



# Novi News

Your hometown newspaper serving Novi and the Lakes area for 47 years

Thursday, January 9, 2003

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50¢

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Novi, Michigan

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Look inside for your  
**GREEN SHEET**  
Classifieds

Greensheetclassifieds.com

**INSIDE**



**Ready, Set, Paint**

Taylor Lenz, 9, works on the finish of a ceramic fairy at Novi's 'Ready, Set, Paint' early last week. She is joined by her mother Jan on their mother/daughter date.

— Page 6A



**Wax Museum**

Brianna Blossfeld gives her spiel as Queen Victoria during Deerfield Elementary's Wax Museum presentation.

— Page 8A

**Get Elmore**

Famed author Elmore Leonard will be signing copies of his latest collection of novels tonight at Borders Books and Music in Novi.

The Thursday, Jan. 9 signing, reading and discussion will bring Leonard to the Novi Town Center book store at 7 p.m. to celebrate his latest release, "When the Women Come out to Dance."

— Page 9A

**SPORTS**

**Fourth is fine**

The Novi Wildcats wrestling team headed into the ever-so-tough Oakland County meet and walked away with a dream of their own — a fourth-place finish.

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## City Council picks Dr. Sanghvi

### ■ Deroche's replacement picked during long, controversial process

By Victoria Sadlocha  
STAFF WRITER

Despite the fact the process overshadowed the appointment, Dr. May Sanghvi will be the newest member of the Novi City Council.

With a unanimous vote, the long-time Novi activist and prior year president of the Novi Rotary Club earned the nod to replace former councilman and current State Rep. Craig DeRoche.

But the decision did not come about without much controversy regarding the voting process, pre-conceived candidates and innuendoes of gender discrimination.

The controversy began before the appointment agenda item was called when Mayor Richard J. Clark asked members of council to mark their ballots so the vote would be tallied before the decision was requested during Monday's council meeting.

Novi City Councilwoman Laura

Lorenzo objected to the request and said assuming a ballot process is how the newest member would be appointed is presumptuous because she would like to see appointment by an open roll-call vote.

Novi City Mayor Pro-Tem Michelle Bononi agreed, stating there was nothing in council guidelines stating a ballot process was required and further referred to the prior appointment of former councilman Edward Kramer who was appointed by an open roll-call vote.

After a lengthy discussion, members decided to wait until the agenda item was called.

And when the time came, it took

three motions to make the Sanghvi announcement.

The first motion put on the table by Lorenzo was to appoint Planning Commission Chair Toni Nagy and tally with a roll-call vote.

The motion failed 2-to-4 with the dissenters being Lorenzo and Bononi.

The second motion placed on the table by Lorenzo was to appoint anyone to council with a roll-call vote.

"I see no reason why to do it any other way," Lorenzo said.

That motion also failed 2-to-4 with the dissenters being Lorenzo and Bononi.

"I still think we should pass the ballots," Clark urged members of council.

The final motion to vote by ballot and have Novi City Clerk Maryanne Cornelius read the results aloud passed 4-to-2 with the dissenters being Lorenzo and Bononi.

Bononi asked the motion include Cornelius must place each ballot on the over-head projector in addition to reading the votes, which was rejected.

After the meeting, Cornelius verified there were no other written remarks nor were there any crossed

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## Novi Planning Commission vote stalls retirement home expansion

### ■ Singh left "floundering"

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Planning Commission's decision not to decide left a manager for Singh Development Company "floundering" at its Dec. 18 meeting.

If commission members had voted yes or no on Singh's request for preliminary site plan approval for Phase Two of the company's Waltonwood at 12 Oaks project, Khanh Pham could have gone to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and City Commission. However the zoning board's decision to table the request put Pham into development limbo until at least the zoning board's Jan. 8 meeting.

That meant Pham could not present Singh's case to the ZBA for the four variances the company needs to complete the project.

The company could move forward with its existing plans for a 110-unit facility, but Pham told commission members that since completing the 141 units in Phase One, Singh's designers have concluded there were design errors in the project's second phase.

As a result, designers reoriented the building and cut the number of units from 110 to 80. That, however, increased the building size by 11,000 square feet leading commission member Tim Shroyer to opine, "I feel the property is overbuilt."

Pham noted that if his company hadn't put in a circulation drive at the planning commission's request as part of Phase One, there would be no need to seek any variances for Phase

Two. He added the changes Singh is seeking for the project would improve access for the least mobile residents of the assisted living facility.

Commission member Lynne Paul said she was concerned that Waltonwood's Phase Two plans call for a four-foot variance from the 50-foot exterior side yard setback requirement.

While Shroyer pointed out that the need for that variance could be eliminated by trimming four parking spaces from the plan, Pham said the spaces were needed to provide adequate access to the building for residents and their families.

He added that in order to meet the city's requirement for paving no more than 30 percent of the 13.41-acre site, his firm would have to eliminate seven parking spaces from the plan.

Pham told commission members that one of the reasons for re-orienting Phase Two of the project was to better define the main entrances to the project. He said designs were concerned that putting the main entrance to Phase One and Two might make things confusing for Emergency Medical Services crews.

"I like the intent of the project," said Shroyer. "However, there appear to be quite a few concerns and I don't want to send a no recommendation to city council."

An attempt to send the project to city council with a yes recommendation failed with only David Ruyle, Tim Sprague and David Avdoulos supporting it.

Pham said the delay could be costly since, "good construction crews are hard to come by out this way."

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

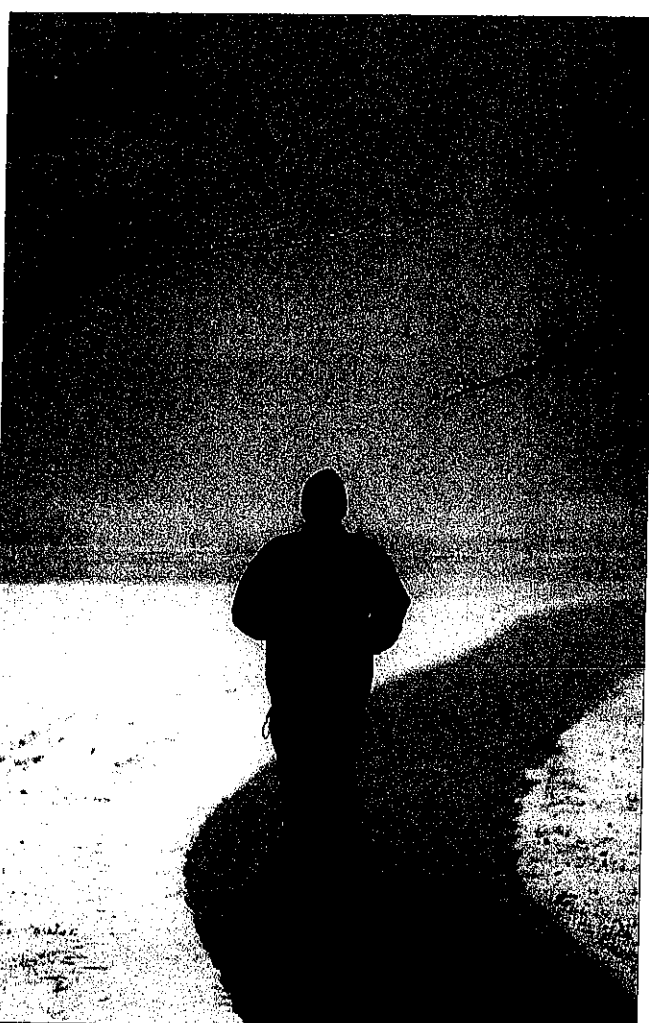


Photo by John Heider

### Running out of time

A jogger nearly disappears into the pea-soup thick fog along Ten Mile Road east of Taft as the year 2002 came to a close. Another fresh batch of snow blanketed the area Saturday night.

## Construction worker killed

By Erin Johnson  
STAFF WRITER

An employee of a local business was killed Dec. 30 while working on a construction project for the company.

William Amolsch, 43, died after a hole in which he was standing collapsed around him.

Lt. Mike Sutton of the Oakland County Sheriff Department's Highland substation said the accident occurred at around 3:30 p.m. He said Amolsch and other employees of Aqua Marine Pool and Spa, located on M-59 west of Hickory Ridge Road, were working on a project for the business at the time.

"They were doing some on-site construction," Sutton said.

He said the workers were setting a 4-foot drainage pipe into an approximately 10-15 feet deep hole. Sutton said Amolsch got into the hole to remove a chain that had been around the pipe.

"At that point there was a cave-in and he was buried," Sutton said.

Police and the Highland Township Fire Department were called and, while waiting for help to arrive, co-workers and other citizens attempted to dig Amolsch out. He was eventually removed by the fire department and pronounced dead at the scene.

Sutton said he wasn't aware of

any other construction related fatalities in the township last year. He also said the pool building company had the proper equipment for the construction the workers were doing.

Amolsch is survived by a wife and five children. A fund for the family has been set up through the Fifth Third Bank in Highland. For more information about how to contribute, contact the bank at (248)-887-4141.

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



Artist rendering courtesy Singh Development

Singh Development's plans would have reduced the number of living units, but increased the building's footprint by 11,000 square feet.

## Luckily, nobody injured in lengthy, low-speed car chase

By Victoria Sadlocha  
STAFF WRITER

No one was injured in a car chase involving Novi police and a Twelve Oaks Mall suspected shoplifter happening over Christmas weekend, police said.

Novi police officer Jeff Brown was brushed by the mirror of the suspect's vehicle the night of Dec. 28 as he tried to get away, but Chief of Police Douglas Shaeffer said

Brown was not harmed. No other injuries were sustained either as a result of the about 45-minute chase of Louis James Doyle, beginning in the Novi mall parking lot and extending west of the city into Livingston County.

What ended in a successful arrest of Doyle that Saturday night began as a routine shoplifting call, police said.

Novi police were called to the mall after the 65-year-old male was

allegedly stealing merchandise.

Novi Police Department dispatchers initially received the call from Twelve Oaks Mall security saying the man had stolen merchandise from Walden book store.

After taking the Pickney resident to the station and arresting him at about 7 p.m., police drove him to his sport utility vehicle parked in the Novi and 12 Mile roads lot.

Novi Lt. David Butler said the man did not want the officers to

drive him back to his vehicle, arousing suspicion.

A check on the vehicle's license plate revealed the GMC Yukon Doyle was driving was stolen.

The man then tried to flee the scene, brushing Brown with his vehicle before taking off.

"It turned into a fairly lengthy pursuit, but it was not at very high speed," Shaeffer said.

Shaeffer stressed the chase did not involve rates of speed exceeding

100 mph that are normally associated with police chases, but rather was at a safe and maintained pace.

The Novi Police Department was assisted by the Michigan State Police and the Livingston County Sheriff Department.

The chase ended at about 7:45 p.m. The suspect was arrested and taken to Oakland County Jail.

Doyle was charged with felonious assault with a motor vehicle, retail fraud and fleeing and eluding.



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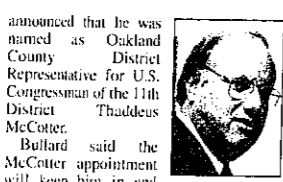
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# Former senator Bullard says good-bye Council picks Dr. Sanghvi

By Victoria Sadlocha  
STAFF WRITER



**B. Bullard Jr.**

Former State Senator Bill Bullard Jr. thanked the members of the council and the community for the support he received during his 20 years of service to the City of Novi and the City of Novi.

"I've really enjoyed my association with you and the City of Novi," Bullard told members of council.

The thanks were delivered during council's Monday meeting and served not only as a farewell, but a reintroduction of sorts as well.

Along with his recent election to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, Bullard

announced that he was named as Oakland County District Representative for U.S. Congressman of the 11th District, Thaddeus McCotter.

Bullard said the McCotter appointment will keep him in and around town and told members of council to call on him if the city needs anything from McCotter's office or from Washington, D.C.

The former senator also expressed his admiration for now fellow Oakland County Commissioner Hugh Crawford, and said that although he was elected to the commission to serve

Highland, Springfield, Holly and Rose, he would help Crawford out with Novi in anyway he could.

"If you ever need a second person to help you out..." Bullard quipped, followed by a statement he would always be there to fight for Novi.

Novi City Mayor Richard J. Clark returned the appreciation offered by Bullard and said the former senator and state representative did an outstanding job with the interest of the community at the forefront.

"This community will always appreciate the efforts you've expended on the community's

behalf," Clark said to Bullard during the meeting. "The state's loss is the county's benefit."

Bullard served as a state representative for 14 years and as a state senator for six years before being term-limited out of his position.

In addition to his appointment by McCotter, Bullard will serve a two-year term on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

The board experienced an unprecedented turnover this year as 12 new commissioners were sworn into office this month.

Lorenzo's ballot was in favor of Sanghvi, but contained what appeared to be a scribbled-out vote for Toni Nagy.

Lorenzo said she changed her vote from Toni Nagy to Dr. Sanghvi because he was the pre-conceived choice as far as she was concerned and assumed other members of council would be voting that way.

She said she has nothing against Sanghvi, she just felt Nagy was more qualified, but under the circumstances felt she would give Sanghvi the benefit of the doubt.

Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or at vsadlocha@ht.homecomm.net.

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downfalls or by revealing names of those voters not being considered at all.

"As the mayor says, read our names. I have no problem with that," Capello said.

Novi City Councilman David Landry further expressed his preference for a ballot vote, not because he wanted to withhold his vote, but rather because he thought it was an appropriate process when electing a member of the body actually conducting the vote.

Landry also denied comments suggesting a preconceived candidate existed.

All of the rocks surrounding the appointment is exactly why Novi City Councilman Louis Cosmas said he wanted to put the decision to the residents via a special election.

Beginning with the day DeRoche was nominated as state representative, the councilman publicly vocalized his desire to hold an election.

Although Cosmas admits he is in the minority with the election opinion, he said a vote would have been the only fair way to go and would have eliminated inside politics and outrageous displays such as the Jan. 6 appointment.

The candidates vying for the appointment were Toni Nagy, Michael Meyer, David Rujle, Robert Gatt, Frank Brennan and Dr. Sanghvi.

All candidates interviewed for the position during a special council meeting held Dec. 16.

Sanghvi will serve as the newest member of council until the city's November election when registered Novi voters will cast their votes for the vacated seat.

Planning Commission member and losing city council candidate David Rujle said he thinks council for their time, wishes Sanghvi good luck and said Sanghvi has 10 months and then the residents will have the power of the ballot.

Agreeing with Clark was Novi City Councilman Kim Capello saying he felt the ballot process was created to avoid embarrassment to voters of the community coming forth by having council members debate their possible

respective government.

The Novi Civic Center is located at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, on the south side between Tait and Novi roads.

For more information about the event, call Sheryl Walsh at (248) 735-5628.

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## Mayor prepares for State of the City address

By Victoria Sadlocha  
STAFF WRITER

All Novi residents are invited to attend the City of Novi State of the City Address occurring 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13 in the Novi Civic Center.

"The entire community is invited to attend and hear the accomplishments of the past year and goals for the future," said Sheryl Walsh, City of Novi community relations manager. "A reception will follow in the atrium."

The annual event, hosted by Novi Mayor Richard J. Clark and members of the Novi City Council, will take a look back at the accomplishments, hurdles and barriers broken by the city in 2002.

The anticipated address will additionally give residents a glimpse into the future as some of Novi's goals for 2003 will be expressed during the evening.

The assessment and forward thoughts will be delivered by the city's mayor to all in attendance and broadcasted live on Cable Channel

13 for home viewing.

The 2003 event marks the second year the address will be delivered during evening hours in a public setting.

Prior to 2002, the address was delivered at an annual luncheon sponsored by the Novi Chamber of Commerce.

The somewhat controversial decision to change the time, location and host of the event was made to accommodate more residents and further strengthen the mayor's ideology of fostering an open and

respective government.

The Novi Civic Center is located at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, on the south side between Tait and Novi roads.

For more information about the event, call Sheryl Walsh at (248) 735-5628.

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## Novi City Council Briefs

### Service pins

Novi City Manager Richard Helwig announced during the Jan. 6 Novi city council meeting that previously ordered service pins were being presented to city employees this week. The jewel-encrusted pins were approved by members of the city council last year as part of the city's objective to reward employees for their hard work and years of employment with the City of Novi.

The theme to this year's week of administration and respect is "Simply the Best" and Helwig said the song made popular by Tina Turner can be heard down the halls of the city offices as the staffers are honored.

### Sanitary sewer improvements

Approval to award a bid for sanitary improvements along 12 Mile Road to Lawrence M. Clark, Inc. in the amount of \$331,355 was unanimously agreed upon by members of the Novi city council during the Jan. 6 meeting.

The request authorizes the rezoning of 60 acres located in the west side of Wixom Road south of Grand River Avenue from OST to one family residential. The request was needed to make way for the proposed new location of Detroit Catholic Central High School. The Master Plan for Land Use was modified at the planning commission meeting of Dec. 4, 2002 to designate the property to single family residential. A provision is attached to the approval, stating if Catholic Central does not build within five years, the property would revert back to prior zoning.

### More sandstone

Members of council unanimously voted during the Jan. 6 city council meeting to request the acceptance of two parcels of property owned by Sandstone as park land in accordance with the Sandstone settlement agreement. The properties are an 11-acre parcel east of Novi and south of 13 Mile roads and a three-acre parcel west of Novi and south of 13 Mile roads. The 2002 taxable value on the 11-acre parcel was

\$121,760, resulting in \$5,988 in 2002 taxes. The 2002 taxable value of the three-acre parcel was \$22,820, resulting in \$1,123 in 2002 taxes. City officials said the negative recommendation was based on study results provided by Hydro-Logic Associates and on the basis the properties would not provide needed active recreation opportunities due to high percentages of wetlands and wooded uplands.

Agreeing with Clark was Novi City Councilman Kim Capello saying he felt the ballot process was created to avoid embarrassment to voters of the community coming forth by having council members debate their possible

## Calendar of Events

- Borders Bookstore book signing: Elmore Leonard's "When the Women Come Out to Dance"**  
DATE: Thursday, January 9  
TIME: 7 p.m.  
LOCATION: Borders Bookstore, 43075 Creescent Blvd., Novi  
DETAILS: A discussion, reading and signing with the author.  
PHONE: 248-347-0780.
- Luther King Jr. Day**  
DATE: Monday, January 20, 2003  
TIME: 5:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Walled Lake Central High School, 1600 Oakley Park Rd.  
DETAILS: Potluck dinner, followed by keynote speaker, Mr. Huel Perkins, FOX 2 News anchor, "Living the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."  
PHONE: Alice Bender, 248-956-4200.
- Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce "Heart of the Lakes Mystery Gala"**  
DATE: Saturday, February 1, 2003  
LOCATION: El Dorado Country Club, 2869 N. Pontiac Trail, Commerce Twp.  
TIME: 7 p.m.  
DETAILS: Tickets are \$35 per person. Buffet dinner, cash bar, dancing, live and silent auctions. Benefit to Cardiac Care Program at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital and Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce's community and business services.  
PHONE: Chamber office (248) 624-2826.
- Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce membership luncheon**  
DATE: Tuesday, January 21, 2003  
LOCATION: El Dorado Country Club, 2869 N. Pontiac Trail, Commerce Twp.  
TIME: 11:30 a.m.-reception, noon-lunch.  
DETAILS: This is the annual membership luncheon, installation of officers and awards presentation.  
PHONE: Chamber office (248) 624-2826.
- Blues Series**  
DATE: Thursdays  
LOCATION: The Boathouse, 142 Walled Lake Dr., Walled Lake  
TIME: 8 p.m.  
DETAILS: On-going blues series includes Peter "Madcat" Ruth Jan. 9; Stacia Jan. 16; Brett Lucas, Jan. 23; and Eric Noden Jan. 30.  
PHONE: (248) 669-1441
- Novi Toastmasters**  
DATE: First and third Tuesdays of the month  
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile, Novi  
TIME: 7:30-8:30 p.m.  
DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills, voice your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.  
PHONE: For more information, call Colleen at (248) 685-9226.
- "Novi Healers" Quilting Group**  
DATE: Second and fourth Wednesdays of the month  
LOCATION: Novi Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook, Novi  
TIME: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.  
DETAILS: Fabric donations welcome.  
PHONE: (248) 347-0414
- New YOPS chapter in Novi**  
DATE: Wednesdays  
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons Activities Room, 25075 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi  
TIME: 1 p.m. weigh in, 1:30 pm. meeting  
DETAILS: \$20/yearly membership registration, includes handbook, \$1 meeting.  
New members welcome.
- Madonna University course "The Magic of Music for the Stage"**  
DATE: Thursdays, beginning January 9  
TIME: noon-2 p.m.  
LOCATION: Madonna University, 3660 Schoolcraft, Livonia, Kresge Hall.  
DETAILS: Course will be taught by mezzo-soprano Barbara White, Associate professor, voice. Opportunities for solo, duet and ensemble performances will be semi-staged at Kresge hall on campus. Non-credit fee is \$270.  
PHONE: Contact Linette Popoff-Parks, music department chair at (734) 432-5709 for more information.
- Send calendar items to Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48168 or e-mail to cstoney@ht.homecomm.net.**

- Providence Park**  
All Community/Health Events are held at Providence Park, Nov. 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi, unless otherwise noted.
- Cancer Support Group**  
DAYS: first and third Tuesday of every month  
TIME: 6:30-8 p.m.  
DETAILS: free, for adult cancer patients and significant others  
PHONE: (877) 345-5500
- Alcoholics Anonymous**  
DAYS: every Tuesday and Thursday  
TIME: noon  
LOCATION: Providence Medical Office Center-Nov, 39500 W. 10 Mile Rd.  
DETAILS: free, all welcome  
PHONE: (248) 348-9362
- BOOST CAMP (through Providence Center for the Healing Arts)**  
DAYS: first Wednesday of each month  
TIME: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
LOCATION: Providence Park-Nov or Providence Hospital and Medical Center-PMB, 16001 W. Nine Mile Rd., Southfield. Camp rotates between locations.  
DETAILS: \$35 per person, includes lunch and materials. Scholarships available. The program offers participants a refreshing and holistic new approach to wellness and healthy living.  
PHONE: (248) 465-4300 or (248) 849-3321. Registration is required.
- Stroke Support Group**  
DAYS: first Thursday of every month  
TIME: 7 p.m.  
DETAILS: free  
PHONE: (248) 465-4190
- Parents Supporting Parents**  
DAYS: fourth Thursday of every month  
TIME: 7 p.m.  
DETAILS: free, for parents coping with the loss of an infant through miscarriage, stillbirth or newborn death  
PHONE: (248) 849-5342
- Overseas Anonymous**  
DAYS: every Friday  
TIME: 7 p.m.  
DETAILS: free, for overseas looking for a support group.  
PHONE: Help line, (313) 438-HELP or (248) 474-9456

## County offering seminars for business owners, entrepreneurs

The staff at the Oakland County Business Center will be offering a series of seminars for business owners and entrepreneurs throughout January.

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 will be back at the Oakland County Executive Office Building from 9 a.m. to noon 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, so pre-registration is required. Call (248) 858-0783 for directions and registration for any of January 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).

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Ask About Our...

# Controversial concrete barrier comes between businesses

By Victoria Sadlocha  
STAFF WRITER

Back in, back out. Back in, back out. This is what motorists accessing Jonna's Fine Wine on Grand River Avenue just east of Novi Road went through as they tried to leave the parking area during the holiday season and into the new year.

The reason? Horizontal blocks of concrete installed west of Jonna's parking area between the long-time party store and the former location of Bank's Vacuum and Sewing.

The placement of the low-to-the-ground dividers angered proprietors of Jonna's Fine Wine as they painfully watched and listened to their customers' andres, difficulty accessing the store on the south side of the avenue.

Further linking Jonna's was the issue the blocks were placed by its neighbor, Novi Party Store.

Said Jonna's Fine Wine said the blocks were in place on Nov. 11, at about 8:30 p.m., dampening the holiday spirit.

The son of the owner said the placement of the barriers came as soon as the owner of Novi Party Store finalized the purchase of the property located west of Jonna's.

Jonna's, now one store in a strip of property owned by proprietors of the Novi Party Store, is feeling the pinch and feels the decision to place the barriers and the inconvenience caused to its customers is an emergency, Senawi said.

"It is unethical," he said, "My neighbor is a millionaire who is getting his way."

Senawi feels their long-time Novi establishment is the culprit of being "bottled" by the new Novi Party Store.

"It is a cheap tactic to put us out of business," Senawi said. "He also wants our liquor license."

Since the acquisition of the property to the west of Jonna's, Senawi also said the owner of Novi Party Store blocked access to his back garage car.

"I'm looking out for my public and looking out for myself," Senawi said. "I just want to make sure this doesn't happen to another Novi business."

Senawi said he is also just sick after days of watching customers hit their cars against the barriers camouflaged under the snow and leaving what would happen if there was a fire?

"If a fire truck was to come here, where would they park?" he questioned.

Senawi contacted city officials to show them the barriers he felt were wrongly placed.

He said he was more than satisfied with the city's quick response and cooperation.

Novi Assistant City Manager Clay Pearson confirmed officials did go out to the site and determined some of the barriers were placed in the right-of-way.

Pearson said the owner of the Novi Party Store was very cooperative when approached on Jan. 3 and said the barriers would be removed as soon as his contractor could come out to the Novi location which would move them likely by Jan. 6.

The assistant city manager said the owner of Novi Party Store said he also planned on coming to the city to view the site plans of the newly purchased property.

Novi Party Store was contacted, but was told the owner was out of town for several days on business.

An employee did confirm a meeting took place between the owner and city officials and said the barriers would be removed probably by the end of the day on Jan. 6 and placed according to the city's ordinances.

As of Jan. 7 at noon, the barriers were not removed, but Senawi said the city arrived on the property at about 1 p.m. to take care of the task.

Pearson confirmed the city decided to remove the barriers on Jan. 7 after learning the owner of Novi Party Store's contractor would not be able to remove the concrete blocks until the end of the week.

Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for The Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or at vsadl@home.com.net.



Mark Senawi, an Assistant Manager at Novi's Jonna's Party Store on Grand River Ave., points to concrete dividing blocks installed by a nearby landlord that Jonna's customers are hitting with their cars when backing up.

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## Library Lines

### Novi Public Library

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

**The Chapter Club**  
The Chapter Club, our book discussion group for grades fourth through sixth, meets Saturday, Jan. 11, from 11 a.m.-noon. We'll be discussing "The Coy" by Theodore Taylor, snacking on goodies, and playing games. Drop-ins are welcome.

**Board meeting**  
The Novi Library Board of Directors meets Monday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room. Community members are welcome to attend.

**Tot Time**  
Children ages 12-24 months are invited to join us for a half hour of stories, songs, and games on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 11 a.m. Registration is not required, but space is limited, so toddlers and caregivers only, please.

**Learn English on the computer**  
The ELLIS program (English Language Learning Instruction System) is being offered to anyone who wishes to learn English or wants to improve his or her English skills.

**Internet practice lab for seniors**  
Practice makes perfect! Join us for an opportunity to practice any of the skills you've learned in our Internet classes on Thursday, Jan. 23, from 7-9 p.m. The class covers a brief history of the Internet, terminology, and searching techniques. A question-and-answer period and hands-on practice are included. Please register in advance for all Internet classes in person or by calling the library.

**Registration for Children's Programs**  
January 8 is the first registration day for non-Wixom residents to register for programs offered in the Children's Department. Call (248) 624-2512 and ask for the Children's Department.

**Mother-Daughter Book Club**  
Daughters in grades 5-7 and their moms, or any other special female in their life, may register for this club. It will meet Wednesday evenings January, February, March and April. Register in the Children's Department to get the details.

**Mommy and Me**  
This is a six-week program for two-year olds accompanied by an adult. Children can enjoy stories, songs, and art activities with the theme of "Animal Antics". This program meets on Thursdays at 10:15 beginning Jan. 23 and ending March 6 with no class on Feb. 27. Please register.

**Music with Joy**  
Children ages 2-5 may register. This event will be Saturday, Jan. 11, from 10:30-11:15 a.m. A delightful program for children with an adult.

**Adult evening programs: Read Something Different!**  
"Icon" by Frederick Forsyth (January 14)  
"The Botany of Desire" by Michael Pollan (February 11)  
"Fortune's Rocks" by Anita Shreve (March 11)  
All programs are on Tuesdays from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. For more information call Sheila Hooker at (248) 624-2512.

**Fantastic Friday**  
Children ages 2-6 with a parent or caregiver may register for a fun morning with stories, songs, snacks, and crafts. Register beginning Jan. 17.  
• Friday, Jan. 17 at 10:30 a.m. "Teddy Bears' Picnic"  
Register beginning January 6  
• Friday, Feb. 14 at 10:30 a.m. "Friends"

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# Ready, Set, Paint offers creative fun for all ages

Novi business a place for all to create own art to take back home

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

No longer does one have to go to an expensive pottery store to stack up on gifts for their loved ones. Now they can go to a place where they can paint their own pottery, have it glazed and fired and take it home. Ready, Set, Paint, located in the Novi Town Center, offers that and much more.

According to Kristin Ashare, who owns the store with her husband, David Fredenberg, most people enjoy giving gifts with a personal touch, which is why her store is popular.

"People come in and they choose their pottery," she said. "We have sponges, paintings and lots of examples to help inspire them. They sit down and they do their paintings and we glaze and fire everything. The paints are non-toxic, and after the fire everything is saved. That's how these types of stores or studios differ from the plaster places. I think plaster is non-functional. We use a clay body here and it's already been fired once, so people come in and paint on it and leave it here. We glaze and fire it and our turnaround is about a week."



Taylor Lenze, 9, works on the finish of a ceramic fairy at Novi's 'Ready Set Paint' last week. She is joined by her mother Jan on her mother/daughter date.

Ashare did her undergraduate study at University of Michigan, majored in economics and got her master's in business at Wayne State University. Her background is in business, but she has always had a healthy interest in the arts and crafts, which is why she and her husband opened Ready, Set, Paint three years ago.

"We opened in November of 1999 and we just did a big renovation this fall," she said. "We remodeled and expanded into toasting art and we are going to start adding a jewelry bar in the next month or two, so the women can make jewelry, like bracelets and necklaces. That's something on the horizon."

Ashare said that Fredenberg takes care of the financial part of the business, while she and some young college and high school

artists run the daily operations of the store.

"I run it with some wonderful young artists who enjoy the creative pursuits," she said. "I think right now the make-it, paint-it products are so popular. The holidays are a wonderful time because people just come in and make gifts for their parents or their teachers or grandparents. We even had a hachelorette party come in. It's just a good fun time to come in and socialize and do something creative."

Ready, Set, Paint offers a lady's night every Thursday, where women can come in with drinks and snacks and socialize while they create art, but Ashare would like to see men come in and try their hands at the paint brushes as well.

"We have some young men bringing their dates in on the week-

ends sometimes," she said. "It's nice to see the men come in because, really the majority of the business is women and kids. The men need a little bit of nudging sometimes from their girlfriends or wives, but once they sit down and paint they do enjoy it as well."

During the holidays patrons can paint gifts for Christmas as well as Hanukkah.

"I think there is a sense of accomplishment because the pieces are functional and kids can go home with a nice dinner plate or cereal bowl," Ashare said. "They can paint coffee mugs and picture frames, which are always great gifts. We throw a lot of birthday parties here as well, but we are trying to actually gear towards the adult market a little bit more. We do probably two adult parties a month, where as we have four or five kids birthday

parties a week. We have a lot of inventory, like piggy banks, jewelry boxes, angles and figurines for the boys, like jet fighters and stuff like that."

"I think the appeal of this type of business is that people, even adults just say that they can't even draw a straight line, but once they sit down and we go over some real basic instruction, they get it," she added. "I always tell them that if they can press a sponge or trace, they can make a decent looking piece and you really don't have to have an artistic background or any sort of real ability. As long as you enjoy being creative, you can make a nice looking piece."

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

Got an idea for a story? Call Cal Stone, editor, at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113.

# Frog Force leaps into a new robotics season

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

The Novi High School Robotics Club team was among many other teams, teachers, mentors and sponsors that gathered at the Novi Expo Center on Jan. 4 for the official kick off of the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics 2003 National Competition. Teams in different regions across the country attended similar kick off events where they received details of the 2003 robotic challenge and their kit of parts for building a robot.

Teams compete in regional competitions around the country and in Canada. In Michigan, the Great Lakes Regional Competition for FIRST will take place March 20-22 at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. Qualifiers at regional competitions will advance to the 2003 National Championship event, which is scheduled to take place April 10-12 at Reliant Park in Houston, Texas. However Novi High's team is pre-qualified already.

Novi's team, called the Frog Force 503, is comprised of 27 students. Team members A.J. Franchi, Kimberly Koch and Joe Belter are all juniors at the school and the coaches are Nina Hundley and Andrew Mikko.

"Robotics is a club that we started two years ago at this school," Franchi said. "All three of us were freshmen at the time and we started with Interior Automotives sponsoring us and they continue to sponsor us today. We got started with the help of Mrs. (Jennifer) Harvey, who orchestrated the kick-off."

According to Belter, the basic goal of the competition is to allow students to work with mentors, engineers and professionals in the engineering field so they can get an idea of what their future careers may be. It gives them the opportunity to reach out into the community to try to get sponsorships.

"At the kick-off on Saturday, we were presented a game that our robot has to play," Belter said. "Every year the game is different and we are presented with a kit of parts and we are allowed to use only the stuff in the parts and some additional materials. For six weeks after that we all meet at Interior Automotives where we work

FIRST was formed to encourage young people to explore careers in science and technology. Using a competition format similar to sporting events, students learn about the fun and excitement that can be found in a technical career. Each year, more than 20,000 high schoolers have their education enhanced by the program. In 2003, FIRST will grow to more than 800 teams competing across the U.S. and Canada. For more information, visit [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org).

together to design, build, fabricate and strategize with our own robot that we build."

"In this game, a problem is presented and there are points that they can accumulate as they solve a problem," said Assistant Principal John Lawrence. "When they are done with construction of the robot, it's shipped to our first regional location."

The competitions are not about winning or losing, or even building the best robot. They are about bringing together people with different backgrounds and working together to succeed as a team.

"One of the things that they really push is something that they call gracious professionalism," Franchi said. "During the competition you pick alliances, you're not by yourself and you work with other teams and you have to formulate strategies and how you plan on winning the game. It's more about problem solving than anything and you work with other teams. Last year we helped a rookie team. Along with building a robot, there is a marketing team where we go out and present gimmicks to sell our robot to other teams."

Last year in Grand Rapids another team showed Novi a way to fix its drive system, which made Frog Force do better in the competition. Then Novi turned around and helped a different team as well.

"There are many awards," Franchi said. "Last year we won the quality award for robot design and team concepts."

Koch agreed. "It's like a business," she said. "We also won an award for an E-Clamp we designed."

# Obituaries

## Margaret E. Petron

Margaret Petron of Novi died Jan. 5, 2003. She was 93. Survivors include four children, Rev. William G. Petron, Patricia A. (David) Jones, Mary Lee Suchyta and Christine M. (Patrick) Devereaux; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Her husband, Roman, preceded her in death.

Mrs. Petron will be in state Thursday, January 9, 10:30 a.m. until time of funeral service, 11 a.m. at Holy Family Church, 24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, Interment will be at Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

The family requests contributions to St. Rita Parish (State Fair in Detroit), 1000 E. State Fair, Detroit, Mich., 48203-1299.

Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi.

## Daniel M. Carbery

Daniel Carbery died Dec. 27 at Angela Hospice in Livonia. He was 73.

Mr. Carbery was born April 11, 1929 in Detroit to the late Arthur and Dorothy Applier Carbery. Prior to his retirement, Mr. Carbery worked as a machine operator for a tool and die company. He served with the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

Mr. Carbery is survived by his wife, Carole A. Carbery of Northville; his children, Laura Northville; his children, Laura (Joseph) Ziegler of Detroit, Gerald Carbery of Walled Lake, Dawn (Harold) Campbell of Northville, Kathryn (William) Campbell of South Lyon and Daryl (Bernice) Carbery of Novi; his sister, Arlene Gennette of Detroit; 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Mr. Carbery was preceded in death by his son, Victor Carbery.

A funeral service for Mr. Carbery was held Jan. 4 at Northrop-Sassaman Funeral Home of Northville, which handled funeral arrangements. Rev. George W. Hutchinson, Sr. officiated. Interment was in Fort Custer in Augustus on Jan. 6, with full military honors.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Foundation or Angela Hospice.

## John "Sean" Brown

John Brown of Novi died January 3, 2003.

Survivors include his wife, Linda Beebe; three children, Brandon, Kiernan and Diandra; and four grandchildren, Kierna, Bryce, Bridget and Brayden.

In accordance with his wishes, cremation was private and his ashes will be returned to his childhood home in Ireland.

Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi.

## George Bruce James, Jr.

George James, Jr. of Novi died January 3, 2003. He was 66.

Survivors include his wife, Patricia; four sons, Ronald (Mary), Gregory (Patricia), Jeffrey (Lorri) and Christopher (Theresa); his father, George Bruce James, Sr.; thirteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held January 7, 2003 at the O'Brien Chapel, O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi.

The family requests contributions to be made to the charity of your choice.

Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home.

## Elmer Clarence Zibell

Elmer Clarence Zibell of Farmington Hills died December 31, 2002 at Botsford Continuing Care Center, Farmington Hills. He was 88.

Mr. Zibell was born April 19, 1914 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Zibell had been employed by Rolled Alloys, Detroit as National Sales Manager for Steel. He was a life member of Royal Oak Lodge, and also a member of Clawson and Troy lodges. He was a master gardener, a member of A.S.M. and a former Boy Scout and scout leader.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Norma Zibell nee Leuther of Farmington Hills; his children, Charles (Sara) Zibell of Rochester, John "Jack" (Ginny) Zibell of Novi, Wayne (Linda) Zibell of Oakland Twp., and Debra (Thomas) Frisk of Portage; six grandchildren, John (Michelle)

## Virginia H. Marchewka

Virginia Marchewka of South Lyon, died December 30, 2002. She was 82.

Survivors include three children, Michelle, Chris and Gina; four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, two brothers and three sisters.

A Funeral Service was held January 7, 2003 at St. Joseph Church, 810 S. Lafayette, S. Lyon.

The family requests contributions to be made to the charity of choice.

Arrangements were made by the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River Ave., Novi.

## Amanda Lee "Mandy" Shoupe

Amanda Shoupe died December 27, 2002 at Providence Hospital, Southfield. She was 15. She was born November 27, 1987 in Pontiac, Mich.

"Mandy the Artist" appeared at various art work shows with her paintings and sculptures at Providence Hospital. She was featured on Channel 7 news and the Oakland Press ran an article about her.

Survivors include her mother, Mary.

A funeral service was held January 7, 2003 at First Baptist Church, 45301 11 Mile Rd., Novi. Interment will be at Oakland Hills Memorial Garden, Novi.

Memorials may be made to the Assarian Cancer Center, Providence Hospital, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi, Mich., 48374.

Arrangements were made by the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River Ave., Novi.

## Edward R. Turner

Edward Turner of Novi died Jan. 3, 2003. He was born May 29, 1956 in Southfield, Mich. and in 1969 played for the city's first hockey team, the Southfield Braves.

Mr. Turner graduated from Southfield High in 1974 and played junior hockey for Southfield 1974-1976. From 1976-1980 he attended Ferris State College after being recruited by Rick Duffel and presented with a full hockey scholarship. He was captain of his team from 1977-1980 and was one of the first wave of players to take the hockey team at Ferris from a local to a national team rated 10th in the country.

In addition to being a high scoring rugged right winger in hockey, his experience, talent and enthusiasm complemented his coaching techniques for 300-plus young athletes. Ed was an avid golf and softball player and from 1976-1998 a power hitter first baseman for the Southfield Recreation and St. Michael's as well as playing in the Dearborn Senior League. He was on the Southfield High Golf Team, a caddy at Plum Hollow Golf Club throughout the country and regarded as a valuable player on any league he joined thereafter.

Graduating from Ferris State in 1980 with a bachelor's in

## Wilma "Billie" Faubel

Wilma Faubel of Northville died Dec. 26 in Plymouth. She was 79.

Ms. Faubel was born Dec. 30, 1923 in Bargfeld, Germany to Wilhelm Gnesa and Dorothea Schultze. A manicurist and cosmetologist for 59 years, Ms. Faubel worked at salons in Detroit and Bloomfield Hills. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Northville's choir, the Edelweiss German Club and the Novi Senior Club.

Ms. Faubel is survived by her sister, Alma (Donald) Coir of Novi; her nieces and nephews, Kathryn (Doug) Weier of New York, Ronald (Sandra) Coir of Highland, Mark (Martene) Coir of Bloomfield Hills and Doris (Hambrecht) of Chicago.

A memorial service for Ms. Faubel will be held Jan. 11 at 1:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian, Rev. Kent Clise and James Russell will officiate. Memorial contributions may be made to First Presbyterian Church of Northville, Music Department, 200 E. Main Street, Northville, Mich., 48167; the Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute, 300 W. 10th Ave., B-12-4-459; Columbus, Ohio, 43210; or to the charity of the giver's choosing.

Funeral arrangements were handled by Casterline Funeral Home of Northville.

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Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Norma Zibell nee Leuther of Farmington Hills; his children, Charles (Sara) Zibell of Rochester, John "Jack" (Ginny) Zibell of Novi, Wayne (Linda) Zibell of Oakland Twp., and Debra (Thomas) Frisk of Portage; six grandchildren, John (Michelle)

## Eileen R. Cooke

Eileen Cooke of Novi died December 30, 2002 at Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills. She was 77. Mrs. Cooke was born April 18, 1925.

Survivors include her husband, Tom; five children, Kathy, Patty, Tom, Judy and Ricky; her mother, Marcella Ciesman; two grandchildren, Kristina and Tommy; and two sisters, Mary Ellen Quillian and Caroline Accerza.

A funeral service was held at Holy Family Church, Novi. Interment will be at Oakland Hills Cemetery, Novi.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society. Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi.

## Esther E. Hann Lepore

Esther E. Hann Lepore of Novi died Jan. 2. She was 93.

Mrs. Hann Lepore was born Sept. 11, 1909 in Wayne. A homemaker, Mrs. Hann Lepore came to the Novi community in 2001 from Plymouth. Previous to that, she had been a resident of Parma Gorda, Fla. Mrs. Hann Lepore enjoyed traveling.

Mrs. Hann Lepore is survived

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**150**

# Students put on wax museum at Deerfield

## Third and fourth graders act out roles of historical figures during school's four-day project

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Many famous historical figures were spotted at Deerfield Elementary from Dec. 16-19 as the school's third and fourth graders participated in a "wax museum." Students were assigned a character to research information about and dress up like. They were also asked to create a bulletin board that would tell their life story.

"They created a journal, which is a record of the important events in their character's life," Third and Fourth Grade Teacher Barbara Knight said. "They have succeeded in reading from and some of them have memorized their speeches. They are supposed to dress in character and if they are from the 1900s they are supposed to act like they are from the 1900s. Their speeches are supposed to be a minute to three minutes long and when they are done with their speech, basically their motor spots running until someone recieves their button."

Some of the characters represented by the students were Mary McLeod Bethune, Clara Barton, John James Audubon, Johnny Appleseed, Louis Braille, William Edward Boeing, Matthew Brady, Neil Armstrong, Henry Ford, Harry Houdini, Elizabeth Blackwell, Roger Chaffee, Pierre Auguste Renoir, Mary Chase Stratton, Sally Ride, Orville Wright and Chuck Yeager, among others.

"We do this every other year rather than every year, so this is the second time the school has done it," Knight said. "This will be the only time they get to do this as a third or a fourth grader. The kids with the pads of paper took notes. They had to acquire information about some of these people. We told them that they had to find four people, why they were famous, when they were born and if and when they died. The kids who took notes presented on one of the other days of the wax museum."

Fourth grader Joseph Leppke portrayed the famous painter, Michelangelo. His speech was "I was born March 6, 1475. In English, Michelangelo means Michael the Angel. I am a famous artist. I made many famous sculptures and paintings like the Sistine Chapel ceiling and David. Since I was not a student when I was a boy and I would only draw, you would most likely find me in the studio, where I would be an apprentice and learn everything an artist needs to know. Soon I noticed that people are very selfish and they only draw themselves skinner, fatter, bigger or taller. My father was furious, but I went anyway. The prince saw my work and invited me to dinner where I met many other famous people. He asked me to do some paintings and that's when my art began."

Taylor Boman, also in fourth grade, was gathering information from the character of a scientist.

"Right now everybody is impersonating someone from the past

ing spring, 2002 commencement exercises. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and graduated with high honors. Sara plans to attend the Police Academy in the coming months.

Cleary University graduated John Wallace of Novi at the school's commencement December 7. Wallace earned an associate's degree in business administration.

Neal Rubin, award-winning columnist for The Detroit News, was the event's keynote speaker and received an honorary Doctor of Science in Business Administration degree.

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by email at rkhuri@novi.com.



Photo by John Heider

Brianna Blossfeld gives her spiel as Queen Victoria during Deerfield Elementary's Wax Museum presentation late last December.

and they are becoming that figure," she said. "We are learning what they did and how they did it when they were younger. I'm writing down some people that I learned and what they are famous for and when they were born. I like doing this because I'm learning a lot."

According to Knight, much can be learned from a project such as this. "We hope that the children will develop their speaking skills, a historical perspective of when things happened in history, their

# Wixom students earn NAIA Show awards

The North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) has selected the winners of its annual poster contest, in conjunction with the upcoming NAIAS 2003, Jan. 11-20 at Cobo Center in Detroit.

The 15th annual contest was established to engage the creative minds of Michigan's future artists and recognition from local art communities for their talents. Schools involved throughout the state of Michigan included 23 high schools with a record-breaking 236 total entries. Participants have the opportunity to get involved with the NAIAS, one of Detroit's premier international events.

The poster entries encompassed an automotive-related theme and made reference to the upcoming show. The grand prize, the Chairman's Award of \$1,000 was presented to Allison Tonkka, a 12th grade student at Southfield Lathrup High School. The co-chairman of NAIAS 2003, William J. Demmer of Jack Demmer Ford and Charles L. Fortinberry of Clarkson Chrysler-Jeep selected her winning entry, which will be highlighted in the official auto show program.

The poster created by Casey Boyles, a 12th grade student at Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southwest, was selected by the NAIAS 2003 committee as the design cover of the official auto show program. There will be over 40,000 programs printed and they are available to the public, international media, corporate executives and suppliers. The NAIAS created this special award, and the winner receives \$1,000 for his talents and services.

The poster entries were judged by an independent panel of recognized members from the Detroit art community including: Brian Fitzpatrick, Chairman of Industrial Design, College for Creative Studies; G.J. Asby, Industrial Design, College for Creative Studies; and Mark Lennox, General Motors Design, General Motors Technical Center.

Honorees who each received a \$500 prize, include: • 11th Grade Award, 1st Place Seth Calhoun, Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southwest, Wixom • 12th Grade Award, 1st Place Sean Gilbert, Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southwest, Wixom

Honorees who each received a \$250 prize, include: • 11th Grade Award, 2nd Place Lauren Odett, Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southwest, Wixom • 12th Grade Award, 2nd Place Amanda Hansen, Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southwest, Wixom

Honorees who each received a \$100 prize, include: • 12th Grade Award, 3rd Place Kimberly Woodard, Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southwest, Wixom

# Author Elmore Leonard visits Borders tonight

By Victoria Sadlocha  
STAFF WRITER

Famed author Elmore Leonard will be signing copies of his latest collection of novellas tonight at Borders Books and Music in Novi.

The Thursday, Jan. 9 signing, reading and discussion will bring Leonard to the Novi Town Center book store at 7 p.m. to celebrate his latest release, "When the Women Come out to Dance."

Reviewed as a read with "characters with big personalities, dialogue that crackles and plots with the kick of a good shot of whiskey," Leonard's collection of short stories brings together a unique collection of fiction centering around some of the author's favored women anomalies blurring the line between law and mischief in previously published novels.

Karen Sisso on the best-selling novel "Out of Sight" and Raylan Graves from "Riding the Rap" and "Phono" are just some of the leading ladies featured in the collection deemed by the publisher as vivid, hilarious and unfailingly human, encompassing Leonard's signature deadpan social observations and diabolical eye for the foibles of the good and the bad.

"Borders Novi is very excited to have Elmore Leonard coming to the store," said Laurie Smith, Borders Books & Music area marketing manager. "This will be the first signing that he has done at the Novi store, and books are selling briskly."

Smith said Leonard will talk about his life as a writer, his favorite books and characters and what is coming out next. "He'll then take questions for approximately 20 minutes," Smith said.

The question-and-answer period will be followed by the book signing and photo opportunity. Organizers said seating for about 50 people will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis and the rest will be standing room only.

Smith said as people arrive they will be greeted at the door and given a colored flyer with details about how the event will run.

Attendees will also line up for the signing according to the color of the flyer they received at entry.

Smith expects more than 200 area residents will attend the event. Born in 1925 in New Orleans, Leonard has spent most of his career in Michigan.

The novelist and screenwriter win has earned critical acclaim

"Hunter," hit the public and was followed by about 30 published and four more published novels during the following eight years.

When his 1961 novel "Hombre" was chosen as one of the best westerns of all time by the Western Writers of America, Leonard quit his day job at the ad agency and devoted all of his time to writing.

During the next couple of decades Leonard released many novels including "Fifty-two Pickup," "The Switch," "Stick" and "Lullaby," but it wasn't until 1985 he experienced commercial breakthrough with the publication of his best-selling novel "Glitz."

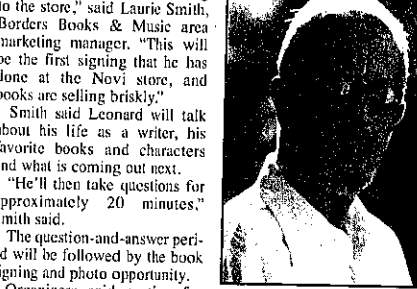
Leonard's subsequent novels including "Bandits," "Touch," "Freaky Ducky," "Kilsholtz," "Get Shorty," "Maximum Bob," "Run Punch," "Prono," "Riding the Rap," "Out of Sight," "Cuba Libre," "Be Cool," and "Pagan Babies" have been national best-sellers.

Success has also followed Leonard to Hollywood with the release of films based on his novels including "Get Shorty," "Out of Sight" and "Jackie Brown" which was directed by award-winning director Quentin Tarantino and based on Leonard's novel "Run Punch."

After graduating from high school in Detroit and enlisting in the Navy, Leonard enrolled at the University of Detroit where he began to write again.

While working at an advertising agency, Leonard had his first literary success in 1951 when Argosy magazine published his award-winning director Quentin Tarantino and based on Leonard's novel "Run Punch."

Leonard's first published novel, "The Bounty



Elmore Leonard

for his crime fiction and westerns became interested in writing in 1935 after reading a serialization of "All Quiet on the Western Front" in the Detroit Times.

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Cal Stone EDITOR, Jeane Tower VP, EDITORIAL, Grace Perry PUBLISHER, Dick Aglinin PRESIDENT, Richard Brady VP/COO, Phillip Power CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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.

Council starts new year poorly

Notice to members of Novi City Council: Your first meeting of 2003 was not the best way to kick off the new year. In fact, it was a horrible embarrassment for this community.

Why was the appointment of Craig DeRoche's replacement such a struggle to pull off? An open roll call vote. A sealed ballot vote. A general election. At this point, the method used is not as important as picking one and sticking with it. The city needs to come up with a policy that determines that so there's no question in the future. In the past, a ballot was used for the appointment of Victor Cassis. But then an open roll call was the method of choice when picking Edward Kramer. The open roll call is fine with us. It lets everyone know where each council member stands.

If that's a problem for some, the sealed ballot works fine. Likewise, a general election - although costly - does the job and is probably the fairest to constituents. The bottom line is, it doesn't matter in the long run. Just don't be wishy-washy. Be leaders. Choose a method. Let the appointment be made. Move on and take care of what really matters - the city's business. Personal grudges have no place in this process, either. There's a right way and a wrong way to do everything. Let's hope city council chooses the former from now on.



Amid the cold of winter Rows of feed corn whip around in the winter wind last Monday afternoon at Northville Township's Maybury State Park. The park is open year-round from 8 a.m. until dusk and, with a recent batch of fresh snow on the ground, has been the destination for many cross country skiers. Photo by John Heider

GOVERNMENT

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

United States Senate

Carl Levin (D-Detroit) 269 Russell Senate Office Building Washington D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6221 senator@levin.senate.gov Local office: 124 W. Allegan Suite 1810 Lansing, MI 48933 (517) 377-1508 FAX: (517) 377-1506

Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing)

702 Hart Senate Office Building Washington D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4822 senator@stabenow.senate.gov Local office: 280 East Saginaw East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 203-1780

United States Congress

11th District Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia) 415 Cannon HOB Washington D.C. 20515-8171 (202) 225-8171 FAX: (202) 225-2667 Local office: 17197 N. Laurel Park Drive Suite 161 Livonia, MI 48152

State Senate

15th District Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) PO Box 30036 Lansing, MI 48909-7536 (517) 373-1758 senncassis@senate.michigan.gov

State House of Reps

38th District Craig DeRoche (R-Novi) S0887 House Office Building PO Box 30014 Lansing, MI 48909-7514 (517) 373-0827 FAX: (517) 373-5873 craigderoche@house.mi.gov

Marc Shulman (R-West Bloomfield)

38th District Marc Shulman (R-West Bloomfield) 351 Capitol Building PO Box 30014 Lansing, MI 48909-7514 (517) 373-1799 FAX: (517) 373-5777 mshulman@house.mi.gov

Oakland County

Executive L. Brooks Patterson County Service Center Building #34 East 1200 N. Telegraph Road Pontiac, MI 48341 (248) 858-0484

7th Commission

Christine Long 1342 E. Commerce Road Commerce Twp., MI 48382 (248) 366-2666 longc@co.oakland.mi.us

8th Commission

Jeff Potter 1099 Stable Lane South Lyon, MI 48178 (248) 437-7597 potterj@co.oakland.mi.us

9th Commission

Hugh D. Crawford 46275 11 Mile Road Novi, MI 48374 (248) 349-5079 hughrcrawford@msn.com

Out-Of-Control Novi City Council!

Watching the Novi City Council on 19 December 2002 was a very disturbing experience for me and perhaps many other area residents. Expecting to see a thoughtful and informative session by the City Officials in the qualifications and experience of each Novi resident being interviewed, we instead witnessed a somewhat demeaned, vindictive, and newly elected State Representative sarcastically attacking the Novi volunteers who came forward to serve out the remainder of his City Council term.

The first question was why this sad excuse for a Republican politician was allowed to sit in on this special cabinet session and then to verbally thump each candidate in public? Was it because he had a bad hair day - and discovered the loss of a few more from the top? Or did his wife ask him to take out the garbage that day?

We the Novi residents failed to receive a fair and unbiased look at our applicants' qualifications and their desires to improve our community. Where was our City Council leadership to shut down this inane outburst by an individual with a sick, Napoleonic-complex who probably needs some professional help.

Given the spectacle that we all were subjected to that Thursday, and if given a second chance, a lot of us would not have voted for a Republican State Representative. No wonder the Oakland County Republicans are losing members. With elected Republican politicians as irresponsible and coldhearted as DeRoche, the Party will lose even more members and votes in the future elections.

We need compassionate and understanding elected officials, not little, ridiculous, demagogic and Machiavellian expressions on their faces and deep hatred in their small hearts.

Joseph G. Tolt Novi

Master Plan shouldn't be black and white

Dear Andrew Match, I have a few comments in response to your letter to the Novi News. I've seen you in action at many meetings and know how you protect and defend your Master Plan. I do not know how or if this Master Plan directly affects you, but it does directly affect me. We purchased our home in 1987 at Thirteen Mile and Haggerty Road; a ranch house on two acres on a dirt road. It is no longer zoned residential and we now have five paved lanes in front of our home.

Former Councilmember DeRoche's vicious attack was uncalled for and an ugly display of stupidity. Why was this warped excuse for a Novi politician allowed to go down his clearly pre-prepared hate agenda to assault each applicant?

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Steve and Dorrine Roberts Novi

Brickley had seat at inaugural podium

One of the things a good reporter tries to do is select out of the myriad of details surrounding a news story the one or two nuggets that best catch the core of what's going on.

There were lots of possibilities available last week as Jennifer Granholm was inaugurated as Michigan's first-ever female governor.

One has to do with the tiny chair, not more than three inches tall, that sat on the podium while she gave her inaugural speech. It bore the label, "Jim Brickley". The late James Brickley was a late well-respected former lieutenant-governor, president of Eastern Michigan University and chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. He was a standard-bearer for the moderate Michigan Republican tradition that reached its best expression in the administration of former governor William Milliken.

I asked Chris DeWitt, Granholm's spokesman during the campaign, about the chair. He explained that, "When she was elected Attorney General, Jennifer wanted Jim Brickley to help swear her in. But this never happened; I think it was blocked by John Engler. Then Jim Brickley died. So before last November's election, Joyce Braithwaite, a distinguished Milliken Administration spear carrier and Brickley's wife, sent Granholm this miniature chair with Brickley's name on it as kind of a symbolic gift. I made sure it was on the podium when she gave her speech."

Here's why I fastened on to this piece of

detail: It brings home the striking parallels between the administrations of Governors Granholm and Milliken.

Granholm is a moderate Democrat, just as Brickley was a moderate Republican. Granholm knows full well she needs to govern out of the center, working in a bi-partisan manner with the GOP-dominated legislature, just as the Milliken-Brickley

Administration worked with the Democrat-controlled legislature of the time. And Granholm realizes a big chunk of her support comes from moderate, suburban, centrist voters made uneasy by the strident right-wing image of the Republican Party. Readers with long memories will recall that Bill Milliken dominated politics in Michigan for a long time by appealing repeatedly to suburban "Milliken Democrats."

Certainly the major message Granholm she was trying to communicate during her inauguration was that the tone in Lansing is going to be very different from that set by her predecessor, John Engler. Granholm's speech - "Walk with me, talk with me, work with me" - sent an inclusive message markedly different from the inner-directed, tough-minded, Lansing-oriented approach that so characterized the Engler Administration. The religious service at the beginning of the day was a fully ecumenical example: it involved Christian, Jewish, Greek Orthodox, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh clergy.

Democratic partisans praised her performance. "She's just as good a communi-

ator as Bill Clinton," gushed one. "Without all the baggage." And most political commentators and editorial pages around the state said nice things about Granholm's initial moves. Republicans agreed. The top Republican legislative leaders, House Speaker Rick Johnson and Senate Majority Leader-elect Jon Sikkenia, were prominent on the platform and had nice things to say - at least initially - about cooperating with Governor Granholm.

Especially notable was the relatively warm reception she received from the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, normally fiercely Republican. Tricia Kinley, director of tax policy and economic development for the Chamber, told me: "We are going to try to help her keep some of her campaign themes to cut spending and not raise taxes. If she can bring the business community in and gather ideas about the future of Michigan, we would be more than happy to help out."

The new governor has a tough row to hoe. She is the only Democrat in a state capital dominated by Republicans. She is facing an enormous budget deficit, which means a practical matter that she won't have any money to pay for new and snazzy stuff for at least a couple of years. So she's going to have to rely on good will, bi-partisanship and a good dose of symbolism.

Maybe Jim Brickley's chair on the podium was too small for an adult to sit in, but I suspect it will loom large in the early course of the Granholm Administration.



Phil Power

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

Good-bye 2002, hello to a new year

As I'm typing this, Nancy Cassis is being sworn in as one of our new state senators and Craig DeRoche as one of our new state representatives in Lansing. I wish I could be attending, but our South Lyon Herald editor, Sam Black, is at the Capitol covering the event for our next edition.

Congratulations to both Nancy and Craig. I know they'll both go to but for Novi when needed.

Well, it's a brand new year, and I for one and more than happy to put the last one behind me. It wasn't all bad, but there were more than enough challenges to say the least.

I try not to do New Year's resolutions, but I got roped into jotting some down on paper at a party Dec. 31. The host's thought was that we would get together one year later and pull them out to see how everyone did.

For me personally - get into shape (for once in my life), spend less and save more, learn to play drums and just be a better person. All are doable, so we'll see how it goes.

For me professionally, I'd like to take the Novi News to the next level. I've been here 10 months now. We've had a few staff changes and rearranged their beats, but I feel our current writers - Victoria Sadlocha, Phil Foley, Ramez Khuri and Sam Egliston - are perfect for giving our readers what they want to see in their local newspaper. Our staff photographer, John Heider, wields a camera as well as any other I've worked with, too.

Early in my tenure I made a call for volunteers for a Consulting Committee that would help me figure out what direction to take the Novi News.

My first resolution is to get that off the ground. So any of you folks who answered the call last spring, I hope you're still interested because I'll be calling you ASAP. The invitation is extended again to readers.

I see my fellow Rotarian Dr. Mav Sanghvi has been elected to the Novi City Council. I know he'll do a great job, as he has for the local service club. Which brings

me to another resolution - being more active as a Rotarian.

I think the Novi group is outstanding, and they're doing a lot of worthwhile projects. I'd like to put in more time in 2003 and really help make a difference in this community.

On a similar note, I'd like to get involved in the Novi Chamber of Commerce in some fashion. I have in the other towns I've worked in, so there's no reason not to jump in here, too.

It's not really a resolution, but I hope the Motor & Music Festival organizers ask for my input again this year. I really enjoyed it last year, and I'd like to contribute more to their efforts in 2003.

Well, that's a good start. I'm looking forward to 2003 and all it has to offer. I hope our readers are satisfied with our product and I look forward to seeing you out in the community.



Cal Stone

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

City Council meeting an embarrassment

What began as a Happy New Year column peppered with invigorating thoughts of resolutions for 2003 quickly turned into an inquiring Minds Want to Know report after Novi's first city council meeting of 2003 took place.

I will begin the questioning and ask what in the heck happened?

What in theory should have been the smooth appointment of State Rep. Craig DeRoche's replacement turned into a strong-arm competition to prove inner innocuous and was pretty much just an embarrassment to the city.

Novi City Councilwoman Laura Lorenzo came out firing right away, wanting the vote to be a verbal roll call rather than ballot vote. "The gentlemen don't want another woman on council," Lorenzo said during the meeting as to what she believed was the speculation down in a year - or will it be five years?

Hopefully, our personal experience, a direct result of your treasured Master Plan, will help you remove your blinders and see this situation from another perspective. Not everything is black and white, and the Master Plan should allow for some gray areas.

I guess the biggest problem I had while sitting through the meeting was couldn't these types of obvious behind-the-scenes acquisitions been resolved before the meeting? But then, if members of the community approached Lorenzo expressing their fears or impressions of the looming appointment, it is her job as a representative of Novi residents to make sure they are addressed. I still believe though that all council members should behave in a professional manner when behind the bench, which is in

no way a comment toward Laura, but a comment to all members.

It is painful and embarrassing to see adults, especially elected officials, behaving like babies.

What many may not have heard on television or in back rows in chambers was when the unanimous vote for Dr. Sanghvi was read, Lorenzo defeatedly said under her breath - there were no preconceived candidates, that is full of crap.

With an unanimous vote, the notion that members were not comparing notes seems pretty much what Laura said, full of crap.

Lorenzo wasn't the only one sick of the process before the actual city council meeting began either. The night DeRoche was elected, councilman Louis Corsadas said he thought the residents should vote for the state representative's replacement.

He further strengthened his position during the interview process, saying he had never seen such politics and pressure before in other appointment processes.

He said he was even receiving phone calls and e-mails by one of the candidates interested in the position. After the Jan. 6 meeting, Corsadas believed more than ever there should have been a special election even if it would have cost the city about \$30,000. I suppose one lesson the council learned is maybe there should be an actual policy developed governing how council appoints a replacement candidate for city council. It should be the ballot vote or should it be open roll call?

Mayor Pro-Tom Michelle Bononi looked back in the minutes and found Victor Cassis was appointed by ballot and Edward Kramer was appointed by open roll call.

Clearly there is not a precedent - and if there would have been, just about half of the arguments would have been eliminated.

And what about behind the scenes talk, if Bononi didn't know Lorenzo was going to push the issue of how the vote were tabulated, why was she snarled with minutes regarding prior appointment actions?

Mayor Clark had a good suggestion to members of council - leave all the over-indulgence behind.

"I think it is time for a reality check," he said, further saying it was his opinion when members of council were out of office, they probably would be forgotten by 90 percent of the population anyway.

And then there was the three-part suggestion made by resident and faithful meeting attendee Carol Crawford. She suggested in order to eliminate these types of outbreaks and lengthy discourses three actions should be taken by members of council.

Carol suggested: 1) level every tree in Novi so lengthy debates over development and nature would be eliminated; 2) hand the key to the city over to Blair Rowanting, and 3) don't bother to ever say no or vote against any development in the city.

I personally hope the Jan. 6 meeting is no indication of the year to come. Controversy? Great. Disagreements? Good government. Outbursts and game-playing to bring issues out? Not needed. Also, deadline restrictions prevented more in-depth coverage of the appointment, but please stay tuned for next week's edition for a profile on the newly-elected councilman and some more answers regarding his appointment.

Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or at vsadlocha@ht.homecomm.net.

NOTICE OF NOV... PROVISION OF THE... ORDINANCE

NOTICE OF NOV... TEMPORARY... PERMIT

NOTICE... 1/23/03 at 2:30 pm... competitive bidding

Space Rental... 8 Household goods, 6 Misc. boxes/bags

CHANGES ARE MADE IN... ELEVATIONS (BFEs)

NOTICE... 1/23/03 at 2:30 pm... competitive bidding

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



Mail to: Letters to the Editor, Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167 E-mail to: cstone@ht.homecomm.net Fax to: (248) 349-9832

# Friendly sibling rivalry makes for entertaining reading

Brother, sister get creative for school assignment

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Anna Switzer, a student at Novi High School, recently learned the valuable lesson: What goes around comes around. When she was in sixth grade at Novi Meadows, she had an assignment in her language arts class to write her own version of the classic poem, "Twas the Night Before Christmas." She called her poem "Dear Santa," and described it as a humorous poem poking fun at the Christmas traditions of children being good all year in order to receive presents from Santa Claus. She wrote it in Dr. Seuss style and her two

younger brothers were her true life inspiration. Anna, who is now 16 years old, was 11 at that time. In her poem she described her brothers Chip and David as brats who pulled pranks and led tantrums. "We did our own version of the poem," she said. "They were both pretty wild when they were little."

Chip, who is now 11, is in the same class his older sister was in at Novi Meadows. When he called her poem "Dear Santa," he couldn't wait to set the record straight, so he wrote "Twas the Night Before Christmas 2: The Rebuttal." In this friendly sibling rivalry, he described his sister as being filled with envy and full of

lies. He did, however, call her "so smart and so sweet, a more perfect person you never will meet."

"I was upset when I read her poem," he said. "I was seven years old, so I was probably flipping on the ground. I just wanted to get revenge, so I wrote the rebuttal."

Chip's teacher, who was also Anna's teacher, told him to be prepared when she read Anna's poem and then Chip's poem to the class.

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



Photo by John Heider

Siblings Anna, 16, and Chip, 12, Switzer have both written poems about each other while students in the sixth grade.

By: Anna Switzer

'Twas the night before Christmas  
In the Switzer household,  
My brothers were worried that  
They would find "coal."

They had tried to be good  
Those two wild boys,  
But it's hard to be perfect  
Even for boys.

So they hung up their stockings  
They couldn't resist at Christmas  
And prayed that their names  
Were on the good list.

They went up to bed  
Their minds were all jumbled,  
Both fast asleep  
When I heard a rumble.

I crept down the stairs  
And saw the "Old Saint,"  
When I saw what he did  
I thought I would faint.

He was stuffing their stockings  
With items galore,  
Leggins, Santitas,  
Candy and more.

Bicycles! Skateboards!  
Baseballs and bats,  
How could this happen  
To those little brats.

I went back to bed  
To figure this out,  
It was confusing  
I started to pout.

Then it came to me  
As clear as a bell,  
Santa's eyesight and hearing  
Were not very well.

He hadn't seen all

their mischief and pranks,  
Report cards and tantrums  
They were lost on the ranks.

So I'm sure in the morning  
Those guys will be thrilled,  
To find that their stockings  
Are well-filled.

I've been such an angel  
Will I be in luck?  
Dear Santa please bring me  
One million bucks.

By: Chip Switzer

'Twas the night before Christmas  
In the Switzer household,  
I've waited five years  
Now the truth must be told.

My dear sister Anna  
So smart and so sweet,  
A nice perfect person  
You never will meet.

But the story she told  
Was so full of lies,  
When I tell you what happened  
You'll be extremely surprised.

My brother and I  
Have always been good,  
No tantrums no mischief  
We're misdeeders!

And all the bad grades  
That those teachers gave out,  
Were imagined by Anna  
Of this there's no doubt.

And she always says I'm wild  
"Humbug!" I say,  
I'm only creative.

But Anna is different  
She's filled with envy,  
She just wants to be nice  
Like David and me!

My memory says  
We earned every toy,  
Deserved each piece of the candy  
And all of the joy!

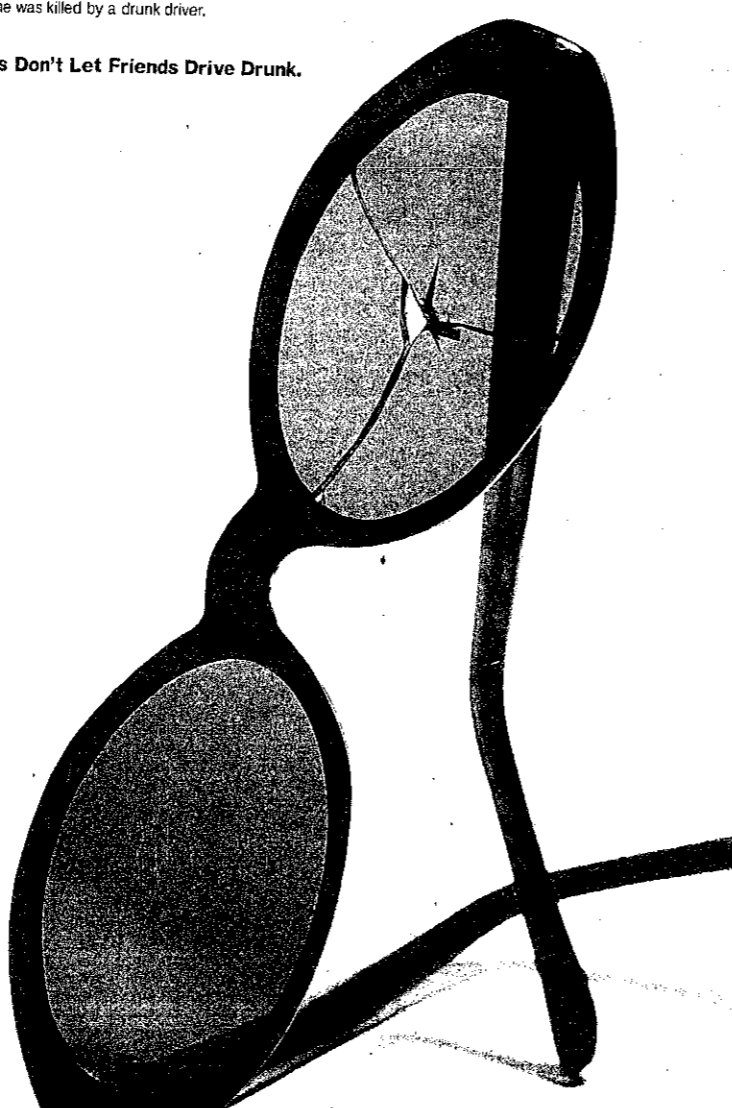
And as for my sister  
Despite the lies stated,  
Please forgive her St. Nick  
After all we're related.

When you come down the chimney  
In your red furry suit,  
Please Santa, please give us  
Some really great loot!

Amanda Geiger bought these sunglasses

to wear on spring break. She wore them only once before she was killed by a drunk driver.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.



# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Thursday, January 9, 2003

## Tax Tips

### Charitable donations can lower tax bills, and simple steps can help

The Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers that they may be able to use their gifts to tax-exempt charitable and religious groups to reduce their taxes.

"Taxpayers also need to keep in mind some simple steps to make sure they get appropriate benefits for their donations. In particular, there are some important guidelines for donating used cars and other property, such as stocks and bonds," said Michigan IRS spokeswoman Sarah Wreford.

"We want people to be focused on helping worthy groups rather than worrying about tax issues," she added. "A few simple steps can help avoid tax headaches."

The tax benefit for charitable contributions is only available for taxpayers who itemize deductions - about one-third of all filers. Those who take a standard deduction receive no additional tax benefit for their contributions.

In 1999, the last year for which complete data is available, about 35.5 million taxpayers made deductible charitable contributions totaling nearly \$125.8 billion. Of these gifts, nearly \$88.3 billion were cash donations.

"Only contributions actually made during the tax year are deductible. For example, if you pledged \$500 in September but paid the charity only \$200 by Dec. 31, your 2002 deduction would be \$200," Wreford said. "You include credit card charges and payments by check in the year they are given to the charity, even though you may not pay the credit card bill or have your bank account debited until the next year."

Donations of stock or other property are usually valued at the fair market value of the property. For stocks and bonds with an active market, the fair market value is the average price between the highest and lowest selling price on the valuation date.

Figuring the value of other personal property can be more complicated. For example, determining the value of a donated used car requires weighing several factors. Some car donation program operators have mistakenly suggested that donors can take the full value listed in an established used-car pricing guide as a deduction.

Wreford allows a deduction for only the fair market value of the car. Fair market value takes into account not only the year, the model and the mileage of the car, but also the local market and the vehicle's condition. As a result, the fair market value of the taxpayer's car may be substantially different than the average price listed in an established used car guide.

"I also want to remind taxpayers to keep appropriate records to substantiate the value of their gifts," said Wreford. "For example, for any single gift of \$250 or more, a taxpayer must have a written acknowledgment from the charity by the earlier of the date the person files the tax return or the filing deadline, including extensions. A person donating property valued at more than \$5,000 must obtain a qualified written appraisal."

"Taxpayers can find help regarding the donations they make in IRS Publication 526, 'Charitable Contributions.'"

A second reference, IRS Publication 561, "Determining the Value of Donated Property," answers many of the questions that donors have when they make non-cash contributions.

Both publications are available at the IRS Web site, www.irs.gov, or by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM.



Photo by HAL GOULD

The professionals at Brenda W. Smith, CPA and Associates, PC, assist small businesses and individuals, keep abreast of tax issues while helping them plan for their future. Left to right are Mary Noff, Amy Haselhuhn, Brenda Smith, Rita Dillingham and Karl Arnold.

## It's a wise decision by all accounts

Knowing how to manage the fiscal aspect of your business can often ensure its financial success. However, paying a visit to a certified public accountant is not always first on the list of things to do when starting your own business.

"It's one of the biggest fears of the small business owner," says Brenda W. Smith, certified public accountant. "Many never see an accountant in the beginning because they're afraid it will cost too much, when actually they may make mistakes in their first year that will cost them more than if they had set up an initial consulting arrangement."

Smith, who owns Brenda W. Smith, CPA and Associates, PC, in New Hudson, meets with potential clients for a no-cost, no-obligation, hour-long consultation.

"It's a good opportunity for the client to interview us to see if there is a good personality fit," she said. "It's very important that they communicate comfortably with their accounting professional."

"If the client is a startup, Smith answers questions about what type of business entity will work best in their individual situation, how to keep records, what taxes will be required, etc. If the business is already in operation, she will look over prior returns or financial statements and answer questions about management, computerized accounting systems and future planning."

"The office prides itself on its friendly atmosphere and professional attitude. Balancing technology with tradition, the firm provides full accounting services concentrating in small business consulting."

"I love small business," Smith said. "It's what I love to do. We're a small business ourselves so we appreciate and understand the struggles that business owners go through."

Brenda W. Smith, CPA and Associates, PC, offers services for accounting and taxes, which include bookkeeping, quarterly payroll taxes, financial statement preparation, business and personal tax preparation, and IRS problem resolution. The firm's goal is to keep its clients in compliance with all government regulations and obligations for tax returns along with tax filings from the different entities - state, local, sales tax, and personal property tax among others.

"There are a lot of different kinds of taxes that a small business needs to be aware of, keep up with, and pay," Smith said. "That's one area where our experience shows - we excel at keeping people in compliance with taxes."

Selection, set-up and training for computerized accounting systems is another area of expertise for Brenda W. Smith, CPA and Associates. The firm is a certified installer and trainer for QuickBooks.

"We deal primarily with working one-on-one with the small business owner," she said. "They have the greatest need, and it can often be cost-prohibitive for them to work with a large accounting firm because of the infrastructure. If they're spending every dollar they have for compliance services just to meet their government tax filing requirements then there are no available funds left for planning or for management." A smaller

professional firm, she said, can be more cost effective for the small business client.

She branched out on her own in 1993, setting up offices in the lower level of her home where the business operated until moving to its current New Hudson location at 56711 Grand River Avenue in 1999. The office is in close proximity to I-96 and US-23 - convenient for most of Smith's clients who generally are located within a 30-mile radius.

"We have clients from as far away as Madison Heights, but for the most part our clients come from South Lyon, Milford, Novi, Northville, Howell, Brighton and Hartland," she said. "I want to stay in this Western Oakland and Livingston County area."

"In addition to Smith, two full-time accountants (soon to be CPAs), a bookkeeper, and an administrative assistant round out the staff for most of the year. An additional administrative person is brought onboard to assist during tax season.

"The friendly, personable staff can assist clients with a host of questions. Smith said there are times when a client may need to resolve a problem but doesn't know where to turn.

"We can usually get them in touch with the right person, even if it is not us," she said. "We help people with all sorts of issues. We're a touchstone for all those other services because we do so many things and have seen so

many different situations; we can often help direct them toward solutions."

Brenda W. Smith, CPA and Associates, PC, can handle a variety of accounting situations because of its depth of experienced staff. The firm has over 60 years of combined experience in bookkeeping, accounting and taxation. They provide the experience to keep businesses in compliance with all government regulations and obligations and beyond that can help guide emerging businesses toward more growth by planning for the future and managing the business owner's retirement planning.

Although the firm's specialty is small business it is quite capable of handling larger clients.

"We can handle a lot of situations," Smith said. "People tend to match their accounting firm with the size of their business. Our fit is small to medium business. We do as much or as little for a client as they need. One of our goals is to educate our clients and, therefore, make them better business owners."

"I believe that my clients - whether they're signing a tax return or giving a financial statement to a bank - need to understand where the numbers came from and what they mean. We can help them to improve their bottom line through education."

### BRENDA W. SMITH

Contact Brenda W. Smith, CPA and Associates, PC for your business accounting and tax needs by calling (248) 437-6010 or e-mail to BWSmithCPA@cs.com. The office is located at 56711 Grand River Avenue in New Hudson.

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# Self-published children's book hits the big time

Local author raises money for children with book sales

By Flamez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

"Stranger in the Woods," by Carl R. Sams II and Jean Stoick of Millford, came out of nowhere to jump to number one on the New York Times Best Sellers' list for Children's Picture Books the week of December 15, 2002. Although this is the third consecutive winter season the book has made the list, this is the first time it has hit the top spot.

The self-published children's book is a story of the animals reaction to a snowman that magically appears in the woods after a winter storm. After much discus-

sion among the animals, it's the brave little chickadee who finally takes the lead and ventures up to investigate the mysterious stranger.

"The book was released in November 1999. We dedicated it to those who protect wild places and to the snowman that lives in every child's heart," said Sams. "We did that thinking we could use the book in some way to help raise money for kids and also to protect nature in some way."

The book, movie and soundtrack versions of "Stranger in the Woods" have earned 19 awards together. Individually, the book earned the 2002 Early Childhood News Awards, the 2001 International Reading Association Award, the 2001 Book Sense Book of the Year Finalist, the 2001 Children's Crown Gallery Classic Award and the 2000 Benjamin Franklin Award. More than 800,000 books have sold

since its release.

The movie earned the 2002 Omni Bronze Award, the 2002 Wildscreen Panda Awards Finalist-England, the 2002 Telly Award Finalist, Dove Foundation's Family-Friendly Endorsement, KIDS FIRST! Endorsement, 2002 Award of Excellence and 2002 Videographer Awards.

The soundtrack earned 2002 NAPPA Children's Resources Gold Award and the 2002 Award of Excellence.

"For this book we wanted to have complete artistic control on it," Sams said. "We printed 20,000 books and every cent we had was in this project. Our friends thought we were completely crazy. We went up to Northern Michigan and we hand carried the books to book stores because we didn't have any distributors or anything like that. We never published anything before, but we decided that every book

that we sold, a dollar would go to the Grand Traverse Land Conservancy and the Little Traverse Nature Conservancy up in Traverse City and the Harbor Springs area."

According to Sams, a few weeks after the book's release, different media outlets started to inquire about it. He started appearing on local television and radio stations in Traverse City and soon the book was huge.

"People started going into Borders and Barnes and Noble looking for this book, so two Rochester Hills stores called me and said they wanted to buy the book," he said. "I told them they couldn't have it because we were raising money for children, but I started to think that this wasn't a good thing to say because those are the two top sellers in the world. I told them that if they matched us for Wishes For Kids between then and Christmas, I would let them carry the book."

Five days later both stores called, got to carry the book and in a four-week period, over \$8,000 was raised for Wishes For Kids. Since then, over \$50,000 has been raised for Wishes For Kids Nature Conservancy, and Sams believes that it's only a matter of time before the rest of the country finds out about the book.

"This type of success is basically unheard of for a self-published book," said Sams.

The story in the book takes place at Kensington Park. We spent 18 years with the same family of deer and we took over 60,000 pictures of them, so we had to eliminate many."

The movie, based on Sams' and Stoick's book, blends live video footage with original footage with original music. It was one of four finalists in the 2002 Wildscreen Panda Awards in Bristol, England. The movie competed with films from the BBC, Discovery and Japanese Television for the best in

children's programming.

The soundtrack includes a read-along, and all of the original music was written especially for the movie by Laura and Robert Sams. BAM Studios in Chicago did the final mix on the music and Brian Reed, musician and owner, felt some of the songs were Grammy level.

Sams and Stoick are currently in negotiations with several foreign publishers who are interested in printing "Stranger in the Woods" in languages like Chinese, German, Japanese and Korean, just to name a few.

Visit [www.strangerinthewoods.com](http://www.strangerinthewoods.com) for more information or to place an order.

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

## No. VI Salon expands into Farmington

Novi-based No. VI Salon has expanded by acquiring Penny Lane Salon in Farmington Hills. Under its new name, No. VI Salon, the Farmington Hills salon will provide hair and nail treatments. Skin treatments, as well as hair and nail treatments, will continue to be available at the Novi location.

"We are thrilled with the expansion to include a second salon location," said salon owner Christopher Klatt. "We have been graduating so many licensed stylists from our apprenticeship program that we were busting at the seams. We will deliver the same quality services and products that our customers have come to demand from No. VI, and will further our commitment to education, all on a larger scale."

A grand re-opening under the new name is expected in the second week of January.

No. VI are full-service salons offering hair, skin and nail care, as well as a two-year apprenticeship program for hairstyling using the Toni & Guy technique. The new location is 37640 W. 12 Mile Rd in the Halsted Village at Halsted and 12 Mile Rd. The original location is 26123 Novi Road in the Wonderland Music Plaza at Grand River Avenue and Novi Rd.

## Volunteer group shares pets with the elderly

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

The Marines may be looking for a few good men, but Novi resident Sharon Disbro is looking for a few good dogs -- or cats.

For the past five years Disbro has been the coordinator for Pet-a-Pet, a local volunteer group that brings their pets to visit residents of two area nursing homes.

Disbro said she became involved with the group eight years ago through someone at work. She said that the group's size has fluctuated over the past decade depending on how many children needed to find community service projects for school or youth groups or how many adults had to perform community service for the courts.

Lately though, the group has been pretty much down to it's

seven core members and while they like each other's company, Disbro said that's not enough people and pets to meet the needs of the residents at Charter House and Whitehall.

"We'll take anything people want to bring," said Disbro. She noted that while Pet-a-Pet volunteers are mainly dog owners, the group has had a few cat owners and "we've even had rabbits."

Membership in Pet-a-Pet is simple, all you need to do is have your pet screened by Disbro and then commit to bringing to Charter House or Whitehall at least one Saturday a month. Pet-a-Pet visits residents of Charter House from 10 - 11 a.m. the first and second Saturday of the month and Whitehall residents from 10 - 11 a.m. the third Saturday of the month. Both facilities are on 10

Mile, Charter House at Meadowbrook and Whitehall at Novi Road.

According to Disbro, studies have shown that interacting with pets lowers blood pressure and improves health. Besides, she added, "sometimes you like visits from someone who's not giving you medication."

To volunteer, call Disbro at 743.449.8339.

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VM0379



# Fourth at Oakland County

## Churella, Hearn continue excellent wrestling for firsts

By Sam Eggleston  
 SPORTS WRITER

Everyone who follows high school wrestling is aware that Oakland County seems to have the toughest selection in the way of competition in the entire state. Take all that competition and throw it together in a single tournament and you have a fan's dream come true.

### Wildcat Wrestling

The Novi Wildcats wrestling team headed into the ever-so-tough Oakland County meet and walked away with a dream of their own — a fourth-place finish.

"We had 11 kids qualify for the second day of competition, which is outstanding," Novi coach Brad Huss said. "We finished in fourth place behind Clarkston, but right on the heels of third-place Milford."

Taking first place finishes for the Novi grapplers were Craig Hearn in the 112-pound weight class and Josh Churella in the 135 — two of the best wrestlers in the state of Michigan.

"(Hearn) was 7-0 and took first and is having a great year, with only one loss to date," Huss said. "Churella was 7-0 and champion for the third time in his illustrious career. He was also voted the most valuable wrestler (at the meet)."

The Wildcats had a slew of great showings in the meet, including Jason Sierra's performance in the 103-pound weight class, as he took third place. And you know what? He's only a sophomore.

Scott Bergesen, wrestling at 119, went 5-2 and was noted by Huss for his improved wrestling since the start. Eric Hansen, 125, and Andrew Sunisloe, 140, both qualified for the second day of competition, but didn't place. With each match that comes and goes, Huss said that both of them are improving.

Wrestling at the 130 weight class was Alex Baum, who went 3-2 on the day.

"He's just a sophomore, but has great potential," Huss said.

Also qualifying for the second day of competition was improving sophomore Jason Ballantyne, who went 4-2 in 145, as well as A.J. Morris in the 152 weight class with a 5-2 record. Chris Provost was 4-3 in 171 as he qualified for the second day of wrestling, as did Josh Buck in the 215 with a 5-2 tally. First-year wrestling senior Mike Wisne was 2-2 and showed great improvement on his tactics.

In the 160-pound weight class, sophomore Corey Simone went 5-0 to qualify for the second day of competition, which prompted a good response from Huss.

"He's another sophomore that makes our future look bright," Huss said, speaking of the future of Novi wrestling thanks to the intense ability of

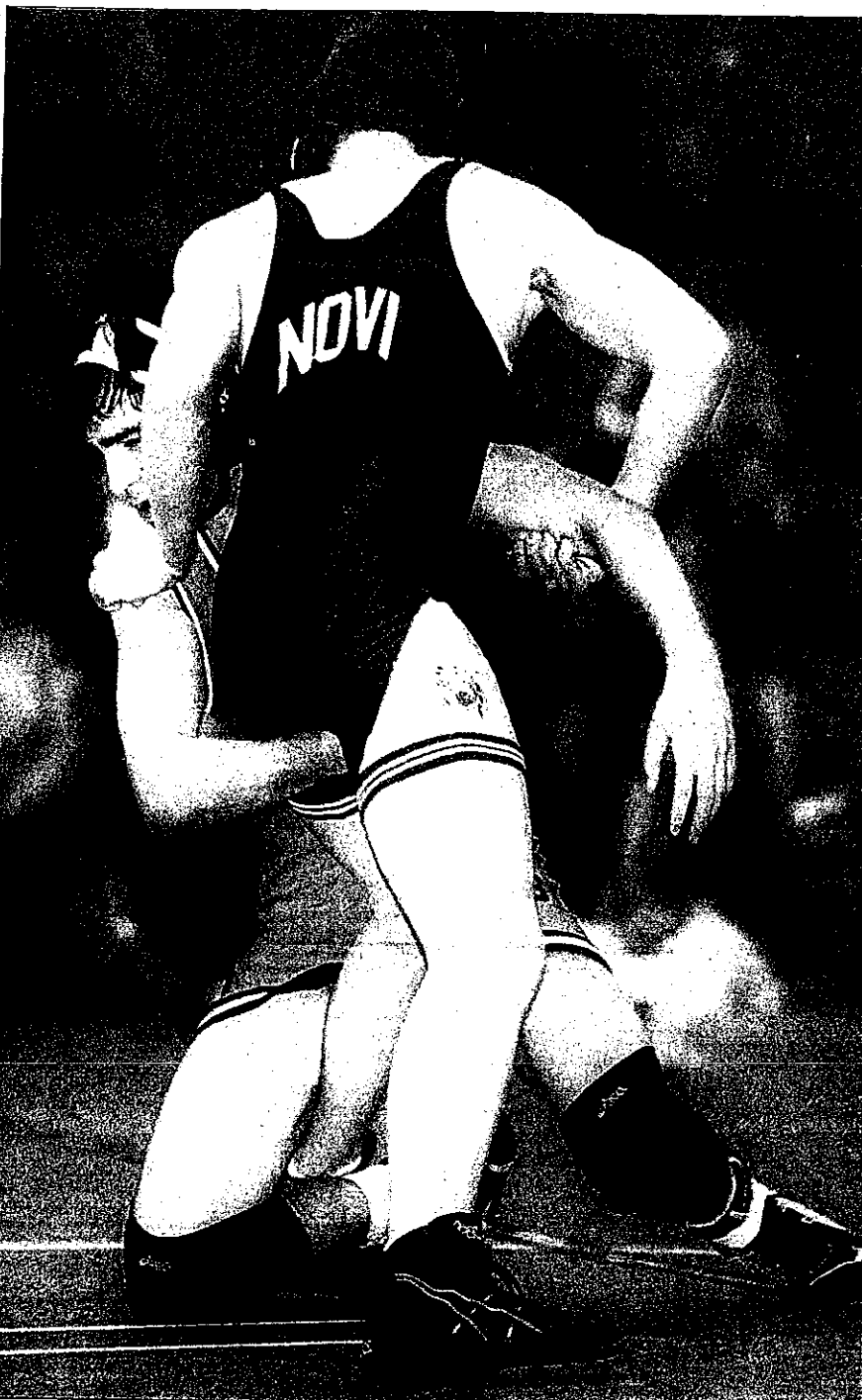


Photo by John Heider

Northville's Nick Giammarco, left, tries to gain the upper hand against Novi's Collin Cody in this December 2002 match. Novi has since gone from this match to taking fourth place in a highly competitive Oakland County Meet which found them wrestling some of the top teams in the state.

his underclassmen grapplers.

Matt Jezior, a senior, qualified for the second day of wrestling in the 189-pound weight class but didn't get a place. Huss noted that his improved wrestling is just going to help the Wildcats as the year goes on.

"He's a senior who is starting to step up, and we need him to do well if we are going to have success as a team," Huss said.

The future is looking bright for the Wildcats wrestling squad, and as the season goes on they will continue to grow

and improve — hopefully right to the point that they are wanting to.

"We are young but we are improving with every meet," Huss said. "We have high hopes for meeting our goals of winning the KVC and making it to the state meet."

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

### Guest Column

## Respect the sports

By Kita Mason  
 SPECIAL WRITER

Like many parents with kids in sports, I have had the joy of sitting on the sidelines in the stands, for many years, watching various levels of my children's athletic competition. In the last couple of years, I've been allowed a wonderful opportunity to write my observations of NHS competition for the Northville Record. This is an honor for me. Northville High School is an outstanding institution, with dedicated administrators, teachers, coaches, and most of all, athletes.

I love sports. I am in awe of the dominant young men and women demonstrate over their own bodies in order to compete at the High School Varsity level. Some of these kids will go on to compete at the collegiate level. For most, the High School Varsity Team is the end of a road that started with baggy uniforms, early morning practices in cold rains, oversized helmets that slipped down over their eyes, grass stains, skinned knees, toothless grins, tears, and juice boxes at the end of a game. I loved the beginning of this journey, and I love the final steps on this path.

As a "special writer" for the Record, I've kept my comments to observations of what happens on the ice, mat, or field. I have another observation that I'd like to comment on today, the parents in the stands.

It is part of the fun to hoot and holler in support of your team or player, it's embarrassing when hooting and hollering turns into unrestrained insults hurled at the referees, the opposing players, or the parents on the other side. This behavior is even uglier when younger brothers and sisters, mimicking their parents, shout similar epithets.

At a recent out of town tournament, most Northville fans cringed as the few screamed their patented insults at the referees, made comments about the host State and community, and even called into question the opposing team's commitment to religious values.

This behavior is wrong, and needs to stop. Wherever we go with the team, we represent Northville High School and our community. We don't need to respond when an opposing fan goads us. We as parents must model the sportsmanship that we want our children to emulate. It takes tremendous discipline to be a successful athlete. It doesn't take much discipline to be a supportive fan.

Is it so hard to conceptualize that there are parents on the other side who love their children and want them to win as badly as we do? Do we truly believe that every referee wants Northville to lose?

In this New Year, let us enjoy the competition and effort, celebrate the victories, encourage, and cheer. But most of all, let us resolve to be gracious in victory as well as defeat. It will be our gift to our children, our community, and to Northville High School.

Kita Mason is a special writer for the Northville Record / Novi News. Comments can be directed to (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

# Wildcats earn tie as they Showcase talents

By Sam Eggleston  
 and Ryan Edwards  
 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

Victory, like the satisfaction of a good meal, is hard to forget — especially when that victory comes in the Kensington Valley Conference.

The Novi Wildcats secured that oh-so-sweet first conference win of the year with a 6-0 shutout against the Milford Mavericks Dec. 18. Following that, the 'Cats wound up with a tie and a loss in the Michigan Showcase Tournament Dec. 20-21.

The Novi skaters were bent on earning a win when they took on the Milford squad. The first period found the Wildcats following the lead of Jared Perras who knocked in a rebound off his own shot with Chaz Bulbuk earning the assist for the 1-0 lead.

Nearly a full period later, about a minute and a half into the second, Robert Vulaj made a quick pass to

John Murray who sniped the puck past the Maverick goaltender for the 2-0 advantage.

Just over 10 minutes later, Novi was able to take a 3-0 edge when Jordan Collins scored his first goal of the season.

The Wildcats dominated from that point on, scoring three goals in five minutes as Mark Eberline deked through the defense and then juked the goalie for a power-play goal at 5:03. The final two tallies came off the Jaussi brothers as Brian rammed one home with a wrap-around goal at 7:44 with Vulaj getting the assist. Sibling Brett carved out the final score as he jumped on a two-on-one break with Bulbuk. Bulbuk wound up and took a floating shot towards the goal, which Jaussi bated out of the air and into the back of the net for the score at 9:58 for the 6-0 win.

The shutout marked goalie Dan Morrison's first of the season.

Holding the Mavericks to an ice-cold night was a stellar defensive effort from Collins, Michael Karas, Eric Cunningham and Bryan Ellis.

### Michigan Showcase

In their opening game, the Wildcats were able to put together an almost-perfect contest against East Kentwood, showcasing their extreme defense, high emotion and ability to create good scoring opportunities. The only downer for the Novi skaters was a tough opening five minutes that found Kentwood skating to a 2-0 lead through the end of the first.

Not that Novi didn't have its chances, failing to score on two powerplays and suffering a disallowed goal. It wasn't enough to get the Wildcats down though. They stuck with it and played tough with good defensive efforts from Karas and Eric Cunningham.

The team effort finally paid off when the Wildcats notched their first goal at 9:58 in the third period. John Murray skated through the East Kentwood defense with the puck before falling to one knee while managing hit the top shelf. The assist went to Vulaj as the 'Cats cut the East Kentwood lead to 2-1.

It wasn't enough in the end, even with the stellar play from goalie Trent Sisson, who was key in keeping the 'Cats in the contest.

The second game of the showcase tournament seemed even less likely than the first, as the Novi icers were set to take on Clarkston — the third ranked team in Division I. Novi came out as physical and aggressive as they have been all year, following the crushing lead of Collins. The Novi defenders took note and were soon sending their opponents into the boards with rough hits. Unfortunately for goalie Morrison, it wasn't enough to stop the pucks from flying his way as

Clarkston peppered him with nearly 50 shots on goal throughout the game. The Wildcats managed to keep up with the pace and ended the game with a 5-5 tie.

The 'Cats were the first to earn a goal as Murray scored his third goal in as many games just 2:35 into the first period. Vulaj earned the assist for the 1-0 advantage before Clarkston tied it up later in the period.

The second period seemed to be all Novi as they took up two more goals off the sticks of Vulaj and Perras. Vulaj notched his at 1:51 in the second to put Novi up 2-1. Bulbuk then added an assist to his totals with a beautiful pass to Perras that was jammed home for the 3-1 lead at 3:34.

Clarkston came back late in the period, proving their ranking in the state as they notched a goal at 11:22 with a wraparound score. Novi was quick to get the two-goal advantage back after the Clarkston

icers inadvertently scored on their own net. Mark Eberline got credit for an unassisted goal on the play for a 4-2 lead.

Clarkston, no doubt stung by the bad play that cost them a goal, came right back at Novi. With just 41.5 seconds remaining in the second period, the Clarkston squad notched a powerplay goal to cut the lead to one.

The third period found the Wildcats' one-goal lead disappearing at the 3:40 mark as Clarkston squeezed a tight shot under the arm of Morrison. Just 31 seconds later, Clarkston struck again, finding the back of the net for the 5-4 lead.

Novi wouldn't be denied nor were they about to let this one slip away into the loss column. With 7:23 off the clock in the third, Vulaj scored a short-handed goal for his second tally and a 5-5 tie.

Novi is 4-5-3 overall after the Showcase Tournament, and 1-2-1 in the KVC.

# Wildcats blast KVC opponent Brighton

## Chris Lewis leads squad with 25; Matt Emmenecker adds another 14

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

League	W	L	W	Overall
Pinckney	3	0	4	1
Brighton	3	0	3	2
Novi	2	1	3	1
Lakeland	2	1	3	1
Millard	1	1	2	3
South Lyon	1	1	2	3
Howell	0	3	0	4
Hartland	0	3	0	5

How would a team go about showing everyone in their conference that they are serious when it comes to the idea of winning the title? How about going out and blasting one of the biggest schools at the conference?

The Novi Wildcats did just that as they took on and dominated the Brighton Bulldogs 63-41 in a Kensington Valley Conference match-up after coming off a fairly long holiday break January 4.

"It was a good win for us," Novi coach Pat Schluter said. "We were shooting well. I thought our three seniors did a great job carrying us. They all had outstanding games."

The Wildcats took the lead right out of the starting gates, pouring in 25 points in the first quarter to lead 25-10 before taking on 13 more for a 28-15 advantage heading into the half.

"Our defense played great," said Schluter, who has a defensive philosophy that if you can keep a team under 45 points, you have a great chance to win. "We held them to only 15 points in the first half, and that's magnificent."

After the break, the Bulldogs came out with a renewed energy in their attack, re-shooting the Wildcat cage by three points — but it didn't matter, especially with a player like Chris Lewis on the court for Novi.

Lewis poured in a whopping 25 points on the night to lead all scorers, while fellow senior Matt Emmenecker added 14 to the win. Chase Chandler, also a senior, added 12 more in the winning effort for the Novi cage squad. Emmenecker also collected seven assists on the

night while Chandler, in all his leaping and blocking out ability, snagged 12 rebounds for a double-double against the Bulldogs.

"Our three seniors are playing some of the best basketball they have ever played," Schluter said. "Schluter noted that though many of the teams are focusing their attention on Emmenecker thanks to his previous rankings throughout the county and from his stats last season, it's still like him to still put up impressive numbers without jeopardizing the rest of the team."

"I think Matt could score more, but he's an unselfish player," Schluter said. "He scored 14 points and I still think he could have scored more, but he's just that unselfish. That's why we've been successful, because he doesn't try to keep the ball and instead finds the open man."

The Wildcats turned on the juice to finish their Kensington Valley Conference opponents off in the fourth quarter, using a strong ending to take the win.

The Wildcats have been finding improved play all around the court, even from their juniors. "They've definitely started to fill in and make roles for themselves," Schluter said. "Of the juniors on the team,

Brad Chandler, Brad Simpson and Ryan Cono were the ones that seemed to stand out above the rest."

"They are playing with good team chemistry right now," Schluter said, but noted that the seniors are worth their weight in gold at this point in the season. "I wouldn't trade them for anybody. They know the system and they are showing great leadership. They are stepping up and doing everything they need to, including fighting the big shus when we need them."

The victory pushed the 'Cats to a 4-1 overall, 2-1 in the Kensington Valley Conference. The Novi cagers will return to action when they host South Lyon tomorrow at 7 p.m. before visiting Northville Tuesday.

"Neither one of those games are going to be easy," Schluter said, who noted that the 'Cats will also have played Plymouth Canton in a non-conference game Tuesday after the Novi New Year's event. "They are both very quality teams. Northville is very good this year."

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Novi News and the Northville Record. He can be reached at (248) 449-1700, ext. 104 or via email at seggleston@home.com.net.



All-State Wildcats!

Jack Tyler and Brandon Cigna brought Novi even more honor as they were selected as All-State golfers this season. Both Tyler and Cigna were vital in the Wildcats march to the state title in the fall of 2002 and oth showed throughout the season that they had what it took to be leaders — and All-State golfers!

# Swimmers still strong

## Despite not having a home pool, Wildcats still busy qualifying for state swim finals

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Despite not having a pool to call home this season, the Novi Wildcats boys swimming and diving team hasn't been deterred any. Instead, they've risen to the challenge with more determination and swim than they could have.

Proving the way for the 'Cats has been the teams three captain is seniors, Ian Robertson and Jack Tyler, as well as junior Matt Schaffer.

"All three of the captain have really been stepping into their leadership roles," Novi coach Larry Tehan said. "Not having a home pool definitely has drawbacks, there's no doubt about it. The guys know that they can live through it though, and have really come out as well as we were hoping they would."

Robertson and Tyler are no doubt leading by example and showing that just because they aren't dipping into the pool surrounded by their familiar green and white, it doesn't mean they can't push hard to have the best season they can.

Robertson has already set the bar just about as high as it can go, qualifying for the state finals in the 50-meter freestyle event, the 100 free, the 100 butterfly and the 200 individual medley. Tyler has stepped up to the challenge nicely as well, earning his qualifying marks in the 500 free relay.

"Ian and Jack are good swimmers," Tehan said. "We have the potential to be a very solid team, and it's early in the season so it's hard to tell what's going to happen."

With everything going on around them, Tehan said that if his guys are able to pull together and work to their potential, a lot of possibilities will open up for them. "The potential is there for us to have a pretty good season," he said.

"We have some kids on this team that we hope will be stepping up for us over the next couple of days. When push comes to shove, we'll see how they perform."

Robertson has been doing a solid job this season, even though they haven't had the opportunity to show off on the boards they have become familiar with.

"They are performing really well so far this year," Tehan noted that his squad has one thing going for it — they aren't treading new waters.

"They saw that the girls were able to have a good season without having their own pool this year," he said. "I think that's really helped push them."

"We have some kids on this team that we hope will be stepping up for us over the next couple of days. When push comes to shove, we'll see how they perform."

# Sports are a great life-lesson classroom for us

Sometimes I'm just amazed at the sheer number of sports played in this area. Everything from rugby to football, from tennis to golf and from bowling to equestrian — that just blows my mind.

I'm from this little tiny chunk of the Upper Peninsula where a class-D school pulls kids from two different counties, with the furthest bus-stops being probably about 60 or so miles from one another, if not further. In a bus, it took me one and a half hours to get to school, and it took me 30 minutes on a good day when I drove.

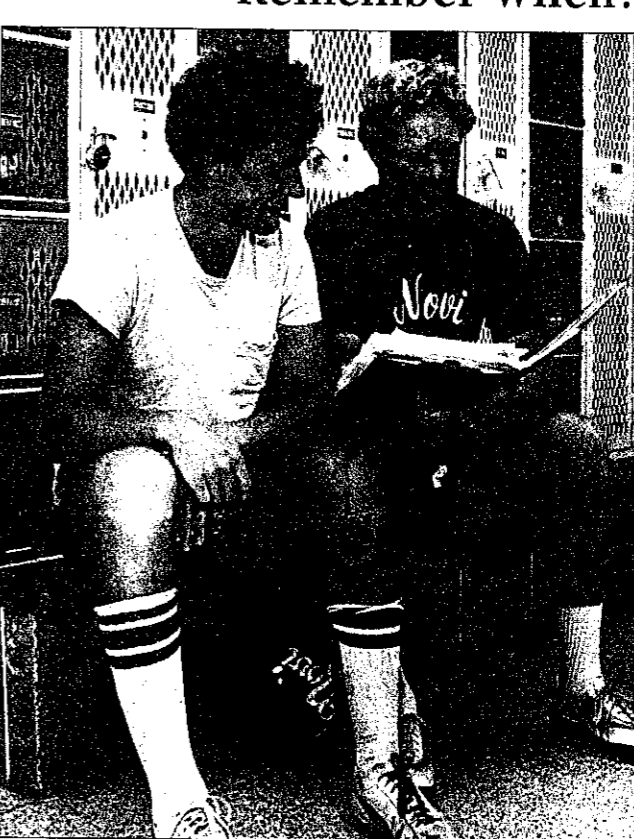
We had sports like basketball and football, track and cross country and even a golf team — but never, ever would we have imagined being able to strap on the skates for some hockey, or to go skiing for our school. Wrestling, equestrian, bowling, baseball, softball, pom-pom, rugby, lacrosse and soccer weren't even offered at my school. Volleyball didn't become a program there until after I graduated in 1998. So, you can see why I get so awed at times over the sheer variety of sports around these parts.

Not that I can blame the schools for wanting to offer sports to so many different athletes with such a wide selection to choose from. Heck, it's just another classroom where students are taught some very valuable lessons about life. In fact, everything I needed to know about making it in the world I learned from the sports I played.

Team-work: Now where would any of us be if it weren't for working as a team? Yeah, now and again you have to plow a new path by yourself, but for all of us a majority of our life is spent working with others to make it operate smoothly. Be it a husband or wife, a child or parent, we've worked as a team to build our lives the way we want to live it while trying to shape the lives of our children to help them out the door and into a successful start — though that doesn't always work! But, there's always team-work. It's there, it's constant and it's something we should all be happy we have.

Life isn't always fair: I lost every game my senior year in football and lost all but two games in basketball that year. Our team worked hard, gave it what we could but we just couldn't top

# Remember when?



The Wildcat griddler's bible rests safely in John Osborne's hands

This was way back in 1982. Coach John Osborne is going over the playbook with a tough-looking Wildcat in their locker room. Back then, the football cleats didn't have a swoosh on the side of them, the helmets still had Novi written across them and, well, Coach hadn't pulled his hair all the way out yet thanks to the many years of holding the clip board. Coach Osborne is a football staple in Novi, and it just wouldn't be the same without him pacing the sidelines at a game.

## UPCOMING NOVI WILDCAT SPORTING EVENTS

Sport	Opponent	Time	Location
Basketball	South Lyon	6:30	H
	Northville	5:30	A
	Hartland	5:30	H
Volleyball	Northwood Invite	9 a.m.	A
	Northville Invite, JV	9	A
	Pinckney	6	A
	W. Lake Invite, JV	6	A
Swimming	W. Bloomfield	9	A
	W.L. Western	7	A
Hockey	Hartland	6	H
	Brother Rice	3	A
	Millard	7:20	A
	Showcase Tourney	TBA	A
	Showcase Tourney	TBA	A
Figure Skating	Ice Cube	3	A
	Artic Edge	TBA	A
Pom Pon	MHSAA Regionals	TBA	A
Cheer	KVC #1 @ Howell	9	A
	Novi Invite	9	A
	Oakton/Macomb	TBA	A
Gymnastics	W.L. Central	7	A
	Hartland Invite	TBA	A
	Brighton	7	H
Wrestling	South Lyon	5:30	A
	Rochester Adams	10	A
	Brighton Trn	5:30	A
	C.C. Super Duals-V	10	A
	Bay City Central-JV	10	A

Note: All times are p.m. unless noted, and all dates are January.

**Pom Pon kicked great**

Novi JV pom pon kicked their way to a first place finish at the Mid American Pom Pon 2002 Dance Team Championship, held at Eastern Michigan University. The team includes: Back row (left to right) — Coach Maria Hernandez, Jennifer Nitti, Marissa Oates, Adrienne Ragsdale, Jill Thynnes, Sara Pyle, Wonyoung Shim; front — Nicole Minghine, Megan, Szalony, Trina Trindzowski, Ashley King, Jill Angelocci, Laurel Kline, Chelsea Cracraft and Megan Prektes.

# Novi Underclassmen Scores

**NOVI JV BASKETBALL**  
Overall: 2-2; KVC: 1-1

The Novi Junior Varsity basketball team squared its record to 2-2 with a big 58-35 non-league win over Walled Lake Central last Friday. Novi JV figured out the Central full-court press early in the game, and added an aggressive style of defense to coast in the victory. Mark Moore led Novi JV with a season-high 30 points, and sophomore Kyle Safford added 13.

Three days earlier, Novi JV lost a close game to Lakeland, 41-36. The game saw several lead changes. Safford led Novi JV in scoring with 13 points. Freshman Bret Coake added eight.

Two weeks earlier, the Wildcats beat Howell, 52-22, for its first victory of the season.

Coach Bill Kelp attributed the victory to outstanding team defense and a balanced scoring attack led by sophomores Jordan Pastover with 13 points, Mark Moore with 11 and Kyle Safford with nine. Novi JV lost their season opener to a tough Walled Lake Western team, 53-43. Sophomore Mark Moore led eight points and two steals. Eric Zhao added seven points and three rebounds, and David Carnegie had six points and two rebounds.

The Novi Freshmen basketball team opened its season in great fashion two weeks earlier with a 34-21 road victory over Walled Lake Western. Matt Simpson led the Wildcats with nine points, three rebounds and four steals. Eric Zhao added six points, four rebounds, five assists and three steals. David Carnegie also had six points, four rebounds, three assists and two steals.

**NOVI FRESHMAN BASKETBALL**  
Overall: 3-0; KVC: 2-0

The Novi Freshmen basketball team raised its record to 3-0 with a 41-33 victory over Lakeland last Tuesday. The Wildcats were led by David Carnegie with nine points. Todd Jamer added eight points, three assists and three rebounds.

Four days earlier, Matt Simpson sunk a three-pointer with four seconds left in the game to spark the Novi freshmen to a thrilling victory over Howell. Sean White led the Wildcats with eight points and two steals. Eric Zhao added seven points and three rebounds, and David Carnegie had six points and two rebounds.

The Novi Freshmen basketball team opened its season in great fashion two weeks earlier with a 34-21 road victory over Walled Lake Western. Matt Simpson led the Wildcats with nine points, three rebounds and four steals. Eric Zhao added six points, four rebounds, five assists and three steals. David Carnegie also had six points, four rebounds, three assists and two steals.

## 5 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS BEST PICTURE

**BEST ACTOR — JACK NICHOLSON**  
**BEST DIRECTOR — ALEXANDER PAVINE**  
**BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS — KATHY BATES**  
**BEST SCREENPLAY — ALEXANDER PAVINE & JIM TAYLOR**

**"A GREAT MOVIE!"**  
PART COMEDY, PART TRAGEDY, PART SATIRE, MOSTLY MASTERPIECE!  
Like *Schindler's List*, *Unforgotten*, *Witness*

**BEST PICTURE**  
**BEST ACTOR — JACK NICHOLSON**  
**BEST SCREENPLAY**  
ALEXANDER PAVINE & JIM TAYLOR

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**BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS**  
KATHY BATES  
**BEST WRITER**  
ALEXANDER PAVINE & JIM TAYLOR

**JACK NICHOLSON ABOUT SCHMIDT**  
KATHY BATES HOPE DAVIS DERMOT MULROONEY

**NOW PLAYING**  
AMC FORUM 30  
BIRMINGHAM 8  
STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE  
STAR SOUTHFIELD

## 2 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS BEST PICTURE

**BEST DIRECTOR — Peter Jackson**

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"TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND PLUNGE YOURSELF INTO THE DARK. EVERY FOOTSTEP IS A BATTLE OF 'THE LORD OF THE RINGS'."  
"PETER JACKSON AND HIS REMARKABLE TEAM HAVE DONE IT AGAIN!"  
DAVID ANDERSON, NETWORK

**THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS**

**NOW PLAYING**  
AMC LAUREL PARK  
BEACON EAST  
MUR SOUTHGATE 20  
SHOWCASE PONTIAC  
STAR FAIRLANE  
STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE  
STAR SOUTHFIELD  
STAR WEST RIVER

**JASON PATRIC RAY LIOTTA**

**NARC**

**STARTS JANUARY 10<sup>th</sup> AT THESE THEATRES!**  
AMC LIVONIA 20  
NOVI TOWN CTR. 8  
STAR FAIRLANE 21  
STAR JOHN R

# Sports Shorts

**Youth Free Throw Contest**  
All boys and girls ages 10-14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2003 Knights of Columbus free throw championship. The local competition for Council 11811 will be held Sunday, Jan. 19 from 2-5 p.m. at Holy Family Church Gym in Novi. The church is located at 24505 Meadowbrook Road, one-quarter mile north of 10 Mile Road.

For more information or to obtain an entry form, contact Ted Mech at (248) 478-1132.

**Jeff Jones Pitching and Hitting Camp**  
Total Baseball will be offering a hitting and pitching camp hosted by Jeff Jones with special appearances by Detroit Tigers

catcher Brandon Inge. This camp features over 25 different instructors, including Jeff Jones — a 26-year professional baseball veteran with the last 15 years being spent as the Detroit Tigers pitching coach. Also to teach will be Jason Bevelin, a pitcher for the Cleveland Indians, and Larry Feola, a professional player for Detroit and New York.

The pitching camps run Jan. 11-Feb. 2 on Saturdays from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and Sundays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.

Hitting camps will be Saturdays from 12:30-2:30 p.m. and Sundays from 2-4 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Camp fees are \$195 each or \$350 for both. For more information, call (248) 668-0166 or e-mail: totball@totalbaseball.com, or check out the Web site at www.eteamz.com/totalbaseball.

**AAU Basketball tryouts**  
The Western Wayne Wildcats 2003 Northville AAU Girls Basketball team will be holding tryouts for the upcoming season. The dates and ages are as follows:  
11-year-olds: Jan. 14, 4:30-6 p.m. at Hillside Middle School;  
Jan. 17, 6:30-8 p.m. at Northville Community Center.  
12-13-year-olds: Jan. 13, 6-7:30 p.m. at Hillside Middle School; Jan. 15, 6-7:30 p.m. at Hillside Middle School.  
14-16-year-olds: Jan. 7, 7:8-30 p.m. at Northville High School; Jan. 8, 7-8:30 p.m. at Hillside Middle School.  
If you have any questions regarding the Western Wayne Wildcats AAU Basketball teams,

call Kim Ficus at (248) 380-9496 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

**Baseball/Softball Hitting Leagues**  
Total Baseball's Indoor Hitting Leagues will have four players per team to hit off batting machines in a point-awarded, one-hour game. Awards will be given to the champions and to the best hitter.

The league runs Jan. 4-Feb. 8. For boys baseball and girls softball, the leagues will run as follows: 13 and under, Saturdays from 9-11 a.m., high school players, Sundays from 6-9 p.m.

The cost of the league is \$35 per individual/\$120 per team with four players on a team. Games will be held at Total Baseball, located at 30990 Wixom Road in Wixom.

For more information or to register, call (248) 668-0166.

**Rec Basketball Registrations**  
The Northville Parks and Recreation department is accepting final registrations for its Winter Youth Basketball Season. Several openings remain in the 6th-8th grade girls, 8th-9th grade boys and 10th-12th grade boys leagues. A waiting list has been initiated for the 9th-12th grade girls league. If enough girls register for the league waiting list, an additional team will be formed.

All leagues will play a 10-game schedule, primarily on Saturdays beginning January 18 and ending March 22. Teams will practice one or two times per week beginning Jan. 6 through March 17.

# Viking hockey squad strong as ever

## Always a good week when skating even with fifth-ranked team in state

The Vikings of Walled Lake Central came within 50 seconds of spoiling Plymouth Salem's perfect record of 9-0. PS is ranked fifth in Division I.

It was just that many ticks left on the clock that the Rocks of Salem were able to accomplish the equalizer and salvage a 4-1 tie to continue their unbeaten ways. Before a packed house at Plymouth's Cultural Center the Vikings took advantage of every opportunity finding themselves up by two late in the third period by a score of 4-2. Salem had thrown everything but the kitchen sink at junior netminder Matt McCallum who provided a stellar performance with his hunches between the pipes facing 36 shots, yielding just four on the night.

"His performance proved to be just what we needed in this one," said Head Coach Jim

Hogan. "With such a potent attack, keeping us on our heels for a good share of the night, he alone was able to take the crowd out of the game and shake a little of the confidence and swagger of the high-flying Rocks."

"Our goal was to shut down Plymouth's two top performers up front. We were very successful at eliminating one of those treats."

The Vikings attack was led by sophomore Shawn Skelly who notched his second Hat Trick of the season.

"He was truly in the right spot at the right time as he found the front of the net to be a great spot for finishing," said Assistant Coach Bill Redding. "Skelly has a nose for the net which is so common in the natural goal scorers of the day."

His three tips out front provided just enough offense along

second of the night to tie the game and literally bring the house down.

In closing, Hogan said, "This team of Vikings, although very talented still needs to learn to hang on, and ride the storm out as they say. We are going to do just that and return to surprise a few more opponents."

**Central 1, Hartland 1**

It was as if the black-and-white era of hockey had returned Saturday night at the old barn on 59, better known as Lakeland Arena, as the Eagles of Hartland and the Vikings of Walled Lake Central battled to a 1-1 tie in high school hockey. These two old rivals seem to bring the nastiness out in each other every year. Twenty-eight penalties called kept the special teams on ice for most of the

# Mustangs still unbeaten

## Basketball boys continue very hot streak

By Tyler Carter  
SPECIAL WRITER



Photo by TYLER CARTER  
The Northville Mustangs had their hands full with a tough Canton squad, but quick plays and high-percentage shooting helped them remain unbeaten on the season thus far.

Starting the season off undefeated sure is pretty, just ask the Northville Mustangs basketball team as they find by you on cloud nine.

Northville won the Dexter Dredaugh Winter Basketball Tournament held at Dexter High School December 27-28. The first game of the tournament found the Northville Mustangs defeating Madison Heights Bishop Foley, 75-52. With the score 8-8 after trading baskets early in the game, Northville took control midway through the first quarter. They consistently beat Bishop Foley's press to score easy baskets.

On the second day of competition, they beat Jackson Lumen Christi, 65-58 in the championship game. After trailing throughout the game, Northville finally took the lead in the fourth quarter on a 3-pointer from the corner by Roger Garfield. The Mustangs increased their defensive intensity in the second half and wore down the Titans. Their secondary interior passing led to easy baskets. Once Northville took the lead, they were able to run the clock and force Lumen Christi to foul. Adam Konst made 7 of 8 free throws down the stretch to seal the victory.

Coming out with sheer determination January 3, Northville faced division rival Canton opponent in their first WAAA Conference game. The Mustangs battled for a close 65-61 victory to make their overall record a perfect 6-0. This was the biggest game of the season for the Mustangs thus far.

Both teams came out of the gates shooting, and at the end of the first half the Chiefs led 34-31. Konst hustled all night and made several big plays. A four

point play by Konst early in the game helped give Northville momentum. Konst came away with a season high twenty-two points on the night.

Coach Darrel Schumacher commented, "Adam was in the right place at the right time and had some key steals for us."

These key steals included two underneath the basket when the Chiefs were attempting to get the ball down the court.

As Mustang fans have grown accustomed to seeing, Scott McNeish gave a top notch performance, picking up five steals and racking up quick points down low. Several of these points came on crisp feeds from Garfield. Garfield also scored nine points of his own, including a pivotal three pointer late in the game.

With the score knotted at 48 in the fourth quarter, the Mustangs made their move. After a 6-0 scoring run, Northville found themselves with some room to breathe. With the lead, the Mustangs enjoyed the ball down and played long, controlled possessions. Despite Northville's leading rebound man, Garfield, fouling out with 3:45 left to play, the Mustangs were able to hold on to their lead. Canton resorted to making quick fouls with a minute and half left on the game clock, but were unable to overcome the deficit and fell to the Mustangs 65-61.

Schumacher said that his team played decent defense on Friday night, but need to work on their rebounding in the future. The Mustangs will be put to the test in Tuesday's battle at Churchill and again when they travel to John Glenn on Friday.



Photo by SAM EGGLESTON

**Poetry in Motion**  
Gymnastics is one of the most eye-appealing sports in high school, combining smooth routines with graceful movements. Here, at the Northville/Novi intersquad scrimmage, the Wild 'Stangs were able to show their fans what it is they'll be seeing in 2003...top-notch gymnastics.

WALLED LAKE WESTERN (Gymnastics, Bowling and Figure Skating the same as WLN)				WALLED LAKE CENTRAL (Gymnastics and Bowling same as WLN)				WALLED LAKE NORTHERN			
<b>Basketball</b>				<b>Basketball</b>				<b>Gymnastics</b>			
10	Salem	7	A	10	Canton	7	H	11	Troy Athens Invite	10	A
14	Canton	7	H	14	Stevenson	7	H	16	Northville	7	H
17	AA Huron	7	A	17	Salem	7	A	22	John Glenn	7	A
<b>Swimming and Diving</b>				<b>Swimming and Diving</b>				<b>Swimming and Diving</b>			
11	Walled Lake Invite	TBA	A	11	Walled Lake Invite	TBA	H	11	Walled Lake Invite	TBA	A
16	Churchill	7	A	16	Franklin	7	A	14	Farmington	7	H
21	Novi	7	H	21	N. Farmington	7	A	16	Western	4	H
<b>Hockey</b>				<b>Hockey</b>				<b>Skiing</b>			
10	Churchill	6	A	10	Millford	8:20	H	21	Br Rice/Marian	4	H
17	Stevenson	8:20	H	11	Churchill	5:20	H	23	W Bloomfield	4	A
18	Pontiac N' Dame	5:20	H	15	Stevenson	6	A	18	Western	4	H
22	JV Hartland Race	4	A	18	Gr Rapids CC	3	A	18	Am Arbor Ice Cube	3-7	A
<b>Skiing</b>				<b>Figure Skating</b>				<b>Wrestling</b>			
13	Millford	4	A	11	Western	5:30	A	11	Lakeland-V Invite	8	A
16	Northern	4	A	13	Br Rice/Marian	4	H	14	Hartland Tri Meet	5:30	A
22	Hartland	4	H	14	St. Mary/Ldwyd	4	A	18	Garden City Novice	9:50	A
24	JV Division Race	4	A	15	Hartland	4	A	18	Garden City Novice	9:50	A
<b>Volleyball</b>				<b>Bowling</b>				<b>Wrestling</b>			
11	Northville JV Invite	9	A	15	Cherry Hill North	1	A	11	Lakeland-V Invite	8	A
11	R. Oak Varsity Invite	9	A	21	Wondertand Lanes	1	A	14	Hartland Tri Meet	5:30	A
15	Central	5:30	H	21	Wondertand Lanes	1	A	18	Garden City Novice	9:50	A
18	WLC JV Invite	9	A	21	Wondertand Lanes	1	A	18	Garden City Novice	9:50	A
22	Northville	5:30	A	<b>Wrestling</b>				11	Gr Pte N Invite	9	A
<b>Wrestling</b>				11	Stevenson	6:30	H	16	Stevenson	6:30	H
11	Rortulus V Invite	9:30	A	18	Garden City Invite	9:30	A	18	Garden City Invite	9:30	A
16	Canton	6:30	H								
18	Garden City Invite	9:30	A								

# Food For Thought

With the New Year many of us indulged in foods not so healthy. Given the choice of a steamed chicken breast with vegetables or buffalo wings with blue cheese dressing for dipping, most would choose the latter. "Tasty goodies" have similar characteristics: good taste, texture, smell, color and variety. These desirable aspects are associated with undesirable ingredients - namely fat (usually saturated), sodium and refined sugars. Straight substitutions are not usually possible but there are ways to create more nutritional meals. Many flavorful and versatile ingredients can go a long way to liven up what may be considered dull food.

I have some suggestions for ingredient substitutions. The more you use them the easier it will become. Be open minded and flexible. Salt can be eliminated with the use of herbs, spices, and other flavor enhancers. Lemon, lime or orange juice or zest, wine, balsamic vinegar, garlic, low-sodium soy sauce, garlic, onions, mild to hot peppers and sharp grated cheeses are examples. Substitutes for butter include different oils (olive, canola, peanut, sesame), to use for sautéing. Start with a bit of oil in a hot pan and brown food quickly. Finish with defatted chicken stock, wine, beer, or vinaigrette. Vegetable juices are also a possibility. Use just enough to keep the food from sticking. Canola oil can usually be substituted for butter or lard in baking.

Instead of using whole eggs, use two whites for one whole. Crumble tofu into whites to fortify and extend them when frying. It is more economical to crack eggs and discard the yolks than buying commercial products such as Eggbeaters. More important, there are no additives.

Use low-fat, low-sodium import cheeses or varieties that are sharp in flavor such as parmesan, asiago and cheddar. Finely grate and use sparingly. Instead of cream in soups, thicken with a starchy vegetable such as potato or parsnip, then puree. Or add yogurt blended with flour, two teaspoons per cup or flavor with wine or sherry. Vegetable purees are excellent substitutes for cream sauces, as in skin milk blended with ricotta cheese. Texture is important, so the use of toasted seeds (sesame, poppy, sunflower, pumpkin), grains, and wheat chestnut add flavor and crunch without fat.

Cooking methods used are also important. Steam, bake, grill, or poach, versus frying and sautéing. Choose lean meats and fish. Trim all visible fat. Marinate to tenderize and increase flavor. Now that we have cooked our food properly, sauces and condiments to enhance the flavor are in order. Fresh or dried fruit purees may be used for synops, mixed with yogurt or ricotta as a spread. Use olive oil on bread instead of butter, or puree sautéed mushrooms, roasted peppers, or steamed tomatoes and whip in a small amount of oil or ricotta to make more spreadable.

Drain no-fat yogurt overnight to

# SIMPLY DELICIOUS

Recipes provided by chef Mary Brady of Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro.

**Artichoke Appetizer**  
1 can artichoke hearts packed in water  
2 tsp. Parmesan cheese  
2 tsp. low-cal mayonnaise  
1 tsp. dry mustard  
1 tsp. lemon juice  
2 green onions

Rinse artichoke hearts. Drain well. Place all ingredients in a processor. Blend until lightly chopped. Place in oven/microwave bowl. Heat until bubbly. Serve with whole wheat crackers. The dish is 100 calories without crackers.

**Chicken Kebabs**  
1 pound white chicken - breast cut or pieces  
Assorted veggies: green or red peppers, onion, mushrooms, and tomatoes  
Low-salt chicken base - 3 envelopes  
6 tsp. grated fresh ginger  
1 bunch of green onion, chopped  
1 cup lemon juice

Make kebabs by alternating meat with veggies on skewers. Blend the rest of the ingredients together and pour over kebabs. Marinate overnight or eight hours. Broil or grill. Serve with rice. Yield is 8-10 kebabs at 150 calories each.

remove all moisture and use as a base for spreads. Substitute yogurt or low fat cottage cheese for sour cream. Use flavored mustard alone or blended with yogurt or ricotta as a substitute for mayonnaise.

Vegetables cooked in a flavorful chicken stock and pureed are fine sauces. Use herbed or flavored vinegars with a touch of oil for dressing or greens. The only limit to healthful cooking is your imagination.

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

# Don't wait two weeks

## This romantic comedy has everything you need

By Victoria Sadocha  
STAFF WRITER

Looking for a romantic treat to start the new year? Warner Bros. Pictures' "Two Weeks Notice" is delivering just that. The romantic-comedy starring Sandra Bullock and Hugh Grant works - which is a pleasant surprise in the overbluffed genre.

Whether it be the chemistry between the two familiar actors or a good production team, the unmistakable feeling of what happens when a man and woman meet before falling in love transcends from the screen, which frustrates her.

In the beginning of the movie, we meet Lucy Kelson, portrayed by Bullock. Kelson is an environmentally-conscious, moral attorney known for laying under a wrecking ball if it means she can save a socially important building from the man. "The man" or in this movie, millionaire George Wade, is the man doing the wrecking 90 percent of the time. Not only does Grant's character spend much of his time demolishing the sacred to build his cash cows, but he also has a hankering for the ladies.

His hobby of hiring gorgeous women from law schools like St. Bart's Law School of luxury, puts him in a bind. The brain behind his beauty, his stodgy brother portrayed by David Haig, tells Grant if he does not hire an Ivy League attorney as his new chief counsel, he is cut out of the family business.

"After some not-so-successful interviews, Grant literally bumps into Bullock on the street, learns she is a Harvard grad and bang! I think you can figure out what happens next."

But why would someone who despises everything Grant stands for become his right-hand woman? Grant promises Bullock if she takes the job, the Coney Island Recreation Center she champions for will not be torn down as part of Wade Corporation's next multi-million dollar development.

At this point in the film, the normally-deadpan, fast-forward type of look at how they are growing as a couple, even

# SPORTS

## Whalers climb to the top Ryan Ramsay helps beat his old teammates

Romer Kitchener Ranger Ryan Ramsay burned his former mates for two goals as the Whalers tallied a 4-2 win over Plymouth on Saturday at 16:06.

Plymouth shut the door in the third when Sean Thompson banged home a goal at 13:36. John Mitchell and Tim Sestito assisted on the goal. The Rangers pulled their goalie with just under two minutes left for the extra-attacker, but the Whalers stood tall to preserve the win.

The Plymouth Whalers battled from behind twice January 4 to force a 2-2 tie with the visiting Guelph Storm. Karl Stewart tied the game up while on the power play at 15:13 of the second period and goalie Jeff Weber turned away 20 shots to preserve the tie.

The Whalers are now 24-7-6-1 on the year and Guelph is 15-16-7-1.

Guelph took the early lead with a goal in the first period. The Storm won a face-off in the Whalers end and Niko Tuomi let a shot go from the point which Plymouth goalie Jeff Weber

never saw. Brett Trudell earned the lone assist on the goal which came at 3:46.

The Whalers tied it up in the second when Chad LaRose broke in and placed a perfect shot just under the cross-bar at 8:17. John Mitchell and Martin Cizek assisted on the goal. But the Storm answered back with a goal just 37 seconds later when Ryan Calabhan blasted a shot into the top corner of the net to put the Storm back on top 2-1.

Plymouth used its number-ranked power play to tie the game up once again at 15:13. Karl Stewart tallied the power play goal with assists from Cole

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## Oh-My-Lord!

### Two Towers makes Rings fans wonder if they are in heaven

By Sam Eggleston  
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

How can you compare a movie that is, in essence, a continuation of the last?

Unlike the "Star Wars" trilogy, the storyline of "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" takes place immediately following the "Fellowship of the Ring," thus making it nearly impossible to say this movie was better than the other one and vice versa. You see, when all is said and done, you can essentially sit down and play them back to back for nine hours of Middle Earth battling and the quest to destroy the ring of power.

No, you just can't compare. What I can say is that this movie flawlessly brings us right where we left off. Just to keep things fresh in my mind, I sat down and watched my DVD of the "Fellowship" and then caught the showing of the "Two Towers."

I must say, it was an absolute stunner — just like the first. You know what else? The battle scenes were great, the action intense, the story flowing and the characters deep — just like the first one. Better than the first? Nope. Worse than the first? Nope. It's like picking up the books and reading the first one and then the second one — was the first better? Was the second? Hard to say, because they were all written at the same time and these films were all filmed at the same time.

Frodo hasn't changed a bit and neither has Sam. A few new additions in characters doesn't mean things are different, it just



No longer very grey, Gandolph is back and plans on sticking around for the third installment of "The Lord of the Rings."

means the story is continuing to unfold. As with the first movie, the ring of power is set on finding itself back in the possession of Sauron in Mordor, and one little hobbit has been charged with the task of taking it deep into the darkest part of the world and throwing it into the Mountain of Doom — the only

place it can be destroyed. Sound familiar? It should, it's the same premise as the first film.

Now, the breathtaking scenes and the top-notch acting are tested by none in this day and age, and the creative mind of director Peter Jackson has helped bring a slew of charac-

ters and beasts to life for our visual enjoyment. There are orcs and dragons and the occasional tree-people that just spring to life in this movie and do so without a hitch. And, I must say, the character of Golemm (My Precious!) is simply marvelous. There are times in the movie that if you didn't



"Frodo" (Elijah Wood) prepares to strike with his sword, Sting, in the central film of New Line Cinema's epic-adventure trilogy, "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers."

remind yourself he was a CGI creation, you'd be ready to help toss in money to fund his trip to a shrink.

This movie is great. It's simply marvelous. The three hours it takes to tell this portion of the epic tale goes by like it's only a half an hour, and that is all aided by intense visual direction and marvelous special effects. In scenes like the assault on Isangard, keep your eye on a single creature scurrying from certain doom — you can see their movements throughout the entire scene. Go ahead, watch any of them and you'll see the immense amount of work that went into this film.

Though I've given up on the rating system, I can safely tell you that I'd have given this movie a perfect 10. The plot is golden, the acting is superb, the visuals are enormous and the directing is that which makes people like Peter Jackson very,

very sought-after. Not only that, but the effects are realistic, the physics are true and the battle of good over evil is unmatched in this day and age.

At one point, the question of what mankind can do over such hatred is asked. The answer is one that won't be told until the third and final installment. My question is, what can be done next to top such a grand film and when will it come? The answer to my question may very well be: Quite possibly nothing, and probably not in my lifetime.

This movie, as well as the entire series, is simply untouchable.

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

## The Screen Beat

By Brian Renner  
THE MOVIE INSIDER

Coming to theaters this weekend is romantic comedy "Just Married," the story of a happy young couple, Sarah (Brittany Murphy) and Tom (Ashton Kutcher), who married against the wishes of Sarah's friends and family. Unfortunately for them, Sarah's parents send Sarah's ex-boyfriend Peter Prentiss (Christian Kane) to their honeymoon getaway to break up the happy marriage. "Just Married" is a 20th Century Fox release and rated PG-13 for sexual content, some crude humor and a brief drug reference.

Based on the Charles Dickens novel, romantic drama "Nicholas Nickleby" follows a young boy (Charlie Hunnam) and his family who, after his father dies, travel to London to seek help from his rich but cruel uncle who sends the lad off to be the headmaster's assistant at an unpleasant boarding school. "Nicholas Nickleby" is a MGM/UA release and rated PG for thematic material involving some violent action and a child-birth scene.

Comic-favored "Blue Collar Comedy Tour: The Movie" is a feature film version of the hit comedy concert tour, it stars comedians Jeff Foxworthy and Bill Engvall and fellow Blue Collar comics Ron White and Larry the Cable Guy. The film features live stand-up performances filmed at Phoenix's Dodge Theater as well as behind-the-scenes sequences highlighting the individual comedians. "Blue Collar Comedy Tour: The Movie" is a Warner Bros. release and rated PG-13 for some crude and sex-related humor.

### Also in theaters

This week in theaters is the crime-thriller "Catch Me If You Can" starring Leonardo DiCaprio as Frank Abagnale, Jr., who works as a doctor, a lawyer and as a copilot for a major airline, all before his 18th birthday. A master of deception, whose skill gave him his first real claim to fame: At the age of 17, he became the most successful bank robber in the history of the United States. FBI Agent Carl Hanratty (Tom Hanks) made it his prime mission to capture Frank and bring him to justice, but Frank is always one step ahead of him, baiting him to continue the chase. "Catch Me

**Make sure to check out Brian Renner and the Movie Insider at [www.themovieinsider.com](http://www.themovieinsider.com) where you can get the most up-to-date information on the World Wide Web when it comes to movies!**

If You Can" is a DreamWorks Pictures release and rated PG-13 for some sexual content and brief language.

Engrossing family drama, "Evelyn," based on true events, follows Desmond Doyle (Pierce Brosnan) and his struggle to raise his kids alone in Ireland in 1953. Doyle is devastated when the power of the Church and the Irish courts take his children away and put them in orphanages. Vowing to reunite his family, he enlists the help of his friends and together they attempt to do what has never been done. "Evelyn" is a MGM/UA release and rated PG for thematic material and language.

Family fairytale "Pinocchio" stars Roberto Benigni as Pinocchio, who follows up his Oscar-winning "Life Is Beautiful" with a live-action adaptation of the Carlo Collodi fable. The film is the story of the wooden puppet and his curious spirit that leads him into one wild adventure after another, despite guidance from the Blue Fairy, and the love of his father, Gepetto. "Pinocchio" is a Miramax Films release and rated G for nothing objectionable.

Epic drama "Rabbit-Proof Fence" travels back in time to a dark chapter in early 20th-century Australian history; the forced separation of Aboriginal children from their parents. The story follows three such girls who escape and travel 1,500 miles across the desert to get back home. "Rabbit-Proof Fence" is a Miramax Films release and rated PG for emotional thematic material.

Denzel Washington's directorial debut "Antwone Fisher" follows Antwone Fisher (new-

comer Derek Luke), a young sailor, who is ordered to see a Navy psychiatrist to control his anger after fighting with shipmates. After therapy, Antwone sets out to find the family that abandoned him as a child, and the mystery of his identity is revealed. "Antwone Fisher" is a Fox Searchlight release and rated PG-13 for violence, language and mature thematic material involving child abuse.

Literary drama "The Hours," based on the 1998 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Michael Cunningham. The film profiles the parallels between the lives of three women — a Manhattan book editor (Meryl Streep); a California housewife (Julianne Moore); and famed author Virginia Woolf (Nicole Kidman) — living in different places and eras. "The Hours" is a Paramount Pictures release and rated PG-13 for mature thematic elements, some disturbing images and brief language.

### Next week

Romantic comedy "A Guy Thing" (PG-13), culture-clash comedy "Kangaroo Jack" (PG) and goofy action/comedy "National Security" (PG-13).

### Video and DVD

Romantic drama "The Good Girl" (R), comedy concert movie "Martin Lawrence Live: Runt'Dat" (R), sci-fi thriller "3" (PG-13) and caper comedy "Who Is Cletis Tout?" (R).

### DVD

"Band of Outsiders" (Criterion) (NR), "Be My Valentine, Charlie Brown" (NR), "Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Season Three" (6-DVD Set) (NR), "Much Ado About Nothing" (PG-13), "Oz: The Complete Second Season" (3-DVD Set) (NR), "Pepe Le Moko" (Criterion) (NR), "The Shield: The Complete First Season" (4-DVD Set) (NR), "The Spaghetti Western Collection" (4-DVD Set) (NR), "Trouble in Paradise" (Criterion) (NR), "Twilight Zone: Collection 3" (Vol. 19-27) (9-DVD Set) (NR) and "Twilight Zone: Collection 4" (Vol. 28-36) (9-DVD Set) (NR).

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## 9 Miles 2 Go band gets in your head

### For a punk outfit from Novi, these fellows seem to have what it takes

By Sam Eggleston  
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

I'm the first person that would come out and say that when it comes to punk music, I'm probably the least qualified person on the planet to review a CD.

Born and raised in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, I didn't even hear a Green Day or Blink 182 song until I was in college, and even then it was sporadic at best. Just the other day I happened to sit down and watch MTV and for the first time I heard a band called "Sum 41."

But, here I am listening to this punk band called 9 Miles 2 Go as they call out the tunes on their first CD, "When I Grow Up." I don't know about anyone else that grew up with the background that I did, but if this is the kind of music that you get when you finally grow up and try to find a piece of the world for yourself, then I'd want to grow up as quick as I can.

Quite simply, these guys just rock. For a band from the middle of Novi, Michigan, I have to say I am quite impressed. Their music rolls out of the speakers with a smooth sound, letting you relax while you listen to their well-written songs that are accompanied by snazzy instrumental play. The lead singer, a fellow by the name of Bryan Beeler, has the ability to catch you in his lyrics, pulling you along for an edgy ride that catches you tapping your foot throughout most of the songs. Mark Bonaventura, a 17-year-old bassist, can be heard picking up the back-up vocals with a smooth tone while drummer Ben Grieshaber doesn't miss a beat as he plays well enough to put most drummers in the industry to shame.

The catchiest tune on the 10-song CD is "The Things." The

song has drawn enough attention to the band to land them on "The Best of the Unsigned Bands" CD compilation to be released by Asian Man Records. Though "The Things" is the song that you will probably burn along with the rest of your favorites to listen to while out on the road, "It Fuels Us" is the one that I found myself singing while getting ready for work this morning.

The first song on the album, "Drop Out," is a fine example of the band's ability to match instrumentals with an edgy vocal style. "Drop



Out" is followed by "It Fuels Us," which simply leads you deeper into the band's ability as both vocalists get a turn to showcase their talents, while they fuel the fire of their future fandom with a ridiculously addictive tune. Third on the tracks is "Tell Me Why," a song that starts out with a nice introduction and then slides into a very classic-styled tune. "Village Idiot" comes fourth on the CD, and could have easily been their first single if it hadn't been for the already mentioned "The Things." With five other songs, including "End of the Road," "Another Night," "Baby, What's Wrong?," "Perfect Song" and the aptly named "Last Song," this CD is sure to please for the punk

music fan out there. In fact, before I listened to this CD, someone may have asked me if I liked punk, and I would have simply said: "No." I was sadly mistaken.

Overall, a very catchy crew with the ability to draw much more attention to themselves than they have been able to in Novi (I can't imagine it's the most fruitful place for a punk band to grow and prosper), I have a feeling 9 Miles 2 Go is going to be one of those groups that you don't mind letting your daughter listen to.

My wife compared them to Blink 182 the second I put on the CD and flipped the speakers on. I'm thinking they are much better than Blink 182's early recordings, and that's with the less-than-par recording equipment that they were forced to endure with the money out of their own pockets for this album. Don't worry though, I have a feeling they won't be stuck doing that again as this is probably going to prove to be one of those bands that, if they can stay together, will be prosperous indeed.

And as though you need any reason other than good music to log onto [www.9miles2go.com](http://www.9miles2go.com) and purchase their CD, all three members of this band are from Novi. Wouldn't it be great to say that you were fans of their music before they hit it big, and you're from their hometown or at least near it? I know I'll let everyone know that I have their very first CD in my collection when they hear "The Things" belting on the radio and I catch them tapping their foot.

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