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Thursday, July 10, 2003 hometownlife.com 50¢

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INSIDE

Miss winners

Novi sisters Jane, left, and Whitney Wick brought home some honors from the National American Miss contest held at the Novi Sheraton. Jane won first place in the talent category and Whitney placed fourth in the actress category.

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SPORTS

All-Area selections

After making a save in her north-end net, Novi goalie Kellie Pheiffer boots a ball during the Wildcats' playoff game against Farmington. Pheiffer was one of two goalies selected to the All-Area team for 2003.

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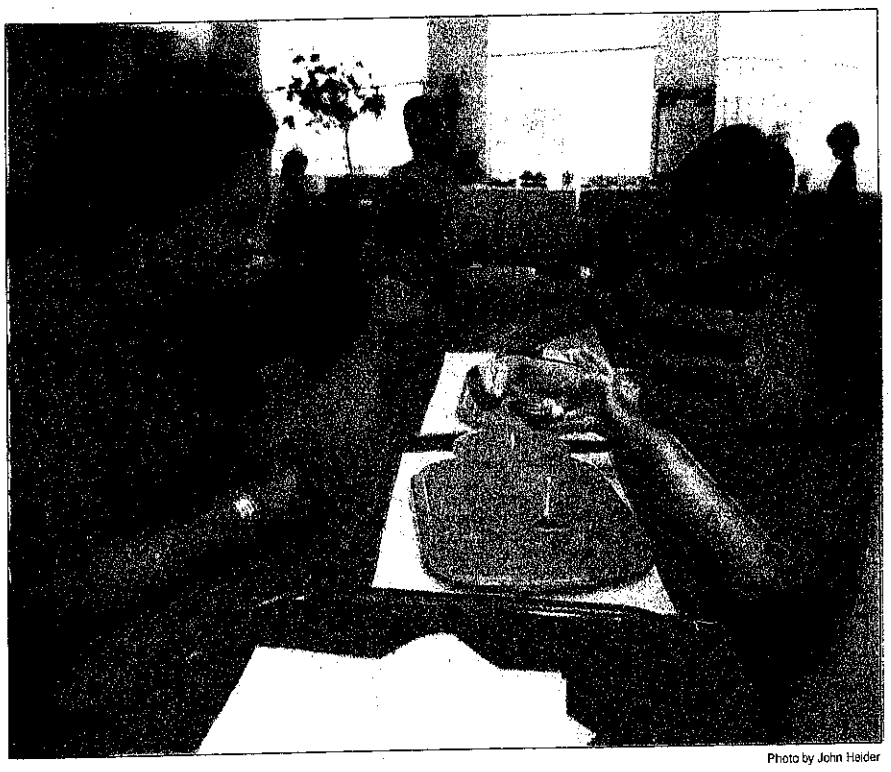

Photo by John Heider

Geetha Rao, left, director of Novi/Northville Montesorri visits with students Rishabh Nayak and Jeffrey Liu, right, last Wednesday afternoon. Rao is concerned how she'll compete with Novi schools once they begin to offer full-time preschool and kindergarten.

Concerns arise over new public offerings

■ Private schools, daycares in Novi wonder about the effect on their business next school year

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

With more and more businesses, schools and programs being established on a daily basis, consumer choices are increasing at a high rate. Choices for parents on where to send their children to preschool or kindergarten are also increasing not only within the public school system, but with private schools and daycares as well.

Programs such as an optional full-day preschool and an optional full-day kindergarten have been introduced at the Novi Community School District for next school year. Those programs, combined with the half-day programs that the public schools offer, combined with the 28 daycares and private preschools in Novi give parents all the options they need to make the best decision they possibly can when it comes to where to enroll their children.

These options, however, worry some of those private preschools and daycares. Geetha Rao, owner of the Novi/Northville Montessori School in Novi, believes that even with the new full-day programs in the public schools, parents who have brought their children to her school in the past should continue to do so.

"I'm not putting down public schools – they are very good – but these are crucial years," Rao said. "If you give just one year of Montessori to your child, it will make that child's life. Two-and-a-half- to 6-year-olds always learn math more than later. The way we teach is by touching and feeling. That's how they learn. Everything is hands-on in our school. You learn through the fingertips. Our children learn French at this age and they will never forget it."

Rao explained that her school is individualized for the care of the child. "We teach all parts of the child's nature and also the development of the child," she said. "That involves giving them a grounding. We take care of them in the order of coordination, concentration

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Planning Commission protests Toll Brothers' removal of historic barn

■ Developer wants to donate structure to Maybury Park

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Novi Planning Commission took a dim view on Toll Brothers' plans to not incorporate an 1860s-era barn in the next phase of the Island Lake of Novi subdivision east of Napier Road between Ten and Eleven Mile roads.

Toll Brothers would like to donate the barn to Maybury State Park to help with restoring the park's petting farm. Several animals were killed when a barn in the park burned in February. Another idea the developer suggested is to donate the barn to a local or outside organization that could find a way to use the historic barn.

The barn is located on the northwest section of the Island Lake of Novi property on Napier Road.

Commission members held a public hearing June 25 prior to deciding whether the removal of the barn constitutes a major or minor amendment to the residential development agreement.

The commission unanimously decided that the barn removal constituted a major change.

"This is a major revision to the Residential Unit Development," said Commissioner John Avdoulos. "It's a nice idea that Maybury State Park says they'll donate it, but who's going to pay for the barn removal. The developer is not taking responsibility for what the original agreement said. I think the barn would add a bit of rural character to the property."

Paving work is going on now in the new subdivision, and sales are

continued on 2

Blessing given to Catholic Central project

■ Plan for new private all-boys high school gets green light

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Officials at Catholic Central High School received the green light June 25 on a new private all-boys high school to be built in Novi.

Members of the Novi Planning Commission granted final site plan approval for the school that will be constructed on 60 acres west of Wixom Road and south of Grand River Ave. The school is relocating from Redford.

Commission members granted preliminary site plan approval Feb. 12 and requested a parking lot management plan before granting their final OK on the construction. Members discussed parking and woodlands issues at the June 25 meeting.

Currently, there are 147 parking spaces planned at Catholic Central High School, but more than 1,200 spaces are needed during Friday night football games.

Providence Hospital officials at Grand River Ave. and Beck Road had agreed to let Catholic Central fans use their parking lots if the school could provide some type of shuttle. But commission members said the Providence lots are too far from the school.

Father Richard Elmer, president of Catholic Central, said Novi school district officials said Catholic Central fans could not park at Novi Middle School or Deerfield Elementary off of Wixom Road.

Commissioner Gwen Markham wanted to know why the school system refused to let Catholic Central fans park at the two schools.

"They said it was because they couldn't predict the number of events on Friday nights when the schools would need the lots. They told us that they couldn't guarantee us the spaces," Elmer said.

"Providence is a mile away, and I don't want these people parking on Wixom Road. I'd like to ask the school board to reconsider. I don't think it should be forever forbidden for Catholic Central people to park there. I think that's unfriendly," Markham said.

Tom Ryan, a Sylvan Lake attorney representing Catholic Central High School, told commission members that the Emerald Ash

continued on 2

Nearly 300 vehicles featured in festival Car Show

By Grace Blum
SPECIAL WRITER

The sound of muscle cars revving up and zooming by can be heard in Novi on Sunday, July 27 at the 16th annual Music & Motor Fest Car Show.

For those interested in cars, this is a must-see event. Art Cervi, director of the Car Show, predicts that 200-300 cars will be on display this year. This will be an increase from last year's car show of a little over 200 cars. "We are excited and looking forward to an even bigger and better day than last year," Cervi said.

And D.J. Boogie Brian will be at the event, spinning tunes to pump some lively fun into the atmosphere.

Flyers and ads have appeared all over Novi to publicize for the car show. "Most of the cars are from this general area, within a 35-40 mile radius," said Cervi.

After the show, various trophies will be handed out for each car class or category. This year, Cervi is hoping to include a Mayor's Trophy, which is always well-received by the crowd because it has nothing to do with the category of the car. "The mayor just picks a car that he likes and then gives the owner a trophy," Cervi said.

Always one of the main events at the festival, the Car Show attracts a large crowd. This will be the second year for the car show at its new location on Main Street and Cervi is hoping for a larger outcome of people.

After the car show, the vehicles cruise down Grand River for an evening car parade. Cervi said the cruise is always a popular event with the festival's crowds.

"Its a fun day that appeals to all ages," said Cervi.

File photo by John Heider

Mark Tucker of Brighton polishes his Buick at the '02 fest.

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Planning Commission gives blessing to Catholic Central project

continued from front

Borer has been identified on the site. He asked that since this insect destroys trees if Catholic Central would still have to replace trees affected by the pest.

"We'd like you to recommend to the city council that we don't have to replace the ash trees since the developer already had to replace a lot," Ryan said. He estimated between 500 to 600 ash trees are on the site.

"I can support that we won't require them to replace the ash trees," Markham said.

"If we approve this, are we setting ourselves up for future developers to get the same treatment?" Commissioner Tim Shroyer asked.

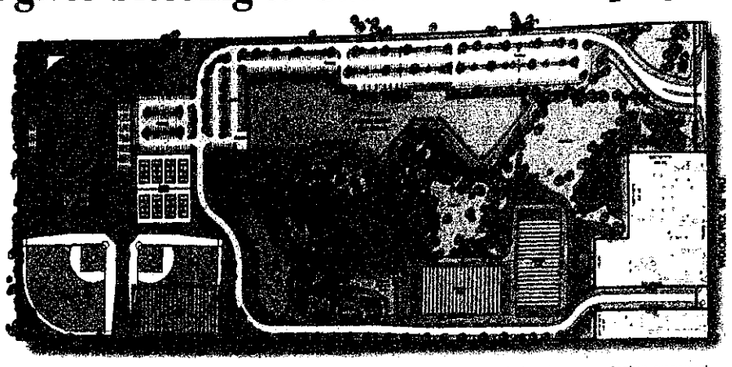
"We've got to get those trees out because they can affect healthy trees," Ryan said. He added that the infected ash trees would be removed at the same time.

"The trees are definitely affected in that area," said Commissioner Larry Papp. "Eighty to ninety percent of the trees inventoried on the site are showing signs of infestation."

The commission voted to waive the replacement of the ash trees on the site, subject to approval by city council.

"It's a very nice site, and I think the architect has done a wonderful job," said Toni Nagy, planning commission chair. "I'm glad we're able to go forward with this project, and I'd like to welcome Catholic Central to Novi."

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



This site plan for Detroit Catholic Central's new Novi campus recently received planning commission approval.

PC protests

continued from front

going well, according to the developer. The clubhouse should be competed in August and the beach along Island Lake is already open. Toll Brothers Inc. plans to construct a waterfront park with a boat launch.

In the original site plan, the barn was to be saved, with the idea of it being used as a community meeting room, boathouse or shelter.

"It has some historical significance. I would like to see us keep the barn," Avdoulos said. "The developer is saying that the barn doesn't fit in with their nautical theme, but I don't see a nautical theme out there."

"I think we should consider the barn a major amendment to the agreement," said Commissioner David Ruyle.

Commissioner Lynn Kocan said the developer stated that it would build a private water park and incorporate the existing barn.

"I'm not happy with this site plan at all," Kocan said.

"I think the barn should stay. It's a 143-year-old barn and it means a lot to the City of Novi," said Commissioner Larry Papp. He also had the developer clarify that Island Lake is a nonpowered-boat lake.

The commission tabled its decision for a site plan for this development until members of city council review the Residential Unit Development agreement and give their recommendation.

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

Concerns arise over new public school offerings

continued from front

and independence and a lot of attention is given to every child's needs."

Rao listed some advantages of the Montessori school which include smaller classrooms, where students get more individualized attention and a more extensive academic grounding than the public school offers. "We have small classrooms and we have teachers who are very well trained to take care of each individual child," she said. "Each child grows in different steps. Today a child might want to learn to tie her shoes, tomorrow it might be learning the alphabet and the day after it might be something else. So, teachers are trained to observe the child and to help them where it's needed."

The Novi/Northville Montessori School has a three-year program and children range from two-and-a-half to 6 years old. "The kindergarten years are the most important years and that's when it all comes together for them," Rao said. "We do a lot of signs and geography here. In Montessori it's all hands-on. The geography that they do here stays with them the rest of their lives."

The Montessori half-day program costs $400 per month and the full-day program is $600 per month for the year. The public school's full-day preschool program, in contrast, is $582.40 per month for 10 months.

According to the Novi Community School District's preschool secretary, Sheila Holly, the optional public school preschool program will run from 9:15 a.m. to 3:15 a.m. and there will be an additional care program which will run from 7 a.m. until school starts and from the time school lets out until 6 p.m. Fees include a lunch and two snacks.

"There is a difference between private schools and public schools," Novi Community School District Superintendent Emmett Lippe said. "Private schools service only a portion of the students who may or may not need help. We have the responsibility to all the children to try to educate as much as we can."

Lippe said that when early childhood usage is looked at, he thinks that one would find a great deal of progress on how children are going to proceed not only up to that point, but through school as based on what happens the first few years of life in terms of exposure to education and learning. "It's in our best interest to try to prepare young people at the earliest possible age for education," he said. "Our board has also made the decision to offer more full-time kindergartners and preschoolers that type of education for that reason. I think it's a matter of philosophical difference on how you approach teaching method. It all comes down to the different choices that parents have and where they feel their children would be best suited."

Like Rao, Kim Richmond of Faith Community Preschool in Novi, Nancy Kereluik of Nancy's Pumpkin Patch in Novi, Sunetra Humbad of Sunetra Humbad Day Care in Novi and Kum Kum Khare of Kum Kum Daycare, Inc. of Novi are all concerned about the issue as well.

"I think that because our program does not offer an extended care, we tend to attract parents who are looking pretty specifically for just the preschool aspect," Richmond said. "I'm hoping the public school's full-day program doesn't take kids away from our program, but I think it's just offering people just an option. I think it's something to consider because if it goes well, then maybe that is sort of the way things need to go in the future. But at this point I'm really not that worried because I think it's a different type of program. I think it's interesting to be able to offer people that choice just to see what happens. I guess I don't know for next year if it will affect our program or not."

Kereluik brought up another point. "Parents don't know how they're supposed to work when they have such a rigid schedule for children," she said. "A lot of the parents don't want to put their children in preschool after a half-day of kindergarten because they want them back in the home. That's why we have home-in daycare."

Kereluik went on to say that she has children who go to her kindergarten either a half day in the morning or a half day in the afternoon, who take the bus from her house so they can still have a homey affect after a full day. "It is a full day for them when they're not used to a full day of school right off the bat," she said. "Some of the parents are OK with it but most are not. They like the half day of kindergarten, and most of the parents I talked to are not too crazy about the full-day kindergarten. The kids also like the home-in daycare better. For the people who work full-time and who have no other option, they have to put their kids in the full-day – and what if your child isn't ready for that?"

Khare believes that her daycare, Kum Kum Daycare, Inc., can offer better service to the children than public schools can. "We are a smaller group and in the public school, children get sick easier and they stay there all day so they get tired and the ratio is different with schools than the daycare," she said. "We give them more personal attention and care and learning, which I believe the schools can not do because there are more children then helpers there. That is definitely the big difference."

Even though Humbad owns a different day care in Novi, the Sunetra Humbad Day Care, her view is similar to Khare's. "Children need love and good direction more than anything," she said. "They will get the education later on, but they are loosing love and respect and that is what I give to the children."

DETAILS

- Those interested in the Novi Community School District's full day preschool can call (248) 449-1715 or visit www.novi.k12.mi.us.
- There are still openings in the half-day program for three's, four's and five's.
- Parents can call, come in and register and fill out a packet of forms, which are also available on the Web site, which can be downloaded, mailed or faxed in.
- A $40 registration fee is required for the half day program and for the all day program. It is $40 for Novi School District residents and $75 for non-school district residents.
- The fee for the all day program is $582.40 per month. Parents should sign their kids up as soon as possible because spaces are going fast. The all-day program will be following the school district calendar, so it will start August 25 and it will end around June 12.

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

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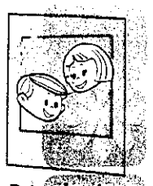

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· Join Arthur and DW for their very own dance party.
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JULY 30 - Picnic at the Fountain
Free hotdogs, chips and pop to the first 1,000 visitors.
Meet Caillou, sing and dance, and decorate your own canvas tote bag.

AUGUST 6 - Under the Sea Night
Hang out with your favorite underwater sponge and the Little Mermaid!
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Free bubbles and beach balls and make a seaside craft.

AUGUST 13 - Magic at the Fountain
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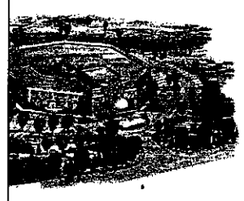

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Sheriff's deputies watch over Novi and county

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Getting to work for Dale Cason and Kelly Sexton can be just as much a hassle as for anyone, but once they're there, they are on top of the world.

Cason and Sexton are deputies with the Oakland County Sheriff's Department's two-and-a-half-year-old aviation unit. And while their fellow deputies and the rest of the world spend their days slogging through the fumes and the congestion, these two spend theirs 700 feet above Oakland County's 910 square miles.

According to Sheriff Michael Bouchard, each of the county's helicopters can cover as much territory as 12 deputies in patrol cars in less time, and they do it with an impressive array of high-tech equipment. "We'll cover half the county in a typical day," said Cason.

The sheriff's American Eurocopters can travel from their base at the Oakland County International Airport in Waterford Township to Milford in under 10 minutes, a trip that averages about four times that amount by car.

"It's a whole new way to serve the county," said Cason, who's been with the sheriff's office for 24 years. "The sheriff is very proactive," he added.

Prior to getting its own helicopters, when the Oakland County Sheriff's Office needed air support, it had to rely on the cities of Warren and Detroit or the Michigan State Police helicopter based in Lansing.

The sheriff funded his aviation program by privatizing inmate food service, which saved the department $1.6 million annually.

The aviation unit's mission, said Cason, is to provide support for the sheriff's ground operations and assist the county's 42 other law enforcement agencies. He said that's taken on an added urgency since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11. He said the Sheriff's Office is in regular contract with the Federal Office of Homeland Security, and there are a number of locations in the county that are being routinely watched.

Cason noted that while the sheriff could have followed the lead of many law enforcement agencies around the country and saved money with a military surplus helicopter, "just because they're cheap, doesn't mean they're good deals." He noted the venerable Huey is noisy, has high maintenance costs and consumes much more fuel that newer machines.

While Warren uses a small training helicopter made by Switzer that carries a pilot and one observer, Cason said his agency chose the five-passenger Astar 350 B2 for its ability to carry more people and equipment.

In the aftermath of a disaster, the sheriff's aviation unit can put several public officials in the air at a time with a complete array of computer equipment, mapping systems and radios. Cason and his fellow pilots can even transmit video images directly to the county's emergency operations center in Pontiac via microwave.

The sheriff opted not to purchase a helicopter with medevac capabilities because of the county's highly urban nature and its large number of hospitals. "You're never far enough away from a hospital to make it effective," said Cason.

However, that doesn't mean it's not a lifesaver. Since going into service, Oakland County Sheriff's Office helicopter crews have located several Alzheimer's patients and plucked stranded snowmobilers from ice flows on Macomb County's Lake St. Clair.

According to Cason, the department currently runs two shift patrols from 8 a.m. to midnight five days a week with four full-time pilots and five tactical officers borrowed from the department's arson, traffic and marine units. However, he added, the department can put a helicopter in the air any time the need arises.

Sexton, who recently completed her pilot training at Bijan Aviation in Ann Arbor, is the department's newest pilot.

Like Cason, Sexton had no prior military flight experience before taking to the air for the sheriff. Sexton, who's been with the department three years, flew as an observer with the unit a few times before deciding she'd like to become a pilot.

Cason had been a private fixed-wing pilot for 15 years before the sheriff formed his aviation unit, and Cason decided to learn how to fly helicopters. "I've always enjoyed being a cop," he said, adding that doing it from the air just brings it to a new level. "There's a high level of excitement here. There's a lot of training an dedication."

Recently Cason was flying over Oakland Township in the county's northeast corner when he he was notified that road units were chasing a murder suspect from Vermont in Rose Township. In a matter of minutes he was able to catch up to the suspect and provide deputies on the ground with information as the suspect sped to his eventual suicide at US-23 and Center Road.

If the man had decided to flee on foot, Cason would have been able to track him, even through the trees with his Forward-Looking Infrared (FLIR) Thermal Imaging System. He noted FLIR can even detect the heat of a weapon or other object that's been thrown away for several minutes.

Cason said he sees his unit as a "growing asset for the county." He said he'd eventually like to see the sheriff add another helicopter and a pair of smaller fixed-wing aircraft, but that's several years away. In the meantime, Cason and his colleagues will be up there, watching.

Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 108 or at pfoley@ht.homecomm.net.

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- Tail rotor: 6 feet

Source: American Eurocopter

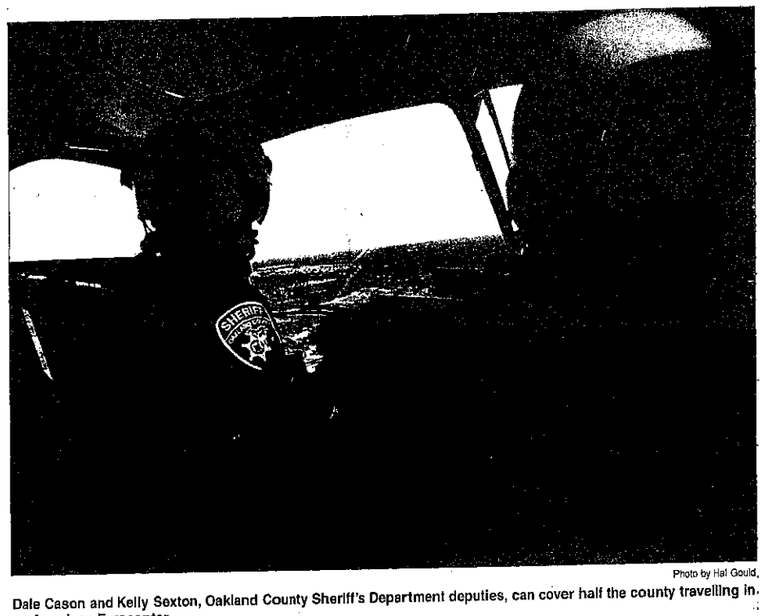

Photo by Hal Gould.

Dale Cason and Kelly Sexton, Oakland County Sheriff's Department deputies, can cover half the county travelling in an American Eurocopter.

POLICE REPORT

Boys busted

Officer Jason Meier charged two 17-year-old Novi boys with minors in possession of alcohol at 10 past midnight July 2 following a disturbance at the end of the cul-de-sac on Glenda. Some other Novi and Brighton teens were questioned and released.

Overdressed

Loss prevention officers at Kohls in the West Oaks shopping center told Officer Michael Corbett they detained a 22-year-old Troy woman after they found four empty coat hangers in a changing room. The store recovered $118 worth of clothing and Officer Corbett charged the woman with retail fraud.

Traffic confrontation

A pair of 18-year-old Novi boys told Officer Jeremy Stempien that they were attacked by a pair of Arab men July 22 following a traffic incident at 2:15 p.m. on Market Street near Main Street. The boys said they were entering Market Street from a parking lot when they saw a red Ford Expedition approaching them at high speed. The Ford swerved to avoid them and then followed them. The boys said that when the got to where they were going, a man in his 40s with salt-and-pepper hair, a silver shirt, tie and black pants and an 18-year-old with black spiked hair and a tan jacket got out of the truck and punched them in the faces.

Sticky fingers

Officer Kevin Heaney charged a 28-year-old Dearborn woman with retail fraud at 12:57 p.m. July 2

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It seems appropriate that the fiery red ruby be the birthstone for July. In ancient times, its intense color was thought to emanate from an undying flame within the gemstone or, as some legends would have it, the planet mars itself. Closer to earth, this King of Gems is hardly less attractive. To begin with, this red variety of corundum and sister of sapphire rates a "9" on the Mohs hardness scale, making it the second hardest material known after diamond. The most important factor, however, is color, which ranges from purplish- and bluish-red to orange-red. The finest rubies are intensely saturated, pure red with no overtones of brown or blue. After color, clarity, cut and size influence value most.

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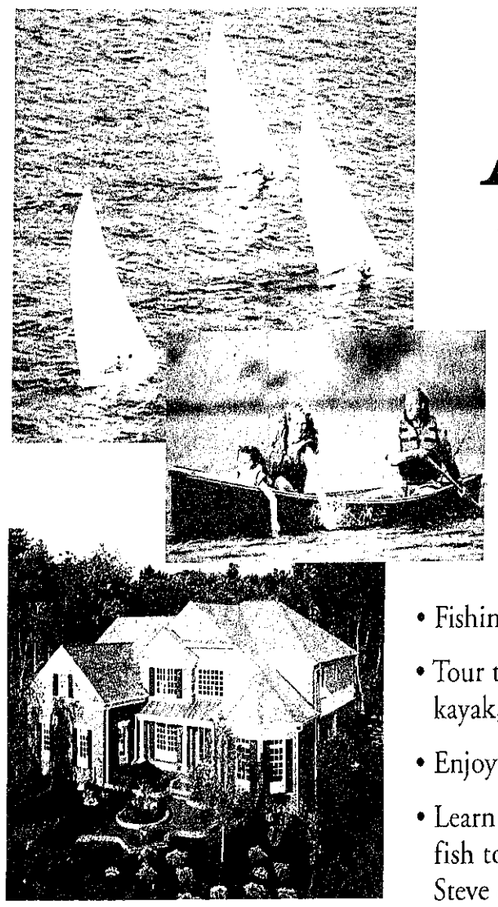

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

POLICE REPORT

continued from 3

after loss prevention officers at Lord and Taylor told him the woman took a $25 pair of earrings from the store without paying for them. According to reports, the incident was captured on videotape. The woman was released after posting a $100 bond and paying a $10 processing fee.

Missing caps

A Farmington man told Officer Steven Balog that he parked outside The Great Indoors about 11:30 p.m. July 1 and when he came back a half hour later, the chrome center caps on his 2001 burgundy Pontiac were gone. He estimated his loss at $152.

Unlocked truck

A Novi woman told Officer Kristie Marzolf July 1 that someone took an MP3 player and a mini CD from her unlocked 2003 Ford Explorer sometime between 10:45 p.m. June 27 and noon July 1. She put her loss at $122.

Speeding drunk

Officer Brian Woloski stopped a 1995 purple Ford Escort near the M-5 exit ramp at 12:41 a.m. June 30 after clocking it at 80 mph on eastbound I-96 near Beck Road. He charged the 31-year-old Northville driver with OUIL after the man failed field sobriety tests and registered a .190 blood alcohol content (BAC). The man was later released after posting a $100 bond.

Almost

Officer Jeremy Stempien stopped a 1998 tan Nissan after it failed to come to a complete stop before exiting a parking lot at JW's Bar on Novi Road and blew through a yellow light at Grand River. He charged the 29-year-old Lorain, Ohio, woman behind the wheel with OUIL after she failed field sobriety tests. She was later released after posting a $100 bond and paying a $10 processing fee.

Games gone

Loss prevention officers at 12 Oaks Mall reported June 30 finding the packaging for three Game Boy Advanced units from EB Games in the mall's food court about 7:30 p.m. A store spokesman said they had not sold any of the games that day and estimated their loss at $209.

Two for one

Officer Kevin Rhea charged a pair of West Bloomfield women with retail fraud June 30 after loss prevention officers at Lord and Taylor said they detained the woman at 7:30 p.m. as they tried to leave the store with unpaid for jewelry. Store officials reported recovered $30 worth of jewelry from the 18-year-old suspect and $190 from her 38-year-old companion.

Almost II

Officers Steve Patterson and Timothy Farrell stopped a blue Ford pickup after it failed to come to a complete stop as it exited the parking lot at JW's Bar on Novi Road. The driver, a 38-year-old White Lake man, was charged with OUIL after he failed field sobriety tests and registered a .15 and .14 BAC in separate tests.

Keep it down

Reports of a loud party at a home near Sarallyna Drive and Venice at 2:28 a.m. June 28 led to the arrest of three 18-year-old Livonia boys on minors in possession charges. Officer Jeremy Stempien reported finding the home's porch and yard covered in beer cans and bottles on his arrival. He questioned and released a 19-year-old Northville boy and a 19-year-old Livonia boy. Officer Stempien said no one answered his knocking at the residence's door.

Missing numbers

A Novi woman told Officer Kevin Heany June 28 that someone pried the numbers off the garage door opener at a house on Devonshire that she and her husband are in the process of selling.

Pony rustled

A Farmington Hills man told Officer Mark Stone that his red 1995 Ford Mustang was stolen while he was at the Novi Expo Center. Curtis told police the car was parked by the General Filter parking lot when it disappeared. He estimated his loss at under $5,000.

On a dare

Officer Micheal Corbett charged a 17-year-old Farmington Hills girl with retail fraud after Lord and Taylor loss prevention officers told him the girl tried to take a necklace from the store without paying for it. The girl told officer Corbett she did it on a dare. She was released after posting a $100 bond and paying a $10 processing fee.

Too much celebrating

Novi police stopped a red Monte Carlo driving the wrong way on Crescent Drive at midnight June 29. The driver, a 29-year-old Millington man, told officers he was in town for a union celebration and was driving to his camper parked on Trans-ex Drive. The man was charged with OUIL after failing field sobriety tests and registering a .173 BAC.

Little dope

Officer Craig Felix charged a 29-year-old Southfield man with violation of the controlled substance act June 29 following a traffic stop on the eastbound ramp from Novi Road to I-96. Officer Felix reported the man's car was traveling 59 mph on Novi Road. The driver admitted to drinking a 22 ounce beer before leaving work, but said no when asked if he had anything illegal in the car. After being questioned a second time, the man reportedly gave up 1.6 grams of marijuana. He was later released after posting a $100 bond and paying a $10 processing fee.

Accidental arrest

Two Belleville men were arrested following a traffic accident at Haggerty and 13 Mile Road at 1:59 a.m. June 29. The 20-year-old driver was charged with OUIL and his 18-year-old companion was charged with minor in possession.

Speeding drunk II

Officer Brian Woloski stopped a red Pontiac Grand AM GT after clocking it traveling 52 mph on Beck Road south of 11 Mile Road. He charged the driver, a 24-year-old Shelby Township man with OUIL after the man reportedly failed field sobriety tests and registered a .12 BAC.

West Bloomfield man dies in cycle crash

Oakland County Sheriff Office dispatchers were notified of the death of a West Bloomfield man just before noon Friday on the edge of Novi.

Joseph Sagmani, 22, was pronounced dead at Commerce Lake Township's Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital after his 1999 Honda motorcycle collided with a 2001 Chevrolet Blazer driven by a 19-year-old White Lake resident on 14 Mile Road west of Haggerty Road.

The driver of the Blazer, who was wearing a seatbelt, was uninjured. According to reports, Sagmani was wearing a helmet at the time of the crash. No other details were available at press time.

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MOVIE GUIDE

Arnold Schwarzenegger Terminator 3: Rise Of The Machines

SHOWTIMES 7/11 - 7/17
TERMINATOR 3: RISE OF THE MACHINES (R) 11:40, 12:20, 2:00, 2:30, 4:20, 4:50, 5:30, 6:40, 7:10, 7:50, 9:00, 9:30, 10:10 FRI/SAT LS 11:20, 11:50
MAN FRM XI KUNGFU MOON (NR) KUNG FU FILM 3:50, 9:10
TOGETHER (R) 11:20, 1:40, 5:10, 7:25
MAN ON THE TRAIN (R) 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 7:20, 9:40 FRI/SAT LS 11:30
LEVITY (R) 11:30, 1:30, 9:15
NOWHERE IN AFRICA (R) 3:30, 6:30
KANGA'S GO WILD (PG) 12:00, 1:50, 3:40
DADDY DAYCARE (PG) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30
HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE (PG-13) 7:30, 9:50 FRI/SAT LS 12:00
BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM (PG-13) 11:50, 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20 FRI/SAT LS 11:40

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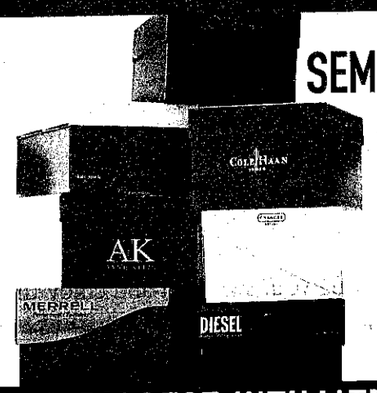
SEMIANNUAL SHOE CLEARANCE



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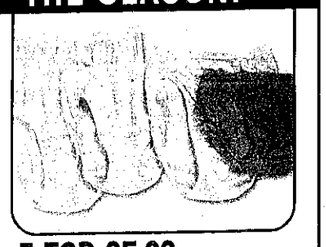
3 FOR 24.00 OLGA PANTIES
Save on our **entire stock** of panties from **Olga. Reg. 9.50-11.00.** IN INTIMATE APPAREL.



5 FOR 25.00 PANTIES
Save on our **entire stock** of panties from **Vanity Fair, Barely There and Bali. Reg. 6.00-9.50.**
IN INTIMATE APPAREL.

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July 11, 12 & 13

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To qualify, shoppers will receive entry blanks with every purchase made during the Sidewalk Sale, July 11, 12 & 13, 2003. There is no limit to the number of purchases or number of entries. Entrants must be licensed drivers, 18 yrs and older.

The winning entry will be drawn on Monday, July 14, with the winner receiving a $500.00 Shopping Spree in goods, food and services from the Novi Town Center!

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Toys

Novi teen takes second place in Soapbox Derby

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Two-thousandths of a second is an amazingly brief span of time, but for some people it can be an eternity.

For Alex Grougan, a Novi 14-year-old, it meant the difference between a trip to Akron, Ohio, later this month for the American Soapbox Derby Association's national championship and staying home to get ready for next season.

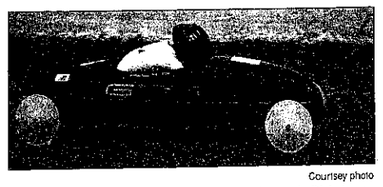
"I can't you tell how nerve wracking that was," said Alex's dad, Paul. "He had won every race, three in row, and the kid he lost to was a kid he'd beat earlier in the day. It comes down to who flinches."

Alex said he was "kind of nervous" sitting on top of the hill on Rochester's Third Street waiting for the beginning of the Second Annual Detroit Auto Dealers Association (DADA) Soapbox Derby Classic. "You have keep concentrating and drive a straight line.

It's a formula that's brought him a stack of trophies since he began racing this spring, including second place and Spirit Award at the DADA Soapbox Derby Classic June 28-29. When the gate goes done, he said "everything goes quiet and all I hear is the wheels."

Alex, whose severe asthma prevents him from competing in most sports, said he was inspired by the Disney film "Miracle In Lane Two," the true story of a Justin Yoder who overcame his disability to win Soapbox Derby glory. He added when he and his dad saw the Soapbox Derby display at the DADA booth at the North American International Auto Show in January, he knew what he wanted to do.

For Paul it was something of a second chance. Growing up in Dearborn Heights, he saved up enough money for the required Soapbox Derby parts, but he never built a car. "My dad was not real handy," he recalled.



Courtesy photo

Novi's Alex Grougan hurtles down Rochester's Third Street in the second annual DADA Soapbox Derby Classic. The 14-year-old rookie missed a first-place finish and a trip to Akron, Ohio, for the nationals by .02 second. 'We'll get'em next year,' he promised.

Alex and his dad ordered a car from the American Soapbox Derby Association and began work out in their Novi garage. "We've been spending a lot of time together in the garage," said Paul. "I won't touch the car, if he's not out there."

"Physically, you can put the car together in four to six hours, said Paul, who's the program manager for General Motors Corp's Quadrasteer program. "But to be competitive, you're looking at three to six weeks work. There are a lot of little adjustments that can be made and each track is a little different."

In the end, said the senior Grougan, it really comes down to who is the best driver. "You're always looking for advantages. There's the road slope, manholes and cracks to be avoided. You're look for ways increase speed, but you're scrubbing off speed with wheel input."

In the Superstock Class the Alex races in, which allow the car and driver to tip the scales at a total of 230 pounds, racers can hit speeds or 22-23 mph at Rochester and as much as 30 mph at a purpose-built track in Saginaw.

Alex began his rookie season with two races in Saginaw, followed by three more in Lancaster, Ohio. "There's a race somewhere every weekend," observed Paul. "There were a few guys who drove to Central Florida for races over Christmas break and Chicago holds some indoor winter rallies."

Paul said the local association alternates races at a club track in Saginaw and in Rochester. He added the group is talking about staging an indoor race this winter at the Silverdome or Cobo Hall.

Paul said one of the attractive things about Soapbox Derby racing is the cost. While a go-kart or junior dragster can run into the thousands of dollars for a competitive machine, Soapbox Derby can be built for under $400. He added they can also be easily put in the back of a pickup or minivan.

Another attractive factor, he said, is the family friendly atmosphere. He said a lot of families get a trailer not so much for the car, but all the camping gear they bring along for a race weekend.

Alex's little brother, David, who'll be a first-grader at Deerfield Elementary this fall, plans on racing in the National Derby Racing Association as soon as he turns 7.

Alex said he plans to "race as long as I can," which in Soapbox terms is 17, but at this point he's not looking to motorsports. "It costs a lot of money," he noted, "but only time will tell."

In the meantime, he's looking to next season. "We'll get 'em next time," he said.

Paul is certain his son will. "It was phenomenal. A lot of people looked at us at the beginning and said, 'Who is this kid?' But now he's looking good and running good. It's quite a feeling of accomplishment."

Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 108 or at pfoley@ht.homecomm.net.

Courtesy photo

With less than a full year of racing under his belt Alex Grougan has already amaased an impressive collection of trophies. However, the Novi teen said racing soapbox derby cars is about fun, not necessarily winning.

Commission eyes future

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

A day at Providence Hospital's Novi Campus for tests for the city's Parks and Recreation director and the absence of a couple of commission members will delay the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission meeting a week, but when they gather at the Civic Center July 17, they'll be busy.

Among other things, said Parks and Recreation Director Randy Auler, commission members will be looking over the five-year community recreation plan it's been working on for that past year as well as community sports park project and the first steps toward a community recreation foundation.

"There are a lot of things in the works, but we won't be taking any formal actions," said Auler.

Commission members will also be getting a recap of the Novi Jaguars soccer organizations Mothers' Day tournament, which drew 136 teams to the city earlier this year.

Auler isn't releasing ty details of the commission's five-year plan just yet saying he wants to city council members to have a chance to look it over first. He said the commission and council are looking for a joint meeting sometime in early August.

Novi, said Auler, is the first community he's worked in since graduating from college in 1982 that doesn't have a community recreation foundation. "It's another way to get more people involved in parks and recreation," he said.

He noted that while working in Carmel, Ind. the community recreation foundation there raised and spent $8 million in one year for a community park.

Although Novi has 683 acres of parkland, including the 384-acre Lakeshore Park on Walled Lake, Auler said, "We have a lot of needs here. We are way behind."

Many of those needs for this community of 50,000 are likely to be detailed in the commission's five-year plan.

Commission members are expected to look over plans to upgrade the first of 10 softball and eight soccer at the Community Sports Park at 8 Mile and Napier roads. Noting that none of the heavily used fields there have irrigation, Auler said they decade-old park is "in dire need of improvement."

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KOHL'S

Photo by Pam Fleming

Representatives from local and out-of-state agencies visited Walled Lake this week to tour the city and offer recommendations on how community leaders can do a better job promoting local events. Shown on a walking tour of the city Monday are, from left, Carolyn Dellutri of MainStreet Libertyville (Ill.); Nicholas Kalogeresis of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Chicago; Robert Donohue Jr., Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services; Charlene Long, managing director of the Walled Lake Downtown Development Authority; and Russell Lewis, Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services.

Walled Lake receives a technical assistance visit

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Those who fail to plan, plan to fail.

With this concept in mind, representatives from local and out-of-state agencies paid a visit to Walled Lake this week to make recommendations to community leaders on how they can better publicize local events.

Charlene Long, managing director of the Walled Lake Downtown Development Authority, said since the city is part of the National Main Street Center program, the agency provides an annual technical assistance visit to the community.

This year's visit Monday and Tuesday focused on promotions. A wrap-up session took place Tuesday evening.

Out-of-state visitors included Nicholas Kalogeresis, AICP, program associate, National Main Street Center, Midwest Office, in Chicago and Carolyn Dellutri, CTP, executive director, MainStreet Libertyville, in Illinois.

Libertyville, Ill., was a 1997 Great American MainStreet Award winner.

Local visitors from Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services included Robert Donohue Jr., principal planner, Downtown Redevelopment, and Main Street Oakland County coordinator; Russell Lewis, RA, principal planner and architect; and JoAnn Browning, associate planner.

Walled Lake was one of the first communities to be involved in the Main Street Program, according to Donohue.

"We provide technical assistance to Main Streets across the country. We usually work on communities weak points, but in the case of Walled Lake, we're just fine-tuning strong points," Kalogeresis said.

Local attendees also included Walled Lake DDA board members, members of the promotions committee, Mayor Bill Roberts and volunteers.

Recent events in Walled Lake mentioned were Pet Awareness Day, Mother's Day Off, the Italian Chalk Art Festival and the recent Relay for Life that raised $38,000 for the fight against cancer.

"Walled Lake is coming alive with the family events that we are bringing to the city," said Daryl Ramsey, owner of Melvin's Hardware and co-chair of the DDA promotions committee.

However, "One of our biggest problems is that we're all doing everything. We may have to start giving individual ownership to some of these events," Ramsey said. About 20 people make up the promotions committee.

She noted also that Walled Lake has three distinct areas in its downtown makeup. "One of our goals is to bring our three central business areas together somehow," Ramsey told the visitors.

"At first-year events, we depend on our core group," said Pam Janson, the other co-chair of the promotions committee.

The group also discussed the need for different fundraising ideas to pay for local events.

"We do an awful lot on the donations we receive, and we rely on our local businesses. But we don't want to rape them of all of their profits," Janson noted.

Roberts said Walled Lake is fortunate that the DDA receives tax dollars to support its efforts. "We budget about $17,000 a year for promotions," Long said.

Another problem is that costs from work performed by Department of Public Works employees for community events are often higher than estimated.

"It looked like you were getting some low-ball estimates for this type of work when we looked at your (MainStreet Oakland County) evaluation last year," Donohue said.

DPW workers sometimes take on tasks that volunteers could accomplish, according to Pat Wlodarczyk, owner of Modern Floors in Walled Lake and a member of the promotions committee.

"The DPW is used to going in and taking care of everything, but this often means unexpected expenses for us," Long said.

"There should be some sort of work order process involved," Donohue suggested.

Dellutri said that at MainStreet Libertyville, which has been in existence for 14 years, the staff looks at local events as one of three types: retail, image-building or community.

"We look at the whole calendar year with three types of events in mind," she said.

And, so that volunteers don't burn out running the same event every year, "You need a chair and a co-chair of each event," Dellutri said. "You should always have that turnover. That way you have new volunteers and new energy with each event."

Dellutri noted that in Libertyville, the MainStreet staff members have a hard time getting local business people to serve as volunteers at community events.

"I commend you for getting involved," she told business owners present at the seminar.

Another suggestion made was for the DDA to establish an organizational committee for local events.

"If you don't have an organizational committee, you won't have a good MainStreet program," Kalogeresis said. "You need that. And, it should be separate from the executive committee."

The organizational committee would be responsible for volunteer recruitment and retention, volunteer recognition and promotional duties, such as the DDA newsletter.

"We'll help you through the transition," Donohue said.

Dellutri said youth volunteers are also important in promoting community events and that many high school students are looking for community service projects.

"We're looking at having a Junior MainStreet Program with two students on our board," she said.

Wlodarczyk noted that local students who were members of National Honor Society volunteered at the recent Relay for Life event.

And as far as getting new ideas for different types of promotions, Dellutri said, "Our motto is what we call R & D--rip off and duplicate. That why going to outside seminars is important. These networking opportunities are invaluable."

Finally, "Get to know your volunteers," Dellutri said. "Find out when they're available and what they like and don't like to do. We have a volunteer night every three months, and we have 40 new volunteers now. It's a way to open the door."

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

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Novi siblings win in local pageant

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

"I'm getting too old for this," thought Deborah Wick as the Novi mother of three scrambled from the stage on one side of the Novi Hilton to the dressing rooms on the other.

However with 7-year-old Jayne's hands firmly on the winner's trophy for the talent portion of the talent contest in the "Princess" division and 9-year-old Whitney clutching the runner-up honor in the actress competition in the junior pre-teen division at the end of the Michigan competition for National America Miss June 26-28, Wick decided, "This is pretty interesting for the first time out."

Now the Novi family is planning to dovetail their Thanksgiving holiday trip into a stop at California's Disneyland for the National America Miss pageant Nov. 23-28.

"This was the first time for both the girls, and I was more than surprised they won at any level," said Wicks. However, Jayne's first place win guaranteed the Deerfield Elementary second grader an invite to the national competition.

While the brutal murder of JonBenet Ramsey in Boulder, Colo., in 1996 created a firestorm of controversy surrounding pageants for little girls, with critics at the time calling Ramsey a "painted baby," Wick said she was unconcerned about the negative publicity that pageants had drawn.

Besides, she added, "It wasn't anything like that at all. No makeup was allowed."

Wick said her daughters "dance and sing around the house all the time, and I've had other people say they've heard them at school and say they're good." She said she and her husband, Michael, have been looking around for an outlet for the girls' talents, and when the flier came in the mail, she decided to give it a try and "if it seemed not to be for us, we wouldn't try it again."

The pageant packet came to the Wick's house about three weeks before the event, said Wick, and "the minute [Jayne] knew what we were doing, she was up in her room practicing."

According to her mother, Jayne settled on a song she learned two years ago at Novi Montessori School, where she began taking ballet lessons from Tiny Tots. Last year she took dance lessons at the Sports Club of Novi and this year she's dancing at the Performing Arts Academy.

"I was thinking I had pretty good talent and decided this is something I want to do," said Jayne. While Whitney decided this was something she wanted to do as well, the Wick's 14-year-old daughter opted for swim camp instead. "It's just not her thing," said Wick.

"I was kind of nervous, but then I was done so quickly, I thought, 'Wow, I did it,'" said Jayne. Jayne faced 27 kids in her division, while Whitney competed in a group of 60.

So Wicks took the philosophical approach the pageant stressed, "even if they don't win, they gain self-confidence."

After paying her $380 sponsor fee, Jayne took home $250 in prize money and a "big trophy" for her efforts.

Wicks still isn't sure the pageant trail is something for her and her daughters. "We'll do the one in California and see what it's like."

Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 108 or at pfoley@ht.homecomm.net.

Photo by John Heider

Novi sisters Jane, left, and Whitney Wick brought home some honors from the National American Miss contest held at the Novi Sheraton. Jane won first place in the talent category and Whitney placed fourth in the actress category.

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY LINES

Hours

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

Craft programs

We have two craft programs scheduled for Tuesday, July 15. Crafts for children ages 5-6 will be at 1 p.m.; crafts for children age 7 and up will be at 2 p.m. There is a $1.00 materials fee for each 40-minute program. No registration is necessary, but space is limited.

R.E.P.T.I.L.E.

Join us for an exciting adventure with live reptiles on Wednesday, July 16. There will be a 1 p.m. show for children age four and up, and a 7 p.m. show for children of all ages. No registration is required for the 45-minute programs.

Drop-in story time

Story time for children ages four to seven will be held Thursday, July 17; story time for two- and three-year-olds will be held Friday, July 18. Each 30-minute session begins at 11 a.m. No registration is necessary.

Meet an astronaut

Ken Cameron, a veteran of three space shuttle missions who logged over 561 hours in space, will talk to kids in the 5th grade and up about what it's like to be an astronaut on Monday, July 21, from 1-2 p.m. He's looking forward to answering your questions, too! Please register in advance in the library's Teen Area.

Middle school book discussion

Our new book discussion group for teens going into grades 7-9 this fall meets for food, fun, and a lively discussion of "Stuck in Neutral" by Terry Trueman on Tuesday, July 22, from 4-4:45 p.m. No registration is necessary.

Paws with a Cause

Meet a group of "assistance dogs in training" from Paws With a Cause on Wednesday, July 23. These special canines will be at the library at 1 p.m. to meet children age four and up. The dogs will return at 7 p.m. to meet children of all ages. No registration is required for the 50-minute programs.

Board meeting

The Novi Library Board of Directors meets Monday, July 14, at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room. Community members are welcome to attend.

Photography workshop

Maureen Electa Monte, of Monte Photography, will teach kids in the 5th grade and up how to take perfect pictures on Monday, July 14, from 1-2 p.m. Bring a 35mm camera loaded with film. (A disposable camera will work, too!) Please register in advance in the library's Teen Area.

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BUSINESS

Pam Fleming, business reporter (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 pfleming@ht.homecomm.net

BUSINESS SHORTS

New doctor at Henry Ford

Steven Millns, M.D., has joined Henry Ford Medical Center - Novi.

Dr. Millns

Millns is board-certified in Family Medicine. He provides care for all age groups, including pediatric care and immunizations; back-to-school and sports physical examinations; gynecological care and pelvic exams; and treatment of conditions such as high blood pressure, osteoporosis and arthritis.

Millns received his medical degree from Wayne State University and completed his residency at St. John Hospital and Medical Center, both in Detroit.

Before joining Henry Ford, he worked for 12 years in New Baltimore for St. John Health System, and for the past two years he practiced medicine in the Flint area.

Gallery plans reception

Jack Pioch, owner of Gallery Serendipity at 209 Walled Lake Drive in Walled Lake, will have a champagne reception from 5 to 10 p.m. July 11 featuring a collection of works by renowned Michigan artist Nancy Dendy.

Dendy, of Clarkston, is a graduate of the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills. The show will feature Dendy's new and earlier works. The public is invited to the reception and complimentary valet parking will be provided.

Dendy's show continues from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 13.

Grand opening set

Area shoppers are invited to attend the grand opening of a new business in Walled Lake Saturday. The Shadow Box, a new antiques, crafts and gift store located at 123 E. Walled Lake Road, will have its grand opening from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 12. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at 11 a.m.

The shop in Walled Lake's Historic Lakefront District features lace curtains, sun-catchers and the aromas of candles, potpourri and candy.

Owners Steve and Connie Godfrey both grew up in Walled Lake and wanted to create a store that was reminiscent of their childhood and also be a good use for the waterfront.

Students to present ideas

Michigan State University students will come to Walled Lake to present new and fresh ideas for Design Guidelines for Downtown Walled Lake next week.

The public is invited to a special presentation at 6 p.m. July 14 at the new Lakes Baptist Church, 309 Decker Road, in Walled Lake.

The program allows fourth- and fifth-year landscape architect students to visit and community and then put together ideas to improve the city's streetscape.

Weight loss program set

The Botsford Center for Health Improvement in Novi will be the site of a free summer special orientation from 10 a.m. to noon July 12 for those interested in learning more about weight loss.

Laurel Mellin, founder of the Solution weight loss program and recent author of "The Pathway," will provide a free orientation to the program at the center located at 39750 Grand River Ave.

The Solution was developed by Mellin at the University of California-San Francisco School of Medicine, where she is an associate clinical professor of family and community medicine and pediatrics.

To register for the event, call (248) 477-6100.

ATC Associates moves office

ATC Associates Inc., a national environmental consulting and engineering company, has relocated its Novi office to 46555 Humboldt Drive, Suite 100, in Novi.

To contact ATC's new office, call (800) 678-1923 or (248) 669-5140. Other ATC offices in Michigan are located in Grand Rapids, Saginaw and Detroit.

Cold Stone Creamery offers the ultimate sweet experience

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

The new Cold Stone Creamery that opened June 11 at Fountain Walk shopping center in Novi is not your average soda shop.

Although the numbers of different flavors are fewer than other popular ice cream stores, the combinations dessert lovers can put together at Cold Stone are infinite.

If you're like a kid in a candy shop when it comes to ice cream, you'll like this company's concept. The idea is to pick your ice cream or ice creams first, then decide what, if any, toppings to go with it – from macadamia nuts to pound cake, peanut butter and chocolate candy, coconut, fresh fruit and more.

However, each topping costs 49 cents after your first selection, so you don't want to "go nuts" on the number of items. A smaller portion or "Kid's Creation" is also available for children age 12 and under.

With the motto, "It's a great day for ice cream," Cold Stone Creamery has created a niche for itself in the ice cream business. With its flagship store on Times Square in New York City opening June 19, the company plans to introduce 300 new stores across the country.

The Fountain Walk store on Twelve Mile Road west of Novi Road is the fourth one in Michigan. The state will have a dozen stores by the end of the year and 25 by the end of 2004. Other Michigan stores are located in Birmingham, East Lansing and Grand Rapids.

Kevin and Michelle Adams of Livonia are the owners of the Novi store.

"My husband and I always wanted to start our own business," she said. "It's been a dream of ours. But we were having a hard time because we come from such different backgrounds. Kevin's an IT manager, so he was in computers, and I was in medicine working as a pacemaker technician.

"We were looking for something we could do together that we'd both love. And we researched everything – providing geriatric care, watering plants, day care, janitorial service, owning a video store. We also have a 2-year-old daughter, Kaitlyn, so we're very busy," she added.

Then, a trip to Arizona provided a breakthrough for the couple.

"My sister used to live in Phoenix, and while I was visiting her, she took me to this fabulous little ice cream store, Cold Stone Creamery. I thought I'd forget about it when I got home, but I was still talking about it a year later.

"I felt like there was a party going on there. I didn't want to leave," she said. Adams said there were people of all ages there, and employees also sing familiar songs, with special Cold Stone Creamery lyrics, for tips.

So, after discussing the business proposition at length, the Adams decided to open their own franchise.

"This is the perfect fit for Kevin and me. It has creative aspects about it, and we get to interact with customers in a personal way," she said.

The ice cream shop's name is derived from the way the ice cream concoctions are mixed – on a piece of frozen granite.

"A refrigerated unit is placed under the granite. After one hour, it develops frost. Then you can mix ice cream on it without it losing its shape and consistency," Adams explained.

Donald and Susan Sutherland of Tempe, Ariz., founded the franchise in the early 1980s.

"They weren't happy with their ice cream experiences, so they decided to venture out and create their own company," Adams explained.

The store offers everything from ice cream cones and sundaes to smoothies, shakes, malts, pies and cakes. Patrons can also take home a pint, quart or the Ultimate Bucket – a 48-ounce container of ice cream.

Cold Stone Creamery offers some unusual choices of ice cream, too, such as fresh banana, white chocolate, peanut butter and cinnamon.

Adams' favorite combination lately is cinnamon ice cream mixed with apple pie filling, graham cracker crust and whipped cream.

And, the company has a new flavor, cake batter ice cream, exclusive to Cold Stone Creamery and hitting the charts. "The kids dig it," Adams said. "One of the franchisees developed it, and it's our number one seller right now nationwide."

Employees make the ice cream, as well as the shop's waffle cones and brownies, fresh daily on site. And although "there's nothing fake, phony or fat-free about Cold Stone Creamery," according to Adams, the shop does offer a non-fat sweet cream yogurt and a sorbet. "We're working on providing a sugar-free ice cream, too," she noted.

The new Novi store seems to be a popular place to work, also. More than 60 people have already submitted their applications, according to Adams.

Employees are referred to as "crew members." "And, they're auditioned, not interviewed," Adams said.

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

Photo by John Heider

Michelle Adams, co-owner of Novi's Coldstone Creamery icecream shop, shows a healthy pat of butter pecan icecream, made fresh each day, in their Fountain Walk Plaza store.

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$300 million converts Hilton to Sheraton

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

For almost 20 years, the Novi Hilton has been a mainstay of the area's hotel industry with its prime location on Haggerty Road just a block north of Eight Mile. But the hotel now sports a new name on the building – Sheraton.

The Sheraton Detroit Novi was part of recent deal totaling about $300 million in which Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide in White Plains, N.Y., sold 15 hotels in several states to HEI Hospitality of Norwalk, Conn. The conversion was supposed to take place Jan. 1.

Ownership of the hotel transferred from Starwood to HEI June 24. HEI purchased the hotel in a joint venture with Prudential Real Estate Investors. The property is operated as the Sheraton Detroit Novi and will be managed by Smilerzzzz Hospitality, a subsidiary of the new owner.

Sheraton spent $4 million renovating all guest rooms in preparation for the conversion, according to Debra Schultz, general manager.

"We will spend another $1 million on the lobby, restaurant and meeting space within the next year," Schultz said.

Schultz came to the Novi location four years ago to oversee the changeover.

"This deal happened very quickly," Schultz said. "In fact, this was the fastest conversion in Sheraton history." Sheraton was established in 1935.

"We actually maintained the same management team of the previous hotel," she said.

The team includes Schultz; Tammy Paczkowski, director, operations; Bill Aprill, director, sales and marketing; Joan Kacir, director, catering; and Kathy Sabell, senior sales manager.

"I think the name change is a pretty big deal because we're a landmark," Aprill said. "When the Novi Hilton opened in 1985 there was not much else in the area," he said.

"The change is significant to us because along with a name change comes capital improvements," Aprill noted.

Management decided to name the hotel Sheraton Detroit Novi because many out-of-state travelers don't know Novi.

"I had to get approval from Sheraton to adopt this name. Normally, it would just be Sheraton Novi," Aprill explained.

The Sheraton staff organized a reception July 2 to introduce the new name to nearby merchants.

"The concept behind the event was to invite our neighbors," Aprill said. The hotel has 238 rooms, one less than it used to have with the addition of a suite called the Club Room on the Club Floor.

"A parlor was converted into a suite for corporate clients," Aprill said.

"We will serve breakfast in the morning and cocktails in the evening Monday through Friday in the Club Room," he noted.

The Starwood Floor is reserved for preferred guests and is part of a frequent flyer program.

"We have the largest ballroom in the area and can seat up to 800 people for an event," Aprill said. The hotel staff can assist with traditional western weddings as well as kosher, Indian and Middle Eastern weddings.

"We do a ton of kosher weddings," Aprill said.

The hotel features the DaVinci Market restaurant, a pool, hot tub, sauna, sun deck and fitness center.

Aprill noted that the Novi area has a lot of Hilton products, such as Doubletree Hotels and Embassy Suites. "So at least people have a choice now," he said.

The hotel will have a more formal introductory event for the community in September.

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

Photo by Pam Fleming

The familiar Novi Hilton at 21111 Haggerty Road just north of Eight Mile has a new name on the outside of the building. The hotel converted to the Sheraton Detroit Novi June 24. The conversion was part of a sale by Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc., to HEI Hospitality totaling about $300 million and involving 12 hotels in several states. Pictured at a July 2 reception in which the hotel staff invited neighboring merchants are, from left, Joan Kacir, director, catering; Debra Schultz, general manager; Bill Aprill, director, sales and marketing; and Tammy Paczkowski, director, operations.

Oliver/Hatcher completes expansion for state's largest Anheuser-Busch distributor

A major expansion and modernization of Michigan's largest Anheuser-Busch beer distributor, located in Romulus, has been completed by Oliver/Hatcher Construction, a design/build firm of Wixom.

The $3 million project at Central Distributors of Beer, Anheuser-Busch wholesaler for western Wayne County, included 11,050 square feet of new office space, renovation of 10,300 square feet of existing space and the addition of a 10,500 square foot controlled environment warehouse (cooler).

The new lobby at Central Distributors could easily pass for the chic lobby of a prestigious advertising firm. "A great amount of planning and detail went into every aspect," said Paul Hatcher, president of Oliver/Hatcher, "from the quarry tile wall in the lobby featuring a waterfall to the display cases exhibiting the Anheuser-Busch heritage lining the walls to the training center. Central Distributors has created a showcase that Oliver/Hatcher was proud to construct."

The new controlled environment cooler adds some 20 percent to the warehouse capacity at Central Distributors, bringing the total to 650,000 cases and 40,000 draft units (kegs).

Central Distributors supplies all of the major Anheuser-Busch brands to some 1,700 retail outlets in western Wayne County.

Their warehouse capacity – about a 15 day supply for their distribution area – and sales volume ranks Central Distributors among the top 30 Anheuser-Busch beer distributors in the nation.

"Oliver/Hatcher was chosen for the project because of the 'feel' we had about their people and their philosophy," said Dan Johns, retired senior vice-president of Central Distributors who returned to Central to handle the construction project for them.

"It was absolutely the right choice. Communication was really good, including involvement from people at the top at Oliver/Hatcher," said Johns.

A major constraint in the project was that interior work be finished before the summer season began, usually in May or June, according to the onset of warm weather.

The project progressed on schedule over 10 months and on budget, while allowing day-to-day operations to continue. That meant weekend work to avoid peak delivery times, keeping loading doors and delivery routes open at all times, and completion of new offices first to provide working space while existing offices were renovated.

In addition to new offices, there is a new training center with capacity for 184, a point-of-sale storage bin area, repackaging room, exterior patio and exercise room.

Central Distributors of Beer started business in Detroit soon after Prohibition was abolished in a 1,400 square foot office and two trucks. Its present expanded facility, at 28100 Gorsuch Road in Romulus, covers more than 200,000 square feet, located on 13 acres, and is headed by owner and President Karen Wilson, granddaughter of founder Jack Gorsuch.

AeroPlex Two multi-use warehouse completed

Continuing the surge of commercial and industrial development surrounding the expanded Detroit Metropolitan Airport, Oliver/Hatcher Construction has completed AeroPlex Two, a 300,000 square foot, multi-use warehouse/distribution facility for Nemer Property Group, of Southfield.

The facility is the second warehouse building in Nemer's $65 million AeroPlex Park development at Harrison and Hildenbrandt roads in Romulus.

AeroPlex has been designed to accommodate medium to large sized logistics, distribution and air cargo businesses by offering:

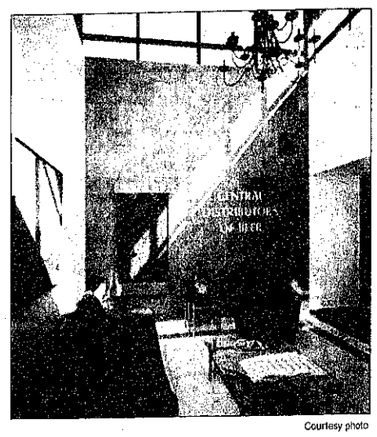
- Flexible space with a high ratio of dock doors
- Unparalleled truck maneuverability
- High-image office entrances
- Flexibility for growth only achievable within a park of this scale.

The AeroPlex facility is characteristic of the new multi-use, expansive warehouses in which Oliver / Hatcher Construction of Wixom, Michigan, has specialized.

Larry Nemer, president of Nemer Property Group chose the Romulus location due to its location just one-half mile east of the Detroit Metropolitan Airport with convenient access to the interstate freeway system.

Nemer has leased 40 percent of the AeroPlex Two building to Schenker, Inc.

The AeroPlex One building, identical in size to AeroPlex Two, is leased to Eagle Global Logistics, Evergreen Global Logistics and GeoLogistics.



Courtesy photo

The new reception area at Central Distributors of Beer features a striking design of marble, tile, frosted glass and cascading waterfall.

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CLASS NOTES

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

Wildcat Consulting House a success

■ Class teaches students many new aspects of the real world

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The Wildcat Consulting House program, which was held in the spring this past school year, was a rousing success, according to Novi High School Business Teacher Debra Harris.

The Wildcat Consulting House is a consulting firm made up of only Novi High students whose overall goal was to do a project that minimally required them to:

• conduct research appropriately to solve a problem by using the Internet to search;

• make telephone calls to find out information and conduct surveys;

• organize data into appropriate forms such as tables, chart and graphs; and

• prepare a written and oral presentation of their final recommendations and projects.

Harris has been co-teaching the program with English teacher Peggy Bassett for the past five years. It is run through a class called technical communications.

"We did the Wildcat Consulting House in the spring instead of the fall last year and as usual, the kids got a lot out of it," Harris said. "They were just overwhelmed with the feeling of doing something that was real, and they learned a lot about communication and that they had to be patient."

According to Harris, the students learned that their timeframe wasn't necessarily the business's timeframe and getting a response wasn't necessarily at the kids' demands. "The kids are used to that immediate response," she said. "When they were working with the businesses they had to learn that it took a couple days to get callbacks or they had to send a letter and put it in writing versus just doing something over the phone."

Before the project started, a letter was sent out to all the members of the Novi Chamber of Commerce to solicit projects which the students could do within the course. The different projects that came about from the letter ranged from Web page design, to Web page evaluation, to marketing research, to brochure design, to mass mailing of fliers, among others. One group even worked on developing an employee handbook.

"Businesses come up with the projects and we select from those projects what we think the kids would be capable of handling and they do it within the confines of this class," Harris said. "Whatever the finished product is, they then have a final presentation to the business where they do an oral presentation with a PowerPoint presentation that goes along with it, and they give them a written report of all their findings and all their backgrounds."

An example of a presentation was a group of students that did a Web page design, told the business what they considered, why they went the way they did and they presented the Web page and explained how to keep it up to date.

"A lot of the businesses wanted the kids to come and witness the atmosphere of the facilities and even get a tour of what their business was like and have a good feel of their business as a whole before they worked with them on the projects," Harris said. "We think that the class worked better in the fall than in the spring, though. We're worried that to go again next fall after we just did it in the spring, we wouldn't get enough projects, so we're not running it at all next year. We have to have enough students for two sections to do the class and we only had enough for one section this year, so rather than run it with just one teacher, which we didn't want to do, we decided to hold off one year and then start it up again the year after."

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

BUSINESSES / STUDENTS

A list of all the businesses which participated in the Novi High School Wildcat Consulting House and all the students who worked with those businesses:

Novi Town Center 8
• AJ Morris
• Dallas Odem
• Kaarle Erikson
• Dane Bullen
• Calvin Kashat
• Ryan Costello
• Eric Lyons
• Andrew Summerville

Paynter Floors, Inc.
• Dennis Lin
• Tae Kono
• Matt Ridley

Carrier, Blackman & Associates
• Jennifer McKenna
• Dan Dixon
• Chris Kovacinski

Little Hornbook Day School
• Mitch Kelly
• Erica Baxter
• Kim Kopeika

Global Office Solutions
• Dana Hicks
• Keith Carroll
• Samantha Kelley
• Christy Brooks
• Trevor Hoover
• Matt Jezior

ENT Surgical Associates
• Kyle Anderson
• Cindy Tran
• Kaori Matuura

Hands on Health, L.L.C.
• Arlie Jirasek
• Amelia Burkhardt
• Mike Fohl

Westside Photographic
• Laura Kasik
• Anise Hayes
• Barret Kaltz

Hart Design
• Steve Manza
• Jeff Berry
• Kyle Teevens
• Megan Wooster

Superior Materials/U.S. Concrete
• Ed Anglin
• Jeff Szalony
• Manny Hehar
• Colin Hogan

Soccerzone
• Chadd Neale
• Ashley Petroskey
• JJ Czapski
• Scott Utley

Harmless asbestos being removed from Village Oaks & Orchard Hills

■ Both schools receiving new carpet and tiles

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Village Oaks and Orchard Hills Elementary Schools will look a little different from the inside this fall, as both will have new carpeting and tile installed. The main reason for the change, however, is not for cosmetic reasons, but it's to remove some non-friable asbestos tiles, which were put into the buildings when they were first built.

According to Steve Sherwood of Pro-Tech Environmental, non-friable asbestos is not harmful unless it is broken, in which case, asbestos fibers could be released into the air. "We were hired to come in and remove all the asbestos floor tile at Village Oaks, and we were asked to just get it out of the area and make it safe to work for children and for teachers," he said. "We're getting it out of here and different contractors are putting in all new carpeting."

Sherwood said that the presence of the non-friable asbestos was discovered when Nova Environmental Inc. did testing on both of the schools. "The whole flooring had asbestos – all the classrooms and hallways, but it's not harmful though," he said.

Steve Woodman, who is the job supervisor for Hazar Bestos Corp., is working on Orchard Hills. He also said that the non-friable asbestos is not harmful.

"This is just basic floor tile that they put in the school when it was built," he said. "In some areas of Orchard Hills there was bad tile, but there was non-contaminated tile on top of it and other parts have carpet on top of it."

Orchard Hills was built in 1958, and at the time the danger of asbestos wasn't really known. According to Woodman, it wasn't until the late 1970s and early '80s that legislation started to take notice of it.

"The asbestos floor tile in both schools is considered non-friable, which is harmless," Woodman said. "We're just being on the safe side and taking it out."

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

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Novi superintendent's goals and initiatives adopted for 2003-04

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Community School District board of education carried a motion last week, to adopt Superintendent Emmett Lippe's district goals and initiatives for the 2003-04 school year. A list of the goals and an explanation by Lippe are as follows:

■ To have each school achieve Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as defined by the State Department of Education.

"Each school has to do better the following year. This goal states that we will do what is necessary to try to help schools achieve the AYP and also do what we can to help each student of course achieve the AYP."

■ To implement a District Achievement Team dedicated toward encouraging and supporting the School Achievement Teams in their efforts to:

• Align the school curriculum with Michigan Standards and Benchmarks.

• Assure the teachers are teaching the curriculum.

• Achieve AYP.

• Provide appropriate instructional initiatives where appropriate.

"Each school in the district will have a team made up of teachers, the principal and parents which will have roughly about six, seven, eight or nine members. Each team will organize themselves to take a look at the data for that school and to ask themselves the questions about whether the curriculum is aligned, and they have ways to do that to find out if the teaching is aligned with what the state department is suggesting they teach. They would also take a look at the data to see where there might be gaps as far as each child, each classroom and each school as to whether or not they are making the adequate progress that they ought to be making. This would be implemented on a regular basis so there are no big surprises. We also have a district wide achievement team that each one of these school achievement teams will report to. Once a year that school achievement team will make a report to the board of education relative to how they are doing and what they have done in order to make the AYP."

■ To increase the alignment of curriculum between the middle school and high school, to maintain the instructional initiatives of the high school and to assure common goals among the four member teaching teams at the middle school.

"One of these goals is to make sure that the K-4 buildings all reach the fifth grade. Then they go through the 5-6 building which will have AYP. Then the crucial transition is really between the middle school and the high school because there the stakes are much more important. Young people will be thinking about going to college and making career choices and we just want to make absolutely sure that the curriculum is well articulated between the middle school and high school. Not that it's not at the moment, but we want to make sure it does happen. Within the middle school itself, we wanted to make sure that the teachers have a number of different teams that have common goals."

■ To implement the data driven assessment system as approved by the Novi Board of Education.

"This is to make sure that whatever we come up with at the next school board meeting on August 14, we make sure that we do a good job of implementing whatever it is that the board approves. We have to make sure the system delivers reports that could be user friendly and can be effectively analyzed by the building achievement team. We also have to make sure that that assessment does a good job of measuring whether our students and our curriculum is aligned with the Michigan standards of bench marks."

■ To redistrict the K-4 attendance areas by the 2004 opening of school to more evenly distribute students to each school.

"What we have is a lot of buildings in different pockets in our school district. The board now has to decide to even consider whether they want to even study this issue. So, there will probably be a presentation some time soon to the board relative to the need for the board to even consider that. If in fact the board is convinced that it needs to take a look at it, next year they will take a look at the options and alternatives how we draw district boundary lines. The board at this time is simply going to consider whether they want to even have that as a goal. If they do adopt it, the question would be how do we realign to equalize the attendance in each one of our schools as much as we can?"

■ To successfully move Novi Woods into their completely renovated school by the opening of the school year and to conduct a dedication ceremony early in the fall.

"I think this is on track to happen. We hope to have that building done in the first part of August. There is still a lot of work to be done, but that is the goal, to make sure we get that project done in time so we can start school in that building as opposed to having Woods stay at the Meadows building another year. Once we have it completed, then the Woods principal, Pam Quitiquit will establish a date to have a dedication at that facility."

■ To keep on budget and within the completion timeline for the high school addition and renovation project.

"We want to make sure we continue to be on budget and on timeline and so far we are. We simply want to maintain that because we have two more years of work at the high school with the renovation project. We think we know what we are going to run into, but you never know for sure and students will be attending that school. We want to make sure that by fall of 2005 we have that project completed, it's on budget and that the students are able to go into that school year with a finished product. That's an important goal because we don't want to disrupt that high school any more then we have to."

■ To adopt a balanced budget for fiscal year 2004-05 that includes minimal decreases in the educational program and maintains fund equity at an acceptable level.

"That goals says pretty much all of it. We know that the state of Michigan has some challenges and each school district has some challenges right now, so if we adopt a budget for next year, we will try to keep reductions and budgets at a very close minimal and that we don't have to borrow funds. That's really what we are trying to establish, that we have adequate funds to keep the school going and to not cut out programs."

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

APPOINTMENTS

The Novi Community School District appointed some of its members to different positions last week.

Finance Committee: George Kortlandt, Dave Brown and Julie Abrams
Oakland Schools Legislative Liaison: Carol Elfring
President: Bruce Bagdady
John Strait is Vice President:
John Strait
Secretary: Julie Abrams
Treasurer: George Kortlandt

Child Development Course at high school approved

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Community School District Board of Education approved a Child Development Course of Study last month, that will teach Novi High students about child development and care. The research and design committee for the course must now present it to the Curriculum Council in early October for approval before it can move forward with the implementation process at the school. The Curriculum Council is a group of teachers, community members and administrators, who meet on a regular basis to look at the curriculum that is involved in all of the classes in the whole district.

According to Heidi Stephenson, who wrote the curriculum for the program, if the Curriculum Council approves it, the child development classes will start in the 2004-05 school year and the child care class will start in 2005-06.

"The reason we are doing that is because the school will be completely finished with the construction then and also, in order for the kids to take that last class they have to have the first two classes," Stephenson said. "So, we are setting up the first two classes the first year and then by the time we have a group of kids who are able to go into the child care class, we will have the center ready and kids ready to work in it."

Students who will be allowed to participate in the child development classes will be sophomores and juniors. In order to participate in the third class, the child care course, students will have had to take at least one complete year of the child development classes and they have to be at least 17 years old.

The course will start off in the first class, which is Child Development I. There, students will learn development in the womb of children, pregnancy, the importance of different foods and help for the mother and for the father. They will talk about birth options and they will go into the intellectual, physical, social and emotional development of children from birth up until four years old.

Child Development II will go into the preschool stage, where four, five and six year olds will begin talking about intellectual, social, emotional and physical development. Students will learn about things they can do to help those children and also some special topics like working with children with special needs.

At the Child Care Course, students will be working mostly with preschool children and will be talking about developing lesson plans for working with children. They will be talking about discipline, some of the different types of discipline, how to read stories to children and the research that goes along with that and how to make art activities for them and different ways of helping them to learn.

Stephenson said that the idea of this class first came about seven years ago when she was first hired into Novi Public Schools. "We did not have a life management program at all at Novi High School," she said. "They hired me to build a program and one of the classes that we wanted was a child development/child care course. One of our current classes is called contemporary relationships and that class has a little bit of child development in it, but not enough to satisfy the state guidelines for a child development program."

At the time, Novi High was the only school in the Kensington Valley Conference that did not have a child development program. "We worked really hard the past two years to develop a curriculum and get it to the point where we could implement it," Stephenson said. "We thought the perfect time would be when we were building on to the high school so we could just build a brand new classroom as we did it."

The first step in the process was get the curriculum from the state. Once that was done, Stephenson and other members of the Research and Design Committee spoke to Brighton and Monroe High Schools. "Those schools were extremely helpful," Stephenson said. "We spoke to them in lengths about what their programs entailed and what they did to get it started in their community. After we did that, I wrote the child development curriculum and I took it to the department chairs at the high school. The department chairs okayed it in October of 2002 to go to the school board."

A quick survey with graduating seniors at Novi High confirmed what Stephenson suspected all along. There was a tremendous interest in the course among the student body. "We did the survey in May right before they left and we asked how many of them were actually going into a child centered program," she said. "It was really overwhelming. It was about 75 percent of our seniors right now were thinking they were going into some type of child centered career, like elementary school teachers or even pediatric radiologists. We also talked to the underclassmen and we had a really good feeling because about 60 percent of those kids said they were interested in the classes as well. If it's approved, I think the first year is going to be really big and I hope it grows from there."

Fashion Show at Music and Motor Festival!

Jeannette Tiso, who will be a senior at Novi High this fall, will be holding a fashion show on Saturday, July 26 at the Music and Motor Festival starting at 3 p.m. The show's purpose is to display her own line of clothing, which she designs and sells. For more information, visit www.vintageguru.com.

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the home towns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

OPINION

novinews.com

That's debatable

And now there are three - candidates for mayor, that is. Who will lead the City of Novi after the Nov. 4 election – Michelle Bononi, Lou Csordas or Janice Sheridan?

Voters will make that decision, and we want to help that be an informed one by the time they enter the booths that Tuesday.

What better way to do that than by having a good old fashioned debate between the three candidates? There's plenty at stake here, and a forum offering each candidate the opportunity to state their views is a great way to let residents decide who is best suited for the position.

The folks over at Southwest Oakland Cable Commission (SWOCC) have agreed to host the event, tape it and re-air it on the local cable channel in the weeks prior to the election.

Next up is contacting the candidates and setting the date and time.

After that, we'll need questions to ask them. That's where you come in. Submit your questions for the mayoral candidates and we'll compile the toughest and most revealing ones.

E-mail to cstone@ht.homecomm.net; fax to (248) 349-9832; or mail to The Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167.

Stay tuned for the debate details...

Photo by John Heider

Practice makes perfect

Scott Hokett, far left, and other members of the Novi High School drumline practice Monday morning in the parking lot of the school. Members of the drumline and marching band are already practicing and planning for the upcoming school season.

GOVERNMENT

Per reader request, we have compiled a list so you can get in touch with your local and regional senators and representatives. Their accessibility allows you as readers to voice your concerns directly and allows them to better represent their districts. If you feel we have missed anyone, contact us at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113.

United States Senate

Carl Levin (D-Detroit)
269 Russell Senate Office Building
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Local office:
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Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing)
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FAX: (202) 225-2667
Local office:
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Suite 161
Livonia, MI 48152

Governor

Jennifer Granholm (D-Northville Twp.)
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Lansing, MI 48909
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State Senate

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LETTERS

Joint goals overlooked

Two years ago residents of South Lake Drive and other area streets participated on a joint task force with City of Novi Manager Rick Helwig and other city employees and consultants to identify ways to reduce traffic speed and volumes. Despite South Lake Drive being a residential street, it carries anywhere from 4,000 to 9,000 vehicles per day with 85 percent of vehicles exceeding the 25 mph limit. While this level of speeding is not unique among area residential streets, the volume of speeding vehicles results in more speeding tickets being written by police on South Lake Drive than any other street in the city.

Residents spent countless hours working on the task force and lobbying city officials both in public and private to educate them on the speeding problem and offer ideas for improving the road design. Despite all the resident's time and energy, the City is moving forward with spending $1.7 million to re-build the road without addressing the vehicle speed and cut through volume issues. No speed tables, turn restrictions, horizontal deflections, neck downs, or other features proven to calm traffic will be included with the new road.

Sure the problems on South Lake Drive are not easy to solve. All involved agree that emergency vehicle access must be maintained while calming other traffic. However that should not be allowed as an excuse for recklessly spending $1.7 million without any significant projected reduction in traffic speed or volume.

It's an awful feeling to be invited to participate in the process of finding a solution to the South Lake Drive traffic problem, only to watch your ideas be discarded and nothing done to address excessive vehicle speeds and volumes. City Council must immediately take fiscal responsibility and put the project on hold until a road design is developed that will meet the goals that city and the task force participants jointly agreed to two years ago. Anything less will set a new low in City Council leadership and responsibility to the citizens of Novi.

Chris House
South Lake Drive Resident

Partcipate in politics

Your (Phil Power) recent column concerning voter participation requires a response. I strongly support the proponents for consolidation of Michigan elections. I also agree with Mr. Powers "To lump together all education races into one single election held in odd-numbered years."

In everyday America, voting, political participation, activism, personal civic responsibility, is not a high value. Our society is one of instant results, gratification, communication, (cellphones, e-mail, faxes, beepers, cable TV, 100 call waiting) etc. We drive in our personal vehicles (over 50 percent SUVs) with little contact with other people, thus becoming more isolated, less human.

Voting is empowerment! Empowerment is control over our political system. Americans demand their rights, but seldom discuss responsibility. Americans are not politically motivated. Their votes can be bought, manipulated, on any issue by those who plan, have the financial means, to sell to the public.

School, city, county elections are not glamorous, slick, therefore they are not so sellable to the public. The monthly meetings are lightly attended. Given a choice between attending these meetings or watching Monday night N.F.L. football, Red Wings or college sports, 99 percent of Americans will choose sports. More Americans watch the Super Bowl than vote for the presidency!

Americans have become like controlled robots, failing to utilize their God-given intellect in making political decisions. The bottom line for most Americans is failure to be responsible citizens.

We Americans have just been sold a war that was not necessary, by a president and his public relations machine. In the name of freedom and democracy. We were led to believe that we must invade, occupy Iraq for the freedom of Iraqi people.

I fail to understand how a war – occupation, death, casualties, billions of taxpayer dollars – for "freedom" is any different from the Nazis, communists, monarchists, socialists, tyrants, conquerors throughout history.

Just think, had the voters in Florida been responsible voters, simply punched the correct hole, G.W. would not have been appointed president.

I suggest to the Republican Party that they choose a capable candidate in 2004 to replace this war mongering, international war criminal.

My neighbors, fellow Americans, your political participation, vote is what makes our America strong. Without you, the politically educated individual, political decisions will always be controlled by those citizens who are active!

Mario Nesr Fundarski
Novi

Senior All Night Party thanks

The Novi High School Senior All-Night Party was held the night of graduation, June 7, 2003 and a wonderful time was had by all. The Senior All- Night Party Committee, on behalf of the students and parents, wishes to gratefully acknowledge the numerous businesses and individuals in Novi and the surrounding area who generously contributed to making this an unforgettable evening. Our graduates fully realized the encouragement and support from this Novi Community. The Party and prizes would not have been possible without these donations.

We would extend a special thank you to Jim Clear, Linder Company, for allowing us to use space to construct the decorations and Plot 1 who made several elaborate signs that were used in this year's theme "Cruising into the Future". Their willingness to help the 2003 senior class made the party a huge success.

Our additional thanks go to following contributors who donated money, gift certificates, supplies or other services: Dr. Herbert Elfring, DDS, A&M Label, Ah Wok Restaurant, Paul Albinelli, Applebees of Novi, Aristeo Construction, Averill Accounting and Tax Service, Big Boy Restaurant of Novi, Border Cantina, Borders Books & Music, Carrabba's, Carol's Upholstery, Church of the Holy Family, John Goodman of Coldwell Banker, Cooper, Shifman, Gabe, & Seymour, Cougar Sales & Rental, Coward Care Center, Detroit Medical Center, Detroit Edison, Doinidis Chiropractic Life Center, Don's of Traverse City, Double Tree Novi, E and E Manufacturing, Elite Eyecare Centers Canton, Faith Community United Presbyterian Church, Fanning Howel Associates, Fendt Transit Mix, Inc, Gina Agosta Hair Color & Design, Goldstein Dental Group, Goodrich Theatre, Greg's Professional Painting, Inc, Hiller's Market, Intier Automotive, Emagine Theatre, Husky Injection Molding Systems, Innovate Technology Consulting Group, Italian Epicure Restaurant, J.C.K. & Associates, Inc, Jack Anglin Company, JJ Poured Walls, Kessler, Nielsen & Angelocci, DDS, PC, Kim Tomas Capello, Larsen Jewelry Design, Links of Novi, Dr. Emmett Lippe, LOC Credit Union, Mahajan Family Denistry, Meadowbrook Cleaners, Meadowbrook Veterinary, Navetta Masonry, New Peking Chinese Restaurant, Novi Bowl, Novi Community Schools, Novi Expo Center, Novi Fence & Supply Co., Novi Athletic Boosters, Novi Yacht Club, Olga's Kitchen, Dr. Peter Maly, DDS, Phyl's Barber Styling, Platos Closet, Providence Hospital and Medical Center, Red Robin Restaurant, Reelsound Audio Services, Salon Luna, Salon Agape', Skanska, Spillane Orthodontics, St. James Catholic Church, Staples, Inc, Senator Nancy Cassiss, Stiles Chiropractic, Technical Hot and Cold, The Sports Club of Novi, Thelen Landscaping, Toll Brothers, Town & Country Eyecare, Twelve Oaks Mall, Varsity Lincoln Mercury, Debbie Sunden (Creative Memories), Paula Phieffer, Elana Vrettas, Iris Lokar, Tim Sawmiller, Mr./Mrs. Ascenzo, Mr./Mrs. Southworth, Mr./Mrs. Bavarskas, Mr./Mrs. Churella, Utopia Salon & Spa. Diamond Jim Brady's of Novi, Red Hot and Blue BBQ, Subway Sandwiches, Marif's Italian Bakery, Santino's Place for Pasta, Papa Romano's Pizza, Hubgry Howie's Pizza, Local Color Brewing Co, Pizza Hut, Little Caesars Pizza, Maisano's Italian Restaurant, Panera Bread, Novi Pizza Company, DB's Mongolian BBQ., TGI Friday's. Cottage Inn Pizza, Cinnabon, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Chili's Grill & Bar, Jets Pizza, Grady's American Grill, Domino's Pizza, Farmer Jack, Steve & Rocky's , De Ros Delicacies, Meijer, Inc, Food & Wine Bazaar, Olive Garden Italian Restaurant, Pita Café, Buffalo Wild Wings, On the Border Mexican Grill & Cantina, Leo's Coney Island, Mr. Pita, Boston Market, Mesquite Creek Steakhouse, Sam's Club, Dunkin Donuts & Baskin Robbins, Coca-Cola Bottling, The Pepsi Bottling Group, Bucca Di Beppo, Oakland Community College, Dry Ice, Mr./Mrs. Xiao, The Tennis & Golf Co., Red Lobster, Krogers, Scotty Hunt, Sara Taggart and Gordon's Food Service.

We would be remiss if we did not thank the parents and family members of the Class of 2003 who volunteered so many hours on this event, planning, designing, constructing, and working the night of the party. This year's Senior All-Night Party would not have been possible without the commitment of so many parents and the community. We would also like to thank the Junior Parents who gave their time Saturday evening to make sure everything was ready for the Seniors and Volunteers when they arrived.

Finally, we would like to thank Dr. Jennifer Cheal, Jamii Wilkins, Randy Gawel, Matt Outlaw, Officer Hart and especially Norm Norgren and his technical crew, Matt, Steve & Nick, for their support the night of the party. And lastly to the helpful custodial staff who assisted us in the wee hours of the night.

To one and all, a heartfelt and grateful THANK YOU!!!!!!

Carol Elfring and Cindi Doster
Senior All Night Party Committee Co-Chairs

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

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

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

HomeTown Communications Network

OTHER OPINIONS

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

"Whiskey's for drinkin'. Water's for fightin'."

Mark Twain was right. Water — whether lapping our shores in the Great Lakes, rippling in our inland streams and lakes or running cool and dark in our underground aquifers — defines Michigan unlike any other place on earth. Even images taken from satellites in outer space spangle Michigan in a setting of deep blue fresh water.

For us today, water is the source of our identity, the savior of our farm economy, the sparkle of our tourist business. Folks in Michigan might now be jealous of places where they pump valuable oil right out of the ground, but I suspect that 50 years from now our water will be substantially more valuable gallon for gallon than petroleum.

Phil Power

For much the rest of the world, however, water is literally a matter of life and death. The global shortage for clean, fresh water is a harsh reality today and will get far worse in the near future. All around the globe, people are just itching to get hold of our water. Which is why we need to get our act together about water — right now, before the thirsty around the world unite to glom on to it.

Once Gov. Jennifer Granholm and state senate majority leader Ken Sikkema get through snapping at each other over the state's budget, they should put their heads together and make maintaining control of our water a big-time bipartisan priority. Gov. Granholm is on record as wanting to preserve our water resources, and Sen. Sikkema, who used to head the West Michigan Environmental Coalition, is one of the few Republicans around with environmentalist credentials. A deal between the two is both obvious and important.

Problem is, our water and how to maintain control over it is not a simple matter. It's a very complex tangle of state, regional, national and international law, politics and regulation. A leading authority in Michigan is my old friend, Tom Baldini, who for eight years was the U.S. Chair of the International Joint Commission, the US-Canada body that by treaty has jurisdiction over all water issues along our borders.

According to Baldini, the issue cannot be solved just by Michigan alone. Nor can it be completely resolved among the eight states and two Canadian provinces bordering the Great Lakes. And it certainly should not be dumped into the hands of the feds. (Think a moment. How many votes in Congress do Michigan and the other Great Lakes states have? How many do California, Florida and Texas have? QED.)

Back in 1985, at the urging of then Gov. James Blanchard, the Great Lakes governors and the premiers of the two Canadian provinces bordering the lakes signed the Great Lakes Charter, an informal agreement to consult with each other on water diversion issues. One idea was to conduct an inventory of water resources and their use. But the farm lobby, scared that farmers would be blamed for using (and wasting) too much water, killed that. Each state was also supposed to come up with a water conservation plan, as well, but that idea got, um, hung out to dry.

In 2001, the Great Lakes state governors and premiers signed something called Annex 2001, a non-binding (of course) agreement to develop a blueprint for water management that has never been fully implemented. Worse, most authorities think Annex 2001 is unlikely to stand up in court, if challenged.

The prevailing national legal authority dates back to 1986, when Congress passed the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The Act says there shall be no new or increased diversion of great lakes water without the unanimous approval of all Great Lakes governors. That's fine, but it's a matter of debate how much protection WRDA really provides.

Worse, there is an international dimension to the problem, and it's called the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), a binding treaty on the United States that says no one state can inhibit free international trade. The International Joint Commission took NAFTA into consideration when it prepared the definitive report on "Protection of Waters of the Great Lakes." The report concluded that if we want to control our water, we've got to adopt rules and practices for water use and diversion that are consistent for Michigan and for other states and provinces around the Great Lakes.

And it's exactly those rules and practices that are the biggest stumbling block, whether between Michigan and the other Great Lakes states and Canadian provinces or between the governments and the various constituencies that have economic interests in keeping things unregulated and unmeasured.

According to Gov. Granholm, "The lakes are ours and we're going to keep them." Fair enough, Governor, but you've got to take the lead in assembling a coalition that is powerful enough to do the heavy lifting required.

Phil Power is the Chairman of the Board of the company that owns this newspaper. He would be pleased to get your reactions to this column either at (734) 953-2047 or at ppower@homecomm.net.

Hear•say that's fit for print

hear•say n. 1. Information heard from another.

That's Webster's II New College Dictionary's definition of a new feature of this newspaper.

The idea was passed along from our general manager, Rich Perlberg, who has seen it generate much interest in other publications.

Cal Stone

Hear•say will be tidbits, for lack of a better word, of information that wouldn't warrant a full-blown article but it's still interesting stuff for readers. For example:

• Was that really actor **Kevin Costner** spotted at the Farmer Jack at 10 Mile and Meadowbrook this past Sunday? The store manager wouldn't confirm it, but we've had enough phone calls from giddy women to confirm our suspicions. Costner is currently promoting his new western, Open Range, and our own Sam Eggleston has lined up an interview next week with the Oscar-winner.

• That is indeed **Rahul Sanghvi**, MD, featured in the cover story of the latest Kaiser Permanente newsletter. The orthopedic surgeon at Santa Clara Medical Center is the 41-year-old son of Novi City Councilman Mav Sanghvi.

Rahul is quoted as saying, "I can make surgery decisions for members based on need rather than outside issues like a patient's ability to pay."

In case you're wondering, that newsletter goes out to three million members.

• Our own State Representative, **Craig DeRoche**, was seen last Thursday personally delivering thank yous (framed State of Michigan seals signed by legislators) to several local eateries who helped the freshman out.

DeRoche's first bill, House bill 482! (dealing with election consolidation), passed last week. House tradition calls for bringing treats for colleagues after a legislator passes their first bill.

Lansing lawmakers had a taste of Novi, courtesy of Local Color Brewery, No. VI Chop House, Mesquite Creek, Steve and Rocky's and Maria's Bakery.

Get the idea? Nothing heavy duty. Just a break here and there from what newspapers have become and a bit of a revival of what they used to be – publications that helped promote a sense of community for their readers.

Let me know what you think and pass it along.

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

GUEST COLUMN

Great time for kids at Fest

One of the best things that any community event can provide is a wholesome family atmosphere for families to bring their kids. The Music and Motorfest has been providing just that for over sixteen years. This year will be no different. The Festival Board has worked extremely hard to more for the kids this year than any other prior festival.

After the opening ceremonies on Thursday evening July 24, the daylight hours of Friday, Saturday and Sunday will offer a plethora of activities for the kids. Masters Rides will set up a carnival that will run from Thursday evening through Sunday evening on the corner of Grand River and Market Street. Always fun this carnival specializes in rides the kids will enjoy.

If more tranquil is your taste, perhaps a bit of fishing. Yes fishing, right there on Main Street. A special Trout pond will be set up for some catch and release fun.

For the more adventurous at heart, a rock wall will test you climbing abilities or if you fancy more athletic skills, kids of all ages will love the Detroit Pistons Summer Hoops Tour. The tour is centered around a customized 18-wheel, semi-truck which features six outdoor basketball hoops hosting fan shooting challenges on one side, basketball video game consoles on the opposite panel and a Pistons and Shock memorabilia Hall of Fame, including the actual 1989 and 1990 World Championship trophies, inside the trailer.

Perhaps the most unique feature of the Summer Hoops Tour is a life-sized, animatronic George Blaha, the Voice of the Detroit Pistons for 28 years, who will be seated on "press row" and will do the play-by-play call of a significant Pistons moment.

There is plenty to see and do that doesn't involve all that strenuous work as well. The Shriners' Bus will be on hand for tours as well and, true to form that means plenty of clowns for the kids to enjoy.

Speaking of Clowns, Bozo will also be on hand for a special show on Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. Not just any Bozo either, the original Bozo the Clown. Some of us kids a little bit older can relive those old memories as Bozo and George Young perform a special show on the Road Runner Stage.

Again this year the Brighthouse Networks High Speed Demonstration Trailer will be there with plenty of giveaways including free bicycle helmets to kids (while supplies last) during the Ice Cream Social. Oh, did we mention Ice Cream? That is Saturday from noon until 3:00pm. Free ice cream for the kids provided by Baskin Robbins and the Michigan Milk Producers. If that doesn't satisfy your sweet tooth, you can swing by the Dunkin' Donut's booth for a little Donut Dipping.

There's plenty to see and do at this years Music and Motorfest. For a complete guide to what's happening, look for the insert in an upcoming Hometown Newspaper or check out the festival Web site at www.musicandmotorfest.com

We look forward to seeing you at the Music and Motorfest, Main Street, Downtown Novi July 24-27!

Bob McCann is one of the organizers of the Music & Motor Fest. He can be reached at (248) 349-1950.

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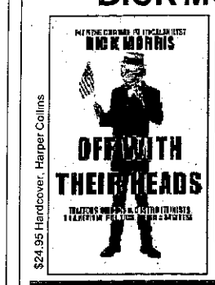

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Novi free concert series continues at Civic Center

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Novi's third community concert of the season kicks off tonight at 7 p.m. at the Civic Center on 10 Mile Road between Taft and Novi roads with the duo D&R followed by the Robert Jones Group at 7:45 p.m.

According to Carli Constable, an intern with the city's Parks and Recreation Department, between 150 and 200 people have been attending each of the family concerts so far this year.

Parks and Recreation Director Randy Auler noted the decade-old concert series has "changed some this year. We're having two performances each evening – a youth-oriented act followed by a more traditional community concert group.

Tonight's opening act, D&R, will offer kids' classics, while the Robert Jones Group will bring the Motown sound to the lawn between the Civic Center and the Novi Police Department Headquarters.

Constable noted that in the event of rain, the performance will move to the Civic Center stage.

July 17th's free concert will begin with the Smudge Fundays and close with the Jets, a group playing Metro Detroit rock and roll venues for 23 years.

Constable said families are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and picnics to the event. She said free snacks, water and lemonade will be provided and there will be free toys geared to children 10 and under.

The city's concert series continues through Aug. 14 with the last concert of the season slated for Providence Hospital's Novi Campus.

Auler said eventually his department hopes to stage the concerts at one of the city's parks.

Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 108 or at pfoley@ht.homecomm.net.

Calendar of Events

Novi Summer Concert Series
DATE: Thursdays
TIME: Kids' concerts 7-7:45 p.m.; community concerts 7:45 to 8:45 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center (unless otherwise stated)
DETAILS: July 10 D and R, and Robert Jones Group; July 17 The Smudge Fundaes, and The Jetz; July 31 Chris Lynn The Illusionist, and The Gratitude Steel Band; August 7 Lee Murdock 7 to 9 p.m., sponsored by Novi Historical Commission; August 14 Funny Puppet Guy/Rosco the Clown, and Novi Concert Band (on the Providence Medical Center grounds)
PHONE: (248) 347-0400

Friends of Maybury State Park
DATE:: July 10
LOCATION: Educational Building off 8 Mile Rd.
TIME: 7 p.m.
DETAILS: Informative nature program – The trees of Maybury – Walk through the woods with a Park Ranger to identify and their place in Maybury and the States history.
PHONE: (248) 347-0899

Sleeping Beauty
DATE: Friday-Sunday, July 11-13
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
State, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road
DETAILS: Novi Theatres' presentation of this classic. Tickets are $10 advance sale.
PHONE: (248() 347-0400

Benefit Car Wash for Breanna Strange
DATE: Saturday, July 12.
TIME: 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi United Methodist Church, 41671 W. Ten Mile, Novi
DETAILS: Breanna, age 2, has a rare disease, Dystonia Syndrome, treatments are very expensive, family has to travel to New Hampshire for treatments.
PHONE: 248-349-2652.

Friends of Maybury State Park
DATE: July 12
LOCATION: Education Building off 8 Mile Rd.
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
DETAILS: Beekeeping presented by Clayton Scholz. Sample the sweet nectar.
PHONE: (248) 347-0899

Walled Lake Summer Concerts
DATE: Monday, July 14
TIME: 7:30-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Walled Lake Villa
DETAILS: George Millsap, Motown rhythm and blues
PHONE: (248) 624-4847

Cart Connection
DATE: Tuesday, July 15
TIME: 5-8 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Big Boy, 26401 Novi Road
DETAILS: Fundraiser to save abandoned cats / animals
PHONE: Ryan Monroe (248) 349-4243

Quick Date
DATE: Tuesday, July 15
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Fifth Avenue Ballroom, 25750 Novi Road, Novi
DETAILS: Meet 10-15 new people for five minutes each. It's fast-paced, fun & exciting! Pre-registration is required. Cost is $40. Ages are 25-35 and 35-45.
PHONE: (517) 552-0673 or visit www.quickdateinfo.com

Fun at the Fountain Exploration Night
DATE: Wednesday, July 16
TIME: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Fountain Walk shopping center at I-96 and Novi Road
DETAILS: First of five Fun at the Fountain events. Explorer's hat decorating, scavenger hunt for treasure chest of candy. First 500 children to complete hunt receive tickets to Titanic exhibit at Detroit Science Center.
PHONE: (248) 348-8769

Rose show
DATE: Saturday, July 19
TIME: 1-4 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: If you would like to exhibit your beautiful roses, contact 248/449-4626. Prepping area begins at 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and you will receive assistance – $3 charge. Judging runs from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
PHONE: (248) 449-4626

Ice Cream Summerfest at Byers Homestead, Commerce Township
DATE: Sunday, July 20
TIME: noon-5 p.m.
LOCATION: Byers Homestead, 213 Commerce Rd, east of the Bubble & Squeak Tavern, Commerce Township.
DETAILS: Free admission, games, contests, pony rides, moon walk, casual cuisine.
PHONE: Cindy Sawyer, 248-366-9628.

Walled Lake Summer Concerts
DATE: Tuesday, July 22
TIME: 7:30-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Walled Lake Villa
DETAILS: Hi-Lites, '40s and '50s swing
PHONE: (248) 624-4847

Picnic at the Fountain
DATE: Wednesday, July 23
TIME: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Fountain Walk Shopping Center, I-96 and Novi Road
DETAILS: Free hotdogs, chips, beverage to first 1,000 visitors. Caillou, children's educational character, to join children for singing and dancing. Summertime craft to take home.
PHONE: (248) 348-8769

Send calendar items to Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48168 or e-mail to cstone@ht.homecomm.net.

Senior Calendar

Thursday 7/10
9 a.m.-noon ..... Massage Therapy
9 a.m.-12 a.m.-Computer class-Intro to Windows
9:30 a.m. ..... Line Dance*
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. ..... Sundry Shop Open
12 ..... Lunch
12:15 ..... Bridge*
12:30 ..... Book discussion at Novi Library
1 p.m.-3 p.m. ..... Crafts-Cat Flower pot
No line dance with Carolyn

Friday 7/11
9 a.m. ..... Stretch & Strength
10 a.m. ..... Body Recall
10 a.m.-11 a.m. ..... Jack Main, Medicare
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. ..... sundry Shop Open
noon ..... lunch
12:30 p.m. ..... Bingo
noon ..... Clogging *
12:30 p.m. ..... Bridge*
1 p.m.-2 p.m. ..... Computer Class
Canadian Rockies Trip

Monday 7/14
9 a.m. ..... Stretch & Strength
9 a.m.-11 a.m. ..... Intro to Computers
10 a.m. ..... Body Recall
10 a.m.-noon ..... Computer-Internet
11 a.m. ..... Goodie Lady
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. ..... Sundry Shop Open
noon ..... Lunch
12:30 ..... Pinochle *
1 p.m.-3 p.m. ..... Healing Touch
6:30 p.m. ..... Clogging*

Tuesday 7/15
9 a.m.-12 p.m. ..... Massage Therapy
9 a.m. ..... Panera bread
9:30 a.m. ..... Line Dance*
10 a.m. ..... Crafts & Asian Pacific
10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. ..... Bookmobile
noon ..... Lunch
12:30 p.m. ..... Bingo
1 pm-2pm ..... Computer Class

Wednesday 7/16
9 a.m. ..... Stretch & Strength
10 a.m. ..... Body Recall
10:30 a.m. ..... Quilting
11:00 a.m. ..... Blood Pressure
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. ..... Sundry Shop Open
11 a.m. ..... TOPS Class
noon ..... Lunch
12:30 p.m. ..... Clogging*
2 p.m.-4 p.m. ..... Estate Planning by Appt.

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

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ENTERTAINMENT

Sam Eggleston, (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 seggleston@ht.homecomm.net

Food For Thought

My Grandma Edick never went to the doctor. She immigrated to this country through Canada from Austria and her peasant beliefs of holistic healing, a daily mass and a few prayers thrown in were enough to keep her healthy. Too, she did not eat or feed her family "junk" foods, even though they were available to some extent seventy-five years ago. My grandma and grandpa were both excellent cooks who were able to create the most amazing meals from minimal ingredients. Grandpa was a postal worker and made a fair wage but there were twelve mouths to feed, and during the depression it was inperative to get the most from the least but still making sure it tasted good. Gram shared a small garden with the bunnies that supplied some produce, tomatoes, lettuce, spinach and green onions. She bought large cuts of inexpensive meat or old chickens that did not demand the higher price of the youngsters. She then went to the stove, a "Chambers", (that I'm now proud to call mine), to cook chicken fricassee or beef stew. Potatoes cooked every which way were common. It wasn't ethnic or exotic, just simple food that tasted good.

Grandmother Smith was the opposite. My grandfather, financially sound, was twenty-years older, a colonel in the army and a high school math instructor. She was a registered nurse and worked for our family doctor. I was the only child, out of seven, not born in Buffalo by Dr. Petrino. Grandmother was certain that we regularly saw the good doc for inoculations and check-ups. There was only my dad and his sister, eight less than mom's family. They had their own rooms in a lovely house in a suburban neighborhood. And, ate much, much differently.

Mary Brady

Grandmother, (no grandma here,) was also an amazing cook. As a child I remember the marvelous summertime meals she would bring to our cottage in Thunderbay, Ontario. Not necessarily fancy but prepared with rich tasting, expensive ingredients. A favorite was her crab salad served with butter lettuce and just baked Parker House rolls. A decadent New York style cheesecake surrounded by sweet - just picked strawberries ended the meal.

Enter my mom. A stay-at-home mother of seven with an eleven year spread. And a chip off of the old block with a cooking style very similar to her parents, slow and easy. She still makes the best-baked beans around and I've never, ever, ever had a lamb shank better than hers. The Sunday night pot roasts with beautiful cooked vegetables or the calves liver soaked a few days in milk, breaded and sautéed in butter. (Olive oil wasn't in then.) And, yes, we ate liver as kids. It was served with crispy fried potatoes, sliced tomatoes with a good sprinkling of salt. We enjoyed dessert made by my sister Kitty, a delicious one-hour cheesecake "from the box." It didn't matter – we ate together, conversed and bonded.

My five sisters and brother are a combination of both backgrounds. The most important lessons that we've learned are basic. "The best quality, in-season food makes for the tastiest of meals". My cooking style crosses many boundaries. I enjoy experimenting with different ingredients and cultures. My love though, is bistro and country French.

Bud, my brother, has always been an excellent cook but over the last decade bloomed into an "Italian Stallion" thanks to his wife Deb and the Bonadao family. Kitty, the lawyer and her husband cook Salmon 101 ways, (take out the 100—she is in California and can't come to my cooking classes). My sister, Issy, a nurse, leaves the cooking to her hubby Joe or to a personal chef who comes in once a month to stock her freezer. (Hey, she is in Florida, so I can't cook for her). Marj passes but thankfully Mike catches the ball and my sister Liz is very similar to me but enjoys baking more. Then there is my youngest sister Josie. She often tells people that she's "Taught me everything about cooking." I might agree if I didn't receive a dozen instructional calls a week from her questioning a recipe. She is good though, preparing mainly vegetable based meals for her sons. My nephew John, nine, just called and I asked him, "What are your favorite meals?" He enthusiastically told me, "I have a lot Aunt Mary. I love my mom's tacos, (made with turkey or soy with lots of veggies,) Ninny's (my mom's) soups, chicken, mashed potatoes and baked beans, and your steamed artichoke hearts with melted butter. Oh, and I love your black bean chili from the restaurant". Another Epicurean in the making!

Mary Brady is a certified executive chef and co-owner of Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro in the Novi Town Center. If you have culinary questions or comments for chef Mary Brady, you can contact her via e-mail at djbistro@aol.com

Screen Beat

By Brian Renner
THE MOVIE INSIDER

Coming to theaters this weekend is fantasy-adventure **"The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen,"** loosely based on the Alan Moore graphic novel epic of the same name, is the story of a group of characters drawn from famous works of literature, including Captain Nemo, Allan Quatermain, The Invisible Man, Mina Murray and Dr. Jekyll. These characters must band together to investigate the threat posed by a madman who intends on starting a world war near the turn of the 19th century. "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen" is a 20th Century Fox release and rated PG-13

Set in the Caribbean Sea in the 17th century, action-adventure **"Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl,"** is the story of a rogue pirate, Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp), who teams up with the governor's daughter (Keira Knightley) to stop the plans of dangerous pirates (led by Geoffrey Rush). This thrilling tale of a daring rescue mission aimed at reversing an ancient curse is also an irreverent wink at the famous Disney theme park attraction. Producer Jerry Bruckheimer and Walt Disney Pictures brings you this tale of skeleton pirates and adventure on the high seas. "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl" is a Walt Disney Pictures release and rated PG-13 for action/adventure violence.

Next week

Crime-adventure sequel **"Bad Boys II"** (R), action-adventure **"Johnny English"** (PG), and teen romance **"How to Deal"** (PG-13).

On video and DVD

Crime- and military-thriller **"Basic"** (R) and real-time thriller **"Phone Booth"** (R).

For more information, please log on to The Movie Insider at www.themovieinsider.com. Please direct any questions, comments, and/or feedback to brian@themovieinsider.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Sam Eggleston, (248) 349-1700, ext. 104
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'Charlie's Angels' keeps you in your seat

■ Barrymore, Diaz and Lui combine to pack a lethal punch once again in 'Full Throttle'

By Sam Eggleston
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

One of the first things anyone can recall of my older brother, Jeff, from when he was a kid is the fact that he wanted to grow up to be Charlie from the television show "Charlie's Angels."

Really, who could blame him? Not only would he have grown up to be the head of a highly trained and capable secret unit consisting of three very powerful and good-looking women, but he would have also grown up to have two movies under his belt too.

"Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle" is the second installment in the movies that combine flashy special effects with witty humor and pretty faces. Not only was the first installment successful enough to put a second up on the big screen, it has also proven to be enough to draw flocks to the theater. Those who remember the original series, like my brother, are more than glad to drop the cash to get a ticket, and those who just enjoyed the first are mostly happy to do the same.

Though I am the first to say that I enjoyed "Full Throttle," there are a few things that viewers should know about.

The first thing that many fans of pretty much any kind of movies will find out when they sit down to watch "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle" is that there is little, if no, real plot.

Sure, the Angels have to save the day again and they do so with plenty of butt-kicking action. But, when a viewer sits back and wonders the whole point of the story, there really isn't one. Yet, that really doesn't matter. Not only is this movie loud and obnoxious, not to mention very, very unbelievable in many of the stunts, but it's still entertaining.

A movie is definitely worth the price of the admission if you can sit through it and then leave with a satisfaction of watching something that kept your interest. Most flicks don't manage to do that anymore, even when they are highly touted like "Hulk."

With "Charlie's Angels," viewers can expect to see plenty of action, lots of explosions and more butt-wiggling scenes than they can shake a stick at. It's what basically made the first movie as successful as it was, and it will do the same with this flick too.

Lucy Liu, Cameron Diaz and Drew Barrymore are back as the Angels and Luke Wilson is back as Diaz's love interest. Demi Moore makes a refreshing appearance, as does Bernie Mac as he continues on the tradition of the Bozley clan. There are a slew of cameos in this flick as well, and they almost start to get old after a while. Not only does John Cleese of Monty Python fame make it into some scenes, so does Moore's ex-husband Bruce Willis, the always perky Olsen Twins and Justin Theroux.

This genre of movies, based on popular television shows, aren't there for substance and plot twists. Instead, they are an expanded version of the shows that gave them a chance to hit the silver screen. As someone who only watched a handful of reruns of the "Charlie's Angels" television series, I can say that none of them really came off as the most thought-out scripts of all time. The movie is much of the same. Lots of action, plenty of fights and three very beautiful women bringing it all right to us.

One has to wonder how long the Angels can keep this us though. As in the first flick, they've managed to botch a situation that gets them out of the frying pan and into the fire once again. I have to say that I would expect that if the Angels keep up this track record, the customers of Charlie's Townsend Agency might start wondering if there is a group of Charlie's Devils to hire instead.

In the end, viewers who are looking for any kind of substance will want to look elsewhere. Those who love loud and obnoxious action movies will be proud to be an American when they sit down and catch this one. Not only does Charlie manage to let his Angels do the talking once again, he lets them do it with style.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

Courtesy Photo

Charlie's Angels are hard at work again, this time saving a government official from the mountain hideaway of some baddies somewhere in Mongolia.

"Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle" is the second installment in the movies that combine flashy special effects with witty humor and pretty faces. Not only was the first installment successful enough to put a second up on the big screen, it has also proven to be enough to draw flocks to the theater.

NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI
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Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER
(248) 349-1700 Ext. 104
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Novi News hometownlife.com Thursday, July 10, 2003

Novi's Pawlak earns POY nod

Novi's talented squad finds three others named to squad as well

By Sam Eggleston
and Stan Frank
SPORTS WRITERS

Soccer, soccer and more soccer. What's not to love about this game? Here at HomeTown Newspapers, we have a slew of talented players to select the best-of-the-best from.

This year, Novi made the most noise out of all of our teams, and that had a lot to do with our Player of the Year.

We were quick to recognize some of the best talent that has ever been part of our All-Area squads, and are proud to announce the best of the 2003 season.

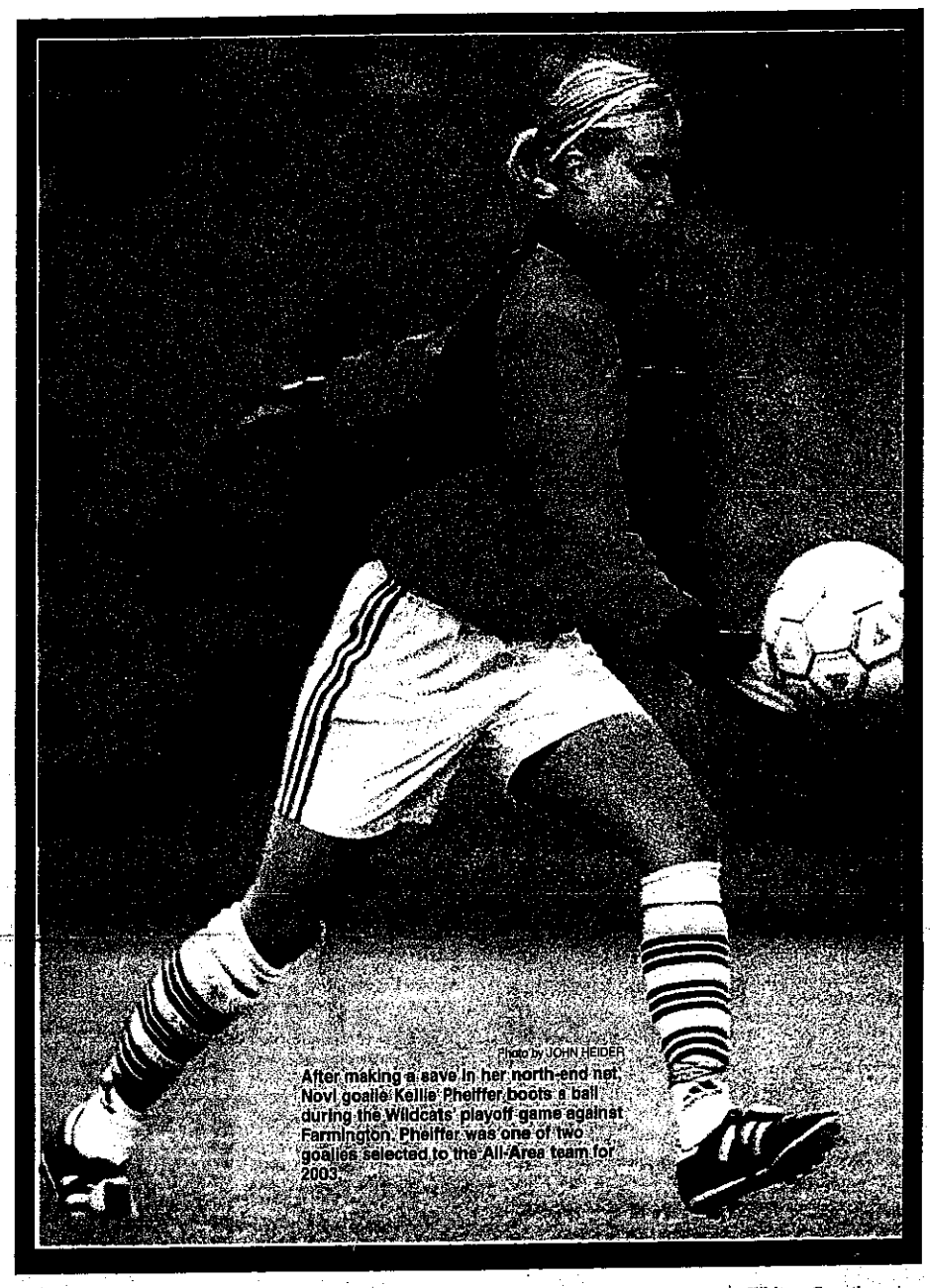


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

After making a save in her north-end net, Novi goalie Kellie Pheiffer boots a ball during the Wildcats' playoff game against Farmington. Pheiffer was one of two goalies selected to the All-Area team for 2003.

Nicole Cauzillo
Northville Senior

This senior midfielder was not only selected as the Gatorade Player of the Year for the state of Michigan and third-team All-State, but she also inked her name to a scholarship to play for the University of West Virginia. A tough little cookie and a multi-sport athlete, Cauzillo was easily one of the most recognizable players on the Northville Mustangs squad this season.

A capable leader both on and off the field, Cazillo has shown time and time again that there's no substitute for a combination of ability and determination. Quite simply, this girl hates to lose. She's a quick-footed player with the ability to roll from the offensive attack to the defensive parry in just a matter of moments.

There was no doubt in our minds that Cauzillo was a shoe-in for a slot on our 2003 All-Area Soccer Dream Team. And, there's no doubt in our minds that we'll be missing her come next year too.

Nikki Hermann
Novi Junior

Though Hermann only collected five goals and 12 assists this year, she's a no-brainer for our All-Area Dream Team selections. Her numbers were greatly reduced this season due to an injury that found her missing five games and being very limited in production for numerous others.

Her totals have raised her career statistics to 52 goals and 51 assists with a full year of play still ahead of her in her senior season.

Hermann was a major factor in the success of the Wildcats this season as she was not only an inspirational leader when on the field, but a motivation for Novi while off it as well.

We're happy to say that she's a big part of our All-Area squad and all that we would expect it would be able to accomplish.

Whitney Guenther
Northville Junior

This Northville junior has herself plenty to ponder as she prepares herself for next season. The first quandary is probably of where she will go after her senior year — and since she's had offers from colleges like the University of Texas to come and play for them already, her selection range could be quite large. This year, Guenther was an All-District, All-Regional, All-WLAA player and now an All-Area member as well. She played back sweeper for the Mustangs and still managed to earn four goals and three assists. Those goals came off of some mean corner kicks by Guenther, who has the knack for putting quite the mean curve on them. We're happy to have such an up-and-coming player on our All-Area team, and expect she'll be in the running come her senior year as well.

Loren Tacconelli
Northville Junior

Though many readers may not be aware of it, there was a chance Tacconelli wasn't going to be a Mustangs this year and far from being in our coverage area. This All-District, All-Division selection moved from California with her family her sophomore year to make a lasting impression on the Northville team before finding out that she would have to move back out to her original stomping grounds after the season ended. Lucky for us, things worked out to find Tacconelli and her family back in Northville in time to put her back in the familiar black and orange we like to see her sporting. As a marking defender, Tacconelli managed to score two goals from her position and is already being touted as one of the top-returning players to Northville come next year. We hope to see her fulfilling those expectations, and hopefully returning as a member of our team as well.

Katie Ales
Novi Senior

An honorable-mention All-State selection, Ales will be continuing her play on the soccer fields at the next level as she has taken an offer to be a Grand Valley State Laker. This quick-footed senior was a four-year starter for the Novi Wildcats and a captain during 2003 — a year that found the Novi squad winning the Kensington Valley

Continued on B3

Wildcats get two named to All-Area team

By Sam Eggleston
and Stan Frank
SPORTS WRITERS

The first thing that many readers will probably notice about the 2003 All-Area Golf Dream Team is that there aren't a whole lot of seniors named to the list. Pretty much what that means is that we have a whole slew of players that will be contending to be the top linksters on their squads come next year. Hopefully, each and every one of them will be in contention to be on the All-Area squad in 2004 as well.

Andrea Fillipps
Northville Junior

Now this girl can hit the long ball. One of the most powerful hitters we've ever seen at this level, Fillipps has no trouble whatsoever getting to the green in just a couple strokes. Quite often, you can find her on the verge of a birdie thanks to her incredible swing. A tough competitor, Fillipps lets everyone know by her play alone that she hits the links with just one intention: Winning. We expect that not only is she on the links right now, but she's probably improving her game for next season while the rest of the Fillipps had some impressive showings in 2003, and will medalist on times for the Northville Mustangs and Women's Golf Team this year, Sophie Fillipps was a near miss for the Dream Team. Fillipps was a member of the Mustangs squad that finished second in the state in Division 1 competition. Fillipps, who will be a sophomore next spring. Her ability and dedication to the game make her a great example for all underclassmen to look to. We had no doubt when it came to selecting this power-hitter to the All-Area squad for 2003, and we have an inkling that she'll be in contention for the list come 2004 as well.

Therese Juthage
Northville Sophomore

Though you'd never guess it, this fairly reserved golfer can tear the heck out of the ball on her way to turning in some impressive scores. One of the top players both last year and this year for Northville, Juthage shows that the future is bright for the Mustangs. Collecting a 45.86 average on the year, Juthage found herself competing at the varsity level as much as, if not more than, her fellow teammates that were her elders. Her solid stroke and ability to play the green made her a tough opponent in 2003, and we fully expect that she'll be back in form come next year too. It's always nice to name underclassmen to the All-Area Dream Team because players like Juthage let us know our golf teams come next year will give us plenty to write about.

Sara Goodman
Novi Senior

A top-shelf player that helped lead the Wildcats to a strong finish this season, Goodman has been a staple for Novi golf for a couple of years. Her ability to play strong over 18 holes made her one of the most valuable players on the team, and combine that with Goodman's strong finish towards the decline of the season and you have one heck of a golfer. Goodman is the kind of player that may turn in numbers in the mid-50s during a nine-hole meet, but a coach can always expect her strokes to be in the low 90s in the bigger tourneys. This year, Goodman recorded a 91 at the Post-KVC tournament to help her squad to one of their best finishes, and she helped inspire her teammates to play to their best as well.

Jessica Chudy
Novi Senior

Chudy had the joy of not only being one of the top performers for the Novi Wildcats this season, but also to finish up her golfing career with her little sister, Jackie, on the team with her. This year, Chudy was one of the most reliable golfers around, turning in consistent scores that found her season average for nine-holes rounding out to a 52.4. This year, Chudy recorded a 98 at the Post-KVC tournament to help the Novi squad along, and her steady play throughout the season helped make her a strong leader in a promising year of golf for the Wildcats. We're happy to have a player like Chudy on the All-Area squad. Her determination and dedication are something everyone can look to for guidance.

Adrianne Downing
South Lyon Freshman

In addition to possessing a top flight golf game, South Lyon's Adrianne Downing has a distinct advantage: the Lions' home course, Downing Farms, is owned by her grandparents, making it a relative backyard to the ace golfer. As a rookie, Downing proved the epitome of consistency; her scores ranging between 44 and 48 for all but one match during the season. Downing averaged a 47 in 9-hole matches. For her efforts, Downing was named team MVP and was a first team All-KVC selection.

AnnMarie Jasieniecki
Milford Senior

During her senior campaign, the Mavericks' AnnMarie Jasieniecki capped an illustrious career by being named first team All-KVC for the third consecutive season. Jasieniecki averaged this season a 44 in 9-hole matches and an 89 in 18-hole matches. By shooting an 83, Jasieniecki was the match medalist at this year's post-KVC tournament. She also placed fifth in the Oakland County tournament for the second consecutive season. Jasieniecki plans to golf collegiately at Albion College.

Melisa Mihalic
South Lyon Sophomore

Melisa Mihalic started slowly this season, before eventually becoming a steady force for the Lions. Her success began when she shot a 90 at the pre-KVC tournament and concluded with an 87 at the post-KVC meet. In between, Mihalic broke 50 on three of four attempts in 9-hole competition. Mihalic was a first team All-KVC selection following the season.

Lindsay Pipkin
Lakeland Sophomore

Lakeland's Lindsay Pipkin culminated a stellar sophomore campaign with an appearance at the state meet. Pipkin qualified for the big show by finishing fourth at the regional meet. A first team All-KVC selection, Pipkin was this season's conference champion. Her best round was a 41 and her 9-hole season average was 45.3. She shot a 18-hole career best 84 at the pre-KVC meet.

Emily Tucker
Lakeland Sophomore

With a 9-hole average of 47, Lakeland sophomore Emily Tucker earned second team All-KVC honors. Recognized as one the premier long-hitters in the KVC — she consistently drives better than 200 yards — Tucker shot a 9-hole career best 43 in leading the Eagles to victory over Howell.

Stan Frank is the sports writer for the Milford Times and South Lyon Herald. He can be reached at sfrank@ht.homecomm.net. Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104, or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

Layne Scherer

Golf and Scherer go hand-in hand like peanut butter and jelly. Not only was she recognized as one of the most talented players in the state with a second-team All-State nod, she was also the top player for the Mustangs throughout their incredible season that found them finishing seventh in the state for Division 1 competition. Scherer has a good knowledge of the game, and has an ability to improve throughout the course. It can always be expected that she'll come through as the going gets tougher. Scherer was medalist five times for the Mustangs, and was the top player for Northville in the conference, regional and state competitions. Her 43.43 average over nine holes this season showed that she is a player to contend with. A good leader on and off the links, Scherer has proven to be a great asset for the Northville golf program. Her scores are quite often the team low, and being the medalist of a match is just something she's become accustomed.

Novi earns five All-Area Tennis spots

By Sam Eggleston
and Stan Frank
SPORTS WRITERS

One of the toughest things to do is break down a team into individuals and figure out just who it is that ranks as the best of the best. For the game of tennis, it's practically done for us in the form of flights when teams follow the rules. Selecting the 2003 All-Area Tennis Dream Team wasn't something that just flew by like in years past. Instead, we had some highly qualified players on each and every team. It's not easy to leave some behind, but those are the choices that have to be made when it comes to deciding who is the best.

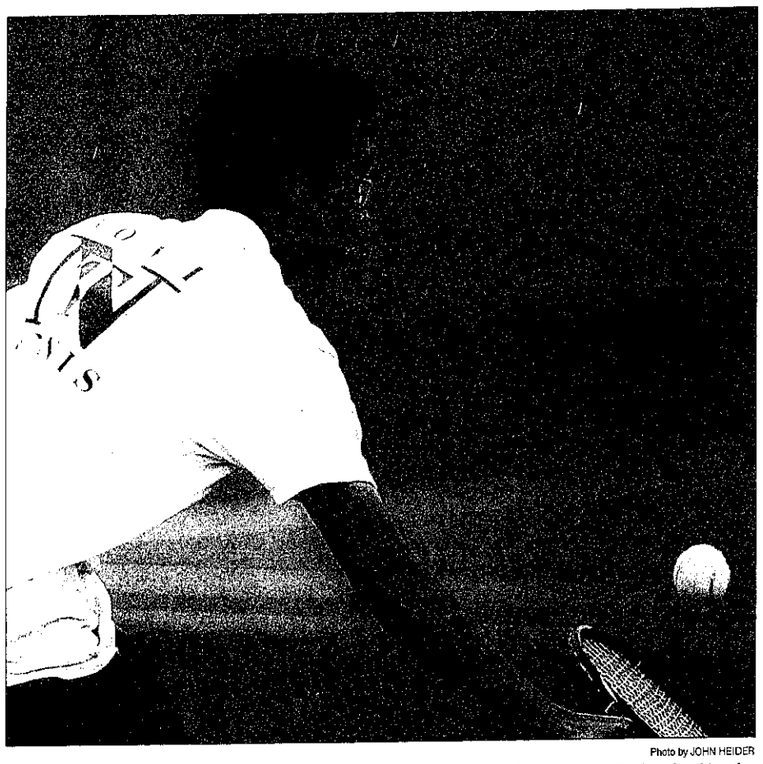


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi's Steve Chaing is on his way to defeating Northville's Lance Dehne 6-3, 6-2 during the MHSAA regional tennis tournament. Chaing was recently named to the 2003 All-Area squad.

SINGLES

It takes a lot of hard work and determination to succeed in the singles flights in both the Kensington Valley Conference and the Western Lakes Activities Association. There's always a need for speed, dedication and a desire to win in order to rise above the rest, and our singles selections have been able to do just that this year.

Steve Chaing
Novi Junior

There's plenty to like about a player like Novi's Chaing. This quick-footed and determined player makes sure that he uses the entire court to his advantage throughout a contest. He's quick to come off any volley sent by his opponent, and even quicker to take advantage of his opponent's weaknesses. Chaing is one of the returning Wildcats for next season and will no doubt make up part of the solid core of Novi netters who will be looking to return the Wildcats to the top of the Kensington Valley Conference hill. And, everyone can be sure, Chaing will be instrumental in the 'Cats hopes of making it to the state finals for a second-straight year.

Brett Hawthorne
Milford Junior

Hawthorne finished the season 8 and 4 overall and 6 and 1 in the KVC. A right-hander, Hawthorne advanced all the way to the championship round of the second flight at this season's KVC tournament. Said Mavericks head coach Rich Kynast: "Brett worked on his game during the off-season and it showed. His strokes were much more refined from the year before and he just made tremendous improvements to every facet of his game."

Andrew Laskowski
Novi senior

Laskowski is the kind of player that isn't afraid to show what he's made of — and that's one of the first things that caught Novi coach Jim Hanson's eye four years ago when he selected the now graduated 'Cat to play on the varsity squad as a freshman. The experience was invaluable to Laskowski, who went on to show it with a 21-4 personal record this year and a fourth-seed in the state finals. Laskowski is very quick on his feet, and a player that knows the ins and outs of the game. He can find a way to earn the tough points, and lays on the pressure as soon as he gets the lead. Laskowski was an integral part of Novi's run for the KVC title this year as well as their first-ever trip to the state finals.

Adam O'Donnell
Northville Senior

Not only did this Mustangs senior earn himself a 16-7 mark on the season playing against some of the best competition the Western Lakes Activities Association has to offer, he did so with a smile on his face. A motivator for all Mustangs to draw energy from, O'Donnell is the kind of player every coach wishes they had. He leads on and off the court, and rallies his squad to put forth their best effort possible. It was no wonder he earned himself the Most Valuable Player award for Northville this year, and it's no doubt that he'll be sorely missed on his squad come next year.

Suraj Ramachandran
Novi Junior

Taking on the best is never easy, but that was the task that fell to Ramachandran each and every match that he and the Wildcats played. Ramachandran, quite simply, is the best tennis player on the Novi squad and one of the best in the area. His quick reflexes and strategy on the court make him a tough opponent to take on, while his ability to keep his own opponents on their heels makes him one of the more frightening prospects to play. Ramachandran will be returning next year to help lead Jim Hanson's Wildcat tennis team to what hopes to be another season of success. With his determination and ability to lead by example, there's no doubt he'll be stepping into the role as a player to look to for guidance and, of course, a well-played match.

Brian Sarkella
South Lyon Senior

Sarkella finished his high school career with a total of seven varsity letters, four of which were earned playing tennis. A co-captain, Sarkella won his second consecutive team MVP award this season. Although at 4 and 10 his record didn't sparkle, Sarkella had the distinction of taking the court against the No. 1 singles player of each Lions opponent this season. South Lyon went winless in conference play this season, but Sarkella, the team's lone senior, said the future is bright for the program.

"They're going to have a very good program in the next few years," he said.

DOUBLES

There's a lot to be said about people who can take a normally individual sport and turn it into team competition. Each and every member of our doubles flights have that ability, and it's an understatement to just say they work well with others. At times, it's hard to separate who is who in the doubles matches, as each player works so well with his partner that they seem almost like one player out there on the court.

Novi's Joe Lynch (Senior) and Chris Kovacinski (Junior)

Let's just say that this wasn't such a bad year for this one doubles squad from Novi. Though the season started out a little rough with the line-ups being swapped around until the Wildcats found the right recipe for victory, it all turned out just fine. Lynch joined the one doubles flight nearly halfway through the season and took his first loss in the state finals for a 23-1 record his senior year. A four-year player on the varsity squad, Lynch was invaluable in the run for the KVC title and into the state finals. Kovacinski is the kind of player that learns when he needs to, and now he's well aware of what it will take to make the return trip to the finals come '04. No doubt, he'll be looking to gain a partner with the same drive and determination when he returns as a key role-player for Novi next year.

Northville's Colin Ackerman (Junior) and Jeremy Reisman (Junior)

All the hard work and determination paid off for this two doubles squad as they not only pushed themselves to learn from their mistakes and those of others, but pushed themselves to be one of the best flights in the area. It all worked out, as Ackerman and Reisman, both who will be back for Northville next year, earned the Regional Championship for their flight against teams like Detroit Catholic Central. Ackerman earned the Most-Improved Player award from his peers and combined with his determination and that of Reisman, it will be no surprise if they repeat their performance come next year.

Novi's Richie Fetters (Junior) and James Peurach (Junior)

This doubles team was part of a tough Novi team that not only managed to earn their second-straight Kensington Valley Conference crown, but also take a trip to Midland for their first-ever state finals tournament. Fetters and Peurach are both well known in the conference as a doubles team that not only is tough to play, but tough to beat as well. They combine their strengths and make up for each other's weaknesses with ease, and have stepped into the role of a true doubles team with no transition difficulties. With both of these top-shelf players returning to the Novi line-up next year, it will be interesting to see if Jim Hanson keeps them together to continue playing as strong as they have been, or separates them to spread the wealth and help others with their guidance. Whichever scenario plays out, we're sure these two will be making some noise not only in the KVC, but hopefully beyond.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or by e-mail at sggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

Stan Frank is the sports writer for the South Lyon Herald and the Milford Times. He can be reached by [illegible] e-mail [illegible] at sfrank@ht.homecomm.net.

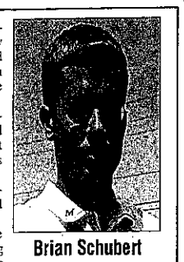
Schubert successfully defended his Kensington Valley Conference championship and for the second consecutive season was selected a first team All-State tennis whiz.

Also for the second consecutive campaign, Schubert finished runner-up at the regional meet and advanced to the quarterfinals at the state meet.

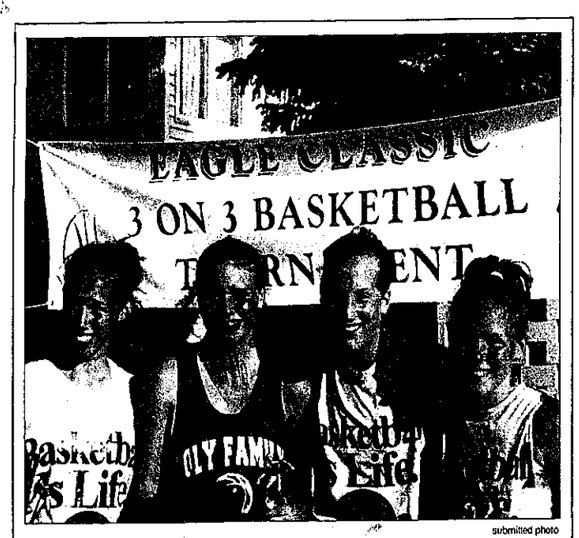
A right-hander, Schubert possesses exceptional quickness and a nasty backhand.

"He has tremendous balance and footwork and very strong groundstrokes," Kynast says. "He might miss one or two with his forehand, but he's going to blast about 20 winners by you in the process.

"And his backhand just flat-out does not miss. If you approach to his backhand like you've been taught, you're just going to watch the ball go past you."



Brian Schubert

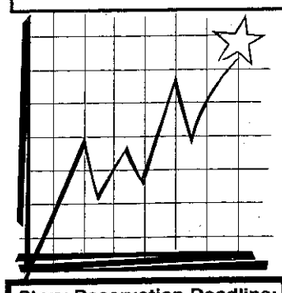


submitted photo

Novi girls win Roundball Tournament

Four Novi girls won the first-ever St. Edith Family Festival 3-on-3 Roundball tournament in Livonia June 14 and 15. Rachele Folino, Jessie Gaslorek and Hope Morris, all freshman at Novi High School, combined their talents with Ladywood freshman Erin Szczypka to go undefeated in five tough matches against players from local high schools. They not only had to play against their tenacious opponents, but also the heat and the sun during this well-run tournament. Strong defense and determined offense led the girls, who remained undefeated, into game five where Folino sent up a last-second shot that broke the tie to win the game and secure the title and the undefeated record. All of the ladies said they had a great time, enjoying not only the competition but also the good sportsmanship of their opponents.

PROGRESS 2003



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SOCCER: Four are All-Area

Continued from B1

Conference Championship, the District Title and defeating Brighton for the first time ever in school history. The Wildcat defense drew a lot of their energy from this senior and went on to allow only 14 goals in 20 games under her leadership.

Danielle Ciotti
Milford Senior

Forward Danielle Ciotti was the Mavericks' Offensive MVP, leading the team in both goals scored (six) and total points (10). According to coach Marty Neighbors, Ciotti's success came despite her playing as a "marked woman" by opposing teams. A three-year starter at Milford, Ciotti capped her senior campaign by earning first team All-KVC honors for the second consecutive season.

Amanda Girkin
South Lyon Junior

South Lyon forward Amanda Girkin finished tied with Chelsey Golightly for the team lead with 12 goals scored. Her 14 total points were third highest on the Lions, earning her co-offensive MVP honors. After her junior campaign, Girkin was a first team All-KVC and All-District selection.

Chelsey Golightly
South Lyon Senior

Chelsey Golightly's last name is contrary to her style of play. Indeed, the midfielder's blazing speed and savvy footwork were not taken lightly by opponents, who watched Golightly rack up 12 goals and four assists during the season. Following her senior campaign, Golightly was named MVP of the 8-6-5 Lions. She also earned first team All-KVC, All-District and All-Region honors, as well as All-State honorable mention.

Brianne Roelfs
Lakeland Junior

The Eagles sweeper was named team MVP and earned first team All-KVC honors following her junior campaign.

GOALIES

Kelli Pheiffer
Novi Senior

For us, goalie was one of the hardest choices to make this year. With strong performances across the board from the girls that play this position, we had to sit back and make some tough decisions. As a senior on a tough Novi squad this year, Pheiffer was not only a captain for the Wildcats but also a major factor in their victories. Earning nine shutouts on the year and having only a 0.83 goals-against average, Pheiffer showed exactly what it took to help her squad make a run in the post season. Her play against the Northville Mustangs and Farmington Falcons in the districts helped her squad take home that title, and her play against the Canton Chiefs in the Regional tournament helped the 'Cats stay in contention throughout the game. Her ability and determination between the posts helped her become one of our top players on the 2003 All-Area Dream Team.

Karen Marcotte
South Lyon Sophomore

South Lyon played 19 games this season. In eight of those contests, a mere goal would have been plenty for a Lions victory; made possible due to the prowess of netminder Karen Marcotte, who posted eight shutouts in goal. Marcotte saved 88 percent of the shots on goal and allowed an average of only 1.5 goals per game. After a stellar sophomore campaign, Marcotte was named the Lions' Defensive MVP. She also earned first team All-KVC, All-District and All-Region honors, as well as All-State honorable mention.

Maureen Pawlak

There is little question that this Novi Wildcat is the most valuable player in our coverage area. In fact, in our opinion, she may be one of the most valuable players in the state. Pawlak earned the first-team All-State nod as she collected 30 goals and 18 assists this season. Those numbers have helped to boost her career totals to 99 goals and 55 assists. Her 99 goals puts her at the 12th-best in the history of Michigan, which still has room to grow with another season ahead of her. This Wildcat kicker has already accepted a scholarship to play at Michigan State University — which will find her still wearing the green and white she's become so fond of through her high school career. We are proud to select such a talented and recognized individual as our Player of the Year and hope that, come next year, she'll be in the running once again.

Pawlak has the talent and determination to not only lead her squads to victory, but to change the entire course of a game. Her quick first-step make her tough to keep up with, and her foot work helps stop opponents in their tracks. It's not uncommon to see her take a shot on goal and then be down on defense winning a 50-50 ball just moments later. It's not every day we come across a player like Pawlak, and we don't hesitate to give her the All-Area nod when we do.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or by e-mail at sggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

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NEXT LEVEL ATHLETES

Next level athletes are the kinds of players that know just what it takes to be the best they can be at the collegiate level and beyond. Here, in this little section of the newspaper, we are able to applaud them for what they have accomplished in their time at the next level.

SARAH CLARK, JUNIOR, DARTMOUTH COLLEGE — Sarah Clark, a 2000 graduate of Novi High School, was recently named as one of the captains of the Dartmouth Women's Division 1 Ice Hockey Team for the 2003-04 season. This year, with the help of Clark, Dartmouth beat Harvard 7-2 for the East Coast Athletic Conference (ECAC) tournament championship. Clark collected a goal and an assist in the game.

Dartmouth took third in the nation in the Women's Frozen Four Championship, held in Duluth, Minnesota in late March. In that contest, Clark notched two goals.

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Searching for records

Novi High School is currently looking for any information regarding a possible record for a single game, single season or a career dating back to the opening of the school. Records can be proven with old newspaper articles, end-of-season reports or scorebooks as documentation.

Anyone with this information should contact the high school via mail by sending the documentation to: Novi High School, 24062 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan 48375, Attn. Julie Fisette, Athletic Records.

CITY OF NOVI
NOTICE OF PROVISIONS OF THE NOXIOUS WEED AND REFUSE ORDINANCE

TO: All owners, occupants or possessors of subdivided lands or lots:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Section 21-20 of the Novi Code, all noxious weeds or other weeds, grass, brush or deleterious, unhealthy growths exceeding a height of twelve (12) inches, or any refuse or debris growing, standing or lying upon any property in the City of Novi, shall be cut down, destroyed or removed as the case may be, at least twice in each year, once during the last half of the month of May and again during the last half of July of each year and more often as may be necessary.

In the event the owner or occupant, or any person or persons, agent, firm or corporation having control or management of any subdivided land in any subdivision is which buildings have been erected and where such subdivisions have a zoning classification that is "residential," shall fail, refuse; or neglect to comply with the above mentioned Ordinance, the City shall cause said weeds, grass, brush, deleterious, unhealthy growths, rubbish or debris to be cut down, destroyed or removed. Provided, further, that any lands which are situated within the flood plains or any natural streams or water courses, or any area between the lower or upper banks of such streams or water courses shall be exempted from the provisions of this Ordinance. The expense incurred by the City in the cutting, destruction or removal of same together with a ten (10%) percent administrative charge will be levied and collected against such property in the manner provided by law.

Failure to comply with the requirements set forth in Section 21-20 of the Novi Code may also result in the prosecution for same, and liability to the extent of the penalty therein provided.

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A public hearing can be requested by any property owner of a structure located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for temporary use permit.

This request will be considered at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 16, 2003 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. All written comments should be directed to the City of Novi Building Department and must be received prior to July 16, 2003.

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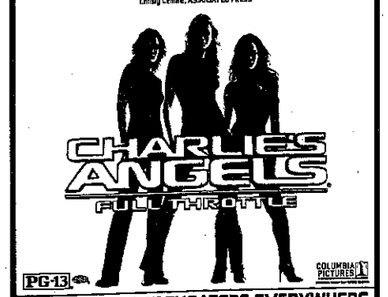

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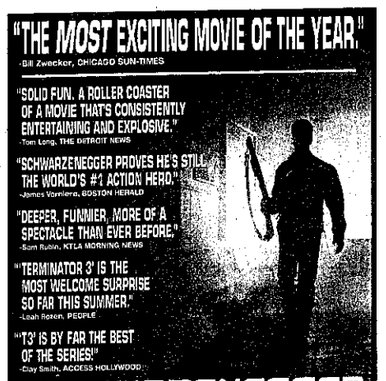

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN — MISSOURI SYNOD — High & Elm Streets, Northville — T. Lubeck, Pastor — Church 349-3140 School 349-3146 — Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Contemporary Service at 11:00 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE — 200 E. Main St. at Hutton - (248) 349-0911 — Worship & Church School - 9:30 & 11:00am — Childcare Available at All Services — Youth Logos Prog.-Wed. 4:15 Gr 1-5; 5:00 M.S/S.H. Singles Place-Ministry - Thurs. 7:30pm — Rev. W. Kent Crispin, Senior Pastor — Rev. James P. Russell, Associate Pastor

IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — Novi Rd. between 13 & 14 Mile • 248-345-5524 — Bible Study & Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 11 a.m.

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH — 770 Thayer, Northville — WEEKEND LITURGIES — Saturday, 5:00 p.m. — Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon — Church 349-2621 . School 349-3610 — Religious Education 349-2559

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH — 21355 Meadowbrook R. Novi at 8 1/2 Mile — Morning Worship 10 a.m. — Church School 10 a.m. — 248-348-7751 — Minister: Rev. Dr. E. Mek Hunt — Minister of Music: Patrick Kuhl

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH — 9 Mile & Meadowbrook — Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod — Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 8:45 am — Worship 10:00am — Thomas E. Schroeder, Pastor - 349-0565

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL — 10 Mile between Taft & Beck, Novi — Phone 349-1175 — Sunday 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist — Sunday 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist — 11 a.m. Sunday School & Nursery

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE — 349-1144* — 8 Mile & Taft Roads — Worship Services 8:00am 9:15am 11:00am — Rev. John Hicks — Rev. Jennifer Bixby

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — 44400 W. 10 Mile, Novi. 248-349-2345 — 1/2 mile west of Novi Rd. — Dr. Richard J. Henderson, Pastor — Rev. Anne Schreiber, Associate Pastor — Worship & Church School 9:00 & 10:30 am Sunday

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH NOVI — 453011 11 Mile at Taft Rd. — Daycare: Infant-5 yrs. including pre-school — Day/school: K-12 Home School: K-12 — Sun. School 9:45 a.m. • Worship 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. — Dr. Gary Ethier, Pastor — 349-3477 • 349-9491 — www.novichristianoutreach.org

ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI — 46325 10 Mile Rd. Novi, MI 48374 — Saturday 5:00 p.m. — Sunday 8:30 & 11:30 a.m. — Reverend James F. Cronk, Pastor — Parish Office: 347-7778

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CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY — 24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48375 — Masses: Sat. 5 pm; Sun 7:30 a.m. 8:45 am, 10:30 am, 12:15 pm — Holy Days: 9 am, 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm — Fr. John G. Buddie, Pastor — Fr. Paul Ballan, Associate Pastor — Parish Office: 349-8847

CHURCH OF TODAY WEST (Unity) — New Location: Meadowbrook Elementary School - Novi (South of 13 Mile on Meadowbrook Road) — (248) 449-8900 — Services at 10 AM — Minister Barbara Clevenger

WORLDWIDE HARVEST CHURCH — "A Place To Grow" — Pastor Keith J. McAra — Sunday Worship Service, 11:00 AM — The Raymond Ink Warm, MI (I-96 and Wixom Rd. east) — More Info: (248) 919-0829 E-mail: ReapingHarvest@aol.com — Web: whc.20fr.com

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ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH — 23225 Gill Road — Between Grand River & Freedom — 248-474-0584 — SUMMER WORSHIP — 9:30 Traditional, 11:00 Contemporary — Daniel Cave, Pastor

Crosspointe Meadows Church — Pastor Danny L. Langley — Traditional Service - 9:00 A.M. — Contemporary Service - 10:30 A.M. — Meeting at Novi Civic Center — 248-444-7755 — crosspointemeadows.org

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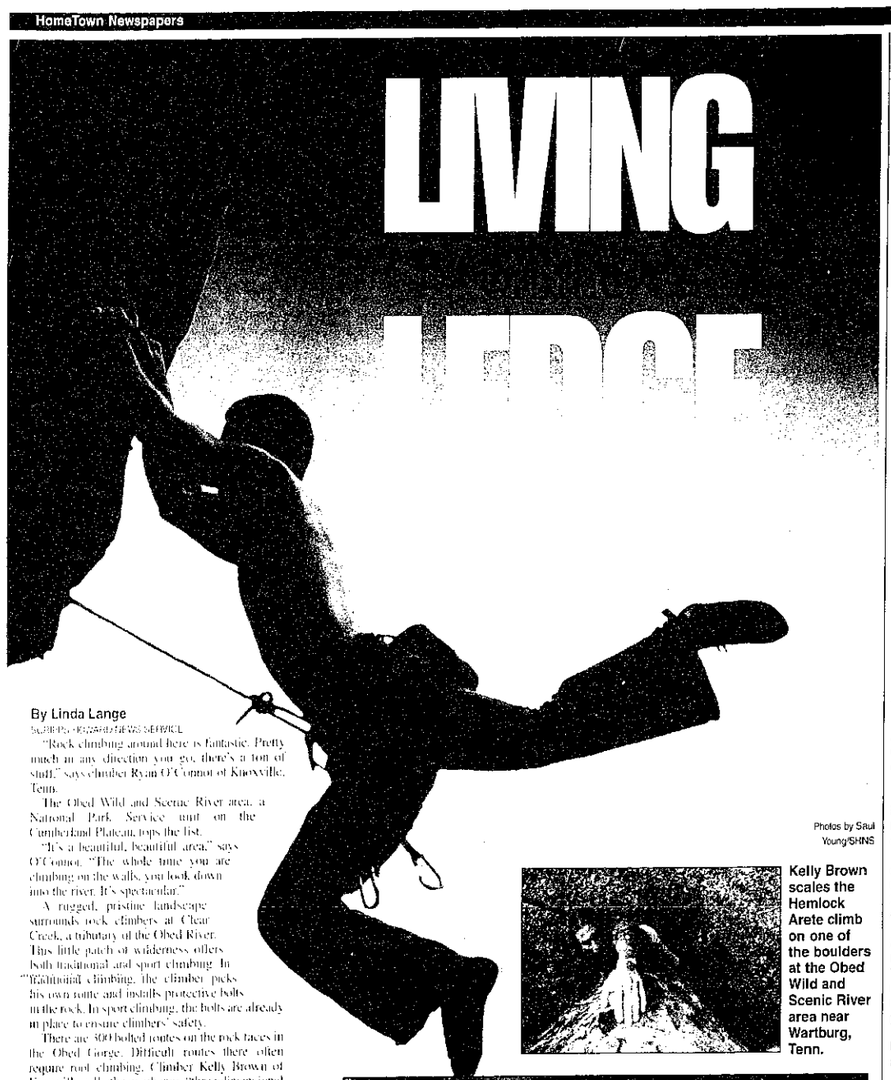
HEALTH & FITNESS

LIVING HIGH



By Linda Lange
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

"Rock climbing around here is fantastic. Pretty much in any direction you go, there's a ton of stuff," says climber Ryan O'Connor of Knoxville, Tenn.

The Obed Wild and Scenic River area, a National Park Service unit on the Cumberland Plateau, tops the list.

"It's a beautiful, beautiful area," says O'Connor. "The whole time you are climbing on the walls, you look down into the river. It's spectacular."

A rugged, pristine landscape surrounds rock climbers at Clear Creek, a tributary of the Obed River. This little patch of wilderness offers both traditional and sport climbing. In traditional climbing, the climber picks his own route and installs protective bolts in the rock. In sport climbing, the bolts are already in place to ensure climbers' safety.

There are 300 bolted routes on the rock faces in the Obed Gorge. Difficult routes there often require rock climbing. Climber Kelly Brown of Knoxville calls the overhangs "three-dimensional puzzles. What's my body gonna do to get through this space of rock?" They test the climber gymnastically, physically and mentally."

Climbers are also attracted to the bouldering fields at the Obed's Lilly Bluff.

"It's just big rocks," O'Connor says. "You don't go up high. You don't need ropes. You don't need a harness, any of that stuff. It's just 'problems,' as they call it. A lot of guys will find a boulder and practice physically hard moves so that when they get on a wall and they are 50 feet in the air, they've got that practice making hard moves."

Kris Stoehr, unit manager of the Obed Wild and Scenic River, attributes the surge in the number of climbers to the advent of climbing walls in gyms, outdoor stores and other facilities.

A student at the University of Tennessee and a staff member at Earth Traverse Outfitters, O'Connor got into climbing by going with friends.

"On a warm sunny day, you can't beat it," he says. "I kayak and bike a lot, but rock climbing is cool. It's a physical and mental game. You would think that you just need to be really strong. It's a lot more – learning to use all your muscles, all your body, learning to put a lot of weight on your feet. Even though you want to trust your hands when you are climbing a wall, your legs are a lot stronger."

Brown, 43, says rock climbing is a whole-body workout.

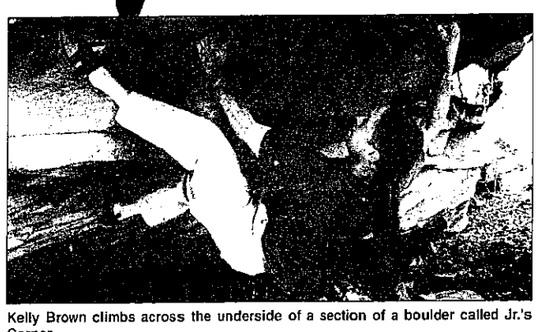
"Some moves seem humanly impossible," he says. "But with a little bit of endurance, it's remarkable to see that you can do it."

He admits to tense moments. "A couple of times I prayed that I could get to those anchors without falling. It's usually the adventures – the ones where you faced impending doom – that you remember the most.

"... Rock climbing moves me," he says. "I truly don't understand why I'm fascinated by it, but I love it. Being exposed, being up in the air, a certain scariness – it's a rush."

Photos by Saul Young/SHNS

Kelly Brown scales the Hemlock Arete climb on one of the boulders at the Obed Wild and Scenic River area near Wartburg, Tenn.



Kelly Brown climbs across the underside of a section of a boulder called Jr.'s Corner.

Brandon Waddy, left, is attached to a rope tied to Kelly Brown. If Brown should fall during a climb, Waddy can decrease the slack in the rope to keep him from hitting the ground.

Brandon Waddy hangs onto the over hanging roof of climb at the Obed called Altered States.

Photo by MediaGraphics

Many parents are looking to rid their childrens' schools of junk food vending machines.

Sugar busters

Parents aim to rid school lunch lines of junk food

By Matt Sebastian
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

A visit to her daughter's middle school cafeteria left Leslie Pomeroy reeling.

Foregoing hot lunches, hungry kids piled into the snack line at Southern Hills Middle School in Boulder, Colo., forking over their lunch money for a diet of cookies, candy bars, potato chips and other unhealthy eats.

"It was all high carbs, high sugar, high saturated fat – stuff like Snickers and Doritos," she says. "There was a bowl of fruit that sat at the end of the snack line, but we're lucky if they sell one apple a day."

Appalled by the prospect of ever-fattening teens, Pomeroy assembled a group of parents who vowed to rid their school – and perhaps the entire Boulder Valley School District – of junk food.

So far, the group has persuaded Southern Hills to take a closer look at its snack fare and has begun assembling possible replacements.

"Some of the parents are just absolutely horrified about what's being served in the snack line," says Carrie Hausfather, chairwoman of the school's parent-teacher organization.

Southern Hills' snack selections aren't unusual.

For years, schools around the country have sold less-than-healthy snacks, sometimes going so far as to sign contracts with fast-food franchises or soft-drink companies.

Such contracts, and the increasing number of overweight schoolchildren, recently led California to ban junk food from public schools beginning in 2004. Los Angeles also has banned the sale of soft drinks from its district's schools.

Pomeroy and several other parents began working with the PTO and the administration late last fall to find new products for the school's snack line. The challenge, they say, is to come up with items that students still will buy, since the money made in the snack line helps finance the district's hot-lunch program.

"This is a revenue maker," Hausfather says. "The bottom line is that we don't want to take money away from the district."

The parents also are worried about the cost. Healthier products under consideration – such as PowerBar-brand energy bars or Pirate's Booty cheese puffs – are more expensive than junk food, sometimes by as much as $1 an item. Some parents and district officials are concerned that students from lower-income families could be priced out of the snack line.

Then there's the challenge of finding a distributor. Pomeroy says it's easy to find companies that distribute candy bars and potato chips; healthier foods are another matter.

The school has welcomed the parents' involvement, even going so far as to host student taste tests of the proposed replacements for the snack line's junk food.

Pomeroy thinks Southern Hills will become a model for how the district should handle nutrition. Once that happens, she hopes, the district can become a model for the state.

"We have an uphill battle," Pomeroy concedes. "But so what? It's worth fighting for."

Protect your kids: Smoke outside

By Donna Halvorsen
MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL STAR TRIBUNE

Nationwide, moms are being targeted with a new message: You'll be a hero to your kids if you smoke outside the house.

Doctors have long advised mothers to stop smoking, but the message turned off some women because quitting isn't easy. Now, public health workers have another message they'd like mom to hear: that by smoking in the house, she is endangering the health of her children.

It's a risk that has taken on urgency as research increasingly has documented the harmful effects of secondhand smoke. A national advertising campaign focuses on what happens to children who breathe the 4,000 chemicals and more than 40 carcinogens known to be in tobacco smoke.

The campaign uses TV and radio ads to target women who smoke and have children under 6. These smokers spend the most time in the house with their children and may change their behavior if they realize the health of their children is at stake, research indicates. Furthermore, many young women continue to smoke.

But homes are not subject to state or federal smoking regulations – and are unlikely to be. So the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the American Medical Association and the Consumer Federation of America are taking a softer approach using public service ads that reach out to parents of children under 6, specifically moms.

"What people have realized is that a nicotine addiction is really a hard thing for people to stop," said Dr. Peter Dehnel, a pediatric lung specialist and head of the Children's Hospitals' Physician Network. "It doesn't do a lot of good to make people feel guilty about that."

But smoking outside reduces the risk to children, Dehnel said. "Anything to reduce the exposure of non-smokers to secondhand smoke is a good idea. Ideally, you'd find a way to help the people in the house to quit smoking, but if that doesn't work, this is kind of the next step."

Do much driving? It's written all over your face

By Matthew Barrows
SACRAMENTO BEE

When patients come into Dr. Suzanne Kilmer's dermatology office in Sacramento, Calif., she usually can tell right away whether they've spent their lives primarily as drivers or as passengers.

How?

If the left side of the face has more wrinkles, crags and blotches, the patients are drivers. If it's the right side, they're passengers.

That's right. Sitting in traffic day in and day out doesn't just put stress on our hearts and fill our lungs with dangerous fumes. Now experts are saying it also causes our skin to age prematurely, and it may even lead to skin cancer.

The problem is that motorists think their windshields and windows protect them from the sun. That's only partially true.

Glass does block out some ultraviolet radiation waves – the so-called UVB radiation – that cause sunburn and lead to squamous cell and basal cell carcinomas.

But the other waves, the more ubiquitous UVA rays, are still getting through. And as any dermatologist will tell you, UVA rays aren't exactly harmless.

UVA rays penetrate even more into the skin, damaging deeper tissues and breaking down collagen and elastin, the proteins that give skin its tautness and elasticity. That's why UVA rays are also known as "aging rays."

A case in point, Kilmer says, is a 65-year-old patient of hers who spent 40 years driving a school bus.

"One side of her face looks like corduroy; the other side looks like a normal 65-year-old woman's," Kilmer says.

How can you protect yourself?

Dermatologists recommend making sunscreen as routine as putting on your seat belt.

Photo by Frederic Larson/SHNS

Drive often? Experts are saying sitting in traffic causes our skin to age prematurely, and it may even lead to skin cancer.

Most sunscreens protect the skin against UVB rays – something a car window already takes care of. Instead, dermatologists suggest sunscreens such as titanium dioxide and zinc oxide, which block both types of rays.

Dr. Ann Haas, another Sacramento-area dermatologist, says motorists who are particularly sensitive to the sun may want to think about additional protection.

Companies such as Coolibar and Solumbra, for example, sell sun-protective clothing. Drivers who are worried about brown spots on their hands, for example, can buy gloves that offer protection when grabbing the steering wheel at the sun-prone 10 o'clock and 2 o'clock position.

Another option is a window film called Llumar, which blocks out 99 percent of both UVA and UVB rays, protecting not only a car's interior, but also a motorist's skin.

"Or they may want to consider commuting in the early morning or early evening when the sun isn't so bad," Haas says.

HOME & GARDEN

How to fight fire ants (and win)

By Cassandra Hinojosa
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

When Pam Hoy lived in Delaware, she never worried about getting attacked by fire ants. But that all changed when she moved to Texas.

"Up north you run around barefoot in the grass. Here, you just don't," says Hoy, who now contends with 10 fire ant mounds in her yard in Corpus Christi.

Since Hoy has lived in Texas, she's had some serious run-ins with the aggressive fire ants. The most alarming attack came when fire ants invaded her son Brandon's crib.

"I had put him down for nap in his crib," recalls Hoy. "It was awful. He had at least 20 bites on him. After that we watched everywhere for those nasty things."

Brandon, now 16, had a mild reaction. Most people who get stung experience itching, burning and white bumps at the site of the sting. Applying ice at the site or taking antihistamines is usually enough to relieve the pain.

About 1 to 6 percent of people stung by fire ants have severe reactions, according to the Texas Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Society. More people have died in Texas from fire ant stings than in any other state.

Symptoms that may require immediate medical attention include shortness of breath, thickening of the tongue, nausea, sweating, dizziness or chest pain.

Stacy Cole, manager of Orkin Pest Control in Corpus Christi, says fire ants like to make their homes on the edges of patios, walkways and sidewalks. They especially enjoy wide open spaces. "Fire ants prefer newer grounds," he says. "In older neighborhoods, fire ants just don't like the shade."

To kill fire ants, Cole recommends applying granular baits called Fiprinil and Amdro instead of liquids. Apply the product around the outside of the mound rather than on top of it.

"When they find the (bait), they will take it back to the mound and the queen will eventually die," he says.

Fire ants inhabit the eastern two-thirds of Texas and the southeastern portion of the United States, says Dr. Bart Drees, director of the Texas Fire Ant Research and Management Project at Texas A&M University in College Station. The pests originally came from South America through Mobile, Ala., in the 1930s and spread to other states. Controlling fire ants and the medical bills related to them costs Texans $1.2 billion a year, Drees says.

Fire ants are extremely dangerous to young children and the elderly, he points out. "They don't realize they are in a hazardous situation until they get many stings – and it happens very quickly," he says.

Leon Little has seen fire ants attack and kill baby rabbits and calves at his barn in Flour Bluff, Texas.

Last summer Little was stung while working on farming equipment near fire ant mounds. In just seconds, the ants had crawled up his pant legs. "I had to come out of my britches to get them off of me," he recalls.

Water works

By Kathy Barberich
FRESNO BEE

If lawn mowers and cars were equipped with sensors that kept them from running over sprinklers, people would sleep better at night. If pipes didn't break and heads didn't clog, there would be no sprinkler nightmares.

"But everyone has to deal with damaged sprinklers," says Joe Sanchez, an irrigation specialist at California State University, Fresno.

The most common problem, he says, is a clogged head or nozzle. "It's also the easiest repair," he says. "A lot of times people will think the whole sprinkler is broken and has to be replaced. The first thing they should do is unscrew the top, flush it out with water and put it back on."

Also common is damaged or broken-off nozzles.

Before replacing anything, Sanchez says, flush out the sprinkler head. "If dirt has gotten in there while the nozzle is off, it still might not work right when you put the new nozzle on," he says.

Sanchez says to keep plenty of parts on hand. "Know what size your pipes are," he says. "You should have extra lengths of pipe, couplings, valves, PVC glue if you have PVC pipe, and sprinkler heads or nozzles. If some of your nozzles are high-rise for hard-to-reach places, have some of those. If you have shrub nozzles for lower places, have some of those.

"An irrigation saw or a hacksaw is handy for cutting pipe."

Most of all, Sanchez says, "Stay with the same sizes and brands. Don't try to mix them. You will probably have trouble."

Also important, says Sanchez: Know where your water shut-off valve is. "Hopefully, the shut-off valve is separate from the house shut-off valve so you won't be turning off the water to the house," he says. "If you have gushing water coming from a sprinkler, turn off the valve, then try to figure out what is wrong."

Photos by Owen Brewer/Sacramento Bee

A dove sits in her nest in a large prickly pear cactus in the yard of Norman Klein in Rancho Cordova, Calif.

CACTUS HEAVEN

Spine-tingling adventures from the cactus garden

By Pat Rubin
SACRAMENTO BEE

Don't do anything dangerous in the garden while I'm gone, Norman Klein's wife admonished him before leaving on an out-of-town trip.

Dangerous? Gardening is supposed to be therapeutic, peaceful, occasionally strenuous – but surely not dangerous.

Klein's garden is the exception. The 65-year-old gardener should have heeded his wife's advice, because the next day he found himself flat on his back atop a large barrel cactus armed with 2-inch-long fishhook spines. Several were sticking in his backside. His left arm was stuck on a needle-sharp agave, and his right arm was caught on another cactus.

Klein had slipped as he was trying to weed some cactus planted in a raised bed along the back fence.

He couldn't get up. He was stuck. After a few minutes, he managed to tear himself off the cactus plants, taking dozens of spines with him. Bleeding and in pain, he hobbled next door, where his neighbor pulled cactus spines out of his backside, one painful prickle at a time.

A former oral and facial surgeon, Klein tends thousands of cactuses in his Rancho Cordova, Calif., yard. With common names such as "horse crippler," "fire barrel" and "Argentine toothpick," it's no wonder Klein sometimes describes his pruning, tidying and planting chores as dangerous.

The name "cactus" comes from the Greek "kaktos," which means thistle. The spines protect the plants from browsing animals and make no distinction among humans, deer or rodents.

Now when he gardens, Klein carries a pair of tweezers in his pocket for removing bits of spines and thorns. His surgical skills have come in handy on several occasions, he said.

Spines aside, Klein has every inch of ground – save space for walkways, a stone patio and narrow gravel paths through the garden – brimming with opuntia, aloe, cereus, echinocactus, yucca and scores of other members of the Cactacea family. Although he had no master plan when he started, his arrangement of shapes and colors and his placement of boulders and meandering paths show a keen eye for design and a flair for drama.

Golden barrel cactuses, one of his favorite varieties, are planted at intervals and tie the garden together.

Prickly pear – with flat, broad, blue or green paddles and golden, red or black spines – are planted along the back fence. With trunks 2 feet or more across, they give the garden an air of maturity. Hundreds more cactuses in pots and in the ground are arranged along walkways and around the patio. Not an inch of ground is wasted.

"I've got something nobody else has. If you understand the time and risk involved, you can have a garden like this," Klein said. "I've probably potted up, planted or dug up 50,000 cactus plants over the years, and I've gotten to be quite skilled at it."

Despite the dangers involved in working with an 800-pound prickly pear or a 500-pound barrel cactus, Klein wouldn't have it any other way. Cactuses are his passion. He spends hours in his garden watering, weeding, dividing and nurturing his collection.

And it shows: There's nary a weed nor a stray leaf, not a rock or bit of gravel out of place. He waters every three weeks, a job that takes about four hours. His hoses are trashed by the end of the season, Klein said, from catching on cactus spines. He fertilizes every six weeks with a water-soluble fertilizer.

"Even though it's time-consuming and physically demanding, it really isn't work at all," Klein said. "I love it."

Cactus Misconceptions

Barrel cactuses are filled with water.

Fact: People hear that and think they can cut one open and drink from it, and it isn't true," Norman Klein said. They are filled with a dense, gel-like substance that Klein describes as "very, very bitter."

Cactus can't survive where it's cold.

Fact: A cactus called Old Man of the Andes, Oreocereus celsianus, grows in the Andes Mountains as high as 14,000 feet, where it is sometimes covered with snow.

You never need to water cactus.

Fact: While they can survive with very little water other than seasonal rains, they respond well to regular, limited watering.

The saguaro is the largest cactus.

Fact: The biggest cactus is Pachycereus pringlei. It can grow taller than 100 feet.

Helen and Norman Klein in front yard of Rancho Cordova home in California.

Large echinocactus grusonii and small barrel cactus in Norman Klein's yard in Rancho Cordova.

Powder Power

A coating gives rusty lawn furniture a brand-new look

By Kathy Barberich
FRESNO BEE

Your yard furniture is looking a little rough around the edges. The paint is peeling and cracking. Rust is showing through.

This could be the year you shell out for new patio furniture. But, you wonder, how long will the furniture last before the paint starts chipping or the rust starts to show?

And, truth be known, you like your old wrought-iron furniture and the pair of metal garden chairs handed down from Grandma. Repainting is only a temporary fix; you're looking for something more permanent.

The answer may be in the small print of some patio furniture ads that proclaim, "Powder-coated for durability" as one of the selling points. It doesn't apply only to new furniture, says Don Weber, an owner of Cap's Sandblasting & Powder Coating in Fresno, Calif.

In fact, among the pipes, valves, motorcycle and automobile parts, frames and accessories freshly powder-coated is a variety of outdoor furniture given new life. At Cap's are chairs, metal plant stands, iron barbecue frames and wrought-iron patio tables, lounges and umbrella stands. Some folks even have their kitchen stand mixers powder-coated.

Powder-coating sometimes is referred to as dry painting. The tiny dry particles, which look and feel like powder, are applied in an electrostatic process. At Cap's, anything that will be powder-coated is first sandblasted to make sure it's clean.

After the powder is sprayed on in a booth, the item is baked in a large, walk-in oven until the powder melts and bonds to the surface. A garden chair will bake for about 45 minutes at 400 degrees and come out looking brand-new.

To ensure durability, workers at Cap's put items through the process twice. As soon as the item cools, it's ready to go. No wet paint to dry. No dust particles in the paint. No fingerprints. Powder-coated items will withstand extreme temperatures and won't rust.

Patio furniture and fencing are a big part of Don Brown's business at Visalia Powder Coating and Aluminizing in Fresno. He uses a three-step process for patio furniture that is going to coastal areas. He sandblasts the furniture, aluminizes it by spraying on a coat of hot aluminum material and then powder-coats it.

"The aluminizing will protect the furniture from the moist salt air," he says.

The added process also doubles the price of a typical powder-coating session.

"I love seeing people's faces when they come to get their furniture," he says. "They bring it in and ask us to make it look better. They can't believe what they see. It looks brand-new."

Powder paints come in a variety of colors. Most metal items can be powder-coated. Weber says items should be taken apart before being powder-coated for a better job. Screws or nuts and bolts will be placed on a board and powder-coated, too.

FINE LIVING

Choosing Flowers as a Gift

Whether you love giving gifts for no particular reason or want to buy something special for an important gift-giving occasion, floral arrangements are a wonderful and increasingly popular choice.

By following a few simple guidelines and learning some tricks of the trade, you can impress your friends, loved-ones or business associates with a spectacular gift of fresh cut flowers.

Preston Bailey, who runs a full-service special event and entertainment design firm, Preston Bailey Design Inc., offers expert advice on how to choose flowers for the perfect gift:

- **Freshness:** Bailey says the most important thing to look for when selecting flowers is freshness. There are many ways to tell how recently flowers were cut. Tighter blossoms and greener leaves, for instance, are key evidence that the flowers are relatively fresh.
- **Consider the occasion:** Select your arrangement based on the time of year, the occasion and your relationship to the person receiving the gift. A bouquet for a springtime birthday, for example, will likely have a different feel than an autumn wedding anniversary.
- **For men:** Bailey believes the recipient's gender is another important consideration. For men, he suggests leaning towards reds and other dynamic colors.
- **For women:** For women, on the other hand, you might want to stick to whites and summery colors.
- **Presentation:** Bailey believes the key to a great presentation is abundance. You don't want to be sparing with flowers, he says, as three dozen roses are always more stunning than one dozen.

On the Web

- *Society of American Florists: www.aboutflowers.com*
- *FTD: www.ftd.com*
- *Fresh Cut Flower of the Month Club: www.flowermonthclub.com*

TECHNOLOGY

"Enter The Matrix" is an upcoming action-adventure game from publisher, Atari and developer, Shiny Entertainment.

Video games can be cash machines

By Kirk Baird
LAS VEGAS SUN

Hollywood's got game.

After years of ignoring the booming video-game industry as a childish novelty, film studios have embraced video games, if for no other reason than financial.

The bottom line: The games make money. The video game industry grossed $10 billion in 2001 or, $1.4 billion more than Hollywood earned that year, according to the Interactive Entertainment Merchants Association.

Eager to cash in, many studios are eagerly teaming with software companies to help bring the big screen to the small screen.

Some recent popular game titles include "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers," "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" and "Star Wars: Bounty Hunter," with other movie-based games on the way, including "Tron 2.0," "Star Wars: Galaxies" and "Enter the Matrix."

The buzz for the latter is so strong, in fact, "Enter the Matrix" was treated to a Hollywood-type premiere, complete with stars from the upcoming movie sequels, who also filmed an additional hour of footage for the game.

So far the union between the entertainment formats has proven profitable.

"The Two Towers" game, available for every major game platform along with PCS, has sold more than 3 million copies. At roughly $50 a game, that's a $150 million gross or, nearly half of the film's total U.S. box-office take.

Neil Young, executive producer of "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers," is neither surprised by the success of his game nor the attention given to other movie-based software.

"I think you have a generation of people who have grown up playing games," Young said. "It's as meaningful to them as books, movies and music."

While 20 years ago Hollywood thumbed its nose at games, today film directors and designers are often consulted by the game producers.

"We sort of built a relationship with the filmmakers in New Zealand before my arrival to some degree and a lot after my arrival on the project," Young said. "It's important to understand what the filmmakers are trying to do."

There are nearly seamless blends of film footage from both "Fellowship of the Ring" and "The Two Towers" incorporated into the game, which follows closely the film's plot.

Adding to the cinematic feel, hundreds of lines of dialogue were recorded by five of the films' main characters: Elijah Wood (Frodo), Ian McKellen (Gandalf), Viggo Mortensen (Aragorn), Orlando Bloom (Legolas) and John Rhys-Davies (Gimli).

Just because a game is attached to a film, however, doesn't guarantee its success. The video-game scrap heap is littered with failed movie-to-video game translations.

"I think in a lot of cases, what makes a really great movie does not make a great game and vice versa," cautioned Bob Picunico, marketing director for Disney Interactive, makers of "Tron 2.0." "There are certain instances when they have crossed over and those are best opportunities, working with a film division to find those instances where we can cross over for a win-win."

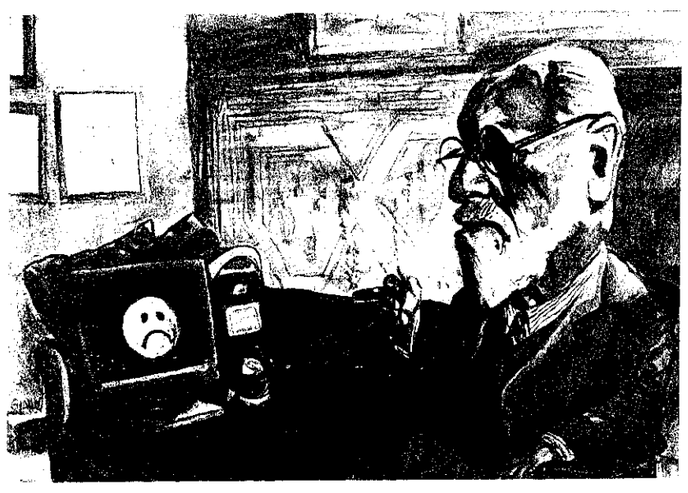
The film "Tron" was released in 1982. While the movie did OK box-office numbers, $33 million, its subsequent arcade and home-game versions were equally successful.

"When they produced the film ... it was state-of-the-art. They searched around for a computer that had the capabilities to do the effects and bring it all together," he said. "The basic processing power in a standard PC is bigger than the massive power they had in a mainframe. That will really show in the (new) game."

LucasArts, the software division of of George Lucas' entertainment empire, has released nearly 60 games based on its two popular film franchises: "Star Wars" and "Indiana Jones."

And now LucasArts is coming out with "Star Wars: Galaxies," its initial foray into massive multi-player online games (MMOG), first made popular by the PC role-playing classics "Ultima Online" and later "EverQuest."

More than three years in development, the "Star Wars" MMOG allows players to create a video alter-ego and interact with other "Galaxies" players and computer-controlled residents, including characters from the films, such as Han Solo and Luke Skywalker.



Data shrink

Some soothing words for ones' computer mishaps

Story By David Lazurus/San Francisco Chronicle ■ Illustration by Mark Giaimo/SHNS

Kelly Chessin has one of the toughest jobs in the tech world. She's a professional punching bag.

Actually, Chessin is a crisis counselor, apparently the only one employed full time by a technology company anywhere in the country. She has a degree in psychology from San Francisco State University and spent several years working for a suicide hotline.

Now she deals with the emotional turmoil of computer meltdowns.

"People get upset – very, very upset," Chessin says. "They yell. They cry. They need someone to listen to them and let them vent. That's what I'm here for."

She works for DriveSavers, which specializes in recovering data from even the most devastated computer system, such as a laptop crushed beneath the wheel of a MacWorld shuttle bus or a PowerBook that spent two days at the bottom of the Amazon River (both true stories).

The Novato, Calif., company has performed emergency salvage operations for the likes of George Lucas, Bruce Willis and the makers of the "The Simpsons." These are the go-to guys when ordinary PC repairs just won't cut it.

And they see a clear need for having a mental-health professional on staff.

"There's a whole range of emotions people go through when they lose data," says John Christopher, a DriveSavers engineer. "From anger to grief."

When the company receives a call from someone who's clearly lost it – which can happen several times an hour – Chessin comes on the line to help the caller rediscover their happy place. Then the engineer returns to discuss the technical problem in detail.

Christopher says he often sees Chessin slipping out of the office between calls to blow off steam.

"It can be pretty stressful," he says. "It's easy for her to get wrapped up in people's lives. There's a lot riding on our ability to find solutions."

Chessin, 29, says her suicide hotline experience is invaluable in helping distraught computer users handle a data disaster.

"It's similar," she says. "But when people call a hotline, you need to help them find their own solutions. Now I can offer solutions to people's problems."

Another key difference: People who call a suicide hotline usually don't call back. That would be for one reason or another, of course. But people who seek help from DriveSavers do frequently call again to say thanks.

"That's really nice," Chessin says.

DriveSavers has 40 employees. The company handles about 1,000 cases a month, with the typical recovery job costing $900. DriveSavers boasts a 90 percent success rate for bringing bytes back from the dead.

But first, customers need to chill out.

Chessin's technique is essentially unchanged from her hotline days. She keeps her voice even and listens patiently as the caller works out his or her issues.

"A crisis is a crisis is a crisis," Chessin says. "You've got to get the person calm and see what can be done to solve their problems."

> *"People get upset – very, very upset. They yell. They cry. They need someone to listen to them and let them vent. That's what I'm here for."*
>
> **Kelly Chessin,** crisis counselor

Online services click with area residents

Web-based sign-ups save cities money and users time

By Jennifer K. Morita
SACRAMENTO BEE

Last year, Roseville, Calif., parents who wanted to sign their kids up for summer swimming classes had to rise at dawn and stand in line for hours. Now, it's just a matter of a few clicks of the mouse.

In Davis, Calif., parks and recreation personnel used to watch mail-in registration cards pile up for weeks before tossing them into big tubs and randomly drawing the winners.

But after launching an online registration program, their recreation lottery is done by computers – and takes just seconds.

Cities are offering a growing number of online services, from booking tee times at golf courses to paying traffic tickets and utility bills and applying for simple building permits.

Residents and city officials are basking in the joys of e-government because, in addition to the convenience of taking care of business from home, the services bring thousands of dollars to city coffers with a minimal amount of staff effort.

"Everybody is going that way," said Tony Stanco, an expert on e-government at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Roseville's Parks and Recreation Department implemented online registration for a handful of classes about a year ago, according to director Mike Sheflito. In February, the city added youth camps and the popular summer swimming lessons that served 5,400 kids last year.

The first day of registration, 600 of the 700 sign-ups were done over the Internet, Sheflito said. "In one day, $60,000 in revenue came into the city without anyone in our office ever having to handle it, because the money was immediately deposited," he said.

"We knew it would be successful, but the volume and overnight success was surprising. We thought people would ease into it, but really what people did was jump on it."

Now, roughly 80 percent of class registrations are done over the Internet, Shellito said.

"It was very expensive for our staff, very inconvenient and not very customer-friendly for our citizens," Shellito said. "So, to think about 2,400 registrations happening without anyone coming into the office in person, and still taking in that amount of money – it's a huge convenience for our residents and an enormous cost savings to our city."

For the city of Davis, online registration for recreation classes was the city's first foray into e-government, said Diane Medlock, an administrative analyst with the city's Parks and Community Services Department.

"Our first three days, we had 81 percent of registrations online. And during the first 24 hours that we had the recreation schedule posted on the Web, it was downloaded 2,449 times. So it's going great."

Many city officials say signing up for yoga online is just the beginning. Already, job seekers can apply for positions with the city of Roseville and submit résumés over the Internet. Residents can put books on hold at the library, schedule building inspections and sign up for conferences sponsored by the city.

Families are hitting the gas on vehicular video

By Vince Horiuchi
SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

You might say Robyn Goeller is a kind of road warrior, even though she's a mom who lugs her two girls around in a minivan.

Her fight is against boredom and a van full of kids who sometimes would rather argue than act nice.

Her weapons are a 7-inch video screen mounted in the ceiling of her Mazda minivan, a portable VCR and "Shrek." She'll never travel without them.

Mobile video – DVD or VCR decks mounted in vehicles – is finally giving soccer moms and country travelers something they never thought they could have on a road trip with kids – peace and quiet.

"It relieves so much stress on a trip," said Goeller, who lives in Sandy, Utah. "Driving can be such a hectic thing. With this, you know that your car can stay calm."

Goeller once traveled to Las Vegas with her family and was caught in traffic that stopped the van for more than an hour and a half.

"I was proud to say my nerves were not rattled because my girls were entertained in the back seat," she said. "It actually saved me a lot of stress. I wished they invented it 20 years ago."

And for her 13-year-old daughter, Alexx, watching comedies like "Blast from the Past" or "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" in the back seat is much better than "just sitting there and watching the trees go by."

With falling prices and consumers' affinity to the now-familiar DVD technology, car video decks "have been the largest-growing segment of mobile electronics in the last two or three years," said Rick A. Mathies, executive director of the Mobile Enhancement Retailers Association, an Indianapolis-based consortium of car-stereo retailers.

Photo by Francisco Kjolseth/Salt Lake Tribune

Robyn Goeller of Sandy watches her children, Alexx, 13, left, and Jessica, 11, play a round of video games in the family's minivan.

The sales of mobile DVD systems increased 53 percent last November compared with November 2001, according to Mathies. The sales of video monitors for vehicles increased 57 percent.

While today's prices are far below the $6,000-$7,000 systems manufacturers introduced more than eight years ago, video players with monitors still average anywhere from $1,000 to $2,000.

Flat panel monitors, which usually are mounted in the middle of the ceiling or on the back of the headrests of the front bucket seats, alone can cost anywhere from $200 for a 4-inch screen to $1,200 for 15 inches.

The cost goes even higher with better screens featuring thin film transistors (TFT) for brighter viewing and with switches that allow passengers to do separate activities on different monitors (i.e., one watches a movie while the other plays a video game). The sound is piped to wireless infrared headphones.

For about $2,000, motorists even can install motorized satellite dishes to get regular television reception through providers like Dish Network or DirecTV.

To combat lofty prices, some manufacturers sell removable DVD and VCR players with small, 5-inch screens that can be placed between the front seats, and some travelers even use their DVD-capable laptop computers. They can cost around $300.

Cheryl Wright, associate professor in family and consumer studies at the University of Utah, says videos in the car can be a "mixed bag" and stresses that parents have to put limits on how much they use them.

"For long trips, it's perfectly appropriate. Developmentally, it's inappropriate for young children to sit still for long periods of time. In that regard, it's an effective tool," she said. "On the negative side is if it's actually permanently installed in the car because there might be the tendency to turn it on whenever you get into the car.

"It's so critical that parents regulate how much media exposure children have," she added.

FOOD

Recipe Corner

CREAMY CHEESECAKE
1 tablespoon unsalted butter, melted
3 tablespoons graham cracker crumbs
2 lbs. cream cheese
1-1/4 cups sugar
4 large eggs, room temperature
1 teaspoon grated lemon zest
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1/4 cup heavy cream
1/4 cup sour cream
Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Line bottom of 9-inch springform pan with foil. Assemble pan and then pull excess foil up around the side of the pan. Brush bottom and sides of pan with butter. Sprinkle crumbs over bottom. Tilt pan in all directions to coat evenly with crumbs. Cover pan underneath and along side with sheet of heavy-duty foil and set in large roasting pan. Bring kettle of water to boil for water bath.

Meanwhile, beat cream cheese in bowl of electric mixer until smooth. Gradually add sugar and beat on medium speed until sugar dissolves, about 3 minutes. Add eggs, one at a time, beating until just incorporated and scraping down after each addition. (If you don't scrape down the bowl after each egg, cream cheese that sticks to the bowl will show up ultimately as lumps in the batter.)

Add zest and vanilla and beat until just incorporated. Remove bowl from mixer; stir in cream and sour cream.

Pour batter into prepared pan. Set roasting pan on oven rack and pour in enough boiling water to come about halfway up side of springform pan. Bake until perimeter of cake is set but center jiggles like Jell-O when pan is tapped, 55 to 60 minutes. Turn off heat and leave oven door ajar for 1 hour longer. Remove springform pan from water bath and set on wire rack; cool to room temperature. Cover and refrigerate until chilled, at least 4 hours. Serves 12-16.

Variations: For a cheesecake that is lighter and airier, follow directions but separate eggs. Add yolks, rather than whole eggs, at instructed time. Continue with recipe, stirring in cream and sour cream. Beat egg whites to soft peaks. Fold whites into batter, pour into prepared pan and bake, reducing cooking time to 45 to 50 minutes. For a denser and firmer cheesecake, follow recipe for Creamy Cheesecake but disregard directions for the water bath. Bake cake at 500 degrees for 10 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 200 (leave oven door open until temperature reduces). Bake until cheesecake perimeter is set but center jiggles when pan is tapped, about 1 hour longer. Continue with cooling instructions in basic cake.

Source: "The Best Recipe" by the editors of Cook's Illustrated

CHEESECAKE BARS
1/3 cup butter
1/3 cup dark brown sugar, packed
1 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup finely chopped pecans
1/4 cup granulated sugar
1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese
1 large egg
2 tablespoons milk
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Cream butter and brown sugar in a large bowl until light and fluffy. Add the flour and the nuts; blend until the mixture resembles crumbs and set aside 3/4 cup. Press the remaining mixture into the bottom of an 8-inch square pan. Bake for 15 minutes.

Combine the sugar and cream cheese in a medium bowl; beat until smooth. Add egg, milk, lemon juice and vanilla, beating well. Spread the cream cheese mixture over the baked crust. Sprinkle reserved crumbs over top. Bake for 35 minutes. Cool for at least 1 hour in the refrigerator before cutting into bars.

Source: "The Church Ladies' Divine Desserts," by Brenda Rhodes Miller, who describes these as "all the flavor of cheesecake in a bar cookie."

MINDY'S RICOTTA CHEESECAKE
Softened butter or shortening for greasing the pan
1 package (18.25 ounces) plain white cake mix
4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) butter, melted
4 large eggs
2 cups ricotta cheese
1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
2 tablespoons Marsala or medium sweet sherry
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/4 teaspoon almond extract
1/2 cup golden raisins
1/2 cup sliced almonds

Place a rack in the center of the oven and preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Lightly grease a 13-by-9-inch pan with butter or shortening. Set aside.

Measure 1/2 cup of the cake mix and set aside for the filling. Place the remaining cake mix, the melted butter and 1 egg in a large mixing bowl. Blend with an electric mixer on low speed for 2 minutes. Stop the machine and scrape down the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula. The batter should come together in a ball. With your fingertips, pat the batter evenly over the bottom and 1 inch up the sides of the prepared pan, smoothing it out with your fingers until the top is smooth. Set the pan aside.

For the filling, place the ricotta cheese and the sweetened condensed milk in the same mixing bowl that was used to make the crust and with the same beaters (no need to clean) blend with an electric mixer on low speed until just combined, 30 seconds to 1 minute. Stop the machine and add the reserved cake mix, the remaining 3 eggs, the Marsala or sherry, and vanilla and almond extracts. Beat on medium speed for 1 minute. Stop the machine and scrape down the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula. Fold in the golden raisins.

Pour the filling into the crust and spread with a rubber spatula so the filling covers the entire surface and reaches the sides of the pan. Sprinkle the top with almonds. Place pan in oven. Bake the cheesecake until the center no longer jiggles when you shake the pan and the almonds look toasted, 50 to 55 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven and place it on a wire rack to cool about 30 minutes. Lightly cover the pan with plastic wrap and place in refrigerator to chill for at least 1 hour but preferably 24 hours. Cut into squares and serve.

Source: "The Cake Mix Doctor," by Anne Byrne

Cheesecake Corner owner Kevin Matthews' version of the ever popular Turtle Cheesecake.

CHEESECAKE

When you want something sinfully rich, your mouth says 'cheesecake'

Story By Christine Arpe Gang ■ Photo By Jim Weber ■ Scripps Howard News Service

Every bite of cheesecake is rich, sinful, sweet, guilt-producing and comforting.

We may not indulge in it often for those very reasons, but when we do, it's something to savor.

"I know it's fattening but I love it," said Angela Saulsberry as she pondered her choice among the 25 cakes of varying flavors at The Cheesecake Corner in Memphis.

Saulsberry decided on the white chocolate raspberry cake and her co-worker, Berna Manuel, selected Key lime.

Three pounds of cream cheese go into every one of Kevin Matthews's cheesecakes at the Cheesecake corner, along with the same ingredients home cooks use when making a cheesecake: whole eggs, sugar and vanilla.

He mixes every cake individually in a non-commercial Kitchen Aid mixer.

"I've made thousands of cheesecakes with this mixer," he said. "To make a good cheesecake you have to have patience. Each cake is homemade with its own identity. You can't rush it."

Matthews has about 100 cake flavors in his recipe repertoire and about 20 to 25 of them are available by the slice. Some of his unusual combinations include almond raspberry, chocolate banana, eggnog, mint almond swirl, peach pecan and imperial Bing cherry.

Caramel pecan is the customer favorite, followed by chocolate, white chocolate raspberry and Key lime, he said.

American cheesecakes tend to be one of two styles: the dense New York style made famous by Lindy's delicatessen in New York and the airier Italian types made with ricotta cheese and studded with raisins.

Crusts can be crushed graham cracker crumbs or cookies such as Oreos or vanilla wafers.

Jody Browder, co-owner of the Cheesecake Place in Cordova, Tenn., offers 15 to 20 flavors daily with the basic style being the most popular, followed by "Death by Chocolate," a cake with melted milk chocolate and chocolate chips in the batter baked on an Oreo crust and topped with dark chocolate ganache.

"We're constantly changing flavors," Browder said. "In the summer we'll do more fruit flavors."

Instead of selling slices, Browder bakes individual servings in Texas-sized muffin pans. "When we slice a cake it dries out," he said. "This way customers get special little cakes just for them."

He's also done stacked wedding and groom cakes.

Barry Abramson, owner of the Eden Cafe in Collierville, Tenn., is another cheesecake specialist.

"I just wanted to do one thing really well," Abramson said. He worked for six months perfecting his recipe, which he bakes into cakes of all sizes and depths.

"It's best to keep them simple using the finest ingredients and the right techniques," he said.

He describes his cakes as creamy and melt-in-your-mouth. "I always think the New York-style cheesecakes are gummy," he said. "I'd put mine up against anyone's."

Abramson has numerous flavors, including hazelnut cappuccino, Key lime and mocha brulee with a custard on the bottom.

He makes a sugar-free version sweetened with Splenda and a reduced-fat version with Neufchatel cottage and ricotta cheeses.

Both are good, he said, but not as good as traditional versions.

Cheesecakes, which require lots of expensive ingredients, are not cheap.

Whole cakes at The Cheesecake Corner are $32.50; they are $23.50 to $28.50 at Cheesecake Place; Homemade Inc.'s 10-by-3-inch cakes are $27.

You can buy frozen cheesecakes at places such as Sam's Club and Costco for about $10.

What's the difference?

"Ours is fresh and baked right here in the store," Browder said. "You don't know how long the frozen ones have been at the store."

Keen tasters can detect stabilizers and gelatins in the frozen types, said Matthews.

While cheesecake is too rich for everyday fare, its appeal endures for special occasions.

"People love cream cheese and they love sweets," Abramson said. "I don't think there's a better combination when it's done right."

Baking Tips

Editors and recipe testers at Cook's Illustrated magazine found there is no one ideal cheesecake.

"One person's lush cheesecake is another's wimpy; one person's fluffy is another's spongy and one's dense is another's dry," they say in their research.

As they do in perfecting all the recipes they publish, they tried numerous ingredient combinations and techniques:

■ They concluded that full fat Philadelphia cream cheese performed the best. Don't use light, fat-free or Neufchatel if you're going to the expense and trouble to make a cheesecake.

■ If you want to prevent cracks in your cheesecake, bake it in a water bath. That technique produced perfect results for the Cook's Illustrated staff, while the cakes cracked in a dry oven and when baked over a pan of hot water.

■ They also discovered that baking the cake at a high temperature, 500 degrees, for the first 12 minutes and then reducing the heat to 200 degrees yielded a cake with a nicely browned crust and the dense, creamy texture preferred by most of the magazine's staff.

Photo by Drew Perine/The News Tribune

Tiny teeth on this corer make it easy to remove stems.

Go ahead – play with your food

By Cecilia Nguyen
TACOMA NEWS TRIBUNE

Tools that slice vegetables parchment-thin. A funky grater that more resembles a woodworking tool than a kitchen accessory.

And a digital meat thermometer that signals to the chef through a paging system that the roast has attained a perfect medium rare.

For many home cooks, kitchen gadgets and devices such as these are as important as the ingredients they use to create those delicious desserts or enticing entrees.

Whether a person is just learning or a longtime home chef, tools and gizmos make cooking easier and fun, say home cooks such as Marie Wenman.

"They're like toys for cooks," Wenman said as she browsed the shelves of a kitchen supply store in Gig Harbor, Wash. "I like to look at all of the new things out there."

Ron and Catherine Ruud, co-owners of Gourmet Essentials in Gig Harbor, credit celebrity chefs, talk shows and television networks dedicated to food for the consumer interest in culinary gadgets.

"As soon as it's on the Food Channel or Oprah, customers will come in looking for the same tool," Catherine Ruud said.

Bed Bath & Beyond, a national kitchen and housewares retailer, has a renowned gadget wall to display culinary tools from floor to ceiling, said Bari Fagin, a Bed Bath & Beyond spokeswoman."The gadget wall for cooks is what a candy store is for a child," Fagin said.

The more popular – and marketable – gadgets usually are inexpensive, streamline the cooking process and make cooking fun, Ron Ruud said. Items that are easy to use and cost less than $10, such as garlic peelers, garlic presses and the tomato slicer, have been favorites among Gourmet Essentials' customers, he said.

"What turns out to be a person's favorite gadget is usually the one that you didn't think you needed until you saw it," Fagin said.

Jack Azizeh of Gig Harbor, who considers himself to be an amateur chef, said the garlic press is probably the most vital tool in his kitchen.

Catherine Ruud said she would need at least four tools: an instant-read thermometer, OXO potato peeler, microplane graters and a tomato corer.

Azizeh said he's always on the lookout for the latest and most popular kitchen tool. He reads food magazines. He watches cooking shows. He frequently scans the shelves of cooking supply stores to see what's out there.

"If (a tool) makes it easier or makes cooking more fun, then I like it," he said.

FINE LIVING

Cook up a reunion

Getting together with friends or relatives that you haven't seen for awhile can be a bit intimidating, as you never know who's changed, who hasn't and how people will react to new additions to the group.

In gatherings like this, it's often a good idea to get everyone involved in a common task, and as common tasks go there's nothing more social than cooking and eating a great dinner.

For centuries, people have been bonding over the breaking of bread, but participating in cooking a big communal meal can bring people even closer together.

As executive director of the Viking Culinary Arts Centers, Chan Patterson is responsible for overseeing the start-up of each of the high-end retail stores. Each of the centers features gourmet cookware and accessories, as well as cooking classes for the public.

A professionally trained chef, Patterson says making a big meal can be the perfect focus for a reunion:

■ A passion for food. If you love to cook and eat fine food, you might want to consider planning vacations, family gatherings or other important events around your culinary passion.

■ Reconnecting. Patterson believes cooking and hanging out in the kitchen is a great way to build a sense of community and bring everyone together. Cooking is a wonderful icebreaker, as there's no need to awkwardly search for conversation topics when everyone gets chatting about food.

■ Sharing recipes. If people are gathering from different parts of the country or world, it can be both fun and educational to share regional recipes. Someone from California might have a great idea for a chopped salad, for instance, while a friend or relative from the South might be a wiz at baking pecan pie or preparing Virginia ham.

■ Common goal equals common bond. Once everyone is in the kitchen, cooking side by side and bumping elbows, it puts the whole gang at ease because everyone is working toward the common goal of putting a great dinner on the table. And of course, the best part of all is sitting down and enjoying the fruits of the communal labor and getting reacquainted over a good meal.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

SL travel agency relocates

Century World Travel in South Lyon has moved to a new location. The permanent offices are now located at 303 N. Lafayette Street, next to Creative Hair I. All contact information for the agency is the same: by phone (248) 437-6255, fax: (248) 437-9422 or e-mail centuryworldtravel@yahoo.com. The agency is open from 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Monday - Friday, Saturdays by appointment.

Northville club named best

Northville's Water Wheel Athletic Club was named by HOUR Magazine as metro Detroit's best athletic club. Water Wheel was also recognized as the best health club in the HomeTown Newspapers' People's Choice Awards for 2003.

Lean brochure published

A new eight-page full-color capabilities brochure regarding lean transformation has been jointly published by affiliate companies The Lean Learning Center, of Novi, and Achievement Dynamics, of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

The new brochure presents an overview of the lean transformation journey and benefits attained by pursuing lean processes. Services offered by The Lean Learning Center and Achievement dynamics are provided as well as biographies on company principals. A client list and customer testimonials are also included. Full color photographs are presented throughout the brochure.

Koehler appointed president

The Board of Directors of the Construction Association of Michigan (CAM) announced that South Lyon resident Kevin N. Koehler, vice president, has been appointed to succeed Curt Hacias as president.

K. Koehler

"I have been with CAM for 18 years and the organization and its members are an important part of my life," said Koehler. "I look forward to continuing the efforts of my predecessors in growing our member services."

This past March CAM's Board of Directors had selected Koehler to succeed Hacias in June 2004. However, the untimely passing of Mr. Hacias on May 31 accelerated the timetable of succession.

Koehler joined the Construction Association of Michigan in 1987 as a reporter for its Construction Project News publication. In the ensuing years, he was promoted to managing editor of CAM's Construction Project Information Group, director of marketing, and, in 2002, became vice president.

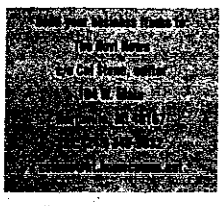
"CAM is the oldest and largest regional construction in North America," said Koehler. "My goal as president will be to ensure that our association stays at the forefront of providing services to its members."

The Construction Association of Michigan, based in Bloomfield Hills, is a trade association of over 4,000 commercial contracting, subcontracting and supply firms. CAM provides services to construction-related businesses including bidding information, on-line plans and specifications, educational programs and industry publications.

Providence helps students

Rob Casalou, president of Providence Hospital, accepted the 2003 Merit Award from Bob Steeh, director of community education, Novi Community School District, in partnership with the Novi Chamber of Commerce.

The Novi Community Education Department and the Chamber presented the award to Providence Hospital. The award is given annually to businesses that assist area students by providing them practical experiences in the business world.



ADVERTORIAL

Photos by HAL GOULD

Brothers Paul Muonio and Byron Muonio stand in the newly expanded dining area at Lyon's Marketplace, 509 S. Lafayette. The deli prepares made-to-order sandwiches with a variety of fresh breads. Round out a meal with soup, chili or dessert, and dine in or carry out.

Lyon's Marketplace is just what the butcher ordered

By Elizabeth Heer

If a natural, fresh and choice selection is important when buying meat, deli products, and foods, then Lyon's Marketplace is just what the butcher ordered.

Lyon's Marketplace in downtown South Lyon uses old world business practices combined with just the right touch of modern day convenience. While many people visit the store for its top quality meats, others stop in for the conveniently delicious deli salads and sandwiches.

"We provide a combination of an old-fashioned meat market with the new-fangled deli," says Cami Muonio, who owns the business along with her husband, Byron.

Lyon's Marketplace will celebrate its fourth year in business this fall, and the Muonios say they are extremely satisfied with the continuous growth of their business. The Muonios started their market sharing space with an ice cream store. But, after six months of that combined venture, they bought out the business, eliminating the ice cream section in order to expand their meat business. About that time they purchased a meat saw and became a full-service butcher shop. Since then, business has grown steadily and the Muonios have added new specialty foods and expanded their services at the Marketplace.

Byron Muonio holds a platter of fresh Choice-grade meats at Lyon's Marketplace. Choice-grade meats are leaner than Prime and more tender than Select grade cuts, and are most preferred by today's consumers.

Alongside choice steaks, roasts, pork, chicken and fresh fish, Lyon's Marketplace prepares daily seasonal entrées ready for the oven or grill. Summer fare includes beef and filet mignon, marinated shish kabob with pork, chicken, fish or beef, and a delicious and health-conscious Italian chicken breast sausage.

"Besides the obvious advantage of not having to walk a half-mile from the front door to the meat counter is the small store advantage of meeting individual orders," Byron said. "Recently I made sausage for a customer from a family recipe that she provided." The commitment to customer service is obvious. Special orders for brains, cow tongues, whole pigs or sides of beef are taken with a smile and they will bend over backwards to fill them.

Because Lyon's Marketplace is a smaller market, they are able to find a fresher, all-natural product (that doesn't contain growth hormones) which comes from animals that are allowed to roam free rather than being penned. For the doubtful consumer, Byron suggests a taste test between a Bell & Evans chicken breast and a prepackaged chicken breast from the chain grocer.

This year the Lyon's Marketplace was awarded the South Lyon Herald People's Choice Award for best deli and was voted runner-up for business of the year. As a big believer in brand names when it comes to deli meats and cheeses, Byron says he looks for companies that have a product low in preservatives. Dearborn Sausage Company, Boar's Head, Dietz and Watson are among the top quality lines that share space with hard-to-find items like Oldani salami and headcheese.

"Among our grocery staples are Guernsey Dairy and Cantoro's bread," Byron said.

He picks his bread up every morning from Livonia's Cantoro's Italian bakery and his bagels from the Detroit Bagel Factory. While it makes an early start to his day, the fresh bread is one reason why Lyon's Marketplace is proving to be a niche in the sandwich market. Cantoro's bread is also sold by the loaf and is distributed to local restaurants.

In addition to the walk-in business, Lyon's Marketplace also offers catering services. The same products you see at the counter are what go onto their trays and into their salads. The fresh taste appeal is just right for the corporation looking for a tasty yet light business lunch. The Marketplace has added delivery to its growing service.

A great product line, attention to detail, being on top of ordering, and inventory control to ensure freshness were enough to get Lyon's Marketplace off the ground. But the loyal customer base has made it a destination place in South Lyon.

"When we opened our doors, a lot of people thought that South Lyon wasn't ready for a top-quality meat market," Cami said. "But we were warmly welcomed into the community, and since then everything else has just been icing on the cake."

The Muonio's, who live in Lyon Township with their five children, say the small town feeling that led them to South Lyon in the first place provided the perfect atmosphere in which to open their market. "People stop by just to say hello or to let us know that they'll be out of town but they'll be back in two weeks," Byron said. "That's just great."

After Byron experienced a life-threatening illness last March, his brother Paul stepped in to fill the gap during his absence. The Muonio's also learned firsthand the closeness of the community spirit.

"The community has just been unbelievably supportive. All the cards, flowers, stopping by, visits to the hospital – it's been really great," said Byron, who is still on the road to recovery.

Perhaps it's that kind of aura that makes this new spot on the block feel as comfortable as your dad's recliner – safe and welcoming.

Stop by Lyon's Marketplace at 509 S. Lafayette for old-fashioned quality and service, open Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

DETAILS

Lyon's Marketplace combines old-fashioned service with modern day convenience.

Located at 509 S. Lafayette in downtown South Lyon, Lyon's Marketplace is your destination for fresh meat, deli products, sandwiches, homemade soups, and coffee. Hours are Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Call (248) 446-1822 for more information.