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Thursday, October 23, 2003

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Volume 48 Number 21

Novi, Michigan

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Fall Back Sunday



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REG. MARKETPLACE

Serra Floor Covering

Long gone are South Lyon's dirt roads, replaced by pavement. Miles and miles of farmland have now become new subdivisions. So, too, the more than three-decades-old Serra's paint, wallpaper and upholstery business that has evolved into Serra Floor Covering. Jim Serra started out in the heart of downtown South Lyon in 1972. As the community grew, so did Serra Floor Covering.

— Page 24A

SPORTS



Battle for the Baseline Jug

Wildcat QB Mike Hart will go toe-to-toe with his childhood friend and competitor, Mustang quarterback Mark Sorenson, this Friday night in the Baseline rivalry game.

— B Section Special

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Detroiters plead guilty to murder

Wixom factory worker was executed while eating dinner in his auto

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Wixom Police say a pair of Detroit men who plotted the execution-style slaying of a Wixom factory worker last December will spend much of the next three decades behind bars in a

Michigan prison. According to Wixom Detective Jim Osborne, Samuel Lee Henderson, 25 and Kevin Leon Russell, 24, opted to plead guilty to second degree murder Tuesday rather than go to trial on first degree murder charges in the death of Eric Barnes.

A first degree murder conviction would have sent the pair to prison for life without parole. As it is, Henderson is expected to spend at least the next 25 years in prison. Russell, said Det. Osborne, will serve at least 22½ years behind bars. He explained Russell's sentence is a combina-

tion of his plea bargain and years he owes the Department of Corrections for parole violation.

When officially sentenced in Pontiac Nov. 11, the pair could get up to 37 years for pleading guilty to second degree murder.

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Novi Police Photo/Detective Mike Warren

These remains lay undisturbed for close to 800 years before a construction crew uncovered them while working on a sewer line project Friday.

Human remains located

Bones could belong to Novi's first inhabitants

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

No one will ever know their names, but it's certain the remains found at a construction site on Novi's northeast corner Oct. 15 belong to some of Michigan's earliest people.

According to Dr. John Halsey, the state archaeologist, the bones of as many as a dozen people lay undisturbed for around 800 years before being uncovered by a bulldozer working on a sewer line project.

"It's rare, but it's not ultra rare," said Halsey noting that a construction crew working in Mackinaw City stumbled across some historic remains just a few weeks ago.

Al Rasmussen, Novi's Deputy Chief of Police, said the Medical Examiners Office told him the bones found Oct. 15 were "over 50 years old and probably much older." He said in his 28 years with the department, he's never encountered anything quite like this.

Novi Police Detective Dennis Jelly said the bulldozer operator who uncovered the bones first thought he'd uncovered an animal, but when he found part of a human skull, he told his supervisor, who in turn called Novi Police.

Jelly said it was obvious that the bones were quite old when investigators arrived on the scene. He said the bulldozer operator told investigators that he thought he'd uncovered animal bones at first, but then he found part of what appeared to be a human skull.

Investigators collected numerous bones, including what appeared to be parts of two skulls, several leg and arm bones along with ribs and vertebrae. Based on the number and types of bones, investigators initially believed that the site contained more than two adolescents or younger adults.

Jelly said no clothing or other

continued on page 3

Concentration



Photo by John Heider

Dressed in her leopard costume, Victoria Kincaid, 3, intently paints a pumpkin as her mom, Wendy Carter, looks on during last Saturday's Halloween events at the Novi Civic Center.

Tower to move headquarters to Novi

Supplier plans to close Rochester Hills location

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Tower Automotive, a global designer and producer of structural components and assemblies used by automotive manufacturers, will relocate its company

headquarters from Grand Rapids to Novi early next year.

Kathleen Ligocki, Tower's president and chief executive officer, announced several organizational changes in the company Tuesday.

The company is moving its headquarters to Novi to be closer to its customer base.

Bey Pierce, company spokesperson, said that the company will consolidate its technical center in Rochester Hills to the Novi technical Center. About 170 employees from the Rochester Hills location will be transferred

to the Novi location.

"Eleven employees from the Grand Rapids office have also been offered the opportunity of moving to the Novi office," Pierce said.

"The Novi facility is a nice facility, and we were able to lease extra space," she added.

About 200 employees currently work at the Grand Rapids loca-



K. Ligocki

tion. Although the company headquarters will be relocated to the current Novi location at 27175 Haggerty Road south of Twelve Mile Road, the supplier will not close the Grand Rapids location.

Tower announced a series of organizational changes in its North American operations, including consolidating its North American product groups, making management changes and moving its headquarters.

"Tower Automotive is at a

continued on page 3

Novi resident offers library \$2 million donation

Businessman wants library in family's name

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

A retired Novi businessman and his wife have offered to donate \$1 million to the Novi Library and to double the dona-

tion, if the library can come up with \$1 million in matching donations.

"I like books. I have a thousand books of my own in my personal library. Furthermore, I have the ability to do what I'm doing with moneys that I've earned over the years," said Novi businessman Charles Walker, explaining the offer.

The offer comes just as the city's seven-member Library Board is contemplating its strate-

gic plan for the next five years.

In 2001 the board asked city voters to approve a 2-mill tax to replace the library's existing 23,000 square foot building with a new 80,000 square foot facility and the voters said no by a 60-percent margin.

Library Director Brenda Evans said she believes the proposal to build a new \$20 million library for the city failed for a variety of reasons, not the least of which that the proposal came on the

heels of a string of tax proposals.

Terry Margolis, president of the Library Board, said she was "very thrilled" by Walker's offer, but she doesn't see it changing the library's strategic plan. "That's really about what we want to be in the community."

While it could be months before a final agreement is drawn up between the Walkers and the library board, Margolis said he thinks it's an exciting opportunity.

A spokesman for the family's financial advisors at Morgan Stanley said the Walkers are interested in leaving a living legacy to the city they've called home since 1975.

Although the Walkers haven't

continued on page 7

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Human remains located

continued from front page

artifacts were found at the site. He added investigators went over the site with a metal detector, but found nothing.

The bones were turned over to the Oakland County Medical Examiners Office, which determined there were no signs of foul play.

"This is going to be a protracted thing," said Robert Gerds, the Medical Examiner's administrator. "It will probably be months and require assistance from an anthropologist." However, he added, trying to identify the remains still has the same sense of urgency regardless of the age.

Gerds noted that while finding remains in the Oakland County area is uncommon, "maybe every 10 years or so," he said he expects it will happen more often as development moves into the northern, still largely rural-agricultural part of the county.

Jelly said this is the first time he's ever encountered anything like this

in Novi, but he noted several years ago the remains of a Native American were uncovered in Wixom.

Dr. Valery Alexandrov, a deputy forensic pathologist with the Medical Examiners Office, said the remains found here also seem to be Native American. Although not an anthropologist himself, Dr. Alexandrov was involved in the recovery of ancient remains in eastern Siberia while he served as a pathologist with the Russian Army, and he was helped in the recovery of Seminole Indian remains while completing a fellowship in Florida.

"We have been able to answer two questions," he said. "One, all the bones are human and, two, they are pretty old." Dr. Alexandrov: "They are really, really old. We are not talking dozens, but probably hundreds of years old."

He said that while it will ultimately be up to anthropologists to decide how many individuals were recovered, it appears the bones include the remains of at least one

man, woman and infant. Dr. Alexandrov said he believes the construction crew uncovered some sort of mass burial site.

Novi Police Chief Doug Shaeffer said that after the initial find, Dr. Halsey came to the site Oct. 19 and recovered the bones of someone around six more people. However, no artifacts were found.

"Most of the time you find nothing," said Halsey. He explained that's because the early people of the Great Lakes region conducted burials in a two stage process.

He noted the Hurons would periodically gather all the dead from several villages and bury their bones with great ceremony in a common pit. However, he added, the bones found along I-96 Road were buried long before the Hurons were forced from their original home in Ontario.

Dr. Halsey said that despite the lack of artifacts, the find was still important. "It's like opening to a random page in a book. It may not seem important, but every page helps tell the story," he said.



Novi Police Photo/Detective Mike Warren

State Archaeologist Dr. John Halsey said the common grave site found near the earthmoving equipment in this photo measured roughly three by seven feet and contained the remains for perhaps as many as a dozen Native Americans ranging from infants to old adults. He said that while it's not terribly uncommon for construction crews to uncover ancient burial sites in the state, more often than not the finds are not reported to authorities.

Kathy Much, chairperson of the Novi Historical Commission, noted that the state archaeologist's office identified at least two possible Indian burial grounds in the Novi area several years ago, but had consistently refused to name the locations for fear that someone would dig up the bones.

Gerds said if the Medical Examiners Office is able to identify the remains, they will be turned over to the next of kin for reburial. Otherwise, the county will eventually rebury the remains as unknowns.

Dr. Halsey said that while it's impossible to directly connect the

WORKSHOP

Members of the Novi Historical Commission will talk about when they travel to Pontiac to attend an archaeological workshop hosted by the Oakland County Historical Commission and the Mid-Michigan Chapter of the Michigan Archaeology Society this Saturday.

The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to noon in the school house at Pine Grove, the home of Michigan's second Republican Governor Moses Wisner, who served 1839-1860. According to Kathy Much, archaeologists from Oakland University will provide an update on finds made at digs around the state at the free event.

Pine Grove is located at 405 Oakland Avenue on Pontiac's near north side. For more information, call Much at (248) 224-4211.

remains to a historic Native American tribe, it's likely a Native American group will step forward to claim the remains.

Tower Automotive to move company headquarters to Novi

continued from front page

crossroads of our company's evolution. In the next few years, we will enjoy tremendous revenue growth in all our regions. To deliver on the promise of profitable growth expected by our shareholders and operationally excellent performance demanded by our customers, we must better leverage our scale and facilitate our ability to share learning and experiences across the enterprise.

"These actions are designed to streamline our North American operations, strengthen the company's leadership team and enable us to more effectively serve our customers."

Kathleen Ligocki
President and CEO, Tower Automotive

will be headed up by Tom Pitzer, who formerly led the company's Body & Suspension Structures Group.

Kathy Johnston, previously Enterprise Leader for Planning, Governance & Business Development, has been named to the newly created post of enterprise strategy leader. He will oversee global product and process development activities and technology knowledge transfer within the firm.

"Both of these new positions will allow us, for the first time, to view two of our most critical assets — our technology and manufacturing resources — from a truly global and strategic perspective," Ligocki said.

Tower Automotive, which used to be known as the R.J. Tower Corporation, began in 1993. It was named Tower Automotive in 1994.

Today, the firm's network consists of more than 60 locations on four continents with annual revenues of \$2.754 billion in 2002.

Ligocki just joined the firm in July following the retirement of Dagald K. Campbell. She was most recently vice president of Ford Customer Service Division. Her previous positions at Ford included vice president of North American marketing; vice president of strategy and business development for Canada and Mexico; and president and CEO of Ford Mexico.

Before working for Ford, Ligocki held leadership roles at General Motors — Delco Electronics and United Technologies. She has a bachelor's degree from Indiana University and an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Tower Automotive was one of 10 Michigan companies named

Monday as a "Most Valuable Player" for Top Women Executives in the 2003 Michigan Women's Leadership Index.

The Women's Leadership Forum, which commissioned the Center for the Education of Women at the University of Michigan to develop the Index, announced the recognition.

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

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By DAVID STOWERS

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Richard Clark holds last council meeting as mayor

Residents heap praise on outgoing leader

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

With Novi's city elections just over a week away, one thing is absolutely certain: When City Council meets next time, one face won't be at the curved table that bears the city seal.

After four years as mayor and another two as a council member, Mayor Richard Clark swung his gavel as Novi's elected leader for the last time Monday.

When council convenes for the first time in November, Michelle Bononi, Lou Csordas or Janice Sheridan will be sitting in the center chair occupied by Clark since 1999.

Clark received a standing ovation at the beginning of the meeting, and a steady stream of residents heaped praise on the retiring mayor.

Explaining that the Marine Corps' Latin motto means "Always Faithful," city Planning Commission Member David Ruyck, himself a Marine, declared, "Even though you are not a Marine, you are always Siempre Fi."

He praised the mayor for his deft handling of the Sandstone litigation and thanked him for creating the city's veterans recognition event.

When Clark steps down as mayor, it will mark the first time the 25-year Novi resident has not been in city service. Prior to filling out the balance of Council

Member Tim Pope's four-year term in 1995, following Pope's sudden death, Clark served as a member of the Novi Planning Commission for six years.

While plagued with health difficulties himself in recent years, Clark insisted that wasn't the main reason for his decision not to seek a third two-year term as mayor. "I'm an old character," he said. "I believe in term limits. I figure if two terms is good enough for the president, it's good enough for the mayor."

"In all sincerity," Clark told his fellow council members, "it's been a true honor to serve with you." After the meeting he said that while he would be on City Council next year, "you never know where life will take you."

Noting that no one holds a city title, but merely borrows it for a time, Council Member David Landry observed that Clark "returned his title with more luster than he received it."

According to Landry, Clark was the "rare politician, leaving office having accomplished what he said he would do."

Landry and others noted that when Clark first ran for mayor, he promised "openness, responsiveness and inclusiveness," and delivered on all three. Several residents said that while five years ago it was almost impossible to get questions answered at city hall, today the response from city officials is almost overwhelming.

Ron Boron, president of the Novi Homeowners Council, which represents all of the city's homeowners' associations, thanked the mayor for attending nearly all of the council's meetings since he was in office and added

tools to shape their future. In Cub Scouting, boys learn ideals like honesty, bravery and respect. These values help boys make constructive decisions throughout their lifetimes and give them the confidence they need to grow and develop.

The local packs will be hosting a recruitment morning. Join us for more information. We encourage your son to bring a friend or two. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 27, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road. For more information please call 248-338-3305, ext. 222 or e-mail: scouting@novi.org

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Oct. 28 Storm Water Committee, 7 p.m. Civic Center
Oct. 28 Novi Youth Assistance Board, 7 p.m. Civic Center

Novi city government meetings for November
Nov. 5 Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m. Council Chambers
Nov. 6 Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:30 p.m. Council Chambers
Nov. 10 City Council, 7:30 p.m. Council Chambers

The Novi Civic Center is located at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Phone (248) 347-0460 for more information.

The city has benefited from his leadership. Observing that there has been "an incredible amount of change since they first sat down together at the council table in 1999, state Rep. Craig DeRoche said Clark was elected at a time when the city needed to reassess the way it did business. He said the changes that Clark ushered in will be felt by city residents for years to come.

"I may not have agreed with every one of his decisions," declared resident Mary Miller, "but I never disagreed with his motives."

Clark's tenure as mayor has been marked by a steady stream of residents heaping praise on the retiring mayor.

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\$4.99 Santa Cruz Organic Apple Juice Gallon Jug

2/\$3 Earthbound Farm Organic, Baby Peeled Carrots 16 oz.

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LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public

Hours

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

Story Time notes

Drop-in preschool Story Times are now underway. Brochures listing the days and times of each Story Time session are available in the library.

Internet practice lab for seniors

Practice makes perfect! Join us for an opportunity to practice any of the skills you've learned in our Internet classes on Thursday, October 30, from 1-3 p.m. During this two-hour session, you may choose to work on any Internet skills, with librarians to assist you and answer any computer-related questions.

Note: There is no set agenda for this class; you may come and go as you please during the two-hour session. Please register in advance for all Internet classes in person or by calling the library.

Intro to Ancestry Plus

Learn how to find family trees, indexes, and marriage and death records, as well as how to view actual census records on Thursday, October 30, from 7-9 p.m. Note: This is a hands-on class, so a solid understanding of Internet searching is necessary.

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CITY OF NOVI, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF OFFICIAL COMPUTER TEST CITY GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 4, 2003

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there will be an official test of the computer and computer program to be used by the City of Novi, Michigan, for the City General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2003.

The test will be conducted at 10:00 AM on Friday, October 31, 2003 at the Novi Civic Center, City Clerk's Office, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

(10-23-03 NN 92290)

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ZONING MAP AMENDMENT NO. 18.626

CITY OF NOVI ORDAINS:

PART I: That Ordinance No. 97-18, known as the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Novi is hereby amended by the amending of the Zoning Map as indicated on ZONING MAP AMENDMENT NO. 626 below and made a part of this Ordinance.

To rezone a part of the NE 1/4 of Section 18, T.1N., R.8E., City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan, being parcels 22-18-200-007, 22-18-200-008 and 22-18-200-009, more particularly described as follows:

Parcel 22-18-200-007: The East 302.50' of the North 234.50' of the South 297.40' of the North 1/2 of the South 1/2 of the NE 1/4, Containing 1.63 acres.

Parcel 22-18-200-008: The East 302.50' of the South 62.50' of the North 1/2 of the South 1/2 of the NE 1/4, Containing 0.43 acres.

Parcel 22-18-200-009: Beginning at a point on the East line of Section 18 (nominal C/L of Wagon Road), said point being North 491.30' from the E 1/4 corner of said Section 18; thence N88°44'00"W, 435.60 feet; thence North 170.08 feet, thence S88°40'13"E, 435.61 feet to the East line of Section 18 (nominal C/L of Wagon Road); thence along said East line South 169.60 feet to the point of beginning, Containing 1.70 acres.

FROM: R-1 RESIDENTIAL ACRES TO: B-1 COMMUNITY BUSINESS DISTRICT

PART II: CONFLICTING PROVISIONS REPEALED. Any Ordinance or parts of any Ordinance in conflict with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

PART III: WHEN EFFECTIVE. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety and is hereby ordered to take effect fifteen (15) days after final enactment. It shall be published within fifteen (15) days of adoption. The effective date of this Ordinance is October 21, 2003.

MADE AND PASSED by the City Council of the City of Novi, Michigan, this 6th day of October, 2003. Copies of the Ordinance Amendment may be purchased or inspected at the office of the City Clerk, Novi, Michigan, week days between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, local time.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

(10-23-03 NN 92290)

Resident offers library \$2 million donation

continued from front page

been involved in the library board in the past. Mr. Walker said his family has been active patrons for years.

He said he moved his family to Novi from Redford Township 28 years ago because "I found a home very suitable to my family. It had a four-car garage and I had young men who liked to work on cars."

Although he said he's making the offer with no strings attached, Walker did say he'd like to see the new building named for himself and his wife, Myrtle.

"Some day," he said, "I'd like to see the Novi Library accomplish with this money something that would eventually become similar to the main library of Detroit - more books, more things related to adults."

The Novi Library began in the early 1960s with a group of volunteers purchasing books. By 1963, the library was housed in a one-time bank building on Novi Road, that has since been demolished, and was funded by a 3/8ths mill levy.

A decade later Novi voters approved a 1-mill levy to fund a library and the construction of a 23,000 square foot building on a seven-acre site near the corner of Taft and 10 Mile roads.

However, in 1978 the Headley Amendment became law and the city's millage rate has been eroding ever since.

This year the library's millage rate dropped to .7776, which generated \$2.06 million, or about 89 percent of the library's budget. For the

owner of a home with an assessed value of \$200,000 that represented an annual tax bill of \$78.33, according to the city's annual budget.

While the city's population has more than doubled in the past 30 years, library space has not. Until 1990, Novi city government occupied the library's 9,000 square foot east wing.

Today, while the library occupies the entire 23,000 square foot building that was opened in 1976, Evans noted, "every inch of space is crowded. We are desperate for elbow room." She said the current building "really is too small for Novi."

Walker and his financial advisors said they'd like to reach an agreement with the library board by the end of the year.

Providence Hospital and Medical Center's Novi Campus hosted the first of several focus groups aimed at helping Novi's Library Board from a new five-year strategic plan by February.

Members of the city's business community met Oct. 16 at a meeting led by Providence's Lou Martin. Library volunteer Steve Myers is expected to meet with a focus group of seniors at Meadowbrook Commons. The library's Margie Knap-Oppner will host a teen focus group at the library Nov. 4, and by Nov. 6 that process is expected to be wrapped up with Myers hosting focus groups for families and the

city's three largest ethnic groups — the Japanese, Chinese and Indian communities.

Noting that his department no longer hires dispatchers who don't have at least a bachelor's degree, Novi Police Chief Doug Shaffer said a first-rate library is a recruitment tool for him. "It isn't all salary; there are quality of life issues," he said.

Other members of the group agreed with Shaffer that the library serves more as an amenity that helps draw top talent to the area rather than a direct training tool for their businesses.

However, Susan Russo, who owns PSBaskets & Such, said the library was "a godsend" when she was completing her master's degree.

Tony Musu, the sales and marketing manager for Novi Community Credit Union, said the library should be large enough to serve as a public meeting place.

All of the focus group members agreed that the current facility is overcrowded and doesn't meet the growing city's needs.

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

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Hometown success story inspires legislation's birth

Legislation aimed at making it easier for police vehicles to be equipped with life-saving automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) took its first step to becoming a law today.

House Bill 4695, sponsored by state Rep. Craig DeRoche, unanimously passed the House Health Policy Committee. HB 4695 amends the public health code to clear away technicalities that may prevent police officers from using AEDs.

AEDs are devices that restore normal cardiac function to persons experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. They can be used by any individual who has completed a brief training session.

This legislation originated because of the success that Novi Police had with AEDs. The City of Novi purchased AEDs for all of their police cars and trained police personnel in their use.

In one dramatic case, Novi police officers Craig Chismar and Steve Balog rescued a 62-year-old man who suffered cardiac arrest while driving in his car. Rep. DeRoche was a Novi City Councilman at that time and vowed to make this issue a priority if he were elected as a state legislator.

"I am very proud to take a hometown success story and turn it into legislation that can help all the citizens of Michigan," said DeRoche, R-
Novi. "More defibrillators in

police vehicles will result in saving more lives. Novi Chief of Police Douglas P. Schaeffer was instrumental in crafting this legislation. Schaeffer gave DeRoche expert advice, worked on the draft of the bill, and prepared a letter to be used as evidence before the house committee.

"This is important legislation; I believe every police officer in every municipality should have an AED available in their vehicle; it will save lives," Schaeffer said. "The intent of the AED program is to ensure a person in cardiac arrest gets help as soon as possible. Fire and ambulance personnel are usually equipped with AEDs but often police can reach a victim faster. The sooner a person gets help, the better that victim's chances of survival.

This legislation allows police to utilize AEDs even though they are not technically "first responders" according to the Michigan Health Code. Research has established that for every minute that passes, the chance for survival of a person in cardiac arrest decreases by 7 to 10 percent. A victim getting help two minutes earlier increases the chance of survival by 20 percent. HB 4695 will now go before the House for consideration.



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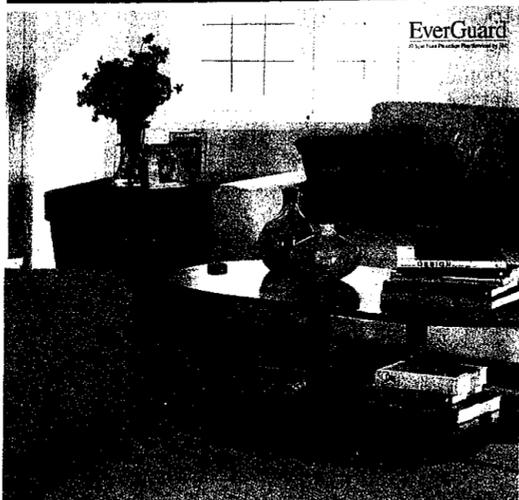
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Real Estate One employee honored by peers

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Recognition is always good. But it's even better when it comes from one's peers.

That's why Northville resident John O'Brien, who works out of the Real Estate One office in Novi, was so excited to be named Realtor of the Year for his district.

Members of the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors selected O'Brien for the top spot a few weeks ago. Colleagues presented the award to him at the association's annual convention at Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City.

"My reaction was basically shock," O'Brien said when he learned he'd received the honor. "Lou Rongyate, a fellow Realtor, called to tell me about the award a few weeks ago."

O'Brien doesn't know who nominated him for the award.

"When I found out I'd been nominated, I wasn't going to send in the application. But then I thought I should as a courtesy to the person who nominated me," he said.

"There are about 3,800 members in our local association, so it is a high honor," he added.

Award honors involvement

"It's a nice feeling any time your peers do something like that for you."

O'Brien has served on several Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors committees, including finance, government affairs, grievance and the nominating committee, which selects the association's officers.

"He's also a member of the local real estate association, which is separate from the county's organization. And, he's a member of the Michigan

Association of Realtors, headquartered in Lansing, an organization that deals with issues that affect the real estate industry such as recent legislation supporting the National Do Not Call Registry and personal property rights.

O'Brien and his wife of 20 years, Karel, have two sons, Mickey, 19, and Jeremy, 12, and a daughter, Molly, 15. Active in the community, he's a member of the committee that organizes the Northville Fourth of July celebration and has coached his son's baseball and basketball teams in the Northville Recreation leagues.

Realtors of the Year from other associations will be recognized at the state convention later in the year when more than 40 associations will be represented. A Realtor of the Year from the entire state will be selected from the top Realtors in each association.

"You have to be available when your customers are, which is usually nights and weekends," he said.

"You also need people skills. This may be one reason nurses and teachers do so well in the field."

"You have to be available when your customers are, which is usually nights and weekends," he said.

"You also need people skills. This may be one reason nurses and teachers do so well in the field."

Internet has changed industry

Matching buyers and sellers is obviously the key to success as a Realtor.

"You have to know your market and stay up on the latest technology, which has changed our field quite a bit," O'Brien said. Today, buyers can take virtual tours of properties online, saving them time and money.

"Now they can sit at their computers and research schools, price ranges of homes and take virtual tours to see what their money can buy them," he said.

"People are much more educated as far as the housing market than they used to be by the time they actually contact a Realtor," O'Brien said. "So, as an agent, you have to be up on the market, too."

O'Brien noted that with current home mortgage interest rates being historically low, there's never been a better time to make a real estate investment.

"When I started in the business, they were around 13- to 14 percent. Now 6 percent is considered high," he said.

O'Brien worked as a salesman for Standard Brands, a food broker in Detroit, for about five years.

BUSINESS

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

Realtor of the Year



Photo by John Heider
John O'Brien, of Real Estate One in Novi, was recently named Realtor of the Year. Here he stands in front of one of his offerings in Northville Township.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bray promoted at MPRO

MPRO, Michigan's Health Care Quality Improvement Organization is pleased to announce the promotion of Novi resident Peggy Bray, MSW, ACSW, to Vice President, Medical Review and Outreach. Bray joined MPRO in 1995 and most recently served as director of Medicare and Beneficiary Protection.

MPRO is the federally-designated quality improvement organization (QIO) for the Medicare program in Michigan under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. MPRO works closely with physician offices, hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies and managed care plans statewide to improve the quality of health care.

Fund-raiser aids cancer patients

Novi Newcomers and Neighbors raised \$1,000 for Teens Aiding the Cancer Community at its Sept. 22 benefit. Teens Aiding the Cancer Community was founded and is run by Novi High School students. Members of the charity reach out to local children who are cancer patients or who have a parent with cancer, by providing them with backpacks filled with fun and interesting items. Andrew Krpananski, a senior at Novi High School and the group's president, attended the fund-raising event.

The Novi Newcomers and Neighbors annual Kick-Off Dinner included raffle prizes and a fashion show. The group, which was founded 30 years ago, was originally known as the Novi Welcome Wagon. Membership today totals almost 90 people. For more information about the organization, call Jeryl Thibodeau, president, at (248) 347-4603.

Gjeto's to have Locks of Love event

Gjeto's Salon & Day Spa, located at Fountain Walk shopping center at I-96 and Novi Road, and the nonprofit Locks of Love organization have joined for "A Day of Donations" from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 27. All cuts for Locks of Love, which provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under the age of 18 with medical hair loss,

will be free of charge during the event. Both adults and children are invited to attend the event. Hair must be a minimum of 10 inches long after it is cut to be used for the hairpieces. To make an appointment for the Locks of Love event, call (238) 349-9003.

Business workshops offered

Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to attend several seminars in November offered by the Oakland County Business Center in Pontiac.

"How to Start a Business" is a seminar for anyone thinking about going into business. Participants examine their entrepreneurial skills, learn how to implement their ideas and receive a list of pitfalls to avoid when starting a business. The class runs from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 6. The fee is \$30 per person and includes materials.

"How to Write a Business Plan" is a workshop for small business owners developing a plan to serve as their road map to success. The class will take place from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 13. The fee is \$40 and includes materials.

"The Small Business Loan Workshop" is a seminar on finance options for small business owners. In this workshop, participants learn about what a lender looks for in a loan application, how a lender analyzes an application, the "Five C's of Credit," essential financial statements and the Small Business Administration's Loan Guaranty Program.

The workshop is slated Nov. 20 from 8:45 a.m. to noon. The fee is \$20 and includes materials and refreshments. All classes will take place at the Oakland County Complex, 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., in Pontiac. For location specifics and recommended preregistration for any of the courses, call (248) 858-0783.

Alcan expands in Canada

Alcan Inc., one of the world's leading aluminum companies, recently announced a \$25 million investment in Canadian dollars for the construction of a new manufacturing facility.

Workers at the facility will produce aluminum structural members for the automotive industry in the Saguenay region of Quebec. Construction will begin this fall, with production scheduled to start

in the fourth quarter of 2004. Initially, employees at the Quebec facility, together with staff from a complementary facility in Novi, will make aluminum bumper beams.

The new facility is expected to produce 600,000 aluminum bumpers per year. Arts Center at Wayne State University in Detroit. The center is located at 450 Kirby.

Redevelopment summit planned

The Summit on Regional Redevelopment will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 24 at the Community Arts Center at Wayne State University in Detroit. In his new role, Jones will be involved with tourism; the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments Advisory Board; Automation Alley; the county's Brownfield Grant; the Ryder Cup Golf Tournament, which comes to Oakland County next year; and import/export initiatives. Jones earned an Olympic gold

medal in 110 meter hurdles at the 1964 games and a bronze medal in 1960.

A poll conducted earlier this year starkly contrasts a survey conducted for the Michigan Bankers' Association in September.

"The Credit Union National Association contracts an independent survey annually to gauge the pulse of consumers on various matters related to financial services, even as with this year, in light of serious state budget crises — voters support the credit union tax exemption," said David Adams, president of the association. In the survey, 65 percent support the credit union tax exemption and 64 percent disapproved of taking credit unions to solve state budget issues.

The Michigan State Legislature is considering legislation that will modernize the Michigan Credit Union Act, making credit unions more accessible to Michigan's consumers and small businesses.

Former Olympian joins county

Former Olympic gold medalist Hayes Jones was recently appointed to the newly created post of deputy director, Oakland County Department of Community and Economic Development.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson made the announcement Oct. 7. Jones joined the Community and Economic Development staff in 2000 after a business career that included jobs as vice president of Community Development for Pro Air and as an executive with American Airlines and the Stroh Brewery Company.

Before that, he operated his own airline service business, which provided baggage check-in and wheelchair assistance at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

Speakers and panelists expected to participate include Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm; MarySue Barnett, president, Chicago Regional Planning Council; Walter C. Watkins, Jr., chief development officer, City of Detroit; Bill Rustem, senior vice president, Public Sector Consultants, Inc.; David W. Schostak, president, Schostak Brothers Inc.; David Blaszkiewicz, president, Detroit Investment Fund; and Jeffrey A. Kaczmarek, senior vice president, Michigan Economic Growth Corporation.

The event is a collaborative effort of the Michigan Suburbs Alliance, Detroit Regional Chamber, Detroit Renaissance, Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments; and Wayne State University.

To register, go to www.michigan-suburbs.org or call Jim Townsend, Michigan Suburbs Alliance, at (248) 342-5253.

Strip mall has new owner

The California-based Marcus & Millichap Real Estate Investment Brokerage Company, the nation's largest real estate investment brokerage firm, recently handled the sale of the Novi Square Retail Center.

Keyne Properties, LLC, of Bloomfield Hills, acquired the 40,000-square-foot strip mall from Novi Square Associates of Southfield, which had owned the property since 1996.

The center is located on Pontiac Trail west of Walled Lake with access from West Road. Tenants include Lois Gross Cleaners and a CVS Pharmacy.

Voters say no to credit union taxes

Most voters say that credit unions should not be required to pay the same taxes as banks and disapprove of credit unions being taxed to solve state budget prob-

lems, according to the Michigan Credit Union League.

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Compiled by Pam Fleming

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OBITUARIES

Dena Viventi neo Zanella

Dena Viventi of Novi, formerly of Grand Rapids, died October 13, 2003 surrounded by loving family and devoted caregivers. She was 85.

Survivors include her children, Ann (Dan) Shoop of Novi, Mary (Brian) Connolly of Birmingham and James (Carol) Morey Viventi of Okemos; and five grandchildren, John, Katie and Jane, James and Maureen.

A memorial service will be held for the immediate family in Dena's memory to Angela Hopwood, 14100 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, Mich. 48154 or Christ Child Society, 15751 Joy Rd., Detroit, Mich. 48228.

Iris W. White

Iris White of Novi died October 18, 2003 at Angela Hospice, Livonia. She was 88. Mrs. White was born September 23, 1915 in Cleburne County, Ark. to the late John W. Chandler and Myrtle (Lackey) Chandler.

She lived most of her life in Novi and was a bus driver for Novi Public Schools. She was also a member of the First Baptist Church of Novi, enjoyed gardening, and always had fresh flowers decorating her home in the summer. She enjoyed canning and sharing the product with family and friends, and was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and highbrow.

Survivors include two daughters, Patricia (Jim) Allen of Northville and Sharon (Peter) Ekert of Ontario; two sons, Ronald (Barbara) White of Rives Junction and Rick (Bev) White of Walled Lake; two sisters, Ruth Hartwick of Ark. and Inogene Sturt of Ark.; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Her husband, David D. White, and one son, William L. White, preceded her in death.

A funeral service was held October 22, 2003 at Casterline Funeral Home, Inc., Northville with Pastor Gary Elmer of First Baptist Church of Novi officiating. Interment will be at Rural Hill Cemetery, Northville.

Memorials may be made to: Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, Mich. 48154 or Christ Child Society, 15751 Joy Rd., Detroit, Mich. 48175.

ENGAGEMENT



Wallace-Cotrell

Marilyn and Robert Wallace of Novi announce the engagement of their son, Joseph Paul Wallace, to Susan Ann Cotrell, daughter of Ann and Larry Cotrell of Poplar Bluff, Mo.

The groom-elect is a 1988 graduate of Brother Rice High School. He is 1992 graduate of the University of Michigan with a bachelor of business administration and a 1996 graduate of the University of Michigan Law School with a juris doctorate. He is a member of the Illinois Bar and is an Illinois CPA. He is employed as a manager with the Corporate Financial Services Group at PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP in Chicago.

The bride-elect is a 1989 graduate of Poplar Bluff High School. She is a 1993 graduate of Tulane University in New Orleans, with a bachelor of science degree in management and a 1999 graduate of DePaul University College of Law in Chicago with a juris doctorate. She is a member of the Illinois Bar and is an Illinois CPA. She is employed as a manager with the Personal Financial Services Group at PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP in Chicago.

A November 1, 2003 wedding is planned.

WEDDING



McNamara & Keys

Michael and Nancy McNamara of South Lyon and Larry and Pat Keys of Novi, are pleased to announce the marriage of their children, Jennifer McNamara to Ryan Keys. The couple exchanged their wedding vows on June 21, 2003, at the First Presbyterian Church in Plymouth, with Rev. Richard Jones officiating the ceremony. The couple celebrated their union as one with 175 guests at Fox Hills.

Maid of Honor was Kelly McNamara; along with bridesmaids, Trisha Streeting, Debbie Carman, Heather Jensen and Lisa Bentley; junior bridesmaids were, Sarah and Becca Berman. Best man was Scott Keys; Michael W. McNamara, Robert McNamara, Mike Mazzola, Bill Ashbeck served as groomsmen and Joey Berman was the couple's ring bearer.

Jennifer graduated from Plymouth-Canton High School and has received her bachelor science degree in teaching from Central Michigan University. Ryan graduated from Novi High School and has received his bachelor science degree in administration from Central Michigan University. He is currently employed with EDS. The couple honeymooned in Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic. Jennifer and Ryan will reside in the Commerce Township area.

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SENIOR CALENDAR

Thursday 10/23	9:30 a.m. Line Dance	1 p.m.-3 p.m. Computer-Review
	9 a.m.-11 a.m. Computer Windows	
	10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. \$5 Alive AARP Party	
	10 a.m. Crafts with Loretta	
	11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open	
	12:15 Lunch	
	1 p.m. Beginners 2 p.m. Adv. Line Dance	
	Frankenwuth Trip	
Friday 10/24	9 a.m. Stretch & Strength	
	11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Body Recall	
	11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open	
	12:30 p.m. Lunch	
	12:30 p.m. Bingo	
	12:30 p.m. Clinging * Dupl. Bridge	
	Heary Ford Fall Color Festival Trip	
Monday 10/27	9 a.m. Stretch & Strength	
	9 a.m.-11 a.m. Computer Intro.	
	10 a.m. Body Recall	
	11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundry Shop Open	
	12:30 p.m. Lunch	
	1 p.m.-3 p.m. Removing the Mysteries of Probate Court-RSVP	
	1 p.m.-3 p.m. Healing Touch	
Tuesday 10/28	9 a.m.-12 p.m. Massage Therapy	
	9 a.m. Panera bread	
	9:30 a.m. Line Dance*	
	9:30 a.m.-noon Flu Shots at the Novi Civic Center	
	10 a.m. Asian Pacific	
	10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. \$5 ALIVE AARP Part 1	
	noon Lunch	
	12:30 p.m. Bingo	
	2 p.m.-3 p.m. Dance	
	Parade Company Trip	
Wednesday 10/29	9 a.m. Stretch & Strength	
	9 a.m. Body Recall	
	11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open	
	11 a.m. Lunch	
	12:30 p.m. Clinging*	
	Argus Casino & Resort	

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

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- Be Professional
- Promote Public Safety
- Keep the Novi Police Department and Novi Fire Department #1
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- Master's Degree in Liberal Studies, Eastern Michigan University
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Novi angler spearheads benefit for Grayling shop

■ 100-year-old business in danger of closing its doors

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Area fishing enthusiasts are invited to help support efforts to provide assistance to Steve Southard, owner of the historic Fly Factory in Grayling, at a special fund-raiser Nov. 1 in Grayling.

Ed Walicki, a noted Novi woodcarver, is spearheading the drive for a banquet and auction to benefit the 100-year-old Michigan business.

"We're members of the fly fishing community, and we're banding together to help the shop survive the tough economic times," said Walicki.

"We've all benefited from it being there over the years, and we want to make sure it's there in the future," he added.

Walicki and other Metro Detroit anglers have organized the event, which will be held at the Holiday Inn in Grayling. Proceeds will go to Steve Southard, who has run the fly shop on the banks of the AuSable River since 1979.

Tickets to the event range from \$10 to \$100 and can be purchased online at www.StevesFriends.com. Silent and live auctions are also planned at the benefit.

"The fly fishing community is a tight-knit family, and we want all members of that family to survive," said Walicki.

The popularity of fly fishing grew in the early and mid 1990s, but while it boomed it remained a cottage industry where friend-

ships are deep-rooted and business is done on a handshake, Walicki said.

"Small entrepreneurs are the backbone of that community," he noted.

No one has embodied the spirit of that more than Southard, according to Walicki. Southard is a leading advocate of the AuSable River system and received the 2003 Conservation of the Year Award from the Paul Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited. He has also supported every Trout Unlimited and Federation of Fly Fishers chapter in the state.

Friends rally to help store

When it appeared that the Fly Factory would possibly close, longtime friends, Walicki, and award-winning wildlife sculptor Bob Perish, a nationally known artist, and Nick Majeske, a key member of the Paul Young Trout Unlimited Chapter, organized the banquet and other fund-raising efforts.

Jeff Counts, a former editor with Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, who now publishes an outdoors publication, Michigan's Streamside Journal, is also assisting with the benefit. Counts' publication is devoted mostly to fly fishing and bird hunting.

Friends, customers and even other fly shop owners have donated dozens of items to be sold for Southard's benefit. David Reinveid and other Michigan artists have contributed prints, carvings and sculptures for the auction.

Fishing guides from around the country have also offered trips and special fly collections to raise money.

Walicki, who has been a wood carver for 18 years, has won five World Fish Carving

Championships. He retired from competition in 2001 but still teaches fish carving three days a week in his Novi studio.

"I still carve fish for fishermen who catch and release. With the trend going towards conservation, they send me photos of their fish, and I do a replication in wood or urethane," he said.

"There's going to be a lot of people from the area that will be attending the event," he said.

"I've seen at least a dozen people with Novi addresses from the Web site ticket sales," Walicki added.

Shop steeped in history

He noted that the Fly Factory may be the oldest fly fishing shop in the state, with the business starting in 1876.

"It's had several owners since then. Steve's been there since 1979," Walicki said.

Walicki said Southard has been humbled by his friends' efforts to help save his business.

"He's been overwhelmed by this whole thing," Walicki said. "He has given so much to the river. When parking lot water in Grayling drained into the river, sending oil and salt and all types of contaminants to the river, Steve organized funding to start the



1999 file photo, John Heider

As ready-to-go carvings hang from the rafters, Ed Walicki works on a few details of a 14" black crappie he's carving out of basswood.

Grayling Stormwater Project. And that's only a fraction of what he's done," Walicki said.

For example, through the annual Trout Bum Barbecue, Walicki and Southard helped organize, "We've

raised over \$130,000 for youth fishing programs, with most of the money going to save the rivers and streams of Michigan," Walicki said.

"When he first went to the city of Grayling about the AuSable becoming polluted, he couldn't get people excited. It wasn't until local funding was raised that the city and state chipped in to help alleviate the Stormwater runoff problem," Walicki said.

Organizers already have about 170 items that have been donated for the online auction at www.StevesFriends.com that will start Sunday and last through the Nov. 1.

"This is a great time for people to pick up original art, fishing equipment, hunting equipment, weekend getaways and unique gift items. There will be some bargains to be had," Walicki said.

"The online auction at www.StevesFriends.com ends at 4 p.m. Nov. 1. Whatever is not sold online will be available at the live and silent auctions, as well as additional items. We've saved some really juicy stuff for the banquet on Nov. 1," Walicki said.

"When word spread that the Fly Factory was having some financial difficulties, friends and fishermen from all over offered their

assistance in organizing this banquet. We want to make sure the Fly Factory stays around another 100 years," Walicki said.

"Steve has given so much to the rivers, youth fly fishing groups and the industry, that we just can't let a guy like this fail," he added.

Dean Smith, manager of the Grayling Holiday Inn, also donated the entire banquet facility and waitstaff for the event.

"It's just our way of saying thank you for all he's done," Walicki said.

Tickets, which cost \$30, \$50, \$75 and \$100, must be purchased in advance. "They're all the same ticket," Walicki noted. "So far, we've sold about 150. The banquet hall can hold 500. We hope it's standing room only."

For more information about the benefit, visit www.StevesFriends.com or contact Walicki at (248) 305-5557 or at ed@edwalicki.com. Tickets can also be purchased online by credit card or by mailing checks made payable to Steve Southard to Ed Walicki, 41825 Borchart, Novi MI 48375.

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@hl.homecomm.net.

CLASS NOTES

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

PLATO Link now installed in Novi Community School computers

■ New online assessment program allows teachers to assess students numerous times per year

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Teachers in the Novi Community School District no longer have to wait for MEAP results any more to assess how their children are progressing in English language arts and mathematics. With one motion on Sept. 18, the Novi School Board of Education approved a program called PLATO Link which has already been installed in the district's network.

The program will allow classroom teachers to be able to assess every student in third grades through eighth about five to six times a year in the two subject areas, which the district is concentrating on mainly because of the "No Child Left Behind" and "Adequate Yearly Progress" mandates by the federal and state gov-

ernments.

Last Wednesday morning every school in the district was represented when a group of about 40 teachers and principals, called the district assessment team, gathered at the Instructional Technology Center on Taft Road to learn how to use PLATO Link. They focused on a couple of test areas called "Tara Nova," which is an English language arts test, and "Every Day Math."

According to Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services Nancy Davis, Tara Nova has already been given students in Novi to assess their learning levels in a couple of different areas. She explained that because this test is now online, however, the district is going to save some money on paper and pencil tests.

The district assessment team is going to be developing a plan for the year on how PLATO Link will be implemented in the classroom. There is also a subgroup of the team called Academic Instructional Mentors, or AIMS.

There are about two or three district assessment team members per building who have become coaches for academic mentors

and for classroom teachers to help them incorporate this online assessment tool in their every day classes.

"What the District Assessment Team is learning is just the basics of why this is happening and what it's all about and getting their first look at PLATO Link," Davis said. "There will be additional training in about a month or so, where we'll be getting the AIMS together and they will get a good lesson on how to use the system, how they set up tests, how they control the situation, how they get reports and how they look at students results."

Immediate feedback for students

One aspect of the program that excites Davis is that students will be able to get immediate feedback when they go through this online testing tool, unlike the MEAP test for instance, where they just get

results back from last spring's test this weekend. The students can go in, take a test and as soon as they finish and press the submit button, they can get immediate results back in a matter of seconds or minutes. The tests are all reported back by skill areas, so they not only see what they got right or wrong, they see which skill area they didn't get right, which then gives the teachers the information they need to figure out what to do with instruction and how to help students who are not getting it.

"These tests will not be factored into their regular grade at all," Davis said. "This is going to be a tool that the teachers use for information only. It's one of many ways to assess student learning. Teachers know lots of other things about kids based on what they write and what they say, but this is just one snap shot of how they're doing in particular skill areas. It will be used mainly to help the teachers understand which kids aren't getting it, which kids are getting it, what aren't they getting

and what do we need to do to help the kids get the parts that they're not getting yet?"

Assessment a part of instruction and curriculum

According to Jane Hesse, director of K12 curriculum and assessment, the first thing to consider is that some of the things that Novi teachers already know is, assessment is part of instruction and curriculum. Curriculum is never separate from instruction, so, they are interlocking experiences that teachers have in their training, but also that students experience.

"What we are asking teachers to think about right now is, this component of online testing is a component of all assessment," Hesse said. "Assessment basically is, how do we know what our students know? There are lots of ways to find out that information. This online testing is one of those tools that will help us."

The goal is to have a first set of students use this product by early getting it, what aren't they getting

however, is to take a look at it next spring to determine if this PLATO Link product is actually enough for Novi.

"While we're implementing a new protocol for our teachers and our students and our kids, we're also looking at a particular product," Hesse said. "We want to know all there is to know about all of our students at any point in time in any content area. The MEAP is an instrument that happens once every few years and that doesn't help instruction. We need something that's going to give us time. It's also important to understand that we need to look at a broad range of instruments to help us understand what students needs are. One of them is the MEAP. Achievement is really our goal in implementing PLATO Link and MEAP is a piece of that."

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@hl.homecomm.net.

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SCHOOL BRIEFS

The Last Night of Ballyhoo

The Novi High School Drama Department will be performing The Last Night of Ballyhoo for the school's fall play. The play was written by Alfred Uhry, the author of Driving Miss Daisy. It is a dramatic comedy set in 1939 in Atlanta during the opening of Game with the Wind.

Performances are tonight at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 25 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

General admission tickets will be available in the main office and are also available at the door.

Ticket prices are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children and senior citizens.

Blood drive at Novi Woods

Anyone interested in giving blood can report to the Community Room of Novi Woods Elementary School from 2:30-8:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 5. The blood drive is open to the public. Call (248) 349-1230 for more information.

Forty-seven named AP Scholars

Thirteen Novi High School seniors and thirty-four 2003 graduates have been named AP scholars by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level AP Examinations. Nationally, only about 15 percent of the more than one million high school students who took AP Examinations in May 2003 performed at a sufficiently high level to merit such recognition.

Students take AP Examinations in May after completing college-level courses. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement.

At Novi High School, 10 students qualified for AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students are: Matthew Hagen ('03), Robin Lin ('03), Chao Meng ('04), Asha Radhamohan ('03), Neil Rao ('04), Megha Vadala ('03), Luke Xiao ('03), Er Yamamoto ('03), Tachwan Yoo ('03) and Alice Zheng ('03).

Fourteen Novi students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. These students are: Amy Auleto ('03), James Faysal ('03), Christina Hudeith ('03), David Koutkas ('03), Andrew Laskowski ('03), Lubna Malik ('04), Daniel Markus ('03), Jessen Njomo ('03), Sara Ramachandran ('04), Benjamin Rose ('03), Vishal Rangta ('04), Elizabeth Song ('04) and Jennifer Timmons ('03).

Twenty-three Novi students

qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Examinations with grades of 3 or higher. The AP scholars are: Joshua Blanchard ('04), Juan Co ('03), Anna Cynar ('03), Alex Harsh-Strong ('03), Phillip Hornshaw ('03), Hannah Irwin ('04), Marc Kalina ('03), Michael Korby ('03), Shamil Kolecha ('04), Chris LaChance ('03), July Lai ('03), Thomas Lan ('03), Matthew Luper ('03), Kori Masaura ('03), Shaurya Minhas ('04), Sarthita Muralidhar ('04), Edward Santos ('03), Li Sun ('04), Daniel Thelen ('03), Ivan Wong ('03), Carl Yu ('04), Salomon Zheng ('04) and Frank Zhu ('04).

The 13 underclassmen will have one more year in which to do college-level work and possibly earn another AP Scholar Award.

Kids in the sun/parents in the dark

Novi Community Education is presenting a spring break forum for parents on Monday, Oct. 27 at the Novi Middle School Auditorium from 7-9 p.m.

Have you decided whether or not to send your child on spring break?

Maybe you have decided but are having second thoughts?

Do you know how to tell your child NO to spring break?

Are you planning to go along?

This forum is designed for all parents of middle school to high school age children. Hear about the situations your child may encounter on a spring break trip. The panel of experts has knowledge of spring break activities and suggestions for parents to educate themselves and their children.

Seven are National Merit Semifinalists

Seven Novi High School seniors were among 16,000 students named nationally as semifinalists in the 2004 National Merit Scholarship Program. The students are: Kristin Giacalone, Megan Han, Douglas Lauthert, Chao Meng, Vishal Rangta, Alison Sansom and Elizabeth Song. These students now have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,000 Merit Scholarship awards, worth over \$2 million, which will be offered next spring.

Four Novi seniors received Letters of Commendation. They are: Lubna Malik, Shrivriee Maklepadhyay, Daniel Ping and Neil Rao.

The annual Merit Scholarship competition is conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, a privately financed non-profit corporation. The program is underwritten by approximately 500 business organizations and higher education institutions, as well as NMSC funds. Fewer than 1 percent of the nation's high school seniors were named semifinalists.



Photo by John Heider

"R" for reptile
Deerfield Elementary School student Christy Lyon holds her chameleon "Angelo" for students Dante Bishop, Emma Kehus, and Aria Thakore on a recent Friday afternoon. Christy's mom, teacher Cindy Lyon, let her get the Madagascar veiled chameleon to help illustrate learning of the letter "R" (for reptile) and wanted to allow the kids to document its progress and growth as it stays at the school.

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Michelle Bononi

Dear Novi Residents,
When you vote for Mayor on November 4th, consider who will represent resident's interests at Novi City Hall.

As your City Council person, I have demonstrated my commitment to "Serve Novi Residents First", and as your Mayor, my commitment to serve you will not change:

- The Mayor's office will maintain an "Open Door" policy where you will receive prompt responses to your questions and concerns.
- As your Mayor, I will not just listen to your problems and concerns. I am committed to working with all parties involved to propose practical, timely and cost effective solutions to our problems.
- I am a conservative financial planner and will spend the City's funds wisely.
- City Council Meetings will be planned so that you can watch items of interest at an early hour on Channel 13.
- My professional career as a City and County Urban Planner spans 27 years of experience in management, finance, site planning and the environment. I understand critical city development issues and ask the right questions to serve your interests.

Please support me with your vote on November 4, 2003
Representing Novi resident's interests at City Hall is clearly at stake.

Michelle Bononi
Candidate for Mayor of Novi

**Michelle Bononi
Mayor of Novi on November 4, 2003**

Dedication, Leadership and a Professional Approach to Getting the Job Done!
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Novi received 100 percent on bus inspections last school year

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Unless you're a student who's well prepared, pop quizzes are never fun in school.

To Novi Transportation Director Dan Tooman, however, pop quizzes are great. They just show how well his staff of bus drivers and mechanics are doing in preparing their fleets of buses each and every day to take kids back and forth.

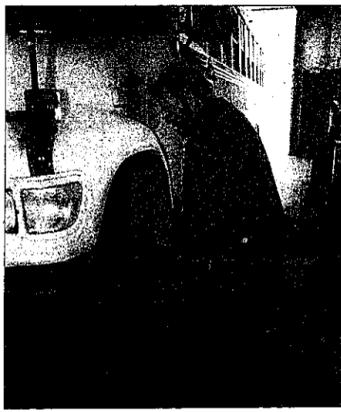


Photo by John Heider

Random bus inspections, which are administered by the state of Michigan, are more like pop final exams than pop quizzes, however. According to Ron Chamberlain, a new bus mechanic in Novi, the bus inspections are mandated by law to be done once a year and can happen at any time. Each inspector will make up their own schedule and they will call a district about a week ahead of time and tell them they will be doing an inspection. During a typical inspection, 182 points, or different locations of a bus, are looked at, such as all the lights, interior, under the bus, steering and suspension, just to name a few.

"Basically the whole vehicle is looked at," Chamberlain said. "Some of it is just minor criteria, which is just fixed right away, like if a light is out or something. But if it's a safety issue like brakes, suspension or steering, a vehicle will receive a red tag."

Chamberlain went on to explain that if there is a minor issue with the bus, such as a torn seat cover, the bus will be yellow tagged and there will be a period of 60 days to get it repaired. Most of the time, however, a bus is repaired the same day before the inspector walks out of the garage.

Each bus can receive either a red tag, a yellow tag, or a pass. Once an inspector starts on one school district, he or she usually continues to inspect all the busses until the job is done unless they get pulled out from the state for some reason. Inspectors check an average of 40 busses per week, which equals out to an average of eight per day. Once the job is finished, they will move on to a different school.

Novi hasn't received a phone call from an inspector yet this year, but Tooman is confident that when it comes, he and his staff will be ready. "We welcome our inspectors for safety, number one. It makes sure that our drivers are doing their jobs and it helps the mechanics do their

Novi School District Transportation Center mechanic John Zofchak takes the wheel off a school bus on a recent Thursday afternoon. Zofchak was preparing to inspect and repair its brakes.

jobs to stay on top of fixing things. It's a win-win situation and it's something that we absolutely need to have. It makes our busses safe."

Tooman explained that statistically, riding on a school bus is the safest transportation by almost 100 to one, and he intends to keep it that way. "If we ever have a bus driver who wasn't doing a good job with their bus inspections and they got caught a couple times, there will be some consequences to that person. They're taking an unsafe vehicle out there and making the kids unsafe, and that's not going to happen here," he said. "We have never even come close to that situation here, but it could cost a person their job if it ever did."

John Zofchak has been a Novi bus mechanic for 15 years. He couldn't recall an incident where the district was over in trouble with red tags on its busses.

"Last year our bus check was 100 percent, meaning everything passed the first time," he said. "The year before I think we might have gotten one or two red tags. But this year, we were 100 percent. We have to personally inspect it. We have to fill out the inspection, shoot every day before we leave the bus garage."

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COMMUNITY EDUCATION CORNER

- Orientation to Living Abroad**
DATE: Wednesday, Nov. 5
TIME: 7-9:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School, Room 504
DETAILS: Whether you are moving abroad or have moved to the U.S. from another country, this seminar will help you assimilate into your new culture.
FEE: \$24
PHONE: (248) 449-1206 for registration
- Food and Disease**
DATE: Wednesday, Nov. 5
TIME: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School, Room 518
DETAILS: Hidden food allergies can cause symptoms of disease. Learn how foods affect the whole person: physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.
FEE: \$20
PHONE: (248) 449-1206 for registration
- Find your Burn Rate and Enhance your Weight Management Program!**
DATE: Wednesday, Oct. 29
TIME: 7-8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School Teacher's Lounge
DETAILS: Learn what you can do to enhance your exercise or weight goals with the help of a nutritional consultant.
FEE: \$19 (plus a \$10
- Material fee)**
PHONE: (248) 449-1206 for registration
- Using Essential Oils to Make Oils, Beauty Products and Safe Household Cleaning Products**
DATE: Thursday, Nov. 6
TIME: 7-8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School Teacher's Lounge
DETAILS: Learn how to use aromatherapy to make bath salts, perfumes, body sprays and safe home cleaning supplies at a fraction of the cost.
FEE: \$19 (plus a \$10 material fee)
PHONE: (248) 449-1206 for registration
- Palm Reading 101**
DATE: Wednesday, Nov. 5
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School, Room 520
DETAILS: This program is geared for the curious, organized person willing to be entertained for an evening.
FEE: \$24
PHONE: (248) 449-1206 for registration
- Handpainted Floor Cloths**
DATE: Monday, Nov. 3
TIME: 6:30-9:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Meadows, 5 Art Room
DETAILS: Complete a 21 x 32-inch floor cloth.
FEE: \$23 (plus \$20 material
- Advanced Scrapbooking/Border Mania**
DATE: Tuesday, Nov. 4 - 11
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School, Art Room 316
DETAILS: Introducing an exciting new workshop where you make borders and journal boxes for approximately thirty 2-page scrapbook spreads. That's 60 pages worth of decorations!
FEE: \$19 (plus \$36 for a Border Mania kit)
PHONE: (248) 449-1206 for registration
- Introduction to a Computer**
DATE: Thursday, Nov. 6 - Dec. 4
TIME: 6:30-9:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School, Room 102
DETAILS: If you always wanted to learn about IBM compatible computers begin here and eliminate lots of frustrations. Learn basic computer operations. Explore the keyboard, memory, printers, mouse, modems, etc. Get a quick look at Microsoft WORD, EXCEL, and the Internet.
FEE: \$99 (plus \$24 material/aid kit fee)
PHONE: (248) 449-1206 for registration

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Buck Wilder creator brings important message

■ Hard work and dedication is key to success

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Author Timothy R. Smith, creator of "Buck Wilder's Small Fry Fishing Guide," "Buck Wilder's Small Fry Hiking and Camping Guide" and the new "Buck Wilder's Little Skipper Boating Guide," gave the students at Deerfield Elementary a Buck Wilder Adventure when he visited on Oct. 10. Buck Wilder is a fictional character that Smith created to show children the wonder and fun of reading and the great outdoors.

In storytelling style, Smith entertained as he educated this audience. He explained that the value of hard work and persistence is more effective when someone shows that "work" can be fun and that growing up doesn't mean shutting down your imagination. Smith also stressed the importance of believing in yourself and humbly showed the Deerfield kids how they can get creative.

"Creating and publishing books was new for me," he said. "I made mistakes, kept on working at it even with major obstacles in my way and did more than was expected to complete the books."

Smith said that he wishes that

when he was a kid, he had an adult tell him that he didn't have to be the best at everything. So, now as an adult himself, he wants to get that word out to students.

"You don't have to be the first one in the class. You don't have to be the sharpest. All you have to do is do it to life," he said. "Whatever you go through you just have to try harder, you have to do a little more than most. It's not that hard out here in the world, and if you aren't afraid to make mistakes, that's probably the best. That's why they put erasers on pencils."

Smith explained that once students realize that they can go for it and learn from their mistakes, "That's the point I try to get out to kids as much as I can," he said. "Adults sometimes are really too far gone, but as a kid, I wish I would have had an adult come to me at some point who had that message because that's my message."

Though he loves talking to kids, Smith doesn't do many presentations in schools during a given year. Most of his time is spent writing books and articles. He has been to Novi before, however, and he has been giving presentations for the last four or five years. He estimates that he has probably spoken to somewhere around 300,000 kids in the state of Michigan.

"People are always ready to make fun of someone and the world is full of people who keep trying," Smith said. "Thomas



Timothy R. Smith shows off a large version of one of his Buck Wilder books to Deerfield students.

Edison tried the light bulb 99 times before he got it right. The 100th time it finally went and look what it's done with electricity and light. There are many stories like that and that's what these kids should know."

For his first idea, Smith wanted to put a fishing book together, but he never planned on doing many books or anything else. Little did he know that his Buck Wilder character spawned many books and other products that kids across the country enjoy on a daily basis.

"I learn so much from nature," he said. "I love being outside, and I thought that if I could put a fishing

book together that was fun and kids could get into it, that was the whole goal. I thought that if I could get my name on the spine of a book in a library somewhere, I would be so proud."

Buck Wilder books (Alexander & Smith Publishing) have sold over 200,000 copies. Sample pages from the books can be viewed at www.buckwilder.com. For more information, call (800) 994-BUCK.

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.

Children's World accredited

The Children's World Learning Center located at 24250 Homestead has earned accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This prestigious recognition has been achieved by only 7 percent of early childhood programs nationwide.

The NAEYC accreditation process is a rigorous, voluntary process by which early childhood programs demonstrate that they meet more than 150 national standards of excellence in the areas of health and safety, curriculum, nutrition, staff qualifications and development, relationships among teachers and families, interaction between teachers and children, administrative functions and the overall physical environment.

To achieve accreditation status, the Novi Children's World is licensed for 150 children and offers a variety of programs, ranging from infant care beginning at six weeks old to before- and after-school programs for school-aged children. The center also offers a Private Kindergarten Program and music class. It is open from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information about the center's commitment to excellence for young children and families, call center director, Maryssem Sabagh, (248) 305-5461.

Illustrator makes it easy

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

By the time Michael Glenn Monroe was finished with his presentation, students at Parkview Elementary were able to draw a turtle with great accuracy. The illustrator, who has drawn pictures for many publications, spoke to the kids on Oct. 10. As a lover of nature and wildlife, Monroe hoped to spark an interest in the subject with the students by teaching them how to draw animals.

Monroe has been drawing for about 21 years. He has illustrated two book jump paintings and nine of his own books from cover to cover. To his credit, he has also had one of his books read on the Today Show, which was also read by Mitch Albom on television. He and his wife were also invited to the White House to spend a day and eat lunch with the first lady.

"I do about 15 art shows around the country during the summer," Monroe said. "I do the Novi Expo Center at the end of February for about 10 days, I have done about 200 magazine covers and my wife has written two of my books. I also have an art gallery in downtown Brighton. All my books are there and I have a couple hundred paintings on display as well."

Monroe loves it when he can show a child that drawing pictures isn't as hard as they may think. "A lot of times I hear kids say they can't draw at the beginning of a drawing, but when I show them how to do it, it becomes much



A student at Parkview Elementary School follows Michael Glenn Monroe's steps to draw a turtle.

www.mikemonroeart.com.

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.

Great teachers wanted!

The Novi News will recognize monthly a local teacher for his or her excellence in the classroom.

Nominations can come from students, teachers, parents, administrators or community residents who have contact or knowledge of a teacher's classroom activities.

Nominations can be mailed to: Novi News, Cal Stone, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167; faxed to (248) 349-9832; or sent by e-mail to csstone@ht.homecomm.net.

The deadline for nominations is the last day of the month. The Novi News staff will select the winner and a feature story and photograph will appear in the Novi News on the second Thursday of the following month.

To nominate a teacher, please send your nomination, school address and the school's telephone number along with a statement of no more than 200 words telling us why this teacher deserves to be the Outstanding Teacher of the Month.

WANTED WITNESSES

to an automobile accident of 12/7/00 at 5:50 p.m. on Grand River 1/2 mile west of Novi Road between a blue cement truck and a Chevy Blazer. Anyone having information relative to this accident is asked to call Mark at (248) 476-6900



Photo by John Heider

Eating right at Meadows

Novi Meadows school children survey their choices of vegetables and fruits last Thursday afternoon as they make their way through the lunch line. Novi school's Director of Food Service, Nancy Russell, is joining other cafeteria managers in a nationwide effort to get kids to "Eat Five a Day" and increase their intake of vegetables and fruits.

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Novi City Council



Dr. Siddharth "Mav" Sanghvi

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Taylor, Southland Mall (734) 287-4772
Troy, Gateway Mall (313) 883-1206
Westland, Westland Mall (734) 424-4205
Ann Arbor, Grandview Mall (734) 763-7708

Did you know that gingivitis, the early stage of periodontal disease, is often painless and therefore difficult to detect on your own? That's just one reason why regular visits to the dentist are essential for healthy gums and teeth. If it's been a while since your last dental appointment, don't delay, give your dental hygienist a call today!

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Colleges assemble to promote excellence in online education

Walsh College has formed an alliance with community colleges from across the state and Ohio to enhance the quality and experience of online learning for students and faculty as well as increase the understanding and reputation of the newest method of education.

"The heightened interest in online learning has challenged our institutions to work together to establish standards of excellence and to discover creative and practical methods for continuous improvement," said Dr. Patrick G. Callaghan, strategic director of the Walsh College Office of Online Learning. Callaghan and colleagues from 10 community colleges say that their institutions are addressing forms of appropriate technology infrastructure, pedagogical faculty development and effective student-friendly modes of learning.

Leaders from Walsh College and the 10 charter members signed partnership agreements at the second annual Symposium for Excellence in Online Education on Sept. 26 at Walsh's Novi campus.

Representatives included Keith Pretty, JD, president of Walsh College; Dr. Roger Bober, deputy provost, Macomb Community College;

Dr. Mary Spangler, chancellor, Oakland Community College; Dr. Roberta Peterson, dean, Human, Health and Public Services Division, Lansing Community College; Dr. Conway Jeffress, president, Schoolcraft College; Dr. Richard Shaikh, president, Mott Community College; Dr. Carol Nowakowski, dean of student and instructional support, St. Clair County Community College; Dr. Daniel Phalen, president, Jackson Community College and Dr. Thomas Suckey, executive vice president, Northwest State Community College in Ohio. Montclair Community College will participate in the Alliance but was unable to send a representative to the Symposium.

In its first official act, The Alliance for Excellence in Online Education honored Mark Harris from Schoolcraft College as the 2003 Outstanding Online Faculty. "This award is a much-deserved recognition of one of the talented and hardworking online faculty," said Dr. Callaghan.

His nomination described Harris as an individual who has demonstrated excellence in transitioning his discipline into the medium of online education. The award recognizes innovative teaching strategies involving technology rather than the use of technology for its own sake. "We are delighted to be able to recognize the contributions of our highly valued colleague and look forward to many more years of collaboration," Callaghan added.

Cisco Systems Senior Vice President Howard Charney demonstrated the power of technology in education and presented a peek at the future of online learning. Symposium guests responded enthusiastically to Charney's predictions and expressed their excitement about the potential for technology in the delivery of quality education.

Teresa Takai, director of technology for the State of Michigan and member of the Walsh College President's Advisory Council, was the luncheon speaker. She congratulated members of the Alliance for promoting excellence in the new medium of education.

Sessions on copyright, intellectual property and security were also presented by industry and educational experts.

For more information about any of the presentations or on membership in the Alliance, call Dr. Callaghan at 248-689-8282.

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Local Color welcomes jazz trumpeter Marcus Printup

Jazz fans will get a rare treat next month when trumpeter Marcus Printup performs at Local Color Brewing Company in Novi. Printup will be backed by the Professors of Jazz at Michigan State University, a stellar ensemble that includes:

- Rodney Whitaker - bass
- Randy Gillespie - drums
- Rick Roe - piano
- Vincent Gardner - trombone
- Diego Rivera - saxophone

Those who attended the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra's show at Novi High School this past June may recognize Printup, who sits beside Wynton Marsalis in the trumpet section.

"Marcus Printup possesses the deepest level of soul and sophistication," said Marsalis, "and with the Professors of Jazz, you are guaranteed a profoundly good time."

Like Marsalis, Printup is also familiar with Local Color. He is one of the musicians who jammed at the afterglow party following the LCO's June 18 concert.

At just 35 years of age, Printup already embodies the experience of an extraordinary career. In addition to his nine-year tenure with the LCO, he has recorded with Marsalis, Marcus Roberts, Dianne Reeves, Cyrus Chestnut and Eric Reed.

For the past eight years, Printup has also been building a solid solo career, having released five albums - "Song for a Beautiful Woman," "Unveiled," "The Music of Freddie Hubbard" (with Tim Hagans), "Nocturnal Traces," and



MARCUS PRINTUP

his latest, "The New Boogaloo." With his vast background in jazz, Printup is proud to present fresh music rich in the language of the great jazz heroes, but with his own signature of a soul-stirring gospel strength, mixed with the force of Parliament Funkadelic.

This very individual interpretation of jazz resonates with the fire-filled echoes of the Baptist church he attended with his family during his youth in Conyers, Georgia.

While attending University of North Florida, Printup won several national competitions, including the 1991 Thelonious Monk International Trumpet Competition and the National Collegiate Jazz Competition.

Printup's playing showcases his affinity for the hard bop school of trumpet, with nods to influential legends like Booker Little and Fats Navarro.

"It is eloquence of style and his ability to express his own unique voice are characteristics that distinguish Printup from many young musicians of his generation," according to the *Encyclopedia of Popular Music*.

The Professors of Jazz at MSU is a jazz group established and maintained through the Jazz Studies area at Michigan State University. Nationally and internationally acclaimed bass player Rodney Whitaker, a Detroit, is the director of Jazz Studies at MSU and is the artistic director of the PMSU. The ensemble has a new recording, "The Third Floor."

Printup and the Professors will be signing copies of their recordings at Local Color.

Author Tom Graze signing books "Bids & Bites" Auction

DATE: Thursday, Oct. 23
 TIME: 7 p.m.
 LOCATION: Borders, Novi Town Center

DETAILS: Former Northville resident and author Tom Graze will be signing copies of his latest book, the "Twisted Web". Copies of the 400-page science thriller will be available for \$6.99.

PHONE: (248) 347-0780

Grand Court, Novi, Annual Health Fair

DATE: Friday, Oct. 24
 TIME: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
 LOCATION: Grand Court, Novi

DETAILS: Low cost screening for stroke, peripheral arterial disease and osteoporosis and other testing. Also, physicians and other health professionals will discuss issues related to local seniors.

PHONE: (248) 669-5330

Novi Theaters production of "The Adventures of Stuart Little"

DATE: Fri-Sat, Oct. 24-26
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Stage, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd., Novi

PHONE: (248) 347-0400

Halloween Party

DATE: Saturday, Oct. 25
 TIME: 7-10 p.m.
 LOCATION: All Star Gymnastics, Novi

DETAILS: This event is for children in first grade and up and includes food, games and a costume contest.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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 LOCATION: All Star Gymnastics, Novi

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PHONE: (248) 380-5330

Meadowbrook Congregational Church "Bids & Bites" Auction

DATE: Saturday, Oct. 25
 TIME: 6 p.m.
 LOCATION: Borders, Novi Town Center

DETAILS: Former Northville resident and author Tom Graze will be signing copies of his latest book, the "Twisted Web". Copies of the 400-page science thriller will be available for \$6.99.

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thing he thought he was missing in the love he already had.

Childtime's Community Halloween Party

DATE: Tuesday, Oct. 28
 TIME: 6:30-8 p.m.
 LOCATION: Childtime, 2720 Oakley Park, Commerce

DETAILS: Free food, costume contest, free arts and crafts. Public Welcome.

PHONE: (248) 669-7448

Fru Shots

DATE: Tuesday, Oct. 28
 TIME: 9:30 a.m.-noon
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road

DETAILS: Cost is \$7 for those able to pay Medicare and Medicaid cover the cost (bring I.D.).

PHONE: (248) 452-9174

Harry Potter Halloween Party

DATE: Wednesday, Oct. 29
 TIME: 7-9 p.m.
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center

DETAILS: Kids, get on board the Hogwarts Express for an evening of fun at our first ever Harry Potter Halloween Party. Candy, Games, Prizes, Arts and Crafts. Refreshments for kids, and Moms and Dads too! Children ages 3-years-old through fifth grade.

PHONE: Jessica Holder, (248) 427-2700

Send calendar items to Cal Sone, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48168 or e-mail to csone@luhomecomm.net.

WHAT: 9th Annual Fall Novi Sugarloaf Art Fair

WHERE: Novi Expo Center

WHEN: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday, Sunday, October 24-26

WHAT: Fine art and contemporary art, glassblowing, metal spinning, and more.

HOW MUCH: Daily adult admission: \$6; children under 12: admitted free.

Parking-free, courtesy of Sugarloaf.

WHO: Sugarloaf Mountain works, Inc., Gaitherburg, Maryland-award-winning promoter of eighteen annual art fairs and craft festivals now held in seven states.

For more info, visit www.sugarloafcraft.com.

matter. Many of the participating fine artists and craft designers in this show are from the Detroit metropolitan area. This is your chance to see how it's done - glassblowing, metal spinning, and more.



St. Mary Mercy Hospital presents

The Circle of Hope Gala

Friday, November 14

An Elegant Dinner Dance

Doors open at 6 p.m.

Laurel Manor Special Event Center
 2000 Schockadt Road, Livonia

Honorary Chairperson
 JeAnne Purian, WXYZ-TV Health Reporter

Dance music provided by
 "Intrigue"

6:00 p.m. - Cocktails and Fine Jewelry Silent Auction
 7:30 p.m. - Dinner and Dessert Fantasy
 8:45 p.m. - Live Auction featuring a fine jewelry experience by Mastercraft Jewelers, Laurel Park
 9:00 p.m. - Entertainment and Dancing

General Guest Tickets: \$75 each (\$750/table of 10 guests)
 VIP Guest Tickets: \$150 each (\$1500/table of 10 guests)

For more information call 734.655.2907 or 734.655.2980
 or visit our web site at www.stmarymercy.org

Proceeds benefit the St. Mary Mercy Hospital Cancer Center and Cancer Services

ST. MARY MERCY HOSPITAL
 36475 Five Mile Rd
 Livonia, MI 48154

\$0 to Join!

CLUB Elite
 Fitness for Women

Hurry! Only 7 days left!
 248-305-8707

22016 Novi Road, Novi • First month's dues still applicable. Expires 10/31/03

Faith Community Presbyterian Church of Novi

What we are about: Hearing • Trusting • Acting • Sharing

WORSHIP
 • Morning Services
 • Sunday School
 • Adult Chorus
 • Children's Choir
 • Brass Handbell Choir

EDUCATION
 • Full Church School for Nursery - Senior High
 • Bible Study Classes
 • Special Speakers/programs
 • Youth Education
 • Christian Faith Book Study
 • Ninth Grade Confirmation
 • Topical Discussions

RELIGIOUSNESS
 • Adult Fellowship Activities
 • High Youth Fellowship
 • Sr. High Youth Fellowship
 • Family Activities
 • Moms' Group
 • LOGOS

MISSIONS
 • Support World & National Mission Projects
 • Novi Youth Assistance
 • Novi Emergency Food Program
 • Novi Meals-on-Wheels
 • Crop Walk
 • Presbyterian Food Program
 • Whitehall Worship Services

Sunday Worship Services
 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Sunday School
 Offered during both worship services for preschool and kindergarten children and at 10:30 AM for grades 1-12.

LOGOS
 Wednesday youth fellowship program offered from 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM. Each week is a different theme that guides the recreation and dinner aspects of this fun program.

Visit us at:
 44400 West Ten Mile Road
 (Between Novi & Taft Roads)
 Novi, MI 48375
 248-349-2345

www.faithcommunity-novi.org
 e-mail: office@faithcommunity-novi.org

OPINION

LETTERS

How tax dollars were saved

To set the record straight, it was the majority of the Novi City Council, myself included, who made the decision to cooperate with Northville Township regarding the Quail Ridge subdivision drainage dispute in order to save our Novi tax dollars.

The fact is that this dispute was in the hands of an inter-county drainage board established at the request of Northville Township. Under a formula established by Oakland County, the City of Novi would have been required to pay about 80 percent of the \$448,429 cost to repair the drain. That's because 80 percent of the drainage in this residential area comes from the City of Novi.

The City of Novi and Northville Township jointly applied for grants which were approved and paid 100 percent of the \$448,429 construction costs. The City Council also negotiated that Novi's share of any balance not covered by the grants would be reduced from 80 percent down to 60 percent. In simple math instead of Novi being required to pay 80 percent of \$448,429 (\$358,743), Novi was only required to pay 60 percent of the uncovered balance. That amounted to \$38,972 for Novi's share. The City Council also avoided the cost of a potential lawsuit.

Mayor Pro Tem Michelle Bononi was instrumental in bringing forward the information regarding the availability of grants for this type of project, which ultimately saved over \$30,000 of our tax dollars.

Laura J. Lorenzo
Novi City Council

Another for Bononi

I just want to say I have never written to an editor before, nor have I ever been politically active before. I'm just a plain old Novi resident who has finally had some exposure to our political system. When you read this you will probably think that these types of issues don't affect you, but remember there is a list of Novi that is undeveloped. Consider when you would like on our City Council when a developer comes near your neighborhood. I'd like Michelle Bononi for mayor, here's why.

Our neighborhood abuts a proposed industrial site that has acres of protected wetlands and woodlands. Many of these acres of trees were taken down with no permits or authorization. Many more are slated for removal. These actions adversely affect the value of our homes. Planning Commissioners, Lynne Paul and Tony Nagy, could not have been more helpful. When faced with the unpopular decision to help restore a powerful developer to help residents they did. They found the ordinance that protect residents' property and helped to put a stop to the development with an 840-1 Planning Commission vote to deny. When the developer appealed his case to the City Council, Michelle Bononi was the only one of the two mayoral candidates on the council to listen, respect and uphold ordinance-based solutions for the residents in this situation. Lou Csordas did not even return my call, even when there was a petition that represented over 200 concerned Novi residents from our neighborhood. Unfortunately the council voted 5 to 2 against us, citing Sand Stone as a major reason, without ever stating which city ordinance would allow this action. It was unfair for Mr. Csordas to use the threat of an imaginary lawsuit to justify a decision that goes against our city ordinances.

Thank you Michelle Bononi, Lynne Paul, and Tony Nagy for going out of your way to be fair and knowledgeable of Novi city ordinances and for trying to help our residents even when it might be politically unpopular to do so. Keep up the good fight.

Linda Roberts
Novi

Residents first, developers second

I am writing to encourage the citizens of Novi to exercise your right to vote in this election, this year more than ever, to make a dramatic change in the future of Novi! The mayoral seat and three City Council seats will be decided on November 4th. This is a chance for a real clean-up on the City Council.

The city, and my family personally, have witnessed continual developer favoritism from the mayor, the City Council MEN, the City Offices and the Zoning Board of Appeals. These city officials have catered to developer desires and forsaken their own city ordinances and the citizens they were hired and/or elected to represent. Beck North and Catholic Central are just two of many examples of these city representatives dealing a full house to developers and a bum hand to the people of Novi.

We, the citizens of Novi, need to step up and vote our corporate citizen government and return the city to the citizens.

Current City Council member Lisa Conrath will give any and all developers a key to this city, as I personally experienced, if you elect him as mayor.

Consider candidates with experience, ethics, and foresight to make the right decision for Novi's future. Elect our current Mayor Pro Tem, Michelle Bononi for mayor, Planning Commission Chair Tom Nagy for City Council and Planning Commissioner Lynne Paul for City Council.

These candidates know that businesses are essential for Novi's growth, but growth within the parameters of households and families. Our experience has been that these three candidates do follow our city ordinances, do try to meet the needs of the citizens and do place residents as the priority.

Let's clean up City Council and vote in the people who will place the city and residents first, and the developers second as it should be!

Michelle Bononi for Mayor
Lynne Paul for City Council
Tom Nagy for City Council

Scott Halloran
Novi

Americans first

Ford announced they are closing four plants and putting another 2,000 out of a job. We have over 2 million Americans currently unemployed. Many more have dropped off the list of these collecting unemployment and are now on the welfare rolls and not receiving any aid at all?

Any rise in employment is temporary work which most often pays minimum wages and no benefits. Not the kind of job that a family can fully depend on for very long. Those out of work are in competition with not only other Americans, but with the millions of illegals being allowed to enter our country.

Who is benefiting from this? How many of these are currently in low positions to protect us allowing, and in some cases giving, taxpayer dollars. American manufacturers to abandon the very people who buy their products. If we are not employed, we cannot purchase.

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Support the companies who are patriotic and not greedy, and do the right thing for the United States. It's worth the time searching labels to save American jobs. If we refuse to purchase products made out of this country by manufacturers who have put us out of work, maybe they will realize the American consumer is the world market. No other country imports American manufactured goods remotely equal to what we import.

We are shut out of competing with the rest of the world in the job market. Stockholders are part of the

controlling force behind these companies.

We are in a position to and we should help others, but we will not be able to help anyone if we continue to give everything away. We have to stay strong and productive ourselves to help others.

We need leaders in government who are loyal to all Americans, not just to corporations and those who run them.

Imagine being at city hall or at the police department when a similar tragedy begins? I can't. Sept. 11 was a wake-up call; hopefully, the citizens of Novi will respond with sacrifice, compromise and courage.

Terry Whitfield
Novi

Make it green-and-white

The Bush administration is scheming to do wars, then make plans to rebuild countries. Our country is already half a trillion dollars in debt due to someone's ego. During election time, every politician talks about health care as a major issue, but after the election everyone forgets.

I am asking seniors and eligible voters to take charge and change the Bush administration in 2004. We should look into our house, our people, and provide the best facilities for our children.

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Ed Kramer
Novi

Bononi is our future

During the past year and a half I have become very educated about City processes, City ordinances, and have experienced the decision making techniques of most of the campaign candidates.

Although this experience has greatly minimized my respect and confidence in the management and direction of the City of Novi, I know there is hope for a better future. That future is dependent upon Michelle Bononi becoming our Mayor. I have experienced firsthand that she stops to listen to residents, considers all sides of an issue, and responds respectfully.

When we corresponded to City Council over a year ago about illegal removal of woodlands and wetlands by a developer, she was the City Council member that acknowledged our correspondence and asked questions of City personnel and the city attorney. She did this because she understands her professional responsibility as a leader and, also, that residents should be listened to when concerns and City issues are affecting them. She was not a friend or neighbor - only recently have we met and talked with her - but she still did what was right because it was the right thing to do.

Again, when we attended a City Council meeting six months ago because she had not responded to this illegal removal of woodlands and wetlands, Michelle Bononi was the one that asked questions of city personnel and expected an answer for the residents.

Ms. Bononi is a "first class citizen" when a department denied us public information, Michelle Bononi worked for the residents to find out why our city wasn't working for us.

I'm voting for the mayoral candidate this fall, and I'm voting for integrity, intelligence, leadership, and, most importantly, fairness to the residents. Michelle Bononi doesn't fold under political or developer pressure and has demonstrated the wisdom and ability to compromise. We need that kind of strength for our city's future. We need Michelle Bononi for Novi City Mayor.

Kellie Halloran
Novi

Backing Csordas

This letter is to inform you of my support for Lou Csordas. I have known him for many years and I feel that Lou Csordas would be the best candidate for mayor of Novi for several reasons.

Lou Csordas has a tremendous amount of integrity and accountability to see to it that what needs to be done gets done. His demeanor with the residents is what we need. He has called the "yuppie invasion" has rehabilitated, repaired and rebuilt the city we call home. It's a way of life for us - one that we have chosen, and for which we pay dear.

The City Council elections are upon us. There are no major issues, such as lawsuit settlements, or bond issues for road improvements or parklands on the ballot, but the day-to-day issues of running the City of Novi and where we are going in the future are more critical than ever. We've got to have a chance to elect a mayor who will serve in the best interests of the City of Novi and where we are going in the future are more critical than ever.

Michelle Bononi, mayor pro-tem and a four-year member of the City Council, is running for mayor. In my opinion, she is, both by vocation and avocation, the most qualified person to serve in this position...ever. We have a unique opportunity to elect someone who understands exactly what the challenges and ramifications are as we approach build-out. This is the most critical time in the City's development, and I feel it's time to elect someone who recognizes the challenges that must be maintained - to elect someone who remembers the residents who put her in office. Someone who can and will lead the Council to preserve and protect the City they are elected to represent, not someone who, in my opinion, is bought and paid for by the develop-

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Novi always places the welfare of our community above politics.

Novi is our home. Your government is your choice. You have the right to elect someone who will exercise your right to vote. Mark your calendar and vote on November 4th, for Lou Csordas. He is the right person at the right time.

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Kellie Halloran
Novi

Back this trio

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Novi always places the welfare of our community above politics.

Novi is our home. Your government is your choice. You have the right to elect someone who will exercise your right to vote. Mark your calendar and vote on November 4th, for Lou Csordas. He is the right person at the right time.

Ed Kramer
Novi

Bononi is our future

During the past year and a half I have become very educated about City processes, City ordinances, and have experienced the decision making techniques of most of the campaign candidates.

Although this experience has greatly minimized my respect and confidence in the management and direction of the City of Novi, I know there is hope for a better future. That future is dependent upon Michelle Bononi becoming our Mayor. I have experienced firsthand that she stops to listen to residents, considers all sides of an issue, and responds respectfully.

When we corresponded to City Council over a year ago about illegal removal of woodlands and wetlands by a developer, she was the City Council member that acknowledged our correspondence and asked questions of City personnel and the city attorney. She did this because she understands her professional responsibility as a leader and, also, that residents should be listened to when concerns and City issues are affecting them. She was not a friend or neighbor - only recently have we met and talked with her - but she still did what was right because it was the right thing to do.

Again, when we attended a City Council meeting six months ago because she had not responded to this illegal removal of woodlands and wetlands, Michelle Bononi was the one that asked questions of city personnel and expected an answer for the residents.

Ms. Bononi is a "first class citizen" when a department denied us public information, Michelle Bononi worked for the residents to find out why our city wasn't working for us.

I'm voting for the mayoral candidate this fall, and I'm voting for integrity, intelligence, leadership, and, most importantly, fairness to the residents. Michelle Bononi doesn't fold under political or developer pressure and has demonstrated the wisdom and ability to compromise. We need that kind of strength for our city's future. We need Michelle Bononi for Novi City Mayor.

Kellie Halloran
Novi

Back this trio

As I look back at the Novi which I moved to in late 1978, I have to celebrate the 25th anniversary of our city's future. We need Michelle Bononi for Novi City Mayor.

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OTHER OPINIONS

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

Primary elections – there's a novel idea to try

Few people are thinking much about next year's presidential election — yet. Yet the startling truth is that within less than five months, we'll almost certainly know who the nominees of both parties will be.

Michigan voters will get their chance to weigh in even sooner, on Feb. 7. Except most of them won't. The scandal is that in this state both major parties — especially the Democrats — have worked hard to limit the voters' ability to have a say.

This wasn't always so. Time-travel back to 1992, when there were just races for both nominations. Then President George Bush was being embarrassingly challenged from the right by Pat Buchanan, who chose Michigan to test his theory that white, blue-collar union workers were secretly in his camp.



Jack Lessenberry

Bill Clinton was being dogged by Paul Tsongas, Jerry Brown, and lingering doubts. But on St. Patrick's Day, Michigan voters effectively settled both races. Clinton won a solid majority. President Bush crushed Buchanan by almost three to one.

They also had to find out where their caucus site was (almost never at their usual voting place) learn during what few hours voting was allowed, and go and wait through a tedious process. Few voters bothered, which is just what the party hacks wanted.

Republicans stayed true to their principles, but they

began to mutter after George W. Bush, the establishment choice, was roundly defeated by U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona in the Michigan Republican Primary in 2000. Bush supporters alleged that without a primary of their own, Democrats crossed over to vote for McCain.

This year, neither party will hold a primary. Legislative Republicans chose to "temporarily" abolish it, on the grounds that this would save the state a little money, and wasn't really needed this year, since they are not expected to have a contest and Democrats refuse to use the primary.

That makes some sense on paper — though not in reality. The fact is that a vast number of voters want the freedom to oscillate between the parties. Gov. John Engler, a hard conservative, got 62 percent of the vote in 1998. U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, a liberal, got 61 percent four years later.

Democrats argue that their rules don't allow them to participate in primaries in states like Michigan, which don't have voter registration by party. However, that is exactly what happens in Wisconsin, which asks for an exemption — and got one.

Both parties have also worried that if one side doesn't have a contested race, voters may come and make mischief in the other party's primary. But political scientists have found essentially no evidence this happens. Surveys showed that while some McCain voters thought of themselves as Democrats and independents, they voted for the Arizona senator because they liked him.

Indeed, in Michigan, Republicans might have been much better off with John McCain as the candidate. President Bush lost the state by 217,000 votes.

This year the Democrats will once again have a caucus system. Stung by criticism in the past, they say they've tried

to make it more inclusive. Anyone willing to swear that they are a Democrat can vote from 10 a.m. and 4 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7.

If you can't make it there, you can request a mail ballot from the state party. Matter of fact, you can get one in Spanish if you want, or Arabic. That is, if you can figure out how to get one. Finding out where to vote isn't that easy, either, though you may be able to figure it out if you get on the Internet and go to www.nfd-demos.com.

That's how you get an absentee ballot, too. Poor and/or don't have access to the Internet or knowledge of how to use it? Well, you can send the Michigan Democratic Party in Lansing a letter, or a fax, or an e-mail if you can borrow a friend's log-on.

Or, you can vote via the Internet. That worries all of the Democratic presidential candidates except Howard Dean and Wesley Clark. The gang of seven has sent the national party a letter opposing Internet voting in Michigan's Democratic caucuses.

Some say they are more worried because the "Internet community" essentially created Dean's candidacy and is believed to be potentially friendly to Clark's. And that may be so. Nevertheless, this summer a virus seized this column's computer, and sent out hundreds of treacherous e-mails under my name. Why couldn't a Lyndon LaRouche virus, say, be designed to hijack a party's primary?

I doubt that we are ready for Internet voting. However, there is another system available. It is a bit old-fashioned, but it worked tolerably well for Bill Clinton, and John and Robert Kennedy, and for other candidates for many, many years. They call it a primary election. For democracy's sake, they might once again give it a try.

Jack Lessenberry is editorial vice president of *Hometown Communications*. He can be reached by phone at (248) 901-2561 or by e-mail at jlessenberry@homecomm.net.

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REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Thursday, October 23, 2003

MONEY MATTERS

Should you pay off your mortgage with a home equity loan?

Homeowners have long known that home equity loans and home equity lines of credit (HELOCs) are good for financing home improvement projects and eliminating high-rate unsecured debt, but they're also discovering they serve another function: loans and lines are an attractive way to retire a small mortgage.

Which borrowers could benefit from replacing their mortgage with a home equity loan or line of credit? Homeowners who owe less than \$30K on a primary mortgage and who balk at the idea of paying thousands of dollars in closing costs and fees for a lower-interest five-year mortgage, that is, if they can find a lender that's willing to issue a short-term mortgage.

One of the advantages of taking out a home equity loan or HELOC is that you'll likely pay much less in closing costs than you would in a mortgage refinancing. And your interest rate may be lower than it would be for a traditional short-term mortgage. Another advantage — the interest you pay on both a home equity loan and a HELOC is tax deductible. Consider the following examples from the latest issue of Home and Family Finance.

Say you're now paying 6.5 percent on a 30-year fixed rate mortgage for \$100,000, with monthly interest and principal payments of \$632. And you still have five-plus years of payments and an unpaid balance of \$32,320. If you take out a home equity loan with a five-year fixed interest rate of 5 percent, your monthly payment — interest and principal — will be \$610. You'll realize a \$22 savings each month and an overall savings of \$1,347 over the life of the loan.

On the other hand, if you refinance the loan at 5 percent for five years, any interest savings you'd hope to enjoy by refinancing at a lower interest rate will be eaten up by closing costs.

Loan or HELOC

Which is better? If you choose to pay off your mortgage with a HELOC, say with an interest rate of 4 percent, you'll trim an additional \$15 off your payment each month and you'll realize a savings of over \$2,200 over five years. HELOCs, unlike home equity loans, typically have a variable interest rate. (Financial service providers often link the rate to an index, such as the prime rate, which rises and falls.) A HELOC interest rate starts out relatively low, which makes them look more attractive than home equity loans, but over time they begin to nudge upward. There's typically a cap on how much the interest rate can rise each adjustment period, and over the life of the loan.

If, for example, your rate adjusts a half-percent every quarter, and the lifetime cap is 6 percent, your 4-percent rate could climb to as high as 10 percent in just three years. Another consideration, HELOCs have a longer repayment period than home equity loans, often 15 years. To realize savings, you'll need the self-discipline to pay the balance off in five years. If you take longer, you'll pay more in interest over the life of the loan.

Other considerations — If you want to pay off your mortgage in five years at a lower interest rate than the 6.5 percent you're paying now, but neither a home equity loan nor a HELOC appeals to you, consider taking a 15-year mortgage and prepay your principal to pay off your balance in five years. (But before you start prepaying the mortgage, review your loan documents to make sure you won't be slapped with prepayment penalties.) You'll likely reap the same interest savings you would with a short-term mortgage, but the downside is you'll probably have to pay a couple of thousand dollars in closing costs. Unless, of course, you find a lender that will pay your closing costs in exchange for a slightly higher interest rate.

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL), a statewide trade association representing Michigan credit unions. Send your financial questions to "Your Money Matters" c/o the Michigan Credit Union League, P.O. Box 8054, Plymouth, MI 48170-8054, or stop by our Web site (www.mcul.org) to learn more about smart money management. Comments about this column may be e-mailed to mcd@mcul.org.

ADVERTORIAL



Photo by Jim Farkas

The enthusiastic and professional staff (from left to right): Sandy, Dawn, Tracy and proprietors Vicky and Jim Serra in front of their beautiful, 4,000-square-foot showroom.

Expert service, wide array of choices make shopping easy at Serra

James C. Farkas
SPECIAL WRITER

Long gone are South Lyon's dirt roads, replaced by pavement. Miles and miles of farmland have now become new subdivisions. So, too, the more than three-decades-old Serra's paint, wallpaper and upholstery business that has evolved into Serra Floor Covering.

Jim Serra started out in the heart of downtown South Lyon in 1972. As the community grew, so did Serra Floor Covering. About five

years ago, they expanded to their new 4,000-square-foot showroom and warehouse located on Pontiac Trail between Eight and Nine Mile roads. This beautiful, relatively-new facility is a showcase for all the latest floor coverings from carpet, hardwood, vinyl and laminate. They carry an extensive line of window coverings as well as area rugs to complement any home or business decor.

It's interesting to note that Jim and his wife, Vicky, met 23 years ago while attending a floor covering convention. Jim had already established his business in South Lyon, and she was working for a floor covering business on the eastside. Both are natives of the Detroit area.

Vicky joined her husband in the business in 1982 while raising three daughters, Andrea, 21; Renee, 19; and Tori, 16. While Tori is a senior in high school, both Andrea and Renee attend Central Michigan University, and all three help out in the store during vacations, holidays and weekends. The Serra family is well-known in the community and consider themselves an integral part of the South Lyon lifestyle. They are active members of the Chamber of Commerce and Jim is a Downtown Development Authority member. They have always been active in the South Lyon school district supporting teams, bands and theater groups as well as other local and community events.

"So much has changed over the years in the floor covering industry," said Vicky, "with all the mergers of large and smaller companies. The competition amongst manufacturers is fierce. However, it's the consumer that benefits."

"Due to technology, carpets are now softer, more durable and easier to clean. There is improved padding that will actually extend the life of your carpet and even a padding that contains an odor-eater for pet-owners. There are vinyls that do not discolor as easily and laminates that give the appearance of real hardwood and ceramic tile. Hardwood surfaces come in a wide array of colors, woods and widths, prefinished with a first-coat of aluminum oxide which adds another level of protection against dents and wear-through, said Vicky.

There is such a wide selection to choose from whether you are thinking of carpet, hardwood, vinyl or laminate. It requires someone with the expertise and know-

edge of all the innovations that have taken place in recent years to assist in your selection.

Jim and Vicky attend industry seminars and conventions on a regular basis to keep their customers informed of all the latest product improvements.

"We believe dealing locally with a smaller business has many advantages over the larger and sometimes not-so-convenient mega stores," said Vicky. "We have a knowledgeable, professional and courteous staff who take a personal interest in each and every customer as compared to the mega store where it is sometimes difficult to find someone who wants to help you let alone being knowledgeable and experienced in floor covering. Then you have to deal with installation and warranty which can sometimes be a problem."

"Our reputation in the community is our number one priority, and a large percentage of our business comes from referrals. Therefore, we will bend over backwards to be sure our customers are pleased with their purchase, installation and service."

"Besides the manufacturer's warranty, we include a one-year warranty on installation, and our prices are competitive. As an added convenience, we offer six months same as cash," said Vicky.

"Once the customer has visited our showroom, we will go to their home for a field measurement and give them a guaranteed price quote for the complete job," she added.

In addition to residential customers interested in replacing old, worn floor coverings, Serra Floor Covering works with builders and their homebuyers as well as commercial businesses and offices.

You'll discover all the recognizable brand names in carpets from Shaw, Mohawk, Milliken and Gullistan featuring Stainmaster, Anso Nylon and Wear-Dated Fiber. In hardwoods, popular names like prefinished Bruce,

Muskoka and Somerset. In the laminates and vinyls there is Armstrong, Congoleum and Mannington. All styles and types of window coverings from Hunter-Douglas and Graybar. The unique area rugs in varying sizes, colors and patterns come from suppliers in Georgia and as far away as Egypt.

In addition to Jim and Vicky and their daughters, there is a staff of four salespeople. Sandy, who is the new recruit; Dawn who has been with them four years; Shariess, 16 years; and Joan a remarkable 25 years! There is Tracy, their competent bookkeeper for six years; and in the warehouse is the young and strong Darlton.

Of course, the selection is only 50 percent of the sale. The other 50 percent is in the competent and qualified hands of their installation crews who are not satisfied until their job is done to the customer's satisfaction.

Serra Floor Covering is proud to have received the coveted South Lyon Herald People's Choice Award on two separate occasions.

If you're tired of looking at that dingy, worn carpet in your home or business, or you're new to the area and building a home that needs window coverings as well as floor coverings, or maybe just a big area rug for under the diningroom table, your first stop will be your last stop when you visit Serra Floor Covering in South Lyon.

DETAILS

Serra Floor Covering
21946 Pontiac Trail, S. Lyon
Phone: (248) 437-2838
Fax: (248) 437-7333
www.serrafloorcovering.com
Hours: M-T-W-F - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thurs - 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sat - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Photo by Jim Farkas

Proprietors Jim and Vicky Serra explain the different Oriental weaves, colors and sizes available in area rugs to complement and protect your floors.

Fall Bargain Days

While Selection
Expert Advice
Expert Installation
Financing

Shaw

Fifth in the state!

Novi competes with state's elite

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Now that's one heck of a finish.

The Novi Wildcats girls tennis team, led by coach Jim Hanson, showed that they deserved all of the nods they received in the rankings this year as they fought to an applaud-worthy, fifth-place finish in the state of Michigan's Lower Peninsula tennis finals.

"The girls played some outstanding tennis," Hanson said. "They played extremely well and competed at the hardest level this sport has to offer. I am very proud of my kids."

The Wildcats collected 15 points to finish in fifth place in Division I, while Troy took first with an impressive 28. Second went to a very strong Ann Arbor Pioneer team with 23 points, Grosse Pointe South tied for third with Midland Dow with 19 points.

"We had four flights go to the semi-finals," Hanson said. "Out of those four, three of them lost to the eventual state champion."

One such flight was fourth singles, Diana Ticu, a sophomore, was seeded first in the tournament and played strong throughout the day. After earning a bye in the first round, Ticu took on and defeated Port Huron Northern's Ashley Hinton 6-1, 6-4 before edging out a very strong Stehannie Kossaras from St. Johns in three sets, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1. In the semi-final round, Ticu finally fell to a surprise state champion in Rachel Hovatta, who hails from Midland Dow. The final of the match was 6-4, 6-3.

"Diana has been playing some extremely good tennis this year," Hanson said. "She was undefeated until her first loss of the season in the semi-finals of the state tournament. That's a season she should be very, very proud of."

The fourth doubles team of Lauren Thomas and Becky Thomson found themselves seeded in first place as well in the state finals. Their march to

the semi-finals was an impressive one. In their first match of the day, which was the second round, Thomas and Thomson pounded out a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Jean Kim and Risha Kotecha of Midland Dow before beating Port Huron Northern's Diana Haidar and Ashley Schneider 6-1, 6-1. In the semi-final round, the Wildcat duo fell to second-place finishers and third-seeded Amelia Eaton and Sophia Zhou 6-4, 6-4.

In first doubles, Colene Brockman and Emily Holt found themselves with a second-seed and a lot of top teams to contend with. After a first-round bye, the girls went to work. Their first victory came in the form of a 6-2, 6-2 drubbing of Romeo's Kerry Serecky and Sarah Stonehouse before they advanced to top Troy's Sarah Campian and Sara Suckstorf 6-2, 6-3. The following match didn't have such a happy ending though, and the girls fell to the fourth-seeded and eventual state champion Traverse City Central duo of Alex Alward and Christine Milliken, 6-1, 6-2.

"If you can beat my first doubles team, then you have a great doubles team," Hanson said. "Colene and Emily make a great doubles pair, and they played some great tennis this year. Colene has played some great tennis through her entire career, and was a four-time KVC champion."

Anna Switzer had a great showing at third singles. The senior was awarded a first-round bye and then proceeded to fight her way over fourth-seeded Kari Larson of Ann Arbor Huron for a 7-5, 6-1 victory before topping Port Huron Northern's Kelsie DeGrow 6-3, 6-0. In the semi-finals, Switzer couldn't hold on and fell to top-seeded Jessica Leonard of Grosse Pointe South, who went on to win the flight championship, 6-0, 6-2.

"Anna never quits fighting," Hanson said. "She's always been that way and that's her

Continued on B3



Photo by John Hoeder

Novi's Anna Switzer uses her backhand to return a shot to her Northville opponent Chelsea Johnston in their late-August match. Switzer proved she is one of the toughest players in the state with some impressive play at the MHSAA state finals.

Count on a good contest

It's that time of year again and there's really no way you can't call it the game of the week.

The Northville Mustangs and the Novi Wildcats will be squaring off on the gridiron tomorrow night at Novi High School with a kick-off slated at 6:55 p.m.

When these two teams play, emotions run high and football is at its finest. I absolutely think this is always the best game of the season, no matter what the records are or who the players are.



Sam Eggleston

I have a feeling that 2003 isn't going to be any different. I expect a hard-fought game with plenty of impressive plays on both sides of the ball. And what kinds of plays do I expect? Plenty of passing, plenty of running and plenty of hard hits.

When it comes to football, both of these teams have some impressive players out there on the field. Northville will go to Novi High School with a slew of big mules up front who are looking to open some holes for junior Mac Stille. And they'll want to keep out the Wildcats with some good pass blocking to give Mark Sorenson some time to pick apart the defense by hitting receivers like Mike Jansson.

Novi, on the other hand, has four of the best receivers in the Kensington Valley Conference in Mark Angelocci, Joey Fratto, Kerry Kreuzberg and Trevor Hoover. Throwing to them? None other than Mike Hart.

On the defensive side of the ball, both teams have a solid corps of linebackers and a decent group of defensive backs. Both defensive lines have the ability to shut down the run, but Novi's has the edge when it comes to speed and running down the plays that try to hit the ends.

The defense is what both of these teams pride themselves in, so don't expect to see too many touchdowns scored in this contest. In fact, I wouldn't expect more than 40 or so points to be scored in the game as a total.

And if this game comes down to a field goal? Well, both teams have some stellar kickers in Northville's Bill Brown and Novi's Angelocci. Both can hit the field goals, and Angelocci is hoping for a chance to hit a 48-yard attempt to set his school's record if he gets the chance.

I wish the best of luck to both of these teams. Play good, clean games and it's going to be a good time for all. I am, however, not going to try to predict a winner in this one. I learned my lesson about picking winners between Novi and Northville a long time ago.

We here at the *Northville Record* and the *Novi News* hope to see a good game from all, and look forward to awarding the winning team a chance to hoist the Baseline Jug.

GAME OF THE WEEK

Novi Wildcats Football

BASELINE JUG

Friday, October 24
6:55 p.m. at Novi

Wildcat linksters play take a number

Long days don't equal good golf, as Novi finds out in finals

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It wasn't the showing Brad Huss was hoping to see out of his Wildcats - but what could he expect out of a match that lasts over seven hours?

The Wildcats golf team had to struggle through those conditions as they found themselves shooting a 326 on the first day - a score that failed to move them up into the top 13 schools for the second day of competition.

"With difficult playing conditions and an excruciatingly slow pace of play, the round took a little over seven hours with waits as long as 40 minutes between holes," Huss said. "That was frustrating because

even though we worked very hard this season to prepare for this big meet, we did not expect to have a seven-hour match."

Huss said that it was near impossible to prep for such a grueling playing environment. "There is no way to prepare someone for such a thing," he said. "A very, very slow round takes six hours. Some of the kids just couldn't stay focused that long, and it's hard to blame them. I know I couldn't."

It ended up being just one stroke that cost the Novi Wildcats a qualifying score, and they finished for a tie in 14th-place in the state with Brighton and Holt.

"Not bad, but it could have been so much better," Huss said.

Winning the state finals with a two-day score of 636 (300-336) were the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks. Taking second and third were Saline and Muskegon Mona Shores, respectively.

Qualifying for second-day competition as individuals were Brandon Cigna and Eric Aytes.

"After day one, all players within seven shots of the low round qualified and the cutoff was 78," Huss said. "Brandon shot a 75 and Eric was on the cut with a 78."

The second day proved much more challenging than the first, but not quite as slow. The major obstacle was a 35-mile-per-hour wind that howled over The Meadows Golf Course at Grand Valley State University, not to mention the greens were double-cut and the pin placements were tough as well.

"Brandon hit the ball beauti-

fully, but three-putted too many times and shot an 80," Huss said. "His two-day total of 155 put him in sixth-place overall."

Aytes also had a good day, shooting a 78 on the first day and an 86 on day two for a 164.

"Eric shot 86, which was about average," Huss said. "I've never seen such high numbers in a state meet."

Huss noted that it was the first year the Michigan High School Athletic Association had used The Meadows as a state finals course.

"I believe they need to seriously reconsider," Huss said of future state finals locations. "Every coach I talked to complained about the course and the setup."

The Wildcats found their total coming from a 75 from Cigna on day one, while Aytes shot a 78. R.J. Makoski recorded an 86 on the day, Mark Eberline shot an 87 and Brett

Jaussi carded an 88.

Novi finds itself in a situation where they will be graduating a number of players who are seniors this year.

"I will truly miss all of my seniors," Huss said. "Jesse Lachman, Avi Sridharan, Terry Welsh and James Peurach didn't get the opportunity to play often in matches, but they are all great kids and true team players."

Huss noted that he was very satisfied with the talent his seniors brought to the team - including those who didn't get as much playing time as he would have liked to see them get.

"On any other team, they all would have started in the top six," Huss said. "I appreciate their efforts and I wish I could have done more for them."

Also graduating will be

Continued on B3

Trevor Hoover Senior Football



Hoover made the long trip back to Pinckney to play in his old hometown, in front of his old fans and against his old team. The difference? Instead of watching the game from the sidelines like he did last year in Pinckney, Hoover was instrumental in the 45-6 win over the Pirates the Wildcats were able to engineer.



Athletes OF THE Week

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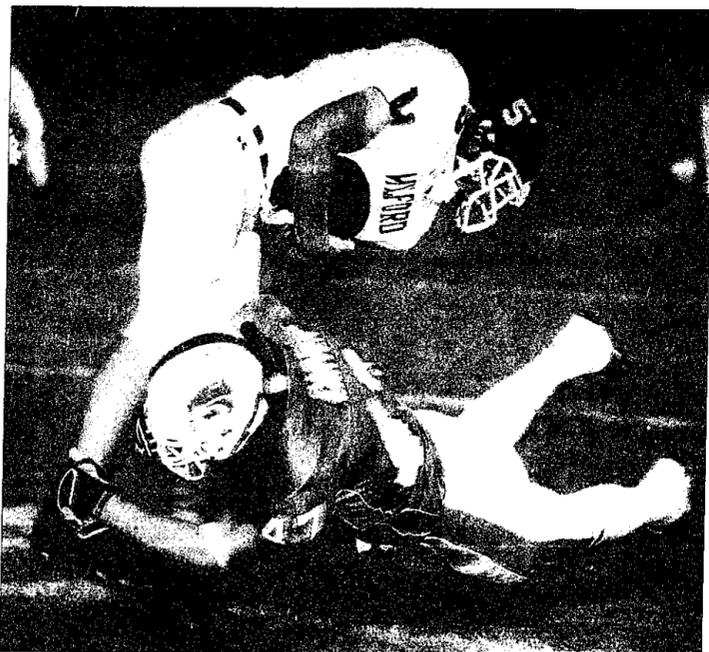


Ashley Glover Senior Tennis

Though she didn't go the furthest in the state finals, Glover has been a major part of Novi Wildcat tennis for the past four years. Her contributions at first singles

have not gone unnoticed, and coach Jim Hanson only has very positive things to say about his player that has to take on the best that each team has to offer each week.

Kensington Valley Conference belongs to the Novi Wildcats



Novi's Rob Carter lays into a Milford ballcarrier during last Friday night's game hosted by the Wildcats.

When the smoke cleared, Novi stood alone atop the KVC

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's sweeter than any piece of candy any of these guys have ever tasted — that's the savory taste of a Kensington Valley Conference title. The Novi Wildcats football team, coached by Tab Kellepporey, stood atop the KVC and looked down at everyone below them. South Lyon, Brighton, Milford, Hartland, Howell, Lakeland and Pinckney could do nothing but watch as the Wildcats pounded their way to an outright championship.

The final piece to the puzzle came in the form of a 45-6 shelling of the Pinckney Pirates — the only team in the conference that hasn't celebrated a win this year.

"It's too bad they are down like that," Novi lineman Mark Kaminski said. "When they scored that touchdown, they were happy. It didn't bother us any; we had already won the game."

The lone Pinckney touchdown, only their second this year, came with just 30 seconds left.

"They basically scored against our fourth string," senior Kerry Kreuzberg said. "Most of the starters were sitting even before halftime."

And rightfully so. The Novi offense made short work of the Pirates' defense — a defense senior receiver Trevor Hoover was very used to seeing. He was, until this year, a Pirate himself.

"It feels good to walk in there and take a win from them," Hoover said. "I didn't even play last year in the program, and now I'm one of the starting four receivers on the conference championship team. What does that tell you?"

The Wildcats notched their first score of the game after recovering a fumble on the Pirate's 21-yard line. Senior quarterback Mike Hart found Hoover on a 16-yard gain to get the ball to the five, and senior fullback Josh Beck took care of the rest as he punched it in for the score and the 7-0 lead after Mark Angelecci nailed the extra point.

The defense did its job again, this time holding them to a three-and-out, which led to a punt and an eventual touchdown as senior runningback J.W. Woods tackled on another touchdown from one yard away to give his squad a 14-0 advantage.

On the following offensive possession, Novi found the scoreboard lighting up once again, this time as Angelecci hit a field goal for a 17-0 lead.

"There really wasn't anything we couldn't do against them," junior Robbie Carter said. "It seemed like if we wanted to run, we run. If we wanted to pass, we threw it. If the defense wanted the sack, we got it. We controlled every aspect of the game."

In the second quarter, Novi's defense found Drew Hoffman snagging his first interception of the year, which led to Hart finding Hoover for a 53-yard scoring strike

down the sideline to make it a 24-0 Novi advantage.

"That was pretty nice," Hoover said. "I can't complain about getting a long touchdown like that, especially against my old team."

The Novi defenders came up with another interception in the second quarter, this time coming off the sure hands of Kreuzberg. Hart found Chris Dalton for a 21-yard gain before Novi put the pigskin in Hoover's hands again and watched him rumble in from four yards away for the score. After Angelecci hit the point-after, the Wildcats were leading 31-0.

And then, of course, Novi's defense decided it wanted to visit the endzone without the help of the offense. On a Pinckney third down, junior Kevin Ciso ate up a sloppy pass and turned it into a 45-yard return for a touchdown — marking Novi's fifth touchdown of the first half for a 38-0 lead.

"What do you do at that point?" Kreuzberg said. "You can't just start kneeling the ball or it's a major insult. Luckily, we have some younger players that had a lot of fun out there, and even scored while they were at it."

Novi junior Justin Davis scored the sixth and final Novi touchdown of the night in the fourth quarter following a scoreless third. The score, which came off an impressive 25-yard run, gave Novi a 45-0 lead before the Pirates found the endzone with time expiring to cut the Novi lead to 45-6.

Hart led the Wildcats, collecting 186 yards on a 13-of-20 passing attack for a touchdown and an interception — all of which happened in the first half. Hoover was the leading receiver, catching five balls for 97 yards in his visit to his old stomping grounds.

The Wildcat defense forced five turnovers and held the Pirates offense to a miserable 17 yards in the entire first half of play.

Novi's win in section when they host the 2-7 Northville Mustangs tomorrow at 7 p.m. in the class rivalry game.

The win over Pinckney marked Novi's first Kensington Valley Conference title since 1989 — long before any of the current players can recall Novi football.

"It's been a long time coming," Hart said. "It's a great feeling to finally get it. Hopefully it stays in Novi for a while now."

The Wildcats knew going into the contest that they would automatically have a share of the title with either Brighton or South Lyon, depending on who won the game between the two teams. South Lyon earned that victory, but only to find themselves finishing in second place in the KVC behind the Wildcats.

"We set the goal to win the conference in the beginning of the year," J.W. Woods said. "Now that we have it, we have to look at our other goals. All of them are obtainable — we just have to want it bad enough."

down the sideline to make it a 24-0 Novi advantage.

down the sideline to make it a 24-0 Novi advantage.

down the sideline to make it a 24-0 Novi advantage.

FINAL KVC STANDINGS

	Conference				Overall			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Novi	7	0	192	95	8	0	241	115
South Lyon	6	1	229	69	7	1	279	69
Brighton	5	2	177	73	5	3	191	89
Milford	4	3	139	143	4	4	145	151
Hartland	3	4	106	117	4	4	120	125
Howell	2	5	102	176	3	5	123	182
Lakeland	1	6	124	178	2	6	146	178
Pinckney	0	7	13	231	0	8	13	272

Last week's games
Hartland 27 — Lakeland 21
Milford 37 — Howell 34
Novi 45 — Pinckney 6
South Lyon 20 — Brighton 13

Tomorrow's games
Brighton at Temperance Bedford
Hartland vs. Dexter
Howell at Lansing Waverly
Lakeland at Livonia Franklin
Milford at Ypsilanti
NOVI VS. NORTHVILLE
Pinckney at Mason
South Lyon at Saline



Wildcat center Ryan Pritchard takes a breather along with his linemates during a home game against Milford in October.

NOVI-NORTHVILLE COLTS FOOTBALL

Junior varsity Colts 16, Multi-Lake Gators 12

This gorgeous fall day was made for football. The junior varsity Northville-Colts held off the Multi-Lake Gators for a 16-12 victory in another tightly contested game at Northville Stadium.

After the teams traded punts, the Gators got a drive going but had a 63-yard touchdown run called back on a penalty. Brandon Ryzdzewski made critical tackles on back-to-back plays to save a touchdown. The quarter ended with the Gators at the Colts' 19-yard line.

On fourth-and-13, the Gators completed a pass but the Colts defense stopped them short of the first down and the Colts took over at their own 7-yard line. The Colts were moving the ball and made a first down when the Gators intercepted a pass and ran it back for a touchdown. The PAT was no good but the Gators led 6-0. On first down after the kickoff, Ethan Eckhout ran a 57-yard

touchdown. The point after was good by Victor Hodrie and the Colts had taken the lead, 8-6.

Following the touchdown, the Colts attempted an outside kick, which was recovered by Multi-Lake. The defense forced by Jon Robinson 20 yards to the Gators' 45. The offense took control of the lead by the running of Niko Palazeti. On fourth-and-three, Eckhout completed a pass to Robert Lancy for 10 yards to the 4-yard line. Two plays later Palazeti charged through for the touchdown. The PAT was good and the Colts led 16-6 at halftime.

The Colts kicked to Multi-Lake to start the second half and the defense forced a punt. Robinson made another big return, spring on a great block by Brett Gardner to the Gators' 35-yard line. The defense for both teams was stout the balance of the third quarter and early in the fourth.

The Gators were gaining momentum after a 15-yard pick up on fourth-and-four, but on the next play fumbled and

Lancy recovered for the Colts. With 2:55 remaining in the game the Colts failed to convert a fourth down on a halfback pass. Multi-Lake lost five yards on first down when Gardner disrupted the play on a blitzed from his cornerback position and the tackle was made by Lancy and Wesley Baber. Michael Kinnville made key tackles on the next two plays to force fourth down and 11 yards to go. The Colts were called for off-sides and on fourth-and-six, the Gators completed a 55-yard pass and a hard run for a touch down. The PAT was missed and the Colts kept a slim lead, 16-12. Ryan Margrave recovered the outside kick for the Colts and they ran out the clock for the win.

The Colts have been supported all year by the junior varsity cheerleaders. Katie Bielskis, Courtney Bloom, Kaley Bowles, Rachael Childs, Hannah Dean, Alexa Hart, Kaitlin Hogan, Nicole Kozinski, Lauren Lazarus, Sibrey McManus, Jillian Pacior, Emily Scirha, Marisa Soures, Briana Tierney, Courtney Wagner and Amy Webb have done a great job of leading the fans in these many close games.

Freshman Colts 25, Multi-Lake Gators 12

The Northville/Novi Colts Freshman football team (4-2) won 25-12 in a hard-fought game against the Multi-Lakes Gators to cap the regular season. The tone of the game was set early as the Colts went to its strong running game. The Colts young "A" team featured great runs by Blake Boren, Ryan Gardner, Cameron Thomas and Sam Tacconelli to start the game. The Colts Connor Pollifrone (five carries/ 43 yards) then sprung a 22-yard reverse before the Gators defense stepped down on the Colts and stopped the drive.

Following a defensive stop, led by top tacklers Trevor Maresh (12 tackles and a fumble recovery), Derek Ince (nine tackles), and Jim Cowart (eight tackles), the Colts' offense went back to work. Cormac Littleton (11 carries/ 100 yards) made two great runs and quarterback Dawson Laabs hit Maresh on a key 15-yard pass play. Jeffrey Hewlett (14 carries/ 66 yards) then broke free on a 19-yard touchdown run to give the Colts a 6-0 lead. The Gators fought back and tied the game 6-6 on the last play of the first half on a well-executed halfback pass play.

The second half started with the swarming Colts "A" team defense gang tackling the Gators, led by defenders Garrett Wiska, Kyle Brenner, Benjamin Landry, Bradley Kozinski, Sean Wagner, Nick Wieland and Sean Gomillion. After a long, time-consuming drive, and despite the solid play of the Colts defense, the Gators slipped into the end zone to take a 12-6 lead. The Gators' lead was short-lived, as one play later, Colts running back Cormac Littleton exploded into the end zone on a 44-yard sweep to tie the score at 12-12.

The Colts' defense again stood strong, this time led by ends Michael Walukas and Brad

Wildcats finish fifth in finals

Continued from B1

M.O. now. She never gives up, and I've never doubted she would fight to the end."

In second doubles action, Ayano Nakamura and Laura Vaughn played some strong tennis as they topped St. John's Sara Lehman and Amanda Walker in the second round, 6-4, 6-1 after a first-round bye. Their next opponent proved too strong though, and they fell to top-seeded Laura Hendricks and Laura Link from Traverse City Central in three sets, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3.

"They weren't about to quit," Hanson said. "We have a lot of talent returning next year, but it's always hard to replace graduating seniors."

Especially seniors that have been with you for four years.

"They were five of the top 12 players in the tennis program four years ago," Hanson said. "With the way they play, there should never be any doubt why they have been on varsity for their entire careers."

Sum 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 seggleston@h.home.com.net.



Taking a break to shed some cheer

The Novi High School freshman cheerleading team takes a break during halftime at the recent Novi/Hartland game to smile for the camera.

Where hope survives.

ANGELINA CLIVE
JOLIE OWEN

BEYOND BORDERS

STARTS FRIDAY AT THESE THEATRES

AMC FORUM 30	AMC LIVONIA 20	MIR SOUTHWATE 20
BIRMINGHAM PALLADIUM	NOVI TOWN CTR. 8	STAR LAKELAND CROSSING
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STAR GRATIOT	STAR TAYLOR	STAR ROCHESTER
STAR SOUTHWFIELD	STAR JOHN R	UA COMMERCE STATION



Needing to get over a water hazard, Novi golfer Brett Jaussi uses an iron to tee off at the Links of Novi during an early season match against their Baseline rivals Northville.

Waiting

Novi can't compete with extra-long meet

Continued from B1

Cigna and Ayles, the two top performers at the state meet and throughout the season.

"I will obviously miss Brandon and Eric a great deal," Huss said. "These two kids have accomplished so much in four years — two KVC titles, two state meets and a state championship. It doesn't get much better than that."

Cigna proved to be the first junior to make first team all-state last year, and Huss said that he had such a great senior season that he believes "he will make the Dream Team." In 10 tournaments, Cigna averaged a 74.8.

"That is unbelievable when you consider the courses we played this year," Huss said. "Ayles was a four-year starter and played in the state meet three times."

"No one has ever done that in Novi," Huss said. "He was key to all the success we have enjoyed the past three years. I will miss him for his ability and his leadership. He was a mature young man as a freshman and continued to grow each year."

Huss said that it was such a great experience coaching those two golfers.

"It's rare when you see the likes of these two young men on one high school team," he said. "If it never happens again for me, I will still feel blessed as a coach. I will always have great memories of Brandon and Eric and the things they were able to accomplish."

Returning next season for Novi will be Mark Martinez, Eberline, Jaussi and Makoski and some young players like Scott Szekaj and Eric McQueen are looking to be able to step in and fill some voids. Unfortunately, Huss doesn't have a younger team to look to for promising players.

"For some unexplained reason, Novi will not give me a JV coach," he said. "We are the only school I know of that doesn't have a JV program, so I can't say what will happen two years from now."

"I have to cut 40 kids a year, so it's not the lack of numbers. A JV program will allow us to compete at the league and state level year in and year out. I hope it happens soon."

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF CITY GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 4, 2003

To the Qualified and Registered Electors of the City of Novi — Oakland County, Michigan

Notice is hereby given that a CITY GENERAL ELECTION will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2003 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the following Polling Locations:

PRECINCT	LOCATION	ADDRESS
1	Meadowbrook Congregational Church	21355 Meadowbrook Road
2	Meadowbrook Congregational Church	21355 Meadowbrook Road
3	Village Oaks Elementary School	23333 Willowbrook Road
4	Novi United Methodist Church	41671 Ten Mile Road
5	Orchard Hills Elementary School	41900 Quince
6	Holy Family Catholic Church	24505 Meadowbrook Road
7	Holy Family Catholic Church	24505 Meadowbrook Road
8	Meadowbrook Elementary School	26200 Meadowbrook Road
9	The Grand Court Novi	46182 West Park Dr.
10	History Woods Elementary School	30555 Novi Road
11	Novi Christian School	45901 Eleven Mile Road
12	Novi Meadows School/ITC	25549 Tall Road
13	Faith Community Presbyterian Church	44400 West Ten Mile Road
14	Novi Civic Center	45175 West Ten Mile Road
15	Novi Civic Center	45175 West Ten Mile Road
16	Thornhill Creek Elementary School	46180 West Nine Mile Road
17	Novi Civic Center	45175 West Ten Mile Road

for the purpose of electing:

MAYOR (two year term) vote for not more than one:
Michelle Bonori
Lou Casardas
Janice Sheridan
Bob Galt
Michael M. Meyer
Toni Nagy
Lynne Paul
Siddhann S. Sanghvi

CITY COUNCIL (four year term) vote for not more than three:
Bob Galt
Michael M. Meyer
Toni Nagy
Lynne Paul
Siddhann S. Sanghvi

Absentee Ballots are available at the Office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. The deadline for receiving applications for ballots to be mailed is 2:00 p.m. Saturday, November 1, 2003. Persons qualified to vote by Absentee Ballot may obtain a ballot in person until 4:00 p.m. Monday, November 3, 2003. A ballot obtained on November 3, 2003 must be voted in the City Clerk's Office.

The City Clerk's Office will be open for the purpose of absentee voting on Saturday, November 1, 2003 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Each resident of the City voting on the above must be:
(a) A citizen of the United States of America and eighteen (18) years of age or over; and
(b) A registered voter of the City of Novi.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK



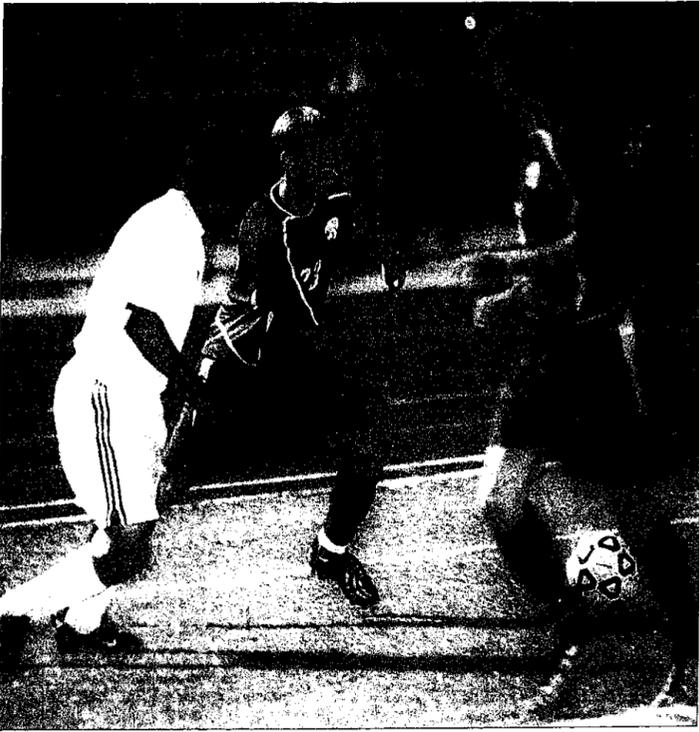
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Novi's A.W. Stanek, left, moves to his left with the ball deep in the South Lyon defensive zone during an away game in early October.

Wildcats top off season in style

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's been a good year to be a Novi Wildcat soccer player. The Novi soccer team, coached by Brian O'Leary, finished off their regular season play with a dominating win over Pinckney, 8-0, and a 4-1 win over Milford.

"We played all of our players evenly," O'Leary noted of the Milford victory, which came on a make-up game from earlier this year.

With six players missing thanks to PSAT testing, the Wildcats had the opportunity to find room for all their players to get plenty of time on the field. Needless to say, it paid off.

Matt Nickels, Marc Checchobelli, Ryan Stec and Matt Simpson all scored in the game while Jon Stern earned an assist and Brad Simpson added three assists to his statistics.

Against the Pirates, the Wildcats had no troubles at all as they pounded out an 8-0 drubbing over their KVC foes. Scoring goals were A.W. Stanek, Sierra, Checchobelli, Nickels, Jason Sierra and Matt Simpson with one each. Brad Simpson notched two goals in the victory.

"He is one of the best players in the state," O'Leary said of Brad Simpson, a senior defender. "He is great in the air, his free kicks are excellent, his passing and dribbling are top notch and he can play either defense or midfield."

Simpson played defense as a stopper throughout the majority of the season, but still managed to lead his team in goals with 11 on the year.

Nickels, Checchobelli and Matt Simpson have also been productive for the Wildcats this year.

"All three have had great seasons," O'Leary said of the trio, each of which has scored nine goals.

Having a trio of forwards like Checchobelli, Simpson and Nickels has some great advantages.

"It makes it so you can't focus on one player and shut our offense down," O'Leary said. "Matt Nickels is the leader of that group. He's a senior and is one of the most mature young men I have ever had the pleasure to coach. He's a vicious competitor, has a strong desire to win and has scored more clutch goals than anyone else on our team."

O'Leary isn't shy when asked if this year has been a bit different than what he expected after the first few days of practice back in August.

"This season has surpassed my expectations," he said. "If you would have told me we would be 15-1-2 at the end of the regular season and ranked third in Michigan, I would have laughed at you."

And the reason for this success?

"It has happened because we have excellent senior leadership and a very selfless team," O'Leary said. "The team winning is more important than any one person's desires on the field. We have six stars, and when it comes to making plays for a game or halftime adjustments, no one cares how it affects them personally as long as it's best for the team. Because of these factors, we have gotten the most out of our abilities."

A lot of the credit when it comes to the final scores in a game have to go to the defense

and the goalies. "My goalies have played very well all year, and it's another reason we have achieved the record we have," O'Leary said. "Both Jason (Haltiwanger) and A.J. (Glabuzinski) have come up huge in games to preserve victories. Much of that credit has to do with the extra work they put in every week with my goalie coach, Sam Mastowski."

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Whalers pull out gutsy win

Despite playing their third game in less than three days, the Plymouth Whalers pulled off a gutsy 4-3 victory in Brampton on Sunday afternoon.

The Battalion used a pair of power play goals in the first period to take a 2-1 lead over the Whalers. Ryan Oulahen gave Brampton an early 1-0 lead with a power play goal at 3:40 of the first. But the Whalers answered with Ryan Ramsay's third goal of the season at 7:06. Brampton then closed out the first period with another power play goal, this time it was Kamil Kreps beating Whalers netminder Ryan Nic for the lead. The Whalers stormed back in the second with two goals in the less than a minute to take a brief lead. Vigilante scored his first of the game with an unassisted effort at 4:56. Brent Mahon followed with his first goal of the game at 5:45 to give Plymouth a 3-2 lead. James Neal scored his first OHL point with an assist on the goal and James Wisniewski chipped in with the other assist. But Brampton's Adam Henrich managed to tie the game at 4-3 with an unassisted goal at 13:31.

In the third it was Vigilante providing the heroics with his second of the game at 4:59. Dan Collins and John Mitchell earned the assist. Nic did the rest as he turned away an impressive 19 shots in the third period alone.

Samia 5, Plymouth 4

After a somewhat calm first two periods, the Plymouth Whalers and Samia Sting combined for six goals in the third period. Unfortunately for the Whalers it was the Sting who came out on top with a 5-4 victory. James Wisniewski paced the Whalers with one goal and two assists. Plymouth will wrap up the weekend with an afternoon game in Brampton on Sunday.

The Whalers tied the game up in the third with a power play goal from Mike Lezina. But the Sting answered with two quick goals to take a 4-2 lead. Plymouth managed to cut the lead to 4-3 with a goal from Jonas Fiedler but the Sting answered again when Drew Laman helped give his team a two goal lead. Plymouth pulled Weber in the final minutes with hopes to cut into the two goal lead and it paid off when John Mitchell hung home a rebound at 19:42.

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Plymouth 3, Guelph 3

The Plymouth Whalers scored two goals in the third period to force a 3-3 tie with the visiting Guelph Storm on Friday night. Ryan Ramsay led the Whalers with one goal and two assists and Vaclav Meidl chipped in with two assist in the victory. Plymouth will turn around and host Samia on Saturday night.

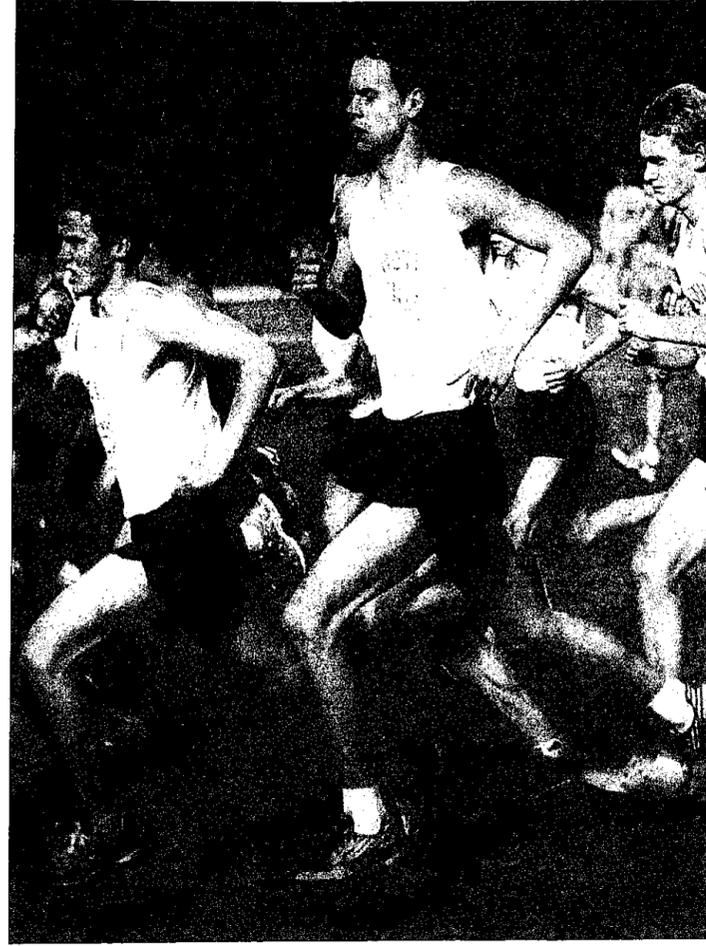
Trailing 3-1 the Whalers turned up the pressure in the third period. Ramsay cut the Storm lead to 3-2 off a nice pass from Vaclav Meidl at 1:52 of the third. The Whalers continued to pressure and it finally paid off when Dan Collins tied the game with just over three minutes left to play in the game.

Plymouth managed to tie the game up with a shorthanded goal early in the second, but the Storm scored two of their own to take a 3-1 lead. The Whalers tied the game up in the third minute of the second period when James Wisniewski took a pass from Ryan Ramsay and fired it home to tie the game. But Guelph came back with goals from Adam Trudell and Martin St. Pierre to regain the lead. Trudell knocked home a rebound at 5:17 with St. Pierre and Garlock earning the assist. The Storm added to their lead with St. Pierre's goal at 8:59. Garlock and Trudell assisted on the goal.

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The Novi High School boys' cross country team takes off in a sprint during a meet at Cass Benton in early October.

Wildcat harriers still in stride as season nears completion

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Taking on the Pinckney Pirates is never a fun chore - especially on their home course.

Both the Wildcats girls and boys cross country teams did just that, and both managed to pull out a very wet and sloppy win over their KVC foes.

The boys walked away with a 24-32 win over the Pinckney harriers, while the girls notched a 24-36 victory over them.

"Our guys are showing that they are ready for the challenges coming up," Novi boys coach Bob Smith said. "We are indeed an October team."

The Pirates came into the boys meet with a 5-1 record in

and also set a personal best time. Justin Namati, Scott Bergesson and Eric Tingwall rounded out our top seven with great times and gutsy performances," Smith said.

Senior Nick Prekates also set a career best with his 18:11 time. "He is quickly closing the gap with the fast racing top seven," Smith commented and then looked at some underclassmen times. "Freshman Kip Miller's time of 18:12 demonstrated a gritty will to win."

In the girls race, the Wildcats found themselves finishing second, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh to earn the win. First across the line for Novi was Patti Ramos, while Samantha White took fourth, Meghan Bannatz took fifth, Laura Brunner took sixth and Laime Williams took seventh.

The victory boosted the girls' record to 5-2 to end the KVC dual meet schedule.

The girls also found themselves finishing with an impressive pack time as their one-through five runners finished just 22 seconds apart, and their one through seven runners were all clocked at just a 30 second differential.

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ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN MISSOURI SYNOD 1179 E. 51st St., Northville, MI Church: 249-3142, School: 249-3145 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 2915 Chicago Ave., Northville, MI Church: 249-3142, School: 249-3145 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.
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MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 7155 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48228 Morning Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Study 10 a.m. 248-348-7527 Minister: Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt Worship of Music: Patricia Ruff	GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 9 Mile & Meadowbrook Wagoner Ev. Lutheran Synod Sunday School and Bible Classes 9:45 a.m. 248-348-7527 Minister: Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt Worship of Music: Patricia Ruff
CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL (Anglican) 10 Mile between East & Back, Novi, MI Phone: 248-348-7527 Sun. 7:45, 8:10, 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Sunday School & Bible Study 10 a.m. Rev. Karen Henry Pastor www.churchoftheholycross.com	FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 8 Mile & 7th Road Worship Services 8:00am-9:15am-11:00am Rev. John Hise Rev. Jennifer Blevins
FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 4480 W. 10 Mile, Novi, MI 48228 1/2 mile west of Novi Rd. Dr. Richard J. Henderson, Pastor Rev. Anne Schaeffle, Associate Pastor Worship & Church School 9:00 & 10:30 on Sunday	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH NOVI 46301 11 Mile at 7th Rd Downtown Novi, MI Douglass K-12 Home School K-12 3rd Street S.W. 11000 Dr. Gary Elmer, Pastor www.novifirstbaptistchurch.org
ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI 46301 11 Mile at 7th Rd Novi, MI 48228 Sunday 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Contemporary service 10:30 a.m. (248) 615-7050	OAK POINTE CHURCH Northville High School on 6 Mile
CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY 5022 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48228 Masses: Sat. 5 p.m., Sun. 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. Holy Days: 9 a.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. Fr. John G. Suckow, Pastor Fr. Paul Baker, Associate Pastor Parish Office: 248-3847	MILL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH At Mill Creek Historic Village Practical Christianity Contemporary Worship Sun. 10 AM - Wed. Prayer 7 PM 248-388-1500
WORLDWIDE HARVEST CHURCH NOVI 46301 11 Mile at 7th Rd Pastor: Keith A. McKee Sunday Worship Services: 11:00 AM The Harvest Live: 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM More Info: (248) 919-2679 - E-Mail: kmg@worldwidechurch.com	HARVEST FELLOWSHIP 49329 Pontiac Trail Willow 248-926-8332 Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 4000 N. Main Road, Northville, MI 48174-7403 248-348-7527 Contemporary Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 7:00 p.m. (See Service Booklet) WARD 248-348-7527	ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 9130 Woodland, Novi, MI 48228 Between Grand River & Freedom 248-348-7527 Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Contemporary Sunday School 10:30 Daniel Cowie, Pastor Stephen Kocot, Intern
BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA Let us go now to Bethlehem and see the thing that has been proclaimed 3300 W. 10 Mile, Northville, MI 48174-7403 (2 mi. E. of Haggerty N. side of 6 Mile) Sunday Morning Worship: 8:30 & 10:30 AM Sunday School (All Ages) 9:30 AM	CROSSPOINTS MEADOWS CHURCH Pastor: Danny L. Langley Traditional Services - 8:00 A.M. Contemporary Service - 10:30 A.M. Meeting at Novi Civic Center 248-348-7735 crosspointsmeadows.org

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CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Novi will hold a Public Hearing on the use of Community Development Block Grant Funds. The hearing will be held on Monday, November 10, 2003, at 7:30 p.m., EST, at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48275, for the purpose of hearing public comments on the Community Development Block Grant Program Year 2004 application in the approximate amount of \$119,246.

All interested citizens are requested to attend this hearing. Comments will also be received in writing or in person at the City Offices, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48275, until 5:00 p.m., November 10, 2003.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS,
 CITY CLERK

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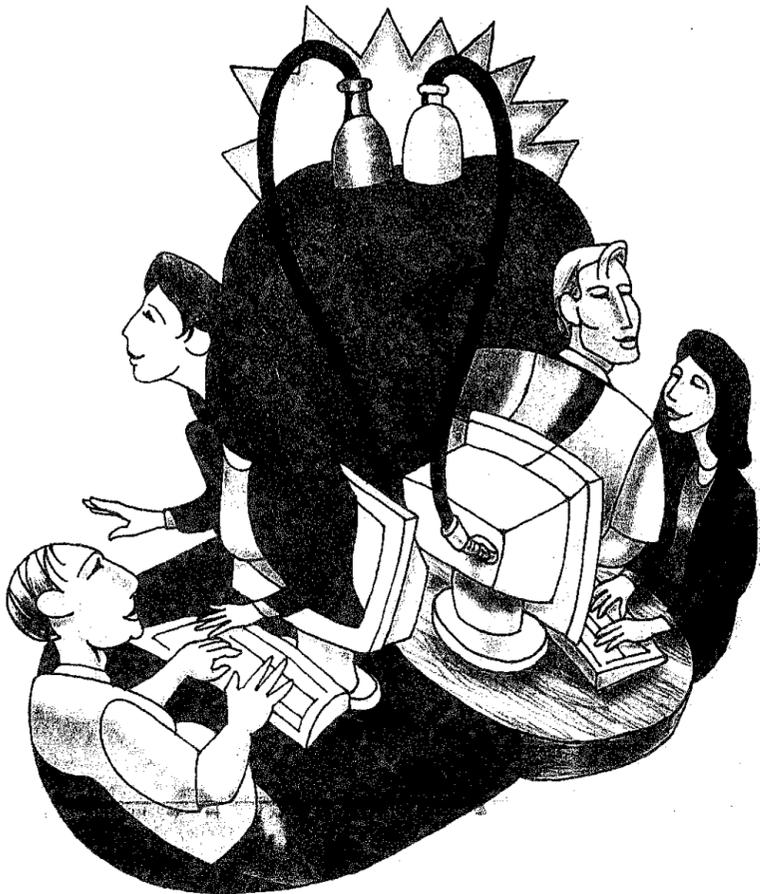
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THE TEXAS

TECHNOLOGY

HomeTown Newspapers

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Finding love, virtually

A multitude of Web sites offer the ability to connect you to that special someone

Story By Jennifer Jett ■ Illustration By Dave Castelino ■ Arizona Daily Star

Finding a compatible date would be easier if romance seekers could read minds. Is she single? What religion is he? Do we have any common interests? How much money does he make? I wonder if she smokes. Thanks to online dating, millions of eligible singles willing to share these details up front are a mouse-click away. Members of dating Web sites like AmericanSingles, Lovelife and Yahoo! Personals create profiles that often include photos, voice messages or video material along with personal information. Sites like these have reversed the traditional dating process. Rather than judge the level of attraction by looks alone, people are matched by search criteria such as religion, ethnicity, personality traits and smoking and drinking habits. Most sites allow users to browse other member profiles for free but charge a subscription fee to contact them. Online dating is not just for lonely heart divorcees or single professionals in mid-life crises. Almost half of Match.com's 8 million users are under the age of 30.

"I think it's a good supplemental form of dating. I don't think anybody should seriously consider using online dating to replace going out and talking to real people, but it's fun. I'll probably play around with it, see what happens."

Joe Odea, junior at the University of Arizona

"It's fast, fun, affordable, highly entertaining, convenient and ultimately very effective." By offering a larger pool of potential dates, online dating sites increase the probability of finding a compatible companion, said Matt Patterson, category manager for Emodo Matchmaking. "We're finding that people are running out of time and that going to the bar scene isn't as productive as it used to be," Patterson said. "There's just not as many people there." "We're so busy and we're caught up with school and our routines and whatnot," said Joe Odea, a junior at the University of Arizona. "It's sometimes really difficult to meet new people." Odea, 21, has profiles posted at Emodo and Yahoo! Personals.

nothing unique about the Internet." McDermott said Match.com protects the identities of its members by allowing them to e-mail and call their matches anonymously. "You can meet someone in a very secure environment (online)," she said. "If you meet someone at a bar or nightclub, somebody has to give you a phone number, and you are face to face with someone immediately." Odea considers online dating an experiment. "I think it's a good supplemental form of dating," he said. "I don't think anybody should seriously consider using online dating to replace going out and talking to real people, but it's fun. I'll probably play around with it, see what happens."

Clicking for dates

Thinking of taking a dip in the online dating pool? Dating Web sites are as varied as the people who use them:

- n www.americansingles.com: Chat room and instant messaging. Relationship advice and polls.
- n www.collegedate.com: Search by college name or keyword. Chat room. Upload your photo and get a personal Web page. Option to keep e-mail anonymous or make it public. Free.
- n [www.cupid.com](http://www cupid.com): Cupid AutoMatch e-mails users matches it has found in the member database. Send and receive "Eye Contacts."
- n www.emodo.com/match: Emodo.com uses its extensive database of personality-test results to match members. Add up to five photos to your profile.
- n www.kiss.com: Chat room with "Whispers."
- n www.match.com: E-mail video and voice messages. Call members anonymously. Relationship advice and polls. Chat room. Save searches. "Wink" at matches.
- n www.matchmaker.com: Special-interest communities include Christian connection, college connection, nudist, and military. Any relationship status accepted.
- n www.metrolink.com: Browse through photos of members with brief messages and the question, "Do you want to meet me?" When both parties click "Yes," a double match is made.
- n www.personals.yahoo.com: Communicate with members through e-mail and Yahoo! Instant Messenger. Voice and video greetings. Must not be involved in a relationship. \$19.95 a month. (You must be 18 or older to use any of these sites. Check with these for prices.)

Computers, color printers make counterfeiting easy

By Derek P. Jensen
SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

While identity theft keeps law enforcement agencies increasingly busy with unraveling name scans, the computer has also revolutionized one of the oldest crimes in the book: counterfeiting. Petty crooks who never heard of a burn plate and are hopeless with photography can now make Ben Franklin and Andrew Jackson replicas using high-tech printers and personal computers. "It's moving into the homes," says Mike Fithen, Secret Service agent in charge in Utah, about the fake currency. "In Utah we'll get \$4,000 to \$5,000 passed on to the public each week." In late July, bad twenties and fifties surfaced in Orem and Provo, Utah, where police are still investigating the source. The venue, however, was similar to most counterfeiting cases. The phony money was passed in high-volume places like fast-food restaurants and gas stations. "People are coming in and out, the money's changing hands pretty fast, and you usually have young kids working," said Orem police Lt. Doug Edwards about the spots counterfeitters typically target. Fithen says he sees bogus bills in service stations and bars, where the lighting is less advantageous to scrutinize the money. But Edwards says even the best fakes from a laser printer can be detected if the cashier takes the time. "Any close inspection by people who really took a look, they could tell it was funny money," he said. Nationwide, Fithen says all counterfeit currency ends up in the same Secret Service office for investigation. While printing technology has made their job "a little harder," Fithen says agents suppress a high percentage. In Utah, he says, the bad currency circulates with the meth trade. "They pass it on each other," Fithen said. "To be honest, that's something we see all the time." Drug rings already using printing technology for check washing may be predisposed to crank out cash on the same equipment, Fithen says. Fithen says computers have made the old-fashioned crime easier. And unlike in the past, when producing \$100 bills was the norm, the denomination most readily exchanged — the \$20 bill — is the new favorite. "It's more user-friendly," Fithen said. Yet Edwards says technology has even driven that level down. "They were so difficult to produce years ago that nobody would bother with anything smaller than a hundred or fifty, but now with the color copiers you may see fives or even ones," he said. Federal penalties for counterfeit trade include a maximum of 15 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.



Photo by Maria J. Avila / SHS

The EarthRoamer XLV-LT \$150,000 EarthRoamer comes loaded with luxury

By Gargi Chakrabarty
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE
The creators of EarthRoamer XLV-LT, a big four-wheel expedition vehicle, are looking for adventurous buyers. With a sticker price of \$150,000, the EarthRoamer resembles a recreational vehicle. But unlike most RVs, it's mounted on a truck — a Ford F-450 chassis — and its fiberglass body comes from a California bus builder. The EarthRoamer doesn't use propane to generate power. Instead, two solar-charged batteries run most of the systems, including a 15-inch flat-screen TV, a refrigerator, a microwave and an air conditioner. The truck engine and kitchen stove run on diesel. A kitchen sink, a bathroom with shower and a California king-size loft add to the allure. "We hope to sell between 200 and 300 EarthRoamers in the next 18 months," said Michele Connolly, president and CEO of EarthRoamer.com. "Expedition vehicles are a niche category," Connolly said. "I don't think we have any competitors."

Since EarthRoamer began advertising the XLV-LT in upscale aviation trade magazines last summer, it has sold two units. One of the buyers is Beau L'Amour, son of popular Western novelist Louis L'Amour. Expedition vehicles are at their infancy stage. But their close cousin, RVs, have penetrated the U.S. market in a big way. Roughly 7.2 million RVs were on the nation's roads in 2001, according to a University of Michigan study. And nearly one in 12 vehicle-owning households — nearly 7 million — owned an RV, the study noted.

EarthRoamer specs

- A partial list of the truck's specifications:
 - Two 255 amp-hour marine batteries
 - 2,000-watt inverter
 - 6.0-cubic-foot compressor refrigerator/freezer
 - 5,000-Btu air conditioner
 - 1.5-cubic-foot connection microwave oven
 - 100-gallon fresh water supply
 - Dual fresh water filtration system
 - 25-gallon gray water holding tank
 - Enclosed bathroom/shower
- On the Web: www.earthroamer.com

HEALTH & FITNESS

HomeTown Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com

Modern science

Vampire bat may be key to stroke treatment

By Jenni Laidman
BLADE SCIENCE WRITER

A vampire bat may not save your life. The Medical College of Ohio is one of 16 hospitals nationwide testing a stroke treatment based on vampire bat saliva. It's not as outrageous as it sounds, and if the experiment succeeds, it may prevent permanent disability for some stroke victims. It's all in the sucking. When these South American bats latch onto a sleeping cow — or an unlucky human — a compound in their spit interrupts normal blood clotting. The protein was first isolated in 1995 and dubbed Draculin. Even if you've avoided vampire bats successfully thus far, you experience a similar example of nature's clot-busting every time you're stung by a mosquito. With Draculin as the model, researchers made a protein called Desmoteplase — named for the bat that inspired its creation: Desmodus rotundus. In rodent studies, the protein showed an advantage over the current clot-buster used in emergency rooms, a compound known as tPA — tissue-type plasminogen activator.

While tPA effectively reduces permanent damage from strokes caused by blood clots, its use is limited. A patient who reports to the emergency room more than three hours after a stroke cannot take the drug. At that point, tPA could produce more damage by increasing the brain's swelling. Unfortunately, only a tiny number of stroke patients make it to the hospital on time, said Dr. Gretchen Teitel, the MCO neurologist acting as principal investigator for the Toledo-based study. Of the 20 to 25 stroke patients who visit MCO's emergency room each month, only one is eligible for tPA treatment, Dr. Teitel said. MCO's experience is typical. Most people either delay going to the hospital, or they awaken with stroke symptoms, so there is no way to tell when the stroke occurred. In rodent trials, the protein engineered to resemble the bat-saliva compound was effective for as long as nine hours after symptom onset, said Dr. Anthony Furian of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Furian leads the nationwide trial for Desmoteplase. The reason they can push the time window out further is that this protein is more fibrin-specific," Teitel said. That is, it only dissolves the stuff that binds clots together.

In the bat protein trial, which parallels a similar study in Europe, patients who arrive at the hospital three to nine hours after a stroke may be eligible for the new drug. Those who arrive within three hours will receive tPA, the treatment approved by the Food & Drug Administration. Two Magnetic Resonance Imaging exams will determine which patients receive the treatment. One MRI defines the stroke epicenter. The second highlights parts of the brain vulnerable to further damage. When the two images differ by 20 percent or more, the patient is eligible for bat protein, Teitel said. "There's a general agreement that some patients might be as many as 50 percent, might be helped even six to nine hours after a stroke. The problem is sorting them out from those you can't help," Furian said. MRIs perform the sorting.

Most patients in the trial will receive Desmoteplase, although 15 percent will get a placebo. This is a phase I trial designed to determine side-effects and proper dosage. Later testing phases will focus on whether the drug works.



Photo illustration by Mary Calvano/Scrupps Howard News Service

SPLITTING HEADACHES

Kids suffer from migraines, too, doctors say

By Susan Glairon
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

The lightheaded feeling warns Austin Williamson that it's coming. Then come the floating spots before his eyes, the pounding, throbbing pain in his head: the migraine.

Some migraines are so severe that the Longmont, Colo., resident confines himself to bed. His worst migraine lasted two weeks. "It feels like a vise on your head," he says. Austin is only 15, and he's been having migraines since he was 10. There's a misconception that migraine headaches only occur in adults, says Dr. Alan Scay, who runs the Pediatric Neurology and Headache Clinic in Denver. Studies show that migraines — pulsing headaches — occur in 3 percent to 10 percent of children under age 18. By the time a child is 18, the frequency is the same as for adults, about 10 percent to 12 percent. Incidence of migraines is equal in girls and boys before puberty. After puberty, girls are three times more likely to get them than boys. The disorder causes neurons in the brain stem to become unstable and fire when they shouldn't. It results in the release of certain proteins, which cause a painful dilation of blood vessels. Migraines have been diagnosed in children as young as 4 and probably occur in younger children who can't articulate what they are feeling, Scay says. Overall, migraines are underdiagnosed because the childhood symptoms go unrecognized or are misdiagnosed as sinus infections or as being imaginary. "I don't go a week in the clinic where I am not told the kid is making it up," says Dr. Glenn Merritt, director of the Pain Clinic at Children's Hospital in Denver. Merritt says it's harder to diagnose migraines in kids because their symptoms don't follow the classic rules. Unlike adults, kids can have migraines on both sides of the head instead of on one side. In addition, vomiting may be a child's only symptom. Typical symptoms may include a throbbing pain on one or both sides of the head, increased sensitivity to light or sound, nausea, upset stomach and loss of appetite. Migraines in children usually range from less than an hour to two to three days, but sometimes they can last for weeks or months. But better understanding of the genetic illness, new medications and alternative treatments have given those children diagnosed new hope. Some of the newer daily medications work to prevent migraines, while others are taken at the time of a migraine to relieve pain. Other methods such as relaxation techniques and biofeedback are also used to help control pain, as well as some herbal remedies that are on the market. Although migraines are genetic, certain triggers will set them off. For instance, doctors agree that certain foods trigger migraines in some kids. Those that contain tyramine — including red wine, chocolate, pickled foods and fermented cheeses such as brie — are known to affect blood vessel stability, especially in those whose blood vessels are already unstable, says Dr. Bob Rountree, a family practice physician in Boulder, Colo.

"I don't go a week in the clinic where I am not told the kid is making it up."

Dr. Glenn Merritt,
Director of the Pain Clinic at Children's Hospital in Denver

Rountree says when treating migraines, the first approach is to identify the trigger and eliminate it. He recommends kids try an elimination diet where they go off wheat, corn, dairy, eggs and nuts for three weeks to determine the triggers. Another common trigger is stress. At Children's Hospital's Pain Clinic, a team evaluates a child, says Merritt. Occupational and physical therapists determine whether posture or chronic muscle tension are trigger factors, a psychologist evaluates stresses in the child's life and a medical history and physical are given to rule out rare but more serious ailments. After the evaluations, the team sets up a treatment plan. Treatments depend on the frequency and severity of the headaches, doctors say. For less debilitating headaches, over-the-counter drugs such as ibuprofen might be used to treat the inflammation of blood vessels after a headache starts. Kids in severe pain may be treated with Demicon, an intravenous drip that can speed up pain relief. Prescription medications used to prevent migraines include propranolol, amitriptyline, topiramate and valproate, which work by stabilizing nerve membranes in the central nervous system. Preventive medications must be taken on a daily basis for several months at a time and are used by adults and by children at an age- and weight-appropriate dose. Scay and Merritt both say it's important to treat migraines early. If left untreated, the body adapts to pain and the migraines become harder to treat and can become incapacitating, they say.

Ultra-fast diagnostic scan gains greater acceptance

By Lisa Marshall
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Fifty-four-year-old Jerry Fultz walked into Colorado Heart and Body Imaging in Boulder with a nagging worry on his mind. His father and brothers all suffered from coronary disease, and just three weeks earlier his 47-year-old cousin had dropped dead of a heart attack. "Would he be next?" One hour and 500 later, Fultz walked out with an answer even his doctor admitted he couldn't give him with a cholesterol test and a treadmill. A super-clear Computed Tomography, or CT, image of his heart arteries showed not a trace of the calcified plaque often indicative of brewing cardiac disease. "I'm shocked — completely stunned," said Fultz. "It was a great \$500 to spend. Now I don't have to always be wondering in the back of my head if I am pushing too hard."

Fultz is among the growing ranks of Americans turning to high-tech medical imaging — and paying big money out-of-pocket for it — to get a glimpse of their health. At plush, spa-like centers such as Colorado Heart and Body Imaging, well-but worried patrons can pop in for a 10-minute ride through a scanner that produces a 3-D look at the heart, lungs, abdomen or colon.

The public is attracted to high-tech and has long felt that the kind of care they are getting from their doctors is very routine," said Dr. James Ehrlich, founder of Colorado Heart and Body Imaging. Most doctors and professional organizations still frown on the full-body scans. They say glimpses of slight abnormalities in the abdomen, for instance, may send a healthy person through an odyssey of costly and unnecessary tests and worry. But research has showed heart scans to be powerful predictors of future heart attacks because they show actual accumulation of calcified plaque on the arteries. Because half the time a person's first hint of heart disease is a heart attack itself, early detection is critical, Ehrlich says. Studies have also shown that lung scans can be effective for spotting precursors to lung cancer, and "virtual colonoscopies" can be less invasive and humiliating alternatives. At Colorado Heart and Body Imaging, a patient lies fully clothed on a moving table slowly ushers him through a tube-like device. Behind him, a giant gun shoots a beam of electrons to a series of rings surrounding the patient, releasing a fan of low-radiation X-rays that take pictures of the organ or organs. In Fultz's case, 33 images are shot between heartbeats to create a clear picture that is not blurred by moving blood, producing a 3-D image on a screen and a series of numbers that are then analyzed by technicians. "My wife is going to be really relieved," he said. "After 18 years of trying to have kids we finally had one, and I need to be around for a while."



Photo by Mark Lettingwell/Scrupps Howard News Service
X-ray technician John Serburn instructs patient Jerry Fultz about how to position his hands and how to breathe during a heart scan at Colorado Heart and Body Imaging.

FOOD

HomeTown Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com

K e b a b s

Skewering meats and vegetables gives an exotic appeal to a simple meal

Story by Christine Arpe Gang
SCRIPPS HOWARD

Illustration by Adam Newman
NEWS SERVICE

The Middle East has its shish kebabs, Indonesia its satays and Japan its yakitori.

With little allegiance to specific cuisines and a desire to sample many, American cooks may prepare those skewered specialties and many more.

"You can skewer anything," said Karen Noriega, chef and cooking school director at the Viking Culinary Arts Center in Memphis.

One of Alyce Mantia's favorites is Greek-style lamb or beef kebabs marinated in a mixture of lemon juice, olive oil and rosemary.

"It's very simple but hard to beat," said Mantia, a cooking teacher and owner of Mantia's in Memphis.

Meats, fish, poultry, sausages, fruits, vegetables and even bread can be threaded on a stick and grilled over a charcoal or gas fire.

The advantages of kebab cookery are many, according to "Grilling for Dummies."

- Because most items on skewers are marinated, you can usually use a cheaper cut, such as top round beef, chicken thighs and lamb shoulder.
- The small pieces or thin strips of meat readily absorb the flavors of a marinade or spice rub and also cook quickly.
- You can grill a variety of items to make almost a complete meal on the grill.
- When aromatic vegetables such as onions or bell peppers separate cubes of meat or poultry, their charred grilled flavor is imparted to the meat.
- Skewers can make a dramatic presentation on a plate along with rice or other grains.
- If you've had any experience grilling steaks, chicken breasts or hamburgers, cooking kebabs requires no great leap in skills.

One of the first decisions to make is the type of skewer. The least expensive option is bamboo skewers. They can be purchased in several lengths and thicknesses.

If you are doing appetizers, choose a smaller skewer. Large cubes of meat will be easier to handle on the thicker sticks.

It's wise to soak bamboo skewers in water for at least 30 minutes to an hour or longer to keep them from charring over high heat.

Noriega also likes to use sturdy twigs of the rosemary she grows to skewer beef, lamb or chicken. A subtle flavoring of rosemary will permeate the meats.

One of the difficulties in cooking kebabs is the meats tend to twist when you need to turn them. Experienced grillers know food adheres more firmly to flat metal skewers than to round ones. Using two parallel skewers on large chunks of meat makes them less likely to twist when turned.

Threading sausages or hot dogs end to end makes for easier turning, as does threading both the meaty and tail end of shrimp onto the skewer.

Noriega sometimes puts her skewers in a hinged grill basket for easy turning.

The other tricky part is cooking unlike foods on the stick to the right degree of doneness. So it's best to group items that will cook in about the same amount of time on the skewer.

Tender vegetables such as cherry tomatoes, mushrooms and summer squash will be done before most of the meats, so it's best to put those on their own skewers. Onions and bell peppers will hold up well.

For satays, thin strips of meats and chicken are woven onto a skewer without vegetables. The meats are served with a peanut-flavored dipping sauce.

After you build a nice fire, it's a shame not to use it to its fullest, and skewers help you do it.

In his cookbook, "The Quick Grill Artist," Norman Kolpas suggests cubing coarsely textured bread tossed with garlic-flavored olive oil and grilling them on a skewer.

For dessert, Noriega likes skewering chunks of pineapples and brushing them with a homemade caramel sauce as they grill.

Chris Pollan, who runs the Cheese Store of Silver Lake in Los Angeles, offers this advice for exploring the world of gourmet cheese:

- A good shop. Pollan recommends starting at a reputable cheese shop that has a friendly and knowledgeable staff. Explain the kinds of things you're interested in trying, and staff members should be able to make suggestions.
- Taste and texture. There are a great variety of flavors in cheeses, from mild to sharp, sweet to salty, and many different textures to explore.
- Sight and smell. The look and smell of cheeses are also very important to the whole experience, so

Grilling Tips

- If you want the meat cooked rare or medium-rare, pack the cubes tightly onto the skewer. If you want it medium-well, done, flare them more loosely so the heat from the grill can circulate between them more easily.
- Cut pieces of food into uniform sizes for even cooking.
- Firm-fleshed fish such as tuna, salmon, swordfish, scallops and shrimp can be skewered. Keep the fish brushed with a basting sauce, butter or marinade as they cook.
- Pierce round vegetables such as zucchini, eggplant, mushrooms, and tomatoes with a skewer instead of through the center, to avoid the largest part jays flat on the grill.
- A splash of balsamic vinegar or fresh lemon juice is a free flavor accent for grilled pork or lamb kebabs.
- Thread oranges onto skewers with steak cubes marinated in teriyaki sauce. Grilling will release the flavorful oils locked in the peel of the fruit.
- To grill chicken wings, place a bamboo skewer about an inch or so above the wing tip. Straighten the wing lengthwise onto the skewer.
- Chicken tenders, the stringy morsels on the inside of the chicken breast, are great skewers. Removing the string that runs through them makes them more tender.
- To keep the exposed ends of bamboo skewers from burning, dip a folded piece of aluminum foil on the grill under the ends of the skewer for the first few minutes.
- Shella Bridges, president of Sheila Bridges Design in New York, is also host of "Sheila Bridges: Designer Living" on Fine Living. Here she explains the basics of creating and caring for topiaries.
- Training. According to Bridges, topiaries are usually made from plants that are easy to train, like boxwood, myrtle, ivy and creeping fig.
- Trimming. Despite the fact that many topiaries have complicated designs, they aren't very hard to maintain. All you need to keep them trimmed is a good pair of pruning shears. Just gently snip away any new growth that is changing the shape of the plant.
- Shape. There are no real rules for sculpting your topiary trees and plants; just choose a shape that appeals to you. The lines don't have to be perfect if you don't want them to be, and the shapes can be either simple or complex depending on your preference.
- Water. Topiaries require water about once a week, but they like to be misted every day. Bridges recommends misting in the morning so the plant has time to absorb the water in the natural daylight. If the leaves begin to turn yellow, you have overwatered.
- Light. Topiaries thrive best in indirect sunlight, but Bridges believes they really can work wherever you want green plants in your home.

On the Web

- The Cheese Store of Silver Lake: www.CheeseStoreSL.com
- Cheese.com: www.cheese.com
- I Love Cheese: www.ilovecheese.com
- Cheesenet: www.cheesenet.info
- Fromages.com: www.fromages.com

Lamb or Beef Kebabs

- (Serves 6 to 8)
- 3 pounds sirloin beef or boneless leg of lamb, in 2-inch cubes
 - 1 small onion, peeled and chopped
 - 1 tablespoon dried or 2 tablespoons fresh rosemary, stripped from stems
 - Juice of 2 lemons
 - 1/2 cup olive oil
 - 1 teaspoon kosher salt
 - 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
 - Onion and bell pepper chunks

Place beef or lamb cubes in plastic bag with chopped onion, rosemary, lemon juice, olive oil, salt and pepper and marinate in refrigerator overnight, turning bag a few times.

Thread meat onto skewers, alternating with chunks of onions and red or green bell peppers.

Grill over hot coals until crusty on the outside and to desired doneness inside.

(Note: Do not use beef tenderloin; it will get mushy. This recipe also works well with chicken by substituting oregano for the rosemary.)

(Source: Alyce Mantia.)

CHEESE

A whole new

The average American limits his or her cheese purchases to the dairy aisle of the supermarket, choosing between popular varieties like cheddar, mozzarella and Monterey jack. But there are many specialty cheese shops stocking a wide variety of gourmet cheeses from around the world, and discovering these delicacies can lead to a whole new appreciation of cheese.

Light and smell. The look and smell of cheeses are also very important to the whole experience, so

choose varieties that are appetizing to the eye and nose.

The palate. In between cheeses, cleanse your palate with a little swish of wine.

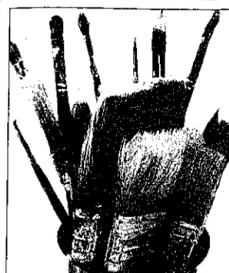
Specialize. It's fun to start out by exploring the cheese of a specific country, such as France. A further specialization is limiting your choices to either French goat's milk cheeses or French cow's milk cheeses.

The rind. Give some consideration to a cheese's rind. Some are natural and others aren't, and you should use your common sense when it comes to eating or discarding the rind. If the rind is wax, of course, you shouldn't eat it.

HOME & GARDEN

HomeTown Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com



Broad strokes

A brush properly matched to the task at hand will lead to perfection

By Kathy Barberich
FRESNO BEE

There's still time for those painting projects we've been putting off since last winter.

Before we begin, we should consider the brush.

Armando Gonzales of Kasparian's Paint Center in Fresno, Calif., says a good brush can make the difference in whether your effort succeeds or fails.

Generally speaking, the less expensive the brush and coarser the bristles, the more brush strokes will show when you're done. "Sometimes, if you're painting an old piece of lawn furniture that doesn't have a smooth finish, it doesn't matter if the brush strokes show, then use a better brush."

Eye a brush closely before purchase. Bristles of better brushes are firmly anchored in the ferrule, or metal ring, with epoxy. Gonzales also recommends running your hand through the bristles to see if they fall out. Even good brushes might shed a few bristles when they're new, but poor-quality ones will shed more.

Unlike the hairs on your head, spill ends on a paintbrush are good because they help carry the paint.

Bristles are either natural, such as ox hair, or synthetic — polyester or nylon. Natural bristles work best with oil-based paints; synthetic brushes are appropriate for water-based latex and acrylics.

According to "Home Depot Decorating 1-2-3" (Meriden, \$34.95), a 3-inch trim brush works in interior areas, a roller brush works in exterior areas. A 2- to 4-inch brush is the proper tool for trim and windows. The measurement is the width of the swath you'll paint.

Trim brushes have either a square or angled end. Square brushes apply paint more quickly. Sash brushes are designed for painting window sashes. An angled sash brush lays down a fine line of paint as long as the shorter bristles are on the leading edge of the stroke.

To avoid clogging the base, or heel, of the bristles, dip the brush into only a third of the paint, then gently tap the loaded brush against the side of the bucket or can to shake off excess paint.

Caring for the brush when you're finished is important if you plan to use it again, says Gonzales.

"Clean with water or paint thinner, depending if it is water-based or oil-based paint on the brush," Gonzales says. "Then gently squeeze the bristles to get rid of excess liquid."

"Don't bang the brush against concrete or other hard surfaces because this will cause the epoxy that holds the bristles together under the band to weaken or break."

Finally, he says, return the brush to the protective plastic sleeve it came in. To prevent the bristles from flaring, hang the brush with the bristles down.

When you use it again, run your hand through the bristles to dislodge any loose particles or bristles.

Expect to pay \$8-\$13 for a good brush, says Gonzales. Although mediocre brushes cost a lot less, they usually perform poorly and don't last long. Professionals who paint every day spend \$17-\$25 for high-quality brushes.

Sheila Bridges, president of Sheila Bridges Design in New York, is also host of "Sheila Bridges: Designer Living" on Fine Living. Here she explains the basics of creating and caring for topiaries.

Training. According to Bridges, topiaries are usually made from plants that are easy to train, like boxwood, myrtle, ivy and creeping fig.

Trimming. Despite the fact that many topiaries have complicated designs, they aren't very hard to maintain. All you need to keep them trimmed is a good pair of pruning shears. Just gently snip away any new growth that is changing the shape of the plant.

Shape. There are no real rules for sculpting your topiary trees and plants; just choose a shape that appeals to you. The lines don't have to be perfect if you don't want them to be, and the shapes can be either simple or complex depending on your preference.

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Light. Topiaries thrive best in indirect sunlight, but Bridges believes they really can work wherever you want green plants in your home.

Talking Topiary

Shrubbery or other plants that have been trained and trimmed into an ornamental shape, topiaries are part flora and part decorative art. Designed and sculpted with care, these living sculptures can add beauty and style to your indoor or outdoor spaces, and are surprisingly fun and easy to maintain.

Heather Pike favors a sling for transporting her 8-month-old son, Samuel.

"We had a stroller with a car seat but he's outgrown it already," said Pike, who lives in Walls, Miss. The sling allows a mother to carry her child close to her body while keeping her arms free.

Faber and Pike recommend products that have multiple uses, such as Graco's Pack 'n Play, a portable bassinet and play yard, or the similar Bedside Co-Sleeper by Ann's Reach, a bassinet that attaches to the parents' bed and doubles as play yard and changing table.

When it comes to baby products, one person's godsend is another's clutter. Swings are a case in point.

That's why it's important to scrutinize products before buying them, especially those with high price tags.

"New parents need to look at products and how they affect their parenting

styles," said Kristy Dallas Alley, owner of Mothersville, a Memphis store specializing in products that aid in breastfeeding and attachment parenting (attachment parenting refers to keeping baby in close physical contact with Mom or Dad through infancy). "Ask yourself if the item keeps you away from your baby or does it foster closeness?"

Many mothers find bouncy seats are handy for keeping babies secure and happy when they have to put them down.

Instead of bulky and expensive high-chairs, Faber's child is content in a booster seat that allows him to sit at the table with other family members.

She also likes her changing table, which is the right height and has a place for storing diapers and other supplies. Some parents find that a changing pad placed on top of a chest of drawers works just fine.

Pike, who uses cloth diapers except when she and the baby are away from the house, loves Aristocats wood diaper cover for night use. During the day she uses Bumini nylon diaper covers that keep moisture from leaking while wicking it away from the baby's body.

She found Snuggly, devices that take the place of diaper pins, on the Internet at www.choosydiapers.com.

Pike also has two Diaper Champs, pails that hold used disposable and cloth diapers until they are tossed out or laundered.

Faber opted for a Diaper Genie.

"We used to make fun of those things ... and thought we'd never have one," Pike said. "But after one sniff of dirty diapers and we got one."

Strollers, with or without the detachable car seats, are better now, too. "They

seemed to have merged the design of jogging strollers into regular strollers so they move better," she said.

And you may not even need a stroller when your baby is young.

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Pike, who uses cloth diapers except when she and the baby are away from the house, loves Aristocats wood diaper cover for night use. During the day she uses Bumini nylon diaper covers that keep moisture from leaking while wicking it away from the baby's body.

She found Snuggly, devices that take the place of diaper pins, on the Internet at www.choosydiapers.com.

Pike also has two Diaper Champs, pails that hold used disposable and cloth diapers until they are tossed out or laundered.

Faber opted for a Diaper Genie.

"We used to make fun of those things ... and thought we'd never have one," Pike said. "But after one sniff of dirty diapers and we got one."

Strollers, with or without the detachable car seats, are better now, too. "They



BABY GEAR

Keep a grip, and don't fill the nest too full or too fast

Story by Christine Arpe Gang ■ Photo Illustration by Jim Weber ■ Scripps Howard News Service

Walk into one of the super-stores specializing in baby paraphernalia and it's easy to feel overwhelmed.

The vast array of products for infants can have a numbing effect, especially for first-time parents who can't always separate the necessities from items that are nice to have but not essential.

"You really don't need as much stuff as you think," said Melissa Faber, who gave birth to Sam, her third child, about 20 months ago. "I'd say buy a pack of diapers, a car seat and an outfit or two. Then wait until the baby gets here."

Between conception and a baby's first birthday, families will spend between \$3,000 and \$6,200 for baby equipment, maternity and nursing clothes, food and formula, depending on how much they buy, the brands they choose and whether they feed by breast or bottles. The figures are adapted from cost estimates in "Baby Bargains: Secrets to Saving 20 Percent to 50 Percent on Baby Furniture, Equipment, Clothes, Toys, Maternity Wear and Much, Much More," by Denise and Alan Fields (Windsor, \$16.95).

Faber finds baby products are much improved since she had her first child, Madeline, 10 years ago. She and her husband Richard Faber are also the parents of Emily, age 7.

"When Madeline was born, car seats that attached to strollers were just coming out and they were very expensive," she said.

Strollers, with or without the detachable car seats, are better now, too. "They

seemed to have merged the design of jogging strollers into regular strollers so they move better," she said.

And you may not even need a stroller when your baby is young.

Heather Pike favors a sling for transporting her 8-month-old son, Samuel.

"We had a stroller with a car seat but he's outgrown it already," said Pike, who lives in Walls, Miss. The sling allows a mother to carry her child close to her body while keeping her arms free.

Faber and Pike recommend products that have multiple uses, such as Graco's Pack 'n Play, a portable bassinet and play yard, or the similar Bedside Co-Sleeper by Ann's Reach, a bassinet that attaches to the parents' bed and doubles as play yard and changing table.

When it comes to baby products, one person's godsend is another's clutter. Swings are a case in point.

That's why it's important to scrutinize products before buying them, especially those with high price tags.

"New parents need to look at products and how they affect their parenting

styles," said Kristy Dallas Alley, owner of Mothersville, a Memphis store specializing in products that aid in breastfeeding and attachment parenting (attachment parenting refers to keeping baby in close physical contact with Mom or Dad through infancy). "Ask yourself if the item keeps you away from your baby or does it foster closeness?"

Many mothers find bouncy seats are handy for keeping babies secure and happy when they have to put them down.

Instead of bulky and expensive high-chairs, Faber's child is content in a booster seat that allows him to sit at the table with other family members.

She also likes her changing table, which is the right height and has a place for storing diapers and other supplies. Some parents find that a changing pad placed on top of a chest of drawers works just fine.

Pike, who uses cloth diapers except when she and the baby are away from the house, loves Aristocats wood diaper cover for night use. During the day she uses Bumini nylon diaper covers that keep moisture from leaking while wicking it away from the baby's body.

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The Essentials

All parents need to decide on the equipment and clothing for their new child. Some prefer a "less is more" approach, while others want a well-outfitted nursery.

The following is a list of suggested essential and "nice to have" items for a baby's first year available at www.thenewparents-guide.com.

BABY GEAR
 ■ Essential: Car seat, stroller, high chair or booster seat, gym or play arches.
 ■ Extras: Sling or soft carrier, infant swings, bouncer seat, doorway jumper.

FURNITURE
 ■ Essential: Crib (except for parents who like baby to sleep in their bed), crib mattress, playpen, play yard, changing table or pad, dresser.

■ Extras: Rocker with ottoman, portable crib.

CLOTHING
 ■ Essential: One-piece outfits, socks and booties, fleece outfits, sweater or jacket, mittens, bonnet or cap for summer, shoes.

■ Extras: Extra clothes, dress-up items.

DIAPERING
 ■ Essential: Diapers (lots), wipes, diaper ointment, diaper bag, sealable trash can for dirty diapers.

■ Extras: Diaper disposal pail or system.

FEEDING
 ■ Essentials: Bibs, bottles and nipples if bottle feeding, plastic spill mats, plastic bowl, plastic sippy cups, rubber-tipped baby spoons.

■ Extras: Breast pump, bottle sterilizer, baby food grinder, bottle/baby food warmer.

BATHING
 ■ Essentials: Baby tubs, tub seat (for when baby outgrows infant tub), tub mat, tub spout cover, washcloths, soaps and lotions, hooded towels.

■ Extras: Bath toys, extra towels.

SLEEPING
 ■ Essentials: Waterproof crib/mattress liner, fitted sheets, bumpers/soothing blankets.

■ Extras: Mobiles, sound machines.

SAFETY
 ■ Essentials: Baby monitor, smoke alarm for baby's room, rectal thermometer, first aid kit, safety gates, outlet covers, toilet seat latches, stove and oven guards, cabinet and drawer latches.

■ Extras: Extra safety items.

Tips for Equipping

Here are some tips on equipping your home for a new baby:

- Talk to other parents so you can differentiate between products that are baby needs and those masquerading as necessities.
- Check your emotions at the baby store door so you don't end up buying more than you need because you are just so happy to be having a baby.
- Research makes and models of big-ticket items such as cribs, strollers, car seats and bassinets at Web sites such as www.babycenter.com and www.amazon.com where you can read comments from parents who have used the items.
- You often can buy last year's models at close-out prices. An online resource is Combi's outlet at www.combi-intl.com.

Other bargain sources are www.diyperks4less.com, www.casita.com and eBay, where you can find bargains on never-used items labeled "NWT" (New With Tags).

Many Web sites aimed at parents, such as BabyCenter, also have chat rooms for exchanging information.

■ Consider gently used clothes and equipment available at consignment stores, from friends and relatives and through classified ads.

■ Consider items with multiple uses, such as cribs that make into toddler beds and bassinets that can be converted to play yards.

■ Don't think you have to buy everything your baby will ever need all at once. The baby won't be able to use a high chair until he is old enough to sit up, and doesn't need a play yard until he is mobile.

■ Remember that babies don't care or know that they are wearing designer clothes or sleeping on designer sheets. They just want to be comfortable, so focus on making your baby happy and safe with items you can afford.

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— SOURCES: THE MOTHER OF ALL BABY BOOKS: THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO YOUR BABY'S FIRST YEAR BY ANN DOUGLAS; WWW.MOMMOMCHIC.COM

REMEMBER THESE
RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR BREAST HEALTH

Before 40 years old:
Examine your breasts monthly.
Have a breast exam by your doctor every three years.
Have a baseline mammogram by age 40. (A mammogram is a low dose x-ray that can find cancer too small to be found by hand.)

BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS

Between 40 and 49 years old:
1. Examine your breasts monthly.
2. Have a breast exam by your doctor every year.
3. Have a mammogram every 1 to 2 years.

Age 50 and over:
1. Examine your breasts monthly.
2. Have a breast exam by your doctor every year.
3. Have a mammogram every year.

- | | | | |
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23655 Griswold
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(248)437-8103 | BILL'S TREE & CO., INC.
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(248)684-5077 | COMMUNITY DENTAL
OF WALLED LAKE
2340 S. Commerce Rd.
Walled Lake
(248)669-3434 | DIVA DANCE & BODYWEAR
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Milford
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| AAA INSURANCE
Agent: David Skown
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MINI STORAGE
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www.bobsellers.com
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(248)887-8383 |
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(248)449-4944 | BOOK CLINIC, P.C.
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& Dr. Harold E. Book
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(248)624-5353 | CREDIT UNION
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(248)380-8921 | ECCO TOOL CO.
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(248)347-7827 | CRUISE AWAY TRAVEL & TOURS
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(248)960-7447 | EDWARD JONES INVESTMENTS
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Milford
(248)685-1600 |
| ALLWEATHER HEATING
& COOLING
Highland
(248)887-3739 | BURGIN BARBER SHOP
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Walled Lake
(248)624-4331 | EDWARDS CAFE & CATERER
116 E. Dunlap
South Lyon
(248)344-1550 | GREENOCK MILLS
10470 Rushon
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(248)486-5655 |
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Plymouth
(734)459-3399 | C & M SAND & GRAVEL, INC. &
LOGAN TRANSPORT LLC
29715 Costello Dr.
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(248)437-5640 | CUTTING EDGE
135 E. Dunlap
Northville
(248)380-2890 | H & R BLOCK
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Northville
(248)437-6191 |
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(248)685-8449 | C. HAROLD BLOOM
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Northville
(248)349-1252 | DAIRY QUEEN
22253 Pontiac Trail
South Lyon
(248)486-4953 | HADLEY HOME BUILDERS, INC.
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(248)437-1728 |
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www.artandsoulmilford.com
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(248)887-0339 |
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Suite 250
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(248)624-0660 | DANICE MANUFACTURING CO.
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301 S. Lafayette
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(248)684-1616 | MCDANIEL GUN SHOP
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South Lyon
(248)437-8989 |

Breast Cancer Facts

Breast Cancer is the second major cause of cancer death in women. The risk of breast cancer increases with age. Mammography is the best way of detecting breast cancer in the earliest stages. Women who have a personal or family history of breast cancer have an increased risk. A majority of women have one or more risk factors for breast cancer. Although women may not be able to alter their personal risk factors, maintaining a healthy weight and reducing alcohol consumption may offer some risk in breast cancer risk. Early detection is the best opportunity to reduce mortality. Today, the relative survival for early breast cancer is 97%. As breast cancer invades other areas of the body, chances for survival decrease to 76% for regional spread and 21% for spread to other parts of the body.

REMEMBER THESE
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FOR BREAST HEALTH

Before 40 years old:
1. Examine your breasts monthly.
2. Have a breast exam by your doctor every three years.
3. Have a baseline mammogram by age 40. (A mammogram is a low dose x-ray that can find cancer too small to be found by hand.)

Between 40 and 49 years old:
1. Examine your breasts monthly.
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(248)437-2083 | MELVIN'S HARDWARE
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Northville
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South Lyon | NORTHVILLE COLLISION
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(248)685-2813 | NORTHVILLE COLLISION
700 Doherty Dr.
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(248)349-1090 | NEIGHBORHOOD
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Breast Cancer Facts

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Between 40 and 49 years old:
1. Examine your breasts monthly.
2. Have a breast exam by your doctor every year.
3. Have a mammogram every 1 to 2 years.

Age 50 and over:
1. Examine your breasts monthly.
2. Have a breast exam by your doctor every year.
3. Have a mammogram every year.

REMEMBER THESE
RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR BREAST HEALTH

OCTOBER IS

**BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS**

Before 40 years old:

1. Examine your breasts monthly.
2. Have a breast exam by your doctor every three years.
3. Have a baseline mammogram by age 40. (A mammogram is a low dose x-ray that can find cancer too small to be found by hand.)

Between 40 and 49 years old:

1. Examine your breasts monthly
2. Have a breast exam by your doctor every year.
3. Have a mammogram every 1 to 2 years.

Age 50 and over:

1. Examine your breasts monthly.
2. Have a breast exam by your doctor every year.
3. Have a mammogram every year.

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NOVI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

All the King's Men

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Accountability. That's a word that Clint Alexander has used since the first day he arrived on the job as the head coach of the Northville Mustangs football team.

It's one of the first words he held accountable for the play of the guys on the field, or the final score. But, he's not the only coach out there. Alexander has carried through his years as a coach, including his time spent at Concord, that it's never easy to hold all of the burden of a football team on just one set of shoulders. With that in mind, he has found a slew of other coaches that are willing to step forward and take that responsibility — to take accountability as well.

"We've got some great coaches over here," Alexander said. "Each has a group of players that they oversee and they grade

and teach. Those players answer to them, and those coaches are responsible for making sure their group is ready when Friday night rolls around."

■ **Rob Bettle:** Second-year coach with Northville. Currently serves as the head junior varsity coach and works primarily with the offensive line and linemen. "He does an outstanding job," Alexander noted.

■ **Isaac Cottrell:** Defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach. "He works hard with all the kids on their agility and their technique," Alexander said. "He knows what he's doing, and the kids respond to that."

■ **Al Dickson:** "We got him out of retirement," Alexander said. "He's currently the quarterback coach for the Mustangs at all levels. 'He's the perfect coach for that position,'" Alexander said. "He's older and more mature, and he's always real calm.

He tells the kids what they need to hear."

■ **Chad Dickson:** The younger Dickson, Al Dickson's son, in fact, is the linebackers coach for the varsity Mustangs. "He's been here two years and he has so much enthusiasm for this job," Alexander said. "I think he's on the field as much as the players are."

■ **Paul Durkee:** An ex-Northville head coach, Durkee is the wide receivers coach in 2003. His coaching has brought the current wide outs on the Mustangs squad up to par with any in the league. "He's very organized and his players have shown the most improvement," Alexander said. "They went from running decent routes but not blocking well to running great routes and blocking well."

■ **Matt Ladach:** The offensive line coach for the Mustangs varsity squad, Ladach has shown that he's more than capable of turning those lunks into some of

the most fierce players on the team. Not to mention he's the assistant head coach. "I almost immediately made him the assistant head coach," Alexander said. "He takes care of pretty much everything that I don't. He's done a great job."

■ **Steve Mandreger:** Known simply as "Drake," Mandreger is the strength coach on the team. "He's the cog that makes the machine work," Alexander said. "We've been coaching together for eight years."

■ **Greg McGuire:** A first-year coach with the Mustangs, McGuire went from being an All-State player at South Lyon to a defensive line coach with the Mustangs. "He's not a firecracker," Alexander said. "He's more like an M-80 and he's tougher than nails."

■ **John Rorhoff:** Coming in for Doug Baker who found a job outside of the district, Rorhoff has coached as defensive coordinator for the freshman team and with the offensive line and linebackers. "He's done a real nice job," Alexander said.

scripts and can do anything from a power-formation to a four-wide spread."

■ **Jeremy Shattuck:** A Northville alumni and a major football fan, Shattuck just seemed to be a perfect fit with the program. "He works with the tight ends and the defensive line at the JV level," Alexander said. "He certainly has a lot of enthusiasm. We're really hoping he comes back next year."

■ **Jeff Schade:** "He was with the program when I got here," Alexander said. "It's a week can go by without one of the Woods trying to score a touchdown or making a big play. Senior J.W. and junior twins Jarrell and Josh are all about family."

"Family is the most important thing," J.W. said of his brothers, as well as his football team. "Beyond my two younger brothers, I have a band of brothers on the football field. We're a family out there, and the captains always tell the team that it is the one thing no one can ever take away from us."

Triple Threat

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Sometimes there's more to football than just helmets and pads, plays and penalties or tackles and touchdowns.

For the Woods brothers, there's a whole lot more.

There's family.

No doubt you've heard of them. Not a week can go by without one of the Woods trying to score a touchdown or making a big play. Senior J.W. and junior twins Jarrell and Josh are all about family.

"Family is the most important thing," J.W. said of his brothers, as well as his football team. "Beyond my two younger brothers, I have a band of brothers on the football field. We're a family out there, and the captains always tell the team that it is the one thing no one can ever take away from us."

And what a family it is. Hard hits and crushing offensive plays have made the Novi Wildcats a common name among prep football sports writers this year — and the Woods brothers are often at the top of the list when the school is discussed. No matter to them though, because they come out to play and for no other reason.

"We're out there to win," Josh said. "We don't care what anyone thinks of us, or how high we're ranked. We just want to play some football and win while we're doing it."

And it helps to have such a supporting cast — even though one-third of the brotherly team is on the sidelines with a knee injury that recently found Jarrell having surgery.

"It's so hard to watch them play from the sidelines," Jarrell said. "There's nothing more that I want to do than go out there and play."

Josh and J.W. hope that their time on the field lets their brother know they are always keeping him in their hearts — that way, he's on the field in spirit with the rest of the Cats.

"I play that much harder because he can't," Josh said. "I want him to know that he's always on the field with us."

J.W. agreed, and added that Jarrell was more than just a spectator.

"He's our eyes and our ears," the senior said. "He sees and hears things we can't. They are more than just brothers to me," he said. "They are my best friends. We hand out with each other, talk to each other. I love them both equally."

And both of the twins said the same about their older brother and both mentioned how close they are as friends as well as family.

"I don't think words can describe how close we are," Josh said. "All we have is

each other."

And sometimes each other is all you need.

With J.W. being a senior and having a year of experience on his brothers, it seems fair to assume he has the edge when it comes to the football field. But when it comes to twins Jarrell and Josh who is the better football player?

"I'd have to say that I'm better on offense and he's better on defense," Jarrell said.

Josh had another idea in mind.

"When it comes to football, I'd say Jarrell is more mature as a player," he said. "But, I have to say that I have a bit more potential than he does."

Ah, brotherly love. Where would it be without it? Better yet, when would the Novi Wildcats be without their dose of the Woods brothers?

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THE STATE OF THE GRIDIRON ADDRESS

It's sort of funny when I sit back and think about it — yet confusing at the same time.

So far this year, I have been "accused" of supporting Northville football by those who are anti-Clint Alexander. I have been "accused" of supporting the offense too much. I've been "accused" of trying to hype up the defense. And, most recently, I've been "accused" of telling the boys they can win when they can't.

Well, guess what? I do support Northville football. I think Alexander has a program that is going to eventually dominate the Western Lakes Activities Association. I think the Mustangs not only have the talent, but the heart necessary to run it and run it well. I think Northville's football team is going to be one that other schools begin to model their own after and I think in the very near future most of the coaches and so-called Northville football fans are going to agree with me.

Want to know something else? I do support the offense. I support Mark Sorensen and Mac Stille and Mike Jameson. I support the offensive line and the shotgun formation. I support anything that needs to be done to win a game, including spreading the eight guys who would normally sit in the box against any other team in the conference and I support running it on a delay just about the time they do it. I support putting the football in your quarterback's hands and telling him to play the football you know he can.

And you know what? I do want to hype up the defense and I try to do it in my game of the week columns and in my articles. Yeah, maybe 40 points were scored on them against Canton. But then again maybe Canton has scored that many points on a few other teams too. They've also kept their team in most of the games this year, and they've also been a solid unit the way other teams are on the defensive side of the ball. The defense wins the game. That's what I always say and that's what I believe. In my heart, I always wanted to be a defensive star, because in my mind I always knew that the real glory was in the hits, the sacks, the interceptions and the fumble recoveries.

And telling the boys they can win when they can't? A long time ago, someone once told me that it wasn't the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog. And you know what? Every dog has its day. Sometimes you think you can't win, but that's a bunch of garbage. Any team on any given Friday night can win a football game. I've seen it with my own eyes. I've reported on it, and I know that the players on the Northville football team can feel it pulsing through their veins when they think about it. That's why you play the game, because if you didn't bother to put it out on the field, then the teams like Farmington Harrison, Detroit DePorges and Catholic Central would already have the state title trophy in their grasp, wouldn't they?

So, I'll take those "accusations" and proudly say that I support Northville football team. Why? Because I know that it means to be a true football fan.

How about you?



Sam Eggleston

Northville has a secret weapon: The Mac Attack

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

One of the first things anyone would be quick to notice when they are talking to Northville junior runningback Mac Stille about football is that he's definitely a team player.

With his abilities and numbers thus far this season, and with a game to go, Stille could easily be saying things along the lines of him wanting the ball more, or why the offense hasn't adjusted to fit his style. Instead, he sits back and looks at the picture as a whole.

"When the running game starts to be a factor, the defense is going to bring more players into the box and open up our passing game," Stille said. "Then, they can use me as a decoy."

And that's a role Stille doesn't mind filling.

"Not at all," he answered. "If it contributes to a win, I'm going to be willing to do it. If me sitting the bench would contribute to a win, you can expect me to be in favor of that as well. If there's anything I can do to help the team out, I'll do it."

Stille, who was a fairly quiet member of the football team in the first two games of the season, broke out with 119 yards against Plymouth Salem on 14 carries, snagging a touchdown on his fourth, but the heart necessary to run it and run it well. I think Northville's football team is going to be one that other schools begin to model their own after and I think in the very near future most of the coaches and so-called Northville football fans are going to agree with me.

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How about you?



Mustang Mac Stille doesn't mind staring down the competition.

not the size of the man, that counts," Stille said. "It doesn't matter how big a player is. It matters what size they play at. You might have a big back that is a soft player, and a small back that you don't think can, break a tackle, but he believes in himself. The smaller player is probably going to prove to be the bigger man."

As Stille and the Mustangs prepare to take on another undefeated foe in the likes of the Novi Wildcats, the thought of records seems to fade away.

"Both teams are going to play like they are 0-0 and this is the first game of a whole new season," Stille said. "It doesn't matter if we have a losing record, or if Novi hasn't lost a game. This is the

make-or-break game of the season. If we win, it's going to make our whole season for us."

Stille heads into the game with a bit of familiarity with many of the Novi players — especially the Woods brothers in Josh, Jarrell and J.W.

"I played Colts football when I was younger with the Woods brothers," Stille said. "I know them and a few of the other players on the team."

Though Stille said he definitely doesn't expect this game to get dirty, he doesn't doubt there will be some talking on the field.

"We're pretty clean teams," he said of Northville and Novi. "There might be a little trash talking, but it's all harmless."

And Stille?

"I don't talk during a game," he said. "If someone starts trash talking me, I usually just stare them down or let my next run do the talking for me."

The Novi defense is well aware of Stille and his running ability, and being one of the best defensive-minded teams in the area makes them one of the most dangerous for a ground game. Stille doesn't seem to mind.

"If our offensive line does its job and I can get three or four yards on a carry, we'll be able to open up our passing game," he said. "When our offense is working the way it's supposed to, we're a very competitive team and can play with anyone."

So, no doubt, there will be some hard hits throughout the course of the contest, but Stille isn't a stranger to those. In fact, he has his own idea of getting hit and laying his.

"I'm not afraid to lower my shoulder and

give a couple licks of my own," Stille noted.

But, he'd prefer to avoid those solid tackles completely.

"I want to try to get them to use their arms to bring me down," he said. "I'll cut back the opposite way of a run, hoping to use their momentum against them. If I can do that, I should be able to get a couple of nice runs."

When they fill the hole, pain is just a hit away

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Could it be true that hard hitters can't be coached, but the ability is something that you're born with?

According to senior linebacker Josh Buck, that's the way it works.

"Hitting is something you're born with," Buck said. "You know how to do it and you do it."

For seniors Buck and Mark Kaminski, the harder

they hit at this point, the longer their season is probably going to last. For junior Robbie Carter, who was identified as the other hard-hitting Wildcat by the coaching staff, it's just another year of getting the job done.

"I don't think about being a hard hitter," Carter said. "I just go out and try to get the job done. If I make some runs and get to the ball fast, then I might get a good hit. I'm not going to say I don't like it, but I don't go out looking for them either."

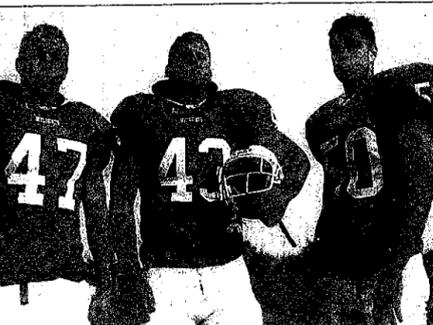
Kaminski's ability to lay down a big lick on an opponent isn't so much from his size — more likely his strength and his speed. In the off-season, it was rumored that Kaminski spent more time in the weight room than anyone else last season.

"I lifted since last season was over," the senior said. "I kept at it and basically I became bigger and stronger. Not to mention fast. Kaminski has been able to track down runningbacks and quarterbacks from behind all season."

"I like chasing down plays that are supposed to go to the outside," he said. "I don't expect you to be able to catch them, and when you do you usually get a solid hit."

No one knows solid hits better than Buck though. The middle linebacker has been patrolling the defensive box since he was a sophomore, and making the big hits is what he was meant to do.

"I want people to know



Wildcats Robble Carter, Josh Buck and Mark Kaminski, right, are some of Novi's heavy hitters.

I can hit them," he said. When asked about his reputation as the hardest hitting player in the Kensington Valley Conference, he just laughed before commenting, "That's the reputation I was looking for when I was a sophomore. They need to know that I can hit them harder than they can hit me. If they run at me, they are going to feel it."

Carter, who had been on the sidelines for weeks with a knee injury, is finally back in the games to start putting the hurt on a few of his foes.

"It's a great feeling," he said of his playing time. "I just want to make the play, I love being able to blitz, and I love picking up a runningback behind the line of scrimmage and making a big tackle. It's what makes the game so intense, and why I love to play."

There are benefits to a hard hit as well. According to Kaminski, it's a lot more than just the feeling after you've laid a guy out.

"It really starts to wear down an offense too," Kaminski said. "Those hits start to take their toll, and pretty soon you're playing against a fatigued runningback or a weary quarterback."

Another benefit is the ability to shut down

an entire facet of an offense. For players like Buck, it isn't long before the plays start being called to run away from his position.

"It's kind of frustrating," Buck said. "In a sense, I'm doing my job by shutting down that side of the field. I know the defense is going to clean up any runs that go away from me."

Soon, teams are aware of who they can run at and who they can't. In the case of Novi's defense, it almost seems as though there is no place to run and no place to hide.

"We're a solid defense," Kaminski said. "You can't expect to get a lot of yards against us in the ground game. We have the speed to penetrate and to get into the backfield, we are capable of disrupting a number of plays and if the defensive line doesn't get you, the linebackers will."

And that's the way it should be.

"At the end of the game, when you're walking down the line, the other guys are smacking you and they are saying 'Good game,'" Buck said. "When you look into their eyes though, you see something else. You know you brought them pain, and you know you got the job done. Not only do they respect you now, they fear you."

THE STATE OF THE GRIDIRON ADDRESS

It has been one heck of a season, hasn't it? Novi football is flourishing this year, with some pretty impressive wins over some pretty impressive teams. For the first time since 1989, they are the Kensington Valley Conference champs, and for the first time since that same year they are on the verge of being undefeated in the regular season.

Can't really complain about those kinds of seasons, that's for sure. But, for some reason, there really seems to be so much more looming like a cloud on the horizon and nearly each and every player is feeling the intensity starting to build in their bodies — the key to it all is just making sure they keep that intensity there.

High school is a funny time in one's life. There are so many things to force your mind from where it should be. Right now, football and school work should be the only things on our Wildcats' minds, but I don't think that is ever the case. There is always this or that to poke it's way in there and get a player thinking about something else.

And you know what teenager do you know that can concentrate on just one or two things for so long? Very few, if any, are capable of such a feat.

But, nonetheless, the Novi Wildcats have to figure it out. As players, they have to find ways to block out all of those little things that can distract them. As coaches, they have to figure out how to keep their guys stepping up week to week, which is possibly the hardest thing to do as a coach. As fans, we have to find ways to support our team as they head on the very long road that is the playoffs.

I, personally, am going to do my best by being positive even when things may look dark. That was the strategy I took last season, and it seemed to work. I am often criticized for my picks in the game of the week column, but that's my way of cheering our guys on. I plan on doing that again this year, sticking with our Wildcats' minds, but I don't think that is ever the case. There is always this or that to poke it's way in there and get a player thinking about something else.

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Sam Eggleston

'Stangs want Novi seeing double

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

They say that two heads are better than one — but what about two quarterbacks?

The Northville Mustangs football team finds itself in that situation, with a solid senior quarterback in Mark Sorensen and a promising sophomore play-caller in Charlie Thomas.

Both have proven they have the ability to play, and both have visited the endzone this year on the ground as well as with their passing game. So, where does that leave the Mustangs?

"I think it's a great situation," Sorensen said. "Charlie is a great quarterback, and I don't have the slightest problem seeing him go out onto the field."

The younger of the duo agreed.

"I'm going to go out and play 100-percent if Coach (Clint) Alexander tells me to go in from Mark," Thomas said. "But I'm going to be cheering for Mark when he's out there playing as well."

The Mustangs have found valuable reasons for both quarterbacks to have playing time. Sorensen sports plenty of experience under center, and has an arm that can pick apart a defense when things are going well. Thomas has shown remarkable poise for a sophomore, and has the ability to pull down the football and run with it when the other options are exhausted.

But who's the better quarterback?

"Mark has a lot more experience and a lot of talent," Thomas said. "I'm learning so much from him, and there's no way I could have run this entire offense without some of the things he has taught me."

Thomas said that he looks to Sorensen as more than just a fellow football player these days.

"He's one of my best friends," the sophomore said. "I trust him with anything and I know I can go to him if I have any kind of problem or any questions and not just about football."

For Sorensen, seeing Thomas enter the game is a familiar situation.

"I did the same thing to Darryl (Delaney) last year," he said. "Coach Alexander likes to get his quarterbacks a lot of experience. In Charlie's case, we're looking at the starter for next year. He has to know this offense, and he's already shown why he's going to be a factor next year."

Both quarterbacks are quick to respond to the criticism brought forth by the so-called Northville fans that have raved and raved about the offensive schemes this



Talk about double trouble — Mustang QBs Mark Sorensen, left, and Charlie Thomas are looking to bring the jug (pictured to the right) back to Northville this year.

year.

"It's a great system," Thomas said. "People just haven't given it enough time. When everything is in place and everyone knows the offense, we're going to be able to compete with anyone."

Sorensen agreed.

"Programs aren't built in a year," he said. "This offense is so drastically different than anything we've seen or run before. It takes time for players to really understand how everything works. Give it another year and you'll see just how dangerous this program can be."

Sorensen said that other teams have already begun to comment.

"I've been told by plenty of defensive players that their hardest week of practice was preparing for us," he said. "There are so many elements in this offense, and when everyone is on the same page, we're going to be able to play with anyone."

Thomas said it all comes down to Northville.

"In this offense, it's us versus ourselves," he said. "It's impossible to stop all the things we do with our offense. But, we

have to prevent ourselves from making mental errors. When that happens, Northville is a force on the football field."

With the Northville versus Novi rivalry as strong as ever, the question seems to be who is going to see the most playing time.

"It doesn't really matter," Sorensen said. "If Charlie is on the field more than I am, that's just fine. If I'm having a good day, I'll probably stay in the game, but if we need Charlie to come in I won't hesitate to go to the sideline."

And cheer his fellow quarterback on, no doubt.

"If it hadn't been for Mark's support this year, there's no way I would have been able to perform as well as I have this season," Thomas said. "Hearing him cheer me on with the rest of the team gives me the confidence to do what I need to do."

81-1-18: Novi's lethal combination

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

In years past, the Novi Wildcats have found themselves running a strict option-style offense that led them into the playoffs and did plenty of damage.

This year, the squad is capable of running that same offense — but with an added facet known as a passing attack.

"We were pretty much one dimensional before," senior wide receiver Kerry Kreuzberg said. "This year, we can run the ball like before, but we can also spread four wide and pick apart a defense with our passing game."

And the reason for this sudden turn around in offensive capabilities?

"Mike Hart has the ability to throw all the way down the field or to toss a five-yard hitch," senior Trevor Hoover said. "He's the part of this team that has to be on for our passing game to work and he's definitely been on."

For Hart, it's just a part of the game.

"I love to pass the football," he said. "I'm also the first to say that if we need to run it then we should run it. We have some great runningbacks in the Woods brothers and Josh Buck, but we also have some great receivers."

The Wildcats have two sets of two receivers that are capable of pulling down the football. The "D" squad is Joey Fratto and Mark Angellocci, while the "A" squad is Hoover and Kreuzberg — who have proven to be Hart's favorite receivers this



Wildcats Trevor Hoover (#81), Kerry Kreuzberg (#1), and Mike Hart (#18) are a dangerous combination along with the other receivers in Mark Angellocci and Joey Fratto.

year.

"I see defenses double-teaming Hoover and I just shrug my shoulders," Hart said. "Oh well, I guess I'll have to throw it to Kerry."

All four receivers have proven their ability to catch the football this year — and Hoover said it's more than just a two or three-man operation.

"It's all of us," he said of the receivers. "We all have to do our job to make sure the play is a success. If that means I'm catching the ball, or Kerry, or Mark or Josh than that's the way it works. We're all a unit, and we have to play that way to win it."

There are plenty of incentives for the Cats. If they win, they will probably have home-field advantage in the post season as well as an undefeated year for the first time since 1989.

"And then there is obviously the Jug," Kreuzberg said. "It belongs in Novi and that's where we want to keep it. We are always thinking about that, and the bragging rights of course."

For Hoover, the Northville- Novi rivalry is

new considering he moved into the district from Piquette. But, he's quick to catch on.

"I can definitely feel it," he said. "I want to beat Northville as much as the next guy. I've never really had a rival before. I'm learning fast though, and I want to make sure we win the Jug this year."

And so does Hart. In fact, he's eager to make sure his Wildcats keep the Jug for the third-straight year.

"It's always great to lift that trophy," he said. "We laugh about it, and we joke about it but we want to win it."

And the senior quarterback will have to be on the money with his passes if he hopes to pick apart a tough defensive secondary in the Mustangs.

"Mike can throw it so that only the receivers can catch it," Kreuzberg said. "But what if he throws it too soft and it gets intercepted?"

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