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INSIDE



Beefing up the force

As the Novi Police Department hires three new officers this year, a standard-setting ratio determining the appropriate number of officers in a municipality will also receive a minute boost.

— Page 2A



Varsity ranked #1

The Tampa Bay Bucs may be top dog at this year's Super Bowl; and our Wings may have a three-peat with Lord Stanley's Cup; but the folks at Novi's Varsity Lincoln Mercury have a six-year winning streak as Ford Motor Company's number one Lincoln Mercury dealership.

— Page 5A

SPORTS



'Cats top Milford

Brad Simpson and the Wildcats were able to overcome some tough shooting and a Milford lead to beat their Kensington Valley Conference rivals last Friday.

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Two Detroiters charged in slaying



K. Russell S. Henderson

By Phil Foley
 STAFF WRITER

Two Detroit men have been arrested in the slaying of a third Detroit man outside the Wixom factory where he worked late last year.

Wixom police say Kevin Leon Russell, 24, hired Samuel Lee Henderson, 25, to kill Eric

Damell Barnes. "This did not involve a woman," said Wixom Police Chief Clarence Goodline. "But there was some bad blood between them."

Barnes was found dead from a single gunshot to the head outside Forest City Technologies Dec. 17. Goodline said Henderson was taken into custody Saturday, Jan. 25, at a Warren hotel. Police

arrested Russell outside his Detroit home early Tuesday, Jan. 28.

Goodline said neither man offered any resistance at the time of their arrest.

Both men are being held without bond at the Oakland County Jail in Pontiac after being arraigned at the 52-1 Court in Novi.

Both men are charged with conspiracy to commit murder, first degree murder, second degree murder and manslaughter. Henderson was also charged with use of a firearm in the commission of a felony crime. However, Goodline said investigators have yet to recover the murder weapon.

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Road project raises concerns

By Phil Foley
 STAFF WRITER

Sally Zdravkowsky has been serving up meals at the Rosewood Restaurant on Grand River Avenue for nearly 30 years. Down the street and across the way, Dan Tomlinson has been riding herd on Spartan Concrete operations for the better part of two decades.

Tomlinson and Zdravkowsky were among scores of Novi business people nervously eyeing Road Commission for Oakland County plans to improve Grand River between Novi and Beck Roads. The commission and city held the first of a series of meetings Monday to keep Novi residents and business people up to speed on the progress of the \$15 million project, which will widen the road to five lanes and replace a more than eight-decades-old bridge.

Work on the project, which is scheduled to be complete by November, could start any day but might be held up until the end of February, RCOC engineer Bill Conklin explained. Dan's Excavating can't begin work on demolishing the old Grand River bridge over the railroad until it gets the green light from CSX, which is based in Jacksonville, Fla.

"I've been working with that railroad for two years," he sighed. Conklin said CSX plans to keep its freight line in operation throughout the construction project.

Assistant City Manager Clay Pearson assured business owners, "We want to make this go as smoothly as possible. We're taking this very seriously." He said RCOC and city staff will hold a project update meeting at 9 a.m. the last Wednesday of every month through October in the Police Department Training Center. He added the city will also be sending out a monthly newsletter by fax or e-mail to everyone who wants one as well as providing regular up dates on the city's Web site and on Cable Channel 13.

Zdravkowsky was upset that signs have appeared at either end of the project saying the road will be closed. "I am very concerned," she said. "We've been hurt the last couple of years by construction between Beck and Wixom and 911 didn't help. Things have been really bad."

Conklin promised to call the commission's sign shop as soon as the left the building to get things cleared up. Conklin and city officials stressed there will be signs posted at the Beck and Novi roads intersections along Grand River indicating that while the CSX bridge is out, Grand River remains open for

- ROAD WDES**
- Nancy McClain
 City Engineer
 (248) 735-5606
 nmccclain@ci.novi.mi.us
 - Clay Pearson
 Assistant City Manager
 (248) 347-0420
 cpearson@ci.novi.mi.us
 - Doug Shaeffer
 Novi Police Chief
 (248) 347-0504
 dshaeffer@ci.novi.mi.us
 - Sheryl Walsh
 Community Relations Mgr.
 (248) 735-5628
 swalsh@ci.novi.mi.us

business.

Since it will be impossible to post signs for every single business at either end of the project, Pearson promised business owners it will be "virtually open season on additional signage on your property" during the project. He said the city will do its best to keep the public informed that while the bridge will be out Grand River will remain open for business.

Tomlinson, who has 40 employees and 27 trucks operating out of his facility, was concerned about how the project will affect his business. "I understand the need for the project," said the concrete plant general manager, but he added he's concerned that the planned detours will put him at an economic disadvantage.

He adding to his travel time will cut the number of runs his trucks can make per day. "The key to this business," he said, "is the cost of cement in yards per hour."

One businessman wanted to know if there were any plans to subsidize businesses in the project's path for lost income.

"That's not the way these things are done," said Pearson.

He added, "Novi's fortunate to be in the position to make this investment at this time. This is long awaited and long needed." Pearson noted that once the new bridge is completed this fall, weight restrictions currently in place on Grand River will be lifted. "This is a good thing."

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.



Lina Asquini designed this poster for the chamber's annual auction.

Tickets on sale today for chamber charity auction

■ 2003 event will benefit Providence's Assarian Cancer Center

By Phil Foley
 STAFF WRITER

Tickets for what organizers are billing as Novi's hottest night go on sale today.

According to Nikki Pearce, chairman of the Novi Chamber of Commerce's 11th annual charity auction, "This is a see-and-be-seen event."

Chamber President Nora Champion said the event has raised more than \$60,000 for local charity's since its inception. This year's beneficiary of the chamber's efforts will be the Assarian Cancer Center at Providence Hospital and Medical Center's Novi campus at Grand

River Avenue and Beck Road.

Tickets for the event are \$75 per person and include a silent auction, live entertainment, a raffle and "a wonderful elegant dinner" with your choice of salmon or filet mignon. Pearce said this year's dinner will also feature "two huge dessert tables."

The charity auction is slated for April 12 at the Novi Hilton, located on Haggerty Road just north of Eight Mile.

Tickets for the auction are now available at the Novi Chamber office in the Novi Expo Center, The Novi News office in Northville (104 W. Main) and at Republic Bank at Eight Mile and Haggerty roads. Tickets are also available from auction committee members or by calling Pearce at (248) 219-9114 or Christy Seaberg at (248) 735-0776.

"This is the only event of its kind in Novi," declared Pearce. She said her committee has collected "a lot of wonderful items" and are adding more daily.

Among the items that will go up for bid are a collectors doll house.

"It's bigger than a desk. It's huge," said Pearce. Bidders will also be able to vie for travel packages, spa packages, suites at the Palace, sports tickets, entertainment and even a summer lobster barbecue professionally done at their home.

"This is going to be a fun exciting event," promised Pearce.

More importantly it will help raise money for the Assarian Cancer Center. The center's Healing Arts program, which generates no revenue for the hospital, offers cancer patients a wide variety of programs that augment the traditional methods of treating cancer.

Chamber members are still seeking donations for the auction. To donate, call Champion at (248) 349-3743 or Randy Patterson, chairman of the chamber's Media and Promotion Committee at (248) 705-6013.

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

Novi Meadows raises \$22,629 in St. Jude Math-A-Thon

By Ramez Khuri
 STAFF WRITER



Photo by John Heider

Novi Meadows students Elizabeth Bosco, left, and Lauryn Hong work were top fundraisers (Bosco with \$360 and Hong with \$750) for the school's donations to the St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

The students of Novi Meadows helped to make the lives of some cancer patients at St. Jude Hospital a little brighter when they participated in the school's Math-A-Thon program. Math-A-Thon, now in its 22nd year, is an educationally based fund-raising program in which students obtain sponsors for the number of math problems completed in special workbooks provided in grades K-9. The program is sponsored nationally by Six Flags Theme Parks, who provide free passes to their parks for every student rais-

ing \$35 or more.

This was the third year that Meadows participated, raising a combined total of \$64,340.80 in all three years. This year alone, the school had 328 students participate, raising \$22,629.32. The top prize winners were fifth grader Lauryn Hong, who raised \$710.25, and sixth grader Elizabeth Bosco, who raised \$360. Both received boom boxes for their efforts.

"St. Jude Hospital is a research hospital for children's cancer and in particular they work with two particular kinds," Novi Meadows Student Council Coordinator Georgia Bingham said. "One is

leukemia. They have several programs for kids to participate in and the Math-A-Thon is the easiest to participate in for schools because, basically, all it does is say the children are totally responsible for doing it. We solicit their interest, they get a permission form signed, we order Math-A-Thon booklets, we pass them out and the kids are given about two weeks to perform it."

Bingham explained that children participating go to family members who pledge an amount of money per math problem attempted, but it doesn't matter whether or not the students get the problems correct. For example, if

a student attempted 100 problems and he or she only got 50 correct, he or she will still collect money for 100 problems.

"I thought that it was really important for me to do the Math-A-Thon because I wanted to help a lot of kids who don't have good health," Bosco said. "I think we should do more fund-raisers to help more kids. I pretty much just got the booklet and did as many problems as I could and I ended up finishing all of them and I got them all right. I'm having a little bit of trouble with math, so this was also something that could

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Two charged in slaying

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The arrests came 40 days after Barnes was found dead outside the Wixom auto parts plant where he worked. The killing brought together investigators from Wixom and five other West Oakland County Communities as well as the Oakland County Sheriff's office and the Michigan State Police.

"We had a hunch detective working on this who really poured their heart out," said Goodline. "This happened before the holidays and they've been working day and night since. They've been working on this relentlessly."

Goodline said he expects the suspects will go on trial sometime this spring in circuit court in Pontiac.

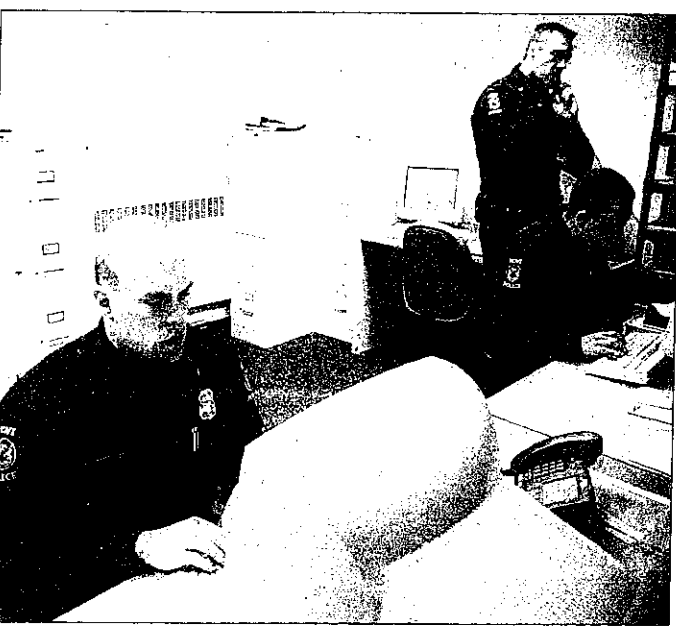
He said that while Barnes' employer and Crime Stoppers offered rewards totaling \$50,000 for information leading to the arrest of his killers, no rewards have been given yet. "We are looking at some information," said Goodline.

He gave much of the credit for the arrests to the Western Oakland County Major Crime team, whose members "just kept on turning over stones."

Goodline said he hopes the arrest brings some peace to Barnes' family. "This is a big deal." He said "When something like this happens out in the community we do everything possible to find whoever is responsible. This is an affront and an insult to the entire community."

New officers offer a small boost

Addition of three police officers this year will minutely increase City of Novi's struggling officer-to-citizen ratio



By Victoria Sadlocha STAFF WRITER

The Novi Police Department hires three new officers this year, a standard-setting ratio determining the appropriate number of officers in a municipality will also receive a minute boost.

The ratio comparing the number of officers per 1,000 of Novi's population will increase from an estimated 1.16 to 1.18, inching the city closer to the area-wide average ratio of 1.6 and Federal Bureau of Investigation's 2000 reported ratio of 1.8.

"We are making incremental growth," said Novi Police Chief Douglas Shaeffer. "But certainly we need to continue to grow."

According to a police officer staffing study conducted by the Novi Police Department, 2002 estimated population data showed the department has the second to lowest officer-citizen ratio when compared to nine other surrounding communities.

According to the study, both Auburn Hills and Southfield reported ratios above 2. The next highest ratio of 1.8 was reported by Birmingham.

West Bloomfield reported a 1.11 ratio falling just below Novi's 1.16 2002 officer-population indicator.

Shaeffer said the reason the

department is experiencing the slanted relationship is because of Novi's rapidly-increasing population.

"The community has outgrown us," Shaeffer said.

According to 2000 census data, the City of Novi grew 47 percent from the 1990 census count of 32,988 to the 2000 count of 48,572.

According to information compiled by Novi officials, the police department grew 23 percent in the same 10-year time period from 48 to 59 officers, showing Novi's population grew nearly twice as fast as the number of officers.

Since 2000, the city's current and estimated population continues to increase faster than the department's growth.

Police officials said where the struggling ratio is noticeable the most is in the department's ability to answer Novi's increasing calls for service.

"Calls for service is very important for us to measure," Shaeffer said. "It represents a major portion of our workload. Every single day, this police department receives calls we can not respond to."

What the department does instead with the non-emergency calls is prioritize them, let citizens know the calls won't be responded

Fifteen-year Novi Police Department veteran Officer Larry Lemerand, standing, estimates that patrol officer spends on average an hour or two a day writing and filing reports. Joining Lemerand are officers Jeremy Stempion, left, and Mark Boody.

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New Novi officers offer a small boost

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composed of 61 officers and will soon be composed of 63.

The ratio method is a highly regarded means of gauging the growth and development of the department in relation to the community. The ratio is usually expressed in numbers of officers per 1,000 residents and is a direct relationship of the number of officers as compared to the population.

A city with 10,000 residents desiring a 1.5 ratio would have 15 officers.

As the community continues to grow, the ratio declines unless the number of officers also increases.

If the number of officers increases, the ratio increases.

The method is used universally in law enforcement by institutions such as the FBI, municipal departments and state police agencies.

Shaeffer said Novi's crime rate has declined more than 35 percent in the last six years and represents less than one-third of the department's workload.

Police officials believe the introduction of Community Oriented Policing and its assimilation into the department is responsible for the decline.

The proactive, as opposed to reactive, approach has reversed the city's 1996 increasing crime rate.

The approach encompasses high visibility, closeness with the community, fixed responsibility and territorial assignments.

Shaeffer said the type of relationships and presence delivered by having the same officer in the same area reduces crime.

"That kind of closeness, we think, makes a big difference," Shaeffer said.

As to how much the department needs to grow, the chief said, "It is very hard to predict the future. My crystal ball is never clear."

What the chief said the department will be doing is continue looking at studies pertaining to other communities reaching a successful officer-population ratio, reviewing the previously accumulated data and keeping up communication with the city's administration.

The Novi Police Department is currently in the process of reviewing the ratio.

Novi Population vs Police Manpower

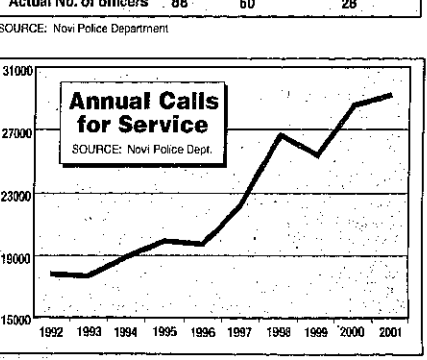
Year	City Pop. Estimate	SEMOG Pop. Estimate	No. of Officers	No. of Officers per 1,000 Pop.**
1984	22,528		31	1.38
1985	24,273		31	1.28
1986	27,990	27,990	31	1.11
1987	28,195		32	1.13
1988	28,809	31,330	38	1.32
1989	31,433		46	1.46
1990	32,988		48	1.45
1991	33,256		50	1.50
1992	33,501	33,501	50	1.49
1993	37,401	37,401	50	1.34
1994	37,472	37,472	50	1.33
1995	38,697	38,697	50	1.29
1996	39,080	39,080	52	1.33
1997	39,813	39,813	52	1.31
1998	45,000	45,000	58	1.29
1999	47,396	47,396	58	1.22
2000	48,572	47,579	59	1.21
2001	50,129	49,081	60	1.20
2002*	51,686	51,081	60	1.16
2003*	53,243	53,072	63	1.18

SOURCE: Novi Police Department ** Reflects City Estimate

Police Department Comparisons

CITY	POPULATION	AUTHORIZED	RATIO
Auburn Hills	20,281	43	2.12
Birmingham	19,444	35	1.80
Bloomfield Hills	42,995	70	1.83
West Bloomfield	65,859	73	1.11
Royal Oak	59,491	97	1.63
Waterford Twp.	73,869	95	1.29
Southfield	78,008	160	2.05
Farmington Hills	82,111	116	1.41
Troy	80,959	137	1.69
Novi	51,686	60	1.16
Average			1.59

Novi 2000 Ratio: 1.16
Novi 2002 Ratio: 1.16
NOVI NEEDED ADDITIONS: 28



Novi City Briefs

Hansel & Gretel

The Novi Theatres' Little People Players are proud to present "Hansel & Gretel". The delightful production is directed by Lori Assmann who has participated in the city's theater as an assistant director and choreographer as well as performing in "The Sound of Music" and "Music Man". The show is double cast with a total of 67 actors in both casts. Director of Novi Theatres Linda Wickert said close to 90 actors auditioned for the play. The production based on the favorite childhood-story will be held 7:30 p.m. Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 and 3 p.m. Feb. 1 and 2 in the Novi Civic Center Theater. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door and may be purchased at the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry inside the Novi Civic Center. Call (248) 347-0400.

Winter property taxes

Payments on City of Novi 2002 winter property tax bills are due without penalty on or before Feb. 14. If payments are not received in the Treasury Department by the due date, a 4-percent penalty will be added. Postmarks are not accepted. A drop box for payment is available behind the Civic Center at the curb. Late payments will be accepted at the Treasurer's office through Feb. 28 with a 4-percent penalty, but beginning March 1, payments must be sent to the Oakland County Treasurer's Office. For more information, call the 24-hour property tax information hotline at (888) 600-3773.

Dog licenses

Oakland County dog licenses for calendar year 2002 have expired. Licenses for the new year are available at the Novi Treasury Department. All dogs four months and older must be licensed. The fee is \$15 for dog owners younger than 65. Senior citizens with proof of age are required to pay \$13.50. Licenses for neutered or spayed dogs are \$7.50 or \$6.75 for senior owners. These prices will be held in Novi at the civic center on Wednesday, March 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. Pre-registration is required. No previous experience is required. For more information or to register, call the Friends of the Rouge's Public Involvement.

Drive right or else

The Lakes Area Traffic Safety Task Force has scheduled Saturday traffic patrols for the Commerce Township, Walled Lake, and Wixom areas during the afternoon of February 5. Traffic Task Force officers will focus upon identifying drivers who are not in compliance with vehicle restraint laws and will give special attention to school zones.

For further information concerning this event, please contact Wixom Police Chief Clarence Goodline at (248) 624-6146.

Included among the graduates was Karl Brown, James Czerskiaw, Jason Gonzalez, and Kyle Marney, from Walled Lake Fire Department; Mark Gill and Marcus Leccc, from Commerce Township Fire Department; Mark Gomez, Geoffrey Ostling and Christopher Wagenschutz of Wixom Fire Department.

Firefighters certified

Fifty-three firefighters from 20 Oakland County fire

Police Report

Ice follies

A Novi resident called police on Jan. 25 at about 5 p.m., reporting a pickup truck damaged his lawn in the 1700 block of East Lake Drive. The man told police two pickup trucks came off the ice of Walled Lake and drove over his lakefront lawn to gain access to East Lake Drive. The Novi resident said he ran out of the house and saved his arms in the air to try and stop the second truck, but the unknown driver quickly accelerated, tearing up lawn, grass and dirt. According to the report, fire damage to the lawn also occurred. The Novi officer searched the

area, but was unable to locate the two vehicles.

Missing knives

An employee at Providence Medical Center in Novi filed a report at the Novi Police Department on Jan. 24 stating a knife set worth about \$150 was missing. The Brighton woman told police on Sep. 21, 2002, she brought one set of Cutco knives into her work to send back to the company via UPS. According to the report, the woman placed the packaged-up knives in the shipping-receiving area, but never

heard back from Cutco. After placing a call to the knife company, the woman learned it never received the package.

She also called UPS when a representative said the shipping company never received the package either. Employees in the shipping-receiving department at Providence did not remember sending the package out.

Long distance shopper

A Delaware man called the Novi Police Department to report someone had fraudulently made purchases at a Novi store using

his identity. The 56-year-old male told a Novi officer on Jan. 21 he received a bill from The Great Indoors in Novi for purchases totaling \$6,706.

The purchases made on Dec. 23 and 26 were charged on a Great Indoors Master Card with his name and billing information. The man told police he had never been to Novi nor does he own a Master Card. The man also called the Fountain Walk store and the credit fraud hotline.

Surprise, surprise

After almost hitting a police

officer's car and making an illegal left turn, a Ludington man was surprised to see a police officer standing behind him.

A Novi officer was patrolling the area of Novi and 10 Mile roads on Jan. 23 at about 2 a.m. when he noticed a 1993 Pontiac turn out of the parking lot of JW's Sports Bar into the northbound lane of Novi Road. The officer had to swerve out of the way to avoid being hit by the driver. The officer immediately turned around while noticing the vehicle cross the double yellow lines before turning right onto westbound 10 Mile Road. After activating the patrol vehicle's

lights, the driver made an illegal left turn into the Speedway gas station. The car kept going until the 28-year-old driver found a parking spot in the lot.

According to the report, the officer stated when the driver exited the car, he looked very surprised to see him behind his car. The driver asked the officer with slurred speech why he was being stopped. The officer told him he was being stopped because he almost hit him and made a prohibited left turn. After the driver admitted he had a few beers, he blew a .18 and was arrested.

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The Novi Party Store on Grand River Ave. is shown adjoining its next-door neighbor, and parking lot problem-sharer, Janna's Fine Wines.

Barred barriers

■ City says concrete barriers in the parking lot of a Grand River Ave. convenience shop must be removed

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Concrete blocks installed in a Grand River Avenue business parking lot must be removed early next week, said Novi city officials. The horizontal blocks in the parking lot just west of Janna's Fine Wine and vertical poles in the sidewalk area must be taken out by Wednesday, Feb. 5.

The mandate issued by the City of Novi to Novi Party Store was based on an opinion letter generated by Novi City Attorney Gerald Fisher.

"We followed up with our own letter to the owner of Novi Party Store saying it looks like the obstructions and devices are on public property and need to be removed," said Clay Pearson, Novi's assistant city manager.

Sam Senawi of Janna's Fine Wine, located just east of Novi Road, said the barriers placed in the lot on New Year's Eve at about 8:30 p.m. are a fire hazard and have been a tremendous parking hindrance.

"People come here with expensive cars and are just ruining them," Senawi said. "If (a barrier) is slanting up because it has been hit so many times."

Owner of Novi Party Store Sam Poota said he placed the barriers in front of Cassis where the former Grand River Avenue location of Bank's Sewing and Vacuum said they shared parking with Janna's for six years before relocating from the Grand River Avenue location and never had one problem or one issue.

"There was never a problem there," Bank said.

The placement of the barriers and poles ignited a verbal feud between the two neighboring businesses.

him to believe it was OK.

"When I put the barricades in, I did not do anything different than people to the east and people to the west," Poota said.

The Novi Party Store owner said Cassis lost one of his tenants because Janna's customers were parking there.

Gregory Bank of the former Grand River Avenue location of Bank's Sewing and Vacuum said they shared parking with Janna's for six years before relocating from the Grand River Avenue location and never had one problem or one issue.

"There was never a problem there," Bank said.

The placement of the barriers and poles ignited a verbal feud between the two neighboring businesses.

The Other Side: Owner of Novi Party Store responds to neighbor's allegations

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Returning from out of town, Novi Party Store owner Sam Poota said he was shocked and terribly upset when he learned of public comments made by neighbor Janna's Fine Wine.

"It is a fighting between evil and good," Poota said. "My story is a beautiful story of people who love the truth and the beauty of God's story of life. I am the follower of Christ and Christianity, and I have to stand up and fight them in a legitimate story and let the readers decide who is the guilty one."

Poota said comments by Sam Senawi of Janna's Fine Wine stating he is trying to take Janna's liquor license, purposely make parking a problem, is the brand new person on the block and that he is a millionaire are false.

"I wish I would have been a

millionaire," he said.

Poota said he bought the store in 1977 and someone by the name of Janna made another party store next to his store.

"The people who will read this and were around at that time will know this is the voice of truth," Poota said.

Since 1991, Poota said he has allowed Janna's to use his parking areas, at no charge and it wasn't until he had to eliminate the offer for business purposes that a problem erupted on his neighbor's part.

"They should be thankful I allowed them to use their parking for the last 11 years. It is like Walmart allowing K-Mart to use their parking lot," Poota said.

Further, Poota said accusations he is after Janna's liquor license are untrue and said he was offered the opportunity to purchase the license along with the store which he turned down because he said

the price offered to him was different than what was offered to other buyers.

"That is being really ridiculous," Senawi said. "This is all coming about now because he (Poota) built his brand new store."

Senawi maintains Poota is trying to push Janna's out of their current location and said any comments centering around parking are mute because the parking area along Grand River Avenue was taken by the Road Commission for Oakland County in 1996 for future widening of the avenue if deemed necessary by city and county officials.

"I am still here," Poota said. "Simply because I treat people right."

Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or at vsadlocha@hi.homecomm.net.

BUSINESS

A-5

Phil Foley, staff writer, (248) 349-1700, ext. 108, pfoley@hi.homecomm.net

Varsity #1 in the country

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER



Photo by John Heider

Novi's Varsity Lincoln Mercury dealership owner Michael Stanford, center, shakes hands with general sales manager Dean Silver in their Grand River Ave. showroom. The car-seller was recently named the nation's #1 dealer for the sixth year in a row.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers may be top dog at this year's Super Bowl; and our Wings may have a three-peat with Lord Stanley's Cup; but the folks at Novi's Varsity Lincoln Mercury have a six-year winning streak as Ford Motor Company's number one Lincoln Mercury dealership.

Michael Stanford and brother Lou, along with their 107 employees, will be presented their sixth top sales trophy Feb. 4 during a dinner hosted by Ford executives at Southfield's Morton's Steak House.

The brothers will then head off to West Virginia in March for more recognition when the Number Two Automaker's top 100 dealers for the Ford and Lincoln Mercury divisions gather together for the first time at the Greenbrier Resort.

The Stanford brothers won't want for company. Michael said of the 17 Lincoln Mercury dealers in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties, six are among the top 10 in the country.

Lincoln Mercury spokesman Jay Joyer said that while he couldn't say who the number two dealer is, he could say that Varsity outsold them by more than 100 vehicles, but less than 300.

According to Dean Silver, Varsity's sales manager, the dealership sold about 3,500 vehicles last year, which was close to even with the previous year.

Stanford attributed that to "hard work, just hard work." He added, "four of our top 10 salesmen in the U.S. work for us."

Silver said his biggest challenge now is keeping the momentum going.

Stanford agreed. "It's easy being second or third; you've got something to shoot for. When you're number one you're competing against yourself."

He said the dealership got a shot in the arm when the division jumped

into the SUV market in 1998 with the introduction of the Navigator.

"It brought so much business to us that we'd never seen prior to that," he said. "Lincoln Mercury products generally had a pretty loyal following and there wasn't a lot of new blood per se coming in. And in '98 when the Navigator was originally introduced, we saw more trade-ins, more BMWs, more Mercedes Benz. So it brought us a whole new market and that was just the beginning."

He said products like the L.S. introduced in 2000, and others in the pipeline are bringing in customers that haven't considered Lincoln Mercury in the past.

In an odd way, the uncertain economy has also helped, said Stanford. Luxury and affordability aren't words generally uttered in the same breath, but that was before the fall of the dot coms. "Monthly you're looking at \$400 on an L.S. where you're looking \$700, \$750 on a BMW," he observed. "Now three years ago, the way the economy was, that wasn't a big deal with two people working and a lot of money flowing, so an extra \$300 a month wasn't a big problem. We're seeing a lot of those people back now and they are price-conscious. They're coming back to Lincoln Mercury because we offer quite a bit of value for what you get."

That means customer service closes the deal.

That means customer service closes the deal.

Stanford said that's particularly important in the Metro Detroit market where so much of the business is with Ford employees and their families where there's "not that much to negotiate."

The reality of today's auto industry, Stanford observed is that "that one person who works at Ford and qualifies for A-plan, more than likely has someone else in the family that works for GM or Chrysler. So basically we're still at the same water level because those people are going to get a plan, whether it be Ford, whether it be Chrysler or whether it be Chevrolet."

That means customer service closes the deal.

Chevrolet dealer gets nod for building expansion

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Novi's oldest car dealership is set to expand.

Novi Planning Commission members voted unanimously Jan. 16 to approve additions totaling 10,409 square feet to Marty Feldman Chevrolet on Grand River Avenue between Novi and Meadowbrook roads.

According to Larry White, the dealership's general manager, the additions will allow the firm to expand its current workforce of 82 to between 110 and 120 over the next three to five years.

Work on the project, he said, is expected to cost the dealership around \$2 million by the time it's completed this fall.

Marty Feldman Chevrolet, which opened its doors in 1981, currently covers 35,000 square feet of its 9.97-acre site. White, who has been with the firm 11 years, said the dealership is the 11th largest in General Motors Corp's Chevrolet division and the additions are needed to "keep up with the growth of Novi."

White told commission members the project will include a 7,331-square foot addition to the back of the existing building to expand its body shop, and a 3,708-

square foot addition on the front of the building to expand its parts and service area.

Current city code prohibits the placement of overhead doors on the side of buildings facing major roads. However, the project's architect told planning commission members that placing the service entrance doors on the front of the building would actually improve traffic safety by allowing the dealership's service department to clear its parking lot faster during the morning rush hour when people are leaving their vehicles for service and estimates.

The dealership will still have to appear before the Zoning Board of Appeals to seek a variance.

Farrington Hills businessman James Deuchman, who is one of the owners of the adjacent Fountain Park Apartments, praised his neighbor for "working in collaboration to get the best for both properties."

The plans, which have been under review since early last year, call for a 10-foot berm topped with trees between the dealership and the apartment complex. Commission Chairman Antonio Nagy strongly urged the owners not to use ash or white pine trees in their landscaping.

Novi firm offers new software training program

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

While the world's automakers were taking the wraps off their latest products and dream machines at Detroit's Cobo Hall earlier this month, Novi's INCAT was rolling out its newest training program for the software that makes many of these vehicles possible.

"Top Gun Training," said INCAT spokesman Dan Saad, is designed to help engineers at Tier One and Tier Two auto suppliers get the most out of Catia V5, which was introduced to OEM's like Chrysler Group last year. Catia has been Dassault System's flagship product since the three-dimensional product design and simulation software was first introduced in 1981.

According to Saad, the latest version is "a reinvention of Catia more than an upgrade." Saad said, "It's almost easier to train someone who's never used it before."

While a number of firms offer Catia training and consulting, Saad said INCAT is offering a program "rooted in real world experience, rather than one based in the theory of application. This was designed by people in the trenches."

Saad said the new program isn't expected to require any immediate staff expansion, since it is more of a model change over than an addition to product lines.

In addition to its headquarters operations in Novi, Incat has headquaters in Bedfordshire, England, and operates in eight countries in North America, Europe and the Pacific Rim.

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.

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By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Novi builder Mark Guidoboni says he's seeing a trend toward construction that's "a little more rustic, a little more traditional" both among the high home buyers he serves and people looking for renovations.

Guidoboni is CEO of Cambridge Homes, which is building Hellgao, a collection of luxury homes on Beck Road, an expressway to begin work this spring in downtown Northville.

Cambridge Place, a mixed-use development of 31 condominiums and commercial space.

He said he's seeing a lot of people converting the space over their attached garages, into studies or extra bedrooms. "It's cheap space," he said.

"The foundation is already in place." He added in some cases homeowners don't even have to take the roof off. Guidoboni said in some homes remodelers can cut and rebuild trusses as they go, literally tunneling their way through the space above and existing garage.

According to Guidoboni, while kitchens are a perennial favorite among people making home improvements, he's seeing more people using specially wood on their floors. He added the rustic look of Imesonite in floors and on fireplace mantels seems to be gaining favor.

Handfuls of vendors are expected to be on hand for the first in a series of home shows sponsored by the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIAS) when the Novi Home Improvement Show rolls into the Novi Expo Center this weekend.

The Farmington Hills-based BIA also sponsors the Spring

Home & Garden Show April 4-6 in Novi.
"The Novi Show offers an amazing array of home improvement items," said Steve Perlman, BIA president. "Not only is every conceivable item for the home presented here, but dozens of the area's top contractors are also on hand to answer consumer questions."

More than 300 exhibitors are expected to display the latest technology, products and services for kitchens, baths, windows, doors,

spas, remodeling, interior design, home offices, furniture, arts and crafts, decorative accessories, electronics, heating, cooling and appliances.

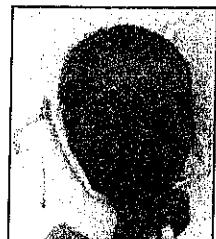
Adam Hellman, president and fourth-generation owner of Southfield's Fairway

Construction, noted that about 15 percent of the people coming to his firm for remodeling work, these days want to complete a major portion of the work themselves. That, he said, is "double from the year before."

He attributed that to television shows like PBS' "This Old House" and the rise of HGTV. The downside, he said, is that "people see hallrooms completed in 20 minutes and four commercials and the reality is it takes two weeks."

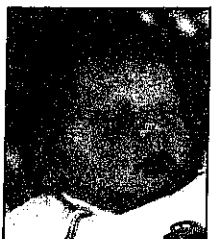
Hellman, who is a Certified Remodeler and a Certified Graduate Remodeler, said the home show is a good opportunity to meet with a number of contractors and find out how well you mesh with them as well as take a

Births



Delaney Dobson

Tony and Jessica (Morton) Dobson of Portage, Pa. are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Delaney Grace Dobson. Delaney was born September 10, 2002 at Lee Hospital in Johnstown, Pa. She weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches in length. He is the couple's first child.



Hayden Skiver

Hayden Michael Skiver was born December 30, 2002 at Providence Hospital to David and Jillian (Kellogg) Skiver of Redford. He weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches in length. He is the couple's first child.

Engagement



Ryan & Stevenson

Debra and Frank Penzato of Novi and John and Michelle Ryan of Tropic announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Ryan, to Sean Stevenson, son of Kathleen Stevenson of Grosse Pointe Woods and Michael Stevenson of Grosse Pointe Farms.

The bride-elect graduated from Novi High School in 1995, received her bachelor of arts degree in journalism from Michigan State University in 1999, and her teacher certification from Wayne State University in Dec. 2002. She has completed student teaching at Marie University in Grosse Pointe and is currently a guest teacher for Novi schools.

The groom-elect is a 1995 graduate of Grosse Pointe North High School. He received his bachelor of arts degree in marketing from Michigan State University in 1999. He is currently employed as a communications planner at J. Walter Thompson.

An April, 2003 wedding is planned. The ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. at O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi, 248-348-1800. Memorials may be made to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, Mich. 48154-5010. Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi.

CLASS NOTES

A-7

Ramez Khuri, staff writer, (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 rkhuri@nl.homecomm.net



Students in Jennifer Smith's kindergarten class from Orchard Hills pose in penguin costumes as part of a unit on the arctic birds.

Students learn about arctic birds using the K.W.L reading strategy

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Orchard Hills Elementary kind of looked like a tuxedo rental shop on Jan. 10. Jennifer Smith's and Nancy Lodwick's kindergarten classes had a penguin parade as a closure to a penguin mini unit. All the children made the costumes.

"This is a reading strategy that we use, which is called the K.W.L. reading strategy," Smith said. "The 'K' stands for what

we know about a subject, in this case the penguins that we learned about the 'W' stands for what we want to know about penguins; and the 'L' stands for what we learned about penguins."

"They really enjoyed it and they enjoyed coming in and sharing the facts that they learned about them," Smith said. "For our final day, we had them make penguin costumes and they dressed up and had a parade around the school. It was very cute."

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.homecomm.net.

On Campus

Novi residents Paul Mrozak, Hsi Chang, Lisa Slepetski, Ronggang Liang, Crystal Komak, Aditya Prasad, Susan Agacinski, Richard Gaul, Sriwasa Allari, Phillip Kikowski, Ryan Retnau, Maureen Scymour, Eric Retzbach, Chetan Jain and Kathryn Thomas were among the graduates of University of Michigan during Dec. 2002 commencement exercises.

Brittany Kureth of Novi was named to the Dean's List for fall semester 2002 at Colby College, Waterville, Maine. She is the daughter of Charles Kureth.

Catlin College has named the fall semester, 2002 Dean's List including Chelsea Dzaneko, a graduate of Walled Lake Central High School and Courtney Busch, a graduate of Walled Lake Western High School.

Walled Lake Schools

Health Fair

The Walled Lake PTSA Council will host a Health Information Fair Saturday, Feb. 8 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Community Education Center, 615 N. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake. There will be 20-25 table displays with speakers and literature available pertaining to many health topics of interest for adults and all school-age children.

Topics will include drug and alcohol abuse, smoking, proper nutrition, physical activity, obesity, coping with stress and depression, dangers of tanning, and dental health. For more information, please contact Debrae Paxton at (248) 363-0998 or DMFaxton@comcast.com.

Flammer honored

Sarah Flammer, senior, Walled Lake Central High School, has been granted an Honorable Mention Award in Music/Voice/Soprano by the Arts Recognition and Talent Search (ARTS) program.

Flammer has been selected from 4,134 applicants and is one of 33 Honorable Mention Winners in Music/Voice. The National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA)'s ARTS awards are widely recognized as a testimony to artistic achievement and promise. Flammer's achievement is listed on their Web site at www.ARTSawards.org.

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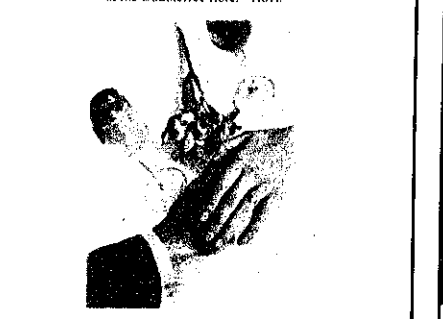
SHOWTIMES 12:01 - 2:00
OFFICIAL DESTINATION 2 (R) 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
FRISAT LS 11:45
O BIKER BOYZ (PG-13) 11:50, 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40
FRISAT LS 12:00
O DARKNESS FALLS (PG-13) 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:40, 9:50
FRISAT LS 12:00
O CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND (R) 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40
FRISAT LS 12:00
O KARASOK JACK (PG) 12:15, 2:25, 4:30, 7:00, 9:10
FRISAT LS 11:00
ANTWONE FISHER (PG-13) 12:45, 2:35, 5:10, 7:25, 10:00
FRISAT LS 12:00
O MADAPTATION (R) 12:20, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
FRISAT LS 11:40
TWO WEEKS NOTICE (PG-13) 8:05, FRISAT LS 11:50
O ANY BOD FAT GREEN WEDDING (PG) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:45

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Village Oaks invades McDonald's for fundraiser

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The staff of Village Oaks Elementary raised close to \$400 during the school's McDonald's Family Fun Night on Jan. 21. The night was coordinated by parent Kathleen Willett to raise money to maintain the fish aquarium which will be put into the new media center at the school.



Teachers (Mrs. Kearney, Mrs. Rowe and Mrs. Sparling) put on McDonald's aprons to serve up food and drinks to students and their families.

shifts from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., Goedert said. "We cleaned tables, passed out treats and took orders at the window."

According to Principal Mary Goedert, Village Oaks received a \$750 grant from Providence Hospital for the initial setup of the tank. "VOICE, our IPA, is going to pick it up after that," she said. "We are talking about maybe having a fish car, so if the kids are with their grandparents on the weekend, they could go on the Internet and see the fish."

Maintenance means cleaning the tank and replacing the plants and the fish that die. Willett said that the original grant covered everything but the fish and anything that goes on inside the tank. This fundraiser was to raise money to fill it. "The teachers passed out the food, they did the drive through, they worked the French fry machine, they wiped tables, swept and greeted," she said. "This quiet possibly could be an annual event to help with the maintenance every year because we are working on a coming up with a plan to fund the maintenance part of it."

Parents who decide to send their children to school in Germany, that's just not a real logical or fiscally responsible place for a district to place itself.

Board suspends foreign exchange program

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Novi High School's sponsorship of the foreign travel program to Germany was suspended by the board of education Jan. 9 under Principal Jennifer Cheal's recommendation. She cited recent world events for her decision. Students who will be affected are one 10th grader, two 11th graders and two 12th graders.

According to Cheal, suspending sponsorship means that should parents decide to send their children to Germany anyway, there would be no school employees accompanying them, but school credits earned there would still apply. "We suspended participation in the Novi/Hamburg foreign travel exchange program until further notice and it's really dependent on world events when we can lift the suspension," Cheal said. "I can't predict those and I don't have an inside line to know what's going to happen with world events. All I can do is see the news and we are escalating towards a war. It's just not responsible for our board of education and our school district to send children across the Atlantic Ocean and accept responsibility for their safety and welfare in another country when world events are going on."

Despite her recommendation to suspend the program, Cheal is still in favor of it. "I love the program," she said. "I think it's good for our students to see the foreign exchange students in their classrooms and to see how well and how hard they work. They are very dedicated students, and in turn it's good for our students to go to school in Germany. I can't wait until we can restart the program, but I just don't know when that will be right now."

great success." Goedert handed out freebies to patrons in the lobby all night. Other staff members who participated included Christine Sparling, Laura Chanin, Lori Gilbo, Patty Kearney, Linda Rowe, Pam Neville, Audrey Edwards, Pat Kortlandt, Diane McCarty, Jane Fongfeld, Lisa Camer, Sue Ruddy, Lynn Secord and her fiancé Bob Lahr, Kathy Sierra, Barb Corwin, Diana Stotler, Ellen Zaolotnik and Donna Jersey.



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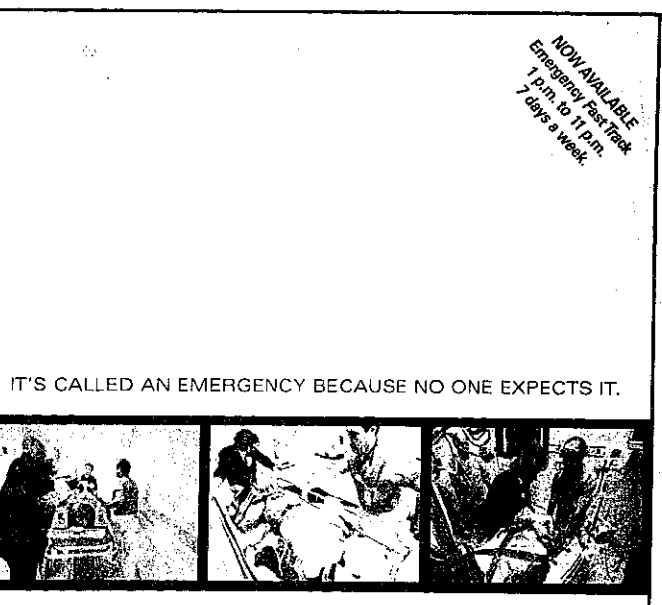
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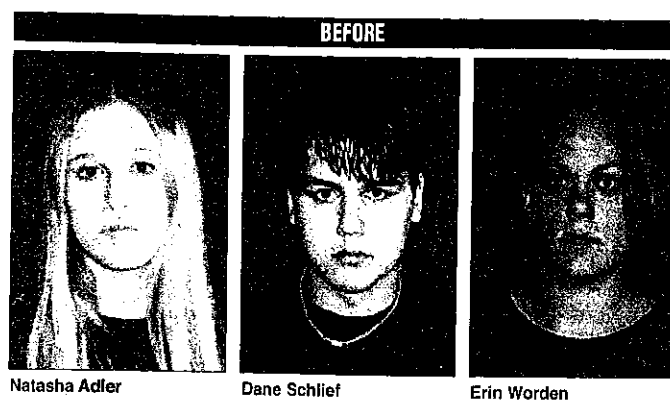
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It's makeover time at NHS

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Two students and a teacher from Novi High School got makeovers recently as part of a feature for the school yearbook. As the book's student life editor, senior Meghan McKenna had to come up with some fun and unique ideas for features, and when she was watching a makeover show on television one day, it just clicked. "A girl in my class works for Gina Agosta Hair Color and Design Salon in Novi, and she asked them if they were willing to do makeovers for two students, a guy and a girl, and a teacher," McKenna said. "She got the whole thing set up. We have daily announcements on television, so we put an announcement asking anyone in the school if they would want to do it. We also sent out an e-mail and we got a big response from a lot of kids and a couple teachers, one in particular, who was really excited about doing it."

her hair cut the next day, so she asked if she could be the teacher that McKenna was looking for. When she was chosen, she canceled her hair appointment and went to the Gina Agosta Salon. "We went over to the salon for a consultation and they talked about keeping my hair similar, but really wanting up the color," Worden said. "We came back a couple days later to the salon and it was a really pleasant experience. They were very friendly and the place was well run and well managed. I was very happy with it."

Erin Worden, who teaches art, already had an appointment to get

WL's Friends of Diversity award winners announced

"Celebrate Diversity, Create Unity." That is the motto for the Walled Lake Consolidated Schools "Friends of Diversity" award winners Kevin Clarke, Karen Fleming, Sharkey Haddad and Nicole Lown. The awards were presented as part of the district's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. event Jan. 13. Kevin Clarke, Walled Lake Western High School assistant principal, organized the formation of the African American Association; is involved in the C.A.R.E. program for Chaldean students; organized and developed a series of multi-cultural teacher-in-services, and for the past seven years, has supported the Leadership diversity Camp. Nicole Lown, Walled Lake Western High School senior, serves as a student representative on Western's Diversity team; was a driving force behind the "Mix it Up at Lunch!" program; is a Peer Mediator; participates in Cultural Connections; attend the Leadership Diversity camp, and serves on western's Advisory Team. Karen Fleming, Oakley Park Elementary School counselor, has served on the Martin Luther King Jr. Planning committee for the last four years; participates on the various diversity committees; was instrumental in organizing the Tenure Professional Development study group which focuses on diversity issues and developed and implemented a full day Disabilities Awareness workshop for all fourth-grade students. Sharkey Haddad, community liaison with Walled Lake Schools, has assisted the district in building bridges with the Chaldean community by introducing the district to the C.A.R.E. (Chaldean Americans Reaching & Encouraging) program to our secondary schools. He has worked diligently on the district's diversity strategic plan and authored one of the action plans.

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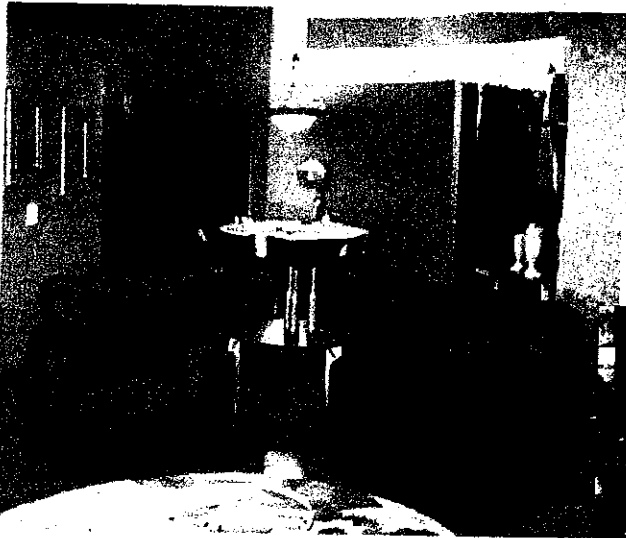
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Valentine's Day is fast approaching... Do not forget your sweethearts.

We offer Gift Certificates for that special someone

Thank you, Chris Lewis

Brad Simpson sparks the fire, Matt Emmenecker ties it up and Lewis finishes off the Mavericks

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Talk about clutch. Senior Chris Lewis was defining that word as he received the ball with time expiring against the Milford Mavericks. He took it all in stride though, pulling up and burying the jumper with two seconds left in the contest to seal a 42-40 victory over the Novi Wildcats' Kensington Valley Conference rival.

"We didn't play well, but we still won," Novi coach Pat Schluter said. "It was a big win for us. We were down eight points with four minutes to go and still down seven with three minutes to go."

And then stepped in junior Brad Simpson. The 6-foot-2 shooter nailed two three pointers to pull the Wildcats within two points. A quick foul later on the part of the Mavericks found sure-shot senior Matt Emmenecker sitting on the stripe and unloading two perfect free throws to tie the game.

"Those guys really stepped up," Schluter said of Simpson and Emmenecker as well as Lewis' last-second heroics. "Once Simpson hit the three pointers, the momentum changed. That's how basketball is, it's a game of runs. We just didn't have any runs in the rest of the game."

The key to the victory, besides the final minutes of tough play by the Novi cagers, was the incredible defense they kept playing. Though the offense was sputtering, hitting only 9-of-28 from the field and 4-of-14 from beyond the arch, the defense kept them alive and well.

"We kept trying to get steals and kept playing good defense," Schluter said. "That kept us in it, and once we hit the three we got things going a little bit."

Lewis led the charge for the 'Cats, netting 13 points in the winning effort. Emmenecker wasn't far behind, nipping at his fellow senior's lead with 12 of his own points. Simpson contributed nine.

The win put the 'Cats at a comfortable 5-1 in the Kensington Valley Conference and an impressive 10-1 overall. That mark finds the Novi cagers sitting on top of the conference — with the Pinckney Pirates. With two kings on top of the hill for the moment, it's a given that one is going to get shoved off — and that will be decided tomorrow at 7 p.m. at Novi High School when the two squads square off.

"We are going to play our game harder than them and smarter," Schluter said. "That's the key. They have a lot of weapons, and we have to play a good game defensively."

Two of the most potent weapons in the Pirates' arsenal are Brandon Thompson and Brandon Durco.

Thompson is the kind of player that great seasons are built on — he's been the best offensive player in the KVC for the past three years.

"Thompson is averaging 20-something," Schluter said. "A couple of games ago he had 36 points. We have to find a way to take him out of the game."

The Novi Wildcats are coming into the contest sporting the better record overall of the two squads, and then there's always

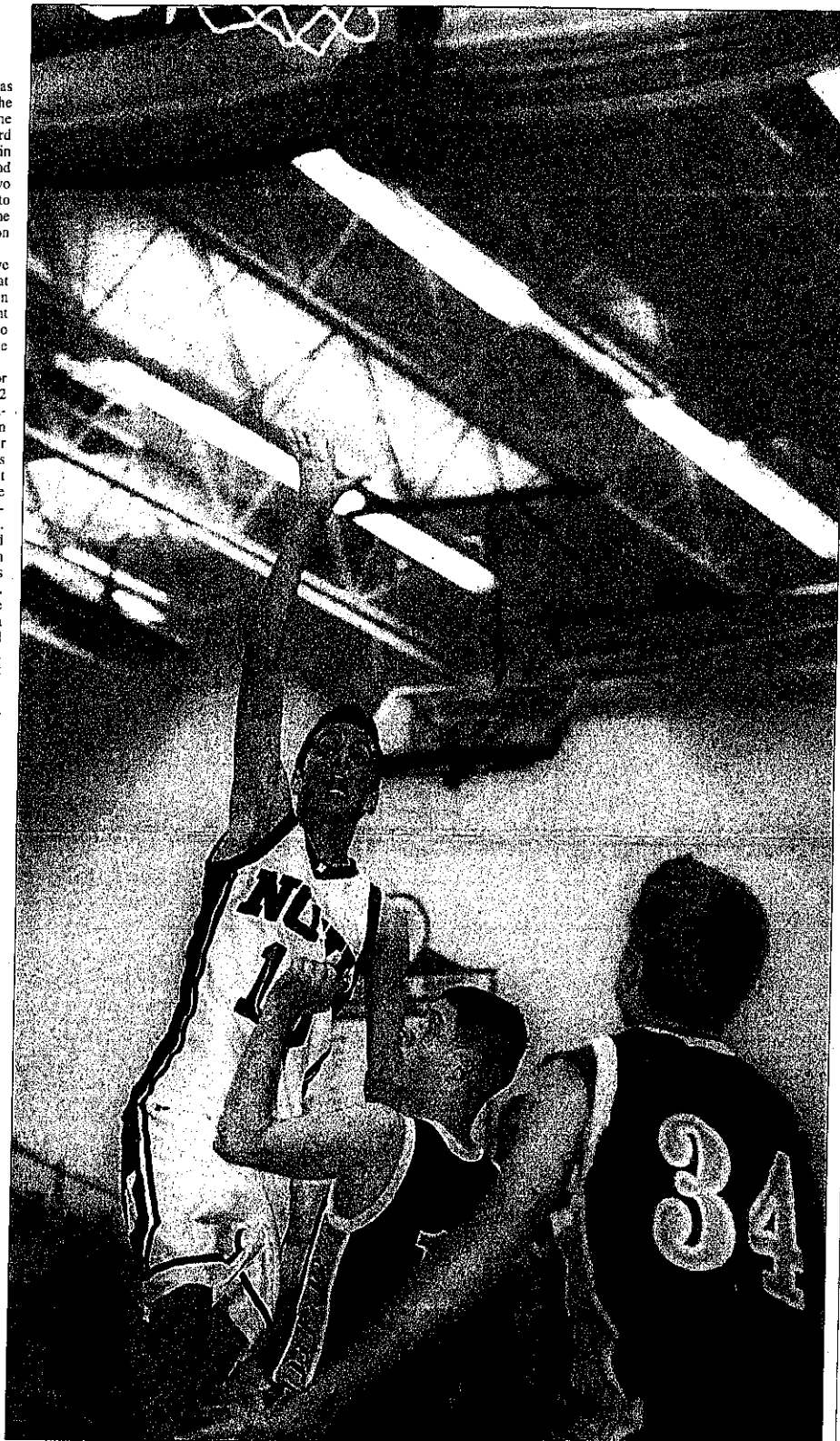


Photo by John Heider

Novi's Brad Simpson lofts up a shot against South Lyon during a home game in mid-January. The Wildcats were able to overcome some tough shooting and a Milford lead to beat their Kensington Valley Conference rivals last Friday as senior Chris Lewis drained a last-second shot to seal the victory and put the Novi cagers on top of the conference.

the beauty of home-court advantage. The Wildcats have been perfect at home, with their only loss coming against the Lakeland Eagles while on the road — but that's a thing of the past. Right now, the Novi squad

will be focusing on the Pirates. "They have a lot of talent on their team," Schluter said of Pinckney. "We're going to have to play our best game to win this one."

And if that weren't enough,

the 'Cats will be playing Hamtramck the following day at Novi High School. From there on out they only have two more home games on their schedule and the rest will be on the road.

Simpson had a nice performance as well, showing his rising ability as a stand-out defender for the Novi cagers. He held Ypsi's star player, who averages 23 points per game, to only eight on the night.

"We've been looking for a defensive stopper since (Shaun) Dicken went down," Schluter said. "Chase was on the best players early, but we wanted to keep him out of foul trouble. Simpson has long arms and is really lanky. His defensive pressure is really helping us out."

Ryan Corte had a nice performance in the contest as well. "He did a great job in that game," Schluter said. "He went out there and played really hard for us."

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.

They have what it takes

This group of gymnasts has what it takes to be one of the best squads in Michigan this year, and they will no doubt prove it as they continue to grow and improve this season.



Sam Eggleston

The Wild 'Stangs gymnastics team, comprised of girls from both Novi and Northville High Schools, are a link in a very strong chain of tradition and greatness in their sport. Many will remember the dominance the Wild 'Stangs had just a few years ago when they brought home the state championship for both communities to look upon and be proud of.

Though this team isn't going to go out and jump all over their competition for a blow-out victory, they have what it takes to take on and beat some of the top teams in the state. Tradition, great coaching and dedication are what drives this talented squad, and it shows each and every time the girls take to the vault, the bars, the beam and the floor routine in front of their friends, family, fans and competition.

Like every athlete, these gymnasts no doubt get a little nervous before an event — and that can make the difference in a performance. As the season carries on and they become more and more acclimated to the excitement and intensity of their competitions, these girls will no doubt continue to grow and become a solid foundation of point-scorers that have the chance to earn the victories necessary to propel them to the top.

Next up on their list of opponents are the girls from John Glenn. This will be another stepping stone for the Wild 'Stangs as they look to top this opponent on their way to building their confidence as well as building up their routines. No doubt, John Glenn will be coming into Northville tonight at 7 p.m. looking to come away with a victory of their own, but being in their own gym and in a familiar surrounding with their fans lining the benches, the Wild 'Stangs will come away victorious.

John Glenn isn't going to fall down and just watch as Northville- Novi dances away with the victory. They are tough, just as every team of competition is at this level — a level that the Wild 'Stangs once helped set the bar for. The team that comes in showing the most talent is going to be the victor — and that all comes down to the eyes of the judges. This could easily prove to be a very graceful and awesome meet for all of the gymnastics fans in attendance.

I'm going to give this one up to the girls from Novi and Northville, as well as the great coaching that pushes them to strive for the best each and every time — coaching that comes from a very calm and collected, though energized, Lindsay Schultz as she prowls about the girls and urges them to step up and be the best they can be.

Wild 'Stangs 138.5
John Glenn 121.75

GAME OF THE WEEK

Wild 'Stangs GYMNASTICS vs John Glenn

Thursday, January 30
7:00 p.m.
at Northville

KENSINGTON VALLEY CONFERENCE STANDINGS

	Conference Standings		Overall Standings	
	Wins	Losses	Wins	Losses
Novi	5	1	9	1
Pinckney	5	1	7	3
Lakeland	4	2	8	2
Milford	4	2	6	5
Brighton	3	3	6	5
South Lyon	1	5	2	9
Howell	1	5	1	7
Hartland	1	5	1	9

Scores from January 24 games

Hartland 63, Howell 61
Pinckney 75, Brighton 64
Lakeland 33, South Lyon 32
Novi 42, Milford 40

Could this become a clone war?

'The Getaway' may look like 'Grand Theft Auto 3,' but there's a world of differences in this London-based criminal underworld

By Sam Eggleston
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Man, driving on the wrong side of the street is crazy. That realization never really struck until my hands were in control of a Honda Accord, zipping through the streets of London at break-neck speeds with nothing more than outrunning the cops going through my mind. They are quick to catch up too, but probably more because of my driving abilities and less of theirs. I always turn into the wrong lane in that bloody country! Smack dab into one of those darn double-decker



Courtesy Photo

In "The Getaway" you have the chance to drive real, honest-to-goodness cars that have all the characteristics of their non-pixel counterparts, like this Audi.

buses. No, no — I'm not a wanted criminal in the United Kingdom. Well, not in real life at least. In the game "The Getaway," I've begun to live a double life as an ex-criminal that's pulled back into the dark life thanks to the murder of my wife and the abduction of my son. It seems, at least according to the crime boss who just had me worked over, that if I don't do what they say they'll have my kid floating in the river by sundown.

Lucky for you, there's a chance you can play the same role I've been engrossed in for the past weekend. Stealing cars,

blasting your way out of tight situations and running from the cops. Sound like "Grand Theft Auto III"? This game definitely has a lot of similarities to that one, but the biggest difference is the game controls. In "GTA," I always seemed to get shot in the back and try spinning around to nail my targets. In this, stunner, the aim controls, the ability to duck behind boxes and to flatten against a wall help out a ton in a firefight, but the free-aim controls and the automatic targeting help ease the pain of bullet wounds.

Another big difference between these game cousins is the health of your character. I don't know how many times I caught on fire or was hit by a car in "GTA" and just simply got up and walked away. In "The Getaway" you find yourself watching the traffic and avoiding flaming wrecks. They are definitely very, very hazardous for your health and a quick kill.

The graphics are very smooth, and from everything I understand, the city is very, very real. They scoured 40-square-miles of London to get the mapping right, the streets perfect and the cracks in the sidewalks put in the right spot. Unlike "GTA," there aren't load times for traveling through the expansive city — at least not that I've encountered to this point. Another very realistic part of the game is the real cars, such as Hondas and Audis, as well as your ability to carry weapons. You aren't going to be able to



Courtesy Photo

Run away, run away! In "The Getaway," you find yourself running for cover quite a bit.

pick up an AK-47 and then tuck it in your belt when you grab a shotgun. Though you can use two handguns at one time, this is a plus for those of us who can't really shoot well.

This game is very, very violent and very full of four-letter words that aren't real sweet for those young ears out there.

According to the box the game came in, there are also strong sexual themes to worry about.

Overall, I have to say this game is worth the \$40 a PS2 owner will pay for it. If you're a fan of "GTA," then this game is for you. Great driving, awesome cinematic scenes and professional actors playing the roles

— "The Getaway" is one of the best games I've played on the Playstation so far.

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.

Screen Beat

By Brian Renner
THE MOVIE INSIDER

Coming to theaters this weekend is the action-packed "Biker Boys," set in a world of underground motorcycle clubs whose members are living on the edge every day. Lawyers and city workers by day, they take to the streets in their leathers to race by night. Laurence Fishburne stars as the undefeated motorcycle racer called Smoke, whose dominance has earned him the title of "King of Cali." But Smoke's dominance is threatened by a young motorcycle racing prodigy called Kid (Derek Luke), who is determined to win his helmet and earn the coveted title. Writer Michael Gougis explains the motorcycle culture, "It is a world that nobody on the outside of it knows about, that nobody outside of it wants to know about. It is completely self-sufficient. It survives on its own and once you're inside, it's just the most amazing social structure—very organized, very rigid, very protective of its members from the outside world." "Biker Boys" is a DreamWorks Pictures release and rated PG-13 for violence, sexual content and language.

"Final Destination 2," the sequel to the hit 2000 supernatural thriller, follows Kimberly Corman (A.J. Cook), who is en route to a weekend getaway with her friends. She watches helplessly as a logging truck spins out of control and loses its deadly payload, setting off a horrifying chain reaction that leaves twisted metal and dead bodies in its wake — including her own. A moment later, Kimberly finds herself still stuck in on-ramp traffic, with a line of commuters she saw die moments before trailing behind her. It was only a vision. But was it also a warning? Producer Craig Perry describes "Final Destination 2" as a thrill ride which steps up the action, fear and comedic elements that made the first film such a popular and lasting hit. "This film builds upon the notion that death is all around us," he says. "Both 'Final Destination' films tap into that universal fear. Death could be in your car or your bathroom! The conceit is not so otherworldly that it stays on the movie screen. It follows you home." "Final Destination 2" is a New Line Cinema release and rated R for strong violence/gruesome accidents, language, drug content and

Brian Renner and his gang at The Movie Insider are always eager to bring film fans the latest and most up-to-date information on the industry that they love. If you get a chance, check out www.themovieinsider.com for all of your movie needs.

some nudity.

Comic-based "The Guru" follows a young Indian dance teacher named Ramu Gupta (Jimi Mistry) as he embarks for New York City in pursuit of fame and fortune only to find himself working as a waiter in an Indian restaurant. Through an encounter with Sharonna (Heather Graham), a beautiful adult-film star, the shy, inexperienced Ramu is mistaken for a spiritual leader and becomes an overnight celebrity. "The Guru" is a Universal Pictures release and rated R for strong sexual content including dialogue, and for language.

Espionage-thriller "The Recruit" stars Colin Farrell as James Clayton, who is recruited by Walter Burke (Al Pacino) to join the CIA and thus, joins other recruits at the CIA training facility known as "The Farm." He soon discovers that Burke is a double agent, and Clayton must turn the tables on him before he takes the fall. "The Recruit" is a Touchstone Pictures release and rated PG-13 for violence, sexuality and language.

In theaters now

Spooky thriller "Darkness Falls." The film follows Kyle Walsh (Chaney Kley) who returns home to confront his troubled past and save his childhood sweetheart Caitlin (Emma Caulfield) and her younger brother Michael (Lee Cornie) from an unrelenting evil that has plagued the town of Darkness Falls for over one hundred and fifty years. "Darkness Falls" is a Sony Pictures release and rated

PG-13 for terror and horror images, and brief language.

Comedy "Super Sucker," filmed in Jackson, MI, follows rival door-to-door vacuum cleaner sales teams. Jeff Daniels, as Fred Barlow, heads up his team of vacuum salesmen misfits. They compete for territory and survival against Barlow's cross-town rival, Winslow Schnaebelt (Harve Presnell). Barlow discovers a long lost cleaning attachment and finds non-traditional uses for it, changing the lives of the home cleaning industry forever. "Super Sucker" is a Purple Rose Films limited release to select Midwest theatres and is rated R.

In theaters next week

Action/comedy "Shanghai Knights" (PG-13), romantic comedies "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days" (PG-13) and "Deliver Us from Eva" (R).

On video and DVD

Baby-boomer comedy "The Banger Sisters" (PG-13), kids-comedy "The Master of Disguise" (PG), independent romantic comedy "Never Again" (R) and romantic comedy "Serving Sara" (PG-13). British comedy-drama "24 Hour Party People" (R), espionage thriller "The Bourne Identity" (PG-13), war drama "Harrison's Flowers" (PG-13), drama "Mad Love" (R), show-biz satire "S1MONE" (PG-13), witty comedy "Tadpole" (PG-13).

Premiering on DVD

"The Avengers '68 Collection: Set 5" (NR), "Baadasssss Cinema: A Bold Look at 70s Blaxploitation Films" (NR), "Benny Hill: Golden Classics" (NR), "Blood of the Zombies: The Dead One" (NR), "More Dogs Than Bones" (R), "Rugrats: Mysteries" (NR), "Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles" (NR), "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Vampire" (NR), "SpongeBob Squarepants: Tales from the Deep" (NR).

For more information, please log on to TheMovieInsider.com. Please direct any questions, comments, and/or feedback to brian@themovieinsider.com.

Food For Thought

Twenty years ago I would have never thought of buying a microwave for my home or business. I still rarely use a microwave, mostly due to lack of habit. Because convenience foods are so popular today and time is so short for cooking, the microwave is becoming a best friend to cooks and culinarians. I have nothing against the microwave. My complaint is about a lot of the fast food that goes into them.

The microwave can be a valuable tool for quick nutritional meals. According to a spokesperson for a large manufacturer, seventy percent of the time microwaves are used to reheat precooked foods, 20 percent for defrosting and only 10 percent for primary cooking functions. It is important for nutrition's sake to use the microwave for these primary functions. Steamed vegetables are incredible, fish excellent and snacks easy. Although I do not advocate cooking meat or poultry in the microwave mostly due to personal preference, there are many other options.

Oatmeal and cream of wheat are easy, fast and there is little clean up. Reheating soups saves pans and time. I portion leftover soup and chili into mugs and everyone helps themselves when hungry. Eggs are simple and quick in the microwave. When bacon is "fried" in the micro, much of the fat is melted away leaving a much leaner product. Melting butter becomes a piece of cake and defrosting liquid easy as setting a dial.

The principle behind microwave cooking is fairly simple, yet very different from conventional oven cooking. Convection ovens, or the ovens we are used to using, heats air for an extended length of time to cook food. The air transfers heat. The air inside a microwave only becomes heated as the food that is being cooked becomes hot. The waves, generated by the oven's magnetron tube, travel through the food at a rate of two and a half billion times per second. This may sound very scientific, and it is, but very simply put, the waves penetrate food at an incredibly high speed and cause the water molecules of the food to move around fast and produce friction, which produces heat and cooking.

RECIPE

**Microwave friendly recipe:
Parchment Seafood Spectacular**

- 2 6-to8-ounce halibut steaks
- 1 tablespoon dry white wine
- Dash of soy sauce
- Dash of lemon juice
- 1 cup sliced mushrooms
- 1 cup small broccoli florets
- 1 tablespoon tarragon (fresh if available)
- Dijon mustard
- Salt and pepper to taste

Lay two sheets parchment paper, large enough to wrap envelope style around fish and vegetables, on the counter. Place a fish steak in the middle of each and spread lightly with Dijon mustard. Add vegetables and sprinkle with wine, soy, lemon juice and tarragon. Add salt and pepper as desired. Wrap completely. Place on glass dish and microwave on high for 7-9 minutes. Let rest several minutes. Serve in paper. Potatoes, rice or pasta that have already been cooked can be added for a complete meal.

Recipe provided by Chef Mary Brady.

The actual microwaves rarely pass more than one and a half inches into the food, the other areas heat first and heat moves towards the center of the food heating it. The metal walls reflect the waves and do not become hot. Plates become hot from the food not from the microwaves. If there is no moisture, the microwave cannot produce the friction necessary to heat. Foods heat quicker than other cookery methods. This has some drawbacks. Flavor is a chemical process that requires time and temperature to fully develop, neither which is prominent with microwave cooking.

In addition, standard microwave ovens do not brown foods. This is unappealing to most people. We eat with our eyes. If it looks good it will taste good. Foods with high contents of fat, water and sugar tend to burn easily because they heat so quickly. Cook halfway and stir to prevent burning.

A microwave is much more efficient full of food than almost empty. For warming or cooking, food should be no

colder than refrigerator temperature. Put frozen food through a defrost cycle first. When arranging a meal on a plate, put the denser foods on the outer rim and the less dense, such as vegetables in the middle. Keep your micro clean for the most efficient use.

Glass, some plastic and paper (for short cooking times), are acceptable cooking vessels. Foil and metal skewers can be used effectively but check your manufacturer's guidelines before doing so. Like any other method of cooking, practice makes perfect. The microwave is an indispensable piece of equipment in many households but it is important to remember that speed can't be a substitute for good ingredients and nutritious meals.

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