



# Novi News

Your hometown newspaper serving Novi and the Lakes area for 49 years

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50¢

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2002

## Reward offered for info on killer

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

It's likely Eric Darrell Barnes never even noticed the person who ended his life with a single gunshot to the head in Wixom Dec. 17.

Wixom Police have narrowed the field of suspects down to "three or four" suspects, all from Wayne County, and are hoping the promise of a \$5,000 reward from Forest City Technologies will shake loose some vital infor-

mation leading to the arrest and conviction of Barnes' killer.

Wixom Police Chief Clarence Goodline announced Dec. 27 that the Wellington, Ohio-based auto parts maker had posted the reward.

Although Barnes was charged with carrying a concealed weapon by police in Madison Heights in August, Goodline downplayed that connection. "He was not carrying a firearm; it was a knife," said Goodline, adding, "I think that puts a little different spin on it."

Goodline said he didn't believe there was a connection between the two incidents.

Detective Jim Osborne said that while investigators had found a few people at Forest City Technologies "who said they had had some problems with him," Barnes had recently been promoted and a company official said he was well liked overall.

Barnes, said Goodline, appeared to have been a creature of habit. Goodline said the victim always came to work an

hour early, stopping on the way in for some fast food that he ate in the parking lot at Forest City Technologies. He parked next to the building's employee entrance, under two large lights, facing away from the building next to the employee entrance.

According to Goodline, that meant Barnes was used to people walking past his car.

He said Barnes' parking place



Courtesy photo

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The Novi News' Year in Review wraps up in this edition with a look at July through December. Reports were compiled by staff writers Victoria Sadlocha, Phil Foley and Ramez Khuri. Sam Eggleston wrote the sports review.

### City of Novi

July

**Vets honored:** Close to 150 veterans were honored at the City of Novi's Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Celebration. State and city officials and members of the community thanked and saluted the veterans for a job well done and for protecting the country in what many call the forgotten war. The close to three-hour ceremony was very emotional for many veterans in attendance, saying this was the first time anyone had thanked them for serving in the war.

**Arsenic clean-up begins:** Employees of the City of Novi Department of Public Works blocked access to transferred acreage of North Novi Park, preparing for the commencement of arsenic contamination clean-up efforts. The Sandstone settlement-mandated remediation was estimated at about \$1.3 million to remove arsenic found in the soil from what city officials believe derived from previously applied pesticides. The remediation is required for Sandstone's future intention of the property which is to construct single family homes and business development. The city has until July 2003 to finish the land clearing.

**Settlement proceeds received:** During the Novi City Council's July 15 meeting, Novi City Attorney Gerald Fisher announced it appeared the city would be finalizing paperwork to prevent the sale of an additional 20 acres of North Novi Park as part of the settlement agreement. The paperwork authorized the city to receive \$7.75 million from the city's current and former insurance carrier to pay Sandstone. "It's a major step to save the land," Fisher said.

**Ash Trees decline:** During the month of July, Novi Forester Steve Printz announced the city's Ash tree population was being attacked by an Asian Emerald Ash Borer. Printz compared the ash decline to the Dutch elm disease epidemic in the 1950s and '60s. Printz said the impact to the city would be significant for wildlife and economic values. Contributing to the outbreak

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Photo by John Heider

Julie Colter holding daughter Jane, 2, watches as son Zachary, 5, goes snowboarding down the hill at Amerman Elementary the day after Christmas. The area received about four inches of snow on Christmas day which made for some good sledding and skiing on local hills and parks.

The work of Judy Buresh, the Assarian Cancer Center's artist-in-residence, will be among the items featured in the Novi Chamber of Commerce's 11th annual charity auction this spring. Auction organizers are seeking sponsors of all kinds for the event, which last year contributed more than \$15,000 to local charities.

## Sponsors sought for Chamber auction

■ "A Celebration of Life, Art and Healing" this year's theme

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

It's still months away, but the Novi Chamber of Commerce is looking for sponsors for its 11th annual charity auction.

This year the chamber will be raising money for the Assarian Cancer Center at Providence Hospital and Medical Center's Novi campus at Grand River Avenue and Beck Road under the banner of "A Celebration of Life, Art and Healing."

Chamber President Nora Champion said the event has raised more than \$60,000 for area charities over the past decade. She said last year's event brought in \$37,000, leaving \$15,000 for area charities after expenses.

Randy Patterson, chairman of the chamber's Media and Promotion Committee, said he would like to improve on that percentage by getting sponsors for nearly everything. Patterson will be contacting local businesses for sponsorships ranging from bronze at \$2,500 to platinum at \$10,000. He said he's looking for sponsorships on everything from auction items to the seven-course dinner that will be served at the auction.

This year's auction will be held April 12 at the Novi Hilton, which by then will be the Novi Sheraton, located on Haggerty Road, just north of Eight Mile Road.

Patterson said the chamber picked the Assarian Cancer Center as the beneficiary of this year's charity auction because of its innovative Healing Arts program. The program, which does not generate revenue for the hospital, introduces cancer patients to a wide variety of programs ranging from art and ceramics to yoga and massage to classes that focus on the mind and the soul, all aimed at helping a patient deal with cancer in ways beyond those of traditional Western medicine.

The program was the creation of Dr. William McLaughlin eight years ago. He built the program on what's called the "right brain/left brain/soul brain model," which attempts to pull together the rational, creative and spiritual aspects of an individual's personality to fight illness.

To volunteer to sponsor an aspect of the charity auction call Champion at (248) 349-3743 or Patterson at (248) 705-6013.

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

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## Singh's church plans put on hold

### Commission decides to wait on Seely Sanctuary

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

Rather than risk a no vote from the Novi Planning Commission that would have killed plans for a new house of worship, Khanh Pham, a manager with West Bloomfield's Singh Development Company, opted to try again another day.

Commission members voted unanimously to table the Singh's request for preliminary site plan approval, along with wetland, woodland and special land use

permits for the Seely Sanctuary's 9.659-acre site on 13 Mile Road between M5 and Meadowbrook Road after Pham asked for "more time to come back with a more sensitive plan."

It was a decision that will likely cost the members of the Seely Sanctuary 60 days of the company construction season.

Commission members focused heavily on a proposed 7,200-square-foot administration building that the Indian religious community has no immediate plans to build. "There's only so much money for construction," Pham explained.

He said the Sanctuary, which is a predominantly Indian unitarian-like religious community with elements of Hinduism and Buddhism, wants to build a 29,000-square-foot house of

worship with seating for 800 people. Pham said the community's plans call for the eventual construction of an administration building with classrooms on the western edge of their site.

Commission chairman Antonia Nagy complained there were "too many variances for me to support this."

Pham countered that the variance and waiver requests in Seely Sanctuary's application were the result of trying to accommodate planning staff's wishes or the result of earlier planning commission actions. He noted, for example, that the locations of earlier church and subdivision entrances approved by city planners on the north side of 13 Mile Road made it impossible to meet the city's 400-foot spacing requirement for opposite side driveways.

Commissioner Tim Shroyer said he thought the design for the sanctuary was "great" but he was concerned about plans that show parking in front of the facility, which is prohibited by city code. Pham noted there is parking in front of the nearby Brightmoor Church.

Several commission members said they were concerned about increased traffic impacts, but just two weeks earlier the commission voted to approve preliminary plans for 60-acres residential behind Brightmoor.

Following the commission meeting, Pham said he was "frustrated."



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# Deputy recovering from injuries

**By Erin Johnson  
STAFF WRITER**

An Oakland County Sheriff's Department deputy was injured in the line of duty as he attempted to apprehend two would-be Christmas burglars.

Det. Greg Moore, with the OCSD Substation in Commerce Township, said the deputy was the first to arrive Dec. 21 at a home invasion taking place in the Commerce Meadows mobile home park.

Moore said several neighbors called the police when they witnessed two men kick in the door of a home and began removing the family's wrapped Christmas gifts.

"Basically, they were stealing somebody's Christmas," Moore said.

When the deputy arrived the two men were about to leave, and he ordered them to stop. Instead of stopping, Moore said the driver of the car put the car in gear, revved the engine and headed straight toward the deputy, striking him. The deputy, who was not identified, managed to fire off a round and hit the driver in the upper chest area.

The deputy sustained injuries to his leg and head but still managed to arrest the driver of the vehicle. The second suspect fled the scene but was found and arrested by police shortly thereafter.

Moore said the driver is still in the hospital recovering from his wounds, which are not life threatening, and has not been arraigned yet. The second man was arraigned recently on charges of home invasion, resisting and obstructing arrest, and carrying a concealed weapon after he was found with a knife on his person.

The deputy involved will be off duty for a while.

"The deputy is still recovering from his injuries," Moore said.

Having one less officer puts a strain on the already understaffed station, but Moore said the department will do what it can to ensure the safety of residents and officers.

*Erin Johnson is a reporter for the Milford Times. She can be reached at (248) 685-1507, ext. 21 or by e-mail at ejohnson@ht.homecomm.net.*



Photo by Phil Foley

**Wixom Police Chief Clarence Goodline sketches out the scene where a Detroit man was gunned down in Wixom last month. The dead man's employer is offering a reward for information leading to the gunman's arrest and conviction.**

# GEB wins Walled Lake display contest

GEB Collision, Inc. placed first in the Business Category for Walled Lake's Tenth Annual Holiday Display Contest. Judges noted originality and colorful display as the reasons for the award. GEB Collision, Inc. will be highlighted at Walled Lake's Business of the Month for January 2003.

Date's Custom Jewelry received second place for festive lighting and overall decorations. The friendly showroom and colorful lights drew customers at the door when third place for The Honeytree Restaurant. The Judges also recognized Effort, Honorable Mention was given to Melvin's Hardware, Modern Floors, Yorkshire Rose, Walled Lake's Big Boy and Back Seat Joe's.

The residential first place category was awarded to 310 Aravia for festivity. Second place went to 1479 Pontiac Trail. The residence at 1503 was recognized for Outstanding Effort. All of these homes contributed to the holiday spirit in Walled Lake.

The Contest was a collaborative effort between the City of Walled Lake and the Downtown Development Authority. Homes and businesses were judged Dec. 15 on holiday decorations, lighting and overall appearance by a committee of resident volunteers. To serve on this Holiday Contest Committee, members may not sit on any City Boards or Commissions or have ties to the business community. They must also be a resident of the City of Walled Lake. Diane Carter a member of the DDA Urban Design Committee and City Council member served as chairperson of the Holiday Contest Committee. The chairpersons act as facilitator and vote only if there is a tie.

Anyone wishing to serve on this volunteer committee next year and meets the qualifications, please contact the Walled Lake

DDA office at (248) 926-9004.

"This year's judges had a tough assignment. We had so many Walled Lake businesses and residents participate and we were very impressed with all of them. It was very difficult to make a decision. Our volunteer Committee thanks all of the participants," said Charlene Long, managing director of the Walled Lake Downtown Development Authority.

Awards will be presented at the next Walled Lake City Council meeting, scheduled for January 7 at 8 p.m. in the Walled Lake City Council Chambers.

# Library Lines

**Novi Public Library**  
**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 N. 10 Mile Road, just east of Taft. For more information, call (248) 349-0731.

**Story Time notes**  
Winter Story Times begin January 13. Please call the library during the week of January 6 for information on the day and time of your child's session.

**Adult book discussion group**  
Our January selection is "A Wrinkle in Time" by Madeleine L'Engle. The group meets Monday, January 6, at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room. Community members are welcome to attend.

**Big kid story time**  
Kids ages 5-8 are invited to join us for stories, special activities, and laughter on Tuesday, January 7, at 4 p.m. No registration is necessary.

**The Chapter Club**  
The Chapter Club, our book discussion group for grades 4-6, meets Saturday, January 11, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. We'll be discussing "The Cay" by Theodore Taylor, snacking on goodies, and playing games. Drop-ins are welcome.

**Board meeting**  
The Novi Library Board of Directors meets Monday, January 13, at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room.

**Seniors intro to the Internet**  
Learn the basics of the Internet in an easy, supportive environment on Wednesday, Jan. 8, from 1-3 p.m. You will discover how the Internet works, practice using a web browser, and learn helpful using search engines to find information. Please register in advance for all Internet classes in person or by calling the library.

**More Internet for seniors**  
E-mail is a great way to stay in touch with friends and family, wherever they are! Come and learn the basics of sending and receiving e-mail, and sign up for a free e-mail account, Wednesday, Jan. 15, from 1-3 p.m. This class includes

interactive discussion and hands-on practice. Suggested prerequisite: "Mastering the Mouse for Seniors."

**Intro to the Internet for all ages**  
Join us for a basic introduction to the Internet on Thursday, Jan. 16, from 7-9 p.m. The class covers a brief history of the Internet, terminology, and searching techniques. A hands-on and answer period and question-and-answer period are included.

**Senior book discussion group**  
Senior booklovers are reading "Ice Bound" by Jeff Nielsen for their January meeting. The group meets in the library meeting room on Thursday, January 9, at noon.

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

# Reward offered for info on killer

Goodline said he's hoping the reward offered by Barnes' employer will lead investigators to his killer.

Anyone with any information about the Barnes killing can call the Wixom Police Tip-Line at (248) 624-0884 or the detective's office at the Wixom Police Department at (248) 624-0883.

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# City of Novi

## continued from front

was the fact so many ash trees were planted in Novi, including many on neighborhood streets, which were chopped down.

**Water Restriction:** A water restriction was placed on Novi residents by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, limiting outside water use to an odd-even schedule until further notice. Along with Detroit's restriction, city officials added their own restrictions as well. City officials ask all residents to avoid using any outside water sources, from 4:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 4:40 to 9:30 p.m. every day.

**Wandering Lion:** On the morning of July 19, former Detroit Lion's defenseman Antonio Spillman was noticed walking southbound on Interstate 275 north of Eight Mile Road putting his luggage behind him. He was later spotted at the corner of Haggerty Road and Grand River Avenue in Novi appearing very dejected. Witnesses at the scene said Spillman said he was walking to Las Vegas to escape being caught by recording artist Janet Jackson. After hours of walking back and forth and being observed by police, the former defenseman entered the vehicle of a passerby and left the Novi area.

**Bike path:** Members of the Novi City Council gave their approval in July, progressing the city's Nine Mile Bike Path project closer to the goal of completion. City officials estimated the eight-foot, non-motorized path planned to stretch along the south side of Nine Mile Road between Novi Road and Chase Farms subdivision would cost about \$437,500 with \$128,000 coming from the Transportation Act and \$309,500 coming from Novi's Municipal Street Fund. The announcement angered some Novi residents who felt the expenditure was too grand for a path, and would be used to fund their tax dollars put to better use.

**Where's the cash:** What is the money going? That is what owners of nine Main Street businesses involved in a legal battle, with their landlord, James Cham, wanted to know. According to a motion filed by Novi attorney

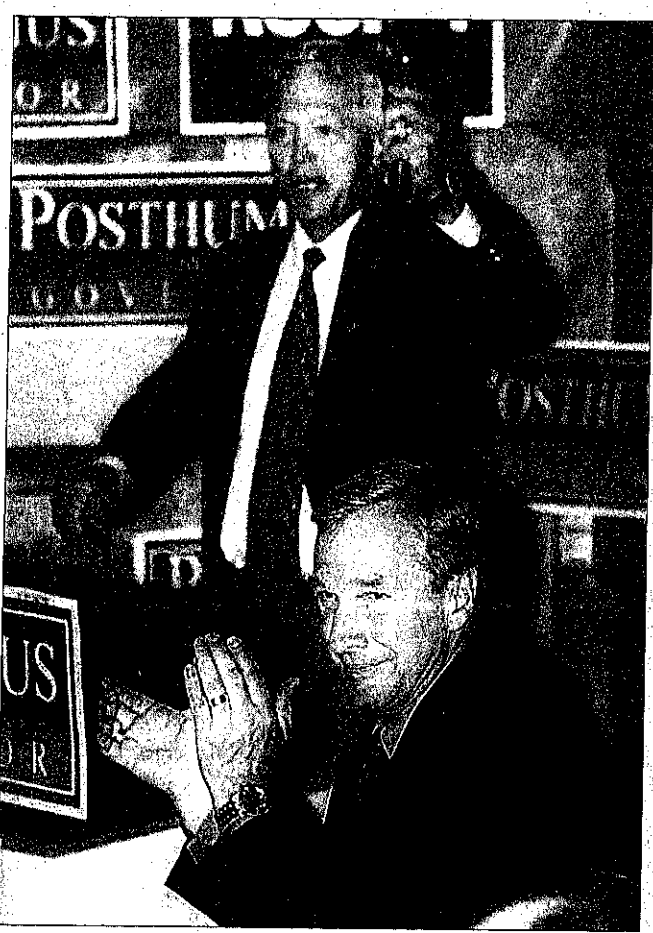


Photo by John Heider

**Party party**  
GOP nominee for Governor of Michigan Dick Posthumus applauds as Congressman Joe Knollenberg (R) speaks to utility luncheon party held at Novi's Local Color restaurant after the August primary election.

these areas filled council chambers some for the improvements and some against, all with compelling reasons. At the end of the day, the assessments were discussed after city council members decided the majority of the requests did not want the improvements.

**Liquor license controversy:** The granting of a Class C liquor license to 800 N. Main St., a building that had been previously zoned for retail use, is a subject of controversy after some members of city council admitted the establishment did not meet ordinance requirements. Before awarding Mould Fen's license during the council's Aug. 12 meeting, members discussed how the 10 Mile Road restaurant did not meet the requirement of being unique to the city. Members felt in a hard place though because the Lehn has done so much for the Novi community for the past 19 years.

After deliberation, all members voted for the issuance with the exception of Mayor Pro-Tem

Michelle Bononi. Bononi said she could not go along with the vote because it was essentially breaking a city ordinance.

**September**  
Sept. 11: One year after the day the world stood still, many in The City of Novi stepped back and paused, thinking of how the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001 impacted their lives. Area residents spent private moments alone observing the horrific anniversary and grouped together in churches and meeting spaces to collectively mourn. City officials said they were still feeling the effects of the 2001 tragedy and explained the city had changed in many ways as a result. Increased training by police and fire, new city policies and extra security measures in public meeting places were some of the changes the city saw one year later.

**Fall for Novi:** The City of Novi's first-ever fall event was a huge hit, bringing about 600 people to the city's Civic Center Area on Sept. 7. Attendees at the five-hour "Fall for Novi" festival enjoyed some fun and jumped right into the learning experiences the event offered. Many interesting activities took place, including mini-workshops on home-working topics, informational booths headed by city officials, Novi Police Department Open House, Fall Perennial Flower Exchange, The Furst Farm Clean-Up and the Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Collection.

**No park land:** During the city's Sept. 23 city council meeting, members postponed for an undetermined amount of time a recommendation by Novi's administration to sell high city acreage as park land. The planning commission recommended turning about 25-acres of city-owned land into designated park area. One of the parcels included lake-front property at the junction of 13 Mile Road, East Lake Drive, South Lake Drive and Old Novi Road. Although some thought the re-designation would be an answer to the city's perceived desire to replace park land lost in the Sandstone settlement at no cost, members of council felt the decision was premature and the value of the property in question would need to be evaluated and analyzed.

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# Early breast cancer's newest opponent

In the largest-ever breast cancer treatment study, ARIMIDEX significantly reduced the risk of breast cancer returning compared with tamoxifen in postmenopausal women with hormone receptor-positive early breast cancer. These results represent a preliminary comparison with tamoxifen from this ongoing clinical trial. Findings are based on study results from patients taking ARIMIDEX as treatment following surgery with or without radiation for a median of 2½ years. Further follow-up of patients in this study will be required to determine long-term results, including side effects and survival.

**Additional findings**  
Lower women taking ARIMIDEX had had less vaginal bleeding, vaginal discharge, hot flashes, strokes, and uterine cancer compared with those taking tamoxifen. Breast cancer women taking ARIMIDEX had a lower rate of joint pain, stiffness, and fractures, including spine, hip and wrist fractures than women taking tamoxifen.

**Important safety information**  
ARIMIDEX is not a hormone therapy. It does not contain estrogen and should be taken as directed. Do not take ARIMIDEX if you are pregnant or breastfeeding. Do not take ARIMIDEX if you have had a stroke, heart attack, or blood clots. Do not take ARIMIDEX if you have had a seizure. Do not take ARIMIDEX if you have had liver problems. Do not take ARIMIDEX if you are taking certain other medicines. Do not take ARIMIDEX if you are taking certain other medicines. Do not take ARIMIDEX if you are taking certain other medicines.

Talk to your doctor about  
**Once-daily Arimidex**  
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**ARIMIDEX (anastrozole) Tablets**

	Number of Patients (n)	Median Time to Progression (months)	95% CI
All Patients	211	11.3	10.7-11.9
By Breast Cancer Site			
Adjuvant	107	11.3	10.7-11.9
Metastatic	104	11.3	10.7-11.9
By Endocrine Therapy			
With Endocrine Therapy	107	11.3	10.7-11.9
Without Endocrine Therapy	104	11.3	10.7-11.9

	Number of Patients (n)	Median Time to Progression (months)	95% CI
All Patients	211	11.3	10.7-11.9
By Breast Cancer Site			
Adjuvant	107	11.3	10.7-11.9
Metastatic	104	11.3	10.7-11.9

City of Novi

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Recognition day: The 24th annual... National POW-MIA Recognition Day...

Farm fun: Despite some late afternoon showers, the Fifth Annual Farm Family Day...

Management team praised: Novi Ice Arena's management firm, Suburban Hockey, received high praise...

October

Bridge repair questioned: An Oct. 1 gubernatorial veto of \$24 million in federal funds directed at the Critical Bridge Program...

Safety firsts: Novi Police Chief Douglas Shaeffer announced about 20 of the city's Ford Crown Victoria patrol vehicles would receive a new safety kit...

Orchard Hills: On Oct. 7, members of the Novi City Council approved a consideration of request from Mirage Development...

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including the construction of Malloy Drive. The controversy surrounding the 4-to-2 decision...

Intersection Reopens: Travelers hampered by the closing of the intersection at 12 Mile and Novi roads breathed a sigh of relief...

Review center questioned: Members of the Novi City Council turned their questions to the Novi City Manager...

Galway Driver: During the month of October, some residents living on Galway Drive questioned if the only reason their street was repaved during 2002...

Novi's numbers: A closer look at election results in the City of Novi revealed residents voted strictly Republican with the exception of the U.S. Senate race...



Photo by John Heider

Tallying the results

Novi City Clerk Maryanne Cornelius demonstrates how the city gathers its 19 precinct voting results with its Automated Election Returns computer program.

Expo design approved: Members of the Novi City Council approved a recently revamped design of the new Novi Expo Center during its Nov. 14 meeting...

High turnout: Only a little more than two months after declaring the would make it her priority to bring more Novi voters to the polls...

International Fest: The City of Novi hosted its annual International Festival at Novi Middle School the evening of Nov. 21 with great success.

Officials receive raises: Novi City Manager Richard Helwig and city clerk Maryanne Cornelius received salary increases during the city's Nov. 12 council meeting.

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City of Novi

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than 25 days, but also reduced the number of site plans submitted multiple times for approval.

Philanthropic spending: The City of Novi announces how it would be allocating its 2003 Community Development Block Grant, placing the focus on city services including fighting family violence...

Ring in the Holidays: Despite the freezing temperatures, more than 2,000 area residents gathered in Novi's downtown to ring in the holidays with a shiver and a smile.



December

Audit reveals strengths: Along with a fiscally sound budget, the city received high praise for the work of its finance department as part of Novi's 2002 year-end performance report.

DeRoche announces aide: Near the close of the year, 38th District State Rep-Elect Craig DeRoche announced long-time state advocate and fellow republican Andy Anuzis will take the reins as his legislative aide when the current city councilman is sworn into office...

Unauthorized drugs: Early in the day on Oct. 15, a Novi High School student was transported to the hospital by ambulance after a school worker noticed the student was acting very lethargic.



Photo by John Heider

The most wonderful time of the year: A float goes down Novi's Main Street during the holiday parade.

Police & Fire

July

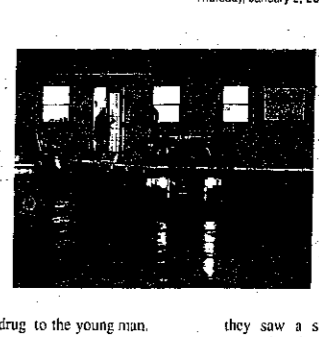
Fatal crash: On July 11 at about 9 a.m., a Novi car accident took the life of a Northville woman after the sedan she was driving crossed into oncoming traffic, crashing into a garbage truck...

Arson: Novi police speculate arson is the cause of an Oct. 20, 6 a.m. fire inside a mobile home located at 30960 Montmorency Drive. City of Novi Detective Sgt. David Molloy said it is believed unknown suspects intentionally started the fire...

Thieves nabbed: Four males wanted for allegedly stealing items from automobiles parked in city subdivisions were caught and arrested by The Novi Police Department.

Unauthorized drugs: Early in the day on Oct. 15, a Novi High School student was transported to the hospital by ambulance after a school worker noticed the student was acting very lethargic.

Park suicide: Novi's third suicide in a public place in a six-month period occurred on Nov. 8 when the body of a Northville woman was found dead in the city's Community Sports Park.



Two dead: Novi Police respond to the murder-suicide at Valley Crest on Trans-ex Drive.

Workers nab robbers: On Tuesday, Nov. 12, two Novi restaurant workers helped bring an end to a string of robberies occurring in western Oakland and Wayne counties since July.

Murder-suicide: A confrontational employee of a Novi business killed his supervisor and then turned the gun he was carrying on himself shortly after being fired from his job.

Park suicide: Novi's third suicide in a public place in a six-month period occurred on Nov. 8 when the body of a Northville woman was found dead in the city's Community Sports Park.

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Queen Set	\$599	\$499	<b>\$385</b>
King Set	\$849	\$749	<b>\$635</b>

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	Regular	Was	NOW
Twin	\$599	\$499	<b>\$385</b>
Full Set	\$699	\$599	<b>\$429</b>
Queen Set	\$799	\$699	<b>\$485</b>
King Set	\$999	\$899	<b>\$665</b>

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### Business

#### July

Mid July, plans for Novi's newest shopping development were well underway. Fountain Walk, a 715,000-square-foot development spanning 77 acres located at 12 Mile and Donaldson Drive, was designed to include a blend of leading retailers, entertainment venues, restaurants and night spots to create a one-stop shop for consumers' needs. Some of the establishments open now include Emagine Theatre, Van's Skate Park, Cost Plus World Market, Buffalo Wild Wings Grill and Bar, Great Indoors, Chuck E. Cheese's, Galyan's, Casual Corner Annex and Gipsy's Salon and Spa. Arrivals soon to open include The Bamboo Club, Margarita Mamas and Putting Edge, a glow-in-the-dark golf land.



Photo by John Heider  
**Park it here**  
Jeff Grosso, a skateboarding pro from Costa Mesa, California, tries out Van's Skate Park's pool area.

#### August

Jake's Fish House in Novi produced a huge splash in the sea of local eateries when restaurant owners opened the doors spilling fresh fish and seafood into the city. The Grand River Avenue and Beck road eatery offers something very unique - the finest fresh fish and seafood is delivered to the restaurant everyday before being prepared by the eatery's expert chef. The restaurant owner also boasts at Jake's Fish House you may have your meal prepared anyway you like. Along with the great food is a pleasurable ambiance and the choice for a full bar to compliment any meal.

Not even an Evin salesman in the Sahara could have rustled up a crowd as large as the one waiting to enter the new Apple store when it opened its doors Aug. 31. More than 500 people waited in a long, twisted line stretching throughout the second-floor Sears corridor of Twelve Oaks Mall to enter the store before the shopping center even opened. At the time of the opening, the Mac computer store, offering everything from hardware to software to peripherals, was the only Apple store in Michigan.

#### October

Novi lost a major retailer when family-owned Art Van Furniture opted to close 31,000-square-foot Scott Shuprine store, along with the other two Shuprine outlets in the state. A company spokesman said the 40 employees in Novi had been offered positions with Art Van.

Several Novi and Wixom area firms were among the more than 200 exhibitors at the Fall Remodeling Show at the Novi Expo Center, Oct. 11-13.

Providence Hospital and Medical Centers' parent entity, St. John Health, rolled out a new logo in early October. The new logo featured praying hands that also form a dove in flight, both potent symbols for the Catholic health care ministry.

The Oakland County Commission agreed to back tax-free bonds to help move Detroit Catholic Central High School from Redford to a 60-acre site on Wixom Road, south of Grand River. When the school opens in August 2005, it will bring a staff of 100 and a student body of more than 1,000.

Ironworkers Local 25 set up informational pickets at the entrance to Novi Expo Center Oct. 4, claiming the center's management was unfair to labor. While union members claimed their actions were having an impact, center managers said it did not.

After 17 years of serving up haute cuisine to Novi's chic, Too Chee, owners said an revamp Oct. 12, citing traffic congestion and a changing market.

Citing everything from traffic plant to the construction materials, Novi's planning commission voted 3-2 Oct. 3 to reject Novi Expo Center's plans for a new 318,500-square-foot facility near the corner of Grand River Avenue and Beck Road.

Gina and Paul Wells opened

southeast Michigan's first Plato's Closet franchise, a resale shop for teen fashions.

SCA Schucker, a German manufacturer of adhesive equipment for the auto industry, doubled its operating space in Novi. A year after nine tenants of Main Street Novi sued the developer for maintenance fees, the 63.35-acre retail and residential complex was still embroiled in controversy, the several tenants were beginning to think that the light the saw at the end of the tunnel was not an on-coming train. Many retailers in the complex were buoyed by the appointment of Southfield attorney Joe Sirkin in July during foreclosure proceedings against developer Jim Chen's Evergreen III. "The appointment of a receiver is the best thing to happen to that project in four, five years," declared Kim Capella, a local attorney representing several businesses at odds with Chen's company.

Business people in the 12 Mile Novi Road area were tickled as the intersection reopened Oct. 17 after being closed for a month as part of a \$1.8 million overhaul. The Road Commission for Oakland County plans to widen 12 Mile from Novi Road east to Meadowbrook, improving access to 12 Oaks Mall, Fountain Walk and other retail areas in that part of the city.

Novi developer Bennett Donaldson told planning commission members Oct. 17 that he couldn't part with 175 square feet on plans for a medical arts building at Haggerty and 14 Mile Road. Seven of the planning commission's members opted for the nothing side of the all-or-nothing proposition.

Novi Chamber of Commerce members wrestled over possible changes to its bylaws that would have put more power in the hands of its board of directors. Several chamber members, including incoming chairman Lou Martin, argued the changes were unnecessary.

Scott Pritchett, 47, a prominent local Realtor with Remax of Novi, died Oct. 25 in a three-car crash in Farmington Hills.

The restaurant staff at Local Color, Novi's hometown brewery, brought home a gold medal from the Gordon Food Service trade show in Fort Wayne, Ind., Oct. 12-13.

Underwriters Laboratories ended the month by inviting the business community to see its shiny new automotive electronics testing laboratory on Regency

continued on 6



Photo by John Heider  
Jake's Fish House owner Don Mattarella, left, and chef Craig Ostrowe display some of their Novi restaurant's fare: Shrimp, scallop and fish kebabs, cajun whitefish, and shrimp pesto pasta. Jake's is located at Beck and Grand River.



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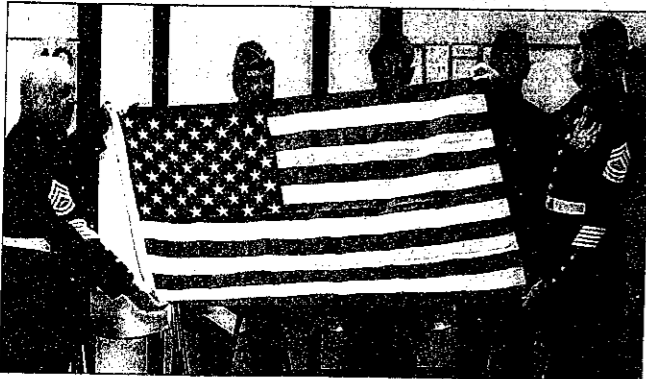
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(248)349-5020
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Milford  
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# Drinking and driving can destroy more than your holiday.



HomeTown Newspapers in partnership with the following businesses wish you a safe holiday season by NOT drinking and driving.

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115 E. Main  
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22200 Novi Rd.  
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**Patriotic education**  
Marine Corps Master Sergeant Paul Koptoe, Sgt. Michael Rapp, both of the Northwest Detachment 162 of the Marine Corps League, present an American flag to Novli's village oaks during a Veterans Day assembly.

Dale Smart, local presenter for the Novli Woods Junior Center for the Conservation (OBC) made a visit to Parkview Elementary School on Oct. 11. He brought along three live bats to educate students about them and to clear the air of some of the myths and fears that surround the creatures.

OBC is a national non-profit organization. Its headquarters were just moving to the nature center building at Cranbrook Institute of Science. The three bats which were brought to the school were a big brown bat, a vampire bat and a fruit bat. Smart took each one out of their cages one by one and talked about them to the students. He explained that there are nine species of bats in Michigan and a typical bat can eat nearly its weight every day in insects or fruit. They are important in the environment for insect control.

To kick off Red Ribbon Week, the teachers of Novli Woods Elementary School put on a skit for the students called "Bug Busters," on Oct. 21. Five teachers in the skit all played the roles of students who noticed a sixth grader who had a series of problems when other students are "bugging" them. It helps children learn to be assertive and encourages self-management. It also helps to define the adult's role as one of the assisting children after they have attempted to resolve the difficulty themselves.

The program involves every aspect of the student's day at school. The main strategy includes "Getting Caught," which is when children are "caught" demonstrating their B.E.S.T. behaviors by the teachers or staff. Whoever is caught gets a blue ticket which is put into a fishnet bucket in the gymnasium. Principal Paul LePier will then draw out three tickets each week and those students are invited to be on the Orchard Hills Friday morning television program. They will be "hooked" with a fish pin and given an opportunity to share with their fellow students what they are doing right at Orchard Hills.

Novli High School's German Club, accompanied by the school's International Club, the French Club and the Spanish Club, celebrated October Fest on Oct. 23 after school. The annual event is traditionally celebrated in September in Germany with beer, but according to German and English teacher Nevada Beniser, it made more sense for the high school students to celebrate in October without beer. The club usually meets between two and three times per month to celebrate different German cultural traditions, like Oktober Fest, or to meet and play games or to come up with fundraising ideas and field trips.

Novli High School seniors and 42 2002 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 13 percent of the more than 840,000 students who took AP Examinations in May, 2002, performed at a sufficiently high level to merit such recognition.

Students at Village Oaks Elementary took a virtual trip through outer space in the school's gymnasium on Nov. 1, when instructor/performer Peter Stewart from Motrie, Ed Productions brought over a 154-inch, 35-foot portable, inflatable planetarium to teach the kids about constellations, stars and the planets in our solar system.

All the kids got in a line and crawled through an inflated tunnel into the dome. Once inside, they learned the names of the planets in our solar system in order and some interesting facts about each one and some of the Greek constellations like The Big and Little Dipper and Orion.

In an attempt to promote Halloween safety, Doug Scheer and his assistant, Jennifer Hoemke, of "Scher" Genies Productions, visited Novli Woods Elementary School on October 30 to perform "The Spooktacular Halloween Show." It is one of 10 shows that Scheer and Hoemke perform at elementary schools all over the Michigan area.

Lee Booner's second block students at Novli High School built a trench in their classroom in order to replicate those built and used in World War I by both sides. According to Booner, the purpose was to give the students a better understanding of what life was like for a soldier during the first World War and to give the students an opportunity to be their own museum curators.

Parkview Elementary School donated clothes and food supplies to the Clothes Closet in Novli, located on the grounds of the Holy Family Church. The project is just one of many community service projects sponsored by the school's P.T.O.

Fifty-five anatomy and physiology students from Novli High School are participating in the Providence Hospital of Southfield "Nurse Now" program. It is a five-year collaborative initiative to increase the number of academically qualified youth interested in careers in nursing.

Novli High is one of four other schools in Southeast Michigan that is participating in the "Nurse Now" program at Providence, although many more schools are participating at other hospitals. A group of Novli High students visited Providence Hospital on Nov. 12 and another group was scheduled to go on Nov. 19. When the students arrived at the hospital they were put through an orientation, they had

Knowing that the MEAP tests in Michigan are an important snapshot of student progress, organizations around the state elected to pronounce a "Take The Test" event. The Novli Community School District was a part of the event and all community members, city officials, business groups, parents, staff and students were invited.

Taking this sample test provided participants an opportunity to discover that the annual MEAP tests provide more than a way to evaluate student progress. It also provided an opportunity to learn about the critical thinking and reasoning skills

All interested bidders may obtain copies of the drawings and specifications from Elkin Skanska Inc. upon request and upon providing a bid deposit of \$50.00. Elkin Skanska Inc. will return all bid deposits to contractor(s) after bid date and when bid documents are returned to Elkin Skanska Inc. in good condition.

A minimum of 5% bid security, either in the form of a Bid Bond or Cashiers' Check payable to Novli Community School District, must accompany each bid over \$17,000.00. In accordance with Michigan Compiled Laws Section 129.201, successful contractor(s) must obtain \$50,000. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be in an amount equal to the contract amount. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be solely for the protection of Novli Community School District and Elkin Skanska Inc. as dual obligors. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Michigan and be listed in the Federal Register or have an AM Best Rating of B- or better.

Novli Community School District and Elkin Skanska Inc. reserve the right to reject any or all bids and to waive irregularities in bids. AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

(12-26-02 & 01-02-03 NN (HT00030725)

Schools

continued from 12

in May after completing college level courses. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement. At Novli High School, one student, Eric Liao '02, qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average grade of 4 or higher on all AP Exams taken and grades 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Novli High School senior Katie Fannon who is on the varsity tennis team, the marching band and the wind ensemble, in which she plays the French horn, recently found time to participate in a three day, 60-mile walk in New York City to raise money for breast cancer.

Fannon first heard about a similar walk from Ann Arbor to Farmington Hills held earlier in the spring on a radio advertisement, but she wasn't old enough to participate at the age of 16. Fortunately for her, the New York Area Breast Cancer Walk started on her 17th birthday. The minimum amount one had to raise to participate was \$1,900, but she ended up raising \$2,940 by working hard over the summer.

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that are part of the Novi and State core curriculum.

In order to give students at Village Oaks Elementary a better understanding of what Veterans Day is all about, the Northwest Detachment 162 Marine Corps League in Northville sent seven of its best men out to do a demonstration and to talk to the kids.

These men are all veterans of such wars as Desert Storm, Vietnam and World War II. They showed students the proper way to unfold and fold up a brand new American flag, then presented it as a gift to the school. Principal Mary Goerdt accepted it and said it would be placed either in the main hall of the school or in the new media center.

Then Paul Koptoe, from the Marine Corps, demonstrated how Marines march and said some of the commands they do.

A discussion regarding Novli School's Kindergarten Program Study Committee appeared on the district's school board meeting agenda on Nov. 7. The report stated that the committee will provide the board of education with suggested options for future kindergarten programming. The study group addressed concerns of parent groups that have been brought to the attention of the board.

Nevas Elementary School in Detroit received some special, handmade gifts from Novi Meadows students on Dec. 6. Novi Meadows students from four classes have made hats for students at Nevas and two of the classes made scarves to help them out during the holiday season.

The kids packed up 600 packages for the school, which contained coloring books, sketch pads, crayons, hats and most of the classes collected mittens, scarfs and T-shirts. One of the teachers embroidered scarves for the first graders with all their names on them as well.

DoubleTree Hotel and Deerfield Elementary School participated in a schoolwide Great Community Cookie Giveaway with more than 100 DoubleTree hotels across America.

Representatives from the hotel were at Deerfield on Nov. 22 to present 2,002 chocolate chip cookies to the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center of Farmington Hills, a center that provides residential treatment, foster care and adoption services, as well as outreach services, to teen parents.

More than 200,000 cookies were donated by DoubleTree hotels across the country in similar third grade class community presentations.

A Sept. 19 editorial by Phil Power, the Chairman of the Board of HomeTown Communications Network, the company that owns the Novi News, generated a big response from third and fourth

breakfast, lunch and another orientation as well.

The students of the Novi Middle School Drama Department presented "Alice in Wonderland" on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 22-23. The story is about a little girl who follows a white rabbit down his rabbit hole and ends up in Wonderland, where she encounters many strange characters. All she wants to do is get back home because she doesn't want to miss out on her birthday.

Since the start of this school year, first through fourth grade students at Parkview Elementary have been participating in a monthly "banking" day, which was begun as a part of the school's business partnership program with Bank One.

The program, which is called the B.E.A.R. Club, stands for "Be Excited About Reading." It runs for a total of six months in two sections: Sept. 1 through Nov. 30 and Jan. 1 through March 31.

Students at the Novi/Northville Montessori Center Inc. in Novi received a lesson in Indian culture Nov. 15 when the school celebrated Diwali, an Indian Festival of Lights. There were many visual and interactive songs that the preschool and kindergarten students and parents alike participated in throughout the day.

Deerfield Elementary, Deerfield teachers Barbara Knight and Janice Wallace went over-the-edges with a group of 50 third and fourth grade students, who, in turn, wrote letters to the Nature Conservancy in Lansing, stating their approval and support of the purchase.

The goal, according to NHS Principal Jennifer Ochal, is to transition students again. They are transitioning from the middle school to the high school, but then the school is going to want to transition them from the academic seminar into the permanent seminar when they are in grades 10, 11 and 12.

The Nutcracker Ballet, which was at the Detroit Opera House through Dec. 15, had a bit of Novi flair, as two Novi High School students, 11th grader Leslie Bauman and 10th grader Mary Beth Miles, were featured. Bauman held a trumpet during the play and Miles played the role of the bunny, commander of all the toy soldiers.

In the spirit of the holiday season, the Rotary Club of Novi held its annual Senior Citizens Concert Band at Novi Middle School on Nov. 5. All senior citizens from the Novi community were invited to the event and those who came were treated to musical numbers by the middle school's eighth grade concert band. Holiday songs sung by the seventh grade choir, including an a cappella performance of "Silent Night" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," were being sung. Santa Claus and his helper were walked around the tables stopping hands.

To top off a week in which Deerfield Elementary taught chil-



**Waxing eloquent**  
Deerfield Elementary School third grade student Emma Waters gets an attentive audience from principal Richard Njus during Wax Museum when students came to life as historical figures. Waters' character was Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Dr. DeWitt Williams, who co-chaired the workshop, the whole idea is to have the students get the sense of empathy towards someone who lives life this way. It's a program for the kids to do hands-on activities that parallel situations that people with disabilities have. They are actually put in a position of what it would be like to have a number of different disabilities.

Students from Novi High School's radio station, WWOV, did their part to spread holiday cheer as they put on an 18-hour radio marathon to benefit Toys For Tots on Dec. 6. It started at 6 a.m. and went until midnight.

According to program director and air personality Kelly McMahon, the radio station was "trying to get the whole community to get together as one and donate a lot of toys."

Deerfield Elementary School, earned Honorable Mention in the seventh annual "Best of the Best" national yearbook category for its 2001-02 version of the book. The reason was in part because of the book's unique alphabet theme and the effort because students at the school were involved in its production.

The Living Science organization came visiting Deerfield Elementary School on Dec. 12 when live science demonstrations "Best of the Best" travels to different schools all over Michigan and northern Ohio to teach students about animals.

Students first viewed a slide show where they learned about the animals they were going to see and then they went to the stage area of the school where the slide pool with animals was set up.

A group of Novi High students are taking time out of their busy schedules to help out cancer patients. The group, called T.A.C.C., which stands for Teens Addressing the Cancer Community, is a non-profit organization. The group is entirely student led. It puts together top-filled backpacks to give to people who either have cancer or are affected by cancer.

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Schools

July

A Walled Lake Consolidated Schools custodian filed a lawsuit June 21, claiming that she was racially harassed and discriminated against while administrative staff looked the other way.

Susan Smith, a White Lake Township resident, is bringing a cause of action against the people she worked with for both negligence and intentional infliction of emotional distress, concert of action and civil conspiracy.

By merely passing a resolution, the Novi School District saved \$1.4 million on Oct. 3.

On September 27, the sale of bonds to refund the callable portion of the 1995 bonds was completed. The results of the sale proved beneficial to the district with a total savings of \$1.474 million.

Approximately 5,000 health care students completed in everything from designing the best health care display to writing on a specific health care topic.

Amie Bratne, a student at Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southwest in Wixom and Northville High School, won ninth place in the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) national competition June 24-30 in Anaheim, Calif.

Students from Novi's Deerfield Elementary School celebrated the apple on Sept. 26. The apples served as a teaching tool for 250 kindergarten through fourth grade students from the Tree House and Green House sections of the school.

Participating in activities that utilized math and science skills, the students sorted apples by color and created corresponding graphs; compared the weight of the apples to other objects; taste-tested a variety of apples; determined group favorites and turned a solid into a liquid by putting apples through a cider press.

Catholic Central High School of Detroit took another small step

University Transfer programs in Liberal Arts, Science, Business Administration, Pre-Education, Pre-Engineering

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Enroll NOW for Winter Classes

Schools

October

Members of the Novi Police Department began an investigation to find out exactly how a Novi High School student obtained a form of animal tranquilizer he used to get high.

The department was notified early in the day on October 15 that one of the students had possibly injected the drug that day. Police later identified the tranquilizer as Acepromazine.

Novli Chief of Police Douglas Schoemaker said it was not believed that the boy used the drug as a suicide attempt, but rather for recreational drug use. It is believed the tranquilizer is commonly associated with horses.

Cartoonist Neal Levin brought his workshop to Parkview Elementary School on Oct. 10. Students listened to him explain that drawing cartoon characters is not as hard as one would think. He then drew pictures of some of his characters and took suggestions from the kids as to how to improve them.

Levin teaches cartoon shops to elementary and middle school children to help them learn basic cartoon drawing skills. He has taught over 54,000 students in approximately 30 school districts in metropolitan Detroit since 1988.

To wrap up a three-week weather unit at Parkview Elementary School, teachers arranged for WDW weatherman Paul Gross to make a visit to the school. Some topics he discussed with the students included why there are seasons, how the earth is tilted and how tornadoes are formed.

Gross visits with many schools as his schedule allows. In fact, he only stayed at Parkview for an hour because he had another assignment for work.

Novli Woods Elementary School's first community service project this year was to collect Benji Babes for Sweet Dreamz Detroit, a non-profit organization that provides bedtime essentials to at-risk children. The school also had a Halloween Candy Donation and a used eyeglasses and sunglasses donation so students could share with others who are less fortunate than they are.

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Schools

November

Novli High School seniors and 42 2002 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 13 percent of the more than 840,000 students who took AP Examinations in May, 2002, performed at a sufficiently high level to merit such recognition.

Students at Village Oaks Elementary took a virtual trip through outer space in the school's gymnasium on Nov. 1, when instructor/performer Peter Stewart from Motrie, Ed Productions brought over a 154-inch, 35-foot portable, inflatable planetarium to teach the kids about constellations, stars and the planets in our solar system.

All the kids got in a line and crawled through an inflated tunnel into the dome. Once inside, they learned the names of the planets in our solar system in order and some interesting facts about each one and some of the Greek constellations like The Big and Little Dipper and Orion.

In an attempt to promote Halloween safety, Doug Scheer and his assistant, Jennifer Hoemke, of "Scher" Genies Productions, visited Novli Woods Elementary School on October 30 to perform "The Spooktacular Halloween Show." It is one of 10 shows that Scheer and Hoemke perform at elementary schools all over the Michigan area.

Lee Booner's second block students at Novli High School built a trench in their classroom in order to replicate those built and used in World War I by both sides. According to Booner, the purpose was to give the students a better understanding of what life was like for a soldier during the first World War and to give the students an opportunity to be their own museum curators.

Parkview Elementary School donated clothes and food supplies to the Clothes Closet in Novli, located on the grounds of the Holy Family Church. The project is just one of many community service projects sponsored by the school's P.T.O.

Fifty-five anatomy and physiology students from Novli High School are participating in the Providence Hospital of Southfield "Nurse Now" program. It is a five-year collaborative initiative to increase the number of academically qualified youth interested in careers in nursing.

Novli High is one of four other schools in Southeast Michigan that is participating in the "Nurse Now" program at Providence, although many more schools are participating at other hospitals. A group of Novli High students visited Providence Hospital on Nov. 12 and another group was scheduled to go on Nov. 19. When the students arrived at the hospital they were put through an orientation, they had

Knowing that the MEAP tests in Michigan are an important snapshot of student progress, organizations around the state elected to pronounce a "Take The Test" event. The Novli Community School District was a part of the event and all community members, city officials, business groups, parents, staff and students were invited.

Taking this sample test provided participants an opportunity to discover that the annual MEAP tests provide more than a way to evaluate student progress. It also provided an opportunity to learn about the critical thinking and reasoning skills

All interested bidders may obtain copies of the drawings and specifications from Elkin Skanska Inc. upon request and upon providing a bid deposit of \$50.00. Elkin Skanska Inc. will return all bid deposits to contractor(s) after bid date and when bid documents are returned to Elkin Skanska Inc. in good condition.

A minimum of 5% bid security, either in the form of a Bid Bond or Cashiers' Check payable to Novli Community School District, must accompany each bid over \$17,000.00. In accordance with Michigan Compiled Laws Section 129.201, successful contractor(s) must obtain \$50,000. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be in an amount equal to the contract amount. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be solely for the protection of Novli Community School District and Elkin Skanska Inc. as dual obligors. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Michigan and be listed in the Federal Register or have an AM Best Rating of B- or better.

Novli Community School District and Elkin Skanska Inc. reserve the right to reject any or all bids and to waive irregularities in bids. AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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Novli Community School District invites qualified contractors, including ME/WE/DBE firms, to submit proposals/bids for the above-referenced project for the following Bid Category(s):  
2A - LANDSCAPING  
BIDS ARE DUE AT 2:00 PM local time on Monday, January 6, 2003

## Novi News

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

## At the least, Engler earned our respect

In just a few days, Gov. John Engler will leave office, certainly the most effective Michigan governor in the last half-century.

He has never interested in being well liked, and so his great accomplishments often brought with them a dark underside of unpopularity. Drastic overhaul of the structure of school finance, achieved in part by demonizing teachers and their unions. Repetitive tax cuts, which in necessary times left the state budget with a massive structural deficit. Far-reaching — some would say cold-hearted — welfare reform. Shaping of an activist — and very conservative — state judiciary. A consistent — some would say mindless — devotion to anti-abortion politics and Right To Life. A vast expansion of the unilateral powers of the governor.



Phil Power

On balance, the record is extraordinary. Michigan citizens are not likely to see a governor like John Engler for many, many years.

I have always been struck by his physical presence. Hardly handsome, Engler is a large, fleshy man with short legs and a sharply receding hairline. His posture when sitting — tilted on the edge of the chair, his left leg thrust diagonally forward — leaves no doubt of his direct, aggressive engagement. His eyes are quick and appraising, his hand movements decisive. He is not a particularly effective public speaker, but in private he speaks rapidly, carries hard conviction and, if crossed, a certain menace. And for a man with no particular claims as an intellectual, his grasp of the minutiae of policy and the byways of politics is amazing.

His capacity to see an opening, to strike suddenly, and to be ruthless in the exercise of power is unparalleled in my experience. He keeps reminding me of William Blake's famous line, "how stealthy and crouch, how silent he leap."

The case of John Kelley is instructive. A lawyer and former Democratic state senator, Kelly is widely regarded as very bright, but also the loosest of cannons and the quickest of lips. He also was a thorn in Engler's side both in and out of the senate.

Elected to the Board of Governors of Wayne State University a couple of years ago, Kelley also represented the Detroit Medical Center, which does a lot of business with WSU. Earlier this month, Engler unearthed a neglected passage in the state constitution that empowered a governor to remove a public official from his job on grounds

of conflict of interest. He called for Kelley's resignation and scheduled a hearing on his conflict.

Last week, Kelley resigned, a victim of the ruthless, capable use of political power. And then, unexpectedly, Engler appointed Eugene Briker, a long-time Democrat and enormously thoughtful and respected lawyer, to take Kelley's place. On balance, the appointment strengthened Wayne's board.

What a testament to the adversarial outcomes of the shrewd! In recent weeks, I've had the privilege of dealing with John Engler and to see so close and so clear the sweep of his capability. I'm the chair-elect of the Michigan chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and when 300,000 acres of precious forestland in the Upper Peninsula came on the market several months ago, it was obviously a once-in-a-lifetime conservation opportunity. But the deal was vast; the rumored price was in the range of \$150 million.

We contacted Gov. Engler and his able chief of staff, Sharon Rothwell, to ask for help. They jumped into action without a pause. Engler announced his support for the deal and urged an unprecedented public-private collaboration to raise the money. He got the Natural Resources Trust Fund to pledge \$10 million to support our bid. He wrote President Bush, asking favorable consideration for funding from the federal Forest Legacy program. He made phone calls to the property owners, a trust in Hawaii.

And he invited the heads of the biggest foundations in Michigan to lunch in the governor's office to pitch the deal and plead for their support. I never will forget the sight of the Governor of Michigan padding around his big conference room, personally serving coffee and pie to his guests, while arguing that the land was simply too important to the future of Michigan to let it go to hard timbering and piecemeal development. And the foundations came through quickly, big time.

It's too early to say whether we'll succeed. But we couldn't have got where we are now without the passionate, sudden, capable, detailed involvement of John Engler. In my book, at least, he leaves office maybe not with my full agreement but without doubt my full respect.

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

... he leaves office maybe not with my full agreement but without doubt my full respect.

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



Generous donation

The Rev. Faith Fowler accepts bags of clothing and blankets donated by the Hotel Baromette's staff from Susan Bender, Lisa Henderson and Len Williams, the Novi hotel's general manager. Fowler is the executive director of Cass Community, which was served the needs of Detroit's poor since the Great Depression.

Photo by Phil Foley

# LETTERS

## Stepping backwards?

I was shocked and appalled by the behavior of State Representative-elect DeRoche at last Thursday's interview session. Some of the other Councilmen should also be taken to task. Their behavior was, in my estimation, lucky at best, but NOTHING compared to Mr. DeRoche. Please — conduct yourself in exactly the same manner in Lansing, and you will see how quickly some of those tough "babe" that have had to fight their way into politics will treat you! They'll chew you up and spit you out! You owe every taxpayer a public apology for your actions of that night, Mr. DeRoche!

For the record, you took your Council seat on a technicality few of us realized existed — since on us! While campaigning in the next Council election, you promised us many things: that things would change... you would do this... you would do that. All were idle rhetoric! You have done absolutely nothing while sitting in your Council seat other than hide your time and wait for another opportunity to fall into your lap. And this after telling many of us that you had no aspirations for higher political office. Your new position was

gained on the coattails of the Republican party and the fact that your opponent didn't even put up one sign!

Publicly (in print) I have called you stupid. Do you remember the discussion we had many years ago when I told you how stupid you looked sitting up there? Your answer, "I'm getting contacts (fences)." That was the depth of your understanding of my statement? You have also been called a buffoon in the newspapers. Last Thursday (12/19), you proved to the whole City that I was on target yet again. The only description that could be given to your performance was that of a revengeful hat, getting back because now it's a "big boy."

The joke, sir, is on you! And I DO expect that apology to be given IN PRINT! Your predecessor would have NEVER publicly shamed himself so badly!

It was clear and obvious that many of Councilmen, especially Cordas and Capello, asked questions in hopes of finding the perfect replacement for the developer-driven concepts that they have espoused for the years they, too, were on the Planning Commission. The belittling of our current Planning Commission — even by a current member — was unacceptable! I thought we were looking for the best candidate to sit on Council and respect the wishes of the residential constituency, let alone uphold the Ordinances in place.

The struggle to regain "control" by the developer-driven powers was obvious. And, with the support of Mayor Clark and Councilman Landry, I fear they will regain the majority. Many of the residents fought so desperately in the last two (2) elections to promote candidates who claimed to put residents first and, somehow, we failed. How disappointing to discover that we believed the promises given yet again. Thank you again, Mayor ProTem Bononi and Councilperson Lorenzo, while you continue to strive to put residents first. It must be so discouraging to be overridden time and again by the sexism and perceived power of "the network". The truth always comes out in the end.

It is my fear that this will be the end of what many of us had hoped would be a positive change in Novi. It appears we are taking giant steps — backward!

James E. Korte  
Novi

## GUEST COLUMN

### Booming asbestos litigation a major threat to Michigan small businesses

The big business of asbestos litigation is encroaching upon the livelihood of Michigan's small businesses.

Small companies with as few as 20 employees or less are finding themselves mired in this unending legal morass. The process is so broken and anxiety that those individuals who have contracted illnesses through asbestos exposure are not being helped. Instead, funds are being parcelled out to anyone who has ever been exposed to asbestos in any way — regardless of whether or not they are sick.

The majority of the people filing claims against asbestos manufacturers are entirely healthy. They may or may not have been exposed to asbestos, yet they show no evidence of asbestos-related diseases. They are joining suits to hedge against possible future illnesses that may not be covered due to statutes of limitations. The result has been a glut of filings, more than 200,000 cases pending today, leading to a depletion of funds set aside to deal with truly sick individuals. In short, sick people are not getting the level of help they need and healthy people are receiving benefits with no guar-

antee of future assistance if they get sick later.

The avalanche of asbestos litigation has forced more than 50 companies into bankruptcy, 14 of them in the last 24 months. They simply cannot withstand the crushing financial burden. That means new sources of revenue are being sought to maintain the spicket of funds to carry a growing load of financial claims.

With the pool of big corporate targets "drying up" smaller firms are now under siege. They have been targeted as peripheral participants in this unending legal saga.

Small business owners can't afford armies of lawyers. In general, their insurance coverage couldn't handle the loss of a major lawsuit. Many simply elect to pay a totally unmerited settlement rather than risk losing a large-scale lawsuit from becoming the next victims of the asbestos saga.

Hopelessly Congress will act soon to create such a system. An orderly system such as this would restore order and fairness to the asbestos claims process. It would also restore justice for those who are truly ill and protect thousands of small businesses from becoming the next victims of the asbestos saga.

asbestos who, although currently healthy, does not want to be shut out by statutes of limitations. Yet how do we deal with the opportunists who may or may not have been exposed, but hop on for the ride in hopes of some extra cash?

Sadly, the current mess means that thousands of asbestos-disease victims and their survivors are being victimized again. They are awarded only a fraction of the settlements collected because the system cannot handle the excessive load created by healthy claimants.

Not once, but twice the Supreme Court of the United States has condemned the asbestos litigation quagmire as a problem that is beyond repair by the judicial system. The Supreme Court has strongly urged that Congress pass legislation setting up a system outside the courts to apply medical criteria to each claim and screen out the claims of people who are clearly not suffering from asbestos diseases.

Hopefully Congress will act soon to create such a system. An orderly system such as this would restore order and fairness to the asbestos claims process. It would also restore justice for those who are truly ill and protect thousands of small businesses from becoming the next victims of the asbestos saga.



Karen Kerrigan

Karen Kerrigan is chairman of the Small Business Survival Committee based in Washington, D.C. but which represents 70,000 small businesses, many in Michigan. The number is (202) 785-0238.

**HomeTown COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**

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

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

## Sports

### Fall 2001

**State Champs!** The Novi Wildcats Golf Team won its first state tournament title in school history on Oct. 19 with a score of 320. The team had a score of 296 on Friday and took a 12-shot lead into Saturday at The Emerald golf course in St. Johns.

"Friday's score of 296 was the best score I have ever seen in those conditions by a high school team," Wildcats Coach Brad Huss said. "It was raining, cold and the wind was 10 to 15 miles per hour."

According to Huss, all four of the Novi scores on Friday were in the top 15 individually. Jack Tyler shot a 72 on Friday and a 76 on Saturday. Eric Ayles shot 76 and 83; Brandon Cigna shot 72 and 80; James Faysal shot 76 and 88 and Mark Eberline shot 83 and 80.

"On Saturday I was hoping for good weather, but instead it was worse," Huss said. "The wind was 30 to 35 miles per hour and the greens were extremely fast."

The top four teams in the tournament were paired together on Saturday, so Novi, Ann Arbor Pioneer, Warren DeLaSalle and Portage Northern went head to head. Novi shot a 320, which is 80 per man. Ann Arbor Pioneer finished at a 321 and could just watch as Novi became the first county school to win a state golf tournament since Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood in 1993.

**Best season ever:** Quite the impressive feat, even for these Wildcats.

The Novi Wildcats girls' tennis team completed its best ever season as it competed in the Michigan High School Athletic Association state finals for the first time in four years and finished in eighth place with 11 points behind powerhouse Lakeshore Northern (first, 23 points), Gross Pointe South (22) and Traverse City Central (20).

"It was a great experience for all of the girls," Novi coach Jim Hanson said. "We have a lot returning next year, so this was invaluable to them. For the seniors, this is just a great way to end their careers."

Another stellar performance on the defensive end of the field came from the brick wall better known as Sean McClintchey. He made eight saves to earn yet another shut-out victory this season.

"Brighton wasn't far from scoring, from time to time though. Coles managed to save a Bulldog shot from finding the back of the net with 45 seconds remaining in the contest to preserve the win."

"It was quite a remarkable play," O'Leary said. "I have never seen one like it in my 10 years of coaching soccer."

A Brighton player headed the ball at McClintchey in goal, who in turn made a great diving save to deflect the ball off the crossbar. The rebound bounced right back to a Bulldog, who took the shot while McClintchey was attempting to scramble off the ground.

"The ball was going in the net when Brent stopped the ball between his chest and the goalpost," O'Leary said. "The ball was literally trapped there and he cleared the ball away as it fell to his feet."

**Girl barriers look strong:** The girls on the Novi cross-country team have been running extremely hard all season. They've run exceptionally well in the last two weeks alone, going 2-1 in their three KVC meets and taking a seventh-place finish at the Oakland County meet.

"Our team is really solid right now, and we should be even better when we get two of our best runners' back — Nina Schmitt



Photo by JOHN HEDDER

**WHAT A YEAR!** The Novi Wildcats football team added to a simply impressive football season with their victory in the Baseline Jug game in October. These Wildcats showed throughout the year that no mountain is too big to climb and no river too wide to cross. When they came out to play, the other teams were looking out!

and Margo Wolowicz," said Lesley Drake, a junior runner. The two girls she referred to are both seniors and are slowly working themselves back into running shape. Nina had undergone full reconstructive surgery on her knees last May and just got the screws removed two weeks ago, but she is now running with the team again. Wolowicz ran with the JV team at the Oakland County meet and is working on getting in shape for varsity. With the way this team has been performing without them though, it'll be scary to see how good they can be when they're running at full strength!

Their performances — two weeks ago against two conference opponents allowed them to experience the sting of a 45-18 loss and the thrill of a dominating 45-18 win.

**The Jug is ours:** The Northville Mustangs and the Novi Wildcats knew going into this game that it was going to be their biggest contest of the year, especially a game like this. When every kid gets on the field to play against their arch-rival, it makes it a lot easier for everyone in practice the following week.

**Third in the state!** The Novi Boys Cross Country team started their season out knowing they would be in a much different position compared to last year — well, the truth ended up that they were in a much similar position.

For the fifth year in a row, the Wildcats made a trip to Brooklyn, Michigan to compete in the Michigan High School Athletic Association cross country finals and this year they took third.

"This was a great year," Coach Robert Smith said. "We had to make some new adjustments from last year to this year, but they were very subtle changes and worked well."

The Wildcats took third behind powerhouse Rockford and once-ranked first Millford. Their charge was led by none other than Mark Moore, the stellar sophomore that is following in the footsteps of the great runners that have come and gone through Novi before him.

"You know, we kind of knew he had it in him about a month ago," Smith said of Moore. "He had a break out race against Millford, and it really put him on the edge. He suddenly realized he could run at that level, and he's been running awesome ever since."

Moore took eighth in the state with a time of 15:47, marking the best time for a Novi runner, the second best time for a Kensington Valley Conference runner, and the best time out of all sophomores in every division.

When asked what Moore's potential was, Smith just let the numbers do the talking.

"I'm not one to make predictions because they can come back and bite you," Smith said. "He is a very dependable, solid

runner and has never had a bad race. Statistically, he's the number one sophomore in the state and I think that speaks for itself."

**Dragon Slayers:** St. George? Is that you? The Novi Wildcat defense looked like St. George as they lowered their lances and charged into the fray against a highly touted Lake Orion Dragons team November 8. The Cats, led by an incredible defense, became giant-killers for the second week in a row as they ambushed the Lake Orion squad with a 17-13 playoff victory.

"We're capable of doing anything we put our minds to," senior offensive lineman Matt Jezior said of the victory. "It has been incredible. When I heard that Novi hasn't gone this far since 1988, I realized that this is a great accomplishment on its own. It's a great feeling that no one is going to take away. It's with us forever. I know I'll always remember that night for the rest of my life."

The Wildcats, who have now won eight games this season, will find themselves in a familiar underdog position when they play the always powerful Detroit Catholic Central

continued on 16

## NOTICE

**NOTICE** is hereby given that on 1/23/03 at 2:30 pm the following will be sold by competitive bidding at American Self Storage, 24985 Haggerty Road, Novi, MI.

Space Number: N-1104  
Judith M. Pickup  
8 Household furnishings, 6 Misc. boxes/bags

Space Number: B-73  
Claudette Trammer  
7 Household furnishings, 3 Misc. household goods, 24 Misc. boxes, 1 Office Equipment

Space Number: R-847  
Mark Ellis  
1 Household furnishing, 20 Misc. boxes/bags

Space Number: K-598  
Julie Bieranowski  
5 Household furnishings, 4 Misc. boxes/bags

Space Number: P-1009  
Lear Corporation  
60 Misc. boxes/bags

Space Number: P-1032  
MicroLite Technologies  
Lee Taylor  
2 Misc. small appliances, 1 TV, 35 Household furnishings, 15 Misc. household goods, 20 Misc. boxes/bags, 25 other misc items

Space Number: R-868  
MicroLite Technologies  
Lee Taylor  
1 Freezer, 5 Misc. small appliances, 20 Household furnishings, 15 Misc. household goods, 30 Misc. boxes/bags, 2 Toys, 1 Hand tool, 2 Lawn care equipment, 6 Office Equipment, 10 other misc items  
(1-29-03 NN HT00031399)

## NOTICE

**NOTICE** is hereby given that on 1/23/03 at 3:30 pm the following will be sold by competitive bidding at Estate Storage, 21650 Novi Rd., Novi, MI.

Space Number: 266  
Ram Subramanian  
23055 Hayden St.  
Farmington MI 48336  
30 Misc. boxes/bags

Space Number: 534  
Lear Corporation  
Interior Systems Division  
5200 Auto Club Rd  
Dearborn MI 48128  
28 Misc. boxes/bags

Space Number: 583  
Jermaine Daggatt  
20509 Northville Place Dr.  
Ann 48112  
Northville MI 48167  
1 Misc. small appliances, 7 Household furnishings, 30 Misc. boxes/bags, 2 Office Equipment, 4 other misc items

Space Number: 452  
Julie Norton  
31831 Shiawassee  
Farmington Hills MI 48336  
6 Household furnishings, 4 Misc. household goods, 30 Misc. boxes/bags, 2 Toys, 1 Recreation equipment

Space Number: 322  
Deborah Stearns  
P.O. Box 606  
Northville MI 48167  
2 Misc. small appliances, 6 Household furnishings, 8 Misc. household goods, 30 Misc. boxes/bags, 4 Clothing, 6 Toys, 6 other misc items

Space Number: 233  
Kathleen Givers  
29731 Wexford Blvd  
Novi MI 48377  
1 Dryer, 2 Misc. small appliances, 10 Household furnishings, 10 Misc. household goods,  
(01-02-03-03 NN HT00031405)

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Sports

continued from 16

Shamracks.  
"We've been in the underground every time, including against Millard the first week," junior Hreeto Pantalos said. "No one thought we could beat Lake Orion, we could beat Central, if we can beat Catholic Central, we can go out there and play them hard, we might surprise them too."  
The Wildcats found themselves down 6-0 in the opening quarter as stellar Lake Orion runningback Roger Allison plunged into the endzone from five yards out before Tom Simon tied the game and blocked the point-after attempt to hold the Dragons' lead.  
The Novi gridlers were quick to shock the Lake Orion faithful in the stands as they marched down the field and put the ball through the uprights from 27 yards out with Mark Angelucci hitting the kick. Trailing 6-3, the Wildcats weren't willing to let things fall apart on them at that point, and took the ball on a march down the field before senior Chase Chandler gave his squad the 10-6 lead as he pounded in the ball from three yards away with two minutes, 10 seconds remaining on the clock.

An inspirational to all: You would never know it by looking at Hreeto Pantalos as he watches the game from the sideline with his familiar winter hat pulled over his head. But he has cancer.

You see Pantalos and he's pretty much all smiles all the time as he makes his way along the sideline in the coaches' box and watches the game play out with keen, knowing eyes. He limps, and when you are around him that's the only indication of why he isn't out on the field on full pads.

"I would have probably been watching the game from the sidelines even if I were in uniform," Pantalos said with a slight laugh. "It's not much different than if I were playing right now."  
About a month and a half ago, Pantalos was what Novi Coach Tab Kelleporney considered a typical junior football player. He had the tools to play the game, just needed the experience to become a starter.

"He knows sports," Kelleporney said. "He knows all the college teams and even the pros. He watches them and he knows what they do on a week to week basis."  
Though Pantalos isn't sitting up, he's still a huge part of this team.

Cagers fall in district title tilt: Though the Novi Wildcats basketball team couldn't bring home the district title, they sure made a good run at it.

Falling to an incredibly tough Canton defense, the Wildcats put up as much of fight as they could manage with a 60-29 loss against the Chiefs. Though that was a tough loss for the "Cats to take, their top-notch performance the game prior was what let them take a shot at the title again.

The Wildcats were able to shut down a very strong Salem squad in overtime November 20 as they realized that the leadership of Laura Longo and Jessica Haggerty to help them in their victory.

"I thought both Laura and Jessica had great nights," Novi coach Dennis Cichonski said. "They really came through for us when they had to. Laura managed to stay out of four fouls in the last half of the game, Jessica really came through shooting her free throws in overtime."

Haggerty wished her mom, Julie, a happy birthday in style that night, sinking 7-of-10 in the overtime period to give the Wildcats a 41-31 victory.

Smith has good showing at states: The Novi Wildcats were also represented at the meet, with stellar senior jumper Amanda Smith making waves in the state finals.

Her time in the 100 freestyle earned Smith a 15th-place finish as she completed the sprint in a time of 54.28 seconds.

Smith also managed to get a goal mark in the 50 free as she collected a 14th-place finish with her time of 24.63 in the very high competitive event.

Though only sporting a single swimmer in the final day of the state finals meet, the Wildcats managed to walk away with a 35th place finish out of the best teams in the state as Smith collected five points for her team and her coaches.

Northville ends Novi soccer season: Saturday's loss to the Northville Mustangs in the district final marked the end of the season for Novi soccer, and the end of high school soccer careers for four Novi athletes.

Tina Fennelly, Margaret Ggriich, Christine Jewell, and Karrie Smith will all be heading away from Novi High School and leaving their memories of high school soccer behind.

"I'm not playing soccer in college and I'm going to miss it," said Jewell.  
Both Jewell and Fennelly will be heading to Central Michigan University next year and Smith will be going to New York to study fashion. Smith credits soccer as something that has taught her a lot about life and has helped her make decisions.

"There are lessons that I have learned through things, and one of them is never giving up," she said. Smith also said that soccer has inspired her to go out and do things because she feels it is the right things to do.  
The teammates will remember the friendships that they have made through soccer and also the big games in which the team performed.

"I've made a lot of friends through soccer," Jewell noted. Smith feels similarly.  
"They're all awesome girls,"

by slower — was finished in 62. "And then it was over for everyone else," Smith said. "I'm just kept powering away. No one was able to maintain that speed and hope to have any legs left."

When Moore finished up his run in the mile, he turned around and trotted his way to a first-place finish in the 3200-meter run as well.

"After a few laps I think Tim realized that it was not his day to break nine minutes," Smith said. "After he realized that, he just ran to win."  
And win he did. Moore's time of 9:21.9 was nothing to scoff at as he blasted his way ahead of the pack and finished out the race without much trouble.

Southall falls in title game: The Novi Wildcats softball team made the best run they could into the district playoffs, winning their first-round game before falling to South Lyon in the title match.

The Wildcats showed that the playoffs were the beginning of a new season when they topped the Northville Mustangs, a team that had been earlier in the regular season, 11-0. The Mustangs then fell to a very tough South Lyon team 3-1.

"We had runners in scoring position, but couldn't get that timely hit," Novi coach Sunny Littoral said.  
The Wildcats found themselves behind in the contest as South Lyon's pitcher, Lindsay Norton, ripped a triple and scored on a bad relay throw from the outfield.

The Wildcats committed two costly throwing errors, which ultimately led to the Lion victory.

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Records broken: The Novi Wildcats have had ups and downs in the recent weeks of the season, but neither have changed their ultimate goal of having a good showing at the regional meet.

The "Cats, led by coach Robert Smith, fell to the Milford Redskins 76-61 in a Kensington Valley Conference match up before topping the Pinckney Pirates 83-54 in another KVC contest.

In a non-scored, non-league event, called the Last Chance Meet in Ann Arbor, the Wildcats even manage to make their mark on the record books.

The Cats went into action at the Last Chance Meet, which is designed to assist athletes to improve their regional seeding, as Tim Moore broke his old school record with a nine minute, 0.17 second run in the 3200-meters, snapping his old record of 9:01.5.

Not to be outdone, senior Scott Kortlandt ran a 14.83-second high hurdles to set the Novi High School mark, breaking the old record of 15.05 set by Eric Brandon in 1995.

Soccer knows how to win: The Novi Wildcats girls' soccer team blasted Hartland in a Kensington Valley Conference matchup after beating South Lyon and tying Brighton in other KVC contests to kick the season off.

The Wildcats, led by coach Brian O'Leary, blasted Hartland 9-0 after tying Brighton 1-1 and pouncing South Lyon 10-0.  
The Wildcats simply dominated the Hartland Eagles, outshooting them 47-2 as Katie Ales, Lisa Checobelli, Kerrin Timar, Kristi Timar and Nikki Herman scored a single goal each, and Chelsea Aiyeh and Maureen Pawlak scored two goals apiece. Amanda Church made two saves for the Shutout.

KVC Champs: The Novi Wildcats tennis team made a goal of winning the Kensington Valley Conference title at the beginning of the year and the did just that.  
The "Cats, led by coach Jim Hanson, beat Pinckney 5-3 May 13 to earn the title before going on to the final Howell. The Wildcats then took to the field of winning in their regional, but failed to make it out against some of the toughest teams around.

"I am very proud of these players," Hanson said. "I thought their good play carried over into the Regional, but it was a very difficult regional."  
Difficult indeed. The Wildcats had to face such teams as Rochester Adams and Rochester. The team scored 14 points, but needed 18 to gain admittance into the state finals.

"Five of our eight flights made the semi-finals," Hanson said. "We just needed to pull off a couple of more wins. We were pretty close and had some very close matches in the semis."

Bowing out of the Regional was

not the news of the hour though. The Wildcats were able to hoist their Kensington Valley Conference title with joy after blasting the Pinckney Pirates 5-3 in the final game they needed to win to secure their crown.

"We officially won it with our match against Pinckney," Hanson said. "It was a well played match for both teams. We pulled off a close 5-3 win there."  
The "Cats didn't earn the title through luck, but rather hard work.

"We've pretty much been playing the best tennis of the season for both teams. We pulled off a you look at our league meets and at the scores, most of them would have went either way."

The "Cats topped a good week off by beating Howell as well. "Howell is much improved from previous years," Hanson said. "We knew after Monday that we had won the conference and we weren't about to let Howell wreck our undefeated season in duals."

Mebl qualifies for states: With horrible conditions seemingly slowing everything and everyone down, the Novi Wildcats girls' track and field team is happy to be sending one to the Lower Peninsula Track and Field Finals in Rockford June 1.

The "Cats, led by coach Sue Tomasek, will be sending Jen Mehl, a sophomore, to the Finals after she notched a clearance of 9-foot-6 in the pole vault May 16 to earn herself a rare and coveted place in Rockford.

"That's big," Tomasek said. "We're really proud of her. She had cleared 9-foot twice before going into the Regional and she said she wanted to get 9-6. She nailed it."  
Knights miss state cut: For the first time in the club team's five years of existence, the Northville Novi Knights failed to make the state championship tournament — but, hey, there is always next year.

The Knights, who are made up of Novi and Northville players, fell to St. Joseph's 8-0 in the semi-final round of the Eastern Division playoffs May 11 after stomping Livonia 20-0 the game prior. The Knights were also able to trounce Berkley 56-3 May 8.

Lacrosse makes final four: The Novi Wildcats lacrosse team knew that if they wanted to reach half of the goals they set for themselves, they would have to reach the Final Four for their first time since 1998 — they did just that.

With a 11-4 win over DeLaSalle High School May 21 and a 9-4 victory over Gracie Point North May 23, the Wildcats earned themselves a trip to Birmingham United's homefield in the Final Four game. Among those who will be difficult to replace will be Drew Doll — one of five Michigan candidates for the All-American team.

Linksters notch tough win: The Novi girls' golf team snagged their second win of the season last week against the Pinckney Pirates.  
After falling to Howell last Tuesday, Novi came back and won a close match against Pinckney,

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REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

ADVERTORIAL



Photo by Phil Foley

In the back, left to right, Lisa Cervantes, Rhonda Rasmussen, Lindsey Chomluk and Jan Hoelt; middle, Sue Kelly and Dr. Kirk; seated is Dr. Crissman.

Sophisticated eyecare awaits at Town & Country

The care patients receive at Town & Country Eyecare is as sophisticated as its name implies. Located in the Oakpointe Plaza, the office is situated between the upscale city of Novi and the sophisticated country atmosphere of Northville.

Dr. Timothy Kirk, a resident of Novi since 1988, first opened the office in 1994 and is celebrating nine years in business. His goal was always to blend the practice while providing patients with high-quality, personalized care.

"My hope was to eventually be busy enough where we could involve another doctor in the practice to provide additional expertise and availability to our patients," Kirk said.

And he's done just that. Dr. Amy Crissman, doctor of optometry and fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, joined the practice in October. Crissman brings a wide range of experience with her allowing her to treat patients of all ages. She specializes in diagnosis and treatment of ocular diseases, specialty lens fittings for astigmatism as well as bifocal lenses.

Crissman is experienced in treating dry eye syndrome, a disease that can lead to serious eye health problems, such as an increased risk of infection and scarring. There can be many different reasons people experience dry eye syndrome.

"It's not just a nuisance," she said. "It can cause harm if left untreated."  
Following an examination of the eyes, Crissman can suggest an effective treatment that can keep your eyes healthy and feeling comfortable.

"Retesting drops are a basic treatment but I also do a painless procedure called punctal occlusion where I put a plug into the tear duct to keep your tears on your eye instead of them draining away," she said.

Vision rehabilitation is another area that interests Crissman. She trained at Royal Oak Beaumont's Low Vision Clinic and beginning this spring she will work closely with patients at Town & Country Eyecare who experience low vision, helping them to regain some vision or to overcome their disability through the use of magnifiers or telescopes.

"It's scary when you can no longer read or drive because of low vision," she said. "Macular degeneration is the leading cause of blindness for those over the age of 65 and currently has no cure. Rehabilitation is the only answer as our population ages, we need to meet the needs of this disease."

The addition of Dr. Crissman to the office of Town & Country Eyecare simply reinforces the goals Dr. Kirk has held for his practice since opening: That patients will receive the highest quality and personalized service available.

"What sets us apart is our high-tech equipment and high quality of personalized service," Crissman said. "When you come into our office you will have the time you need with either Dr. Kirk or myself. We could probably schedule more people an hour but we really don't want to have people just being a number going in and out the door. We want to take the time to help them. When I go to the doctor I have a million questions to ask, so when I'm working with a patient I try to go over everything step-by-step so that they don't need to wonder what it is I'm doing or what I'm finding."

That personalized care goes hand-in-hand with the doctors' commitment to helping their patients to see clearly and comfortably. Town & Country specializes

TOWN & COUNTRY

Meet Dr. Crissman during an open house being held at Town & Country Eyecare titled "New Year, New Eyes, New You" from 8:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 11 Novi office located on Novi Road, south of 9 Mile, in the Oakpointe Plaza office. It's an informal fun and risk-free opportunity to learn more about contact lenses for astigmatism, bifocal lenses and contact lenses that could change your eye color.

For additional information contact the office at (248) 347-7800 or visit it on the Web at [www.eyecare.com](http://www.eyecare.com). Hours are 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Friday, closed Wednesday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

Business

Training options

Would-be businesspeople will get a chance to examine their entrepreneurial skills, learn how to implement their ideas and receive a list of pitfalls to avoid when starting a business during the How to Start a Business seminar Jan. 9, at the Oakland County Executive Office Building, 1200 N. Telegraph, in Pontiac. The seminar will run from 9 a.m. to noon and cost \$30, which includes the Starting a Business in Oakland County book published by the Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services.

Jan. 16 Small Business Solutions, P.C. will present a seminar on choosing the best legal entity for a sole proprietorship. Seminar attendees will have an opportunity to examine the differences between Limited Liability Companies (LLC), partnerships and corporations. Each entity offers unique advantages and disadvantages. The seminar will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at the Oakland County Executive Office Building and will explore the key considerations for each and the effects on the business operation. The seminar will cost \$30 per person.

A Southfield Public Library research expert will introduce participants to sources of competitive and demographic information important to any business owner in a seminar called Market Research: What It Is & How to Do It Jan. 23. Both print and electronic data will be discussed as well as research methods and strategies during workshop which will be held from 9 a.m. to noon in the Marquette Room of the Southfield Public Library, 26000 Evergreen Rd., Southfield. There is \$30 per person fee for the seminar, which includes materials.

Oakland County Business Center staffers are backing at the Oakland County Executive Office Building from 9 a.m. to noon on Jan. 30 for a seminar called How to Write a Business Plan. People planning to become small business owners will have an opportunity to develop a plan to serve as their road map to success. The fee is \$40, which includes all materials.

Space for each of the center's programs is limited; pre-registration is required. Call (248) 858-0783 for directions and registration for any of the business seminars.

For more information about programs and services available through the Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services office, visit its Web site at [www.co.oakland.mi.us/peds](http://www.co.oakland.mi.us/peds).

Sofin winner

Making this month's mortgage payment is easier and a lot less stressful for Warren resident Jennifer Simpson, the second to win in the year-long Sofin, Mortgage monthly raffle.

"I've never won anything in my life, says Simpson.  
"It's going to be nice to have some extra cash this holiday season."  
"This is our way to give back to the community," states

Bud LaCombe, president of Sofin Mortgage. "Sofin is truly dedicated to our consumer's financial well being!"

Homeowners do not have to be a client of Sofin, Mortgage to participate. Each month for the next year Sofin, Mortgage will randomly select an individual from the raffle and pay their residential mortgage payment up to \$2,000.

Homeowners can enter each raffle by calling (866) 677-6346 or by visiting [www.sofinmortgage.com](http://www.sofinmortgage.com).

For complete rules and regulations please visit Web site.

Town & Country Eyecare wishes you a Happy New Year of Clear Vision

**OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION!!!**

Have You Ever Wondered If Contact Lenses Were Right for You?  
Come join us for a fun, risk-free opportunity to learn more about lenses for astigmatism, bifocal contact lenses or lenses that could change your eye color at our

**"New Year, New Eyes, New You"  
Contact Lens Open House  
Tuesday, January 28th, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
Town & Country Eyecare**

Dr. Crissman will be hosting this informal evening including:  
- A gourmet coffee bar and healthy treats  
- A chance for you to try on one of five natural-looking colored contacts  
- A raffle for great door prizes such as a free contact lens fitting and six-month supply worth up to \$250.00!!

Call and reserve a space for you and a friend at 248-347-7800

Enter to Win an **AUTOGRAPHED CHRIS DRAPER JERSEY!**

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	8:30 a.m. - noon	Saturday

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# Sports

continued from 18  
Winter 2002

**District champs:** The Novi Wildcats basketball team pulled off something they hadn't been able to do since the school was a registered at the Class B level — win a district championship. Led by coach Pat Schlueter, the Wildcats followed the on-court lead of Shaun Dickon, Jamie Schram, Chase Chandler and Matt Emmenecker as they tore up the hardwood to earn the amazing victory. The 'Cats, who were on a roll from the beginning of the contest, proved that if you want to win, you have to play fundamental basketball. If these guys are anything, they are fundamental right to the core.

**Volleyball knows victory recipe:** The Novi volleyball team continued to show their fans and their opponents why they are one of the top teams in the Kensington Valley Conference with two more wins collected in two-game fashion. The Wildcats, led by coach Julie Fissette, notched a 15-6, 15-9 victory over the Lakeland Eagles before topping the South Lyon Lions 15-9, 16-14 in a tough make-up game Feb. 18. Fissette noted that the game was one of intense momentum, with the final change in tide going in Novi's favor towards the end of the contest. The Wildcats got a helping hand from the steady play of Carmen Simkins, Angie Schmitt, Crystal Corte and Brittany Barrett. Simkins collected seven serving aces, five in the first

game, while Schmitt collected seven kills and two aces while Corte notched five kills and two solo blocks as well as five aces. Barrett, who is a defensive specialist with the team, played well in the back row. Fissette noted that there were plenty of fans present at the contest, including the Milford Redskins, who were no doubt there to get some valuable scouting time in.

**Hockey smotheres Pirates:** The Novi Wildcats hockey team continued its winning ways with a Kensington Valley Conference victory over the Pinckney Pirates Feb. 14. The 'Cats, who are coached by Dan Phelps, stayed at the top of their game against the ever-improving Pirates and came away with a 6-4 win. The game, which was held at the Novi hockey team's Senior Night, found the first four goals for the Wildcats being scored by seniors. Robby Overfield started the night off right for the 'Cats as he found the back of the net late in the first period with assists being credited to Justin Collins and Bryan Ellis. Just a minute later, Adam Haberman collected a short-handed goal for the Wildcats on a pass from Garet Malott before Overfield added another score to put the Novi tigers up 3-0.

**Bankers have strong swims:** The Novi Wildcats boys swim team continued to look strong with a big win over the Walled Lake Western Warriors Feb. 13 before they went on to swim the MISCA meet. The Wildcats took home a 137-49 win over the Walled Lake Western Warriors Feb. 13 before sending Ian Robertson and the gang to the MISCA meet Feb. 16. In the MISCA meet, Robertson made a name for himself in the 100 fly. Not

only did he qualify for the state meet with his time of 54.09 seconds, he also broke the Novi High School record in the process. Joining Robertson in the 200 medley relay, Jordan Moblo, Juhwan Yoo and Jack Tyler finished the race in 1:43.11, just two one-hundredths of a second. The Wildcats notched first place finishes in the 200 Medley relay (1:43.35), the 200 free (Roberson, 1:55.10), the 200 IM (Tyler, 2:10.60), the 100 fly (Tyler, 55.93), the 100 free (Matt Shafer, 56.87), the 500 free (Moblo, 5:18.10), the 100 backstroke (Shafer, 1:04.55), the 100 breaststroke (Taewan Yoo, 1:09.47) and the 400 free relay (3:47.46).

**Second place:** Last season, the Northville-Novi Wild Stangs gymnastics team upset the favored Rochester Adams squad to win the state championship title — this season, the Wild Stangs didn't win the crown, but they sure had Rochester Adams on pins and needles. The Wild Stangs, led by coach Lindsay Schultz, took second place in the state finals competition held at Rockford High School with a final score of 144.575. The squad took second only to the highly touted Rochester Adams gymnasts, who notched the title victory with a final of 147.2.

**Wrestlers miss districts:** For the first time in recent history, the Novi Wildcat wrestling team failed to make it out of their district. Last Thursday, the Wildcats held their own in a tough districts and made it to the district finals where they lost to Howell. With the injuries occurring to five seniors, it was hard for the team to recover. Senior Andy Becker never recovered from his injury and did not take part in the Team or Individual Districts com-

petition. Scott Kortlandt and Brian Ong both came off injuries to compete at the team district competition. In the first match of the competition Novi beat South Lyon 42-30. Ong and Kortlandt each won, along with Craig Heam, Churella, J. R. Muldoon, Chris Stallard, Matt Harsha-Strong, Slovan, Kortlandt and Josh Buck. Stallard wrestled very strongly against South Lyon to beat Dave Edwards in overtime. Edwards was a state qualifier last year and a tough opponent. After beating South Lyon, the Wildcats did not have the strength to beat Howell in the District finals.

**Cheer working hard:** The Novi Varsity cheer team has made an excellent showing on the last two Saturdays, performing at the Oakland-Macomb meet and hosting the Novi Invitational. On Saturday January 26, the Novi varsity cheerleaders headed to Grosse Pointe South to compete in the Oakland-Macomb meet. The team made a strong showing and finished second out of the five Class A teams. The team began the day with a strong showing in the vocal area of round one. Out of ten points, the team received 9.5, 9.5, and 10 for their cheer in the areas of voice inflection, clarity, volume and word choice. Novi made some cheers at the beginning that they feel may have helped their performance. The team kept on going strong with their performance in round two. The first part was the precision drill in which the team did very well. In the precision drill the girls received a 9.5, 9.5 and 9. The team improved nearly 60 points above the previous week. Their final score was 672.5 only behind Sterling Heights Stevenson's 697 and ahead of Troy Athens, who they were behind last week, who had 650 points.

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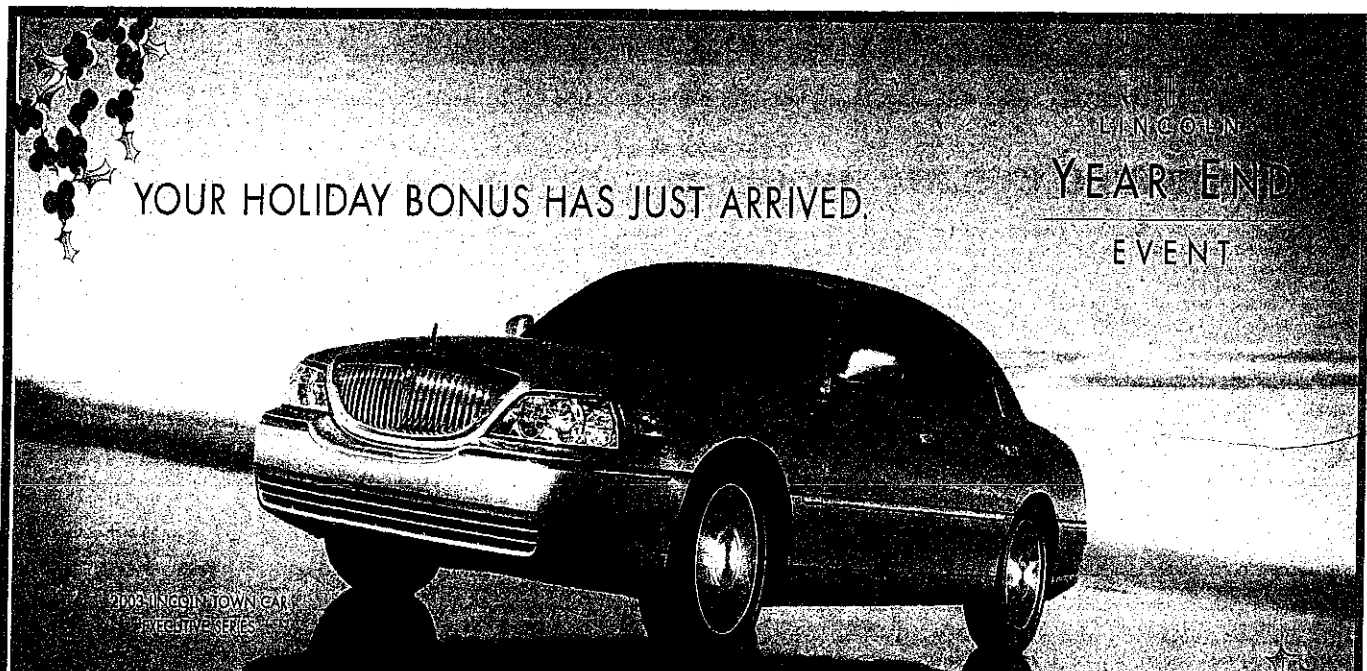
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