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INSIDE

Catholic HS plan OK'd

Catholic Central High School took another step toward its planned July 1 ground-breaking Feb. 12 when the Novi Planning Commission unanimously approved its preliminary site plan, wetland and woodland permits and special land use permit.

— Page 4A



Starting 'em young

Drag-racer Taylor Dsormeau, 9, stands near his car at McDonald Ford in Northville. The youngster will be appearing at this year's Autorama in Detroit.

— Page 7A

Fire closes eatery

Grease was named as the cause of a fire closing down a popular Novi pasta eatery. City of Novi Fire Chief Arthur Lenaghan said the kitchen fire closed the doors to Santino's Place for Pasta during the early morning hours of Feb. 12.

— Page 6A

SPORTS

Defense is the ticket

It was about one minute, 43 seconds into the third quarter when the Novi Wildcats decided to show their Kensington Valley Conference rivals the door with a crushing defensive presence and a well-oiled score-machine as they handed the Eagles a 51-37 loss February 11.

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Maybury burns

Novi Fire Department helps battle devastating Northville fire

By Victoria Sadlocha and Pauline Lupercio
STAFF WRITERS

Novi firefighters helped the Northville Township Fire Department last week, battling flames encompassing a time-honored petting farm in Maybury State Park.

The Novi Fire Department received a request for mutual aid late Feb. 12 as flames broke out, devastating the popular visiting place and killing 50 animals visited by Northville and Novi youth.

"It was really too bad," said City of Novi Fire Chief Arthur Lenaghan. "It was a popular area. There were animals caught in the building and they were in a lot of distress."

Lenaghan said the department sent one tanker truck manned by a couple of firefighters along with himself and assistant chief Jeffery Johnson to the location on Eight Mile and Beck roads.

"The tanker was there about six hours, shutting water from 9:44 p.m. to 3:40 a.m.," Lenaghan said.

The 1,500-gallon tanker was needed to shuttle water to the site because of the lack of fire hydrants in close proximity to the farm, Novi fire officials said.

Northville Township Fire Chief William Zhemendak said water was also shuttled from a fire hydrant on Eight Mile

Road. "We knew that we didn't have enough water to put the barn out so what we did was try to protect the surrounding buildings by wetting them down," Zhemendak said. "The fire was not deemed under control until 2 a.m."

The firefighters then began spraying foam over the remains of the 100-year-old barn on the property to prevent the flames from spreading.

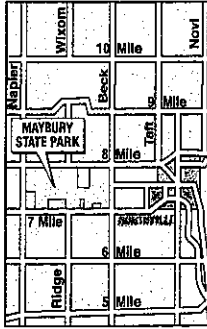
The firefighters' efforts to contain the fire were successful.

They saved the lives of chickens housed in one of the surrounding buildings, but the loss of animals was still extensive.

Geese, rabbits and three work horses were some of the carcasses found at the state-park farm.

The only survivor, a sheep

Fire at Maybury Petting Farm



SOURCE: Northville Twp. Fire Dept.

found 50 feet from the flames, was later euthanized at

Please see MAYBURY page 2

On the lookout

Police search for suspect who allegedly attempted to lure three girls into apartment

By Victoria Sadlocha and Pauline Lupercio
STAFF WRITERS

The description of a man involved in a Northville Township attempted child luring was issued to the Novi Police Department last week in an attempt to locate the suspect, police said.

"The information I received, the be-on-the-lookout, was disseminated to all of our officers to have while on patrols," said Detective Sgt. David Molloy of the Novi Police Department. "It was also given to our school resource officer as well."

Molloy said he received notice from the Northville Township Police Department that on Sunday, Feb. 9 at about 5 p.m., there was an attempted luring of three 10- to 12-year-old females at the Park Place Apartments off of Eight Mile Road between Meadowbrook and Novi roads.

"The suspect allegedly approached the girls and attempted to entice them into his apartment for sexual purposes," he said.

Northville Township police said the girls were walking home in the cold and decided to enter the Park Place Apartment's clubhouse to warm themselves up when the suspect approached them, inviting them into his apartment to "warm up."

Township police said when the girls declined, the man asked if they wanted to see his penis.

"The girls did the right thing by immediately removing themselves from the situation and reporting the incident to their mothers," said Northville Township community liaison officer Samantha Bolin, who added the police were not notified until the next day. "But the public needs to understand the importance of reporting any suspicious activity to the police as it occurs in order to help us keep the community as safe as possible."

The suspect was described to Northville Township police as a white male about 22 years old ranging in height from 5 feet 7 inches to 5 feet 8 inches and weighing 200 to 220 pounds.

The suspect was described as having a dark complexion with brown hair and may have a German accent. Police said he was driving a dark blue or black Jeep Cherokee.

It is not known if the suspect is a resident of Park Place Apartments. Northville Township police said the investigation is ongoing.

Victoria Sadlocha and Pauline Lupercio are staff writers for the Novi News and Northville Record. They can be reached at (248) 349-1700 or vsadlocha@ht.homecomm.net or plupercio@ht.homecomm.net.

SUSPECT DESCRIPTION

- white male
- dark complexion and hair
- 22 years old
- 5 feet 7 inches to 5 feet 8 inches in height
- 200 to 220 pounds
- possible German accent
- driving a dark blue or black Jeep Cherokee
- last seen at the Park Place Apartments off of Eight Mile Road between Meadowbrook and Novi roads in Northville Township



Photo by Phil Foley

Artist-in-residence Judy Buresh; Mandy Smykla, a student intern from Livonia's Churchill High School; and Elena Weissman, supervisor for the Center for the Healing Arts in Novi show off the beginnings of Providence Hospital's Lasting Impressions program. The project will line a tunnel between the Assarian Cancer Institute and the nearby Providence Hospital and Medical Center with tiles bearing expressions of hope.

Assarian Cancer Center hopes project will create an everlasting impression

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Just about everyone wants to leave a lasting impression.

The Center for the Healing Arts at Providence Hospital and Medical Centers' Assarian Cancer Center in Novi is offering people a chance to do just that.

Elena Weissman, the Center for the Healing Arts supervisor, unveiled plans Feb. 12 for a community art project that will eventually line a tunnel that connects the Assarian Cancer Center to the main building complex on Providence's Novi campus with inspirational ceramic tiles.

More than 30 community leaders attended a luncheon at the

center to find out how their groups can get involved. Weissman stressed that Lasting Impressions is a community art project and not a fund-raiser.

Groups and individuals are being asked to create five-by-five-inch ceramic tiles decorated with messages of hope and inspiration. Weissman said the tiles will help make the tunnel more welcoming for the staff, patients and visitors who use it and they will help introduce the public to the center's programs.

The Center for the Healing Arts was built in the summer of 1999 along with the \$16 million, 33,000 square-foot Assarian Center. While the Assarian Center offers patients the newest

technologies and protocols for cancer diagnosis and treatment, the Center for the Healing Arts focuses on a patient's emotional and spiritual well-being.

"While clinical expertise is the most critical component in caring for our patients, their emotional needs are very important in the healing process. Our team wants to focus on treating the whole person, physically, intellectually, and spiritually," said Bill McLaughlin, MD, the Assarian Center's radiation oncologist and medical director as well as the Center for the Healing Arts' creator.

Weissman told community leaders at the Lasting Impressions kick-off luncheon

that she hopes that not only will the project transform the tunnel between the Assarian Cancer Center to the main building complex a more appealing space for the people who use it, but forge stronger bonds between the Novi community and Providence's Novi campus.

While the project is already underway, Weissman has applied to the Michigan Association of Community Arts Agencies for funding to complete the project. She asked community leaders to send letters of support to MACAA's Grant Review Committee at 107 Miller Ave., Ann Arbor MI 48104 by Feb. 21.

Please see CENTER page 3

Orchard Hills cuts the ribbon

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Orchard Hills Elementary officially opened up its completed school to the public on Thursday night as it held a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house to welcome two major new building additions. The open house was held to recognize the many people

who joined in the planning of building the new multi-media center and multi-purpose room.

According to Orchard Hills Principal Paul LePlae, the school will be able to hold many new programs and expand its availability for more assemblies in the multi-purpose room. The technology possibilities of the school will be greatly enhanced with the new

media center.

"What's exciting about our multi-purpose room is that we were able to expand our availability, not only for the before- and after-school latch-key type program called Care, but for smaller assemblies for the students," LePlae said. "We have already

Please see ORCHARD page 16



Photos by Marianne King

The Orchard Hills Media Center was officially opened as fourth grade student Eric Lausch cuts the red ribbon at the school's Thursday night ceremony.

Wixom murder suspects bound over to circuit court

David Agular
STAFF WRITER

Eric Barnes' last supper started with a handful of "budget burgers" and ended with a bullet to the head.

Now two Detroit men allegedly responsible for the 21-year-old Wixom factory worker's Dec. 17 murder have been bound over to circuit court where each will face multiple homicide charges and respective life prison sentences if convicted.

Samuel L. Henderson, 25, and Kevin Russell, 24, were formally bound over to the Sixth Circuit Court in Pontiac Tuesday for allegedly conspiring to kill Barnes as he ate dinner in his car outside his Forest City Technologies workplace, about an hour prior to the start of his 11 p.m. shift.

The lengthy two-day preliminary exam held within Judge Robert Bondy's 52-1 District courtroom began last Thursday and featured witnesses who testified against fellow family members, one witness who received prosecutorial immunity and two witnesses who invoked

their Fifth Amendment privilege not to incriminate themselves.

Henderson's videotape confession capped Tuesday's testimony, though his submitted evidence was challenged by defense attorneys John Royal and Cornelius Patis.

"I just walked over there. I really didn't even look. And I just shot in the car... one time," Henderson told investigators during a Jan. 26 videotaped statement which was submitted into evidence Tuesday.

The statement was made about four hours after Henderson had been arrested at a Warren motel, Assistant Prosecutor Mark Bilkovic said.

Henderson's confession also included details of how Russell allegedly recruited him from the Detroit car wash where he had been employed and how he had later contacted him for murder.

According to Henderson, Russell was also known by the street name "Gaby" and had frequently visited the 7 Mile and Mt. Elliott car wash where he worked. Upon first meeting him, Henderson said Russell gave him a \$200 tip for simply wiping his car.

"I thought he hit the lottery," Henderson said. When he would come in, I would kiss his feet."

Henderson said Russell later gave him generous tips for other odd jobs, prior to ultimately contracting him in December to shoot Barnes in exchange for \$5,000.

Barnes was the former boyfriend of Russell's cousin, Cherry Simmons.

Simmons testified last Thursday, after being granted prosecutorial immunity, that he, her mother, Annetta Simmons, and her grandmother Annetta Russell, never approved of Barnes. That resentment, Bilkovic alleged, later formed the basis of a murder conspiracy.

Bilkovic further alleged that in December Russell then contracted Henderson, who at the time was living in a passenger van with his wife and four children.

Last week, a Motor City Credit Union teller testified that she had witnessed Kevin Russell accompany

his aunt, Annetta Simmons, while she made a \$51,000 cash withdrawal on Dec. 18, the day after the murder.

Bilkovic also alleged that Russell misled police when he told them in January that he had been home with his girlfriend, Jakinda Griffin, the night of the murder.

Last week Bilkovic submitted cellular phone tower records which traced a call path — before and after the shooting — spanning Detroit, Farmington Hills, Novi and Wixom.

During his confession, Henderson told investigators that Russell had called him the night of the murder and said "tonight is the night."

He said the two men then waited for Barnes outside his home, then followed him into Wixom in separate cars.

"Gaby wanted me to get him at this (Wixom Road) Wendy's, but I didn't want to because I was scared," Henderson said. "But then I was afraid he would get me because I knew too much."

"I wondered what this guy (Barnes) could have done to deserve this?"

After Barnes parked his 1993 Taurus outside the Wixom factory

where he had worked for the past three years, Henderson said he approached the car from the driver's side, armed with a chrome-plated .38 caliber pistol that Russell had given him.

While Barnes finished the last of his "budget burgers", a euphemism the Detroit resident commonly used for meals bought on a limited budget, a single shot rang through his driver's side window, entered through his temple and lodged into his brain.

"I was so scared afterward, I never shot a gun in my whole life... I really didn't want to hurt nobody," Henderson said. "I just shot. And then walked away."

"For all I know, he hadn't even gotten shot."

Bilkovic said police have not yet recovered the murder weapon, Russell and Henderson remain held without bond in the Oakland County Jail.

David Agular is a reporter for the Midwest Times. He can be reached at (248) 685-1507 or by e-mail at dagular@homecomm.net.

OFFERINGS

Center for the Healing Arts programs

- Cancer Education
- Art and Pottery Classes
- Music Therapy
- Journaling
- Mindful Meditation
- Prayer
- Reiki
- Humor
- Massage
- Diet-nutrition
- Yoga
- Children's Program
- Support Groups
- Individual Support

For additional information call the Assarian Cancer Center, (248) 465-4300.

Novi Chamber of Commerce Chairman Lou Martin chats with Sister Theresa Sullivan, manager for community health at Providence Hospital, during the kick-off for the Lasting Impressions program at the Providence Center for the Healing Arts in Novi. In the foreground Shannon Scott from the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center and Mary Couillard, intern coordinator for Livonia Public Schools, work on two of the hundreds of tiles that will soon line a Providence hallway.

CENTER: Project in the works

School, has already made quite a few of the tiles, glazed in soft green and blue hues, Weissman said. "We'll just cover more walls."

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

greater than expected, Weissman said. "We'll just cover more walls."

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Farmington Hills, MI 48333-9601
Telephone: 248-735-0571

Novi Community School District invites qualified contractors, including MBE/WBE/SBE firms, to submit proposals/bids for the above-referenced project for the following Bid Categories:

- 1A - Earthwork and Site Utilities
- 1B - Building Demolition
- 1C - Asphalt Paving
- 1D - Site Concrete
- 1E - Irrigation and Landscaping
- 1F - Fencing
- 1G - Playground and Outdoor Equipment
- 1H - Concrete Foundations
- 1I - Concrete Flatwork
- 1J - Masonry
- 1K - Structural Steel & Metal Decking
- 1L - Carpentry
- 1M - Waterproofing and Joint Sealants
- 1N - Roofing
- 1O - EIFS Systems
- 1P - Hollow Metal, Doors & Finish Hardware
- 1Q - Aluminum Doors, Windows & Curtain Walls
- 1R - Atrium Sloped Glazing & Metal Shingles
- 1S - Overhead Coiling Doors
- 1T - Translucent Wall & Roof Assemblies
- 1U - Metal Studs, Gypsum Board and Insulation
- 1V - Ceramic Tile
- 1W - Terrazzo Restoration
- 1X - Acoustical Ceilings and Wall Treatments
- 1Y - Wood Flooring
- 1Z - Carpet and Resilient Flooring
- 1AA - Epoxy Flooring
- 1BB - Painting
- 1CC - Visual Display Boards
- 1DD - Tote Accessories & Compartments
- 1EE - Signage
- 1FF - Lockers
- 1GG - Folding and Operable Partitions
- 1HH - Access Flooring
- 1I - Stage & Theater Equipment
- 1J - Autoshop Equipment
- 1KK - Food Service Equipment
- 1LL - Educational Casework
- 1MM - Science Casework
- 1NN - Greenhouse & Equipment
- 1OO - Swimming Pool
- 1PP - Elevators
- 1QQ - Fire Protection
- 1RR - Plumbing
- 1SS - HVAC
- 1TT - Temperature Controls
- 1UU - Electrical
- 1VV - Bleachers

ESTIMATED Bid Package Templates Fee \$3

BIDS ARE DUE AT 2:00 PM local time on Monday, February 24, 2003.

On behalf of the Novi Community School District, Skanska USA Building Inc. will receive sealed proposals for the above project at the Skanska USA Building Inc. office, 30445 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 250, Farmington Hills, MI 48333, Attention: Chris Becker, until the stipulated bid opening date and time. Bids received after the stipulated date and time will not be considered and will be returned unopened. Bids will be opened at a public meeting to be convened at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, February 25, 2003 at Novi Community School District, Education Services Building, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, MI 48374. Bids must be clearly marked with the project name and bid category(ies).

All interested bidders may obtain copies of the drawings and specifications from Westside & Detroit Reprographics, 37660 Hills Tech. Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48331, upon request and upon providing a bid deposit of \$100.00, checks to be payable to Novi Community School District. Westside Reprographics will return all bid deposits to contractor(s) after bid date and when bid documents are returned to in good condition.

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

Novi Community School District and Skanska USA Building Inc. reserve the right to reject any or all bids and to waive irregularities in bids.

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HOW TO HELP

Meeting

Who: Friends of Maybury
What: Emergency meeting
Where: First United Methodist Church of Northville sanctuary, Eight Mile and Taft roads
When: Thursday, Feb. 27
Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Purpose: To discuss options for the future of the park including if rebuilding is possible
Contact: Art & Susan Greenlee, members, (248) 380-5924

Donations

Donations may also be made to the Maybury Fund, c/o Hidden Spring Veterinary Clinic, 48525 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville, MI 48167. For more information, call (248) 349-2598.

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MAYBURY: Novi Fire Dept. assists

Michigan State's Veterinary Hospital.

Many passersby and concerned area residents also came to the site, expressing their sorrow.

Susan Greenlee, Friends of Maybury member, said after she heard the farm was on fire, she immediately went to the park.

Greenlee said she was at the fire talking to a couple of the rangers when a Novi couple approached her, expressing their condolences and asking how they could help.

"We want to be involved in whatever happens to rebuild the

barn," Greenlee said the unknown couple told her.

Friends of Maybury will be holding an emergency meeting next week to discuss options for the farm.

"Residents of Novi are encouraged to attend," Greenlee said.

A fund has also been established by the Hidden Spring Veterinary Clinic to receive donations.

Officials from the Northville Township Fire Department said by the time they received the call, the structural fire was indeed, meaning fire was already through the roof of the historic barn.

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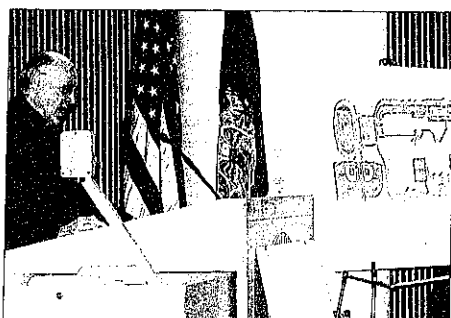
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OPEN SATURDAYS

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Catholic Central wins preliminary site plan OK

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER



Photos by Phil Foley

Fr. Richard Elmer, president of Catholic Central High School, explains the proposed layout for the school's new home to Novi Planning Commission members Feb. 12. Fr. Elmer said he hopes to break ground on the 1,100-student facility by July.

Catholic Central High School took another step toward its planned July 1 ground-breaking Feb. 12 when the Novi Planning Commission unanimously approved its preliminary site plan, wetland and wastewater permits and special land-use permit.

However, Catholic Central's supporters did not get out of the Novi Civic Center before planning commission members expressed doubts about:

- the school's planned athletic facilities;
- concerns over the amount of traffic those facilities will generate; and
- worries about how tree clearing on the 60-acre site will affect nearby properties.

John Argenta, the school's architect, said plans call for a gymnasium with seating for 1,500 and a football field with seating for 3,500. However, the school's paved parking areas will only have space for 600 vehicles.

While this is a similar arrangement to one found at Novi's public high school, planning commission members expressed fears about how neighbors would be affected, even when school officials detail several alternatives including over-flow parking on the school's practice fields; making agreements with either the nearby Novi Promenade Shopping Center or Novi Middle

want to flood out the neighbors," she warned.

"They have done everything we've required to minimize the impact," Armitage Kay, the city's wetlands consultant. She noted that while city staff had pointed out earlier that the site would remain 70 percent open space, it would not be uncommon for a similarly sized commercial development to have 80 percent impermeable surfaces.

Several commission members asked if Catholic Central could reduce the number of athletic practice fields on the site to further reduce possible impacts to wetlands.

While several commission members expressed concerns over Catholic Central's 80-foot light poles around its football field, city planner Tim Schmitt noted they are 10 feet shorter and further away from surrounding homes than the lights at Novi High School.

Despite some reservations, commission members agreed with fellow member John Avaulous, who said "We feel that we strongly want this." Catholic Central will still have to seek waivers from the Zoning Board of Appeals for its football field lighting and to not build a berm along Wisnom Road, which would require cutting down existing trees.

City staff believe the project could be back in front of commission members for final approval as early as late April.

Facilities trimmed

Fr. Elmer suggested that if they trimmed any more athletic facilities than they already have, his athletic director might quit. One of the reasons Catholic Central wants to move from the one-time Redford Union junior high school that it's called home since 1954 is for more space.

Catholic Central officials are planning to have a 250,000 square foot, two-story school with a football field and two baseball fields open in time for classes in 2005.

Sill, said Argenta, "design compromises have been made." Among them using artificial turf on the school's football field to allow it to

be use for both junior varsity and varsity games and practice for football, soccer and lacrosse.

Markum suggested that with 1,100 students between the ages of 14 and 17, all of whom are required to perform 10 hours for community service, Catholic Central could plant the nearly 3,000 it will have to place off campus to make up for larger trees being removed "in prissy school order."

While several commission members expressed concerns over Catholic Central's 80-foot light poles around its football field, city planner Tim Schmitt noted they are 10 feet shorter and further away from surrounding homes than the lights at Novi High School.

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

CC FACTS

School Type: Private College Preparatory School for Boys (grades 9 - 12)
Accreditation: North Central Assoc. of Colleges and Schools
Location: Current - Redford, north of I-96 between Beech Daly and Inkster roads
Planned - Novi, south of Grand River Avenue on the west side of Wisnom Road
Campus Size: Current - 28 acres; Planned - 60 acres
Faculty: Total - 69; Basilian Fathers - 12; Lay Instructors - 57
Students: Total: 1,020
Student/Teacher ratio: 15/1
Average class size: 22
Dress Code: Dress pants (no jeans or cargo pants) and a collar shirt tucked in with a belt. All students must appear neat, clean shaven. No tie required.
Transportation: Many Catholic Central families form car pools, but busing is available in conjunction with Mercy High School. Call the Mercy Transportation Department at (248) 476-8020.
School Hours: 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (building hours 6:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)
Admissions: Edward Turak (313) 534-1310
Source: Catholic Central High School

Renovations move forward on Haggerty office building

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Fourth-generation Metro Detroit real estate broker Thomas A. Duke, Jr.'s plans to renovate an aging office building on Novi's eastern edge got a boost Feb. 12 when the Novi Planning Commission unanimously approved his preliminary site plan.

City Planner Tim Schmitt told planning commissioners that Duke's three-story 63,500-square-foot building at the corner of Orchard Hills Place and Haggerty Road is a "non-conforming building."

While current city code requires a berm along Haggerty Road, Duke's architect, Lomny Zimmerman, told commission members that complying with the code would fill in an existing drainage ditch and create water flow problems for adjacent properties.

Schmitt said that while the building currently has only one access point off Orchard Hills Place, the building is fully sprinklered and the fire department has voiced no objections. Duke added that he is in negotiations with an adjacent property owner to create a second access point for the property.

Commission member Tim Shroyer was concerned about the number of trees Duke plans on removing from the 4.42-acre site on Haggerty between Eight and Nine Mile roads. "It seems like we're cutting down a lot of nice trees," he offered.

"We are," said Mike McGinnis, the city's interim landscape architect.

Duke said that although he's removing 75 trees from the site, he's planting 101. He explained that when he took over the building in September, "the landscape was overgrown and un cared for."

Worse yet, the building had only a 17-percent occupancy rate. According to Duke, the building, which was erected in 1980 for Digital Equipment, has "been ignored by tenants and brokers."

Still, Duke said he feels the building has a "great location" and a lot of unappreciated value. So far he said he's sunk \$2.5 million into the building and is over budget.

However, he added, he's signed a lease on the building's top floor and

Lakeside project wins PC approval

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Toll Brothers Inc.'s plans to rework portions of Island Lake got the nod from the Novi Planning Commission Feb. 12 as it voted unanimously to approve changes to the 800-acre development's wetlands permit.

Company executives were seeking permission to deepen about two-thirds of an acre of the 170-acre lake to provide drainage at a yet-to-be-approved community park at the western end south side of the on-time gravel pit. They also want to construct a boardwalk near the proposed community park and a second one on the eastern end of the lake's north side. Toll Brothers also sought approval for buffer plantings along the west end of the lake's north side.

City Planning Barbara McBeth noted the state's Department of Environmental Quality has already approved permits for Toll Brothers' projects.

"It seems unusual," said commission member Gwen Markham, "to be asked to approve something without a set of plans and reviews."

Commission member Lynn Kocan also wanted to know why the commission was being asked to approve a wetlands permit without being shown plans for the proposed community park. "I don't like this process," she complained.

Gerard Fisher, the commission's attorney, noted that without a wetland permit, there wouldn't be much point in going to the trouble of creating drawings for a park. "I think this is rational," he offered.

McBeth pointed out that approving Toll Brothers Inc.'s wetland permit doesn't give the company a green light for whatever it has in mind for the shoreside development. "They'll still need your OK," she said.

Fisher told commission members that approving the wetlands permit "implies that you'll approve some sort of plan, not a specific plan."

Commission chairman wanted to know who would be responsible for maintaining the lake level. Engineering staff members explained that since the lake was originally dug as a gravel pit, lake level is maintained by the manual water.

It's a different lake system than most," offered Armitage Kay, the city's wetlands consultant.

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

Church granted time extension

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

The clock is ticking for Redford Baptist Church.

Voting 6-2, Novi's Planning Commission gave the church its third and final one-year extension for its preliminary site approval for a proposed church on 40-acre site on Meadowbrook Road between 12 and 13 mile roads.

No one from the church's architect, Merritt, McCallum, Cieslak PC, showed up to speak on the request, which was listed as a consent agenda item at the commission's Feb. 12 meeting.

That, however, did not prevent a brief, but lively discussion among commission members.

Commission member David Ruyte wanted to know how many times the church had asked for an extension and how many more times it could seek a delay in asking for final site approval.

City Planner Barbara McBeth said the church couldn't seek any additional extensions. She explained

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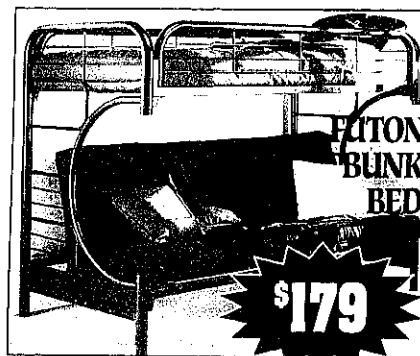
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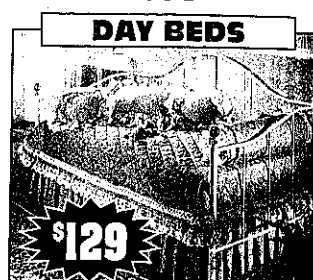


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Pint-size racer heads for AutoRama

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

This weekend Taylor Desormeau will join more than 1,000 other auto enthusiasts at Detroit's Cobo Center for the 51st AutoRama.

Sunday he'll be on hand all day to share his passion for the sport of drag racing and to answer questions about the car he'll campaign at Milan Dragway for a second season as soon as the weather warms and the track dries out.

What makes Taylor Desormeau stand out among drag racers is that fact that he can barely see over the door of the average passenger car.

That's because he's just 9 years old and a third-grader at Novi's Deerfield Elementary School.

Taylor got his 11-foot long 1995 Motivational Tubing dragster from his father, John, last Valentine's Day.

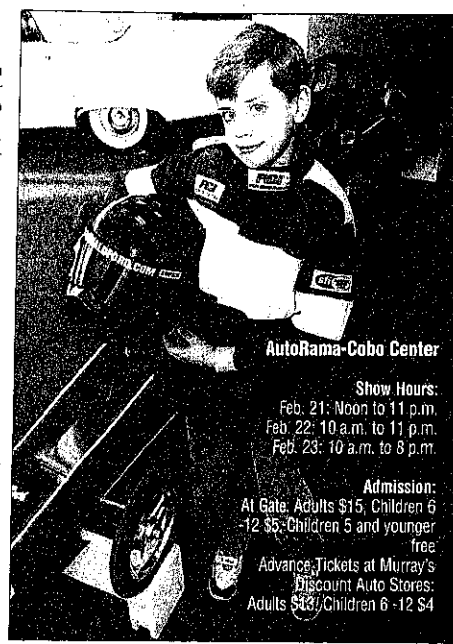
"It just worked out that way," shrugged the elder Desormeau, who is a sales and leasing representative at Northville's McDonald Ford and a longtime drag racer himself.

"I've been kind of wanting for years," said Taylor of his dark blue, half-scale rail. While most boys his age dream of becoming firefighters, cowboys or something along those lines, Taylor will confidently tell you that he's going to be a NASCAR commentator when he grows up. "I'm going to do this 'till I'm 16. Then I'm going to try a real car - a modified, a Top ET, then a top fuel and if things don't work out, I'll be a commentator," he said.

His dad has no doubts Taylor will do what he says. "He knows all the jargon," said John, adding that more importantly he understands the technical aspects of racing.

Next month when the Cub Scouts are showing off their Pinewood Derby racers at Deerfield, Taylor will be showing off his race car. Powered by a five-horsepower Briggs and Stratton engine, Taylor's 600-pound machine can rip down the eighth-mile track junior dragsters use at 40 mph.

Eventually, as he works his way up through the Junior IHRA's four age classes, he'll hit speeds of up to 85 mph. He's already done better than 100 mph in the right seat of Howard Bixman's NASCAR Craftsman Truck. John said that after the ride the Wisnom racer told him, "Your son has a new hero



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Feb. 21: Noon to 11 p.m.
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Drag-racer Taylor Desormeau, 9, stands near his car at McDonald Ford in Northville. The youngster will be appearing at this year's Autorama in Detroit.

and it's not you."

While Taylor's car goes considerably slower than the 170 mph that his 750 hp engine can push his car, John allows there's a little bit of a twinge when he sees his son put on the same type of fire resistant suit he wears in competition.

Still, he said, he's confident in Taylor's abilities.

John said he set up six practice sessions for Taylor last summer. "I wanted him to go slow," Taylor's first real race will be in April at the venerable Milan Dragway.

"I've practiced a lot. I think I'm ready," said Taylor.

Taylor said his mother isn't worried about his racing because, "We leave at 6 a.m. before she's awake."

John said once you get past the price of the car, a season of junior drag costs about the same as a season of Pee Wee hockey. "If nothing breaks," he said.

The cars, however, are not cheap. Taylor's seven-year-old machine

cost \$3,000. New cars range between \$3,500 and \$4,000. "That's about the same price as a snowmobile or a Jet Ski," offered John. If you opt for an enclosed trailer, add another \$3,000 to the initial investment.

Taylor's car will be part of the CoboTown Cruisers' annual display at AutoRama. John explained the club draws its name from its home-base, South Lyon, which was known as CoboTown by street racers in the '60s. Taylor will share space with a Salt Lake Flats roadster that's headed for Bonneville later this year, a '67 AC Cobra and a couple of hot rods.

Taylor and his dad plan on being at the CoboTown Cruisers' display from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday to answer questions about his car.

Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-7300 ext. 108 or at phil@h.towncomm.net.

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Fire closes Novi eatery

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Grease was named as the cause of a fire closing down a popular Novi eatery.

City of Novi Fire Chief Arthur Lenaghan said the kitchen fire closed the doors to Santino's Place for Pasta during the early morning hours of Feb. 12.

Restaurant Fire



SOURCE: Novi Fire Department

The restaurant, located at 22209 Novi Road, just south of Nine Mile Road, was not open at the time of the fire and no one was injured.

"They were preparing food and the grease took off causing smoke to fill the building," Lenaghan said. "There was also smoke damage in the restaurant next to it."

The fire department received the kitchen-area fire call at 8:51 a.m. and had the fire under control in about 10 minutes.

Firefighters did remain at the scene for about 45 minutes, clearing smoke from the building, he said.

A smoke ejector was used by firefighters, helping clear the filled establishment.

Fire officials estimate the damage at about \$1,000.

Santino's Place for Pasta will remain closed until Friday

when it will reopen at 11 a.m. Owners will help celebrate the day with special, exciting menu offerings and invite all area residents to stop in.

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.

Bye-bye barriers, hello lawsuit?

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

An appearance in Oakland County Circuit Court resulted in the removal of concrete barriers placed in the parking lot of a Novi business after months of disagreements and damage to customers' vehicles.

Novi Assistant City Manager Clay Pearson said on Feb. 12 the court ruled that the owner of Novi Party Store, Sam Poota, must remove concrete barriers placed to the west of the entrance of Jonna's Fine Wine on Grand River Avenue, east of Novi Road.

"The judge signed an order that Mr. Poota remove the concrete barriers in the parking area no later than Friday at noon or else the city is ordered to remove and bill Mr. Poota," Pearson said.

Sam Senawi of Jonna's Fine Wine said the barriers were removed by his neighbor at 8 p.m. on the Feb. 14 deadline day.

The owner of the Novi Party Store said not only did he contact the city about the concrete parking barriers before he installed them, but telling him not to remove his neighbors to the same is wrong.

"It is straight discrimination," Poota said.

The businessman said his neighbors to the east boxed in their park-

ing area and the chiropractor to the west boxed in his parking area as well.

"I called the city to do the same thing," Poota said. "The city said 'Fine, we have no problem with that.'"

Poota said the unidentified woman he spoke to said it wouldn't be a problem and he may do what his neighbors have done.

Poota said he was then told by a Circuit Court judge he had to remove the barriers because they were causing vehicle accidents.

"The only way the city can mistreat me is if I violate the law," Poota said. "I have been paying taxes to the city of Novi for the past 27 years and never violated one single rule."

Senawi is pleased with the ruling. "I'm happy my customers aren't in danger with these things anymore," he said.

"I'm just happy my customers are not damaging their vehicles anymore," he said.

Early this week, Senawi was still waiting for the removal of poles placed by Poota in the sidewalk east of the business, another cause of contention.

TIMELINE

- Novi Party Store owner Sam Poota purchased parking lots west of Jonna's Fine Wine's entrance in December 2002
- Poota placed "parking bumpers" stretching from the Grand River Avenue business fronts toward Grand River Avenue the night of Dec. 31, 2002
- Poota removed a portion of the bumpers per city officials' requests in January
- Poota was asked to remove the rest of the bumpers by February 5
- The barriers remained after February 5
- The Oakland County Circuit Court ruled the concrete parking barriers must be removed by Feb. 14

Pearson said the Road Commission for Oakland County is responsible for enforcing the removal of the poles because the property is Oakland County right-of-way.

The assistant city manager said

the commission expressed it has prepared a letter to Poota stating the poles must be removed.

"Hopefully it will all be resolved," Senawi said.

The court's participation was required after Poota failed to remove the low-to-the-ground strips of concrete placed between Jonna's and the former location of Bank's Vacuum and Sewing by the city-mandated Feb. 5 deadline.

Senawi said the barriers were placed by Poota New Year's Eve at about 8:30 p.m.

The placement of the parking area dividers angered proprietors of Jonna's as they painfully watched their customers hit the concrete with their vehicles especially when covered by snow, Senawi said.

Poota said when he purchased the lots at the end of December, he believed he had the right to place the parking blocks in the lot dividing the section where Bank's was and Max Printing & Copying currently is located.

Poota said the bumpers were a marketing necessity to create a distinct parking area for his new acquisition.

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.

Councilman sets safety priority

Csordas puts forming a safety council on top of list of goals

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

A city council goal-setting session produced some good news for the Novi Police Department looking to boost its force.

During the Saturday morning special meeting of the Novi City Council held earlier this month, councilman Louis Csordas suggested an official task force should be assembled to assess the police and fire departments' future hiring needs.

"The chief is always telling us we are understaffed," Csordas said. "So I thought, for all public safety, a committee should be formed to discuss long-term plans. We have to set priorities, and we need to have a plan in place to do just that."

What Csordas said he didn't want to see happen was the authorization of hiring three new officers as council did this fiscal year for

the police department and then just forget public safety altogether.

He also stressed the importance of putting a plan in place now to develop future funds and assess the needs of the community as the population climbs toward build-out.

According to data compiled by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), Novi's 2002 population topped at 49,627 residents.

The Michigan council estimates Novi's 2030 population will be 78,711.

"I believe it will be a benefit for future councils," Csordas said.

Novi Police Chief Douglas Shaeffer said he was thrilled with the suggestion.

"We are encouraged by the suggestion, and we are looking forward to working with them to provide any information needed," Shaeffer said.

Shaeffer said the last time an official committee looked into police staffing for the city's department was 1996.

In 1996, Coopers and Lybrand conducted a study along with a cit-

izen-based police and fire needs commission.

Shaeffer said both previous studies reached similar conclusions.

The conclusions stated the recommended police staffing level should be at a level of 1.5 to 1.6 officers per 1,000 citizens.

Novi currently has a ratio of 1.18 officers per 1,000 citizens.

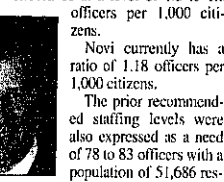
The prior recommended staffing levels were also expressed as a need of 78 to 83 officers with a population of 51,686 residents.

Novi currently has 61 officers.

Prior need-based commissions were also assembled in 1995, 1989 and 1987.

Sadlocha said forming the public safety committee was placed high on the council's priority list.

"Hopefully in the next two or three months we can get the committee going," he said.



Lou Csordas

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.

NOVI CITY BRIEFS

Winter property taxes

All payments on City of Novi 2002 winter property tax bills are past due. A 4-percent penalty will now be added to any amounts owed. The last day to pay delinquent 2002 property taxes at city hall is Friday, Feb. 28. After the city's deadline date, payments must be settled with Oakland County. Postmarks are not accepted.

Calling all Veterans

On Sunday, June 22 at 1 p.m., the City of Novi will recognize the men and women of our community and the surrounding area that served in the armed forces from 1945 to 2003 at the Veteran's Recognition Day event. This event will honor veterans of the Cold War, Grenada, Panama, Desert Storm, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Somalia and Kosovo. Additionally, we recognize that many men and women in our area have been called to active duty from the Reserves or National Guard Units and, while they may not be able to attend, we would ask that their families join us so we can honor them. Please contact the City of Novi Community Relations Office, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road,

Novi Ice Arena

The Novi Ice Arena will be hosting the Michigan High School Athletic Association Division II Hockey Regional Monday, Feb. 24 through Friday, Feb. 28. Northville and Novi high schools will compete in the tournament along with Livonia, Franklin, Lakeland, Waterford Keeler and Ypsilanti Lincoln. The winner of the regional held in the city-owned arena will go on to play the winner of the Okemos regional in Lansing on March 4.

DeRoche Breakfast Club

State Rep. Craig DeRoche's next breakfast meeting will take place March 14 at the Novi Expo Center. The topic of discussion will be "Oakland County's Economic Vision" and will feature guest speaker L. Brooks Patterson. A legislative update will also be provided by DeRoche. The intent of the "DeRoche Breakfast Club" is for the former councilman to meet with leaders in the community to have a dialog on timely, important topics. The one-hour 7:30 a.m. breakfast program is free to the public, however a breakfast buffet is available for \$15. A coffee-and-conversation session will take place before the program at 7 a.m. The event will take place in the McKenzie Room inside the center at 43700 Expo Center Drive. For reservations, please call Shanna Wycoff at (517) 373-0827.

Man of La Mancha

Novi Theatres is proud to present its upcoming production of "Man of La Mancha." All area residents are invited to attend performances held Friday, March 14 through Sunday, March 16 and Friday, March 21

through Sunday, March 23. Friday and Saturday performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday performances will begin at 2 p.m. All performances will be held in the auditorium at Novi Middle School on 11 Mile Road, west of Ten Mile Road. Tickets are on sale now at the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department for \$17. For more information, call (248) 347-0400.

Man of La Mancha

Novi Theatres is proud to present its upcoming production of "Man of La Mancha." All area residents are invited to attend performances held Friday, March 14 through Sunday, March 16 and Friday, March 21

POLICE REPORT

Under age

A Novi officer was watching the intersection of Eleven Mile and Taft roads on Feb. 11 at about 10 p.m. when he saw a car go by with a headlight out and a cracked taillight, shifting white light from the rear. The officer stopped the driver. As he spoke to the 19-year-old behind the wheel, the officer noticed a case of Labatt Blue behind the driver's seat. The driver was asked to step out of the vehicle and arrested for being a minor in possession of alcohol. The 24 cans of Labatt Blue were logged into evidence.

Flying by

A Canton resident learned the hard way last week that it may not be such a great idea to speed through the city while drunk. A Novi officer was patrolling Beck near Nine Mile roads on Feb. 13 at about 11 p.m., when he saw a Pontiac Grand Am go by at a high rate of speed. Radar indicated the car was traveling 55 mph in a 35 mph zone. As the officer followed the vehicle, he noticed it drift within his lane

Unwelcomed guest

The night a Pennsylvania man came to town, his car was vandalized by an unknown person(s) in a Novi neighborhood driveway. The 46-year-old visitor called the Novi Police Department on Feb. 14 at about 7 a.m. to report the incident. The man told officers he drove into town on Feb. 13 between 8 and 9 p.m. and parked his Ford Expedition in the 3000 block of Tanglewood. According to the report, when the traveling man went to his sport utility vehicle the next morning at about 7, he discovered the rear window was broken out. Officers found no stones nor did they find any bludgeons near or inside the vehicle. Nothing was stolen and damage was estimated at about \$500.

Stop!

Novi officers were patrolling Novi Road when they saw a vehicle drive right up the west-bound entrance ramp of Interstate 96 onto Novi Road despite a flashing red traffic signal. The 25-year-old Lansing male behind the wheel was coming from the expressway at about 2 a.m. on Feb. 16 when he kept going past the red flashing signal, leaving more than one-half of his vehicle sticking into Novi Road. After police stopped the vehicle on southbound Novi Road, the officers smelled a strong odor of intoxicants on the driver's breath. The Lansing man said he had three beers earlier in the night. According to the report, as the man exited his vehicle he tried to zip up his jacket which took more than a minute and caused him to lose his balance. Stating the alphabet allowed a challenge to the intoxicated driver. After the man was asked to recite the alphabet from J to S, he replied J, H, L, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, L, M, N, O, P and all the way to Z. He blew a .169 and was arrested.

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WARNING: Don't think of buying a spa until you have read this free Special Report!

This FREE REPORT will reveal:

- How to identify a spa that looks great on the outside but is a time bomb on the inside.
- The single most common mistake when purchasing a spa (you MUST NOT do this!)
- How to spot potential ugly maintenance problems BEFORE you buy your spa.
- Three little-known facts that will help you to avoid less-than-honest spa dealers.
- 25 critical questions every spa shopper must ask before buying a new spa.

These seven deadly mistakes could cost you hundreds or even thousands of dollars, not to mention a lot of disappointment and frustration. If you are even thinking of buying a spa, don't step out of your house without having read this free consumer special report. We will rush this special report to the **FIRST 50 CALLERS** so hurry and pick up the phone now!

CONSUMER INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

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3365 W. Highland Rd. • Milford

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ext. 3001

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Drop Off Or Mail In Ballot To:
People's Choice Awards - Hometown-NewsPaper
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Northville, MI 48167

Only one entry per person per week. 18 years or older.
Ballot box stuffing will not be allowed. Partial ballots may be disqualified.

ENTRY BLANK

Hey...Northville & Novi

It's Time to Pick Your

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

We Need Your Input On The Best Places To Shop...
Best Places To Eat...Best Place For Great Service.
This is NOT scientific! It's a fun, readers poll.
Join in on the Balloting!

- | FOOD OUTLETS | BEST SERVICE PROVIDERS | BEST RETAIL STORES |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| • Best place for coffee/donuts/bagels | • Best place for a haircut | • Best appliance store |
| • Best specialty coffee house | • Best place to bank | • Best place to buy books |
| • Best place for breakfast | • Best place to get nails done | • Best bakery/baked goods |
| • Best Sunday brunch | • Best real estate company | • Best floral shop |
| • Best deli | • Best real estate agent (agency) | • Best grocery store |
| • Best fast food restaurant | • Best mortgage company | • Best party store |
| • Best family restaurant | • Best new car sales person (dealership) | • Best music store |
| • Best place for soup | • Best used car sales person (dealership) | • Best specialty shop |
| • Best salad bar | • Best auto dealer | • Best jewelry store |
| • Best place for burgers | • Best auto service | • Best lumber yard |
| • Best place for hot dogs/cones | • Best oil change shop | • Best pet supplies |
| • Best place for subs | • Best collision shop | • Best children's wear |
| • Best place for French fries | • Best tire shop | • Best men's wear |
| • Best place for ice cream | • Best insurance agent (agency) | • Best women's wear |
| • Best place for chicken | • Best dry cleaner | • Best shoe store |
| • Best quality dining restaurant | • Best lawyer | • Best sporting goods |
| • Best place for desserts | • Best veterinary service | • Best antique store |
| • Best Italian restaurant | • Best travel agency | • Best hardware store |
| • Best place for seafood | • Best childcare service | • Best home improvement store |
| • Best oriental restaurant | • Best video store | • Best place for carpet/flooring |
| • Best Tex-Mex restaurant | • Best house painter | • Best gift/card store |
| • Best place for pizza | • Best rental company | |
| • Best place for steak | • Best landscaping company | |
| • Best chicken dish | • Best health/fitness company | |
| • Best place for barbecue ribs | • Best waitress (restaurant) | |
| • Best wine selection (store) | • Best car wash | |
| • Best wine selection (restaurant) | • Best tanning salon | |
| • Best beer selection (store) | | |
| • Best beer selection (restaurant) | | |
| • Best place for romantic dinner | | |
| • Best after work meeting place | | |
| • Best sports bar | | |
| • Best place for dancing | | |

All Entries Must Be Received By March 14th
For A Chance To Win A GIFT CERTIFICATE To Award-Winning Restaurant

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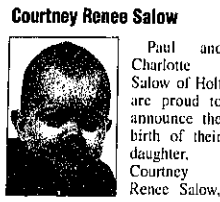
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Stress Reduction Series
DATES: Monday, February 24
LOCATION: Huron-Valley Sinai Hospital, Commerce.

Refuse to be a Victim
DATE: Monday, Feb. 24
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Grand Court Novi, 45182 West Park Drive

Therapy of Power Branch
DATE: Thursday, February 20
TIME: 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Hotel Barenette, Novi Road, near Twelve Oaks Mall

BIRTH



Courtney Renee Salow
Paul and Charlotte Salow of Holt are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Courtney Renee Salow,

IN THE SERVICE

Lee F. Billiu
Navy Fireman Lee F. Billiu, son of Laureen and Barton Billiu of Walled Lake, is currently on his sixth month of deployment to the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf while assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, homeported in Everett, Wash.

OBITUARIES

Sandra F. Baum
Sandra Baum of Novi, died February 13, 2003. She was 69. Survivors include her husband, Bob; two daughters, Mary Catherine Rinaldo and Gretchen (Bruce) Caldwell; one son, Bob Jr. (Bev); her mother, Helen Heffernan; one sister, Elizabeth Newman; one brother, Karl Heffernan; and eight grandchildren, Ryan, Elizabeth, Laura, Melissa, Erik, Alex, Kyle and Max.

Elwood Joseph Grubb
Elwood Grubb died February 5, 2003 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ypsilanti. He was 77. Mr. Grubb was a retired Postmaster of Wixom and was involved in many political seats in Wixom in the 1960s and early 1970s.

SENIOR CALENDAR

Table listing senior center activities for Thursday 2/20, Friday 2/21, Saturday 2/22, and Monday 2/24. Activities include Massage Therapy, Computer Class, Line Dance, and various social events.

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CHARTER ONE BANK. Now open at 44185 Five Mile Road in Plymouth Township! Banking centers throughout metropolitan Detroit, Otsego, Kalamazoo, Owasco, Durand, Chesaning and Onondago.

IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Subject to Customer Agreement and Calling Plan. \$35 activation fee required for one year agreement. Early termination fee of \$175 applies after 15 days.

REMEMBER, ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES. A Public Service of the USDA Forest Service and Your State Forester.

BUSINESS

Phil Foley, business reporter (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 pfoley@ht.homecomm.net

Novi firm helping renovate the Motor City

Novi-based Crosswinds Communities announced the start of renovation on six historic town homes originally built in the late 1800s at Adelaide and John R. streets in Brush Park, Detroit.

"Downtown areas across the country have been restored and revived with fantastic opportunities for people to live, work and entertain. With the new ballparks, theaters and all of the restaurants and nightlife that have emerged over the last several years, Brush Park and downtown Detroit are keeping up with the times," said Bernard Giebeman, president of Crosswinds Communities. "With this renovation, we are saving the rich and romantic history of the Brush Park area, updating the interiors and creating a unique opportunity for people to live where the action is, essentially Detroit's fun zone."

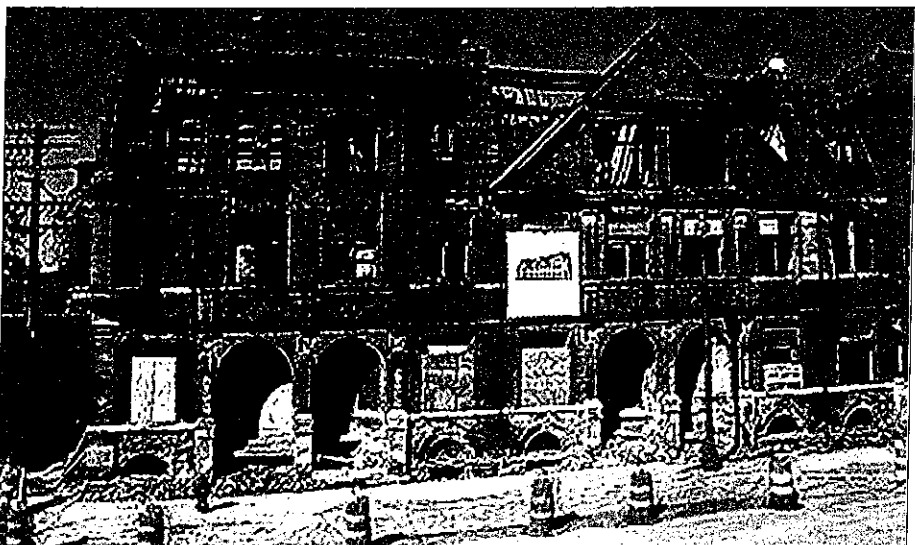


The artist's rendering (above) of what Brush Park (below) will look like when completed

Living in the fun zone is one of the new housing trends identified by real estate experts who met recently at a conference of the Urban Land Institute in Las Vegas, a non-profit education and research organization focused on land use. Many singles and childless couples began moving to downtown Detroit in the late 1990s to be near the sports and entertainment activities.

Crosswinds had homeowners on waiting lists for six years and people moving in from out of state because of the prime location.

The "Brownstones on John R," as the renovation has been named, represents another phase of construction of Woodward Place at Brush Park. The homes are of the Richardson Romanesque style from 1880 to 1900s. The Brownstones on John R. feature classical Romanesque characteristics such as large brick arches surrounding the front entrance, a broad center gable, detailed masonry pilasters, corner turret towers in the two end units, copper finials and custom wood windows on a mansard roof and many more stylistic details.



The well-known Brush family of Detroit once owned the farm on what is now the Brush Park historic district. Late in the 1800s, John Askin, an Irish trader, inherited the Brush property from his wife's family. Askin's youngest daughter, Adelaide, married Joseph Elgin in 1853. The couple inherited the farm, from the river to about where Grand Boulevard is today. All but a couple of the streets in the district are named for Brush family members.

Adelaide is reported in 1853. The development of the area in the late 1800s included elaborate row housing attracting white-collar workers who wanted to live near their bosses in the mansions on Woodward. East Jefferson and West Park. Although the row houses were built such as those being restored by Crosswinds, not many of them remain.

This is the second historic renovation performed by Crosswinds in the area. The first, a 5,000-square-foot mansion on Adelaide, was converted to two 2,500-square-foot homes that sold for just under \$400,000 each.

"In redeveloping the Brush Park area, we wanted to save as many existing structures as possible to maintain the community's historical architecture. We are pleased to be preserving the history of this neighborhood with the brownstones and the Adelaide mansion. Each town home will be rebuilt on the original footprint and the facade will be restored with reclaimed brick from the Brush Park area as well as specially manufactured brick to match the original historic features. Monahan Construction and BVH Architecture designed and constructed the three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath brick masonry homes. Plans include an enclosed courtyard garden, two-car garage and a 400-hour bonus room, which can be used as a library, additional living area or workout facility. There is a rear balcony off the third floor bedroom and a breezeway from the home to the garage and bonus room.

Sales began in January 2003 on the 2,700-square-foot homes with prices starting in the low \$400,000s. Homes will be ready for occupancy during summer 2003.

Within the Brush Park area, Crosswinds is building Woodward Place at Brush Park—a community of over 500 new construction luxury town homes. Prices start in the \$190,000s and homes range from 1,300 to over 2,100 square feet.

For more information on the renovated homes at Woodward Place at Brush Park, call the Crosswinds sales office, open daily 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., at 313-962-1100 or visit the website at www.crosswinds.com.

For more information on the renovated homes at Woodward Place at Brush Park, call the Crosswinds sales office, open daily 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., at 313-962-1100 or visit the website at www.crosswinds.com.

projects completed. Crosswinds is the second largest homebuilder in Michigan. Currently, Crosswinds is building town homes and single family homes in over 15 locations throughout southeastern Michigan. In 2002, Crosswinds completed over 500 homes. Crosswinds Communities is located in Novi and Detroit. Its operating divisions include residential, commercial, industrial development and a mortgage company.



Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital President Robert Yalton signs a beam at the hospital's topping off ceremony

Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital tops off new expansion

Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital (HVSII) in Commerce Township celebrated a toppling off ceremony today and began a countdown toward a series of improvements that will allow for improved patient care and convenience at Oakland County's fastest growing hospital. Ground was broken for the HVSII expansion in June 2002.

Chair of the HVSII board of Trustees, Merle Harris, and Jim Cyle from Skanska Inc. joined Hospital President, Robert Yalton and HVSII employees, physicians and construction workers for the celebration which included placement of a tree atop the highest structural point of the expansion. Guests at the event signed a label that will be affixed to the beam.

The current construction project impacts approximately 95,550 square feet of which being added to the hospital and 55,550 of existing space that is being renovated.

The project, which will be completed in 2004 includes an expansion of surgical services, more visitor parking, the expansion of the Krieger Geriatric Center radiology and outpatient cardiology services, upgrades to patient care areas as well as a new main lobby entrance, private patient registration area, expanded cafeteria, retail restaurant, new gift shop and pharmacy.

Connecting on the milestone, Harris and Yalton are pleased with the hard work of the construction team and employees who are working together to ensure that Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital continues to offer the best in patient care to the residents of western Oakland County.

The SmithGroup is the architectural firm for the project. Skanska Inc. and minority-owned construction services, and Gensler Metz will conduct landscape and civil engineering site planning for the project.

Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital (www.hvsii.com) is ranked one of the top hospitals in the nation for customer service, awarded in 1996. Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital (HVSII), a 153-bed facility, is Oakland County's newest hospital. Since that time, Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital has grown and expanded in both its service offerings and size. HVSII has recently begun a \$27-million expansion project, which will be completed in 2004.

NOVI TOWN CENTER 8
 57721 Grand River, New Hudson, MI 48165
 248-446-7700

MOVIE GUIDE
 SHOWTIMES 201-227
 SHOWTIMES 207-213

NOVI TOWN CENTER 8
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 SHOWTIMES 201-227

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Remember the classics

Do you miss the days when Marilyn Monroe and Peter O'Toole graced the silver screen? Sometimes audience members settle in to watch a new release on the big screen and they just shake their heads by the time the movie is through. Where have all the greats gone? How come no one ever stepped up to be the new Monroe? Where are directors like Alfred Hitchcock?

Well, you don't have to worry about that anymore.

Novi Town Center 8 Theaters recently announced its Classic Film Showcase that will have a new classic movie coming to the big screen each week. The films, which start at 11:30 a.m. every day, cost only \$3 to catch and that includes a 12-ounce drink and a popcorn tray. Talk about being transported back in time!

With this new feature, audiences can re-live the first time they saw "Blue Hawaii" with Elvis Presley, or "The Seven Year Itch" with Monroe as the leading lady!

Each week there will be a new movie, with the schedule shared by:

- Sabrina, starring Humphrey Bogart and Audrey Hepburn; February 27.
- The 7-Year Itch, starring Marilyn Monroe; February 28-March 6.
- Blue Hawaii, starring Elvis Presley; March 7-13.
- Murphy's Law, starring Peter O'Toole; March 14-20.

For more other showtimes, please visit www.novitowncenter8.com or call (248) 465-7469.

By Sam Eggleston

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public

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

Story Time
 Registration for Spring Story Times runs through March 1. Spring Story Times start March 17.

AARP tax workshop
 An AARP Tax Workshop will be held at the library on Thursday, February 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please register in advance in person or by calling the library. (Note: You cannot prepare small business or rental property taxes at this workshop.)

Adult book discussion group
 Our March selection is "Year of Wonders" by Geraldine Brooks. The group meets Monday, March 3, at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room. All are welcome.

The six wives of Henry VIII
 The women behind the throne tell their stories of Henry VIII as actresses Susan Berg portrays each of the legendary monarch's wives on Tuesday, March 4, at 7 p.m. Please call the library to register for this free program, which is sponsored by the Friends of Novi Public Library.

E-mail for seniors
 E-mail is a great way to stay in touch with friends and family, wherever they are! Come and learn the basics of sending and receiving e-mail, and sign up for a free e-mail account on Wednesday, Feb. 26, from 1-3 p.m. This class includes interactive discussion and hands-on practice. Suggested prerequisites: "Mastering the Mouse for Seniors." Please register in advance for all Internet classes in person or by calling the library.

Internet practice lab for seniors
 Practice makes perfect! Join us for an opportunity to practice any of the skills you've learned in our Internet classes on Thursday, Feb. 27, from 1-3 p.m. During this two-hour session, you may choose to work on any Internet skills you wish, with librarians to assist you and answer any computer-related questions. Note: There is no set agenda for this class; you may come and go as you please during the two-hour session.

Rhythm Man
 Rhythm Man's interactive, entertaining program shows children and their families the amazing world in which we live on Wednesday, February 26, at 7 p.m. The 45-minute program is for all ages. No registration is necessary.

Life in Colonial Detroit
 Walled Lake High School students reenact life in 1778 Colonial Detroit on Thursday, February 27, at 1 p.m. The 45-minute program is for ages five and up. No registration is necessary.

Mastering the mouse
 A hands-on class designed to introduce seniors to using the computer mouse will be held Thursday, March 6, from 10-11 a.m. We will complete a self-guided online tutorial, learning and practicing all of the basic functions of the mouse. If you've never used a mouse, this class is definitely for you!

Walled Lake City
 The library is hosting an audio-visual sale on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Used VHS videos, music CDs, and books on tape will be offered at very low prices.

The library will present a workshop entitled "Internet Self-Defense" on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. It will be held in the meeting room of the fire station next door to the library. The workshop will focus on protecting Internet users from viruses, unwanted email, and also on ensuring children's safety online.

The Walled Lake City Library is located at 1499 E. West Maple Rd. in Walled Lake and is open Mon. through Thurs. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about library programs, call (248) 624-3772.

NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUESTS FOR BIDS SENIOR VAN
 The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for Senior Van according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Bid packages are available at the City of the Purchasing Director.

Sealed bids will be received until 3:00 P.M. prevailing Eastern Time, Wednesday, March 5, 2003, at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:

CITY OF NOVI
 CAROL J. KALINOVIC, PURCHASING DIRECTOR
 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.
 Novi, MI 48375-3024

All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE PLAINLY MARKED "SENIOR VAN" BID AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER.

The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informality or both, to reject any or all proposals; and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the City of Novi.

CAROL J. KALINOVIC, PURCHASING DIRECTOR
 (248) 347-0446

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW
 Notice is hereby given that the Board of Review shall convene in its first session at 8:00 a.m. EST, Tuesday, March 4th, 2003 in the Novi Assessing Department at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road for the purpose of reviewing and correcting the assessment roll.

Notice is further given that the second session of the Board of Review will meet for the purpose of hearing and considering assessment protests in the Novi City Council Chambers at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road on March 10, 11 & 12, 2003. All appearances before the Board will be by appointment only. If you or your representative want to appear in person, the appointment must be made on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Friday, March 7, 2003. Appearance before the Board of Review are limited to live (5) minutes or less. Petitions are available at the Assessor's Office or at www.novimichigan.com.

NO APPOINTMENTS WILL BE GIVEN UNTIL A PETITION IS RECEIVED BY THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT.

Letters of protest will be accepted on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Wednesday, March 12, 2003. Postmarks will not be considered. When submitting a letter of protest for the Board of Review consideration, you must attach a completed petition (available at the Assessing Department), along with any supporting information.

ALL agents protesting values on property other than their own, MUST have written authorization from each property owner they are representing.

Persons on fixed or limited income may be eligible for a reduction in property taxes due to poverty. Applications are available at the Assessing Department, or at www.ci.novi.mi.us

BOARD OF REVIEW SCHEDULE
 Monday, March 10, 2003 - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, March 11, 2003 - 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 Wednesday, March 12, 2003 - 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Any questions should be directed to the Assessing Department at (248) 347-0465.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK
 (2-13/20-03 NN 38860)

NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS ROOF REPLACEMENT - LAKESHORE PARK
 The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for ROOF REPLACEMENT - LAKESHORE PARK according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Bid packages will be available at the Pre-Bid Meeting.

An optional pre-bid meeting will be held Tuesday, February 25, 2003 at 10:00 A.M. in the Council Chambers at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48375-3024.

Sealed bids will be received until 9:00 P.M. prevailing Eastern Time, Wednesday, March 12, 2003, at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:

CITY OF NOVI
 CAROL J. KALINOVIC, PURCHASING DIRECTOR
 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.
 Novi, MI 48375-3024

All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE PLAINLY MARKED "Roof Replacement - Lakeshore Park" BID AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER.

The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informality or both; to reject any or all proposals; and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the City of Novi.

CAROL J. KALINOVIC, PURCHASING DIRECTOR
 (248) 347-0446

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 26, 2003 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider, **ISLAND LAKE OF NOVI (PHASIS) PARK ESTATES FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN APPROVAL OF SITE CONDOS WITH THE SUBDIVISION OPEN SPACE OPTION, WETLAND AND WOODLAND PERMITS, LOCATED ON ELEVEN MILE BETWEEN TAFT AND BEGG ROADS.** The applicant is proposing 45 detached residential condominiums.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 5:00 P.M., Wednesday, February 26, 2003.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
 LYNN KOCAN, SECRETARY
 (02-20-03 NN 39566)

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 26, 2003 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider, **ISLAND LAKE OF NOVI (PHASIS) PARK ESTATES FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN AND SITE CONDOMINIUM APPROVAL.** The applicant is proposing 76 detached single family homes.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 5:00 P.M., Wednesday, February 26, 2003.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
 LYNN KOCAN, SECRETARY
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 LYNN KOCAN, SECRETARY
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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the home towns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Lament the loss

It hurts. It hurts a great deal. And the emotional strain caused by last week's fire at Maybury State Park's farm isn't going to go away anytime soon. The images of the 100-year-old barn burning into the night will be with us for a long, long time. And to that end, it's OK to grieve, and it's OK to lament a loss whose significance can't be overstated to Northville and the surrounding communities. What happened at Maybury is nothing short of a disaster. So often, we see images of other makeshift memorials forming at the sites of tragedies big and small. Few of us would have thought that Eight Mile and Beck roads would one day join that awful fraternity. But while we mourn the loss of the animal friends which died in the fire, we are struck with the quick response of Northville Township, Northville and Novi firefighters, who may not have been able to save the barn or the animals inside, but did what they could from allowing the fire to spread to surrounding structures. We are struck by the gallant efforts of Northville veterinarians, who searched for ways to save even the tiniest animal survivor, and had to make the painful but necessary decisions to euthanize the animals when it was clear medical treatment wouldn't do the trick. We are struck by the outpouring of support from Northville residents and residents of surrounding communities like Novi, who opened up their pocketbooks, offering to help restore the barn before the smoke had even cleared from the site. We are struck by the expressions of children, who found constructive ways to deal with their loss — by writing and drawing and taking their way through a traumatic event. No, none of these things takes away the pain we all sustained last Wednesday night, but they do provide a thin silver lining to a very thick and dark cloud — a cloud we hope will dissipate just a little bit with each sunrise and sunset.

GOVERNMENT

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

- United States Senate**
(517) 373-1799
FAX: (517) 373-5777
mshulman@house.mi.gov
- Carl Levin (D-Detroit)**
125 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
(202) 224-8221
senator2@levin.senate.gov
Local office:
124 W. Allegan
Suite 1810
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 377-1508
FAX: (517) 377-1506
- Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing)**
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
(202) 224-4822
senator@stabenow.senate.gov
Local office:
280 East Saginaw
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 203-1760
- United States Congress**
11th District
Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia)
415 Cannon HOB
Washington D.C. 20515-8171
(202) 225-8171
FAX: (202) 225-2667
Local office:
17197 N. Laurel Park Drive
Suite 161
Livonia, MI 48152
- Governor**
Jennifer Granholm (D-Northville Twp.)
PO Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 335-7858
- State Senate**
15th District
Nancy Cassis (R-Nowi)
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
(517) 373-1758
sennacassis@senate.michigan.gov
- State House of Reps**
38th District
Craig DeRoche (R-Nowi)
S0887 House Office Building
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
(517) 373-0827
FAX: (517) 373-5873
craigderoche@house.mi.gov
- 39th District**
Marc Shulman (R-West Bloomfield)
351 Capitol Building
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
- Oakland County**
Executive
L. Brooks Patterson
County Service Center
Building #34 East
1200 N. Telegraph Road
Pontiac, MI 48341
(248) 858-0484
- 7th Commission**
Christine Long
1342 E. Commerce Road
Commerce Twp., MI 48382
(248) 366-2665
longc@co.oakland.mi.us
- 8th Commission**
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(248) 437-7597
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(248) 348-0365
- Commerce - Charter
Thomas K. Zoner, supervisor
2840 Fisher Avenue
Commerce Twp., MI 48390
(248) 624-0110
FAX: (248) 624-5834
- Cities**
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45175 West Ten Mile Road
Novi, MI 48375-3024
(248) 347-0460
FAX: (248) 347-0577
- Walled Lake**
1439 E. West Maple Road
PO Box 99
Walled Lake, MI 48390-0099
(248) 624-4847
FAX: (248) 624-1616
- Wyom**
49045 Pontiac Trail
Wyom, MI 48393-2567
(248) 624-4557
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OPINION

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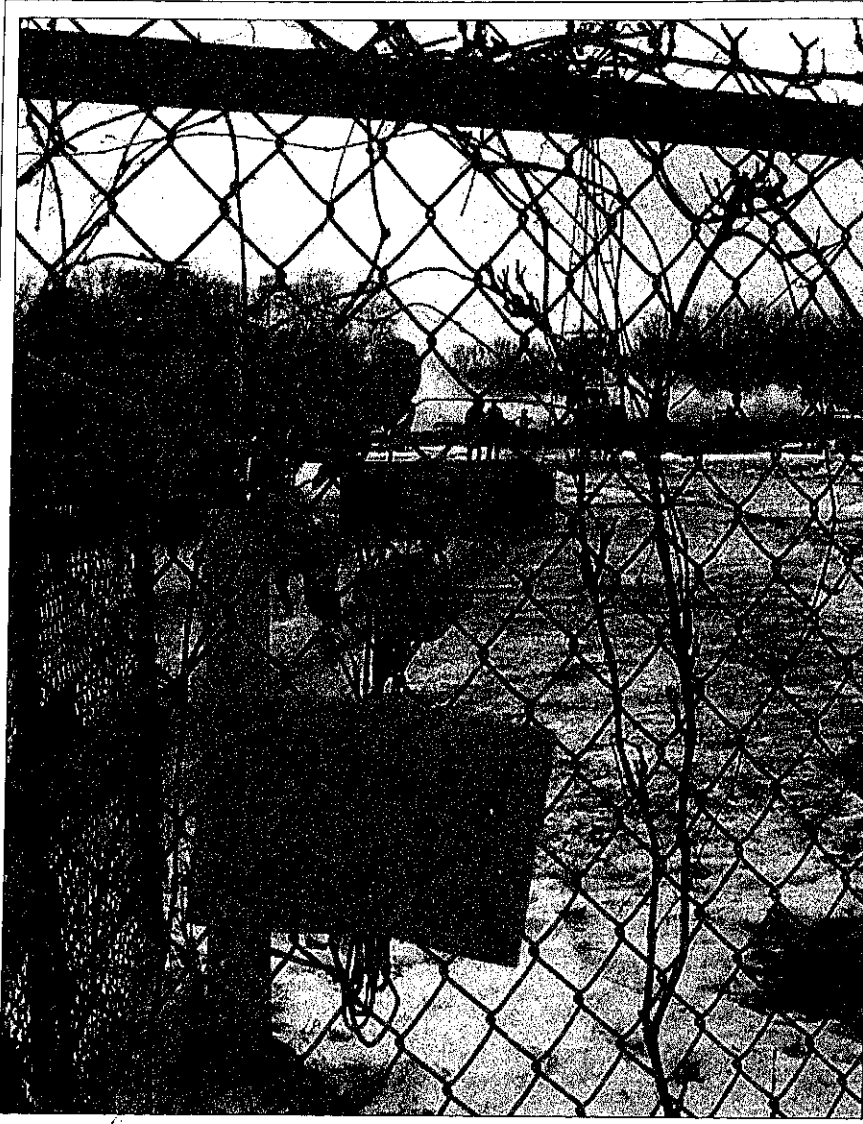
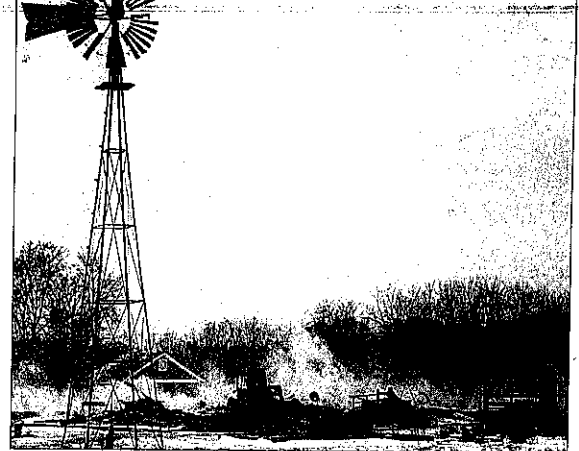


Photo by Paulina Lupercio

Good-bye
A bouquet of roses (top) and a handwritten message conveys the sorrow felt by visitors of Maybury State Park, who were forced last week to deal with the deaths of some 50 animals at the park's petting farm. The animals died when the barn which sheltered them caught fire last week. In the background, the remnants of the barn send smoke into the icy February air.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER
The remains of Maybury State Park's working farm's barn (right) still smokes Thursday morning after Wednesday night's fire.



LETTERS

Kindergarten costs need to be equal
"No Child left behind" has carried a strong message from our President. It has led to measurable changes in our education system that continues to foster fairness for all. This message seems to have gotten lost with our Novi School Board. Dr. E. Lippe, Novi's Superintendent, has stated that "we pledge all our efforts to continue to support learning opportunities for all students." Yet disparities remain between the full-day and half-day kindergarten programs in Novi. Last year it was established that the children of the full-day kindergarten programs receive twice the amount of teaching tax dollars as compared to the half-day programs. Mr. J. Koster, Novi's director of Finance, confirmed this disparity. To move towards more equal funding and support of programs within the District, many people feel that the School Board should provide the half-day programs with smaller class sizes, or add para-educators. Many of Novi's half-day programs have 25 children to one teacher in a classroom. Both the full- and half-day programs have the same curriculum requirements. Common sense dictates that even if a half-day child has less overall school hours, if they have more one-on-one time with teachers, they would have a higher success rate at achieving curriculum requirements. In 1992, The Michigan State Board of Education developed the "Early Childhood Standards of Quality." They recommended that the "maxi-

Maybury memories
Last September on warm, sunny day, I asked my two children that magical question "do you want to go to the Farm?". Without hesitation, they enthusiastically responded "yes", and soon we on our way making one of a dozen or more visits we had made over the past year. As we got closer to the park, the kids were becoming restless with anticipation. Once in the parking lot, the van doors opened and out flew our children who couldn't run fast enough towards the barn. It took every ounce of energy we had to keep up with them. Once in the barn, we were greeted by an employee who talked with us for quite some time about the animals and let us pet them. The children were so excited to be there. As I looked around, I thought "what a wonderful place to escape from the everyday hectic pace of life and enjoy the serenity of this peaceful place". Maybury Farm is now gone—it's only a memory. We've not only lost a piece of history, but we've lost a piece of our community. Hopefully, it will be rebuilt for future generations, but we will never forget all the memories and what happiness that magical place brought to our lives.

Maryanne Bednarski
Novi

Sue Burke
Novi

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

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

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

OTHER OPINIONS

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

Science shows that early education is cost effective

The science is indisputably clear, fully confirming what good parents have known forever. Kids develop very rapidly from the time they are born. Something like 85 percent of the brain is developed within the first five years of life. That's when kids are going to develop intellectually, socially and emotionally. And if they miss that critical window, they'll have an increasingly tough time as they get older.

The public policy consequence is equally clear. Education should begin at age zero, not age 5, when most kids start going to public school kindergarten. Sadly, there is a disconnect today between what we know about how and when children develop and when we start spending money in educating them. Budget hawks, consider this: Much of what needs to be done isn't going to cost taxpayers one red cent. Reading to your baby for just a half hour a day turbocharges the development of her brain. How much does that cost? The verbs are compelling, the cost is cheap and the results vast: Read, hold, teach, laugh, play, care for, love.

And when costs are involved, the payoff is seven to one. Ypsilanti's High Scope/Perky Preschool program is the most studied early childhood program in the country. Research conducted over 30 years shows that the public saves \$700 in the cost of prisons, drug treatment, welfare, remedial education and social services in return for investing \$100 in high quality early childhood education and care.

For the past few years, I've been part of a small outfit called the Ready To Succeed Partnership, which is committed to early childhood care and education. It's a broad group, including folks from business, philanthropy, education, politics, law enforcement, health care and the media. You might remember their catchy slogan — "Be Their Hero From Age Zero" — from last year's media campaign.

Next week, they'll launch a new campaign, one generously funded by intermediary school districts and grants from foundations of General Motors, Ford and DaimlerChrysler. The campaign will be on TV, radio, billboard and newspapers, and counting the free match from media — particularly total media expenditure over the past two years to more than \$2.5 million.

The media are compelling. Images of parents reading, holding, laughing, caring — those verbs again! — are juxtaposed with the faces of children just beginning to sense the excitement of discovering the wonder of themselves and the world around them.

A great part of this year's campaign — which will kick off next Monday — is a telephone number linking parents and interested adults with local information. Dialing 1.888.BE A HERO gets you in direct touch with trained staff that will direct you to information about programs and services in your own local intermediate school district. During peak times, calls will be answered by an automated voice mail system requesting a caller's contact information.

Fortunately, this private effort is drawing support from the public sector. One of the themes of Gov. Jennifer Granholm's State of the State speech was Project Great Start, through which the state's 57 intermediate school districts are being asked to define education as beginning at birth and not when a kid starts kindergarten. Over the past couple of years, something like \$90 million in state grants have jumped started community-based coalitions to help the parents of the 130,000 babies who are born in Michigan each year.

Public engagement is not limited to Gov. Granholm. A bipartisan Children's Caucus in the legislature is developing to help Michigan become a national leader in high-quality early education and care for young children. Former state representatives Pan Godchaux from Birmingham and Lynn Martinez from Lansing were key in starting the caucus a few years ago, with their departure from the legislature (thank you, term limits!), new leaders are stepping up.

A lot is coming together in all this. Brain science. Public policy. Private philanthropy and volunteerism. State government. Local teachers, nurses, doctors, clergy and parents. But the results could be, quite literally, revolutionary.

Readers interested in statewide information and resources for early childhood education and development can log on to www.readytosucceed.org. For information on the Michigan Ready To Succeed Partnership, go to www.readytosucceed.org.

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

Take me to the hospital, please

Normally, I tend to shy away from hospitals, having spent much time in my 43 years inside such facilities. Whether for broken bones, stitches or infections, or to witness the births of my children, I've had my fill of hospitals.

But lately I've been spending some time over at Providence Hospital, in particular its Assarian Cancer Center.

And I enjoy it. I'm not there as a patient (although if I were, I can't think of a better place to be), but rather as a community member.

I am a member of the Novi Chamber of Commerce's auction committee, which meets at the center every other Thursday afternoon to discuss the April 12 fundraising event that will benefit said center. We are coming up with some great items, everything from vacation packages to concert and sports tickets to memorabilia.

Once again, the Novi Hilton will be the site of this fantastic event.

If you would like to donate something to be auctioned, give the chamber a call at (248) 349-3743.

Last Thursday, the Assarian Cancer Center held an informational meeting regarding an exciting project that I look forward to her staff has created.

It's an opportunity for anyone in the Novi community to leave their own "Lasting Impression" via art.

Elena Weissman, supervisor, and her staff have created.

It's an opportunity for anyone in the Novi community to leave their own "Lasting Impression" via art.

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

Daring board decision surprises many

I have seen many things in my life—some bad, some good, some surprising and some not so surprising. One thing that I saw on Feb. 6 is something that I won't forget any time soon. It was the fact that the Novi Schools Board of Education agreed to go ahead in implementing an optional full-day, state-aid funded, kindergarten program in every elementary school next school year despite warnings from Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Jim Koster that state aid will be cut dramatically in every school district in the state of Michigan in upcoming years.

It was definitely a surprise, but I'm not sure if it can be characterized as good or bad. According to Superintendent of Novi Schools Dr. Emmett Lippe and Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services Dr. Rita Traynor, it's a good thing. I tend to agree with that, basing my judgment on the idea that the more time students are in school being taught, no-

matter what age they are, they are learning and growing up in a positive environment.

Even though I haven't personally seen any studies done on the subject, basic logic tells me that kids going into first grade from a full-day kindergarten would probably be more prepared for the educational journey which lies ahead of them then, say, a child who comes out of a half-day program. Of course I don't know that for sure. I could be totally wrong and the opposite might be true.

That is just one of the questions that is always brought up when this topic hits the fan. The other one, the more important one in my opinion, is money. I commend the school board for being daring and making a bold decision, but I just hope that it didn't shoot itself in the foot with this one. I have known for a long time that you can't please everybody, no matter what you do. This decision by the board may have pleased many people in the community tem-

porarily, but what will happen after the random selection process is completed and some parents who want to take advantage of the full-day program are told that there is no room for their children? Worse yet, what will happen a couple years down the road when the anticipated reduction in state-aid forces changes to the program?

Anybody who follows the happenings of this school district surely knows what kind of impact this kindergarten issue has brought about. Parents of these kids have filled all the seats at school board meetings lately, many of whom voiced their opinions on the matter and I think that's great. It shows what kind of heart this community has and the willingness to do whatever it takes to ensure that the children have the best education possible.

I just hope that this community will be prepared when some hard decisions will inevitably have to be made in the not-so-distant future.

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

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LET'S TALK JEWELRY WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN GEMOLOGIST

ALL THAT GLITTERS
Not only do gold alloys come in varying shades of yellow, but they also come in green, pink, or white. The purer the alloy, the more copper it contains. The greener it is, the more silver is present. There are various white gold alloys with the most common ones containing gold, nickel, and zinc. Most of these gold alloys were developed after the Second World War as substitutes for platinum. Before then, platinum was preferred for diamond rings in this country, but the government's declaration of platinum as a strategic metal curtailed its use. By the early 1960s, yellow gold had become the preferred metal for diamond rings. Now, the trend is reversing and platinum is becoming increasingly popular.

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Amanda Gelger never saw the drunk driver.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.

CLASS NOTES

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

From their hearts

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Orchard Hills students celebrate Valentine's with elegance - after being tacky

Every Valentine's Day the students at Orchard Hills read a book called "Tacky, the Penguin" by Helen Lester about a tacky penguin who saves the day. With that, they discuss tacky behaviors and dress and the contrast of it with good manners and elegant dress. They also have a tacky dress day where the kids come in with poorly knit, do-it-yourself, mismatched outfits and silly hats. The next day, there is elegant day where they really dress up to the hilt.

Novi Meadows sixth graders team up with Novi Cares for Senior Citizens for Valentine's Day fun

Sixth graders at Novi Meadows made some senior citizens' day - a lot brighter on Valentine's Day, as they invited them to their school for some ice cream, bingo and fun. The school teamed up with Novi Cares for Senior Citizens, an organization whose goal is to bring birthday and holiday celebrations to senior citizens in the Novi community who are not fortunate enough to have outside support systems.

"I'm really important for our children to give to others," Principal Mary Goedert said. "E.A.C.C. usually rallies around an effort to give to others and most of the schools picked different groups to give to, like the less fortunate people. We got an invitation from E.A.C.C. to give money. It's a way of having the children be involved in the giving to our party. That's how it got started."

The seniors were first treated

to a song which the students sang called "Ham and Eggs." The kids also sang "Singin' in the Rain" and a special version of the alphabet song with every letter standing for a "Valentines Day word." After that Principal Tim Falls introduced himself and welcomed the seniors to the school before they all sat down to play BINGO. Gifts were passed around and everybody ate ice cream and drank punch.

"Our room parents have helped a lot to get the party going," Ascher said. "We have ice cream sundaes, the kids have learned some songs to sing and we just have fun doing it. Other people who helped set this up were teachers Lisa LaPorte and Georgia Bingham."

At the end of the party, each senior citizen got to take home a picture, complete with frame, of themselves with the students.

Hat Day at Village Oaks is another sign of Valentine's craziness; students raise \$936.02 in donations for T.A.C.C.

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, Village Oaks partnered up with Novi High's Teens Aiding the Cancer Community (T.A.C.C.). Students were told that if they brought in a donation to the organization, that they would be able to wear a hat to school that day.

"It's really important for our children to give to others," Principal Mary Goedert said. "E.A.C.C. usually rallies around an effort to give to others and most of the schools picked different groups to give to, like the less fortunate people. We got an invitation from E.A.C.C. to give money. It's a way of having the children be involved in the giving to our party. That's how it got started."

Goedert explained that kids like to wear hats to school and a

Deerfield students measure out Valentine's postcards in math centers, then enjoy an ice cream sundae social

"This is a group activity," Deerfield first and second grade teacher Beverly Hatcher said. "We have kindergarten through fourth graders having an ice cream sundae party and we have our older children working with kindergartners to help them read their Valentines. We have a large group of parents here who are in charge of our buffet table and it's just a fun activity with the children coming together and sharing a good time."

Earlier in the day the students attended a number of math centers, where they measured out Valentine's postcards as well.

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



Photo by John Heider

With a spoon in her mouth, Deerfield Elementary School student readies herself to enjoy last Friday's sundae buffet celebrating Valentine's Day.



Courtesy photo

Puppets gone mad!

Nearly 500 Deerfield Elementary School students laughed, clapped and screamed with life-size puppets from Madcap Puppet Theatre. Using the bunraku style of puppetry, the Madcap actors wore black clothing and black face covers as they presented an updated musical version of the classic fairy tale, Rumpelstiltskin.

Deerfield teacher, Amy Huszco, was selected from the audience to play the part of Rose, a young maiden who is forced to spin straw into gold. After the play, students learned that puppets, including those in Rumpelstiltskin, are from five to 12 feet tall and take up to six weeks to make. The actors showed how they operate the puppets arms, legs and mouths. For example, the 12-foot-tall puppet is mounted onto a metal backpack frame which is worn by the puppeteer. The puppeteer hides himself under the puppet's long, flowing costume.

Madcap Production Puppet Theatre is a nonprofit, touring children's theater company which combines giant puppets with actors to create a unique style of puppet theater. Madcap Puppets is based in Cincinnati, Ohio and can be reached on the web at www.madcapuppets.com.

The students are Rose Maysen (white shirt) and Logan Flynn (stripes). Both are kindergarten students in Mrs. Smith's class. The puppeteer is Tim Wells.

Family night nets a win at Meadows

High schoolers mingle with fifth and sixth graders in night of fun playing volleyball

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The spikers and servers were out and about at Novi Meadows Feb. 7, as the high school varsity volleyball team visited for the annual Novi Meadows Family Volleyball Night. For the third year in a row, elementary kids, parents and high schoolers all got together for a night of volleyball, socializing, autographs and ice cream Sundae.

"The event is sponsored by the PTO," Committee Chairman and PTO Volunteer Christie Santure said. "It brings high school students together with fifth and sixth graders."

The kids all did cheers and they interacted with the high school girls and families, as well as coaches and managers. All the family's played volleyball for an hour or so, with random selected teams. Two high school girls were captains and there were eight teams in all.



Courtesy photo

Novi High's varsity volleyball team poses with sixth grade students from Novi Meadows.

"It's not a competitive thing at all," Santure said, "It's all for fun and everyone has such a wonderful time. Laurie Hildebre, the other committee chair and I put on the event together."

Donations from Big Boy included the ice cream so everyone was able to make their own Sundae after playing volleyball. Donations from Circuit City were gift cards as door prizes and the Meijer in Westland donated money for paper products, toppings for Sundae and decorations.

"After we played volleyball the varsity girls brought their volleyball net to have a scrimmage," Santure said. "The girls showed the kids how to spike and serve, then the coach introduced all the girls. They all stated whatever class they are in and what goes on with their season."

Santure enjoyed the night and hoped the younger students got

more than just fun out of it. "We hope the kids have more of an interest in maybe going to see volleyball at the high school and to be involved with the high school girls," she said. "The families all had a fun evening with friends because it was their first experience with families from other schools. It really puts families together because families get to know a lot of families from across town. It's also a great experience for the high school students to mingle with fifth and sixth graders. We did an autograph session with the team picture from the high school and all the kids got autographs. The spotlight is on volleyball at high school and it is just cool to interact."

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



Courtesy photo

"What a difference a day makes!" Orchard Hills first grade students show their "tacky" sides as they celebrate Tacky and Elegant Days.



Courtesy photo

Novi Meadows students pose for a picture with senior citizen Bernice Harris at the school's Senior Citizens Valentines party on Friday. Students pictured from left to right are Josh Lovatt, Ryan McPhee, Sam Valkanos, Beth Andrews, and Carly Houston.



Courtesy photo

Fourth graders from Tom Guilmette's class at Village Oaks share the love on Valentine's Day by making cards for the senior citizens at Whitehall Healthcare Center of Novi.



Courtesy photo

"Orchard Hills students are dressed to the 'hilt' in celebration of Elegant Day where they learned the importance of manners and specific behaviors for when you are dressed up."



Photo by John Heider

Elsa Showmaker, right, and Maddie Potts were among the many Village Oaks students who wore hats to last Friday's Hatday fundraiser event.

ORCHARD HILLS: School celebrates, cuts the red ribbon

continued from front page

had a dentist come in and talk to the first graders in it. Three kinds of programs are ones that the room is going to become used for, including PTO meetings."

The multi-media center is state-of-the-art in terms of not only its looks, but for what staff will be able to do with more students because of the computer lab, LePiae added.

The open house was to recog-

nize the construction management team that was involved, the architectural firm, the administration, the teachers, the PTO and the students who were a part of this project.

Orchard Hills is no stranger to construction. It has only been a little over six months since the school had a new hallway installed. And when LePiae came to Orchard Hills in 1986, the media center was about one-fourth the size of the one that's

there today. Within the fourth year of LePiae's tenure at the school, the media center's size was doubled and now it has been doubled again in terms of floor space and it has gone up two stories.

"It's really sharp looking and needless to say our students and teachers are really excited about using it," LePiae said. "There is heavy furniture in there that is brand new and we have a smaller room in the media center for multi-media productions."

The school does a Friday television newscast with four student reporters, LePiae and a student who mans the camera.

"The multi-media productions room is available to our teachers to use for their classes to come down and do some filming," LePiae said. "They can still do that in their classrooms, but now they can do it in more of a sound-proof-type area. We also have a brand new computer lab with Dell computers that everyone can use

and teachers, and students can go there as full classrooms for special projects."

"I know how excited everybody is about these additions," LePiae said. "The students are very proud and I think for that reason they will take good care of it and it will be here for generations to come."

There are also computers in their classrooms, but a whole set is in the computer lab.

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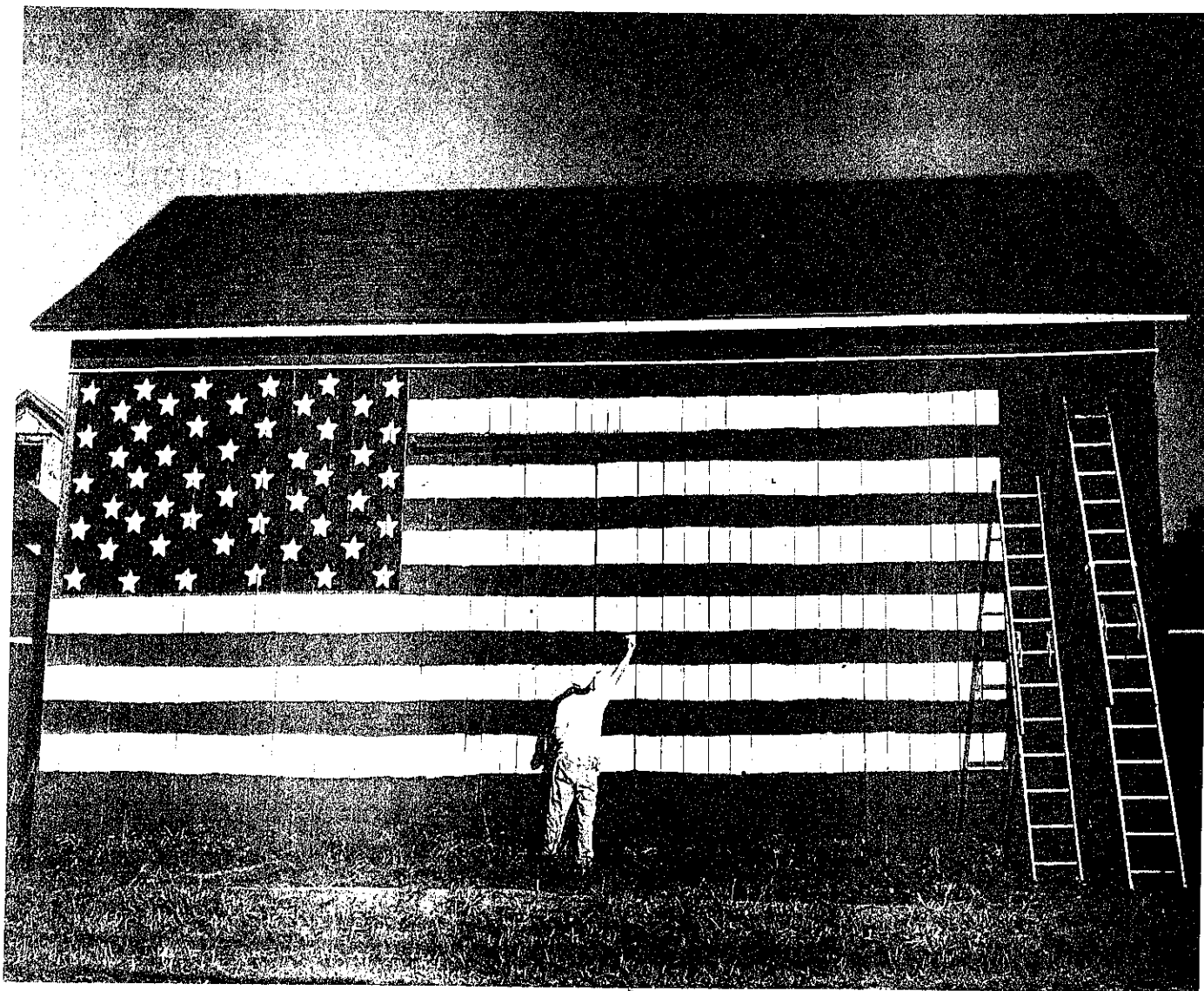
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Award-winning ventriloquist pays a visit to VO

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Students at Village Oaks Elementary received a lesson in conflict resolution when Richard Paul, an award-winning ventriloquist, speaker and children's author, came visiting. Paul entertained the kids with the help of some puppets, personal stories and audience involvement, but most importantly, he got the message across that getting mad doesn't mean getting even.

Paul told a story of his childhood about how a classroom used to steal his hat off his head and throw it in the field every day at school. He resolved the problem by buying a handful of hats and each time the classroom stole one, Paul would just reach into his pocket and put a new one on his head.

"The whole purpose of the show is conflict resolution, resolving conflict in a humorous way," Paul said. "I teach understanding, how to understand differences in people and respect people. Understanding that everybody has different ages or maybe different levels. You shouldn't make fun of them; you should always try to understand them and respect them for that and you can avoid any conflict with them."

Paul said that students should avoid making fun of other stu-

dents so people's feelings don't get hurt. "When you make fun of somebody else, chances are you're going to create a conflict or an argument between you and the other student or various other students and that's a problem," he said. "My main part of this program is to teach anger management. That's why I told the story about what happened to me with the hat being stolen. That was a true story and what I did to resolve it was true. I realized back then that I had the sense to know that there was a peaceful option. It worked for me. Will it work all the time? I don't know, but the whole point is to teach the kids that there is another option besides getting all mad, using your fists and saying things that you're going to be sorry for."

Before taking his show on the road, Paul did much research with school psychologists and friends who are in the psychology field on anger. He found that a lot of anger is in everybody. It's an emotion that people must learn how to control it.

"I don't want to say it will magically go away, but the idea is to take the edge off by taking a week to think clearer," he said. "When you think clearer you are going to say the right thing versus the wrong thing, and that message can be for kids or adults."

Another part of his program is communication. "I think that we have a poor communication with ourselves," Paul said. "We have a conflict with ourselves and some of the psychologists in the school told me that some of the kids say that they are dumb or stupid and

that's not a good thing. That's low self-esteem, but the main thing is, now they are in conflict with themselves. If they are mad at themselves, they are going to get mad at somebody else too. So the idea is to try to teach the kids in the limited time that I have, to understand themselves and then you can try to avoid any conflict."

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

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Thursday, February 20, 2003

BUSINESS BRIEF



Shooting trouble

Sanford Schupp and John Enot have opened a new Computer Troubleshooters franchise in Northville and Novi, Strategic Systems Services, Inc. Ranked the #1 Tech Support franchise by Entrepreneur magazine, Computer Troubleshooters provides a complete range of onsite computer services—including repair, upgrade, and networking—to small businesses that don't have a full-time IT person on staff and to private individuals.

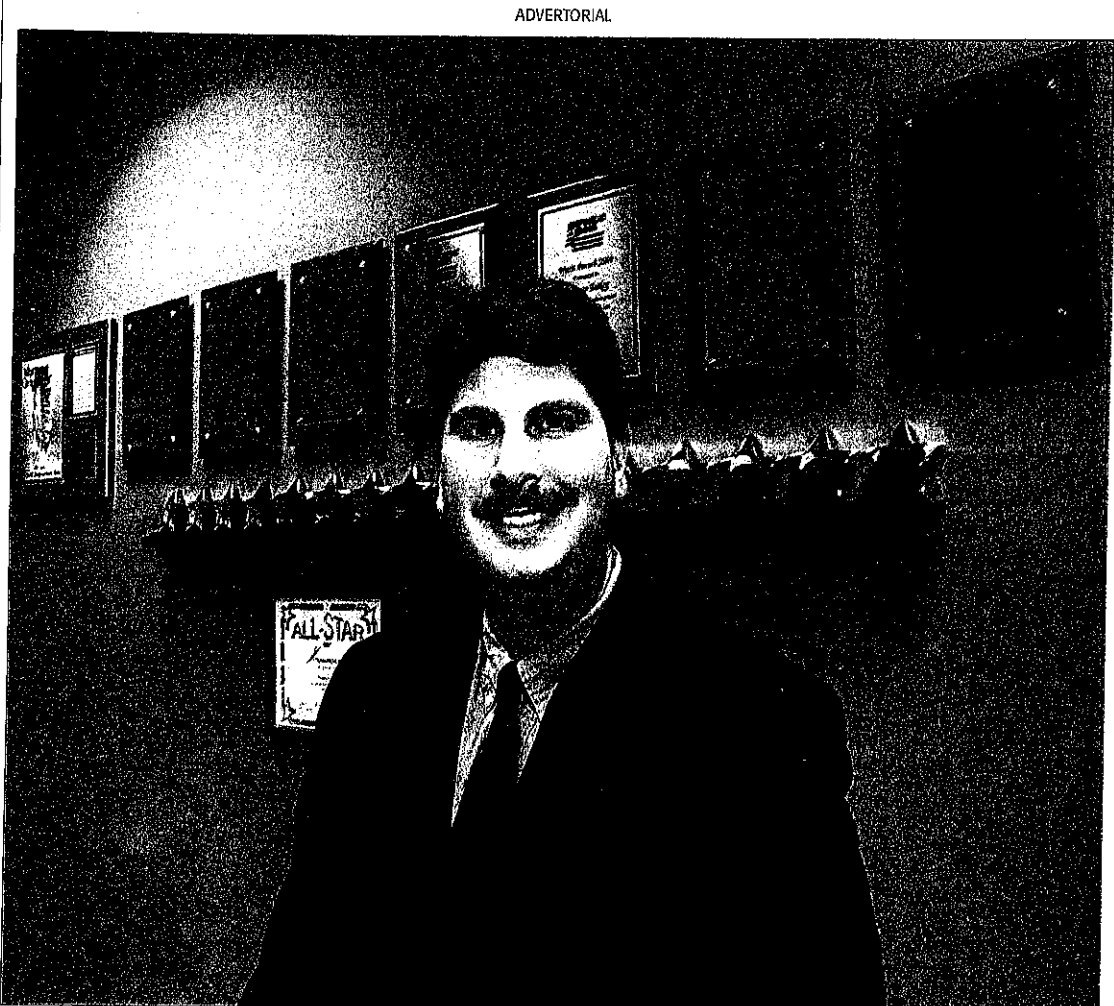
"Our customers, especially our small business clients, need the convenience of onsite service. They can't afford to disconnect their PC, drive it to a computer store, then wait a few days for their repair or upgrade," said Chip Reeves, National Director for Computer Troubleshooters USA. "Our customers depend on their computers every day, and most prefer the speed and convenience of onsite service. As an added benefit, our rates are lower than many of our competitors because Sanford and John don't have the overhead expense of a retail store."

Computer Troubleshooters services go way beyond fixing broken computers. According to Strategic Systems Services, Inc. President and CEO Sanford Schupp, "Small business owners know how crucial their information is, but often need help maintaining reliable information systems. Computers, their components, and software will occasionally fail. We can help our customers minimize the number of failures and the impact those failures will have. We can help customers with virus protection, back up systems, system monitoring and even the training needed for daily work."

Sanford (Sandy) Schupp, President and CEO of Strategic Systems Services, Inc. has been a resident of Northville for 7 years. Both he and John are active in various charity activities such as the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundations Ride for Kids and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

About Computer Troubleshooters: Founded in Australia in 1997, Computer Troubleshooters' unique business model stresses friendly, personal service from a network of independent, local franchisees. With over 150 locations worldwide, Computer Troubleshooters is the world's largest computer service franchise and is ranked the #1 Tech Support franchise by Entrepreneur magazine.

Strategic Systems Services, Inc. (Computer Troubleshooters—Northville/Novi) is the seventh Computer Troubleshooters location in Michigan, joining other franchisees, which opened last year.



Thomas Tuckey, a mortgage consultant with Republic Bank, says the bulk of his business comes directly from past customers.

Mortgage consultant will be your lender for life

By Elizabeth Heer
SPECIAL WRITER

Tom Tuckey lives and works by one simple premise: "A wise person once said that if you enjoy what you do for a living, you'll never work another day in your life. I think that applies to me. I truly enjoy what I do, and I've been very blessed from my work, because it has given me the biggest financial decisions of their life—the purchase or refinancing of their home," he said.

Not only that, he wants to be your lender for life.

"That's my tagline. I'm a firm believer in that. My goal is not to do just one loan then forget about the client, but to help them later with other purchasing or refinancing. And help their friends, family, and coworkers," he said. "The bulk of my business comes directly from past customers."

Tuckey makes every effort to treat each client as if they are a million dollar customer, and to provide them with the best level of customer service. That means finding the best program rate and getting the lowest closing costs possible for every customer.

"I see some of the closing statements from some of my competitors, and I think there's no reason for those high closing costs, except that they are making extra money on them. My goal is to keep closing costs as low as possible."

As a mortgage consultant, Tuckey's mission is to make sure his customers get the best deal on financing. Whether looking for a new mortgage or possibly refinancing an old one, Tuckey recommends the advantages of meeting with him at least once a year.

"We have so many options, you just owe it to yourself. The reason being I've helped people refinance, do different financing they never thought would be possible, or pull out cash for different reasons," he said. "For example, I had a customer who didn't dream they could, or should, refinance because they were going to be moving in the next three years. Well, it actually was the perfect time to refinance. We got them on a three-year adjustable rate mortgage, and they saved \$250 a month just from switching from their 30-year fixed mortgage to the three-year ARM. People don't

realize how much they can save," he explained.

The reasons for refinancing, Tuckey advises, are almost endless, whether purchasing new property, starting up a new business, or taking advantage of the lower interest rates. Of course, an obvious advantage is to lower those monthly payments.

Another reason is lowering the term of the loan. A third reason is to acquire cash out.

"Many people want to consolidate their debt to pay off credit cards, combine a primary and a second mortgage, purchase vehicles, trailers, boats, or a second home. To make a long story short, your house is just about the only tax break you get anymore," he notes.

One of the best places to do that is at Republic Bank, a bank that originates their own loans and also processes, underwrites, approves and closes loans in-house. To save time and offer convenience, the bank has on-staff appraisers. "It's just one way we can streamline the process," he said.

Tuckey brings to his job 12 years of banking and mortgage

experience and expertise anchored with a bachelor's degree in economics from Michigan State University and a master's degree in finance from Walsh College. Continuing education is a priority, and he attends as many seminars as he can. After working in managerial positions with responsibility for a number of different banking areas, Tuckey found mortgage financing and the face to face with customers more enjoyable than anything.

"I love the customer service relationship where every transaction is different, nothing is ever the same. I especially love working with new homebuyers. There is such excitement for someone buying their very first home that is so great to see," he said. Tuckey makes a point to attend as many of his closings as possible, and closings for purchases are a special priority to him.

Not long after joining with Republic Bank in 1998, Tuckey quickly made a name for himself, earning the Rookie of the Year Award in his first year. He has continued to excel, earning

the President's Quality in Service Award and a number of quarterly and annual awards, and has ranked in the top 10 percent of all Republic Bank loan officers for the past two years.

Tuckey and his wife, Beth, have happily resided in New Hudson for the past eight years where they are raising their two children, Andrew and Amanda.

"We couldn't be happier here. It's without a doubt the best move we've ever made," Tuckey said. "I'm basically a very simple guy. Family is the most important thing to me, but my work is right up there, too. I can have a flexible schedule, which allows me to meet with clients whenever they want, but still have time for my family."

Tuckey enjoys the small town atmosphere of South Lyon. It feels like home to him, having been born and raised in a small town in the Thumb area of Michigan. He finds ample opportunity to volunteer his time to the community as a member of the South Lyon Chamber of Commerce and the Jaycees.

"I just want to thank the South Lyon area," he said.

Tax Tip

Selling your home

If you sold your main home, you may be able to exclude up to \$250,000 of gain (\$500,000 for married taxpayers filing jointly) from your federal tax return, according to the IRS. This exclusion is allowed each time that you sell your main home, but generally no more frequently than once every two years.

To be eligible for this exclusion, your home must have been owned by you and used as your main home for a period of at least two years out of the five years prior to its sale. If you and your spouse file a joint return for the year of the sale, you can exclude the gain if either of you qualify for the exclusion. But both of you would have to meet the use test to claim the \$500,000 maximum amount.

If you do not meet the ownership and use tests, you may be allowed to exclude a portion of the gain realized on the sale of your home if you sold your home due to a change in health or place of employment.

If you cannot exclude all the gain from the sale of your home, use Schedule D, Form 1040, to report it.

For more details and information, get a copy of Publication 523, "Selling Your Home," by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676), or download it from the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov.

DETAILS

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Tom Tuckey
Republic Bank mortgage consultant

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SCHOOL BRIEFS

Cookin' up finances

Deerfield's first and second grade students put on a bake sale on Feb. 10-12 to complement their economic unit. Grades three and four had businesses during the mini-society.

Students spent a month learning about economics. They created their own currency, learned about supply and demand, established businesses complete with licensing and rental fees, developed products to sell and experienced bookkeeping skills needed. Feb. 12 was Parent Day at Mini-Society. It was the final sale day when parents had the opportunity to exchange real money for "Moneyopoly" and then shop 'til they drop! Real money was then used by the teachers to purchase items to be auctioned to the students. Students used their profit Moneyopoly to bid on the auction items.

Fighting polio

Deerfield fourth grade student Sandeep Palepu received a certificate for \$50 and a plaque from the Novi Rotary Club on Feb. 6 for his portrayal of Jonas Salk, who discovered the polio vaccine during the school's "Wax Museum" presentation in December.

The Rotary Club invited Palepu and his mother, along with Deerfield Principal Richard Njus, to its meeting, where the certificate and plaque were presented. The Rotary is making every effort to eradicate the world of the disease.



Michigan Opera Theater sends a strong message

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Sixth graders at Novi Meadows received an entertaining lesson about cigarette smoking when the Michigan Opera Theater (MOT), performed the musical, "The Night Harry Stopped Smoking" on Thursday. The play was sponsored by the Novi Botsford Health Center.

"This is an anti-smoking musical for young students," Mark Vondrak said, who is the Michigan Opera Theater Tour Manager. "We have been performing it for a number of years. It helps to re-inforce the message of not starting to smoke and to stop smoking if they have already started. We do have a fun presentation. It's both lively and comedic at the same time."

The show features four singers, including Vondrak, who

plays the role of Harry, a pianist and five or six students as well. The students played the role of oxygen cells, also known as alveoli. "The story is that Harry is the smoker and he falls asleep in his chair," Vondrak said. "When he wakes up in a dream inside of his lung, all these cells, nerve cells, oxygen cells, cleaning cells and the heart all talk to him of the dangers of smoking and by the time he wakes up the next morning he stops smoking. That's the major point of the show."

The four artists, other than Vondrak, are Maria Cimarelli, who plays the roles of Ginger the nerve cell and Celia the cleaning cell, Karl Schmidt, who plays Fred the nerve cell, Sid the cleaning cell, Pumper the heart and Harry's friend Elliot, Christopher Vaught, who plays the leader of the oxygen cells and Cindy Seigle, who plays the piano.

Two students who watched the play, Andi Li and Goutham Kondapi, both enjoyed it and understood the message that was being put across. "I thought the show was really good because they showed how we should not smoke because it's not good for your body," Li said. "I liked the part that showed how dirty the cells were."

Kondapi agreed. "I learned that there are over three hundred million air sacks in your lungs," he said. "I learned how awful it

could be for your body to smoke. I thought the show was informative and well prepared, they learned their lines well and they are really good actors. A lot of the sixth graders in the school are really smart, so they know a lot about smoking and this show only improved their knowledge about it."

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



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Your Church Could Be Here!

Wildcats enjoying view from top of the KVC

Lakeland, Brighton fall before Novi's onslaught

By Sam Eggleston and Jeff Plum
SPORTS WRITERS

Lakeland thought they were in this one — well, at least until a few minutes into the second half.

It was about one minute, 43 seconds into the third quarter when the Novi Wildcats decided to show their Kensington Valley Conference rivals the door with a crushing defensive presence and a well-oiled score-machine as they handed the Eagles a 51-37 loss February 11.

"In the first half they were in zone more before switching to man-to-man, which we like to play against," senior guard Matt Emmenecker said after the contest. "That helped us out a lot."

Not that the Lakeland Eagles were looking to help Novi out any. This was one of those games that the second-place team wanted so urgently to win. A victory for Lakeland would have meant that they not only beat Novi twice this season, but also pulled the 'Cats down to a tied position at the top of the Kensington Valley Conference. Unfortunately for Lakeland, and fortunately for Novi, that's not the way the game panned out.

Instead, the Wildcats pulled two games away from their nearest KVC competition and showed Lakeland that when you come into the Wildcat Den, you won't be pushing the 'Cats around.

"I have to give credit to all three of my seniors," Novi coach Pat Schluter said of Emmenecker, Chris Lewis and Chase Chandler. "They did a great job leading this team today. When things got tough, they were out there getting the job done."

Emmenecker led the Novi attack with 16 points on the night while Lewis added 10. Of course, you can't forget junior Brad Simpson, who followed those two with eight points of his own in the winning effort — including a game-opening three-pointer just 30 seconds into the contest. His defensive pressure was a major factor in the game as well.

"It was tough in the beginning of the game," Simpson said of covering senior forward Stephen Digsby and holding him to only seven points on the night. "Towards the end it became a lot easier. I find a way to get in the head of the guys out there, and I take them out of their game. That's what it takes sometimes."

The Lakeland Eagles are probably still trying to get this one out of their minds.

The Wildcats were quick to take a small 11-7 lead at the end of the first quarter, but Lakeland fought back to tie things up just two minutes into the second after a foul shot brought Ken Taylor, who led Lakeland with 10 points, to the line where he sunk both shots. Just a minute later, the Eagles took a 13-11 advantage before the Wildcats were able to utilize a nice running lay-in by Simpson and a steal and score by junior Brad Chandler for a close 17-15 in the final moments of the half.

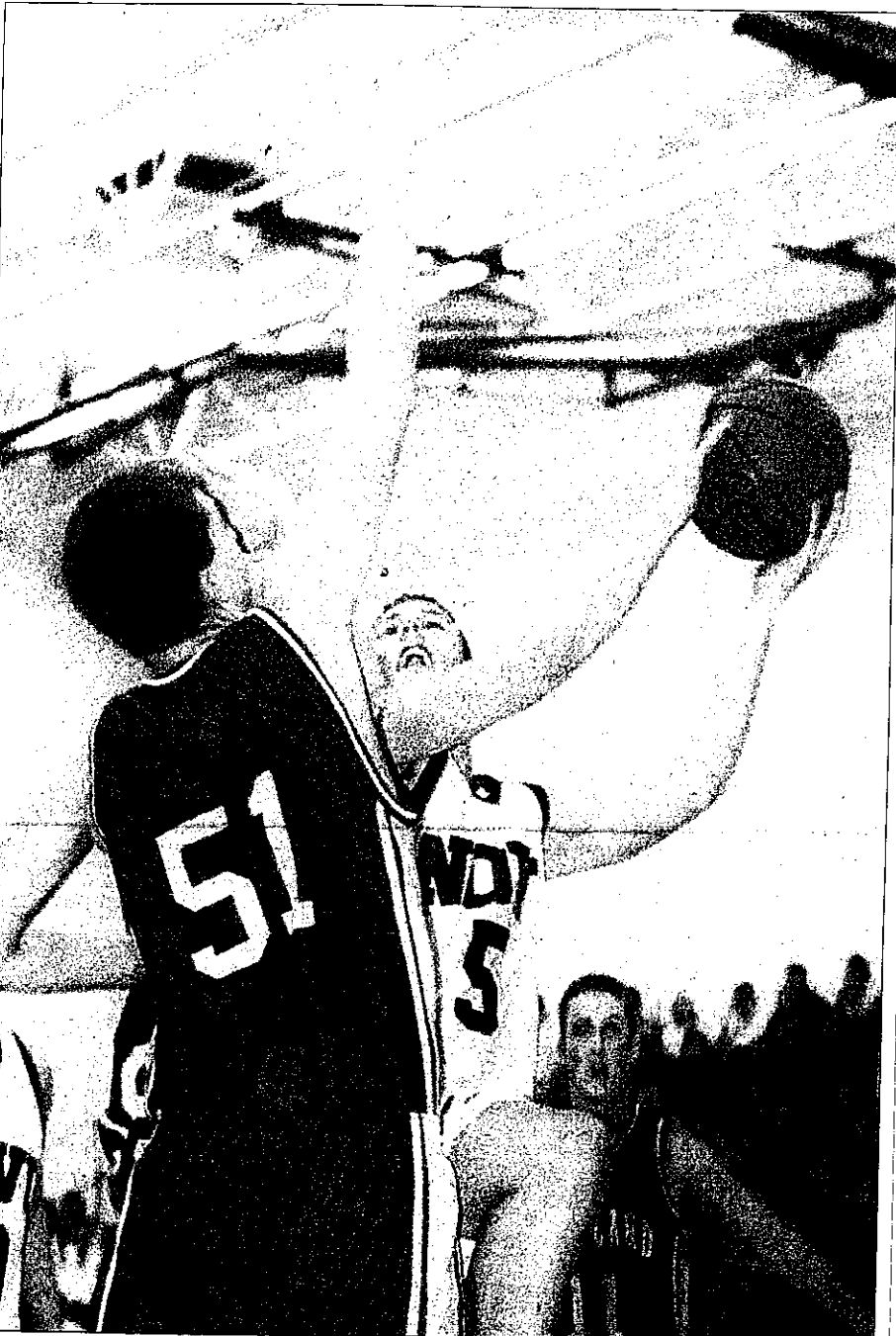
"It was a lot closer that we would have liked," Schluter said. "The second half we just came out with more intensity and forced them to switch to man-to-man defense. That's when we're in our game."

And in their game they were. The Wildcats' lead was cut to 17-16 after a foul-shot found the bottom of the net before Simpson drained a three-pointer 30 seconds into the half to give Novi a 20-16 advantage.

Though Lakeland managed to net another bucket just 16 seconds later to cut the lead to two, the 'Cats really never looked back. Novi went on a 13-3 run for the remainder of the quarter to hold a 33-21 lead over the Eagles.

The fourth quarter wasn't much prettier. Though the Eagles managed 16 points in the final eight minutes, Novi put in 18 of their own while playing a game of come-and-get-it with the ball. As time expired, Novi found themselves at the foul-line seven times in the final seven minutes of play, and converted on 12-of-13 attempts.

The final minute of play was filled with an impressive show of ability on part of Novi — including a steal from Chase Chandler that he followed up with a running assist to brother Brad for the score.



Novi's Chase Chandler goes up for two against a Lakeland defender in last Friday's home game. Photo by John Heider

"We wanted to show them that we shouldn't have lost to them the first time," Simpson said of Lakeland's earlier victory this season that has proved to be Novi's only loss. "I think we did a good job of that."

Though the scoring was fast and furious in the second half, it was the intense defense throughout the contest that kept the Eagles out of it. Junior Mike Hart collected seven blocks on the night, including a thundering block against Digsby in the third quarter that found him shaking his head and waving his index finger as though he was just letting everyone know that coming inside with their shots was a "no."

"This was a great team effort," Hart said. "We played good defense and scored some nice points. We knew they beat us last time, and we knew we had to get a lead to be effective in this game. Our defense allowed us to do that, and we just got pumped up after that."

Novi Blasts Brighton

The Novi boys basketball team utilized strong team defense and smart decision-making on its way to a convincing 45-25 Kensington Valley Conference win over Brighton Friday.

Novi (15-1, 9-1 KVC) stayed two games ahead of second-place Lakeland with four games left in the season.

Brighton (11-6, 7-4 KVC) fell into a third-place tie with Pinckney.

IMPENDING SIGNS OF DOOM — FOR LAKELAND

Luckily, the Novi Wildcats basketball team isn't a superstitious bunch. If they were, they may have taken all of the signs at the beginning of the game as a foreshadowing of impending doom. Instead, they were signs that Lakeland may have been keeping their peepers peeled for.

1. The Lakeland stands were just packed with fans, students and parents, while the Novi side of the gym didn't quite hold the impressive numbers it should have. The majority of the Novi bleachers were empty, and two people up there were from rival Kensington Valley Conference schools videotaping the game for reference, one was a college scout and three were sports writers from various papers.

2. The sound system went on the fritz and the National Anthem didn't begin playing for about a minute and a half after everyone stood to their feet. It was ample time for the Novi fans to start chanting "Let's go Lakeland."

3. The scoreboards wouldn't light up. Power seemed to flicker to them for just under two minutes or so before they were brought back to life by the patient workers of the scorer's table.

Novi's defense was the key. The Bulldogs went more than 12 minutes without a basket during two combined stretches of the game.

"They're a really tough defensive club," Brighton coach Mike Grest said. "Once you get behind, it's even more difficult because they can just kind of pack it in. Our shots weren't falling tonight. We weren't really rebounding well enough to run the break. And once they got the lead, they were able to spread the floor."

The dominating performance snapped the Bulldogs' five-game winning streak.

"We've stressed defense all year," Novi coach Pat Schluter said. "Brighton scores a lot of points. I never thought (the game would go like it) went tonight."

After trading baskets in the opening three minutes of the game, Novi went on a 10-0 run to end the first quarter and took a 15-6 lead. Schluter received a technical foul with 4:13 left in the second quarter,

and Brighton senior Eric Giesow made one of the two free throws, pulling the Bulldogs within six points, 19-13. But Novi held Brighton scoreless the rest of the half and took a 25-13 lead into half-time.

Novi opened a 31-18 lead to start the second half. Brighton junior Jayme Evans' 3-pointer with 3:18 left in the third quarter was the last Brighton point until senior Greg Wilson made a free throw with 3:19 left in the game.

Giesow was the lone Bulldog in doubles figures, scoring a team-high 14 points.

"We also missed a lot of our open shots. We got good looks tonight, but we just couldn't put the ball in the hole," Giesow said.

"I think once we got that lead, we kind of held the ball a little bit, made them play defense, and I think that's the style we like to play," Schluter said. "We like to push it, but once we get leads, we're pretty good because they have to guard us."

But Brighton did have trouble defending Novi senior guards Chris Lewis (20 points) and Matt Emmenecker (14). If it was not Lewis slashing to the basket for a fast-break layup, it was Emmenecker hitting a 3-pointer.

"It was a great effort from our kids," Schluter said. "It was a great team effort on defense, and I give my kids a lot of credit. They were well prepared, and it was a great game for us. I never thought that (we would win by 20 points)."

Cagers to continue their hot streak

The Novi Wildcats basketball team has opened the gap between them and their competition with a win over

Lakeland last week, but now they have to show their true dominance of the conference.



Sam Eggleston

And, who better to show such dominance on than the Milford Mavericks. A tough team in their own right, the Mavericks will be a good show of strength for the Wildcats.

Looking at the roster for the Wildcats and you have to be impressed. Though the majority of their points come from their three seniors, they have a talented group that knows their roles on the squad.

They have 11 juniors that are quite capable of filling in where they need to, including the dominating defensive presence of Brad Simpson and Mike Hart. Simpson is a bit quicker when it comes to covering a single player, but bring the ball inside and you'll be quick to meet Hart — he's the one that just rejected you. And when he's not in there smacking the ball away, Chris Scott will be. He's a good inch taller than the rest of his squad, so he's pretty easy to pick out of a line-up.

J.W. Woods is one of the quicker members of the team, while Mark Angelecci, Brad Chandler and Joey Fratto are more of the multi-tasking athletic types. Steve Gawronski and John Michael Peters have the ability to play the guard position well, while Ryan Corte is a good substitute at center when need be and Mark Saurer has the forward spot down pat.

The three seniors on the team are Chase Chandler, Chris Lewis and Matt Emmenecker. All three are the kind of players that most coaches would trade their assistants for. Chandler is good at defensive pressure, as well as nice parameter shooting, while Chris Lewis seems to enjoy taking the ball inside as well as prowling down low on the defensive end of the ball.

Emmenecker, well, he's one of those players that can make freethrows in his sleep. He can shoot from outside, inside, running, baseline, top of the key and probably even half-court. When he gets the ball, defenses collapse on him and then he dishes — which also makes him a weapon of choice on the hardwood.

Though Milford is going to be looking to knock Novi down a peg in the conference record book, I'm picking these Wildcats to take the victory.

Novi 56, Milford 44

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.

GAME OF THE WEEK

Novi Wildcats Basketball vs Milford Redskins

Tuesday, February 25 7:00 p.m. at Novi

Sign up to get Recruited

Farrell, Pacino keep you caught up with twists and turns

By Sam Eggleston
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Nothing is as it seems. That's probably the first statement that an audience member should keep in mind when they go and catch "The Recruit," starring Al Pacino and Colin Farrell.

Plot twists abound throughout this movie, as we follow bartender/computer programmer John Clayton, played by Farrell, through the journey of his recruitment, training and eventual use in the Central Intelligence Agency. Just about the time you think you have a grip with what's about to happen and what's going on in the movie, it will throw you for a loop. Of course, it's a movie about the CIA, so you would probably expect that.

Pacino plays an over-aged

and underpaid teacher and recruiter for the Agency, and takes time out of his life to track down and convince Clayton that being a spy is

in his blood. This ties in to the fact that Clayton's father, who supposedly worked for Shell Oil, disappeared when his flight went down over Peru 12 years before the setting of this film. Clayton goes for it, and soon finds himself busily learning the tricks of the trade at a place known only as "The Farm." The training area serves a single purpose, which is to take the recruits and applicants who made it to this point away from the distractions of civilization and away from the prying eyes of the public and the media. Here, they train to become

Official Coverts, which are spies that are known by everyone, which probably includes the governments in the countries which they are working. Out of every class though, there is a Non-Official Covert, or NOC.

Things twist and turn for Clayton, who finds himself attracted to one of his fellow students named Layla at The Farm, until he is eventually given the assignment to sniff out a mole who was with him and graduated from The Farm.

Things become a bit intense from this point on, and audience members find themselves being pulled into a fast-paced world of spies.

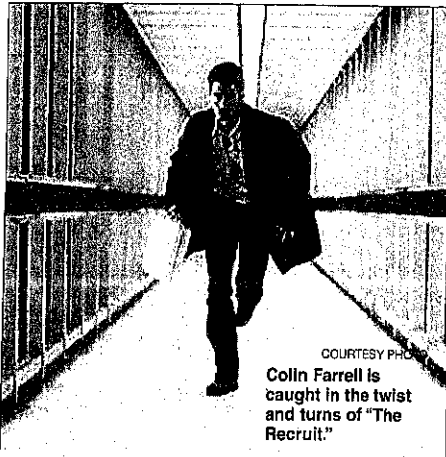
There are plenty of twists and turns to keep attentions fixed firmly on the screen as Farrell and Pacino do a nice job working their scenes together. Fast-

paced action comes and goes, and the movie forces you to keep thinking if you want to come up with the ending before they give it away.

This movie is a good one for those who enjoyed "Spy Games" and other films of that genre. You won't find yourself viewing exotic locations or sneaking into a terrorist camp with this spy-thriller, but it's one to keep in mind when you are looking to catch a show this weekend.

Just remember, nothing is as it seems.

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.



COURTESY PRC
Colin Farrell is caught in the twist and turns of "The Recruit."

VIRTUAL VIC

Dear Virtual Vic:

I recently found out my boyfriend isn't quite as wealthy as he led me to believe early on in our relationship. I've found myself in a situation where I do care for him, but I'm wondering how I should handle the situation?

Joe Millionaire in Novi

Dear Joe Millionaire in Novi,

How timely your question is. You may not need my advice after watching Fox's final episode of Joe Millionaire, but here it goes.

As I see it you have two issues to resolve. First of all, do you need a wealthy mate?

Put aside any feelings of what others may think of you and tell yourself the honest answer.

It doesn't matter if your answer means you are a "gold digger," what matters is you know what you want. If material wealth and the accompanying security is a necessity on your list, say goodbye to your man no matter how you feel.

A person can only pretend for so long and as my great-grandmother always said, a leopard never changes his spots.

What this translates into is your man will not change (including his wallet) and if it really bothers you, fess up now because the irritation will bubble to the top eventually.

Financial matters are a very large cause of break-ups.

OK, lets say the answer to the first question was "I don't care, my favorite meal is Ramen Noodles, and all I need is my man's hug to light my life."

Now you are faced with car-

ing for a man-boy that lied to you.

This is another biggie. From my past experience, there are two types of people.

There are the types that can forgive a liar and the types that can't.

I have friends that have looked the other way when lied to by their partners and those that just pack up and leave.

What type of person you are, only you know.

Is truth and trust foremost in what you look for in a relationship?

If it is, then cut the ties now. It will be easier than if you wait.

If you think you can forgive and forget, than have a good tell-all session and move forward with the relationship.

And remember the key word in the foregoing sentence is FORGIVE.

If you decide to pursue your feelings with your boyfriend, you must actually forgive him for fibbing about his income.

Bringing it up all the time or throwing his past lie in his face anytime you are mad is unhealthy and unproductive.

Just remember you are not the first person to be in this situation.

But also remember the answer to how you should proceed is in yourself.

It isn't in his excuses or pleadings, it is in your gut and only you really know what is best for you.

Sometimes being honest with yourself is the hardest task of all.

Send your questions to vsadlocha@ht.homecomm.net or seggleston@ht.homecomm.net and we may answer yours next week.



Victoria Sadlocha

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Offentimes I'm asked to describe the word bistro, forerunner of the word restaurant. The term is thought to have originated in the year 1815 when the Russians defeated Napoleon. Tired and hungry, needing to be restored, they rushed the streets of Paris enter-



Mary Brady

ing cafes in search of food and drink shouting "bistro, bistro" which translates as "quick, quick."

Today, a bistro is designated as an eating place where you're served simply and quickly. Traditional bistros are small and plainly furnished, offering a refuge from the outside world. Oftentimes the menu is written on a chalkboard offering "plats du jour" or plates of the day featuring the best offerings of the local market. The cooking is likened to "cuisine de meres", or food that mom makes. It warms the heart and pleases the palate. It is substantial, uncomplicated and generous.

Bistros are usually a mom-and-pop operation with the husband as barkeep, mom as cook and grown children helping where needed. The service is unpretentious and leisurely. The clientele are locals, many of whom have eaten at the same table night after night for decades. They are on a first-name basis with the owners and staff.

The bistro is an extension of the living room for many of the French people. They meet and visit with other neighbors on a daily basis while enjoying the hearty, earthy, rustic fare. Each region of France has its own style of bistro cookery using the ingredients indigenous to the area. Sausages, terrines, slow-cooked savory dishes and simplistic desserts are the norm. Wine is a very important element of the bistro formula. They, too, are unpretentious and usually come from nearby vineyards.

While writing this I've had the pleasure of mentally revisiting the many bistros in which I have dined. Fond memories were formed starting in Toronto years ago at Bistro

910. I was so cosmopolitan, sitting at the copper bar sipping French wine and eating pate', surrounded by a room of people chatting in French. Or, my first trip to Paris with two of my sisters, where we happened into a corner bistro and bravely ordered con-

fit. The 70-something, grandmotherish chef pulled a bucket of duck from under the counter, reached in bare-handed and plopped plump legs into a cast iron skillet. Our waiter, her husband, brought plates heaping with potatoes crisped in duck fat, and the legs with meat falling-off-the-bones.

We ordered more and more, forcing us to cancel our later reservations at a "stared" restaurant. On a subsequent journey to Paris with my husband we ate only bistro fare, choosing to abstain from haute cuisine. It was then that we decided to change the format of our restaurant, Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro. Once home we washed the walls in gold paint, hung mismatched art and re-fashioned the food. We removed the word grill from the sign and added "bistro" to the name. We've never looked back.

A year later we visited Provence. Starting in Nice we slowly explored France's southern most region. The food is solid, hearty, rustic and modest. Sensuous could be a fair descriptor, remembering the "oochs, aahs and mums" of each bite. Tiny vegetables bursting with flavor, macaroni gratins made with local cheeses, crisp regional wines, briny tapenades, juicy, garlicky sausages and crusty baguettes. This is a cuisine of the sun. Soft and warm from the land. Rich with history, and influenced by Romans, Italians, Arabs and Greeks... healthy, fresh, worthy.

While researching bistro fare for an upcoming catering menu I ran across this description of a bistro: An unpretentious neighborhood restaurant with a welcoming atmosphere, reasonable prices and a traditional menu of home-style cooking. The core clientele is made up of

COCUILLE SAINT-JACQUES

- 5 pounds sea scallops
- 3/4 cup sherry wine
- 2 cloves garlic finely crushed
- 1 cup thinly sliced button or shitake mushrooms
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 cups heavy whipping cream
- 3/4 cup reserved poaching liquid
- 1 cup finely grated Parmesan reggiano
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3 tablespoons chopped parsley

1. Place scallops in a single layer in a sauté pan and barely cover with water. Bring to a boil and poach until opaque. Do not over cook, as they will become tough. Drain and cool. Reserve poaching liquid.
2. In same pan sauté the garlic and mushrooms in olive oil being careful not to brown. Add sherry and reduce by half. Add heavy whipping cream and reserved poaching liquid and simmer until thickened, about 10 minutes. Season to taste.
3. Remove from heat and fold in scallops and cheese. Transfer to an oven proof shallow casserole, sprinkle with chopped parsley and place under a broiler until brown and bubbly.

Serve with steamed rice, a green salad and crusty baguette.

Recipe provided by Chef Mary Brady

habitues, usually neighbors.

To this I would add that the ideal bistro would be chef owned and family run, with a substantial history behind it and a strong sense of tradition. I couldn't have said it better!

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 contact her via e-mail at djbistro@aol.com.

Novi News

NOVI TOWN CENTER 8

Oscar Contest!

- First Place - 52 pairs of passes
- Second Place - 52 single passes
- Third Place - 26 single passes
- Random drawing held for other pairs of passes

Best Picture

- Chicago
- Gangs of New York
- The Hours
- Lord of the Rings-Two Towers
- The Pianist

Best Supporting Actor

- Chris Cooper
- Ed Harris
- Paul Newman
- John C. Reilly
- Christopher Walken

Best Actor

- Adrien Brody
- Nicolas Cage
- Michael Caine
- Daniel Day-Lewis
- Jack Nicholson

Best Supporting Actress

- Kathy Bates
- Julianne Moore
- Queen Latifah
- Meryl Streep
- Catherine Zeta-Jones

Best Actress

- Salma Hayek
- Nicole Kidman
- Diane Lane
- Julianne Moore
- Renee Zellweger

Tie Breaker

- Best Foreign Film
- El Cimen Del Padre Amaro
- The Man Without a Past
- Nowhere in Africa
- Zus & Zo

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Only one entry per person. Please send to:

Mail
Novi Town Center 8
26085 Town Center Drive
Novi, Mich. 48375
Fax
(248) 380-2870

All forms must be received by
Saturday, March 22, 2003.

SCREEN BEAT

By Brian Renner
THE MOVIE INSIDER

Coming to theaters this weekend is the crime suspense-drama "Dark Blue" which follows a rookie Los Angeles police department patrolman (Scott Speedman) who is taught the harsh realities of police intimidation and corruption when assigned to investigate a high profile quadruple homicide just days before the acquittal of four white officers in the 1992 Rodney King beating. Dark Blue is an MGM/UA release and rated R for violence, language and brief sexuality.

Fraternity-comedy "Old School" follows three former college buddies who, dissatisfied with their current lives, attempt to recapture their college years by starting their own off-campus frat house. Featured among the cast is Luke Wilson, Will Ferrel, Vince Vaughn and Juliette Lewis. "Old School" is DreamWorks Pictures release and rated R for some strong sexual content, nudity and language.

Sweeping epic "Gods and Generals" charts the early years of the Civil War and how the campaigns unfolded from Manassas I to the

Battle of Fredericksburg. This prequel to the film, "Gettysburg", explores the motivations of the combatants and examines the lives of those who waited at home. "Gods and Generals" is a Warner Bros. release and rated PG-13 for sustained battle sequences.

Social-issue drama "The Life of David Gale" is the story of a respected death-penalty opponent (Kevin Spacey) who finds himself on death row after he's convicted of the rape and murder of fellow activist Constance Haraway. Less than a week before his execution, an investigative reporter begins uncovering evidence pointing to his innocence, suddenly realizing that a man's life is in her hands. She races to uncover the truth about Constance's death. "The Life of David Gale" is a Universal Pictures release and rated PG-13 for violent images, nudity, language and sexuality.

Exclusively showing at the Imagine Novi theatre, romantic comedy adventure "PI. Blues," written, produced and directed by Berkeley, Michigan resident, Jim Dudek. The entire movie was shot on location in Metro Detroit using an all Michigan cast and crew. The

film stars John Denerell as a bumbling "wannabe" private eye who masquerades as a real private detective to help the poster beauty queen, "Miss Power Tool," (Dolores Raye), find her missing brother. Comedy ensues as the two try to outwit Russian gangsters, the police and other strange characters. "PI. Blues" is a Miami Entertainment Pictures release and is not yet rated.

Next week

Southern-set romance "All the Real Girls" (R), Martial Arts thriller "Cradle 2 the Grave" (R), and psychological drama "Spider" (R).

Video and DVD

Intimate drama "All or Nothing" (R), gritty crime drama "City by the Sea" (PG-13), period adventure "The Iron Fists" (PG-13), romantic comedy "Mostly Martha" (PG), psychological thriller "One Hour Photo" (R), interpersonal drama "The Rules of Attraction" (R), sequel "Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams" (PG) and higher education comedy

"Stealing Harvard" (PG-13).

DVD

"Biggie & Tupac" (R), "Cinema Paradiso: The New Version" (R), "The Color Purple" (Special Edition) (2-DVD Set) (PG-13), "Eve's Bayou" (Special Edition) (R), "Fear and Loathing" (Criterion) (2-DVD Set) (R), "The Killers (1946)/The Killers (1964)" (Criterion) (2-DVD Set) (NR), "Last Summer in the Hamptons" (R), "M*A*S*H: TV Season Three" (Collector's Edition) (3-DVD Set) (NR), "Metropolis" (Restored Authorized Edition with the Original 1927 Orchestral Score) (NR), "Monster's Ball" (Signature Series) (R), "O" (Special Edition) (R), "Sailor Moon Super S: Pegasus Collection #6" (Special Uncut Version) (NR), "Stargate" (Ultimate Edition) (2-DVD Set) (PG-13) and "Three Stooges: Stop! Look! and Laugh!" (NR).

For more information, please log on to The Movie Insider at www.themovieinsider.com. Please direct any questions, comments, and/or feedback to brian@themovieinsider.com.