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Classifieds

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INSIDE

It's a Super Sunday!

Are you ready for Super Bowl XXXVII this Sunday? The Novi News has put together a list of local establishments that will be featuring the contest, as well as caterers for those who wish to stay home, a list of nonalcoholic beverages and tips for those who like to gamble. — Page 3A



Challenging cancer

Cancer, The Big C, for most people the mere mention draws a cold chill, but for Joan Wysocki the experience was life-altering in an oddly positive way.

— Page 4A

Detour up ahead

Anyone who has lived in Michigan longer than 20 minutes will tell you this state has really only two seasons — pot-hole and orange barrel. For residents and businesses along Grand River Avenue between Beck and Novi roads, pothole season is about to come to an abrupt end.

— Page 6A

Super premiere here

Jeff Daniels new flick, "Super Sucker," was the winner of the Audience Award for Best Feature at the 2002 U.S. Comedy Arts Festival. It will premiere in Novi (yes, Novi) tomorrow.

— Page 4B

SPORTS

Not enough

The combined Northville-Novati gymnastics team had a good showing across the board, but just couldn't top the home team or their very close neighbor at the Hartland Invitational.

— Page 1B

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Strippers in Novi?

Manhattan Club financier's past questioned

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Strippers in Novi?

No way. And city attorney Gerald Fisher is looking into whether or not members of the Novi City Council may possibly call a special meeting to perhaps revoke a liquor license previously issued to an establishment partially financed by someone involved in adult entertainment.

The liquor license transfer was granted by members of council in October, giving applicants Karl Early and Draga Stoyanovich the approval to operate the Manhattan Club according to its business plan in the former Billy's on the River site on Grand River Avenue. The establishment was touted by Early as a club for adults 35 and older, featuring a stylish gathering place where sounds of Frank Sinatra will fill the walls.

But an investigation by the State of Michigan Liquor Control Commission revealed a financier involved in the project has a questionable past including prohibited sexual activity.

In a letter to Early written by Julie A. Wendi, director of the

commission's licensing division, the applicant corporation was issued a warning "to be diligent in operating this business within the confines of the Michigan Liquor Control Code and the rules and regulations of the commission as failure to do so may seriously jeopardize their continued opportunity for licensure at the location."

Wendi further warned the issuance of the entertainment permit associated with the business does not allow topless activity. The topless warning was relevant after an investigation by the commission revealed a \$250,000 loan to the applicant was issued by Ronald Szolack, who has held an interest in Top Flight Entertainment, Ltd.

According to commission documents, the Inkster business was "cited and found responsible for one violation involving 11 counts of persons performing simulated sexual activity and persons exposing to public view their public region and/or anus."

About \$126,000 of the loan has already been used for remodeling costs, furniture, fixtures, equipment and some lease payments on the building beginning in July at

the 40380 Grand River Avenue location.

In addition, Early was arrested and pled guilty in 1996 for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and in 1999 for the same offense when he was sentenced to a one-year driver's license suspension.

The commission's investigation also revealed Stoyanovich is a stockholder in Kickers All American Grill in Livonia, an establishment cited and found responsible for two violations for failure to maintain accurate records of alcoholic liquor purchases and two violations for the sale of alcoholic liquor to persons younger than 21.

The commission originally decided to deny the license request until a meeting with the attorney representing the corporation behind the club proved the discovered violations would not produce any unlawful activities in the Novi business.

Attorney Thomas Giachino, representing the applicant stockholder Early and the applicant corporation, pointed to many factors reversing the commission's original ruling.

Giachino put emphasis on the

fact from 1994 to 2001, Early was the sole stockholder of The Finish Line in Livonia without any history of personal or professional violations.

The attorney additionally pointed out Stoyanovich was a stockholder and treasurer of Kickers; however, the business was operated by her three nephews and she was not an active operator of the business.

In regards to Szolack, Giachino said he is solely a creditor and will have no involvement in the actual operation of the Manhattan Club.

Novi Police Chief Douglas Shaeffer said not only would he personally not allow any type of adverse activity in the City of Novi, but zoning ordinances for the Grand River Avenue property make any type of topless activity illegal.

Members of the city council and Novi Police Station originally approved the license transfer request with knowledge of Early's prior convictions.

Information regarding Kickers and Szolack was not produced during the initial application process.

"At the best, information was omitted and at the worst, information was concealed," said Novi

WARNING

In a letter to the applicant stockholder of the Manhattan Club, Julie A. Wendi, director of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission's licensing division, warns "to be diligent in operating this business within the confines of the Michigan Liquor Control Code and the rules and regulations of the commission as failure to do so may seriously jeopardize their continued opportunity for licensure at the location."

Mayor Richard J. Clark.

If members of council are not able to or decide not to rescind their original transfer approval, the Manhattan Club will receive the license along with a Sunday sales permit, dance permit and food permit from Sassy's of Manitou, Inc. a Lenawee County business.

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.

More residents question the city

Recently-filed lawsuit against Novi states city officials violated the Freedom of Information Act

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

A lawsuit against the City of Novi was filed in Oakland County last week, alleging the municipality failed to comply with laws governing the dissemination of information.

The Complaint for Enforcement of the Freedom of Information Act was filed on behalf of Ann and Lee Coblentz and John and Deborah Lewandowski after representing attorneys claimed requests for information pertaining to the Sandstone Associates lawsuit settlement by the firm's clients were not fulfilled by city officials. Rick Wilson, attorney with the Law Offices of Bailey & Rossi, PC in Bloomfield Hills, said his clients requested a number of documents allegedly a part of the agreement which they were told didn't exist.

The request for the exhibits to the settlement the plaintiffs were told didn't exist came after limited

continued on page 2



Photo by John Helder

Novi Fire Rescue personnel remove a driver of a sedan involved in a serious accident at the corner of Meadowbrook and 12 Mile Road around 3 p.m. Thursday afternoon. The other vehicle involved, an SUV, rolled onto its side and its occupants did not need medical attention.

Sedan, SUV collide; one driver injured

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

A Wixom woman was taken away by ambulance last week after the sedan she was driving careened off the road and into a sign at 12 Mile and Meadowbrook roads.

She was transported to Huron Valley Hospital where she was treated and released.

A South Lyon man behind the wheel of a sport utility vehicle, also involved in the Thursday, Jan. 16 accident, walked away

without receiving medical attention after the GMC Yukon he was traveling in rolled over on impact.

Novi Fire Chief Arthur Lemaghan said the woman was extricated from her vehicle around 3:30 p.m. before being turned over to Community EMS.

Neither vehicle was operable after the collision, and the 56-year-old woman was found at fault for the accident.

Novi Police Detective Sgt. David Molloy said witness statements supported she failed to obey a traffic signal.

"She admitted to the officer she may have been distracted in the car, but was adamant she was not on her cell phone," Molloy said.

Alcohol, drugs and inclement weather were ruled out as factors in the casualty.

According to a report prepared by Novi officer Craig Chismar, the Wixom woman driving a 1999 Ford Taurus was traveling northbound on Meadowbrook Avenue when she drove through a solid red light at the intersection of 12 Mile Road.

The 59-year-old South Lyon

man driving the 2002 Yukon was proceeding westbound on 12 Mile Road when he struck the Taurus on the passenger side, police said.

The report stated after the impact, the Taurus careened off the road into The Michigan State University Toll Gate sign and the 2002 Yukon rolled over.

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.



Photo by John Helder

Novi Meadows' student Adam Thrasia attempts to start a fire in the snow with some wood fiber.

Fifth-graders learn respect for our ecosystem

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

What happens when you take a group of fifth graders out camping? That is the question Novi Meadows fifth grade teachers Marianne Malarkey and Gary Hurst were asking themselves before last week. They got a pleasant surprise when they found out that fifth graders learn a lot about wildlife, respecting themselves and others and survival during the two-and-a-half-day trip.

The school has been taking its fifth grade students to the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center for 25 years now. In the past it

was a five-day program, but more recently it was cut to two and a half days because of the availability of the facility. That fact hasn't diminished the enthusiasm that the students have for the trip, however.

"Before we left I thought it would take a long time, but it went by in a really short time," student Dylan Capello said. "I thought it was really fun and I wish I could do it again. I liked creative painting because we got to go down to the bridge and we had to sketch a drawing and then water color paint it. Sledding was also fun."

According to Hurst, the facility is owned by the Walled Lake

School District and Novi Meadows rents it. "We have gone at all different times of the year," he said. "We have gone during winter time in the past and we do a lot of different activities. The kids stay in a dormitory, which is nice because we are all together."

Student Kelsey Masserant enjoyed the owl pellet class. "It was fun because we got to see all the different bones from the animals the owls ate," she said. "I loved the camp because it was fun. I remember not being able to cross country ski and going sledding. We got to know the other class better and not just our own class."

The Walled Lake School District owns 11 acres of land, so the students have access to all different types of forest area. "Every Novi fifth grader goes out to the program, so it's touching everyone who goes through the system," Hurst said. "I had one girl on the last day who was there, who asked me if she had to leave. She said she didn't want to come up there in the beginning, but she didn't want to leave at the end."

Student Lindsey Battishill learned many new things she didn't know before. "We played a game where there were three adults and two of them were

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Cancer brings 'blessings' to Novi's Joan Wysocki

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Cancer, the Big C, for most people the mere mention draws a cold chill, but for Joan Wysocki the experience was life-altering in an oddly positive way.

The retired CPA from Novi said she's always loved plants and has had a vegetable garden ever since she was a little girl, but it wasn't until after she was diagnosed with breast cancer near two years ago that she became interested in the medicinal value of herbs. "I never felt a lump until I felt the lump," she recalled. She said the worst part was when she told Ronald, her husband of 17 years. "The look on his face was just fear," she said quickly.

After being diagnosed in June of 2001, Wysocki endured two mastectomies and a mastectomy. "The tumor was a lot bigger than they thought," she recalled.

This was followed by six months of chemotherapy at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor and six weeks of radiation therapy at Providence Hospital and Medical Centers Assisted Living Center in Novi. "Although I wasn't thrilled about the cancer treatments," she said, "they did help me to focus on a new purpose. For that I am very grateful."

Joan Wysocki
when she told her husband, Ronald

Joan Wysocki said she liked the idea of the salve, but she learned the importance of the radiation treatments, which lasted from April to May. Wysocki said "it took a lot of herbs, and they made a huge difference."

Through the radiation treatments, which lasted from April to May, Wysocki said "it took a lot of herbs, and they made a huge difference."

She ended up making a salve of olive oil, beeswax and herbs. "It felt better doing something for myself," she said.

To cold-pressed extra virgin olive oil, Wysocki added St. John's Wort, Comfrey, Plantain, Chickweed and Calendula, which she let steep for two weeks on her windowsill before being added to melted bees' wax to form a salve.

St. John's Wort, said Wysocki, along with being an anti-bacterial and anti-viral agent and a pain reliever, turns the mixture a bright red. She said the allantoin in Comfrey and Plantain helps regenerate cells, while Plantain and Chickweed are anti-inflammatory. Wysocki added Calendula "is a good overall skin healer."

Wysocki said she liked the idea of the salve, but she learned the importance of the radiation treatments, which lasted from April to May. Wysocki said "it took a lot of herbs, and they made a huge difference."

unlike commercial skin creams, it contained no chemicals.

Not long after she made her first batch, she shared some with an acquaintance who had seen 10 doctors for her psoriasis without success. The salve, said Wysocki, cleared it up.

Wysocki had been going to Spirited Reflections at the Village Mall in Farmington Hills for meditation and massage weekly. The owners there eventually suggested she set up a booth at the Farmington Founders Festival in July.

From there, she said, "Things just bloomed."

The salve is now packaged in one ounce jars that sell for \$9.95 as Herb Ease. She also created Ivy Ease, a lip balm called Natural Lips and a soap version of Herb Ease.

This has led to the creation of a one-woman company that carries her original product's name. Wysocki raises the herbs for Herb Ease on 30 acres she and her husband own near Hillsdale, and she makes her products in her Novi kitchen.

Last summer, at the urging of her physical therapist, Wysocki joined her cousin on the Avon 3-Day Breast Cancer Walk from Ann Arbor to Farmington. After getting donations from family and friends for the walk, Wysocki decided to donate a portion of Herb Ease's profits to cancer research.

So far, Wysocki said, reaction to her product line has been "excellent."

For more information on Herb Ease, Wysocki can be reached by phone at (248) 210-1133 or by e-mail at herbaease@aol.com.

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

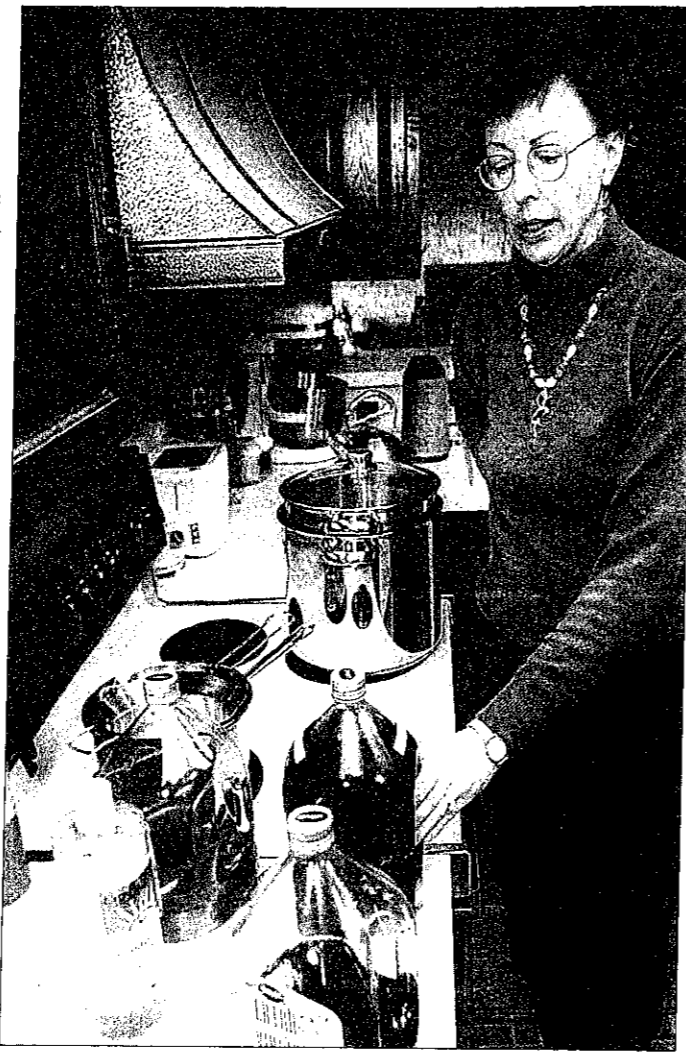


Photo by John Hepler

With her double-boiler nearby, Novi's Joan Wysocki shows how she makes her HerbEase body creams from bottles of cold-pressed olive oil, St. John's Wort, and Calendula oil. Wysocki developed the "Nature's body salve" after undergoing cancer treatment.

Hang on Snoopy, Snoopy hang on!

Bar shark heads for the wild blue yonder

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Nurse sharks rank among the most favored sea creatures among novice scuba divers prowling the Caribbean's reefs because of their slow and docile nature.

However, even among nurse sharks, Snoopy, who has called a 500-gallon aquarium on the second floor of Novi's 5th Avenue Billiards home for the past three years, is slow and, in a word, fat. It's not a combination that bodes well for a long and fruitful career in the open sea.

Sill, Wendy Rhodes, a animal rights activist from Los Angeles, would rather see Snoopy have a few hours of freedom in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary rather than years languishing in a 32-square-foot tank with only a layer of crusted shell for stimulus.

Rhodes began crusing sharks to the wild five years ago when her group got an anonymous phone call on its hot line about a shark being kept in a small tank. "One thing lead to another," she recalled, "and what I found was that as much research as I did and when I say I made hundreds of calls, I made hundreds of calls trying to get information on what I could do to help this animal. What I found out was nobody knew. I was talking to the top respected places in the country, like Sea World and aquariums and places that kept sharks and claimed to be shark experts and said we do shark research and they didn't have any idea. Nobody knew, because their job

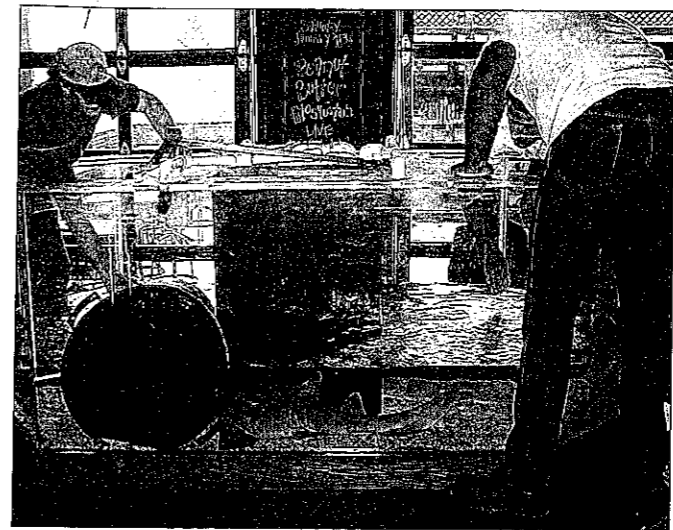


Photo by Phil Foley

Volunteers at Novi's 5th Avenue Billiards try to coax Snoopy the nurse shark into a plastic trash can to begin his 1,500 mile journey to the protected waters off Key Largo, Florida. Snoopy was having none of it and eventually Mike Baldyga, whose company maintains the aquariums at the Novi nightspot, snatched him up with his bare hands and dropped him in a specially designed shipping container.

was taking sharks from the wild and putting them into captivity. Nobody had taken sharks from captivity and released the sharks back into the wild."

Snoopy makes an even dozen releases for Rhodes. She was in Metro Detroit last April helping another nightklub return a nurse shark that had outgrown its tank.

While Snoopy is less than four feet long and probably tips the scales at a pudgy 30-pounds, if he survives, he could one day reach 12 feet long and weigh in at more than 300-pounds.

According to the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Snoopy could expect to add a little more than five inches and nearly seven pounds a year—and live to be 40, if he's lucky.

Snoopy came to 5th Avenue Billiards three years ago as a foot-long pup. According to the nightclub's staff, as he grew, items were removed from the tank until one day he was the only thing left.

"We loved having the shark, but he's gotten too big for the tank and it's going to a better place now," Mike Conroy, 5th Avenue's general manager, said. When Conroy realized that

Snoopy would one day outgrow his tank, he began looking for a new home for him. "We called everywhere. We called the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, Toledo Zoo, Belle Isle and no one wanted him," Conroy said his staff were "really worried," because they figured they had at most a year before Snoopy would run out of living space.

Mike Baldyga, the owner of Livona-based Relaxavision, the company that maintains 5th Avenue's aquariums, said finding a new home for Snoopy and getting him there was no small task.

While marine life collectors routinely ship reef fish to Metro Detroit pet stores, Baldyga said, "the problems of a smaller fish are magnified 100-fold with something like this. Wendy's done a fine job coordinating this."

Baldyga noted, "Because it's a much bigger animal, you have to get a container that's much larger. You have to make sure it doesn't weigh too much so that people can move it easily to transport it from here to the airplane and to the place where it's going. You got to make sure it doesn't run out of oxygen or pollute the

water it's in too much."

To accomplish the last item, they stopped feeding Snoopy five days before his trip.

Before the staff at 5th Avenue found Rhodes, Baldyga figured he had about a year before he'd have to put Snoopy in the back of the pickup and drive south.

"That's what it would be, another Ken Keyes journey here, except with a shark."

He added, "We did make jokes here with the cook that we may be eating shark sandwiches one night or we'd put him up on the wall, but that was only jokes. We did want to find a good home for him, so this has worked out."

Rhodes took Snoopy to the Marine Mammal Conservancy in Key Largo, Fla. where he spent Saturday night and Sunday in a fenced off cove on Florida Bay before being released in the Atlantic Monday morning.

In a way, said Rhodes, it was something of a homecoming for Snoopy. Relaxavision got Snoopy from an Eastside pet shop, which in turn got him from a Florida marine life collector. Rhodes

Snoopy was examined by a vet and given a last free meal before being released to his new home.

Photo by Phil Foley for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 108 or at pfoley@ht.hometown.com.



Photo by Kevin Wadlow/Florida Keys Keyporter

Lloyd Brown, a volunteer with Dade Wildlife Rescue, helps Snoopy acclimate to the tepid waters of Florida Bay at the Marine Mammal Conservancy's facility on Key Largo Sunday afternoon. Monday, Wendy Rhodes, a Los Angeles-based animal rights activist and Conservancy volunteers released Snoopy into the waters of the Atlantic Ocean off Key Largo where he will spend the rest of his days.

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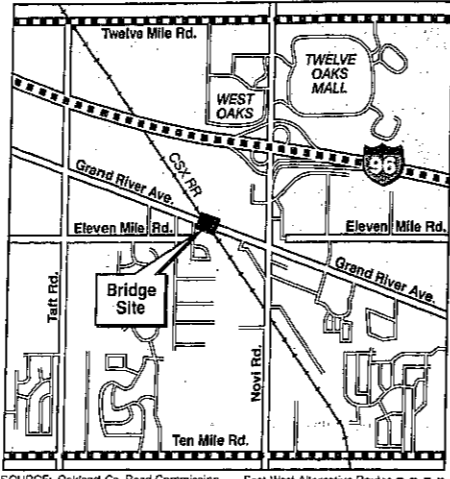
Residents, business brace for Grand River traffic disruption

By Phil Foley STAFF WRITER

Anyone who has lived in Michigan longer than 20 minutes will tell you this state has really only two seasons — pothole and orange barrel. For residents and businesses along Grand River Avenue between Beck and Novi roads, pothole season is about to come to an abrupt end...

The commission and the city are holding informational meetings for residents and business people. Novi City Clerk Center, 45175 West 10 Mile Road, Jan 28. Novi's business community will get the first chance to meet with city and commission officials at 8:30 a.m. followed by an informational meeting for city residents at 7 p.m.

Grand River Bridge Construction



SOURCE: Oakland Co. Road Commission East-West Alternative Routes

DeRoche snags influential committee appointments

By Victoria Sadlocha STAFF WRITER

Freshman legislator Craig DeRoche rose to the top last Thursday, receiving senior-like assignments during the House's announcement of committee appointments. The Jan. 16 announcement included the news State Rep. Craig DeRoche (R-Nowi) was named to the House Transportation, Energy and Technology and Regulatory Reform committees during the 92nd legislature.

County's foster care review needs help

The State Court Administrative Office of the Michigan Supreme Court is seeking volunteers to serve on the Oakland County Foster Care Review Board.

DeRoche aide Andy Anuzis explained some of the responsibilities each committee bears. Transportation — A committee dealing with more than roads, those involved with House Transportation face many issues surrounding a variety of means of transportation including airports, airlines, and everything else under the sun dealing with transportation.

Birth

Benjamin Mark Williamson Chris and Jennifer Williamson of Brookfield, Wis. are proud to announce the birth of their son, Benjamin Mark Williamson.

Engagement



VanderLaan-Greywall Ken and Joyce Greywall of Novi announce the engagement of their son, David Greywall...

Obituary

Brett Thompson died January 9, 2003 in New York. He was born in 1963 and was 39. Mr. Thompson was a 1981 graduate of Novi High School.



Courtesy photo

In the Service

Air Force Airman David E. Jackson has graduated from military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Four Novi High School graduates attended the 28th Annual All Academy Holiday Ball at the Doubletree Hotel in Novi on Dec. 28. The ball is sponsored by the United States Air Force Academy Parents Club of Eastern Michigan...

The Novi News wants to print your announcements! Send information and photos to Cal Stone, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167, or call (248) 349-1700 for more information.

Church Directory listing various churches such as Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church of Northville, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Verizon Wireless advertisement for the National Family SharePlan, offering unlimited night and weekend minutes for \$39.99.

Verizon Wireless advertisement for the 1000 Anytime Mobile to Mobile offer, providing 1000 anytime mobile to mobile minutes for \$29.99.

Birth: Benjamin Mark Williamson. Engagement: Ken and Joyce Greywall. Obituary: Brett T. Thompson. In the Service: David E. Jackson.

Large Verizon Wireless advertisement featuring the 'Unlimited Nights & Weekends' offer and a '1000 Anytime Mobile to Mobile' offer.

Advertisement for Milan 2000 Furnishings Ltd., featuring dining room acrylic chandeliers and furniture for sale.

Church Directory advertisement for Novi News, providing contact information for church listings.

Verizon Wireless advertisement listing authorized retailers and providing contact information for various locations.

Advertisement for RadioShack, featuring various electronic products and services.

PROVIDENCE PARK

All Community/Health Events are held at Providence Park-Novi, 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-Novi, 39500 W. 10 Mile Rd.
DETAILS: free, all welcome
PHONE: (248) 548-9362

ROBOT CAMP (through Providence Center for the Healing Arts)
DAYS: first Wednesday of each month
TIME: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
LOCATION: Providence Park-Novi 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 wholesome new approach to wellness and healthy living.

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

Overeaters Anonymous
DAYS: every Friday
TIME: 7 p.m.
DETAILS: free, for overeaters looking for a support group
PHONE: Help line: (313) 438-HELP or (248) 474-9456

Emotions Anonymous
DAYS: every Friday
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
DETAILS: free, all are welcome
PHONE: (248) 477-9729

DETAILS of Events

Borders Nov, book signing with Jim McKee
DATE: Wednesday, January 29
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Borders Bookstore, Novi
DETAILS: Ms. Jenn McKee is a contributing author in Best New American Voices 2003. She will read from her short story "Under the Influence."

How to Write a Business Plan
DATE: Thursday, Jan. 30
TIME: 9 a.m. to noon
LOCATION: Oakland County Executive Office, Telegraph Road, Pontiac
DETAILS: 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.

Novi Home Improvement Show
DATE: Friday, Jan. 31-Sunday, Feb. 2
TIME: Friday, noon-9 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Expo Center, Novi Road and I-96

Menors Plus Training/Orientation
DAYS: Saturday, February 15
TIMES: 9 a.m.
LOCATION: Oakland County Courthouse, 1300 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac
DETAILS: As a Menors Plus volunteer, only a few hours of your time each month will help a young person in your community. Be a positive adult role model for someone 5 to 16 years old.

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.
DETAILS: Tickets are \$35 per person. Buffet dinner, cash bar, dancing, live and silent auctions.

Welder's Dinner, cash bar, dancing, live and silent auctions. Benefit to Caritas Care Program at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital and Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce's community and business services.
PHONE: Chamber office (248) 624-2826

Stress Reduction Series
DATES: Four Mondays, starting February 3
LOCATION: Huron Valley Sinai Hospital, Commerce
DETAILS: \$10 fee per session (4 sessions), or all four sessions for \$25. Sessions focus on strategies to reduce stress. You will cover techniques to turn stress into positive energy, simple steps to finding more time and energy for the things that matter most, strategies to help you achieve your desires and skills you can use to eliminate clutter from your life.

Laser Vision Correction Seminar
DATE: Tuesday, February 4
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Huron Valley Sinai Hospital, Commerce
DETAILS: Ophthalmologist Robert T. Clark, M.D., will provide information about the most advanced refractive surgery techniques available today including the new VISU 83, which has improved surgical results. Bring your glasses or prescription with you. Pre-registration is required. The seminar is free.

Fiddler on the Roof production
DAYS: Thursday, Feb. 6, Friday, Feb. 7, Saturday, Feb. 8 and Sunday, Feb. 9
LOCATION: Walled Lake Central High School, 1600 Oakley Park Rd., Walled Lake
TIMES: Feb. 6-7-8, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 9, 2 p.m. (noon-buffet dinner)
DETAILS: Tickets are \$12 gen-

eral admission, \$11 seniors/donors. The buffet dinner is \$12 per person.
PHONE: Tickets may be purchased at the box office or ordered by phone 248-366-1569.

Wine tasting
DATE: Friday, Feb. 7
TIME: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Wixom Community Center, 49015 Pontiac Trail
DETAILS: Looking for something different to do? Bring your friends for an enjoyable evening out. Merchant's Fine Wine will bring samplings of fine wines along with cheeses from around the world, complemented by a wonderful selection of homemade breads, assorted crackers and fruits. Wines from Tuscany, Piedmont and Veneto will be featured for the Italian lover in all of us. Wine orders may be placed through Merchant's Fine Wine. Must Pre-Register.

PHON: Parks and Recreation (248) 624-2850 for more information or check the Web at www.cityofwixom.com.

Oakland County Health Division Expectant Parent Classes
DATE: ongoing series
LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple, Walled Lake
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
DETAILS: Classes will be taught by Public Health Nurses. Topics will include childbirth preparation, labor and delivery, care of the newborn baby, breastfeeding, bottle-feeding, information about keeping children safe, and caring for them when they are ill. Cost is \$25.00.

PHON: (248) 858-4003, or (888) 350-0900 ext. 84003

New TOPS chapter in Novi
DATES: Wednesday
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons Activities Room, 29075 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi
TIME: 11 a.m. through 11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: 20-year-old membership organization, includes hard-book, \$1/meeting.
New members welcome.

Oakland County Health Division breastfeeding support sessions
DATE: ongoing series
LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple, Walled Lake
DETAILS: Information covered includes pumping, solving common problems associated with breastfeeding, taking care of mom, growth and development of the breastfeeding infant including: growth spurts, starting solids, and weaning.

PHON: (248) 858-4003 or (888) 350-0900 ext. 84003
Send calendar items to Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48168 or e-mail to cstone@hometown.com.net

Blues Series
DATE: Thursdays
LOCATION: The Bouthouse, 142 Walled Lake Dr., Walled Lake
TIME: 8 p.m.
DETAILS: On-going blues series includes Brett Lucas, Jan.

23, and Eric Nosen Jan. 30
PHONE: (248) 669-1441

Novi residents Lindsey Root, Jaime Sabol, and Daniel Hendricks were named to the fall semester, 2002 Dean's List for Hope College.

Novi native Aaron Michael Bauer has received a President's Scholarship at Cedarville University (Ohio). Cedarville University awards President's Scholarships to first-year students who are an ACT score of 30 or better (or a SAT score of 1310 or better) and a cumulative high school grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

Bauer, a senior at Southfield Christian School, is a member of National Honor Society. He has received the Michigan Merit Award and the National Society of High School Scholars Award. He is the son of Glen and Kathleen Bauer of Novi, and plans to major in mechanical engineering.

Novi High students make a difference during holiday season

Record-setting number of students volunteer for Salvation Army bell ringing, total 319 hours

By Ramez Khuri

Some Novi High School students really made a difference this past holiday season when they took part in voluntary community service to raise money for the less fortunate.

Students like Valdis Lens, who won an award for his efforts, Andrew Krupansky, Alice Zheng, Jill Johnson and Jeff Freers were just five of 89 total students who volunteered to ring bells for The Salvation Army during the December 2002 campaign. This sets a new school record in the number of students participating in this event. Last year 61 students were involved from the school and this year's volunteers totaled 319 hours.

The student who gave the most time was Freers, who volunteered a total of 25 hours. "I thought it was pretty cool," he said. "We were at Twelve Oaks Mall and Farmer Jack. I thought it would be a good idea because I needed to get a lot of hours for National Honor Society. I felt good doing it. The majority of people gave money. It was really fun, but the only hard part about it was being outside in the cold for so long. One day I would do it for two hours and another day I would do it for six. It just depended on who I was doing it with."

Business teacher Barbara Clift is very proud of the students. "The manager of the Salvation Army in the leading high school in the area to help out in this project," she said. "We have what's called a CVS program and that stands for community volunteer service. It's

a voluntary program. It is not required of students to do volunteer work at all. So far this year 388 students have signed up to do it. We have been doing it a number of years and we keep setting records every year."

According to Clift the kids signed up to ring bells in shifts at either Twelve Oaks Mall or Farmer Jack in December. They went with partners and students also worked at Bronford Hospital in Farmington Hills. The hospital kids had to commit to 100 hours and they went one day a week.

"Normally these are students who are interested to going on to college and taking something in the medical profession," Clift said. "We have kids volunteering to tutor and they either tutor high school students or they go down to some of the other elementary schools in the district. We have students who go to the ESL class and help out there. We have a lot of students who volunteer through their churches too. We have students going to offices, some go to the Novi Motor Sports Hall of Fame in the Expo Center and we have child care programs in various schools."

Clift explained that if a child goes to an elementary school and their parents work, the children can stay at the school until 6 p.m. in an after school type care program. The high school students go down to those schools and work with the kids. They play with them in the gym and go outside with them.

Zheng, a senior, won the Discover! Carol Tribute Scholarship. She did some volunteer service during her freshman year at the Chinese school which she currently works. "I did teacher aiding where I graded papers," she said. "That was just two hours a week, but my sophomore year I started to volunteer at nursing homes and I did that through my junior year. I have also done a lot of volunteer work with a day care, where I just work with the kids."

Volunteering is something that makes me feel better because I want to give back to the community and it's another way to gain experience and learn new things and see more of the world. I feel pretty happy doing it."

Johnson, who's a junior, teaches religious education to seventh graders at St. James with her mother and sister. She also goes to Parkview Elementary every Tuesday to help out one of the third grade teachers organize papers so that she can spend more time with the students. "I really like little kids, so I enjoy that," she said. "I did the ringing in the booths at the Main Street, where all the restaurants were giving out free samples of food and different people came in and sold things they made. While the parents would come and look around, they would leave their kids in this section where I was and we had two different crafts going with the kids that they worked on while the par-



Jill Johnson, Alice Zheng and Jeff Freers volunteer for many hours to help the less fortunate.

ents walked around. The kids made little presents for the parents for Christmas.
Like Zheng, Johnson enjoys helping people out. "It's really a great feeling to know that you made a difference with someone," she said. "I'm in a few clubs at school where it was a requirement, but I do more than I need to because if you find the types of service projects that you enjoy, it's really not work at all. It's just a great feeling and you feel like you're accomplishing something and being a part of something that's bigger than yourself and making a difference."

Clift feels that more and more students volunteer each year for many different reasons. "These are high school students who, on their own, come to me and want help to find some place to volunteer," she said. "Why do they do it? I would say the major reasons are, they want to try out a career. The medical students want to go out and actually experience it. Another reason is they just want to help people. We have the National Honor Society here and in order to get admitted into that, they have to do 40 hours. Some kids do it because if students do 100 hours in one year and write a paper they can get credit on their transcripts. There are lot of variety of reasons why they do it, but I think it's wonderful that they are doing it. They send their hours to me every month."

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

GNC advertisement with coupon for \$8 OFF and \$4 OFF on purchases over \$25. Locations listed for Novi, Westland, Troy, and Sterling Hgts.

Orchard Grove Community Church advertisement for Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. at 850 Ladd Rd., Bldg. C, Walled Lake.

Community Federal Credit Union advertisement for Direct Checking with free-time in addition to free checking. Lists additional benefits like free credit union membership and ATM/VISA check card.

On Campus

Novi residents Lindsey Root, Jaime Sabol, and Daniel Hendricks were named to the fall semester, 2002 Dean's List for Hope College.

Novi native Aaron Michael Bauer has received a President's Scholarship at Cedarville University (Ohio). Cedarville University awards President's Scholarships to first-year students who are an ACT score of 30 or better (or a SAT score of 1310 or better) and a cumulative high school grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

HomeTown 2003 Dining Club and Golf Club Cards advertisement on sale at newspaper locations.

Htdconnect advertisement for affordable, fast, reliable dial-up connections from a locally-owned provider. Features 24x7 technical support and monthly usage reports.

HomeTown directory advertisement for finding new homes online.

Milford Spectacular Ice Carvings advertisement for February 1-2, 2003, featuring ice carving competitions and demonstrations in Center Street Park.

Casterline Funeral Home advertisement with address and phone number.

O'Brien Sullivan Funeral Home advertisement for commemorating 100 years of service.

Mahajan Family Dentistry advertisement for show us your smile.

Mahajan Family Dentistry advertisement listing services like preventive care and cosmetic dentistry.



Village Oaks Principal Mary Goedert and Reading Specialist Jane Funfgeld work with first graders, Eric Plante and Shayla Smalls on their reading skills.

Reading Buddy Program at Village Oaks is one of a kind

Program allows for more one-on-one time with emergent readers

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Reading is one activity that is becoming more popular by the week among the students at Village Oaks Elementary. With the help of Reading Specialist Jane Funfgeld, the school has developed something called the "Reading Buddy Program" and so far it has been a big success.

The program is a nationally recognized, one-on-one tutorial that originated at the McGuffie Reading Center at the University of Virginia. According to Principal Mary Goedert, it is a program unique to Village Oaks. "The program was an idea that Jane (Funfgeld) got from being a teacher in school," she said. "We maximized our resources by hiring two people rather than one and we hope to bring in volunteers to make a difference. I am the first volunteer. The two para professionals are paid for their time, but I'm volunteering my time. We hope that the results of

this program show growth and if they show growth we can start expanding."

Funfgeld said that there are several other one-on-one programs, but this one is nowhere near as expensive and it's something that any school can do if they have a leader, financial support and a trainer available. "We call the folder that the students take home and forth the 'home-to-school-to-school-to-home folder,'" she said. "We not only train the volunteers, but a certified person writes the plan, oversees the volunteers and it's ongoing training. That's what makes it more successful than other programs."

Volunteer Jane Panju works with four children. The two para professionals are Mary Jane Ossola and Sally Mayras. They read familiar books, practice phonics skills, writing skills and read new books.

"When you have them writing, reading and practicing phonics, that's called a balanced literacy program," Goedert said. "The other component is, we want the

parents to know what's going on. We want the children to review with their parents and practice reading, so we send books home. Each of the children had a little folder that they take home every single day and the parents get to sign off that they read after school. We have a parent component in it and that's another strength of the program. We have parents practicing with their kids at home."

First graders Eric Plante and Shayla Smalls are just two of the many students benefiting from the program. "I can read all by myself sometimes," Plante said.

Smalls said, "I get to read with my mom. I have homework that I do and my mom thinks I'm good when I do it."

According to Goedert, there are several reasons why the program is different than others. "In Novi Schools, all the elementary schools get the same amount of money," she said. "The other schools hired a reading teacher, but we hired two para-pro's and

Jane is supervising those two para pro's. Now, instead of having two of those people are working with a number of children. That's the first difference. The other difference is, we are doing it before the school day starts. This allows you to break up and do more one on one, whereas the way the other schools do it, you still have to have a small group. They are working with four different kids at a time and we just have more one-on-one with the young emergent readers. Those kids, unless they are special ed, are the ones you can make a difference with dramatically quick. The younger you can catch a child who's having reading difficulties and get them into a good program with one-on-one help, the quicker you can improve their skills."

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.

Rainbow center earns AEYC accreditation

Rainbow Child Development Center, Novi was recently granted accreditation from the Association for Education of Young Children (AEYC). This prestigious recognition has been achieved by only 6 percent of early childhood programs in the state of Michigan and only 7 percent nationwide as of July 2001.

"I am very proud to have achieved accreditation at this center. The staff at our center goes above and beyond for the children in their care and deserves this recognition," said Ronda Kane-Abramson, director.

NAEYC accreditation is a rigorous, voluntary process by which early childhood programs demonstrate that they meet national standards of excellence. Child care centers, preschools, kindergartens, and before and after school programs are eligible to seek NAEYC accreditation. Approximately 15,000 programs are engaged in seeking accreditation.

Programs seeking accreditation undergo an intensive self-study, collecting information from parents, teachers, administrators, and classroom observations. They receive an on-site visit conducted by early childhood professionals specially trained by NAEYC to validate their self-study results. A team of national experts who grant or defer accreditation independently reviews all of this information. When awarded, accreditation is valid for three years.

"The heart of NAEYC accreditation focuses on the child's experience," said Barbara Willer, spokesperson for NAEYC. The process carefully considers all aspects of a program including health and safety, staffing, staff qualifications, and physical environment. The greatest emphasis is on the children's relationships with the staff and how the program helps each child grow and learn intellectually, physically, socially, and

emotionally. According to Willer, research supports the value of accreditation for children. Children's language and social skills especially benefit from the better quality found in NAEYC-accredited programs. "These are critical areas for children's success in school as well as in life," said Willer.

NAEYC accreditation began in 1985, with the first program accredited in 1986. The nation's oldest and largest organization of early childhood professionals dedicated to improving the quality of early childhood education, NAEYC established accreditation in response to the growing number of American children spending large amounts of time in group settings away from home and the uneven and often inadequate consumer protection afforded by state licensing of child care facilities.

Rainbow Child Development Center was founded in 1986 with a single location in Hillsborough, New Jersey. Currently, Rainbow Child Development Centers operates thirty-seven centers in four states across the U.S., providing childcare for infants to children of school age. Rainbow Child Development Center Novi is located at 3900 Eight Mile and Haggerty. The program is developmentally based with an emphasis on education and to make learning fun. The center will proudly display the NAEYC torch-the sign of NAEYC accreditation. Parents who look for the torch when choosing child care or early education programs for their children will find programs that have made a commitment to excellence for young children and families.

For further information about NAEYC or the accreditation process, access NAEYC's web site at www.naeyc.org or contact NAEYC's Public Affairs Division at (800) 424-2460.



Novi Meadows' student Connor Caldwell sports an interesting pair of glasses that he's learned to make with string while spending some time last week with his classmates at the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center.

Fifth-graders learn respect for our ecosystem

continued from front page

lying and one was telling the truth and we had to guess the one who was telling the truth," she said. "There were six people on a team and there was an adult that wrote down what everybody thought. We also took a long hike and we learned about the different trees."

The kids regular classroom teachers also teach classes at the camp, however a Walled Lake employee takes them on a hike. Novi Meadows Principal Dr. Tim Falls and assistant principals, Greg Camacchi and Jennifer Michos came out to teach as well.

"Basically the set up of the program is, the kids are divided up into color groups and we have a schedule for the groups each day and the children attend six classes out there," Malarkey said. "There are about four or five topics and they learn about the ecosystem, which is what we are studying."

Student Alex Engbreton said, "There was a person who makes string figures. He made string figures and made it look like it did something, but it really didn't. He taught us five or six different string

figures we could make that were sort of easier than the other ones that he made. We played outdoors, which was kind of fun. We had a bunch of different categories and you had to write down as much as you can about the category."

One class which is not in the curriculum is cross country skiing, but that's only taught if it snows. Malarkey said if it is taught, it is usually the first experience the kids have had with it. Another class is Survival, which teaches kids how to survive if they are stranded in the woods. Parents also volunteer their time.

"Parents sign up to help us 24 hours a day while we are there," Malarkey said. "We have parents who stay over night and we have parents who help us out in the kitchen. The success of the program lies with the success of the staff of the students. The parents have been very supportive of the camp."

Nine different teams in the fifth grade take turns going to the camp. The first group went in December and Malarkey and Hurs's group was the last to go. They left on a Monday morning and returned back on Wednesday afternoon.

"One of the unique things about

Novi is we have the five elementary schools, so this is a great experience where the kids are coming together and they don't know only their neighborhood kids anymore."

Malarkey said, "They learn a new routine, they have all these new faces and one of the concerns is 'will I have new friends?' This is not only educational, but also the kids are able to make new friends. They learn about other people in terms of getting ready for bed together and having dinner and breakfast together. It's something that they don't normally do and just having to live with people for two and a half days teaches them a lot."

"This is a unique age for 10 and 11 year old kids because they are trying to be independent, but yet there is guidance along the way," she added. "This is an excellent opportunity for the kids because they are away from home, so they have a little bit of independence, but yet we are all right there in one big group, so they are learning how to become independent and responsible for themselves. When it's over the feeling in the classroom is a little different. The kids have a different respect for us as well as us for them."

Novi schools district receives support for ELL program

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

A grant in the amount of \$5,750 was awarded to the Novi Community School District on Dec. 6 to add to the resources now used for all English Limited Learners (ELL). It was one of 29 grants provided by the society to various school districts and cultural groups in the area.

Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services Dr. Rita Traylor and Coordinator of Curriculum and Assessment Jane Hesse attended the meeting. In the past each school has assessed their needs and then purchased resource materials that would strengthen the ELL program. In addition, some of the funds are spent on the use of interpreters. Many schools, particularly the

elementary schools, have the need to have an interpreter present at parent/teacher conferences for Japanese families.

According to Traylor, the district has received aid from the society for at least eight years now. "It's very nice," she said. "It's very appreciated and helpful. We look forward to continuing cooperative efforts."

This year the grant will serve approximately 250 students. The Novi School District has received a grant each year it has applied for one.

"English Language Learner was formerly ESL or English as a Second Language student," Hesse said. "An ELL student is one whose knowledge of English inhibits their learning. The grant is distributed based on the ELL student population size at each

school." Hesse believes the grant is positive and helps many students.

"A goal of schools is to meet the needs of specific learners," she said. "Sometimes this is described as differentiation of learning. ELL services are one dimension of this type of educational philosophy. Students who need support with the English language are provided ELL support. The grant that the Japanese Business Society of Detroit has awarded Novi Community Schools will help support ELL students."

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.

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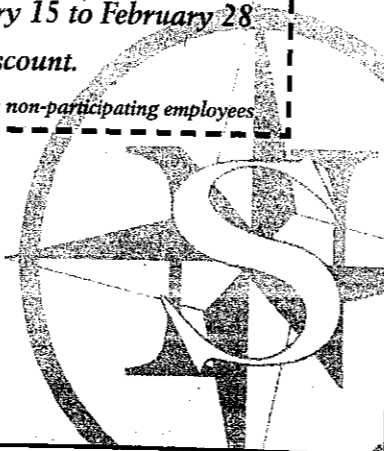
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To prepare for this event, our Warehouse will be closed Wednesday, January 29th All Day and will re-open Thursday, January 30th at 8 a.m.

Cal Stone Editor, Jeanne Towar VP. Editorial, Grace Perry Publisher, Dick Aglhin 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.

City must comply with FOIA request

The Freedom of Information Act is a safety valve that can be used by newspapers - and citizens - to obtain documents from governmental bodies at the local or state level.

A lawsuit was recently filed by two Novi couples - Ann and Lee Coblenz and John and Deborah Lewandowski - alleging that the City of Novi failed to comply with their FOIA request.

They're claiming that city officials excluded documents pertaining to the Sandstone Associates lawsuit settlement - in particular, certain side agreements entered into by the city and Sandstone that were part of the agreement.

The reason the Coblenz and Lewandowskis want to know this information is because their property abuts the Sandstone property.

GOVERNMENT

Per reader request, we have compiled a list so you can get in touch with your local and regional senators and representatives.

United States Senate

Carl Levin (D-Detroit) 259 Russell Senate Office Building Washington D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6221 senator2@levin.senate.gov

State House of Reps

38th District Craig DeRoche (R-Novi) 50867 House Office Building PO Box 30014 Lansing, MI 48909-7514 (517) 373-0827

United States Congress

11th District Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia) 415 Cannon HOB Washington D.C. 20515-8171 (202) 225-8171

State Senate

15th District Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) PO Box 30006 Lansing, MI 48909-7536 (517) 373-1758 senncassis@senate.michigan.gov



Top dog Handler Bryan Martin of Vernon Hills, OH, gives some attention to basset hound Champion Topfield Bumpercars during last Friday's judging for the hound group at the All-Breed Dog Show at the Novi Expo Center.

LETTERS

Kindergarten costs should be equal

Since my oldest child will be entering kindergarten this September, I have been following the full-day/half-day kindergarten issue with great interest since April 2002.

With that said, the issue I have raised with the school board and has been confirmed by the school board is this: the cost per full-day kindergarten child is more than the cost per half-day kindergarten child.

I don't know which meeting YOU were watching, sir, but during the interview session I watched on 12/19/02, DeRoche was WAY out of line!

Either way, the bottomline is that unequal cost per kindergarten child is not fair in a public school system even when a family chooses a half-day program.

I suppose I could have purchased a Geo Metro or some other tiny toy car with huge EPA numbers...

James Korte Novi

Rebuttal to Ramsey

Having read Mr. Ramsey's letter in today's Novi News which took Mr. Toth to task... well, I just can't NOT respond!

I bought a Jeep Cherokee before people started calling them SUVs. My then significant other and I were just starting a family...

I suppose I could have purchased a Geo Metro or some other tiny toy car with huge EPA numbers...

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

OTHER OPINIONS

Could ruling re-segregate our college campuses?

I was serving on the University of Michigan's board of regents in 1997 when the Center for Individual Rights brought the now-famous lawsuits against our affirmative action admissions systems.

In essence, the system gives the extra points to applicants who are minorities... or who live in the Upper Peninsula, or whose parents are U-M alumni...

The legal basis for the policy is the Supreme Court's 1978 Bakke decision, in which the court held (narrowly) that universities could take race, among other factors, into consideration when making admissions decisions.

The case will go to the Supreme Court this spring. The Bush Administration last week submitted a brief opposing affirmative action. With a subject as complicated and as emotionally charged as this one, it's important to sort out the sense from the nonsense.

The first issue is quotas. President Bush's speech last week condemning the U-M's policy used the word "quota" three times and the phrase "numerical targets" once.

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) 953-2647 or at ppower@homecomm.net.



Phil Power

NOVI NEWS STAFF



Grace Perry - Publisher gperry@ht.homecomm.net (248) 349-1700, ext. 120



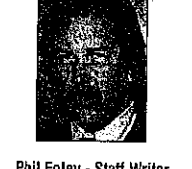
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Karen Whitehart - Receptionist



Marcia Cromas - Receptionist mcromas@ht.homecomm.net (248) 349-1700

MI-DAN advertisement: Want a fast affordable way to run your 2 x 2 display ad at a reasonable price and reach over 2.1 million readers?

Dick's Upholstery advertisement: 30 Years of professional custom reupholstering, slipcovers and drapery!

MI-DAN advertisement: Want a fast affordable way to run your 2 x 2 display ad at a reasonable price and reach over 2.1 million readers?

THE NOVI NEWS advertisement: Published Each Thursday by The Novi News, 104 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan 48167

CITY OF NOVI VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE ON CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS advertisement: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Novi City Council will be interviewing applicants for appointment to the Cable Access Commission...

LET'S TALK jewelry advertisement: WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN JEWELERS OF THE STRONGEST LINK. Solid-link chains are preferred by both jewelers and consumers...

Did You Know? advertisement: You can receive a \$50 discount on your tax return preparation fee by calling us by February 15 to make your appointment to have your taxes prepared.

Help Can't Wait advertisement: Now you can contribute to the American Red Cross by secured credit card on the World Wide Web at http://www.redcross.org

Finally! A chamber luncheon

I finally got a chance to attend my first Novi Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon Tuesday, and now I'm kicking myself for waiting so long.

Around our office, Tuesdays are known as "Tuesday" day. In newspaper lingo, that means putting the pages together - placing the stories and the artwork on the pages.

That usually takes around eight hours for a 16-page edition. So, carving out an hour and a half for a luncheon is usually out of the question.

The new chairman for 2003, Lou Martin of Providence Hospital, presented his vision for the chamber and introduced the 12 directors.

Our chief staff writer Phil Foley also attended and took pictures of the new Board of Directors. Look next week for a nice feature on the chamber.

Local businesses should make a point of learning more about their chamber and becoming members. The members are numerous (and the lunch at Misano's Italian Restaurant was great, too).

Our ad executive, Jennifer Walker, came to the luncheon as well. She and I have volunteered to work on the chamber's 11th Annual Charity Auction - Celebration of Life, Art & Healing, at the Novi Hilton on April 12.

We're both looking forward to helping to make that event a success. That was one of the first events I attended when I came to the Novi News last year, and it really is an incredible community event.

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



Cal Stone

Leave my darn Jeep alone

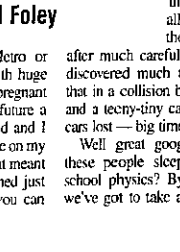
To paraphrase one right-wing loony in response to another right-wing loony, "From my cold dead hands, Ariana, from my cold dead hands."

Recently, syndicated California columnist Ariana Huffington, and a bunch of her friends called themselves "The Detroit Project" began airing television ads equating driving a SUV with supporting international terrorism.

I bought a Jeep Cherokee before people started calling them SUVs. My then significant other and I were just starting a family and I just looked at it as a really big station wagon.

I suppose I could have purchased a Geo Metro or some other tiny toy car with huge EPA numbers, but I had a pregnant wife, and hopefully in the future a pack of kids, to haul around and I was just finishing up a decade on my newspaper's police beat. That meant I had personally photographed just about every possible way you can kill yourself in a car.

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



Phil Foley

Preparing for the MEAP test

As exam nears, fourth graders are taking the proper steps for success

By Ramez Khuri

STAFF WRITER

As we are planning on giving kids these kinds of snacks. We also will make sure the appropriate music is playing when the kids come in the morning...

schools together, then you have a score for Novi Community Schools in fourth grade MEAP. It helps the kids understand why it's really important that they do their own personal best for their team and I really emphasize that whole team concept...

"One of the fourth grade kids said we have to stretch ourselves and when we feel like giving up we have to challenge ourselves," Goclerd added.

Walled Lake Schools

Hoops for Heart

Walled Lake Northern High School, located at 6000 Bogie Lake Road, Commerce Township, announces its first annual Hoops For Heart program February 10-14.

Commerce

The panel program is titled: How Important is Sleep for Your Child? Presenters and presentations include: Dr. Marc Bockneck, Sleep Needs for Today; Dr. SueAnne Hill, The Over-Scheduled Child; and Glenn Whitehead, Social Worker with Walled Lake Schools.

He Bee a winner

Taylor Palermo, a fifth grade student at Mary Helen Guest Elementary, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee on Jan. 7.

Business Briefs

Helping fight childhood cancer

Local Buffalo Wild Wings Grill & Bar helped raise a record amount of donations for childhood cancer through the 11th Annual Coors Halloween program to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

America's best

Novi resident Donald J. Gasiorek, a partner at Sommers, Schwartz, Silver & Schwartz, P.C., Michigan's highest plaintiff litigation law firm, was named "The Best Lawyers in America" in the directory's 2003-2004 edition.

Gasiorek, who is listed among labor and employment law specialists, has won several landmark cases in the area of employment law and has also been lead counsel in many civil rights actions resulting in multi-million dollar verdicts.

Edward Jones is "Best Company to Work For" for the second year in a row. The award was noted in the Jan. 20 edition of the magazine, which was available for sale Jan. 13.

The engineering firm of Finckbeiner, Pettis & Strout, Inc. (FPS) has named Jan M. Hausser, P.E., as manager of the FPS Novi office.

Johnston, band director at Sarah Middle School, has been named Band Teacher of the Year by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Society (MSBOA).

The engineering firm of Finckbeiner, Pettis & Strout, Inc. (FPS) has named Jan M. Hausser, P.E., as manager of the FPS Novi office.

Jan joined FPS in 1998 as director of business development for the FPS Toledo office. Prior to that, he served as director of utilities for the City of Adrian.

Every year, the MSBOA receives nominations from all over the state. The executive board, consisting of 12 state officers and 16 district presidents, narrows the list down to three, and three orchestra directors.

Johnston has been with the Walled Lake Consolidated School district since 1980. He has written several publications and has been honored with other awards including Teacher of the Year, Walled Lake Western, 1983.

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Members of Water Wheel Health Club use the facility's fitness equipment as part of their comprehensive health and fitness plan. The club is open Monday through Friday, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. and weekends from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Get back into shape with personalized service

By Elizabeth Heer

You need to do something about getting into shape so you can enjoy life and good health, but you're not sure where to start? Confused about options or big commitments? Or you think you have to get into shape before you even join a health club?

Water Wheel Health Club has become a premier specialty health club serving a unique niche of the market. "We are not for everyone," says Chris Klebba, owner and manager.

Satisfied clients agree. "I have been a member of many clubs in the past, including the large chain clubs," states Dr. Leonard Reznierski, superintendent of Northville Schools.

Water Wheel Health Club is located at 235 East Main Street in Northville. Hours are Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Weekend hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

DETAILS

Water Wheel Health Club is located at 235 East Main Street in Northville. Hours are Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Weekend hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Cardioboxing is just one of the aerobic workout options available at Water Wheel Health Club.

checked out other women-only clubs and liked the programs but felt the equipment and services were very limited," said Megan White. "I tried the Water Wheel and found the best of both worlds - the comfort I wanted with the variety, classes, and help I needed. I would tell all women to check out the Water Wheel."

What we wanted was a place where adults could enjoy time for themselves, with no crowds or fashion shows.

refreshing smoothies, or visit the mini-health food store. "What we wanted was a place where adults could enjoy time for themselves, with no crowds or fashion shows."

Chris Klebba, owner and manager

John & Jenna James. We knew we needed to lose some weight so we checked out the large chain clubs in the area. We felt we would get lost in the numbers in these type clubs and not get the personal support we needed.

How About 2 FREE MEMBERSHIPS?

Looking for an Exciting, Unique Option to help you look and feel your best! Looking for some help conditioning your back for your golf game?

Hours: Monday - Friday 5:00am - 10:00pm Saturday & Sunday 7:00am - 7:00pm

Water Wheel HEALTH CLUB. "For the best of your life" (248) 449-7634 235 East Main, Northville www.wirwheel.com

Sue White. I was away from my club for awhile and was nervous about starting again. I checked out all the new women's only clubs in town and liked the simplicity with their routines but found the equipment options very limited and no group fitness classes.

Bring a Friend! 5 DAY FREE TRIAL PASS

First time visitors only. Must be 21 or older with Michigan Driver's License. Credit card or cash appointment. Expires 1-28-03

Water Wheel HEALTH CLUB logo and contact information.

Deerfield students get a lesson in the Civil Rights movement

Rosa Parks great niece speaks to elementary school students

By Ramez Khuri

STAFF WRITER

Deerfield Elementary received a special surprise on Jan. 29 when Jasmine Carr, the great niece of Rosa Parks, visited the school in a celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.



Rosa Parks' great niece, Jasmine Carr, with a book about the woman credited with starting the civil rights movement in 1955.

"I have mixed feelings about people who do take the day off and they don't appreciate the day for what it is, and I think it's a day that people should think about civil rights or do something to make social change," she said.

"I just happened to find out that Jasmine is related," she said. "She is very modest, and she doesn't tell a lot of people about her relationship to Rosa Parks. I was already going to focus on this and I had ordered a video and I had come to find out that Jasmine is not only in it, but she narrates it as well. I want kids to get the idea that one person can make a difference. Rosa Parks didn't know when the bus incident happened that she would be the mother of the civil rights movement, but she knew she had to stand up for what was right."

Carr said that most people know of her great aunt because she didn't give up her seat on the bus, but there is a lot more to her than that. "She was also working in the NAACP," she said. "It wasn't just a fluke that she was sitting in the bus one day. She was involved for most of her life before that even happened and she was 40 at the time. She will be 91 on Feb. 4."

The video, narrated by Carr, called "Nightingale: The Legacy of Rosa Parks," was shown to the students. "I narrated half of it and I'm also in it," Carr said. "It's about Rosa Parks from what happened on the bus and after that with the boycott."

According to Carr, the video is great for teachers and one can be made available per school. She was chosen to narrate for her obvious relation to Parks and because as a teenager, she would be able to get through to younger audiences. Carr worked for The

Rosa Parks Institute for Self-Development for two summers where she helped give inner city children privileges to learn about other cultures.

"The Web site is rearsparksinstitute.org," Carr said. "It educates people and tries to give an opportunity for kids because Rosa Parks loves kids. She didn't have any, but she is real adamant about helping them. It's an organization that helps fund programs for people."

The video can be ordered from teachingtolerance.org.

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@nl.home.com.net.

Sleep needs

Does your teenager get 9.25 hours of sleep per night? Although 9.25 hours of sleep is the amount of sleep needed for maximum learning, most students are not getting enough sleep.

The Walled Lake Consolidated Schools' Sleep Needs for Learning Committee is hosting a panel of experts to discuss the importance of sleep and the amount of sleep required for students at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 29 at the Clifford Smart Middle School, 8500 Commerce Road in

Orchard Lake Road began at 10:15 a.m. followed by a complimentary luncheon and dialogue activity sessions.

"I have never been to something like this before, and I thought it would be a good thing to do because I want to be respectful," Davis said. "Most people had the day off and they are not doing anything, but we decided to go to this walk so we could learn something about Dr. Martin Luther

King. There were workshops where they talked about different topics, like interracial dating, stereotypes, the cafeteria and media stereotypes."

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@nl.home.com.net.

Novi students pay respects to King by participating in 1.5 mile walk

By Ramez Khuri

STAFF WRITER

Jan. 20 marked the first day of a new semester at Novi High School, but that's not what a group of students were concentrating on. The day meant much more to them because it was Martin Luther King Jr. Day, so they signed up to take a field trip to West Bloomfield High to participate in the annual walk honoring the late civil rights leader.

"I have never been to something like this before, and I thought it would be a good thing to do because I want to be respectful," Davis said. "Most people had the day off and they are not doing anything, but we decided to go to this walk so we could learn something about Dr. Martin Luther

King. There were workshops where they talked about different topics, like interracial dating, stereotypes, the cafeteria and media stereotypes."

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Wireless advertisement for Nextel and other services.

Water Wheel Health Club advertisement featuring a 5-day free trial pass and contact information.

BETTING

Experts say gambling's a sure bet to flushing away your life

continued from 3

people who are "problem gamblers" is double that. Problem gamblers, he said, are people who "still have some control over their lives, but have had gambling create economic difficulties as well as interfere with family and social lives."

Franklin's advice to recovering compulsive and problem gamblers this weekend is, "Work your program. If you're not active in GA (Gamblers Anonymous), you need to be. Keep busy at things that do not involve gambling."

He said for people whose gambling addiction centers on sports, "I wouldn't recommend watching the game."

Instead, he said, "Be with friends and family. Take your kids to movies or your wife to dinner, but not at a sports bar."

Franklin observed that the response for a compulsive gambler placing a bet is similar to that of a cocaine addict. "The same neural transmitters are active in the brain."

"The hardest part of treatment," he said, "is getting through to people that you can't win. The odds are with the house."

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

AAA RECIPES

Nickel's Lounge in the Best Western Ramkota Hotel Bismarck, North Dakota
Matt Mooney, Beverage Manager

Almond Joy

-Mix equal amounts of almond and chocolate Milano syrups; add to a cup of steaming coffee.
• Top with whipped cream and toasted coconut.

Falling Water Grill in the Embassy Suites - Omaha, Nebraska
Terrie Crawford, Beverage Manager

Frozen Stop-N-Go

6C ice
3C sugar
3 lemons, juice and zest
3C pineapple, medium
3C water
3 oranges, juice and zest
3C strawberries, medium
4C kiwi, medium diced

- Use fresh fruit; freeze individually.
 - In a saucepot, mix water, lemon juice and orange juice; simmer to small bubbles; add sugar to make a simple syrup; set aside.
 - In a blender, combine 3/4 of the kiwi fruit from the freezer, 1 cup of ice and 1 cup of simple syrup; pulse for 30-45 seconds; pour into a glass.
 - Repeat the process using the pineapple to make a second layer, then the strawberries to make a third layer.
 - Garnish with leftover fruit and zest.
- Makes 12 drinks.

Grand Geneva Resort & Spa Lake Geneva, Wisconsin
Robert Fedorko, Executive Chef
Cafe Gelata's Hot Caramel Cider

9oz fresh-pressed apple cider, steamed
2oz caramel sauce.

- Top with whipping cream
- Garnish with cinnamon.

LaSalle Grill - South Bend, Ind.
Joe Wilfing, Beverage Manager

CLG Smoothie

2 scoops mango sorbet
1/2 ripe banana
1/2 Golden Delicious apple
3oz pineapple juice
1C ice
1/2C Stewart's key lime soda

- Combine ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth.
- Pour into a tall pilsner glass
- Garnish with a starfruit slice.

Paradiso - Fargo, North Dakota
Luke Torgerson, Beverage Manager

Strawberry Colada

3oz pina colada mix
3oz frozen strawberries (thawed)
1/2oz Sprite or 7-up

- Blend with ice.
- Top with whipped cream and a strawberry.

Country Kitchen in the Holiday Inn - Sidney, Nebraska
Michael Chase, Bar Manager

Mock Sangria

8oz frozen lemonade
8oz frozen grape juice
1/2C grenadine syrup
12ltr orange soda
1ltr club soda

- Mix lemonade, grape juice (do not dilute with water as the cans says) and grenadine.
- Add orange soda and club soda.
- Pour into punch bowl.
- Place in freezer for 2-3 hours until slushy, then serve.

The Immigrant in the American Club - Kohler, Wis.
Lawrence Turcotte, Maitre D'

Sham-pagne Fizz Cocktail

1/2oz Rose's lime juice
1/4oz cranberry juice
4oz ginger ale
1 small scoop pink grapefruit or raspberry sorbet

- Pour the liquids in the order listed into a frosted martini up glass.
- Float some sorbet on top and add a sorbet ball.
- Garnish the glass with a lime wheel.

The Abbey Hotel - Bettendorf, Iowa
John Sturgis, Executive Chef

Cosmopolitan

3T fresh lime juice
3T fresh lemon juice
6oz cranberry juice
sparkling grape juice or club soda
zest of lime, lemon, orange

- Chill two martini glasses.
- Add ice to cocktail shaker; add lemon, lime, cranberry juice and pinch of zest.
- Rub rim of glass with zest; dip rim in super fine sugar.
- Shake; strain liquid into chilled

- glasses.
- Add club soda or sparkling grape juice as desired.
 - Garnish with starfruit slice and strip of zest.
- Makes two 5-oz drinks.

Ramada Plaza Suites - Fargo, ND
Craig Saxlund, Beverage Manager

Wildberry Breeze

1• 1/2oz fresh strawberries
1oz fresh raspberries
1oz water
ice

- Blend together and serve.

Iridescence in the Motor City Casino - Detroit
Irene Lignos, Beverage Manager

Berrylicious

1oz cranberry juice
3oz nonalcoholic strawberry daiquiri mix
scoops ice
fresh raspberries
fresh blackberries

- Mix in a blender until smooth.
- Pour into a zombie glass and garnish with fresh whipped cream and berries.

Blu atop The Pfister Hotel Milwaukee, Wisconsin
John Williams, General Manager

Holiday Sunset

When the party's over

- Have some novelty door prizes to be raffled at the end of the party. Ask all the guests to drop their car keys into a box to be drawn for the prizes. Once you have the keys of someone too impaired to drive, don't give them back.
- Enlist the help of other guests. Maybe just a little persuasion can convince the impaired person not to drive.
- Suggest that you or a sober friend drive an alcohol-impaired guest home.
- Suggest that an impaired guest stay overnight in your home.
- Call a taxi to take the guest home and pay the fare yourself. It's hard to object to a free ride.
- Whatever you do, don't give in. Friends don't let impaired guests drive. In the morning, your friend will be safe, and you will feel good about what you did.

- 3 parts pineapple juice
- 2 parts orange juice
- 2 parts ginger ale
- 1 part grenadine

- Pour ingredients in the order listed into a snifter filled with ice to build layers of color.
- Garnish with an orange slice or cherry.

CONTAMINATED INJECTION USED TO TREAT PAIN RECALLED

Meningitis linked to injections

Portage Pharmacy (Innovative Professional Services) recalled its compounded pain medicine, methylprednisolone, in June 2002 because of bacterial and mold contamination. As many as 750 vials were distributed to clinics and hospitals throughout Michigan. Patients may develop fungal meningitis that could be life-threatening. Contact Duffus & Melvin if you have experienced any adverse effects associated with a pain injection or to receive additional information.

DUFFUS & MELVIN 1-800-613-0162
Experienced Pharmaceutical Litigation Attorneys
www.injurync.com/methylprednisolone.htm

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AVANDIA Avandia® may be linked to increased levels of cholesterol and may increase the risk of heart failure and other cardiovascular abnormalities. In addition, the drug may be associated with potentially fatal liver problems if you or a loved one has suffered serious health problems or death while using Avandia®. Call now to find out about your legal rights.

BAYCOL Baycol® has been pulled from the market and may be linked to as many as 100 deaths. FDA physicians have linked Baycol® to a side effect which destroys muscle tissue and releases it into the bloodstream. If you or a loved one have taken Baycol® and have suffered muscle pain, kidney problems or death, call now for more information.

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Valentine's Day Menu

They'll fall in love with the specials you're preparing for Valentine's Day weekend. Make your restaurant reservation's for this 2 week directory that starts Sunday, February 2nd.

Call Lori at
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or fax
248-437-9460

Run Sunday and Thursday

The Livingston County Club, Paris & Argus
Midland Branch
South Lake Forest
Northville Branch
Novi News



YOU HAVE A NEIGHBOR WHO CARES ABOUT HER HEALTH AS MUCH AS YOU DO.

The University of Michigan Health System is now accepting new pediatric patients.

Pediatricians with the University of Michigan Health Centers are now accepting new patients at Livonia Health Center, West Ann Arbor Health Center, Briarwood Health Associates and Howell Pediatrics. But convenience and superior health care aren't the only things that you can expect by choosing a U-M pediatrician. You'll get a physician who truly cares about your child, your concerns and your questions. Plus, should your child ever need it, you'll have access to one of the top hospitals in the country. For more information, log on to www.med.umich.edu or call 800-211-8181.

Because after all, care really knows no boundaries.



PDFL02004271

Wild 'Stangs take third

Hartland Invitational plays host to top talent

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

It's amazing how much of a difference 0.24 points can make in a contest.

It was a tough meet with 13 of the top teams in the area competing for the top spots. Falling in behind Brighton, with 143 points, and Hartland, with 139.45, the Wild 'Stangs collected 139.21 points for a very close third-place finish.

The combined Northville-Novu gymnastics team had a good showing across the board, but just couldn't top the home team or their very close neighbor at the Hartland Invitational.

The Wild 'Stangs looked for their team to perform to some of their best ability, and they did. Trish Brownfield collected a 7.4 in the beam exercise and an impressive 8.95 in the floor, while Amanda Crawford notched an 8.6 on the floor routine and a 7.95 on the vault, while earning a 7.35 for her performance on the balance beam.

Erin Yankovich carved out an 8.45 on the floor, while earning 8.25 in the way of marks for her vault efforts. Courtney Paul collected an 8.45 on the beam while earning a 7.3 on the bars and a 7.60 on the vault.

Laura Motz notched a 7.1 for her floor routine, and Caitlin Miller earned a 7.4 on the beam and a 7.8 on the floor.

Adrienne McHenry's performance on the bars earned her a 6.75 while Sarah Ikhani-Pour earned an 8.75 in the same event. Rachel Dencau earned a 7.75 for her routine on the balance beam.

Four of the more notable performances came from Marcie Fink, Sara Wilchowski, Jessica Glancy and Maggie Mills. Mills had a nice performance across the board. She earned an 8.1 on the bars, an 8.8 on the beam, the floor and the vault. Fink turned in an 8.35 on the bars and an impressive 9.05 on the vault. Wilchowski earned high marks in all four events. She notched an 8.8 on the beam, a 9.1 on the vault, a 9.15 on the bars and a 9.25 on the floor exercise. Glancy collected an 8.4 on the bars, and 8.85 on the floor and a 9.0 for her vault performance.

On the B-squad, Amy Wild notched a 7.15 in both the bars and the beam exercises and an 8.05 on the vault. Nika Frimenko notched a 6.2 on the bars, a 7.45 on the beam, a 7.7 on the vault and a 7.9 with her floor routine.

The Wild 'Stangs will return to action when they host Brighton today at 7 p.m. before visiting the Farmington Invitational Saturday. The Wild 'Stangs then have John Glenn slated at home January 30 with a 7 p.m. start time.



Northville/Novu Wildstangs coach Lindsay Schultz, right, watches as Sara Wilchowski comes off the un-even parallel bars in a competition at Walled Lake Central.

Photo by John Heider

Novi blasts Eagles

'Cats also top Mustangs in Baseline Battle

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats boys' basketball team seems to have found a groove they are comfortable with.

With some teams, it's a great offensive game that keeps them ahead of their opponents.

For others, it's the defense. For Novi, it's both.

The Wildcats stymied the efforts of the Hartland Eagles January 18 with a 74-50 beating in a Kensington Valley Conference game just days after topping Northville 57-45 January 15.

Against the Eagles, the Wildcats jumped to a 24-16 lead in the first quarter before finishing out the first-half scoring clinic with a 42-28 lead.

The second half was much of the same, with the 'Cats putting up 32 points to the Hartland squad's 22.

Once again, the senior leadership seemed to be the key with the Wildcat cagers. Chase Chandler led by example, pouring in 17 points in the night, while Chris Lewis nipped at his lead the entire game, adding 16 of his own to the final tally. The masterful Matt Emmenecker collected 15 points of his own in the winning effort.

Against the Northville Mustangs, in a battle of the Baseline, the Wildcats showed that they weren't intimidated by Northville's record or point totals.

Instead, they stepped onto the hardwood and brought with them their own kind of totals — the ones that matter at the end of the night when teams are putting a check in the win or loss column. Novi was the one marking a victory after their superb effort against one of the top teams in the Western Lakes Activities Association this season.

The Novi cagers rounded up the Mustangs scorers and corralled them nicely as they escaped with a 57-45 victory.

The first quarter found the two teams playing to a dead-even 14-14 tie, but the Wildcats came out in the second half with bulls-eye shooting. They outscored Northville by nine points to take a 37-28 halftime lead before jumping on the bus for the short victory ride home.

Emmenecker led the Novi attack, scoring 15 points, while Chandler added 12 in the win. Brad Simpson, a junior for Novi, added nine.

The Wildcats are now 8-1 on the season and 4-1 in the Kensington Valley Conference.

They return to action when they visit the Milford Mavericks tomorrow at 7 p.m. with the Junior Varsity scheduled to take the court at 5:30 p.m.

The Wildcats will get a full week off before hosting the Pinckney Pirates January 31 with the squads slated to start at 7 p.m. (5:30 JV start). Both of the games are Kensington Valley Conference match-ups.

The Pinckney Pirates are currently at the top of the conference standings with a 4-0 record as of January 17 (6-2 overall), while the Milford Mavericks basketball team is settled into the middle of the conference grouping with a 3-1 KVC record (5-3 overall).

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.

Novi has good showing, hosts invite

By Michael Zerkich
 SPECIAL WRITER

Novi staged its annual Novi Invitational Competitive Cheerleading Meet last Saturday and came away with some impressive performances.

Participating in the Invitational were 28 teams from across the state. Of these 28 teams, eight brought freshman lineups, there were six junior high squads, 11 Class A varsity teams, and five varsity Class B, C and D squads.

Novi High School's varsity cheer team gave it a run for the crown. Their day started with a very nice showing in the jump competition with a solid 172.5 performance, placing them fourth and definitely in the running for first place. The second, or compulsory, round was even better with a 170 score that was second best overall. In the third and final stunt round the Wildcats faltered but still showed with a reasonable 246.5.

In all Novi finished with the fifth place award. Total scores were first to Rochester with 682.5, Hartland second with 633, third went to Grandville with 621, fourth to Jenison at 610, and Novi fifth place out of the 11 competing teams with 589 points.

Novi's varsity coach, Amy Denys, applauded her squads performance and energy. Also, she roared a rollercoaster with each round's scoring.

"After watching the girls perform round one I was so elated," Denys said. "Their performance was outstanding. We had made some changes from last weekend and I was nervous about the execution of the new portions. Obviously, the pressure of new material was not an issue for the girls. There was no indication that we had done anything differently. It was flawless. Despite my opinion, we received scores far below what I had expected. As a coach, it is difficult to explain to your team that they looked better than ever yet they scored lower than in the past. Luckily, the officials were consistent and scored every team in a similar manner."

Even with their strong performances, there is always room for improvement in cheerleading. "I felt that our round two could have been stronger," Denys said. "There were many precision errors, and it was not as clean as I would have liked. Although I think the cheer as a whole should have looked better, I thought that our back walkers were spectacular. The girls had nice timing and exe-

cuton. We will work this cheer hard this next week so as to improve it for our upcoming meet."

Denys noted that she was happy with the improvements the girls managed to make on their stunt cheer.

"Our stunt cheer, which was round three, was much improved from last week," she said. "Prior to going out onto the floor, I told my team that my expectation was that this cheer be better than at the pre-KVC competition. They certainly obtained that goal."

"Stunt cheer is a test of physical strength and stamina that constantly needs to be worked and practiced to perfection. Therefore, each week, I expect this round to become stronger and more crowd-pleasing. This is the cheer that wows the audience, and I want to be sure we have that spectator appeal. Currently, my girls perform classic stunts with great power and ease. I just hope that we are not outdone by the teams that have more complicated routines. It has been my experience, the simpler the better. We will stick with our current style and keep pushing forward."

So where does Novi competitive cheerleading team stand with the regional and state tournaments looming on the horizon? The coach is optimistic but knows that there is

lots of tough work ahead.

"Each week until the regionals, we will strive to make this material stronger, executed with more power and full of positive energy," Denys said. "I have the most talented team of my 10-year coaching career, and I want to make this the best possible experience for these girls. We will keep our sights set on the state championship to keep us motivated and focused over the next few weeks."

Individually, a new face, sophomore Margeaux Reizian, was added to the round one cheer and gave a good performance under the pressure of the invitational. Juniors, Molly Ruhl and Katie McDowell continued their improvement with their handsprings and walkovers. The added support of taped ankles enabled junior Chelsea Hall to perform much improved. Before having her ankles taped Hall had been having difficulty keeping her stunts up all week, and this seemed to help her balance and stability.

Seniors Lindsay Howell, junior Katie Pyett and sophomore Amanda Smith round out Chelsea's stunt group.

Can this team handspring to the top? If the Novi Invitational is a litmus test, the reaction shows a definite possibility that anything is within their grasp. Now all they

have to do is keep their balance and consistently perform like state champions.

Novi's freshman squad was the big local winner of the day, scoring a convincing first place overall in its division of eight other teams. The Wildcat freshmen scored a total of 344.5 points, just ahead of Troy Athens at 342.5 and Hartland with 339.5. None of the other remaining five teams scored over 300 points.

In the JV competition, Novi engaged in a big time battle for the top spot with Rochester High. After the first round of compulsory competition Novi trailed Rochester by a meager 0.5 points. In the second and final stunt round the Wildcats couldn't match Rochester's thrilling, almost-perfect routine. Still the JV team did a great job and finished second. Rochester finished first with 465 points, Novi second with 411.5, and Troy Athens with 396 among the 11 teams competing.

Emily Parker, the JV cheer coach, was delighted in her teams performance.

"The team coordination and mobility scores really improved this week," Parker said, "in some cases by three points per judge. I am really excited with our team effort and am really looking forward to our next three tournaments."

Hollywood Outsider

Jeff Daniels doesn't need to reside in Los Angeles to be a success

By Sam Eggleston
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

When you think Hollywood, you probably don't think Jeff Daniels.

Yeah, his name is a common one when it comes to stars, especially in the world of comedy. He has acted with the best in the business — from Jim Carey to Clint Eastwood. Yet, when it comes to Daniels, you've probably never seen him court-side at a Lakers game or partying away at the Playboy Mansion. Nope, he's pretty much a Hollywood outsider.

"I never bought into that whole fame thing," the 47-year-old Daniels said. "I always knew that it's only temporary, so why buy into it? Why believe you are as brilliant as they say? As soon your movie isn't number one any more, you're back to where you started. It all comes back to temporary."

Daniels had the chance to live in Los Angeles, and in fact even spent a stint in New York as he was learning the twists and the turns of the trade. In the end, he and his wife, Kathleen, knew that Michigan was where they wanted to be.

"We're both from Michigan," he said. "We always knew that when my career did end, and most do in this business, we wanted to be home. The career just didn't come to an end."

Daniels is able to raise his three children in the town where he was raised; Chelsea. It just means that he travels the friendly skies more than some.

"I'm on an airplane a lot more," Daniels said. "The kids and Kathleen have a sense of home and a sense of place. We just didn't want to bring our kids up in L.A."

For Daniels and his family, Michigan has everything they need.

"We are really happy to bring up the kids in Michigan," he said, noting that even if it hurt his acting career it was worth it. "It's more important than my career. It's family first and career second for me, but it's often the other way around."

In 1991, Daniels opened the Purple Rose Theater in Chelsea and began to give back to the community that had given so much to him through the years. It was, and still is, a place where young actors could get the experience and chances they may not get elsewhere.

"I thought it would take a lot," Daniels said of opening the theater and writing plays for production. "I was just an actor. (Being an actor) sounds incredibly busy, but there is a lot of time in a trailer, and a lot of time where you're in between jobs. You work for three months, and then wouldn't work for six, seven or eight."

The slow periods between jobs and when he wasn't on stage or the set found Daniels sliding in a direction he didn't want to go.

"I found myself playing a lot of golf and creatively I was going to sleep," he said. "I missed that life. I missed the creative life around New York and even around a good movie set. So, I decided to start the theater company."

Though Daniels soon found himself starring in such films as "Gettysburg," "Dumb & Dumber," "Speed," "Fly Away Home" and "101 Dalmatians," he still managed to push the Purple Rose Theater into success and onto the next step.

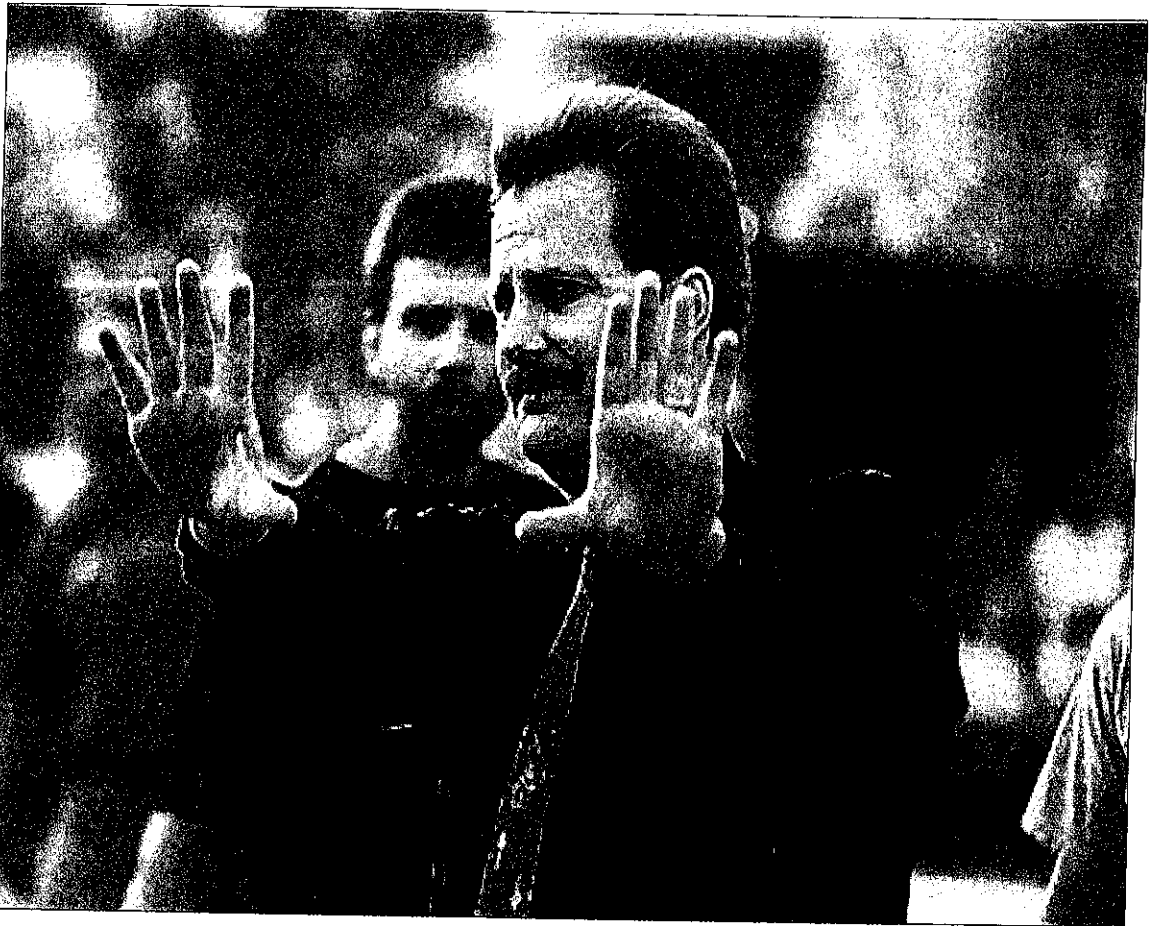


Photo Courtesy of PURPLE ROSE FILMS

Jeff Daniels takes a moment to frame a funeral scene during the filming of "Super Sucker" in Jackson, Michigan. Daniels and Purple Rose Films are committed to filming and distribution of their movies in the Midwest.

Building on the success of the theater and the plays they produced there, Daniels and partner Bob Brown stepped into the world of independent films with the production of "Escanaba in da Moonlight," based on one of Purple Rose's most popular comedy plays. Unlike many film companies, Daniels and his crew didn't head north of the border to the cheaper costs of Canada to recreate a Michigan scene.

"We thought it was real important to film in Escanaba versus going to Canada," Daniels said. "We wanted to use as many Michigan people in front of the camera as we could, and also behind the camera. Too many films done in areas like Detroit bring in their own crew from L.A. or New York. I believe, much like the theater company, that there is talent in those areas that are simply not asked or considered. Making 'Escanaba' was a great next step."

And, with the release of "Super Sucker" in theaters tomorrow, Purple Rose Films has continued in the role of independent film maker and distributor. They also continued filming in Michigan, as "Super Sucker" was done completely in Jackson — and continued with the comedy genre.

"I really enjoy it," said Daniels, who wrote, directed and starred in his newest independent release. "I have a lot of opportunities to do more serious films elsewhere, like 'The Hours,' 'Gods and Generals' and 'Bloodwork.'"

Daniels noted that one of the greatest joys of comedy was

knowing that it's something he can do well.

"There aren't as many people that can do comedy as there are that can do drama," he said. "If you're in the comedy room, you can probably move into the drama room. But not all of the actors in the drama room can go into the comedy room. I like to be one of those that can do both."

"Super Sucker," "Gods and Generals" and "The Hours" are all due to hit theaters one right after the other and "Bloodwork" was just recently released to VHS and DVD, making some fans sit back and wonder if Daniels had even had time to breath.

"It's a little nuts right now," he said. "The timing of it has all of them coming out at once. We shot 'Bloodwork' last spring, 'Super Sucker' almost a year and a half ago, 'Gods and Generals' a year ago and 'The Hours' almost two years ago. Right now, it gets to be me, me and more me."

And what could be on the horizon for Daniels? Maybe the prequel to "Dumb & Dumber?"

"No, I'm not (involved with it)," he said. "Jim's not, the Ferrelly Brothers aren't. Jim didn't want to do the sequel because he wants to do other things. The studio decided to do a prequel then."

But Daniels noted he wouldn't mind getting a chance to work with Carey again.

"I kind of wish we could do a sequel just so I could act with him again," he said, adding that the first movie was a blast for him. "Jim is truly funny, and you just want to be able to be with him. I

had some scenes that were funny on their own, like the tongue on the pole, the snowball and the toilet scene just to name three. The only way they wouldn't have stood out is if they were cut out of the movie."

But even in the duo's scenes together, Daniels added that Carey was a pleasure to work with.

"Jim couldn't have been nicer in our scenes together," he said. "There are tricks people play to screw up your performance, especially in comedy. But Jim couldn't have been more helpful. He made sure we both got our share of the laughs."

With over 30 movies under his belt, including two that he wrote, directed and starred in with his own film company — some could say it's not a bad life for a guy who grew up in Chelsea and was on track to run his father's lumber company.

"It was certainly a possibility," Daniels said. "I worked there for four summers driving truck, delivering cement and drywall and everything. The other thing I had going was community theater and I went to college to see if I could make a success at it. I knew it was obvious I had to chase this acting thing. I had to see if it was a possibility."

"I'm very glad I was able to do that, because I wasn't very good at (the lumber company). I look at blueprints and it's like reading Latin. I would have probably single-handedly put the company into Chapter 11."

And it all came from chasing a dream.

"I'm lucky," Daniels said. "I'm one of those people who does what he loves and what he's good at. I tell all the kids I speak to in high school and college to find out what it is they do best and what they love and chase it. I chased it and it turned into what I've spent my life doing."

And are there still things he'd like to do? Actors he'd like to star with?

"Al Pacino," Daniels said. "I'd love to work with Al Pacino. I was at Central Michigan University when I first saw 'Dog Day Afternoon.' I went to the movie like six times to see whatever it was he was doing. It was what made me decide to go to New York. If I were able to be in a movie with him it would be a great, great thing. I'd love that."

Just chase that dream, Jeff Daniels.

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Is there anything Daniels can't do?

Comedian plays the role of writer, director and star in 'Super Sucker'

By Sam Eggleston
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

From start to finish, taking a movie from script to theater could be one of the most difficult tasks in the entertainment world.

Jeff Daniels found out the work involved in his first independent film, "Escanaba in da Moonlight." He was away from home, filming in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, shooting late nights and sometimes working until the morning sun was coming up over Lake Michigan.

His second shot found him with experience tucked away in his belt, as well as a familiar bed to sleep in.

"One out of the two times I was able to sleep at home," Daniels said. "I liked that."

He noted that for someone who had been on the acting side of the camera for nearly 20 years, having the chance to sleep in his own bed was a bit different while shooting.

"It was a foreign concept," he said. "I loved being able to drive home from the movie set. Personally, it was great for me."

Daniels, who operates through his film company known as Purple Rose Films, noted that he wasn't as prepared as he would have liked the first time around.

"It becomes such an overwhelming task to take a movie from script to movie screen," he said. "As an actor, I had no idea. I learned a lot on 'Escanaba' and Bob Brown and I agreed to do it again."

Brown is the managing partner of Purple Rose and executive producer of both films. The duo decided to stick with comedies for their second feature.

"We think there aren't enough comedies, especially independent," Daniels said. "We really felt that we do that well."

As did viewers. "Super Sucker" was the winner of the Audience Award for Best Feature at the 2002 U.S. Comedy Arts Festival.

"It really goes against the traditional releases of independent films. Usually, you would open in a single theater in L.A. and New York and see if it caught on and spread from there."

Jeff Daniels
Actor

Daniels and his gang also decided to take to releasing their film a bit differently than most. They will open the film tomorrow at select screens in theaters in Novi, Detroit, Flint, Ann Arbor, Jackson, Lansing, Grand Rapids and Traverse City, as well as in Ohio cities Toledo, Cleveland and Columbus. The movie will also be shown in Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Madison and Kansas City.

"To us, they are the most important cities in the world," Daniels said. "It really goes against the traditional releases of independent films. Usually, you would open in a single theater in L.A. and New York and see if it caught on and spread from there."

"We opened 'Escanaba' in Michigan and Wisconsin and had success. We're just going to the next level with 'Super Sucker.'"

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.



Photo Courtesy of PURPLE ROSE FILMS

Proving he's not all outsider, Daniels poses with star Dawn Wells — better remembered as Mary Ann on the television show "Gilligan's Island."