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**INSIDE**

**Robbers caught**

After one week of evading police, two of the suspects wanted in connection with kidnaping a Fenton Township family and later stealing \$1 million worth of merchandise from a Novi jewelry store were caught and arrested in a joint law enforcement effort.

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**Silver lining?**

The Novi school district's financial situation may have gotten a little better since the last time Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Jim Koster presented an update to the board of education.

— Page 15A

**SPORTS**

**The Brotherhood**

Rugby's a sport that requires individuals to be prepared for a game of teamwork, brotherhood bonds and one of fun. For three members of the Northville-Novu Knights Rugby Football Club, it's a game of blood relationships and family friendship.

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## NYBL shoots for a Field of Dreams

**Organization reveals vision of a \$5 million sports complex**

By Victoria Sadlocha  
STAFF WRITER

If you build it, they will come, boast visionaries of a \$5 million community sports park in Novi. The conceptual improvement master plan for the baseball and soccer complex plus other amenities targeted for the city's current

73-acre Community Sports Park location was introduced during a March 25 luncheon presentation titled "Field of Dreams" held at the Novi Civic Center.

"How do we achieve a field of dreams?" asked Terry Croad, McKenna Associates, Inc. senior principal planner and director of design. "It starts with small steps."

The purpose of the event was to share with local officials, residents and members of the business community Novi Youth Baseball League's vision of an enhanced and needed athletic destination.

League officials said they antic-

ipate more than 600 youth ages 7 through 18 will participate in the NYBL program this year alone, and that estimate does not include hundreds of additional kids participating in the city's House T-Ball, coach pitch and girls fast-pitch softball programs.

Others working hard to generate support for the Eight Mile and Napier roads complex include Novi Parks and Recreation Commission Chair David Paul; Director of the City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Randy Auler; and the preliminary designer, Terry Croad.

Croad donated his time, provid-

**"How do we achieve a field of dreams? It starts with small steps."**

Terry Croad, McKenna Associates, Inc.  
senior principal planner and director of design

ing the NYBL with an engineering community park design encompassing a "wish list" of amenities.

Croad said short-term improvements to the current community sports park include regrading of the fields, irrigation, drainage,

seeding and landscaping.

The Novi resident and NYBL supporter said long-term improvements include installing brick dugouts, black chain link fencing, scoreboards, sports light-

continued on page 2



Photo by John Heider

**West Side Story**

Marla (Bethany Snow) and Tony (Tim Kava) meet during a dance scene of last Thursday's production of "West Side Story" by Novi High School.

## Business Implications

**War seems to have little impact on local financial institutions**

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

Business may be bad for bankers from Basra to Bagdad, but locally financial professionals are more concerned about consumer confidence than troop movements.

Area bankers and credit union officials say their customers and members hardly raised an eyebrow following the Office of Homeland Security's declaration of threat level Code Orange after the outbreak of war in Iraq.

"It's been business as usual," noted Tom Barrett, a commercial loan officer at Republic Bank in Northville. He said his customers

seem more concerned about how the war will affect the economy in the long term than the war itself.

Barrett said projects in the pipeline are moving forward and the typical indications of business shaking off the winter's chill are starting to appear. "The phone's still ringing," he said.

Tony Musu, sales and marketing manager at the Novi Community Credit Union, said he hasn't seen any significant impact on his members. "I think people understand it's a lengthy process and there's nothing to worry about."

He noted that unlike natural

continued on 3



For Phil Power's (HomeTown Communications Network chairman) perspective on the war, please turn to page 15A.

**Calls to local travel agents slow down with public's war worries**

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

Just when people thought it was safe to back in the water, the bombs started falling on Baghdad. Area travel agents say they haven't been getting any vacation cancellations, but they are a little concerned by what they haven't been hearing.

"The phone isn't ringing right now," said Mary Jane Leininger from Gold Key Travel. Leininger recently held a seminar for travel in troubled times and her advice is to think Alaska or the Caribbean.

A friend of Leininger's husband lives in Spain and was caught mid-air last September 11.

Leininger recalled that when the man finally made his way to their home in Novi, "He told us, 'Yes, it's very tragic, but we have small bombs all the time.'"

Diane Allen, owner of Walled Lake's Cruise Away Travel and Tours, said she has a "group going in July to Ireland," and that country has been wracked with sectarian violence for generations. She added she has another man booked on a Mediterranean cruise next March that will go through the Suez Canal.

Still, she said, though no one has canceled travel plans, she has noticed a slowdown in calls.

continued on 3

## Former Novi baseball star puts his life on the line

**A.J. Rowe battles in the name of freedom in the deserts of Iraq**

By Victoria Sadlocha  
STAFF WRITER

To many in the community, the name A.J. Rowe means baseball. The 2000 Novi High School graduate was a star athlete. He was even drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers after graduation.

What many in the community may not know is right now Rowe isn't rounding the bases.

Instead, the 21-year-old is risking his life in the desert of Iraq in the name of freedom.

Lance Cpl. Aaron Rowe is a machine gunner in the 1st Marine Golf Company, 15th MEU 2nd Battalion.

"I'm so proud of him," said mother Lynn Rowe.

The stalwart mom spoke of her son's service to his country, breaking down in tears only momentarily.

One of the hardest parts right now for Lynn is the uncertainty of how her son is doing.

"I don't have a clue where he is

now," she said. "It's tough and stressful."

Lynn said she stays glued to the television, listening for reports that may contain her son's unit.

Her prescription for making it through each day is the same as many other parents of soldiers - no news is good news.

The last time Lynn heard from her only son and child was in a letter she received the day after President George W. Bush bombed a "target of opportunity" in Baghdad on March 19.

The letter was written weeks before the war began.

"Well, it's weird here because you hear bombs blowing up in the background and hear jets flying

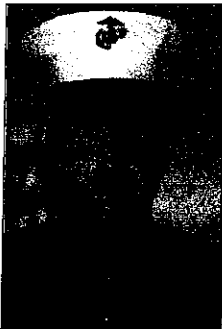
over all day. So, you just sit here and wonder - is that us or them," A.J. wrote to his mother.

A.J. told Lynn he believed the ground war would start sometime between March 8 and 10 and he had already received his "objectives."

Some of A.J.'s orders included working with the British to take southern Iraq.

At the time he wrote the letter, the former Novi high school star did not believe his unit would be going into Baghdad.

"I'm sitting in Kuwait at Camp Coyote," A.J. wrote. "Life sucks out here because I haven't show-



continued on 3 A.J. Rowe

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# NYBL: Shooting for a 'Field of Dreams'

continued from front

ing, additional parking, more restrooms, walking paths, maintenance and storage buildings, wildlife interpretive areas, shelters, decorative fencing and distinguishing signage.

Other amenities revealed in the master plan include eight ball fields, practice fields, seven soccer fields including one championship field, a roller hockey court, volleyball and basketball courts, bleachers, a picnic area and shade and rest stations to help "withering parents and children who are out there all day," Croad said.

**What:**  
\$5 million improvement project for Novi's Community Sports Park

**Where:**  
Eight Mile and Napier roads

**Needed:**  
Financial backing

**Contact:**  
Terry Croad at (248) 348-4390

interpretive trail around the park's wetlands and the use of boardwalks and observation areas.

The preliminary cost estimate for the field of dreams amounts to \$4.1 million for the park and \$1 million in contingency and design and engineering costs.

Croad said the ballfields alone are estimated to cost \$1.6 million for limited and championship upgrades.

The project supporters said they are looking at numerous funding options.

Grants, foundation backing, naming rights, public and private partnerships, fund raising, cash

and stock donations, in-kind services and bonds are all viable options.

"We're looking into every type of opportunity," Paul said. "When we start seeing money coming in, we can prioritize our options."

League officials said they hope to see their dream materialize in five to 10 years, but would be happy to have the entire project completed at once if funding was provided in one lump sum.

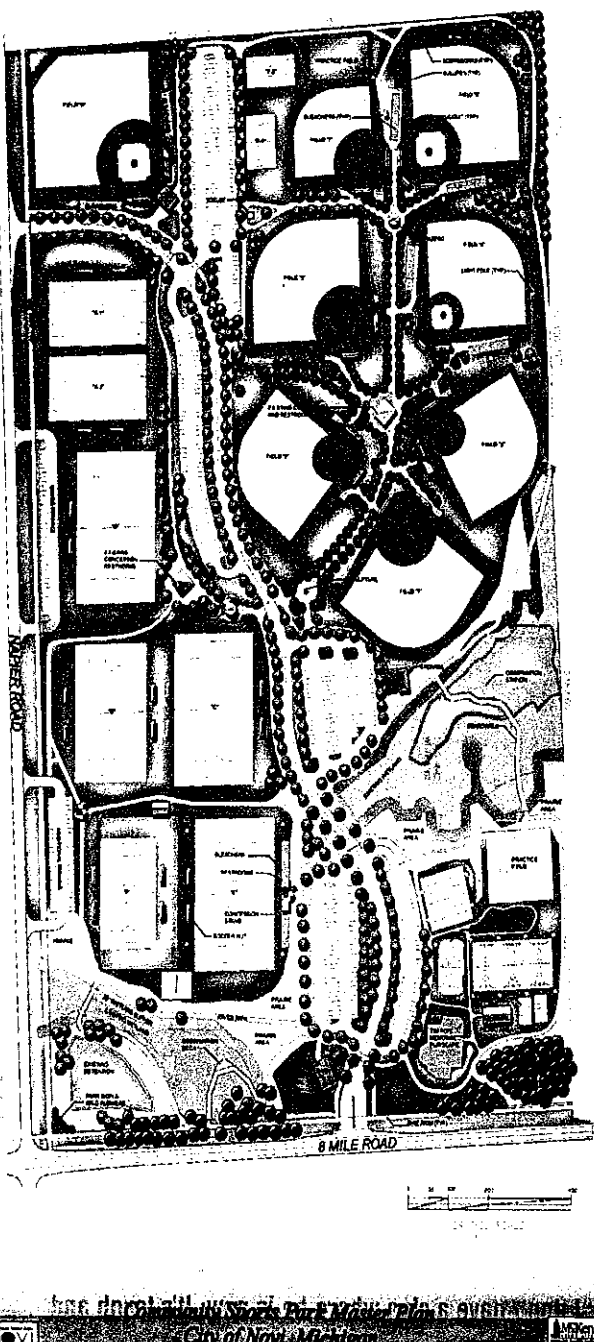
Auler said the envisioned sports park would boost the city in many ways.

"It helps us (Novi) be competitive in the marketplace," he said. "The parks and recreation director said studies have shown quality of life including a municipality's parks system is one of the main factors people consider when relocating."

Additionally, Auler said the improved park would become a distinctive piece of the city.

"It would become a showcase, a signature park for the community," he said.

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.



### WISH LIST

A \$5 million "wish list" of upgrades and amenities envisioned for Novi's Community Sports Park located at Eight Mile and Napier roads includes:

- Eight ball fields
- Practice fields
- Seven soccer fields, including one championship
- Roller hockey court
- Volleyball and basketball courts
- Bleachers
- Picnic area
- Seating for 1,000 to 1,500 patrons for soccer
- Specific fields for specific age groups
- Shade and rest stations
- Brick dugouts
- Black chain link fencing
- Asphalt pathway around the entire park with connectors to inside
- Scoreboards
- Sports lighting
- Additional parking
- More restrooms
- Walking paths and perimeter bike paths
- Concession stands
- Maintenance and storage buildings
- Wildlife interpretive areas
- Shelters
- New landscaping
- An enhanced, eye-catching \$350,000 entrance incorporating historical aspects of city
- Gazebos
- Press boxes
- Benches
- Boardwalks
- Football/lacrosse posts
- Regrading of the fields, irrigation, drainage and seeding
- Tim Pope memorial playscape

## POLICE REPORT

### Wrong way

A Novi officer was driving northbound on Novi Road past Grand River Avenue on March 31 at about 2:30 a.m., when he paced the car in front of him traveling 53 mph in a 40-mph zone. The 1993 Cavalier attempted to enter onto the westbound Interstate 96 ramp, when it suddenly swerved back to left at a high rate of speed causing the back end to fishtail. The officer pulled the driver over. The 21-year-old female behind the wheel told police she was on her way home from JW's Sports Club and realized she was getting on the

wrong ramp. The Westland woman said she had three mixed drinks since 10:30 p.m. After failing field sobriety tasks, she blew a .107 and was arrested by police.

### No way out

After a couple of attempts to hide how much he drank, a Novi man was arrested for drinking and driving. A couple of Novi officers detected the 47-year-old male on March 27 at about 11:35 p.m., traveling 60 mph in a 35-mph zone while they were running radar near Nine Mile and Meadowbrook roads. The officers stopped the Ford Aerostar van near Ennismore and approached the driver. According to the report, as the man was being told why he was

stopped, officers smelled a strong odor of intoxicants. Police said the man was also talking with some what slurred speech. After the man said he "had a few," officers began field sobriety tasks. The man said he only had an eight-grade education and was unable to do the counting and alphabet test. The officers administered physical tasks which the man was unable to execute. The Novi man then refused to take a preliminary breath test. The officers arrested him for OUIL. Later at the station, the man agreed to a PBT and blew a .14.

### Gas man sought

On March 27 at about 11 a.m., Novi police received a phone call

from a woman working at the Amoco Gas Station on 12 Mile Road. The employee said an unknown person driving an older model blue Lincoln pumped \$20 worth of gas and took off without paying. The woman told the officer the suspect is a white male in his early 30s standing about 6-foot-2-inches tall and weighing about 175 to 200 pounds. The employee said the get-away man has brown hair and was wearing a hat. The suspect left the station in the direction of southbound Haggerty Road, but police were unable to locate the described car and driver.

### Main Street larceny

A Livonia woman e-mailed

Novi police to report someone had broken into her vehicle on March 21 sometime between 8 and 10 p.m. in the city's downtown area. The 48-year-old female wrote police stating she had parked her car by the former Vic's Market and went to Mesquite Creek around 8 p.m. According to the report, when she returned to her vehicle two hours later, she found eight compact discs and her cellular phone were missing. When police investigated, they found no visible entry to the vehicle.

### Scattering want help

A Farmington Hills man learned the hard way that scattering marijuana throughout a vehicle won't hide it from police. On

March 25 at about 11:30 p.m., an officer stopped a 1998 black Toyota four runner traveling 54 mph in a 45 mph zone near 12 Mile and Dixon roads. While speaking to the 27-year-old driver, the officer smelled a faint odor of intoxicants. He asked the man to perform field sobriety task, which the driver did and passed with no problem. The officer then asked the man if he could search his vehicle. The man said yes. During the search, the officer found several small pieces of marijuana scattered inside the Toyota, amounting to about 1 gram. According to the report, the pot was found on the floor between the driver's door and seat, between the driver's seat and console and behind the driver's seat.

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## FINANCIAL: Impact said to be little

continued from front

disasters here at home, the war is an ocean away so there is no immediate, direct impact on his members' financial lives.

"Some people some place might be in a panic mode, but I've seen no evidence of it here." He added he saw more concern among his membership over the Y2K scare.

Shiela Gunn branch manager for Standard Federal Bank at Westmarket Square on Novi's west end, said many of her customers are talking about the war, but none of them seem effected by the war. Since the branch has been open not quite a year, Gunn said she really hasn't got a historical perspective on business, but people seem to be moving forward with their lives, refinancing more-

gages, buying new homes and such.

"We're doing well, but were still trying to get off the ground," she said.

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

## TRAVEL: Agents feeling effects

continued from front

"People are just at a point where they don't want to be away from home," offered Jim Ebehalt at Brookside Travel in Novi.

The travel agents agreed, it's not so much a fear of violence while traveling as a fear of not being able to get home if something happens.

worse things in the world than being trapped on a tropical island.

She added she's seen a rise in requests for cruises to the Caribbean and Alaska, but she's not sure it that's due to fears about Europe or just the normal cycle of the shift in popularity.

"Hawaii was hot and then it wasn't and now it's coming back again," she noted.

"I take approach to travel that it is something we can choose to do," said Ebehalt. "We can't let someone else dictate what we do."

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

## ROWE: Battling in the name of freedom in deserts of Iraq

continued from front



Above, A.J. Rowe in ready for battle in Iraq. Right, a hand-written letter from the soldier to his mother, Lynn Rowe.

"I don't have a clue where he is now. It's tough and stressful."

storms are crazy. It's like grains of sand flying at you at like 50 mph and you can't see 10 feet in front of you. Well, I'm doing good though, but I can tell ya, I'm never going to the Middle East for vacation."

A.J. explained to his mother his camp was composed of eight-foot berms for walls.

"Just imagine the biggest sandbox and multiply it by ten and that's where I am," he wrote.

Lynn said after a disappointing go in Milwaukee and a semester in community college, A.J. decided to enlist in the Marines.

"A couple of weeks after the towers went down, he left for boot camp," she said.

Lynn said her son left from San Diego on June 5 and landed in Kuwait on Feb. 12 for his new existence as a desert soldier in Camp Coyote.

The Novi mom said what surprises her the most is how mature he has become in such a short time. A poem he wrote to her with the poignant question directed to those not at war asked, "Is your life really that bad?"

But despite the sandstorms, fear of chemical attacks and the obligation and agreement to give his up his life, A.J. still does what any son would do.

He reassures his mother everything will be fine.

"You have to remember we are in reserve," A.J. wrote to his mom. "So don't freak out. I'm OK and I will come home."

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.

Lynn Rowe  
A.J. Rowe's mother

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USMC - A.J. Rowe

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# Recycling Authority wants the nasty things in your basement

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

Help keep Novi beautiful, take your trash to Wagon on Farmington or South Lyon. Actually, residents from all over Southwestern Oakland County can take their Household Hazardous Waste to any of a series of HHW collection events held by the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwestern Oakland County between now and October.

The first one is slated for April 12 in Wagon, said Recycling Authority General Manager, Mike Caspo. The authority's technicians won't be coming to Novi until September.

While residents of the authority's eight participating communities - Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi, Southfield, North Lyon, Walled Lake, Wixom, and Lyon Township - can bring their HHW to any of the collection sites, they must show proof of residency to participate.

According to Caspo, computer equipment, oil-based paints, stains, household and automotive batteries, motor oil, pesticides, herbicides, cleaners, fluorescent light bulbs, and other common household chemicals from residents' homes and garages are qualified as HHW. "We've even had people bring in five pounds of mercury, although I don't know why they'd have that in their home," he said.

Caspo added, "We get lots of mystery liquids. When we come in and find it, our husband likes to tinker and they found it in the garage after he passed away." He said, "Ninety-nine percent of the time our technicians can ID it right on the spot," and it turns out to be relatively innocuous.

One time, however, they had to shut down a collection in Novi and bring in a special HazMat team when a man brought in a box of long-banned pesticide. "It was essentially a nerve agent," said Caspo.

That, he said, is precisely the

| WHEN & WHERE   |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Hazardous Household Waste pick-up sites</b>   |  |
| <b>April 12: Wagon</b><br>Department of Public Works, 2057 Charms Road<br>10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  |  |
| <b>May 10: Farmington/Farmington Hills</b><br>Costick Center, 28600 Eleven Mile Road<br>9 a.m. to 2 p.m.   |  |
| <b>May 17: Southfield</b><br>Beland RRRASOC Recycling Center 20000 W. 8 Mile Road<br>Enter collection off Maple Ridge Rd.<br>9 a.m. to 2 p.m.      |  |
| <b>June 7: Lyon Township</b><br>Lyon Township Park, 58000 Grand River<br>9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  |  |
| <b>September 20: Novi</b><br>Novi City Hall, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road<br>9 a.m. to 2 p.m.   |  |
| <b>October 11: Southfield</b><br>Behind RRRASOC Recycling Center, 20000 W. 8 Mile Road<br>Enter collection off Maple Ridge Rd.<br>9 a.m. to 2 p.m. |  |



# Take a spring break from the sun

By Victoria Sadlocha  
STAFF WRITER

## COOL CLINICS

Looking for an alternative to sunshine and bathing suits this spring break?

Novi Ice Arena invites all breakers to trade their swim wear for hats and gloves and participate in the 2003 spring break program.

Registration is happening now for Suburban Hockey Management's spring hockey clinics at the city-owned arena.

"Suburban hockey will offer one-day, two-hour clinics at various locations throughout the Detroit area during the week of April 21 through 25," said Jennifer Sutherland, Suburban Hockey manager of corporate communications.

Sutherland said the Novi Ice Arena, one of the rink's Suburban managers, will hold Shoot to Score, Quick N' Fast and Puckhandling & Playmaking clinics while students are off from school.

The clinics will be held Monday, April 21 at the arena located at 42400 Arena Drive.

Sutherland said the benefits of each clinic are numerous.

"The Puckhandling & Playmaking clinic will teach stick-

backhand techniques, touch passing, snap passing and saucer passing," Sutherland said.

The Puckhandling & Playmaking clinic will begin that day at 10 a.m.

Next in the day will be the Quick N' Fast clinic, beginning at noon.

"The focus in Quick N' Fast will be quick starts, rapid acceleration, quick directional changes, foot quickness and lateral movement, over-speed training and full-speed puck control," Sutherland said.

Rounding out the day's activities will be the Shoot to Score clinic starting at 2 p.m.

The session will teach enrollees wrist shots, backhands, snapshots, shooting while moving, quick release and other scoring tactics.

The minimum age requirement for all clinics held at the Novi arena is 6 years old.

"Players will be grouped according to age and ability within the clinics," Sutherland said.

The cost for each session is \$45 per player or \$40 per session if the participant registers for more than one clinic.

Sutherland said enrollment is limited and interested spring breakers are asked to call (248) 478-1600 for more information or to register.

# Two suspects nabbed

Pair allegedly involved in a Genesee County kidnapping and Novi robbery were taken into custody with a joint law enforcement effort

By Victoria Sadlocha  
STAFF WRITER

After one week of evading police, two of the suspects wanted in connection with kidnapping a Fenton Township family and later stealing \$1 million worth of merchandise from a Novi jewelry store were caught and arrested in a joint law enforcement effort.

Both men were expected to be charged with kidnapping, armed robbery, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony and convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

Novi Police Chief Douglas Shaeffer said both of the suspects have lengthy criminal histories in the United States and Canada.

"Early in the investigation, detectives received a very thin lead from members of the community," Shaeffer said.

"Detectives utilized this information and began to focus their case on a group of suspects."

Novi police said the investigation continued, officers received information from the Windsor Police Department about one suspect's prior criminal history in Canada which showed some similarities.

Police said at that time the investigation branched out and brought other law enforcement agencies into the investigation including the FBI, Detroit Violent Crimes Task Force, Detroit Police Department, Michigan State Police, Genesee County Sheriff's Department, and the Novi Police Department including its SONIC unit.

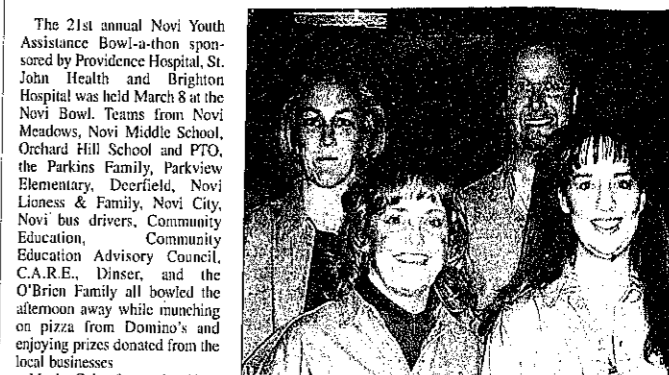
Undercover surveillance of the two suspects resulted in search warrants being served at five houses in Detroit on Thursday, March 26.

Investigators said the duffie bag taken from the kidnapping victim's house was found along with a large quantity of jewelry and watches with Jared price tags in the principal suspect's home.

"We believe the suspects disposed of some of the jewelry prior to us focusing our investigation on them," Shaeffer said.

Novi police said the arrests were a joint effort of law enforcement agency cooperation beginning with an immediate investigation started by the Novi Police

# Novi Youth Assistance Bowl-a-thon a huge success



The 21st annual Novi Youth Assistance Bowl-a-thon sponsored by Providence Hospital, St. John Health and Brighton Hospital was held March 8 at the Novi Bowl. Teams from Novi Meadows, Novi Middle School, Orchard Hill School and PTO, the Parkins Family, Parkview Elementary, Deerfield, Novi Lionses & Family, Novi City, Novi bus drivers, Community Education, Community Education Advisory Council, C.A.R.E., Disner, and the O'Brien Family all bowled the afternoon away while munching on pizza from Domino's and enjoying prizes donated from the local businesses.

Mark Cain from the Novi Lionses & Family was the winner of male high game with a perfect 300 and high series went to Terry Roberts from Strikers One, a team of School Bus Drivers, with a 714. High game for the ladies went to Janis Wagner, a teacher at Deerfield, with 240. High series went to Jane Johnson from Community Education with a 652.

"This is a great way to support a great cause such as NYA," said Janis Wagner, who was bowling

To volunteer for the 2003 Music & Motor Fest, call Jane Thomas at (248) 349-1950.

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OBITUARIES

Lisa Ann Armstrong

Lisa Ann Armstrong, age 40, of Tecumseh, formerly of Novi, passed away March 22, 2003. She was born February 20, 1963, in Hamtramck, Mich., daughter of Douglas and Sharon Ann (Phelps) Armstrong. She was a graduate of Madonna University, Livonia. She worked for Ward Medical Laboratories, Ann Arbor, and was a substitute school teacher in Lenawee County. She is survived by her son, Aaron Armstrong-Beykiran; her mother, Sharon Ann Armstrong; her father, Douglas (Darlene) Armstrong; two brothers, Bruce (Kris) Armstrong and Bryan (Paula) Armstrong; half brother, David Armstrong; two-step sisters, Jenny and Jody Turnage; and nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday in the Pursue Funeral Home in Tecumseh. Interment will follow in Brookside Cemetery, Tecumseh. Visitation will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday and 9-11 a.m. Saturday at the Pursue Funeral Home, Tecumseh.

when he died married. She preceded him in death in 2001. Mr. Sutherland worked for Chase Manhattan Bank in New York and later at Ferris State University, where he developed curriculum for an industrial photography program. He also worked for the Detroit Tank Arsenal during World War II. Mr. Sutherland was a charter member of the Northville Historical Society, First Presbyterian Church of Northville and was an elder emeritus at Saluda Presbyterian Church. Mr. Sutherland is survived by his son, Peter Sutherland of Saluda; his daughters, Dorothy Cosimoni of Great Cacapon, W. Va., Susan Lenton of Novi and Laura Becker of Grand Rapids; 12 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Funeral arrangements were handled by Thomas Shepherd & Son Funeral Directors and Cremation Memorial Center of Hendersonville, N.C.

Irene M. Pearson

Irene Pearson of Novi died March 30, 2003. She was 89. Mrs. Pearson was born March 28, 1914 in Trenton, New Jersey, the daughter of John and Julia (Horswala) Newark. She was a wife, mother and homemaker. Survivors include her daughter, Nancy (Vincent) Candelaria of Novi; seven grandchildren, Vincent, Jr., Dino, Darren, Maria, Paul, Michael and Marianne; four

To volunteer for the 2003 Music & Motor Fest, call Jane Thomas at (248) 349-1950.

THE NOV NEWS Published Each Thursday By The Novi News 164 W. Main Street Northville, Michigan 48167 Periodical At Northville, Michigan Subscription Rates: Inside Counties \$26 one year home delivery, \$35 one year mail delivery. Outside Counties (in Michigan) are \$40 per year, prepaid. Out of state, \$50 per year. HomeTown Newspapers: A Subsidiary of HomeTown Communications Network, Postmaster, send address changes to: The Novi News, Post Office Box 470, Howell, MI 48844. POLICY STATEMENT: All advertising published in HomeTown Newspapers is subject to the advertising policies of the parent company, HomeTown Communications Network. HomeTown Newspapers reserves the right not to accept advertising from any advertiser who does not have a valid business license in Michigan. HomeTown Newspapers' advertising does not constitute an offer of insurance and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. Postmaster, send address changes to: The Novi News, Post Office Box 470, Howell, MI 48844. Publication Number USPS 396290

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Youth volunteers sought for recognition

Novi Youth Assistance is looking for individuals who do behind-the-scenes volunteer work and are not formally recognized for their efforts. We would like to honor those youth living in the City of Novi who have volunteered their time and talents for the betterment of their organization, school, family and community while bettering themselves. All students nominated will be honored at the Novi Youth Assistance Award ceremony to be held on Monday, May 12, 2003, 7:00 PM, at Italian Epicure Restaurant. If you know of a young person who is presently attending high school and lives in Novi, please call the Novi Youth Assistance office at (248) 347-0410 for a nominating form. Nominations must be received NO LATER THAN Friday, April 11, 2003.

Helen L. Jezich

Helen Jezich of Farmington Hills died March 24, 2003. She was 78. Survivors include her son, James; and one sister, Virginia Palmer. Her husband, Nicholas, preceded her in death. A funeral service will be held March 27 at O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi. Interment will be at Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia. Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home.

Karl Russell

Karl Russell died March 27, 2003. He was 55. He was born August 16, 1947 in Attica, Mich. to the late Louis Dean and Lulu Mae (Hayes) Russell. Formerly of Lyonia, he moved to South Lyon in 1974 and was a member of the First United Methodist Church of South Lyon. He loved camping and hunting. Survivors include his wife, Jeannette Russell of South Lyon; three daughters, Deborah (Glen) Dillon of Marion, Mich., Tammy (Trevor) Plasecki of Howell, and Desiree Russell of South Lyon; three brothers, Duane, Clayton, and Roy; four sisters, Marilyn, Norma, Beverly and Deanne. He was preceded in death by three sisters and one brother. A funeral service will be held March 31 at the First United Methodist Church, South Lyon. Memorial contributions may be made to the family for the children's education fund. Arrangements were made by Phillips Funeral Home, South Lyon.

Sheldon "Andy" Anderson Watson

Sheldon "Andy" Watson of Farmington Hills died March 28, 2003 at Beaumont Hospital. He was 80. Mr. Watson was born April 4, 1922 in Indianapolis, Ind. He was a member of Orchard United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills and a life member of Plum Hollow Golf Club in Southfield. He had been employed as a sales engineer with Thompson Industries (ITT Automotive). Survivors include three sons, Ronald (Donna) Watson of Novi, Sheldon "Andy" (Cynthia) Watson of Farmington Hills, and Steven (Melissa) Watson of Livonia; one daughter, Sara

The Novi Chamber of Commerce's annual charity auction is Saturday, April 12 at the Hilton.

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BUSINESS



Artist Christina Calderon-Roberts paints part of the mural she designed last Thursday morning at the Bamboo Club restaurant at Novi's Fountain Walk. Calderon-Roberts uses acrylic and house paints for her asian-themed wall murals.

Muralist completes her work on Novi restaurant

When the public gets its first look at Christina Calderon-Roberts' latest work at the soon-to-open Bamboo Club at Fountain Walk, she won't be here to see the reaction. The Scottsdale, Ariz., artist will already be in Florida doing some touch-up work on one of her earlier murals and planning to do murals at new Bamboo Clubs in her hometown and Raleigh, N.C. For the moment, though, Robert's is busy installing murals she painted on canvas at her Scottsdale studio and creating new murals for Main Street and Main Inc.'s latest Bamboo Club. She noted the 6,950-square-foot restaurant is "nothing like what they told me." Robert said she has done the murals for all of the Bamboo Clubs. "Each one is slightly different. I use a six-color palette to blend elements of Japanese, Thai, Mongol, Chinese and other Pacific Rim cultures into a soft blend of Asian landscapes and street scenes. It's somewhat ironic since when she graduated the Art Collins Graphic Design School in Tempe, Ariz., she took a pass on a career in graphic arts because computers at the time only offered 14 colors to choose from. Instead she established herself as a freelance artist. Instead of small paintings at street fairs, her work can be found in venues like Super Bowl XXX, where she completed larger-than-life sports murals and on the sets of films like Independence Day and The Postman. In her spare time, Robert is working on a series of less epic-sized paintings for old Mexican men and crows. Robert said she first became involved with the Bamboo Club while painting a cousin's restaurant eight years ago. She said she heard Debbie Bley was opening a new restaurant at the Biltmore Phoenix shopping center, that

BUSINESS SHORTS

Here's looking at you

Craig R. Swanson, D.O., recently open Swanson Family EyeCare, P.C., at 3915 Grand River Ave., Suite 550, in Novi. Swanson holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a doctorate of optometry from the University of Houston College of Optometry. His new practice is available for appointments every day except Thursday and Sunday. For more information call (248) 427-9620.

Show me da' money

Rockwell Medical Technologies, Inc. (NASDAQ:RMTI), a Wisconsin-based hemodialysis concentrate manufacturer in the healthcare industry, announced March 27 that it has renewed its line of credit with GE Healthcare.

Branching out

Members of Auburn Hills-based Motor Parts Federal Credit Union (MPFCU) now have a branch in Novi and 20 other Michigan communities without having a building.

Financial Services

The two-year loan agreement has a credit limit of \$2.5 million. Under the terms of the loan agreement, the credit facility can increase up to \$2.5 million based on the growth in the company's accounts receivable. The loan facility is secured by the company's accounts receivable and other assets. The company is obligated to pay interest at the rate of two percentage points over the prime rate. The loan facility expires March 29, 2005 and is renewable on an annual basis at the option of both parties.

Thank You Nancy Kaindl

It is with bittersweet feelings that we say good-bye. We will really feel the void left by your retirement, but we know you must move on with your life. What will you do with all the extra time? You have been the cornerstone of our Cub Scout Pack for so many years, never missing a single detail. Through your leadership and dedication our sons have learned many valuable lessons and have received a solid foundation as they grow into responsible young men. As parents and scouts we will never be able to thank you enough for your countless hours spent on planning, phoning, driving, e-mailing and copying that you have given to our pack. We can only thank you once again and tell you how much we appreciate all the hard work you have done. You will be missed!

Thank You Again! All The Parents and Scouts of Pack #240

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## BUSINESS SHORTS

continued from page 7

### Hanging around

Ford Motor Company marketers have been banging the publicity drum loud and long for the Ford GT supercar, set to begin production at the Wixom Assembly Plant next spring. Last week they brought one of the three running prototypes dressed in the Gulf Oil inspired sky blue and orange paint scheme that helped make the original Ford GT40 an imposing figure on the race track to the famed Doral Blue Monster golf course for the Ford Championship PGA TOUR tournament in Miami. Camilo Pardo, designer of the Ford GT40

last of 40 years of Oakland County aerial photography "Forty years of historic digital aerial photography is a tremendous tool for residents and businesses in Oakland County," said County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. "To have instant access to comparative property data sets Oakland County far ahead in the use of technology."

### Digital overview

The staff of Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services (PEDS) have 500 square feet of space at the Oakland County One Stop Shop. That's because just a week ago, when they began four years ago, the PEDS staff finally transferred to a digital format

concept car that debuted 2001 North American International Auto Show, said he hopes the classic 1969 color scheme will be available when the new car begins rolling off the line at Wixom next year.

### Ticker kickers

Novi's All Star Gymnastics recently had 10 coaches complete Universal First Aid and CPR certification through Providence Hospital and the American Safety and Health Institute. Along with owner, Gina Blazo, the certified coaches include Kristy Blazo, Neal Hoehner,

Natalie Cupp, Mel Eades, JoAnn Hackett, Ashley Kieltyka, Emily Moses, Amanda Stefanak and Jami Willey-Kenyon.

### Stay in touch

Do you have a new hire at your business? Are you gearing up for your grand opening? Is your business heading in an exciting new direction, celebrating a new anniversary or moving? If so, we want to know. E-mail your business news to [info@novihome.com](mailto:info@novihome.com). If possible attach a color photograph. You can also mail your business news to Phil Foley, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville 48167.

### Crack of dawn

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce members will gather at the Hotel Baronette in Novi at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, April 10 for their monthly Morning Connection. The hourlong event will feature a full buffet breakfast in the No. VI Chop House and an opportunity to network with local businesses. Breakfast is free for LACC Chamber members, but potential members will

## Women get their own show on May 1-4

The Michigan International Women's Show is back for its eighth year, offering even more of the features women love. Mark your calendar for May 1-4 to visit the Novi Expo Center for the best in cooking, shopping, health, beauty and fun—all under one roof for four days.

This year, meet Yip Yip, the favorite designer on TLC's hit show, Trading Spaces. Yip will be on hand Friday and Saturday to offer tips for decorating and to answer questions about his work on Trading Spaces.

Keeping in mind the frenzied lifestyle of most women, the planners of the Michigan International Women's Show go to extraordinary measures to ensure the show is of the highest quality.

The show has three goals:

### To inspire women

Workshops at the Michigan International Women's Show range from career planning to lessons in Simplicity. Beauty makeovers are among the favorite features, with experts offering tips and tricks. Sunday is Mother-Daughter Day, when pairs can take advantage of special pricing as well as contests and fun. The Ford Centennial Spalding Theater promises the best of workshops and feel-good presentations.

### To teach women

When it comes to health, women find the latest information at the Michigan International Women's Show, as well as experts who interpret the facts and figures. On the cooking stage, chefs from the U.S. Personal Chef's Association will prepare new recipes you can sample. You'll also be able to take home many cooking ideas to try yourself. Other skilled professionals teach women business tactics and suggest ideas for successful travel. A pair of petite women who fish on the cold Alaskan waters (they have been nicknamed the "Fish Witches") will reveal the best tricks for preparing fresh salmon.

### To entertain women

On Thursday night, lovable bachelor Bob Guiney will answer questions about his appearance on The Bachelorette. On Friday night, WDRQ will host the Men in Uniform Pageant. On Saturday night, WDRQ 93.1 will create an "American Idol"-type show, live! Mega 103 will hold a game show with lots of prizes. It's hard to say which show you'll enjoy the most, but one thing is for sure: the stage performances are sure to please. Other fashion shows feature the latest in professional and casual apparel. You'll definitely hear lots of laughter near the stages.

What else? Great samples of delectable treats and the latest health and beauty products from the Meijer Pavilion... hundreds of charming boutiques with the most clever and sought-after gifts... contests to win big (and small!) prizes...

And of course, men are always welcome, too!

### The 8th Annual Michigan International Women's Show

Dates: May 1-4, 2003.  
Location: Novi Expo, Novi Expo Center  
Admission: \$8 at the door; \$7 in advance from Meijer; \$6 each for groups of 20 or more in advance.  
Parking: \$5 per day.  
Hours: Thursday and Friday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
More information: 800-849-0248, or [www.eightshow.com/svswde](http://www.eightshow.com/svswde).

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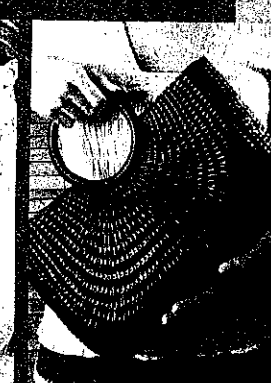
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# Australian unit brings out the creative side of art students

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

In a schoolwide study unit on Australia, Orchard Hills Elementary students have put on their creative thinking caps and are making many colorful works of art, all with an Australian theme.

"I'm teaching a unit on Australia right now and I'm working with the whole school," art teacher Fanny Samuels said. "I started it up in the beginning of February. The kids are learning about Australia in the whole school and each one is doing more than one project related to it."

Students are working on everything from playdough paintings in Kindergarten, to Sydney cityscapes including the world famous Opera House, bridge and harbor in the first grade, to still life paintings in the second grade, to Great Barrier Reef drawings in the third grade, to realistic animal drawings of kangaroos and koalas in the fourth grade.

"I'm looking at all different neat things right now, Samuels said. "The kids are learning about the animals and all different things about Australia that might be interesting to them. I'm really trying to teach kids here about different areas of the world and I hope to increase tolerance and acceptance among students. I think this is an ideal time when they're this young to really begin doing that. I feel like all the teachers here do that every day as well."

The unit, which will go on for months, is quite extensive, according to Samuels. There was even an art show during the March 29 Spring Fling at the Novi Civic Center, where one piece of art by every student relating to Australia was displayed.

"I just happen to focus on different areas of the world in my class. This is something that I really take an interest in and I have a little bit of freedom with my curriculum to do it. As long as I teach the basic concepts, I can kind of choose a theme that I want."

Samuels is supposed to teach certain art concepts, such as lines, shapes, colors and patterns, but projects such as this one have been a personal endeavor of hers over the years. "The other art teachers do this too," she said, "but they may choose other themes as well, like puppets. We all do similar things though."

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

Here's all the different Australian projects the students are working on.

**Kindergarten:** Paintings of Mount Ayer (a famous red mountain of rock in the Outback) Paintings of animals, such as the platypus and echidna (spiny anteater) Pictures of the kookaburra and rainbow lorikeet birds

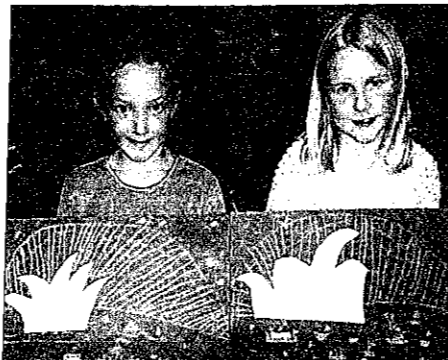
**First Grade:** Sydney Cityscapes including the world famous Opera House, bridge and harbor. Students put sailboats in the harbor to show that the architect had the boats in mind as he designed the building.

**Aboriginal pictures including X-Ray style animal drawings (kangaroos, koalas) with dot paintings around the outside that Aborigines are famous for.**

**Second Grade:** Original pictures Still life paintings with a vase of flowers and a stuffed koala in the front.

**Third Grade:** Printmaking of X-ray style animals Great Barrier Reef drawings Paper Mache boomerangs

**Fourth Grade:** Aboriginal Map Paintings which show many symbols that tell stories about nature. They are designs with stories behind them. Realistic animal drawings of kangaroos and koalas in their natural environments. Students are also listening to authentic sounds of the didgeridoo (Aboriginal instruments) and sing-along-songs like "The Kangaroo Song" and the "Kookaburra Song."



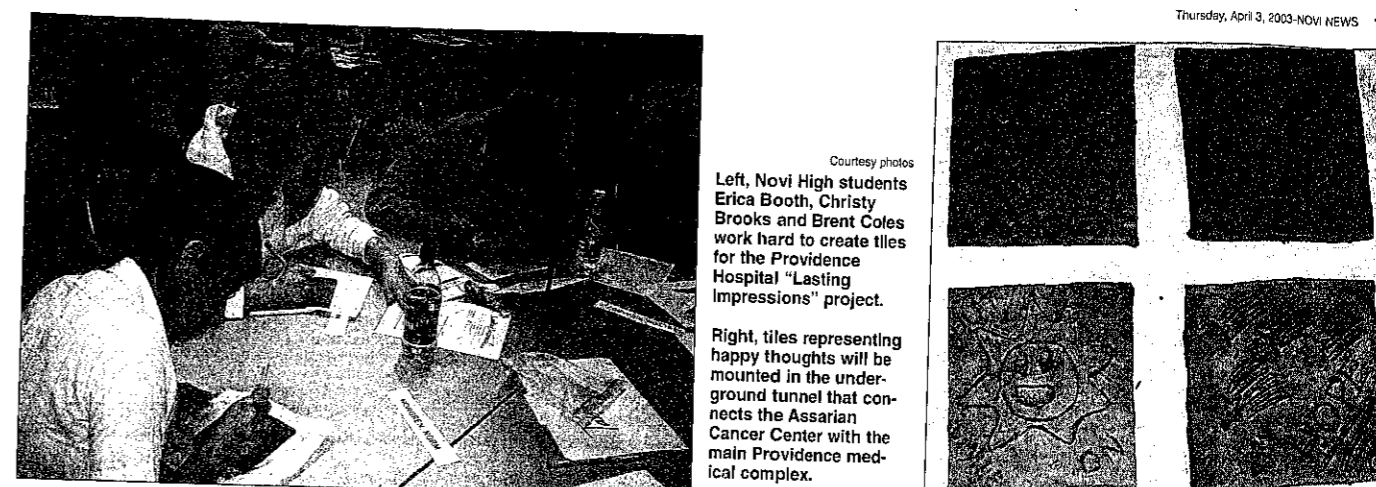
Orchard Hills first graders Stephanie Bixby and Megan Orchel hold up their Sydney Harbor mixed media pictures, which they created for an art unit on Australia.



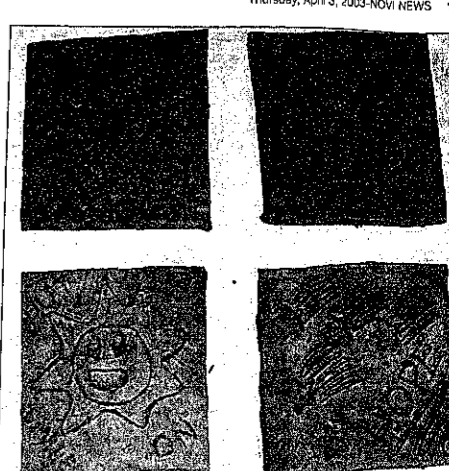
Forecast calls for reading  
WXYZ Channel 7 Meteorologist Shay Ryan takes time to pose with Ella MacArthur's second grade class as part of Orchard Hills March Reading Month.

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Left, Novi High students Erica Booth, Christy Brooks and Brent Coles work hard to create tiles for the Providence Hospital "Lasting Impressions" project.



Right, tiles representing happy thoughts will be mounted in the underground tunnel that connects the Assarian Cancer Center with the main Providence medical complex.

## NHS students brighten Assarian Cancer Center

■ Tiles being created for Providence Hospital hallway

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

For the past several weeks, students at Novi High School have been busy making the lives of cancer patients a little brighter by participating in a community art project called "Lasting Impressions," which is sponsored by the Novi branch of Providence Hospital.

Students were asked by art teacher Erin Worden to create ceramic tiles with images on them that inspire happiness, joy and hope, which will be permanently mounted in the underground tunnel that connects the Assarian Cancer Center with the main Providence medical complex.

"Our school was contacted about the project, so we called Providence back and they gave us a description of the project," Worden said. "We decided to make it a school project, so we asked each seminar, which is equivalent to a home room, to create a tile. Each group was also asked to put their tile design on paper. Some of the designs are very simple, but they all get the point across. I'm hoping we can make 150 to 200 because there are some individual students who came to me and told me how cancer has affected their lives."

Providence Hospital is looking to the whole Novi Community for help with the project. Other organizations asked include the local government, community programs, service organizations and businesses. The project description states: It is intended that through this project the rapidly growing Novi area will form lasting partnerships which will leave the community primed for future collaborations. The hope is that "Lasting Impressions" helps to educate the community about the Healing Arts programs and increase understanding and appreciation for art.

"As a school, Novi is a community partner," Worden said. "We are acting as a host facility and a volunteer. We have the facility to make the tiles here, so our students are going to be designing the tiles and creating the impressions. The designs are going to be inspirational things, like timeless designs, things that you can look at five years from now and still understand what they are, pretty much universal messages of happiness, joy, inspiration and hope."

Students can use words in their designs, but they are asked to refrain from using a copyrighted design. "It's not an advertisement or a personal name like Mickey Mouse or something like that," Worden said. "They can't use any logos because they don't want to turn this into an advertisement. Coloring for the tiles is only going to be done in four colors, a clear which comes out white and two shades of blue and a green."

For more information about this project or to participate, contact Providence Center for the Healing Arts at (248) 465-5455.

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

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Your Observer & Eccentric, Mirror and HomeTown Newspapers, in conjunction with the United Way Volunteer Center of Oakland, are calling for nominations for the HomeTown Heroes™ Awards, which recognizes, encourages and rewards outstanding volunteers who have given selflessly of themselves to support non-profit organizations in Oakland County. Nominees and awardees will be recognized at the Fourth Annual HomeTown Heroes™ Luncheon that will take place on June 4, 2003 at Marriott Pontiac at Centerpoint in Pontiac, Michigan. For a complete description of the nominating categories, please visit [www.unitedwayoakland.org](http://www.unitedwayoakland.org).

NAME OF NOMINATOR: \_\_\_\_\_ IF GROUP CONTACT PERSON: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
DAYTIME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
NOMINATING CATEGORY: \_\_\_ DIRECT SERVICE \_\_\_ SENIOR \_\_\_ YOUTH  
\_\_\_ GOVERNANCE \_\_\_ FAITH-BASED \_\_\_ BUSINESS  
NAME OF NOMINEE: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Must volunteer for an Oakland County non-profit organization)  
ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
DAYTIME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
SCHOOL ATTENDING (if appropriate): \_\_\_\_\_  
PLACE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_  
YEARS OF SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_ AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS WORKS PER MONTH: \_\_\_\_\_  
TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED: \_\_\_\_\_

On a separate sheet, in 200 words or less, tell why you have nominated this individual, group or business. Describe the nominee's major accomplishments, commitment, self-motivation, problem-solving skills, and measurable impact upon the community. Entries must be typewritten. Do not staple pages. Include a photo (no larger than 5" x 7") of the nominated person or group, or for Business nominees, include a photo of persons participating in the volunteer activity.

**Entries must be received by Wednesday, April 16, 2003.**  
Mail or fax forms to: HomeTown Heroes™ Awards • c/o United Way Volunteer Center  
50 Wayne Street • Pontiac, MI 48342 • Fax: 248-456-8809  
For questions, further information, or more applications go to [www.unitedwayoakland.org](http://www.unitedwayoakland.org) or call 248-874-1633.

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**NEWSPAPERS**

# Mobile Ed brings "Lights, Camera, Action" to Deerfield

■ Assembly teaches students the magic of video production

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Using chroma key special effects created for television and movies, students at Deerfield Elementary were taking magic carpet rides, walking on the moon, flying around like

Superman and reading off cue cards like television reporters would on March 21. Mobile Ed Productions, an organization that does different assemblies in elementary, brought the presentation, "Lights, Camera, Action," to the school.

With television studio equipment, the students learned about character generators, video and audio dubbing and assorted other tricks of the trade.

"Mobile Ed's whole philosophy is, we bring the field trip to you," Mobile Ed Director John Becker said. "Instead of packing up all the kids in buses and bringing them to channel six news, we take the TV studio, which is very

portable, to the kids. Mobile Ed also has all sorts of other shows too. We do a reptile show, some science shows and magic. With this one, we teach the kids about modern video technology and special effects. The main effect we used was the chroma key effect where we erased the color green and put the kids in various backgrounds."

Chroma key is the process of fitting an actor in front of a blue or green background, then using a computer to replace the colored background with one that is more exciting. Using the technology, students created images of themselves water skiing, dancing, playing in a rock band and giving

a weather report. "Within our equipment we have a couple computers, a CD player, a DVD player and a VHS recorder," Becker said. "We save all the footage, and at the end of the day we have about eight students to help us edit all the raw footage we have and we will leave a VHS tape with the principal so he can see what all the kids did today. Hopefully, this will inspire these kids, not necessarily to go into TV production, but it gives them an idea of how many options they have because kids don't realize that the world is their oyster. There is a million things they can

do and we are just giving them some ideas." Charles Murray, also of Mobile Ed Productions, explained that the company is national. "Our particular tour is the Midwest, so we do Michigan, Ohio and Indiana," he said. "We have tours that do states out east and out west as well." The owner and creator of Mobile Ed, who is a magician, wanted to bring more technical and science related assemblies to schools. He was also a teacher for a while and he wanted to bring in shows that would bring a more hands on feel of what science can do and what interesting engineer-

ing and technical themes can do. At the end of the day a small group of students learned editing techniques to smoothly combine the individual spots together, then acting as anchor persons, cue card holders, microphone operators and floor managers, the students created a brief news report. For more information on Mobile Ed Productions, visit [www.mobileedproductions.com](http://www.mobileedproductions.com).

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

To volunteer for the 2003 Music & Motor Fest, call Jane Thomas at (248) 349-1950.

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## "Headaches... I they would go

This sort of statement is the most commonly heard phrase by Dr. Duncan at Soft Touch Chiropractic. Soft Touch Chiropractic was started eight years ago by Dr. Duncan, a registered nurse and Doctor of Chiropractic. In 1983, Dr. Duncan decided to enroll in Atlanta's Life Chiropractic College after learning the benefit of chiropractic first hand. She was successfully treated for migraine headaches by chiropractic after all other forms of treatment failed. Dr. Duncan graduated in 1986, where she was president of her class.

Duncan Soft Touch Chiropractic specializes in gentle, non-invasive pressure point treatment to solve a variety of health problems caused by tight muscles surrounding the spine. As Dr. Duncan explained, the spine is the focal point for the body's nervous system. Any pressure in this location can affect many other areas, including the back, legs, neck and head. Tight spinal muscles that result from stress, tension or trauma need to be relaxed allowing the spine to realign naturally.

First time Soft Touch patients sit down with Dr. Duncan to discuss the symptoms of their health problems.



Dr. Kathy Duncan

Next, patients receive an exam involving muscular and chiropractic tests and x-rays are taken if necessary. A plan of care is then developed based on exam findings. Dr. Duncan said more people are looking toward alternative health treatments in an effort to prevent serious health complications in the future. If there's pain involved, it's worth investigation, she said. Outside her office, Dr. Duncan is a member of the Novi Oaks Chapter of the American Business Women's Association and the Novi Chorales. Soft Touch is located in Suite 409 at 23895 Novi Road. For an appointment or further information call 248-348-2000.

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# Koster paints a more optimistic budget picture

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

The Novi school district's financial situation may have gotten a little better since the last time Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Jim Koster presented an update to the board of education. At the March 20 board meeting Koster explained that there are still most likely going to be cuts, but this is the most optimistic picture he has right now.

"At the meeting I said that this budget is only a snapshot at that point in time," Koster said. "With the information that we know now and the information reflected in

Jennifer Granholm's proposal, the Republican legislature was waiting for the Democratic government to propose a budget. She proposed a budget that caused headlines to say that the schools are now safe. She took that budget and threw it back to the legislature for them to react to it, so now we have all these Republicans sitting there with this budget and they have to respond and get it back to her."

Koster explained that the school district is required by law to submit 12.99 percent of every dollar to the state of Michigan for education. "That was scheduled to go up to 15 percent and that's a big hit, but now Granholm said

it's going to stay at 12.99 because that's what she is keeping it at. Before I had the 15 percent in, but now I have the 12.99."

According to Koster, there is a deficit of \$1.1 million. He said the school district is going to eliminate that deficit by having some recommended reductions. One of the programs on this list is adult education, which was slashed by 75 percent.

"If there is something that comes up between now and whenever that will change that and get some money somewhere else, we would probably reinstate that program. But right now if you take a program that costs \$100 and slash it by \$75,

you might as well just get rid of the program," Koster said. "You can't do much with \$25."

Koster said that the recommended reductions are just suggestions that have been made to the board right now. Some examples from the list include:

- reducing instructional field trips, which would reduce \$15,000;
- reducing new athletic uniforms, which would reduce \$21,000;
- eliminating late bus and after school buses, which would reduce \$17,500;
- reducing custodians for less cleaning, which would reduce \$81,675; and

• reducing a Novi Meadows administrative staff member by one, which would reduce \$89,750.

"This is our most optimistic picture right now," Koster said. "We will see how all these cards fall on the table, but that only addresses 2003-04. And if nothing changes and the economy is as it is now, then the 2004-05 school year will be a tremendous problem with this district."

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

"...If you take a program that costs \$100 and slash it by \$75, you might as well just get rid of the program."

Jim Koster  
Novi Schools Superintendent of  
Business and Finance

## ON CAMPUS

Walled Lake resident Paul Waling was named to the Presidents List for winter 2002 term at Northwood University.

## WL students give their versions of courage

Walled Lake Schools students were honored recently for using their personal expression to depict the theme of "courage" at the annual PTSA Reflections Celebration, March 27 at Sarah Banks Middle School.

The district entered 177 pieces of literature, music, photography and visual arts into the state Reflections event. Walled Lake had 15 entries earn recognition and four of the 15 were selected to be sent to the national Reflections event.

Lori Rich, district PTSA Reflections chair, said it was a positive statement for Walled Lake to have four entries sent onto nationals because Michigan is only allowed to send 16 entries for the entire state.

"Reflections is a celebration of students' creativity and ability. Walled Lake has always had a strong arts curriculum. Our students demonstrate the strength of the program with their consistent personal expressions," she said. The students' work recognized at state by category are:

### Literature

- Danielle Camarrese, Central High School
- Bailey Miller, Glengary Elementary
- Katherine Spain, Central High School
- Grace Cole, Dublin Elementary
- Brittney Kettinger, Commerce Elementary
- Darin Sitto, Walled Lake Middle School

### Music

- Scott Christy, Central High School
- Sarah Lubitz, Central High School

### Photography

- Raquel Coulter, Central High School
- Paige Krzykowski, Walnut Creek Middle School
- Brittany Vezina, Sarah Banks Middle School

### Visual Arts

- Mathew Gross, Commerce Elementary
- Raquel Coulter, Central High School
- Jason Mahanian, Walled Lake Middle School
- Martin Rodgers, Keith Elementary

The students whose work will be sent on to the national Reflections event are Brittney Kettinger, Scott Christy, Brittany Vezina and Martin Rodgers.

The Chamber of Commerce's Annual Charity Auction  
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# DeRoche frustrated by pace of road expansion project

**Freshman lawmaker asks colleagues to help build the Beck Road interchange**

State Rep. Craig DeRoche announced he has become frustrated by the pace of a road expansion project in Novi and has asked fellow lawmakers to help him build the Beck Road interchange.

Local Reps. John K. Pastor, Phil Lajoy, John Stewart and Chris Ward have agreed to take off their ties and pick up shovels to help DeRoche make good on his campaign pledge to fix local roads.

"Between the five of us we should have this road done in two to three years or so," said DeRoche, R-Nowi. "We have got our shovels and are ready to get to work."

Pastor has agreed to take a class on driving a bulldozer. "When I was little I thought the person driving the bulldozer had the coolest job in the world," said Pastor, R-Livonia. "I am getting pretty excited about having the opportunity to run things over."

DeRoche said he would stop bothering me," said Ward, R-Brighton. "It was really the fastest way to get him to shut up."

Stewart, R-Plymouth, said: "If this goes well we might start our own construction company. We are debating who gets top billing but I think Stewart and Others' sounds like a great name for a company."

Lajoy, R-Canton, said: "I want to help my district too. Once we get this road done we can move on to building a single-point interchange ramp off of I-275 and Warren Road."



From left, Republican state Reps John Stewart, of Plymouth, Craig DeRoche, of Novi, John Pastor, of Livonia, Phil Lajoy, of Canton, and Chris Ward, of Brighton show off their construction skills.

# Group seeks help in bringing Christmas in April to elderly

By Phil Foley  
Staff writer

Local officials in Walled Lake and Commerce Township want to bring Christmas in April to several elderly area residents, but if they don't get more volunteers, they may have to bring it to a few.

Three homes. This year the local Christmas in April has committed to repair six homes in those communities. However, said Cathy Behrens, an administrative assistant with the Walled Lake Police Department, they have less than half the volunteers they need for the May 3 event.

Gross said she's hoping they'll get some more volunteers from people who need court-ordered community service or local high school students who need to complete community service in order to graduate.

Gross noted that Novi used to have a very active Christmas in April program, but it's faded out in recent years. "It used to be big in Novi five, six years ago," she said.

She said the group has to make the commitment long before the volunteers sign up in order to get donations of paint, lumber and such from area businesses. Countywide the program repairs

on average about 25 homes a year. Gross said the group has to make the commitment long before the volunteers sign up in order to get donations of paint, lumber and such from area businesses. Countywide the program repairs

The Novi Chamber of Commerce's annual charity auction is Saturday, April 12 at the Hilton. Call (248) 349-3743 for more information.

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RICHARD REID, NORTHWEST CABLE NEWS

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| SHOWCASE WESTLAND | STAR FAIRLANE 21  | STAR GRATIOT         | STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING |
| STAR JOHN R       | STAR LINCOLN PARK | STAR ROCHESTER       |                           |
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| EMAGINE NOW       | MIR SOUTHGATE 20  | PHOENIX              | SHOWCASE WESTLAND         |
| SHOWCASE WESTLAND | STAR FAIRLANE 21  | STAR GRATIOT         | STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING |
| STAR JOHN R       | STAR LINCOLN PARK | STAR ROCHESTER       |                           |
| STAR SOUTHFIELD   | STAR TAYLOR       | UA COMMERCE TOWNSHIP |                           |

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MOVIE  
America Online Keyword: Basic. www.sony.com/showtimes

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STARTS FRIDAY, APRIL 4

|                   |                   |                      |                           |
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| AMC ALLIANCE      | AMC FORUM 30      | AMC LAUREL PARK      | AMC LIVONIA 20            |
| EMAGINE NOW       | MIR SOUTHGATE 20  | PHOENIX              | SHOWCASE WESTLAND         |
| SHOWCASE WESTLAND | STAR FAIRLANE 21  | STAR GRATIOT         | STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING |
| STAR JOHN R       | STAR LINCOLN PARK | STAR ROCHESTER       |                           |
| STAR SOUTHFIELD   | STAR TAYLOR       | UA COMMERCE TOWNSHIP |                           |

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MOVIE  
America Online Keyword: The Core. www.sony.com/showtimes

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If your rate doesn't begin with a 6 call to discuss lowering your monthly payments!

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- Cash Out Your Home's Equity
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Don't Wait...Call Today  
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## NOVI CITY BRIEFS

**Spring activity**  
The Novi Public Library will be holding "Gardening for Kids" on Friday, April 4. Master gardeners Susan Beaton and Marycarole Haering will host the hands-on program where participants will begin growing a seed through a maze, learn about worm composting and much more. The one-and-a-half-hour event is for students in fifth grade and up and will begin at 1 p.m. Please call (248) 349-0700 to check participation availability.

**Spring forward**  
Just a reminder, daylight saving time begins Sunday, April 6. All residents should move their clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday, April 5 or at 2 a.m. Sunday.

**Easter Eggstravaganza**  
The City of Novi invites all families to take part in Easter Eggstravaganza Saturday, April 12. The two-hour event will begin at 3:30 p.m. outside of the Novi Civic Center. The holiday, fun-filled day will include a raffle, games, prizes, crafts, face painting, a DJ, and an egg hunt separated by age group. The cost is \$5 for the first child and \$2 per each additional attendee in one family. In case of inclement weather, the Easter happening will take place inside city hall. Built-A-Bear Workshop is a partner for the event. For more information, call (248) 347-0400.

**Memorial Day Parade**  
Calling all groups and businesses interested in being part of the City of Novi 2003 Memorial Day Parade. The annual event will serve as a special opportunity to bring recognition to those who have served our country. Entry forms are available at the

Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department or by visiting the city's Web site at www.novimi.us. The parade will take place 10 a.m. Monday, May 26. Completed forms must be returned by Friday, May 2. Confirmation and instructions will be provided by mail. For more information, call Tacie Ringle at (248) 347-0400.

**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 serving in the armed forces from 1945 to 2003 at the Veteran's Recognition Day event. This event will honor veterans of the Cold War, Granada, 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, MI 48375 or (248) 733-5628 for a registration form for this event.

**Annie**  
The Novi Theatres' Performance Plus, Children's Annex and Little People Players is proud to present its production of "Annie." Tickets for the musical are on sale now at the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department. All reserved seats are \$17. Performances will take place in the Novi Middle School auditorium Friday, May 9 through Saturday, May 10 and

Saturday, May 17 through Sunday, May 18. For more information, call (248) 347-0400.

**Novi Ice Arena**  
The Novi Ice Arena offers open skating Monday through Friday from noon to 1:50 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 3 to 4:50 p.m. The charge for the Monday through Friday sessions is \$2. Open skate on Saturday is \$4 for residents and \$5 for non-residents. Skate rental is \$2. The Novi Ice Arena is located at 42400 Arena Drive, east of Novi Road between Nine and 10 Mile roads. For more information, call (248) 347-1010 or visit www.suburbankhockey.com.

**DeRoche Breakfast Club**  
State Rep. Craig DeRoche's next breakfast meeting will take place

Friday, April 11, at the Novi Expo Center. The topic of discussion will be "The Tax Cutting Agenda" and will feature guest speaker U.S. Congressman Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia). A legislative update will also be provided by DeRoche. The intent of the "DeRoche Breakfast Club" is for the former constituent to meet with leaders in the community to have a dialog on timely, important topics. The one-hour, 7:30 a.m. 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.

NOW THRU TUESDAY, APRIL 8

**25.00 OFF HANDBAG TRADE-IN**

**BRING IN ANY OLD HANDBAG AND RECEIVE 25.00 OFF A NEW HANDBAG\***

\*Offer includes any regular or sale-priced handbag worth 60.00 or more. Come see our great selection of new spring handbags.

BY HANDBAGS. SELECTION VARIES BY STORE. TRADE-IN OFFER EXCLUDES BRIGHTON, KATE SPADE AND DONALD J. FLETCHER.

**ONE DAY CLEARANCE PASS**

**TAKE AN EXTRA 15% OFF**  
entire stock of red-lined clearance LADIES', JUNIORS', MEN'S AND CHILDREN'S APPAREL

Thursday, April 3  
**NO EXCLUSIONS!**

\*NOT VALID ON ALL RED-LINED CLEARANCE JUNIORS' & LADIES' SWIMSUIT, LADIES' SUITS & DRESSES AND MEN'S SUITS & SPORT COATS. NOT VALID ON PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED ITEMS. MUST PRESENT THIS DISCOUNT OFFER FOR SAVINGS. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER COUPON, SHOPPING PASS OR DISCOUNT OFFER.

**TOTAL SAVINGS UP TO 85%**

YOU'RE SOMEBODY SPECIAL

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PARISIAN PRICE GUARANTEE We will match a competitor's advertised price on any identical merchandise for the duration of the competitor's sale - just bring in the ad.

CALL 1-800-424-8185 TO ORDER ANYTIME. STORE HOURS: The Village of Rochester Hills (248) 276-6705 or Laurel Park Place (734) 953-7500. CHARGE IT: Parisian Credit Card, MasterCard, Visa, the American Express® Card or Discover®. LOCATED AT THE VILLAGE OF ROCHESTER HILLS, CORNER OF NORTH ADAMS ROAD AND WALTON STREET; AND LAUREL PARK PLACE IN LIVONIA, CORNER OF NEWBURGH ROAD AND SIX MILE ROAD.

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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.

Be prepared

Be Prepared. Two little words that anyone who has ever been a Boy Scout knows well, but all too many seem to forget once they're old enough to stay out after the streetlights come on.

OPINION



Give me an "R"...give me an "E"...give me an "A"...give me a "D" Novi High School varsity cheerleaders Melissa Laird, left, and Katie Pyett read to Parkview Elementary School students last Wednesday afternoon.

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.

- United States Senate: Cari Levin (D-Detroit), Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing), United States Congress: Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia), Jennifer Granholm (D-Northville), State Senate: Nancy Cassis (R-Novi), State House of Reps: Craig DeRoche (R-Novi)

LETTERS

Keep the trees. I am writing to express my concern over the Council's consideration of allowing Catholic Central to skirt the City's woodland tree replacement ordinance.

Seek replacements. The waiting list for those that wish to volunteer for the city's boards and commissions is extremely short. Catholic Central's upfront on request. So, some of the functionalities on our Planning Commission are upset because Catholic Central had the nerve to request an ordinance change from City Council before running it by them.

Reality beats video every time

Well, I broke down this weekend and bought a PlayStation2 "for my kids," or so I told my wife. I didn't intend to buy it. Actually, I went to Best Buy to look into a DVD player because the VHS format seems to be on its way out and my wife has been dropping subtle hints about switching to a DVD player.

OTHER OPINIONS

Uncomfortable parallels between Iraq and Vietnam

The longer the war in Iraq goes on, the more concerned I get. Here's why. Back in 1966, just as the Vietnam war was really heating up, I was working in Washington as the chief of staff for a Michigan Congressman, Paul H. Todd, Jr. I spent a day in July at the White House, much of it talking with President Lyndon Johnson about the war.

Economists are already warning of a "fiscal train wreck," a compound of current federal deficits, additional tax cuts and rapidly rising war costs that will result in much, much larger deficits. Deficit spending usually results in inflation, and big deficits usually result in big inflation.



Rhamez Khuri

Tack on another learning experience

In my never-ending learning experiences with The Novi News, I have just added one more: I went from pleasing everyone with my coverage, to not pleasing everyone and back to pleasing everyone.

I have no idea when or how this war will end: I pray we will win it quickly and decisively. But I am still haunted by the last glimpse I had of President Johnson on that day back in 1966. We were alone. He was sitting at a small desk in a little working office.

Share your opinions: We welcome your letters to the editor.

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.

WE CAN HELP YOU PUT AN END TO YOUR GARAGE CLUTTER?

Affordable Storage Cabinets & Closet Systems. BuildQuest LLC. (248) 345-1477

Spring Spectacular Craft Show. Saturday, April 5th • 10am-4:30pm. Stevensen High School. Approximate 100 Crafters! Admission \$2.00

Commemorating 100 Years of Service

O'BRIEN SULLIVAN FUNERAL HOME. 41555 Grand River Avenue, Novi, Michigan 48375-1822. (248)348-1800

FEED YOUR LAWN

Scott's BEST QUALITY Lawn Fertilizer Program. 4-STEP \$59.99. 4 bags 5,000 sq. ft. each

Summers Blooming Packaged BULBS & PERENNIALS. HUGE SELECTION! PANSY 99¢

PLYMOUTH NURSERY and GARDEN CENTER. 9900 Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, MI. 734-453-5500

Are you an organ & tissue donor?

Ask your family today and let them know your decision, too. That way you'll know, they'll know, and there will be no questions later. For a free brochure, call 1-800-355-SHARE.

Volunteers are needed now for this year's Music & Motor Fest.

Call Jane Thomas at (248) 349-1950 to help out!

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Novi Camera Club Meeting**  
 DATE: Tuesday, April 8  
 TIME: 7:30 p.m.  
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Rd., Novi  
 DETAILS: The program will be "Existing Light Photography," a Kodak "Exploring Photography" video on taking pictures without the use of flash. How to shoot sunsets, fireworks and more! All welcome!  
 PHONE: Beverly Dornal, 248-380-6980.

**Fine arts show**  
 DATE: through April 10  
 TIME: week hours: M-F: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m., weekends 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center's Gate VI Gallery  
 DETAILS: Jeanette Groesch exhibits silkprint and watercolor  
 PHONE: (248) 596-1270 or via email: groeschj12@yahoo.com.

**Seventh Annual Spring Home and Garden Show**  
 DATE: Friday, April 4-Sunday, April 6  
 TIME: Friday, noon-9 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.  
 LOCATION: Novi Expo Center, 196 and Novi Rd., Novi  
 DETAILS: Adults \$6, Seniors \$5, Children under 12 will be admitted FREE. Featuring the latest technology, products and services for the Home and Garden. WXYT's Handyman, Joe Gagnon, WJR's Mr. Home Improvement, Murray Gula will be featured attractions of the show.  
 PHONE: Please call 248-862-1019 or visit www.builders.org.

**City Rose Gardens**  
 DATE: Friday, April 4  
 TIME: 7:30-9:30 p.m.  
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road  
 DETAILS: Diane Schmitt of Birmingham will present a slide program of rose gardens; free and open to the public.  
 PHONE: (248) 449-4626

**Saturday Strollers - Diabetes Support Group**  
 DATE: Saturday, April 5  
 TIME: 9:30-11:30 a.m.  
 LOCATION: Botsford Center for Health Improvement, 39750 Grand River Avenue, located between Haggerty and Meadowbrook in Novi  
 DETAILS: The Diabetes Management Program at Botsford Center for Health Improvement presents "10,000

Steps to Good Health," which is open to persons with diabetes and their loved ones. From this remarkable resource for controlling diabetes and optimizing health, participants will learn weight loss strategies from a registered dietitian and fitness tips from a personal trainer.  
 PHONE: (517) 552-0673 or visit www.quickdatainfo.com

**Wixom Library used book sale**  
 DATE: April 10-12  
 TIME: Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
 LOCATION: Wixom Public Library, 4901 S Pontiac Trail  
 DETAILS: Hardbacks will cost \$1, paperbacks will cost 25¢, and trade paperbacks will cost 50¢, in addition to some specially-priced items. During the last three hours of the sale, books will be at "two books a bag."  
 PHONE: (248) 824-2512

**Meadowbrook Congregational Church Rummage Sale**  
 DATE: Friday, April 11-Saturday, April 12  
 TIME: Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
 LOCATION: 21355 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi  
 DETAILS: No admission charge.

**Clean Your Closet Weekend, Women's Business Attire Clothing Drive**  
 DATE: Friday, April 11 through Sunday, April 13  
 TIME: Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday, 12 p.m.-5 p.m.  
 LOCATION: All Art Van Furniture Stores in Metro Detroit, including Novi.  
 DETAILS: WJBK Fox2 Detroit and NBC 25 Flint, Saginaw and Bay City have teamed up with Art Van Furniture to collect the clothes for Dress for Success, a non-profit agency, for clothing distribution to low-income women.  
 CONTACT: www.artvan.com or www.fox2detroit.com

**Borders Bookstore-Nov**  
 DATE: Saturday, April 12  
 TIME: 11 a.m., Fox and Flint; storytime and book signing with children's author Shura Crum, 1 p.m., Seasons in Thyne; Sample recipes from the Birmingham Junior League Cookbook.  
 LOCATION: Borders Bookstore, Novi Town Center, Novi.  
 Lakes Baptist Church Event  
 DATE: Sunday, April 13  
 TIME: 6 p.m.

**LOCATION: 309 Decker Rd., Walled Lake**  
 DETAILS: Children's Choir "Fish Tales" Reception following program. All welcome.  
 PHONE: 248-624-2900

**ON-GOING**

**Adoption Playgroup**  
 DATE: First and Third Fridays of the month  
 TIME: 10 a.m.  
 LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church (on Meadowbrook Rd. between 10 Mile Rd. and Grand River Rd.)  
 DETAILS: We are a not for profit, non-denominational group that brings adoptive families together. Our twice a month meetings provide families with the opportunity to share play and conversation. During the summer, we meet at specially designated times and locations that brings adoptive families together. Our twice a month meetings provide families with the opportunity to share play and conversation. During the summer, we meet at specially designated times and locations that brings adoptive families together. Our twice a month meetings provide families with the opportunity to share play and conversation. During the summer, we meet at specially designated times and locations that brings adoptive families together.  
 PHONE: For more information contact Michelle Pergeau 248-887-4955 or Sandra Noonan (248) 960-3257.

**Church of the Holy Cross Lenten Studies**  
 Tuesdays, through May 20, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Study of The Gospel according to Mark with The Rev. Fred Brunson, beginning with a pot luck supper.  
 Wednesdays, through April 16, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. The Spiritual Disciplines, beginning with simple supper of soup and bread.  
 Thursdays, through April 10, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. An Introduction to People of the Bible.  
 DATES: Wednesdays, April 30, June 25  
 TIME: 7 p.m.-9 p.m.  
 LOCATION: Henry Ford Medical Center, Novi, 40000 Eight Mile, one block west of Haggerty  
 DETAILS: \$5/per class. Space is limited and pre-registration is required.  
 PHONE: 248-380-6201 or www.henryford.com/cim, to register and for more information on topics.

**Paintings on Display-Novi resident artist**  
 DATE: March-on going  
 TIME: M-F 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat.: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
 LOCATION: Picasso's Cafe, 39915 Grand River, Novi, (W. of Haggerty)  
 DETAILS: Barbara Eko Murphy of Novi will have watercolor paintings on display.

**Business referrals**  
 DATE: every Wed. on going  
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 Mile Rd.  
 Send calendar items to Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48168 or e-mail to cstone@hometown.com.net.

**LOCATION: 309 Decker Rd., Walled Lake**  
 DETAILS: Children's Choir "Fish Tales" Reception following program. All welcome.  
 PHONE: 248-624-2900

**Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Fiesta**  
 DATE: Wednesday, April 23  
 TIME: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
 LOCATION: Ole' Ole' Southwestern Grille, 1103 East Like Drive, Novi  
 DETAILS: 11TH Annual Employee Appreciation Day Luncheon, \$15/per person, \$20/ at door, reservations requested.  
 PHONE: For more information, call (248) 624-2826.

**Oakland County Historical Commission Workshop**  
 DATE: Saturday, April 26  
 TIME: 9 a.m.-noon  
 LOCATION: Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm.  
 DETAILS: This workshop is designed for local historical societies and small museums that have the need to inventory and manage collections, but have few staff members and limited funds with which to do it. This workshop is free and open to any interested member of the public.  
 PHONE: RSVP, (248) 656-4663.

**Henry Ford Health System Alternative Medicine Learning Series**  
 DATES: Wednesdays, April 30, June 25  
 TIME: 7 p.m.-9 p.m.  
 LOCATION: Henry Ford Medical Center, Novi, 40000 Eight Mile, one block west of Haggerty  
 DETAILS: \$5/per class. Space is limited and pre-registration is required.  
 PHONE: 248-380-6201 or www.henryford.com/cim, to register and for more information on topics.

**Blood Drive**  
 DATE: Wednesday, April 30  
 TIME: 2-8 p.m.  
 LOCATION: Walsh College, Novi Campus  
 DETAILS: The blood drive originally scheduled for March 5 has been rescheduled. Call ahead or walk in.  
 PHONE: (248) 349-5454

**Cassio's Coffee & Conversation**  
 DATE: Friday, May 2  
 TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
 LOCATION: Leon's of Novi, 39455 W. Ten Mile Road  
 DETAILS: Senator Nancy Cassio, R-Nowi, will be hosting her first of regular Cassio's Coffee & Conversation hours for people in the 15th District. All constituents are welcome to come and take part in discussing issues facing western Oakland County.  
 PHONE: 888-38-NANCY

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**HOMETOWN**  
 Newspapers

would like to congratulate these staffers who were recognized at our Annual Awards Event

*Journalists of the Year*

*Service Awards*



Candy Parent



Hal Gould



Bob Peri, 25 years; Linda Rasegan, 30 years; Rick Wagoner, 20 years  
 Not Pictured: Sue Jarvis, 20 years

*Excellence Awards*



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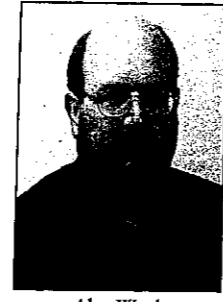
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**RESOURCE RECOVERY AND RECYCLING AUTHORITY OF SOUTHWEST OAKLAND COUNTY (RRRASOC)**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County, a public authority and body corporate, shall hold a public hearing on its proposed budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2003 on Thursday, April 17, 2003 at 9:30 a.m. at the office of the Authority, 20000 W. Eight Mile Road, Southfield, Michigan, 48076-5708. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the offices of the Authority.

This notice is given on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Authority pursuant to the provisions of Act 43, Public Acts of Michigan, 1963 (Second Extra Session)

MICHAEL J. CSAPO  
General Manager

Published: April 3, 2003

**FREE HAS A NICE RING TO IT!**  
 Class of 2003 & 2004  
 Register to win a FREE ArtCarved Class Ring.

Free Prizes: Steam™ (During Event), YOUR MEMORIES, YOUR STYLE, YOUR RING.

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\*During advertised ring event, there will be one drawing for a free Steam™ ArtCarved high school class ring (retail value of \$129.95). To enter drawing complete this form and submit to retailer during the date of this advertised ring event. Winner may appreciate ring for an additional charge. See retailer for additional details.

# Focus on HEALTH

## The Straight Scoop: Digital Hearing Aids Can Significantly Improve Your Quality Of Life

According to the U.S. Department of Health, 28 million Americans, or 1 out of every 10 people have a treatable hearing loss.

Hearing loss occurs very gradually. If you or somebody you know has untreated hearing loss, you know how increasingly difficult it is to interact with friends and loved ones.

Quality of life declines as the hearing impaired individual begins to avoid situations where hearing is important. Worse yet, most individuals put off getting help for years because of the stigma attached to wearing hearing aids.

*"It is very sad that millions of people are letting vanity and denial get in the way of treatments that could significantly improve the quality of their lives."*

Dr. James Firman  
National Council on Aging

You'll be surprised to learn that digital hearing aids are very affordable today and are available in a variety of styles and sizes. Yet they still deliver superior digital hearing aid performance.

Digital hearing aids provide effective solutions to complaints commonly associated with analog products: feedback, background noise and low-fidelity sound processing. The key to the digital advantage is the combination of an algorithm or "software program", with an open-platform digital chip.

Because each individual is unique, an algorithm is developed to accurately correct each patient's hearing loss. The algorithm is then programmed into the chip so their hearing aids know how to maximize hearing accurately in a variety of listening environments.

The state-of-the-art digital hearing aid is the newest generation of smart digital hearing aids and is a quantum leap forward in digital hearing aid performance.

*"The newest Digital is by far and away the best hearing aid we've ever fit. Patients are amazed at the significant improvement in the clarity and comfort of digital sound."*

Because each individual is unique, the algorithm can be programmed to accurately correct the patient's hearing loss. The algorithm is then programmed into the chip so the hearing aid knows how to maximize hearing acuity in a variety of listening environments.

The newest digital chip performs millions of calculations per second based on the algorithm's hearing correction code. The Advanced Digital Algorithm provides:

- \* Automatic Feedback Suppression
- \* Adaptive Noise Management
- \* Digital Directional Technology
- \* High Fidelity Digital Sound
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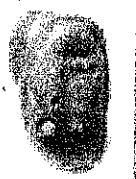
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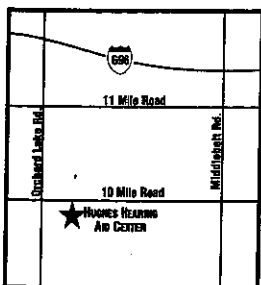
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# It's a rugby thing

## Mickey, Ben and Jack Mason aren't sure you'd understand

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

When you see the game of rugby, sometimes you have to shake your head and wonder what kind of individual it takes to go out there and play that game.

It's a sport that requires individuals to be prepared for a game of teamwork, brotherhood bonds and one of fun. For three members of the Northville-Novu Knights Rugby Football Club, it's a game of blood relationships and family friendship.

Mickey, Ben and Jack Mason aren't all brothers, though their closeness may make you think otherwise. Mickey and Ben, who go to Northville High School, do share the joy of sibling rivalries, while Jack, who attends Novi, is their cousin.

"It's great to have them on the team with me this year," said Ben, a junior and the only experienced rugger among the trio. "I was really happy when both of them decided they were going to come out and play for the Knights."

For Ben, the choice was probably the easiest to return to the sport. A wrestler by trade, he stumbled into the sport when a fellow player by the name of Mike Subu told him about it.

"Mike Subu used to wrestle with us and last year after the season was over he started talking about the Knights," Ben said. "I went out and I played for them. I absolutely loved it."

Mickey was a little different of a story. A well-known member of the Northville varsity hockey team over the past few seasons, Mickey was also deeply submerged in the world of soccer for much of his life. The chance to play rugby, spurred on by his brother, was what seemed like the perfect twist to end his senior year in high school.

"He convinced me," Mickey said of his brother. "I think it's a lot of fun, and I'm really glad I decided to give it a whirl for my last year of high school."

In fact, the game has made enough impact on him already that Mickey is looking at trying to gain admittance with Grand Valley State's RFC.

"I got to be any good at it, I'd like to play in college," Mickey said. "I'm very interested in playing rugby, and I think trying out at Grand Valley would be fun."

And then there is Jack. A freshman at Novi High School, it's apparent right away when you speak to him that he's smarter than your average 14-year-old. Brains and what will no doubt be eventual brawn will make for a good combination on the rugby pitch.

"My cousin played last year and I thought it would be interesting to come play with him," Jack said. "I've always liked hanging out with (Mickey and Ben). We used to hang out when we were younger and were good friends for a while. I think it will be a lot of fun playing with the two of them this year."

There size differences make for a nice varied position placement for them. Jack, standing at



Photo by John Heider

The Mason boys, brothers Ben and Mickey, center, and their cousin Jack, right, are all playing on the Northville Knights' rugby team.

5-foot-7 and weighing in at 145 pounds, isn't the smallest freshman on the block and has been taking reps at the hooker position. Ben, who is 5-9 and 189 pounds, has a variety of slots to practice at inside and outside center and some fullback too. Mickey's 6-foot-1 frame and 168 pounds makes him an ideal candidate for the second row — a lucky position that finds him under Subu, who is one of the biggest players on the team.

"I don't know if it's lucky," Mickey said with a laugh.

For Jack and Mickey, the idea of rugby is one they'll have to get used to in a hurry, as their first game was slated for yesterday and the Michigan Cup is going to be held Saturday.

"It's pretty much what I expected because I had the chance to watch some of it on TV," Mickey said. "I saw how rough it was and that's actually one of the things that attracted me to it."

Jack said that the coaching by Ron Cornell and his staff with the Knights has made learning the game pretty easy.

"There's just one or two aspects of the game we still have to go over," he said. "We haven't really touched on the kicking game yet, but the rest of it seems easy enough to me."

And then there is the strategy of the game that takes some getting used to.

"It's totally different that (American) football," Mickey said. "It kind of boggled me that we were moving the ball backwards and still forward. The idea of it just threw me a little."

Ben knows exactly what they are going through. His first season on the pitch found him

scratching his head more than once or twice during practices.

"I know what Mickey and Jack are going through during practice," he said. "I was so confused until after my first game when I actually saw a ruck and a maul in action. In practice, I know what they are looking for to happen and how confusing it can be with the scrum downs and the line outs."

But Mickey, Jack and Ben all have each other to look to and talk to when there are questions to be asked and technique to be pointed out — and then there's also the idea that they have someone to just chat with.

"It's nice because you always have someone to talk to and when you need it they can help you out," Jack said.

Jack also noted that as a freshman, he might have had to worry about how the older players would have reacted to his presence.

"The older guys could have started picking on me right away," he said. "I think when they realized I was Mickey and Ben's cousin, I got a little less."

The family value of the trio being on the same team is priceless.

"Our parents were pretty excited," Mickey said. "It's a game we can play as a family."

And something that might be able to turn into a family spectator event as well.

"It would be nice if our grandparents could come down and watch all three of us play," Ben said. "I think they would enjoy that."

Mickey and Ben haven't had the pleasure of playing on the same athletic team during their varsity careers, but Mickey

**"It would be nice if our grandparents could come down and watch all three of us play. I think they would enjoy that."**

Ben Mason

Northville-Novu Knights Rugby Football Club

noted that it's been a good time.

"It's really cool that we are out there working together," he said. "I find myself yelling at him a lot. One thing is for sure, he knows what he's doing. When I have a question about something, I end up asking him about it."

The game of rugby not only brings friends and family together when they take to the pitch, but it also brings out the confidence and determination in the players.

Watching the two bigger guys in Ben and Mickey as they rucked and mauled their way through practice against guys that are equal to them in size and strength might have intimidated a player the size of Jack.

"Not really," the Novi freshman said. "I think it's more the size of your attitude than how big you are."

Through all of the practices and games that are slated to come this season, the Mason trio will work their way through the ups and the downs of winning and losing — as well as the bumps, scrapes, bleeding and bruising that's associated with it.

Just how much convincing does it take for a player to get his parents to let him out the door

for rugby?

If you're a Mason, the answer is none.

"The only concern is not knowing what's going on in the game," Mickey said of his and Ben's parents. "They wanted me to go out and play."

But what about last year when Ben became the first Mason to bind in the scrum?

"Mickey was in hockey and I was in wrestling," Ben said. "They were pretty used to the violent sports. They pushed me to go out and play."

And then there is Jack. It's never easy for a freshman to go out and take on a new sport — but his folks figured it would do him a world of good.

"They thought it would toughen me up," he said.

It looks like the Mason family doesn't need too much toughening up — they're already playing the roughest sports they can find and enjoying every minute of it.

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

## Will they end up hoisting the cup?

Though competing for the state championship is no doubt the ultimate goal in every sport, there comes a tournament or two that really draws the focus of the players and the coaching staff in the regular season.



For the Sam Eggleston

Northville-Novu Knights rugby football club, that focus is right on the first contests of the season — the Michigan Cup.

This year, the Cup is being hosted by the squad out of Livonia, though the Detroit Tradesman RFC is sponsoring the event and holding it in Southfield this year. When it comes to rugby, gaining victory in a tournament like the Michigan Cup ranks right up there with winning the state title. You have bragging rights for a year, and it shows just how powerful your team is right out of the gates and that strength promises only to improve as the season wears on.

For the Northville Knights, the chance at winning the Cup isn't anything to be scoffed at — they are the real deal. Though inexperienced in a lot of areas, the squad has the coaching it needs to take an amazing amount of athletic talent and turn it into a string of victories. Coach Ron Cornell and his staff know their rugby, and have made a competitive squad out of the Knights every season that they've been in existence, so there should be no doubt that this season is going to be the same.

The Knights will be taking on teams like Brighton — who was last year's state champion — and Livonia along with other tough teams. The thing about rugby, and most competitions, is that every dog has its day. If a team doesn't come prepared to scrap it out in the scrums and the rucks, they shouldn't even bother going out on the pitch. Instead, they should take up the job of the guys who clean off the balls and bring water to the other teams.

Rugby brings with it one element that makes many parents of players nervous — if they don't go through the motions of the game the right way, they are likely to get hurt. Thankfully, Cornell and his fellow coaches are committed to the fundamentals of the game and have been preaching them from the first day of practice, which bodes well for the team and those inexperienced players that will be learning the ropes.

I have complete confidence in what the Knights will be able to accomplish, as well as the tries they will be able to score. Cornell and the Knights have had plenty of practices together to this point and with the talent and the enthusiasm this team brings to the tournament, I have no doubt it will lead to them bringing home the Cup.

I have to say that it's refreshing to know that Northville and Novi players can come together so well. We've all seen what that can lead to in gymnastics with the combined Wild Stangs team, and it just does my heart good to see guys who might have squared off in other sports binding together to work as a single unit in this one.

My prediction this week is that the Knights are not only going to rock the boat and make some waves at the Michigan Cup tournament Saturday, but they're going to dive right in with full force and come home hoisting it proudly.

Knights win Michigan Cup.

*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 by e-mail at [seggleston@ht.homecomm.net](mailto:seggleston@ht.homecomm.net).*

# Back-to-back wins a good way to start out the season

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Coming out and winning the first two games of the season sure isn't a bad way to start things off.

The Novi Wildcats girls' soccer team did just that as they kicked their games into high gear to show their fans just what it is they're capable of.

The 'Cats took it to Grand Blanc 5-4 March 28 after slapping Livonia Churchill with a 5-0 loss just two days prior.

"It was a back and forth game filled with lots of excitement," Novi coach Brian O'Leary said of the Grand Blanc contest.

The Novi Wildcats knew that when going up against a team like Grand Blanc, which was ranked seventh in the state last season and returned all of their top players, they would have to find players willing to play at the top of their game — Maureen Pawlak was clearly that player.

Pawlak scored her first goal just five minutes into the game, with Nikki Hermann earning the assist, before notching another just two minutes later on a nice through pass from Katie Ales.

The Bobcats were determined though, and came back hard to notch a score of their own at about the 12-minute mark in the contest to pull within one.

Novi worked the give and go nicely off of some footwork by Kristi Timar before Pawlak took the ball and found the back of the net for her third score of the contest. Grand Blanc was far from finished though, scoring again just two minutes later to bring the tally up to 3-2 in Novi's favor.

The second half was much of the same with both squad's exchanging scores. With about 10 minutes off the clock in the second half, the official awarded a penalty kick to Pawlak after she was brought down in the box. The kick, which Pawlak nailed home, gave Novi the two-

goal lead once again.

The most pressing time of the game came in the last eight minutes of the contest. Grand Blanc's Jill Kehler scored twice on direct free kicks from 25 yards away to tie the match.

"Both were rockets that our goalie had no chance to save," O'Leary said, but noted his girls went right back on the offensive. "I was proud of our reaction as we immediately began applying pressure on Grand Blanc."

With three minutes to go in the game, the pressure paid off. Pawlak worked her way around a defender and fed a nice pass to Timar for a breakaway — which she converted to give the 'Cats the final score of the game and a 5-4 victory.

In goal for Novi was Kellie Pfeiffer.

"Even though they scored four goals, (she) played a great game in goal and made some excellent point-blank saves to prevent them from ever gaining the lead,"

O'Leary said.

The 'Cats had no time to rest though, as their schedule brought them face-to-face with Plymouth Canton Monday night and Ann Arbor Pioneer the following night.

They are slated to take on Northville tomorrow in a cross-town contest.

"All three teams are top-10 teams in the state," O'Leary noted.

And, no doubt, will be a true test of Novi's ability and desire to be one of the best teams around.

### Novi 5, Churchill 0

In their first contest of the season, the 'Cats headed in the right direction.

"It was a solid all-around effort from every one of our players," O'Leary said. "Every player played at least 25 minutes."

Pawlak started the 'Cats off with a mind-blowing score just 20 seconds into the game as she stole a pass by a Churchill defender and

raced into the box and beat the goalie for a 1-0 lead. Five minutes later, Sarah Schmitt added her name to the list of scorers as she took a nice crossing pass and put it in the back of the net.

Novi continued the pressure and 10 minutes later added another score as freshman Kellie Walker solidified the lead at 3-0.

With time expiring in the first half, the 'Cats went up 4-0 as Timar took a nice pass from Hermann and notched the goal.

"To Churchill's credit, they didn't give up and came out in the second half and took it to us for the first 10 minutes," O'Leary said. "Good defense by Kelly McMann and Katie Ales, along with good goalkeeping from Kellie Pfeiffer, held strong."

With 20 minutes left in the game, Colene Brockman put the final nail in the coffin with a pass from Hermann that enabled her to beat the goalie for the score and the 5-0 victory.

## GAME OF THE WEEK



Northville-Novu  
Knights Rugby in  
Michigan Cup  
Tournament  
Saturday, April 5  
in Southfield



ENTERTAINMENT

Sam Eggleston, (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 seggleston@ht.homecomm.net

Thursday, April 3, 2003

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What in the world are freedom fries?



Mary Brady

We serve french fries, and damn good ones. At our Bistro, Diamond Jim Brady's, I'm not ashamed to say I wouldn't have it any other way. We also offer French vanilla, crème brûlée, chocolate mousse, pate and caviar. Although our fare can be accurately described as "contemporary American" it's basic is pleases French.

One time, when I still competed, I decided to do a menu based entirely on Escoffier's narration of the courses. Each of the dishes, appetizer, soup, fish course, meat course and dessert were an exact replica of his description, or so I thought. The judges sited a few minute errors that I considered a gold medal. My display was almost perfect with regards to presentation and workmanship but I had missed the "petite peas" in the soup, mine were too large, and the fish garnish was not as he intended. Mind you if this had not been labeled as an Escoffier meal I was in for a gold medal. It wasn't meant to be, this incident took place over 10 years ago and opened my eyes and heart to the wonders of French cuisine and this extremely brilliant chef.

Escoffier, the father of classical and modern French cuisine, was a direct influence on much of today's style of cooking. His philosophies on food preparation and techniques are still chefs' benchmarks for perfection. His most famous book, Le Guide Culinaire, is "the" principal text when it comes to French cooking.

Thus, in his struggle against the prevailing low-esteem in which cooks were held, Escoffier admonished them not to go out into the streets in their white coats and the inevitable checked trousers. He encouraged them to wear hats, collars and ties. Escoffier is responsible for setting the standards of professionalism that are still relevant.

French country fare. They continued where Escoffier left off and have opened a whole new world of food for us. Each in their own way influenced my style of cooking and love of the French.

Finally, my grandfather, an Army Colonel, was stationed in France during each of "the big wars." He became fluent in reading and writing the language and until his dying day ordered his magazines written in French. Listening to him speak was dream like. He spoke so soft, lilting, like singing. He became friends and corresponded with Parisian social mates for years after the wars. He planted the "French" seed that still grows within me, and — he ate French fries!

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

SCREEN BEAT

By Brian Renner

Coming to theaters this weekend is a true real-time thriller, "Phone Booth" which takes place in and around a single phone booth in New York City. A man (Colin Farrell) who is being watched by a nosy killer (Kiefer Sutherland) with a snipe rifle must use the phone to save his life or else risk the consequences of leaving the booth.

Crime thriller "A Man Apart" stars Vin Diesel as tough LAPD Agent Sean Vetter, who sets out to avenge the brutal murder of his wife. As the drug wars rage along the US/Mexican border, a major player from the Baja Cartel is imprisoned and a mysterious figure known as Diablo waxes control over the entire operation.

Family comedy "What a Girl Wants" stars Amanda Seyfried as 19-year-old Daphne Reynolds, who has been raised in New York City by her mother (Kelly Preston) and decides that she wants to find her long-lost British father (Colin Firth) in London, who is part of England's aristocratic society. Once in London, it does not take long before her hip American lifestyle drops her father's entire life. "I think every young girl dreams of finding her prince," says Denise Di Novi, producer of the inspirational romances "A Walk to Remember" and "Message in a Bottle." "In 'What a Girl Wants,' we have a girl who longs to make her fantasy come true, but the prince she's searching for is her father."

Next week Action thriller "Anger Management" (PG-13), independent produced drama "Better Luck Tomorrow" (PG-13), 3-D large format documentary "Ghosts of the Abyss" (G) and long-awaited horror film "House of 1,000 Corpses."

Video and DVD

1950s-set drama "Far From Heaven" (R), religious drama "The Other Side of Heaven" (PG), thriller "Red Dragon" (R), twisted romantic comedy "Secretary" (R), romantic thriller "The Truth About Charlie" (PG-13), and animated kids' adventure-comedy "The Wild Thornberry Movie" (G).

Log on to The Movie Insider at www.themovieinsider.com. Please direct any questions to Brian@themovieinsider.com.

The Novi Chamber of Commerce's annual charity auction takes place Saturday, April 12 at the Novi Hilton. This year's event benefits the Assarian Cancer Center at Providence Hospital. Call (248) 393-3743 for ticket information.

HOME, GARDEN & Car Care II It's that time of year! Home, Garden & Car Care II is a special section that is filled with all kinds of gardening and improvement ideas.

Space Reservation Deadline: Thursday, April 24, 2003 Copy Deadline: Friday, April 25, 2003 Publication Dates: Thursday, May 15, 2003

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Oh, to be a kid with a lawnmower again 'My Street' brings competition and the joys of childhood to the PS2

By Sam Eggleston

ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Wow, it's just like when I was a kid. Get up in the morning, scarf down some breakfast and wait until mom and dad jump in their cars and drive to work before taking off into the neighborhood and challenging the other kids to a mean game of lawn-mower racing.

What? You never raced lawn mowers when you were a kid? Well, at least it's not too late to rectify that situation. Sony's newest release in "My Street" enables players to take control of a little boy or girl and head into the neighborhood to challenge other kids at their own games in hopes of making friends with them.

The concept is an interesting one. You see, as the kid, you find yourself recently moved into a new little town and with less than a month of summer vacation left, you are challenged to go out and make new friends before the bells ring at the local school. There's one catch though, the kids in the neighborhood pretty much want nothing to do with you.

very unique version of the school-yard game and, to my surprise, made a new friend in the process. That's when it hit me. The more you beat the local kids at their own games, the better friends they become with you and the more games you are able to play — and marbles is just the tip of the iceberg.

The world just opens up at that point. Suddenly, you are smugging sand in some two-on-two beach volleyball and you're mixing up the chemicals in a very interesting Chemistry game in the local mad scientist's garage. From there, you'll be bending chickens and racing mowers and, before you know it, taking to the track in some Remote Control (RC) racing and some brain-inspiring dodgeball.



"My Street" definitely brings you back to the days of summer and playing in the streets with your friends, even if it is in a twisted sort of way with mini-games that I would never have dreamt of while growing up.

A very cool feature that Sony has put in "My Street" is the ability to harness the power of the PlayStation 2 and it's ability to go online (with the appropriate equipment). Soon, gamers can challenge their friends to their favorite mini-games and set up tournaments to see who is indeed the best among the rest. Though I haven't had a chance to challenge any of my pals as of yet, I'm sure that the very concept makes the replay value of "My Street" through the roof.

The possibilities are endless. Got a boae to pick with cousin Timmy in Florida? Take it out in a game of dodgeball. The girl you want to go to prom isn't sure if you're the right guy for her? The occasion? Show her how you can beat the tar out of the other candidates in a game of RC racing — well, maybe that wouldn't work, I'm sure that my friends and I will be playing for bragging rights more than once in this game, and maybe we'll even put a pizza pie down on the table as some added incentive.

One of the other features I really enjoyed with "My Street" was the ability to create my own character. I, personally, would never have dressed in a Roman and centurion's helmet to go play marbles when I was



My Street allows you to play a variety of mini-games.

growing up, but my "My Street" alter ego, I've named Benny, sure does. Some of the options, like the little Hannibal Lector mask, are enough to get you laughing before the game even starts. "My Street" is a good game for those who are looking for a fun party-style platform as well as those who remember the days of "Super Off-Road Racing" on the Super Nintendo — the developers over at Sony managed to take a control system that made those style games popular and actually improve on them for the RC racing and lawn mowing games.

Overall, I have to say that I've enjoyed my time making friends on "My Street," and I'm looking forward to putting the dodgeball in the face of all my friends who used to do it to me for real back in our grade-school days.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Woodlands Review Board, of the City of Novi, will hold a meeting on Thursday, April 10, 2003 at 4:30 PM at the City of Novi, Community Development Conference Room, Novi, Michigan to review the Woodlands Review Board Permit Application for KTB LLC, 1493 Paramount Drive, Lot #99-100. (Case # 03-01)

VIRTUAL VIC

Dear Virtual Vic,

I just became engaged and want to marry someone fun or exotic. What is the proper etiquette if I decide I want to be married by the ocean in Florida? Am I obligated to fly everyone to the sunshine state and pay for all my guests' expenses?

Sunny Vows in Novi



Victoria Sadlocha

Dear pay for love in Novi: It is very strange you send your question my way because I am going through a similar experience right now. My best friend is getting married this spring in Colorado, and I am her maid of honor, so I have been helping her out.

could not afford to cover any of his guests' expenses. So that is that! According to digsmagazine.com's common-sense manners for real-world living, my girlfriend did the right thing. The magazine states, "by no means is the happy couple required to take care of the travel requirements of out-of-town guests — the usual scenario is that guests can expect to find and finance their own way to the wedding." Experts state offering to pay for the guests' accommodations during the wedding festivities and leaving them to fend for themselves when it comes to travel arrangements is the way to go. The on-line mag says offering to pay for accommodations is a nice financial help and eliminates guests' needs to figure out where to stay.

What I would recommend is this: Whatever you decide to do, just make it clear to your guests. If you decide to have a Florida wedding, make sure when you do your inviting it is clear to everyone what their financial and non-financial roles will be.

Common courtesy is always the best way to go and your potential guests will appreciate knowing what is required of them.

If you need advice, a little help or a complete overhaul, please forward your questions to vsadlocha@ht.homecomm.net or seggleston@ht.homecomm.net. No topic is off limits, unless it violates the paper's family-friendly rating. If your question is chosen, you may just see it in the next edition of your local paper. And please remember to provide an alternate name or we will provide one for you. Our intention is to give fun advice without exposing you to your neighbors.

Space Reservation Deadline: Thursday, April 10, 2003 Copy Deadline: Friday, April 11, 2003 Publication Dates: Thursday, May 1, 2003

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CHURCH DIRECTORY For information regarding rates call The Northville Record or Novi News (248) 349-1700

# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 6B

Thursday, April 3, 2003

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Minimum wage, maximum folly

It takes a huge amount of optimism these days to see a silver lining amidst the clouds on our national horizon. We are at war; terrorism looms; and with each headline announcing more layoffs, fears of a worsening economy rise faster than the numbers on gasoline pumps.

And yet, those ever-optimistic entrepreneurs on Main Street remain determined to keep their enterprises viable, even in the face of unrelenting omens. They are committed to maintaining the nation's stability in uncertain times. After all, they're the ones who create at least two-thirds of the net new jobs and provide regular paychecks for more than half of America's private workforce.

Small-business owners also understand the laws of supply and demand. What they can't grasp is how some of the nation's most prominent politicians consistently seek to defy those laws.

Once again, some in Congress have resurrected nonsensical proposals to increase the minimum wage. As certain as spring follows winter, ill-considered ideas blossom with mind-boggling regularity on Capitol Hill.

Those who favor linking the minimum wage fertilize the debate ground with the same old bull-headed notions, claiming that such an increase will do everything from lifting people out of poverty to reviving the economy.

Not so, says the chief economist of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy. In a recent paper entitled "Now is Not the Time for a Minimum Wage Hike," Chad Moutray, Ph.D., wrote that a higher minimum wage will have a negative employment impact on the very people it is designed to help and it will do little to reduce poverty.

One argument minimum-wage touts tout is the deceit that those earning minimum wages can't support their families. Certainly advocates of an increase are aware of Census Bureau reports that nearly two-thirds of those who receive such wages live with parents or are not the primary earners in their households. In fact, just 14 percent of minimum wage recipients are the only wage earners in their homes, and they, not coincidentally, qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Dr. Moutray noted that the EITC supplement in 2000 was about \$2.00 per hour, which equals or exceeds many of the proposed minimum wage increases. The EITC, he wrote, beats the minimum wage in easing poverty and yet doesn't cause job loss.

Washington, D.C. should look to Washington State to learn more about the laws of supply and demand. Since 1999, the latter boosted its minimum wage 36 percent above the national average. But according to a study by Ohio University's Richard Vedder and Lowell Gallaway, that was "a quintessential example of the Law of Unintended Consequences." They concluded that the state's wage hike created poverty instead of eliminating it.

Fortunately for the United States, the supply of small-business optimism continues to outpace the demands imposed by politically-motivated government mandates. But even our most resilient entrepreneurs can withstand only so much legislative foolishness. To raise the minimum wage in these uncertain times would be maximum folly.

Jack Faris is president of NFIB (the National Federation of Independent Business), the nation's largest small-business advocacy group. A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB represents the consensus views of its 600,000 members in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals. More information is available on-line at [www.nfib.com](http://www.nfib.com).



Tom Thesier's sons, Jim (left) and Bill Thesier, out front of their store on Pontiac Trail in South Lyon.

Photo by Hal Gould

## Thesier Equipment gives trustworthy service

By Elizabeth Heer  
SPECIAL WRITER

When you are investing in lawn and garden equipment, it makes sense to look for the best deal. But price alone isn't enough these days. What you also want is reliability, top-notch service, and a company you can trust.

Thesier Equipment Co. has been a fixture in the South Lyon community since Tom Thesier first opened the business in 1965. Now the next generation has followed in his footsteps and continues the family reputation for quality sales and service. Tom's sons, Bill and Jim Thesier, their wives, Mary and Patt, along with Bill's daughter, Sara, lead a staff of 18 employees in the family-held business.

"What customers tell us is when they come here is they're treated with respect, and we take the time to do it properly," said Jim Thesier. "Our staff is more professional, and most of our core group has been with us 10 years plus."

Bill Thesier adds, "It's a family atmosphere here...it's like we're one big family."

Thesier is a major dealer for the John Deere Equipment Company, which carries one of the broadest lines of lawn, gar-

den, and landscaping products. The reliability of the product is one reason Thesier represents the company.

While you can find John Deere products at the big box stores, Jim notes that Thesier carries the same models at the same price, which is due to contractual agreements with the Deere Company. The difference, however, can be found in Thesier's customer service.

"The advantages are the service we provide behind the product. We deliver it to the customer for free, and during the warranty period we include free transportation if there is ever a warranty problem," Jim said. "The other stores don't have a parts and service department. So, during the life of the machine, you are dealing with just one company. And," he added, "We are experts in what we do because we have been doing it for so long."

Inside the store and at the outdoor displays are a wide range of full-size tractors, tractor attachments, commercial mowers, and walk-behind equipment such as mowers, blowers, edgers and spreaders. All the handheld tools needed for gardening and landscaping are also displayed, such as trimmers, chainsaws, blowers, cut off saws, power pruners,

hedge trimmers and tillers. Other handy home tools include generators. Thinking ahead to next winter, Thesier is the place for snow equipment, such as truck blades, salt spreaders and snow-melting products. And there are also fun accessories and even replica toys made to scale for the young at heart.

"There are people that come in every year to get a John Deere hat, or to let the kids sit on the equipment," Bill said.

Now that spring has finally decided to make an appearance, it might be wise to get the mower or tractor in top running condition. Thesier is the place to go for seasonal tuneups. "Some want us to do it for them, and others want to do it themselves," observed Jim.

For those who are of the do-it-yourself variety, Thesier offers a tuneup kit and all the accessories needed to get your lawn and garden equipment in top shape.

John Deere is not the only major brand name that Thesier Equipment carries. They also offer other reliable resources such as Scag power equipment, Sthl chain saws, LandPride landscaping and agri-maintenance equipment, Curtis tractor cab systems, Redmax commercial power

equipment, Bobcat, Kawasaki, and Briggs and Stratton, to name a few.

When it comes to Thesier's well-known service, it's not just limited to the big names—they will repair any make or model.

"Our philosophy is that if they meet us, try us, and like us, maybe they'll like our products as well," Jim said.

Thesier Equipment is also one of the few businesses that will come to the customer's home to pick up equipment for repair—a great convenience for those with a busy schedule or who don't have the ability to bring in their equipment. Thesier will also provide on-site demonstrations of their products.

Bill Thesier points out they have a large service shop and well-trained technicians to repair, weld, maintain and adjust any equipment. Replacement parts are available for all the brands they sell as well as a wide variety of oils, fluids and filters. In addition, Thesier custom makes hydraulic hoses and battery cables. Other maintenance tasks they can perform include sharpening mower blades and chainsaw chains and repairing small tractor tires. Winter storage is also offered as a service to those with limited space.

### DETAILS

You'll find exceptional service, including pickup and delivery, at Thesier Equipment Co. Thesier—which has been ranked as one of the top 25 John Deere dealers nationwide every year since 1985—is located at 28342 Pontiac Trail in South Lyon, just one mile south of I-96.

Call toll-free at (800) 870-9791 or (248) 437-2091. Check out their Web site at [www.greentractors.com](http://www.greentractors.com).

Hours at Thesier Equipment are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Used equipment, leasing options, and on-site financing are other customer options. Thesier Equipment customers are not only residential homeowners and landscapers, but also governmental organizations such as schools and parks and recreation departments.

"We want your business for the long-term," Jim said. "Our customers are people, not just a sale."

"Our philosophy is that if they meet us, try us, and like us, maybe they'll like our products as well... We want your business for the long-term. Our customers are people, not just a sale."

Jim Thesier

son of Tom Thesier, who opened Thesier Equipment Co. in 1965



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