's 95 and senior Carly Healy's 105.

The other string of Wildcats was busy in a tri-meet against South Lyon and South Lyon East at Riverbank Golf Course. The Lions won with 210 points, followed by Novi at 215 and East at 240.

berg's 92, senior Kathleen Koomen's 95 and senior Carly Healy's 105.

"Very good schools at this tournament. Girls did a great job," Novi coach Debra Harris said.

Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and former staff writer for the Novi News.



Novi's #17 takes a shot on goal near East's net during the Aug. 26 game.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

'Cats defense stellar in two outings

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

The Wildcat field hockey girls evened out their record at 1-1-1 after notching a win and a tie last week.

Novi first improved to 1-0-1 in Division 3 with a 2-0 victory Aug. 23 at Cranbrook Kingswood (0-2-0, 0-1-0 Div. 3).

"The first half was tough battle, with both teams producing scoring opportunities, but the defense kept each other off the board," Pollard said.

"Just as it looked as if the half was going to end up scoreless, EGR pressured enough to be awarded a corner opportunity in the last minute of the half."

EGR was awarded a penalty stroke when a Novi defender stopped a goal with her foot and smoothly knocked the penalty hit into the top left corner of the goal, out of the goalie's reach.

Senior goalkeeper Shelby Henley earned her first shutout of the season. The girls rode their

ON TAP

Novi (1-1-1, 1-0-0 Division 3) is off until a Sept. 12 match against Dexter (0-1-0).

Novi pressed early in the second half to tie the game, and nearly did at the 16-minute mark on a penalty stroke of their own after the EGR netminder illegally covered the ball.

Senior Lauren Pollard took the penalty shot, but missed wide of the top left corner.

"The Cats finally got on the board with seven minutes left when senior Jessica Ansara sent a pass up the middle to junior Lauren Brown and Brown broke off to the right side of the pocket and, after a wild scramble, Mitchell Lang's tackle caused him to fumble. Lincoln Cleary scooped up the ball and ran 22 yards and was eventually tackled at the Eagles' 25-yard line. Fox completed a 25-yard touchdown pass to Andrew Schroeder who used his height advantage over the Eagles' cornerback to out jump the defender in the corner of the end zone. Fox's suc-

cessful PAT concluded the first half scoring with the Bobcats leading 24-0.

The Eagles scored on their second possession of the third quarter, reducing the lead to 24-8. On their next possession, the Eagles' tried a double reverse pass. Schroeder read the play and hit the running back as he was releasing the ball. VanKirk intercepted the pass. The Bobcats' fumbled, but the defense got the ball back on the next play when Ricky Turner's tackle caused an Eagles' fumble, and Connor Moore recovered. VanKirk took a handoff and cut back against the defensive pursuit for a 31-yard touchdown. Fox's fourth consecutive PAT ended the scoring with a 32-8 Bobcats' victory.

Submitted by Ken Hixson

NOVI BOBCATS ROUNDUP

Varsity defeats Livonia Eagles, 32-8, in season opener

The varsity Bobcats (1-0) kicked off the season with a decisive victory unveiling an explosive offense and a stingy, hard-hitting defense.

After stopping the Eagles' opening drive, the Bobcats' offense mounted an impressive 75-yard touchdown drive. Bobcats running backs Spencer VanKirk, Ian Patterson and Josh Ruffing punished the Eagles' defense earning three first downs. In his quarterback debut, Bobby Fox completed his first pass attempt by hitting VanKirk on a 30-yard bomb for the first touchdown of the season. Fox converted the PAT kick for an 8-0 lead.

The defense responded and forced an Eagles' punt. VanKirk caught the deep punt in stride and returned the ball 25 yards to the Eagles' 40-yard line. Patterson powered off tackle and rumbled 35 yards before being pushed out of bounds at the 5-yard line. Two plays later, Patterson busted through the defense for his first touchdown of the season. Fox converted the PAT for a 16-0 lead.

On the next possession, the Eagles' quarterback was pressured out of the pocket and, after a wild scramble, Mitchell Lang's tackle caused him to fumble. Lincoln Cleary scooped up the ball and ran 22 yards and was eventually tackled at the Eagles' 25-yard line. Fox completed a 25-yard touchdown pass to Andrew Schroeder who used his height advantage over the Eagles' cornerback to out jump the defender in the corner of the end zone. Fox's suc-



Spencer VanKirk (22) cuts off Andrew Schroeder's block for a 31-yard touchdown.

cessful PAT concluded the first half scoring with the Bobcats leading 24-0.

The Eagles scored on their second possession of the third quarter, reducing the lead to 24-8. On their next possession, the Eagles' tried a double reverse pass. Schroeder read the play and hit the running back as he was releasing the ball. VanKirk intercepted the pass. The Bobcats' fumbled, but the defense got the ball back on the next play when Ricky Turner's tackle caused an Eagles' fumble, and Connor Moore recovered. VanKirk took a handoff and cut back against the defensive pursuit for a 31-yard touchdown. Fox's fourth consecutive PAT ended the scoring with a 32-8 Bobcats' victory.

Submitted by Ken Hixson

JV falls late to the Eagles, 6-0

The JV Bobcats (0-1) opened their season on Sunday at the Livonia Eagles. The Eagles scored a touchdown with only 44 seconds remaining in the game, to win 6-0 in a tough, defensive struggle.

The tone for the game was established ear-

ly when Jordan Ward, the Bobcats' free safety, made an interception at midfield during the Eagles' first possession. Thereafter, the two teams struggled to mount sustaining drives against stiffening defenses. The game remained scoreless through the first half.

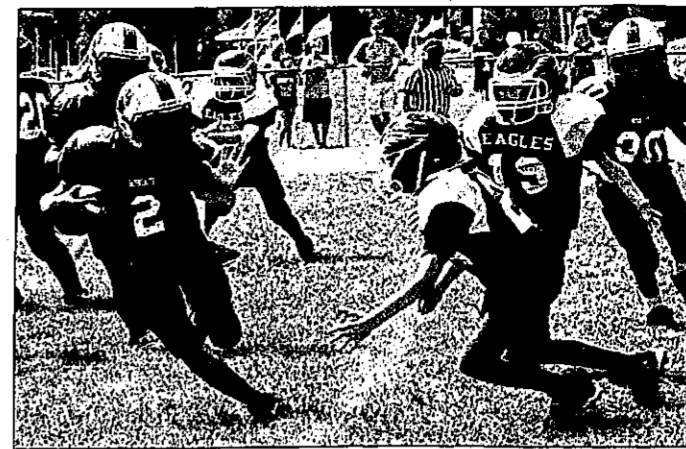
The Bobcats started the second half turning the ball over on costly fumbles during their first possessions. The Bobcats stepped up with big plays on defense to halt Eagles' drives. Drew O'Conner also contributed by punting the Bobcats out of poor field position on several occasions. Near the end of the third quarter, cornerback Tyler VanKirk made another Bobcat interception. Only a shoestring tackle by the Eagles prevented a long sideline rumbler for a touchdown on the play.

With the Eagles again threatening to score early in the fourth quarter, defensive tackle Rakin Parker broke through the line and forced a fumble that was recovered by defensive end Keegan Houseworth.

As time wound down, the Eagles completed a long pass over the middle and their receiver raced to the 1-yard line. The Eagles scored on the next play, but missed the PAT attempt, to lead 6-0 with only seconds remaining in the game.

Down but not out, Bobcats' quarterback Chad Howell threw a long pass downfield to wide-out Brendan Downs, who made the catch in traffic over the middle and nearly broke away for a Bobcat score of their own. The Bobcats turned it over to the Eagles on the next play to end the scoring threat and the game.

Submitted by Eric Smith



PHOTOS BY NANCY LYONS

Novi's Trenten Hankerson (2) avoids Livonia Eagles defense for a 5-yard gain in the JV Bobcats loss Aug. 28.

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League champs



Novi's own Motor City Madness 12U Blue travel softball team won their division in the Western Wayne County softball league. Pictured (l to r, front) are Ireland Whalen, Bethany Kopel; (second row) Madison Christenson, Riley Jones, Sydney Kist; (third row) Ally Cummings, Hope Kapelanski, Madison Budde, Mackenna Semyn, Victoria Porter and Kyra Diatkar.

Wildcats sweep up first week of tennis competition

Top 8 flights combine for 32-0 record

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

The opening week of matches was a clean sweep for Novi's boys tennis team.

The squad swept the Rochester Invite as all eight flights went 3-0 for a team total of 24 points. The team followed the feat with victories over both Bloomfield Hills Andover 9-0 and South Lyon East 7-2 on the same day to kick off the season at 2-0.

"We had a good start to the season," Novi coach Jim Hanson said. "I was pleased with how the kids played in that first week."

Freshman Tim Wang made his one singles debut with wins over Grosse Ile (6-3, 6-1), Rochester (6-0, 6-1) and Utica Eisenhower (6-3, 6-4) on Aug. 23, and 6-0, 4-6, 6-2 over Andover on Aug. 26.

"At one singles, Tim Wang has a good few matches," Hanson said. "Tim was tested and really got out of a tough match there. Tim, I was proud of how hard he fought out there."

Fellow freshman Andre Liu had similar success at three singles by starting his high school career with seven straight 6-1 decisions. He defeated Grosse Ile, Eisenhower, Rochester and then Andover 6-1, 7-6(4).

"They definitely make us a tougher team, makes us tougher in singles, and drops kids into doubles and makes them stronger," Hanson said.

Junior Pavan Rao, who played one singles last year, also started off 4-0 at his new two singles position. Rao defeated Grosse Ile 6-1, 6-3, Rochester 6-0, 6-0, Eisenhower 6-0, 6-0 and Andover 4-6, 7-6(5),

and Andover 6-2, 6-1.

Senior Stephan Kovacinski and junior Jon Thompson combined to defeat Grosse Ile 6-0, 6-1; Eisenhower 6-1, 6-0; Rochester 6-0, 6-0 and Andover 6-2, 6-1 at three doubles.

Senior Andrew Cho and sophomore Shashank Chitta rounded out the 4-0 starts at they defeated Grosse Ile 6-1, 6-0; Rochester 6-0, 6-1; Eisenhower 6-0, 6-1 and Andover 6-4, 7-5.

In a five doubles competition against Andover, sophomore Kevin Xu and senior Vedant Ram also pulled off a 6-1, 6-4 victory. Both were part of the 7-2 Novi B-Team victory over East, as Ram teamed with senior Sho Nakashima for a 6-1, 6-2 victory at one doubles and Xu lost a 6-1, 6-3 contest at two singles.

"East's one and two singles are good players who've played four years for them," Hanson said. Other than Xu and Ying, the rest of the B-Team is juniors and seniors. In all, Novi has 25 varsity tennis players.

"It's kind of an indication of our strength of our program from top to bottom," Hanson said. "It's a good situation."

Juniors Archuta Daddipatia and Omar Freij picked up huge wins, as Daddipatia won 6-7(4), 6-3, 12-10 tiebreaker and Freij won 6-4, 7-6(5).

"What I was extremely pleased with was our three and four singles came through in very tough matches," Hanson said. "That's a good sign for a couple juniors there to get their feet wet."

Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and former staff writer for the Novi News.

Wildcat harriers finish fifth at South Lyon Invite

3 JV runners outpace 3 varsity runners

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

A strong field kept Novi's boys cross country team out of the top four at last Saturday's South Lyon Invitational.

The Wildcats finished fifth behind a personal-best time of 17 minutes and 46 seconds from senior Ryan Tgrios (15th overall).

"Tgrios was a man on a mission today," Novi coach Robert Smith said. "He was determined to prove that he was going to be the number one runner for the 'Cats. He led his teammates from start to finish."

Novi finished with 132 points, trailing Saline (35), Northville (65), Temper-

ON TAP

The 'Cats won't race again until 4 p.m. Sept. 13 at South Lyon. Novi was 3-2 in 2010 and the Lions were 2-3.

ance Bedford (66) and Livonia Stevenson (117).

"Saline was the class of the field today," Smith said. "They proved that they are one of the top teams in the state again this year."

Rounding out the Wildcats' top five in the varsity race were junior Tim MacPherson (24th in 17:58), seniors Eric Gardner (25th in 18:13), Kevin Haulon (29th in 18:24), Dan Lee (39th in 18:52), Mike

Benkarski (40th in 18:56) and sophomore Michael Dickmann (41st in 18:57).

"We graduated five out of our top eight runners from last year," Smith said. "I was not sure how our new group of front runners would respond. I was very pleased with the way our athletes raced today."

Although Dickmann was Novi's seventh varsity runner, three junior varsity runners made themselves known by edging out multiple varsity teammates.

Sophomore Brian Barnes finished fifth in the JV race in a personal-best of 17:58, which was second among all Wildcats and only 12 seconds behind Tgrios.

FOOTBALL

Continued from page B1

second half, when Kempa threw his second interception of the night, which was returned 23 yards to Novi's 15-yard line.

Edwards made it three touchdowns on the night when we ran up the right side, dodging tackles for the 15-yard trip. The ensuing kick put Novi in a 24-7 hole with about 20 minutes of clock to catch up with.

Kempa—who went 5-for-14 for 70 yards, one touchdown, two interceptions and a sack—took a seat and senior Derek Ince took over the quarterback role.

"Both kids have things to offer," Pennycuff said. "We felt we needed to make a change going into the second half after that

first series. That doesn't mean Kempa's not getting it done, but we needed to move the ball and we weren't doing that, so we made the change there."

Ince came in off the bench and he's done a real good job. I have a lot of respect for both kids. It makes it tough when they're friends, but they're fighting for position.

Trying to help the 'Cats play catchup, Ince's first drive started with a 9-yard completion to Cingel that was called back 12 yards for a holding penalty. He recovered his own fumble at the 9-yard-line and Novi ended up punting after three plays.

Junior Mario Ferrini's 29-yard boot hit Edwards in the chest at Novi's 45-yard line and Novi senior Alex King recovered it at

his own 41-yard line. "He's a tough kid, hard-nosed kid," Pennycuff said. "He's the kind of kid you wish every kid on the team was like."

He's a three-year starter for obvious reasons. I think he really performed well tonight and he gave everything he had, too."

Fired up, the 'Cats took a false start penalty on the next play and ended up punting after a three-play, 3-yard drive. Ince (8-for-16 for 69 yards) attempted to engineer a few scoring drives with routes set up for Cingel (one catch, 30 yards), Masserant (three catches, 17 yards), senior Logan Regnier (five catches, 65 yards) and senior Mike Jocz (two catches, 67 yards), but each fell short before the end zone until there was 3:08 left in the game.

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SOCCER

Continued from page B1

time and then came out of the break to score three goals in a 93-second span before the half was over five minutes old. The 'Cats would win 6-0.

"In the first half, he stayed in the middle of the field too much and was marking up against their good central defenders where we wanted to get him on the outside more," Novi coach Brian O'Leary said. "We just didn't do it first half, so that was the plan second half, to get him on the outside for more one v. one in a crowd of players."

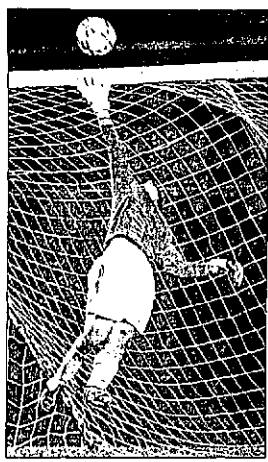
After setting up junior Matt Wilson and senior Alex Ferrini for goals on through balls in the first half, Jabbori took to a series of individual displays to notch a quick hat trick.

Wilson cleared the ball out of Novi's defensive zone and Jabbori took it from inside the center circle all the way up the middle for a goal 2:41 into the half despite the efforts of Dow netminder Joe Knoff, a defender and Jabbori slipping to the ground on a shot attempt.

Just 34 seconds later, Jabbori knocked one into the back corner of the net from the right side of the goal box and, after being fouled to the ground 59 seconds later, notched his third goal on a penalty kick that he smoothly placed into the right side as the goalkeeper guessed and dove left.

The hat trick gave the 'Cats a 5-0 lead, but, 58 seconds later, sophomore Matt Kiura chipped the ball into the box from 35 yards out and dinged it off the right post and into the net just below the crossbar.

"Second half, I wanted a different lineup," O'Leary said. "Same kids, I just put them at different spots and they possessed the ball much bet-



Novi's junior net-minder Andy Netter makes a leaping punch-save of a Midland Dow High shot late in their Aug. 29 match to preserve a 6-0 shutout.

ter than they did at the beginning. In the beginning, we were playing way too north, way too much into their strength. In the second half, we played the ball away from their better players and possessed a lot more and it created a lot more scoring chances for us."

Novi's offense had several other chances after the spurt, but couldn't convert. Most notable was when Wilson hit the right post 8:30 into the second half and the defense cleared the ball to Ferrini for a short breakaway on the left side of the box, but his shot went out and into the side netting.

Wilson and senior Dan Lumley were instrumental in keeping the Wildcats organized throughout the game. And the defense adjusted to a team looking to pack an extra punch

on offense with three forwards instead of two.

"I thought Lumley and Wilson both did a real nice job in their new positions in the second half," O'Leary said. "The defense stayed organized. This is the first time this year we've seen three forwards, so they did a good job staying organized."

With some of the younger Wildcats getting playing time, junior netminder Andy Netter (six saves) had to make a few solid saves to maintain the shutout.

With 26:40 remaining, a free kick from 40 yards out went into the left side of the goal box and was headed toward the back post. Netter slipped when he went to push off, but recovered to grab the ball before it crossed the line.

Then, with 14 seconds remaining, a similar 50-yard free kick was dipping in toward the center of the goal, but Netter jumped backwards and punched it over the crossbar just before it dropped in.

"I'm still deciding on my goalies," O'Leary said of Netter and senior Ricky Stone. "They both show signs of greatness and then they also have lapses, so I really need to find consistency in that position."

The victory followed a 2-1 loss at Canton last Thursday. Ferrini set Jabbori up for a goal five minutes into the game, but the Chiefs would answer back six minutes later on a corner kick. Sixty minutes of playing time later, Canton would score the game winner with nine minutes left in the game.

"The strange thing about the game was that I thought we played much better in the second half, even though we lost the half 1-0," O'Leary said. "We had five quality chances to score when the score was 1-1, but we failed to con-



Wildcat Nick Oatley jumps up for a header during Novi's Aug. 29 home game.

vert shooting a few right at the goalie and shooting a few wide. Other than that, I was very pleased with the way we played against a quality Canton squad."

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi spikers get best of Seaholm in lengthy battle

Team pulls together victories under new coach

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

The Wildcat volleyball program had a strong debut under new head coach Ginette Parsley during the past two weekends.

The girls went 5-1-0 at the Aug. 20 West Bloomfield Invitational and 3-1-1 at the Aug. 27 Dakota Invitational, advancing to the semifinals or beyond in each event.

The most pivotal match so far was a come-from-behind quarterfinal victory in the Dakota Invite against Birmingham Seaholm. After tying a match 23-25, 25-15 in pool play, the Wildcats (8-2-1) lined up to face Seaholm again despite earning the top seed.

"This time Seaholm jumped out to the early lead in game one, but we came storming back to take the first set," Parsley

ON TAP

The Wildcats (8-2-1) were scheduled to face Bloomfield Hills Lahser, Brighton and South Lyon at a quad meet last Tuesday before taking the holiday weekend off. The girls return to action 4:30 p.m. Wednesday at Saline in quad meet against Saline, Milford and White Lake Lakeland. Their first dual meet is 7 p.m. next Thursday at Livonia Stevenson (12-0-0).

"The second set was another close one, with both teams making some huge defensive plays, and kids were just bombing the ball at the net. There were some huge swings and dominating kills shots. Seaholm ended up pulling it out in the end to force a

third set."

Having traded games 25-20 and 22-25, the Wildcats had their eyes on the rubber match, but so did the Maples. Up 7-6, Seaholm went on a six-point run and then traded points to force match point at 14-7. "By this time, our court was filling up with spectators from all of the different teams as all the other quarterfinal matches were finished," Parsley said. "Everyone was waiting to see which team was going to complete the four moving on to the semis, and at that point it sure looked like Seaholm had it in the bag. But, at that point, something happened to our Novi team and we just absolutely refused to lose."

Novi got three quick points with sophomore setter Emily Robb serving. After a Seaholm timeout, the Wildcats got an ace-kill-ace combo to cut the

deficit to 14-13.

"At that point, our kids were pumped, the bench was erupting with excitement and the crowd in the gym was sensing something," Parsley said.

The girls tied it and went ahead 15-14 on another ace by Robb before winning it 16-14.

"Our kids went crazy, the bench rushed the court and the kids celebrated what was an absolutely improbable victory," Parsley said. "The whole gym full of spectators and other teams was going crazy. It was one of the most exciting moments of our coaching careers. You can watch a lot of volleyball and almost never see something like that happen. It was a true testament to our kids and our team. They never gave up and they played every point as hard as they could and it paid off huge in the end."

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Golfers gather for fun-filled outing

The Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors held a bowling benefit earlier this year, which went well and supported Warm Hearts and the ARC of Northwest Wayne. Thursday, Aug. 11, was more of a social time at WWOOCAR's annual golf outing.



Rick Carter, Mark Elais, Rob Holton and Bill Law golfed Aug. 11 at the WWOOCAR outing.

"Beautiful" weather came for the social outing in Canton, which also has a charitable component. "It's held every August. They had a great time."

Visiting and relaxing were the purposes of the day. "It's just for the Realtors to network between the affiliates and the others in the business," she said. Golfers who registered were up around 30 from last year. "To me, it seems like it's getting a little bit better out there," Olszewski said.

—By Julie Brown



Dave Cloutier, Sue Thorn, Kathy Coon and Mike Coon visit at the golf outing Aug. 11 at Fellows Creek Golf Course.



Jim Mariani, Dennis Myers, John Blake and Rebecca Mariani enjoy each other's company at the WWOOCAR golf outing.

Nod from FHA essential

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: I am on the Board of Directors of our condominium and the board claims that we do not have the money to seek FHA certification. How can I convince them otherwise?

A: Tell the board that they have a legal and fiduciary responsibility to seek to obtain FHA certification in order to allow co-owners to be able to market their units more successfully. With the difficulty in obtaining financing, FHA certification, which allows purchasers to get FHA insured mortgages, is indispensable and the board may have legal liability if it fails to seek to obtain FHA certification. When a condominium board doesn't have the money, what the board is really saying is it chooses not to increase assessments to raise sufficient funds!

Q: I have heard from some real estate experts that one should take much care, if not more, in checking out a condominium that is a single family home prior to purchase. What do you think about that?

A: That is generally the case because you are not only confronted with the issues concerning the purchase of real estate, but you also have the extensive condominium documents to review, as well as being responsible for a portion of the maintenance, repair, and/or replacement of the entire project. This concern goes double for small associations with less than a dozen units because it is unlikely that a small association can afford to hire a professional management company that will help protect its owner. The success or failure of the association will depend upon the few owners working closely together, a tricky proposition. It requires them to check and verify, just like you would if you own a single family home. Even more dangerous is when a small association and the developer are in financial straits. There may not be adherence to keeping the strict formalities of the non-profit corporation or, for that matter, they may not have adequate insurance, among other things. That, of course, does not mean that a larger condominium association cannot share the same problems, but it is unlikely that the smaller Association will have legal counsel assisting it when, in fact, that is even more the reason for legal counsel to be involved, particularly if there is no professional management to in any way guide the board as to its responsibilities in regard to the management of the condominium.

and how large a unit you desire. Both Henry Ford Village and Fox Run are, for lack of a better term, huge. Fox run has several buildings and all are connected by lighted, heated walkways. There is even a shuttle bus you can take from one building to another. Social activities abound and are run mostly by the senior occupants. You never lack for something to do. The environment is quite pleasant, the grounds pleasing, the food is quite good and people living there seem to enjoy the amenities that both places offer. I would be willing to bet that the average age of residents is slightly lower than the "standard" retirement community. I have not researched that fact, but in my tour of Fox Run, it appeared to be so.

There are many choices. It's up to you to assess your wants and needs and make a decision. Always feel free to call me with questions, and/or contribute information. Feel free to browse my website as well: www.nancyaustin.com.

Seniors Real Estate Specialist Nancy Austin may be reached at nancyaustin@gmail.com or by calling her at (734) 718-8900.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$5.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit rmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

Detached condos make for pleasant living

By Nancy Austin
Seniors Real Estate Specialist

After my last column appeared regarding detached condos, several senior readers called me with additional information about some detached condos that I hadn't mentioned. Another called me about regarding co-ops. I had more than one person calling expressing a desire for the Del Webb community to build in the Canton area. More than I do more research. Several comments have been made about how helpful and informative this column is to you. I'm so glad to hear it because the more information you have about senior living, the easier it is to make a decision, and that decision will be an informed one.

One reader called to let me know about the Briarbrook condos in Westland near Joy and Newburgh. These are detached condos with garages, but no basement. This small

complex isn't designated as a senior condo complex, but it is mostly seniors living there. It is just one street with the condos lining either side. I have been in these condos, as I have been in most, and they are a very nice floor plan. It is a small, quiet, pleasant setting. Also brought to my attention were the senior co-ops, such as Colonial Acres and Colonial Village in South Lyon as well as Kings Mill in Northville and Holiday Park in Westland. All of these complexes are quite large, numbering well over 400 units, some having one bedroom but most have two.

In purchasing a co-op you do not receive a deed. You receive a share of stock and voting rights in the cooperative. Each cooperative has a board of directors with advisory committees comprised of residents of the cooperative. Owners are permitted to claim mortgage interest and real estate home-stead tax deductions.

With co-ops, you don't actually own the condo; rather, you own a share in the corporation. Financing, therefore, is somewhat different from financing a condo or a house. There are only certain lenders that will finance a co-op. In each case,

the prospective buyer must pay the current owner the equity they have in the condo and then you finance the rest. There is only one mortgage for the entire complex that encumbers the assets of the community. This is unlike a condo complex in that each condo owner gets their own separate mortgage, pays their own taxes and a separate maintenance fee.

In a co-op, the owner pays a monthly fee which includes everything except electricity, phone and cable. Mortgage interest and homestead taxes are allowed to be deducted on your personal income tax. For additional information on co-ops, you may contact the individual coop or I may have additional information available.

One kind of senior living that is a category unto its own is the apartment-style living quarters that you buy into. These are the Henry Ford Village units in Dearborn and Fox Run Village in Novi. To live here, you pay a substantial equity to the corporation prior to moving in and a monthly fee thereafter. You have your choice of floor plans, which of course depends on how much you can pay monthly

HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of May 23-27, 2011, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds Office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.	<p>1195,000 6802 Fox Path \$225,000 43814 Greenwiche Cir \$260,000 4741 Grove Ct \$74,000 1592 Peninsula Ct \$175,000 894 Roosevelt St \$200,000 496 Sheffield Cir \$160,000 4263 Sherwood Cir \$182,000 4455 Sherwood Cir \$186,000 43680 Amber Ct \$171,000 2363 Arcadia Dr \$62,000 43237 Barchester Rd \$108,000 7982 Brampton Dr \$266,000 1588 Centennial Dr \$363,000 44947 Forest Trail Dr</p>	<p>15151 Alexander St \$28,000 15161 Alexander St \$25,000 14243 Barbara St \$131,000 14275 Beatrice St \$106,000 33002 Brookside Ct \$286,000 36231 Dover St \$110,000 14063 Harrison St \$115,000 37607 Ladywood St \$195,000 39025 Orangelawn St \$118,000 11347 Sunset St \$115,000 13487 Sunset St \$117,000 14100 Susanna St \$126,000 14219 Woodside St \$156,000 NORTHVILLE 41944 Baintree Cir \$290,000</p>	<p>19947 Beech Daly Rd \$25,000 15054 Delaware Ave \$30,000 20569 Denby \$35,000 11407 San Jose \$28,000 WESTLAND 35523 Avondale St \$51,000 30389 Bennington St \$27,000 1675 Elias St \$17,000 8208 Huntington St \$20,000 35070 Lewis St \$48,000 28841 Lorrie Dr \$85,000 20330 Woodcreek Blvd \$58,000 PLYMOUTH 368 Ann St \$155,000 REDFORD</p>
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HOMES SOLD-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of May 16-20, 2011, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds Office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.	<p>20600 Smallwood Ct \$235,000 BINGHAM FARMS 32824 Outland Tr \$153,000 BIRMINGHAM 832 Emmons Ave \$120,000 1939 Fairview St \$700,000 795 Lake Park Dr \$70,000 1365 Southfield Rd \$197,000 1708 Washington Blvd \$69,000 5131 Toomoor Rd \$560,000 COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP 988 Westchester Way \$565,000 BLOOMFIELD HILLS 4380 Pine Tree Tr \$295,000 1711 Huntingwood Ln \$60,000</p>	<p>200 S Cranbrook Cross Rd \$233,000 431 W Long Lake Rd \$200,000 BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP 1936 Bayou Dr \$400,000 878 Dursley Rd \$263,000 2562 Kingsmill Dr \$190,000 1775 S Clipping Hill \$69,000 5131 Toomoor Rd \$560,000 FARMINGTON HILLS 9373 Boncrest St \$172,000 FARMINGTON ST 33054 Annwood St \$150,000 32718 Grand River Ave Unit</p>	<p>8 FARMINGTON HILLS 27414 Beacon Sq \$155,000 27840 Berrywood Ln \$38,000 22757 Shadowglen Dr \$220,000 29870 W 12 Mile Rd \$36,000 32255 Wicklow Ct \$190,000 NOVI 24484 Bonnie Brook Dr \$120,000 21022 Chase Dr \$380,000 WHITE LAKE 11534 Cypress Way \$130,000 22601 Deerfield Rd \$180,000 22712 Mondavi Dr \$50,000 23010 Mondavi Dr \$50,000 1162 Castlewood St \$148,000 231 Tepperdine Rd \$71,000</p>
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Nurse Practitioner Role Expands In Today's Health Care Setting

A nurse practitioner can do more than a traditional registered nurse, but his or her job is not quite the same as that of a doctor.

So what does a nurse practitioner do? This career has existed since the mid 1960s when there was a shortage of qualified physicians around the country. Thus, nurse practitioners can be considered as professionals who are capable of providing acute care than other nurses in order to meet the health care needs of most patients. Individuals with more specialized needs will have to see a doctor, but these professionals can meet most basic needs.

There are many career options for nurse practitioners. The career information generally varies by state and by each health care facility, but a registered nurse must always undergo advanced education and clinical training before they can embark on this career. Usually, these professionals have master's degree in nursing.

every city and state with more than two million jobs in this field overall. The demand is on rise. In fact, even The American Nurses Association reports that between 60 and 80 percent of primary and preventative care is performed by nurse practitioners. If you choose this career, you can expect to make approximately \$86,000 per year or even more with additional experience and work in certain specializations. It is one of the best jobs that a health care professional could currently choose in terms of career outlook, salary, and personal satisfaction. Visit the site NursingSchoolsU.com to know more about the top nursing schools that offers degree programs in practical nursing.



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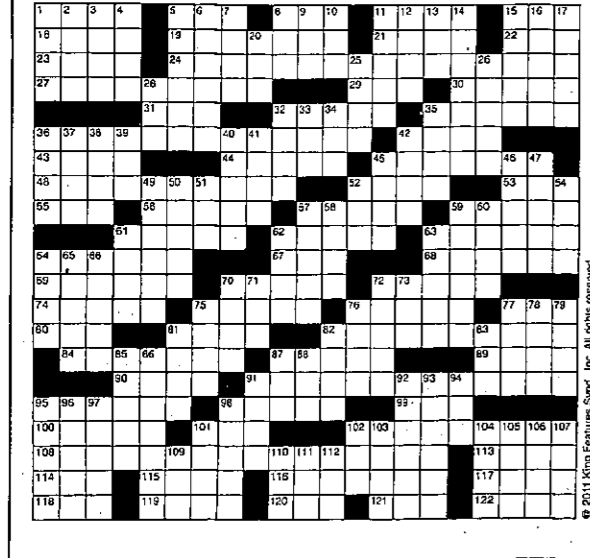
Crossword Puzzle Spectacle

ACROSS

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Answers to Last Week's Puzzle

ACROSS
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 6. AUNT
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 8. GRANDMOTHER
 9. NEPHEW
 10. NIECE
 11. COUSIN
 12. BROTHER
 13. MOTHER
 14. FATHER
 15. SISTER
 16. UNCLE
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 93. UNCLE
 94. AUNT
 95. GRANDFATHER
 96. GRANDMOTHER
 97. NEPHEW
 98. NIECE
 99. COUSIN
 100. BROTHER

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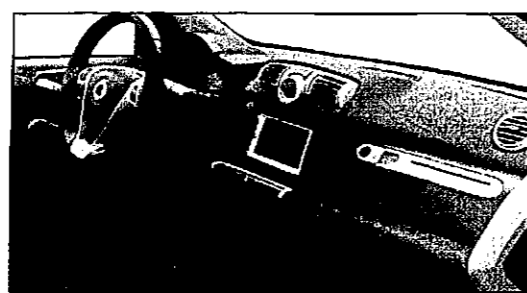
Car Report

SMART MARKETERS WANT TO PROVE THAT IT IS

By Dale Buss

The new team running Smart USA for Daimler AG believes that Americans have been shunning the Smart ForTwo mini-car not for what they know about it but for what they don't know about it. So, launching a major, national, traditional marketing campaign for Smart sometime this fall will be the most important order for business for the new team of executives who have been running the operation since the German automaker took over U.S. responsibilities for its Smart brand from Penske Automotive Group last month. "You very rarely get a second chance to make a first impression, but this is where we have a chance to do that," said Tracey Matura, the new general manager for Smart USA and a

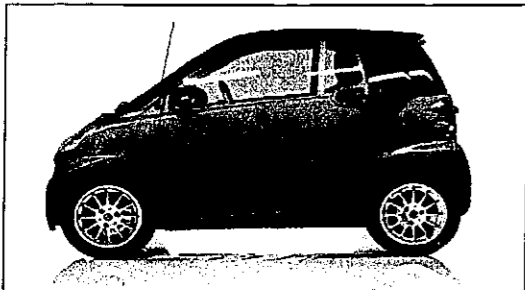
veteran Mercedes-Benz executive. "We can put the full suite of our marketing efforts behind it, and that's the good thing about having an organization like Mercedes-Benz USA behind [Smart]. They're known for marketing. And marketing and advertising opportunities will be first and foremost" in attempting to pull Smart out of its swoon. The brand is troubled, to put it lightly. Daimler awarded U.S. distribution of Smart to Penske in 2008 and, as gasoline prices spiked, sales of ForTwo soared to nearly 25,000 units that year when enthusiastic Americans anted up sticker prices starting at about \$12,500 for a "city" car that could traverse 41 mpg. But then gasoline prices fell and recession struck, and Smart's quirkiness and schizophrenic practicality plunged from favor. Without a real auto-marketing pedigree and an under-established



The interior of the car seems more spacious than you might think from the outside.

brand, Penske couldn't bring Smart back. Sales dwindled to fewer than 6,000 last year, and for the first seven months of 2011, ForTwo sales were only 2,883 units. Matura asserts that a turnaround is still possible, based not only on Daimler's takeover of the Smart operation in the United States but also on her brand-building plans, the inherent attributes of ForTwo, an expansion and recommitment of the dealership network, and even the arrival of new competitors in the tiny-car segment including the Fiat 500 and Scion iQ. The biggest reason Smart wasn't able to build on its quick sales success in 2008, she said, is that Penske didn't simultaneously establish the brand solidly or even expand awareness of it. Thus, soon, Matura said, Smart will be introducing TV and print advertising and competitive

Americans to buy the ForTwo is only half the battle for the brand's new hopefuls. The vehicle definitely can be an acquired taste. Edmunds.com's evaluation of ForTwo complains, for example, that the car has a "rough-shifting transmission" and an "awkward floor-pivot brake pedal" as well as "an unpleasant highway ride." And there's more than a dubious comfort level that keeps many consumers from purchasing Smart for anything other than surface-street driving: Many of them simply can't see themselves getting behind the wheel of something that is so small, and joining traffic comprised of vehicles that are almost all significantly bigger, even though ForTwo meets U.S. crashworthiness standards. Matura acknowledges such hesitance but compared it to consumer reluctance to purchase, say, an SUV for various reasons. "They have a perception about that kind of vehicle, and [ForTwo] isn't for everyone," she said. "The key here is that when you get someone in a Smart, a lot of those perceptions go away. I tell people to close their eyes, get in, and then open their eyes. And people always say it doesn't feel like a small car inside. And as we give people more opportunities to experience the vehicle, we'll eliminate some of that reluctance." "We will embrace it being small. That also means it's fun and addictive."



The Smart ForTwo leaves no doubts about its biggest attribute: tinness.

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