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# Novi News

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

Thursday, May 29, 2003

hometownlife.com

50¢

Volume 48 Number 1

Novi, Michigan

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Look inside for your  
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**INSIDE**



**Bora Bistro**

Abraham Koussan (left) hired jazz musician Ya Tafari to kick off the new menu at Bora Bistro on Main Street in Novi.

— Page 9A

**SPORTS**



**Preparing for districts**

Wildcat pitcher Mike Hart fires home in a game against the Pineckney Pirates last Wednesday.

— Page 21A

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# Season of Snarls

## Road work makes for miserable driving

By Maureen Johnston  
STAFF WRITER

Area motorists commuting morning and night might be steering through orange barrels in their sleep as road construction season begins in earnest in the coming weeks.

Simultaneous projects on north-south routes — Sheldon, Beck and Northville roads — will make the summer months particularly interesting. Drivers will need to dream up alternate paths with ongoing and soon-to-sprout orange county detour signs in those locations and

others. "Road construction will be an issue for drivers this summer," said Northville public services director Jim Gallegly. "With two of the major arteries between the miles of Five and Six torn up, it just is going to impact traffic at rush hour. It's going to impact everyone going to work."

Conditions are favorable for road construction only six to eight months out of the year, said Oakland County Road Commission public information officer Craig Bryson.

For more a map of area road construction, please turn to page 4A.

"Unfortunately, we have to pack a lot of construction into it," he said. "You'll get better, smoother, safer, more efficient roads," he said. "We appreciate their frustration. We just ask for their patience."

**Sheldon Road Project**

Many new homes with many

additional drivers demanded increased traffic capacity on Sheldon Road, said Northville Township public services director Don Weaver.

Wayne County and developer Toll Brothers are splitting the \$2.6 million road widening project — with center turn lane — from Five Mile Road north approximately one half mile.

Removal of old utility tunnels under the road requires the road block near Tournament Drive, explained Weaver. When that part of the project is completed in late June

or early July, limited two-way traffic on Sheldon Road will resume, he said.

The county expects completion of the entire road widening project in mid-September, Wayne County Road Commission project engineer Craig Wolbrock said.

On the east and west sides of Sheldon, more than 600 single-family homes are planned as part of the Northville Hills Golf Club development, according to Northville Township planner Maureen Osiecki.

continued on page 5

## Accident claims Novi teen

By Kristin Lukowski  
DAILY PRESS & ARGUS

The Memorial Day holiday turned tragic early for an 18-year-old Novi woman who died in a one-vehicle crash as the weekend was just beginning.

Amanda Gee of Novi was the only passenger in a 1997 teal Jeep Cherokee that was eastbound on I-96 west of Fowlerville near Nicholson Road when she lost control of the vehicle and it overturned in the median shortly before 2 p.m. Friday. The vehicle ended up on its side near the westbound lanes of the highway.

Gee was pronounced dead at the scene from injuries sustained in the crash, according to the Livingston County Sheriff's Department Traffic Safety Bureau. Responders had initially requested a helicopter for a lifeflight transport, but they eventually requested the medical examiner instead.



**Amanda Gee**

Both eastbound and westbound traffic was closed down to one lane while the rescue, investigation and cleanup took place. Cars were backed up for miles, almost to Burkhart Road in Howell Township; many towing trailers or carrying bikes as the traffic rush for the long holiday weekend was just getting underway.

For more than an hour after the crash, traffic on both sides of the highway was stopped while officials removed Gee from the vehicle.

Alcohol does not appear to have been a factor in the crash, and seat belt use is still undetermined. The crash remains under investigation.

The Livingston County Sheriff's Department was assisted on the scene by the Fowlerville Fire Department and Fowlerville Police Department, Livingston County Ambulance and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

See Amanda Gee's obituary on page 14.

## In their honor



Photo by John Heider

Herman Helwig of Novi's American Legion Post #19 holds the American flag at the beginning of the formal ceremonies of Monday's Memorial Day parade in Novi. See more photos on page 3.

## Two school programs still have many unanswered questions

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Picture this: Your son or daughter is a fourth grader enrolled at one of the five elementary schools in the Novi Community School District. He or she gets good grades, is polite and has a great future ahead. Everything is going great until teacher announces that the MEAP test is coming up and it's really important that all the students do the best they can.

So, your child spends the next couple weeks before the test preparing his or her mind, eating

all the right foods, getting the right amount of sleep and listening to the right music. All he or she knows is that there is a big test coming up, but you as a parent know better. You know that it's not just another test. You know that the way your child performs in that 45-minute time span, combined with all of his or her classmates, will determine whether the Novi Community School District as a whole is making "adequate yearly progress" as determined by the United States Federal Government. Never mind all of those A's that your child brought

### Michigan Target Starting Points for Adequate Yearly Progress

- 47% Elementary Math
- 38% Elementary Reading
- 31% Middle School Reading
- 33% High School Math
- 42% High School Reading



home all year. Now picture this. It's now MEAP test day and your child wakes up in the morning with a runny nose. He or she is complaining that they have a headache and

their forehead feels really warm. Under normal circumstances, little Pat would stay home from school that day. But these aren't normal circumstances. You determine that Pat has done well in his or her classes before, even when she was feeling under the weather, and you have faith that he or she will be just fine for the MEAP, so you send your child to school.

For the rest of the day, you are left to wonder if you made the right decision to send your child to school.

continued on page 2

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## Questions go unanswered

continued from front page

### School board understands scenarios

The Novi Community School Board of Education has known about this and the many other different scenarios that may arise under the Federal Government's No Child Left Behind program and the State of Michigan's Education Yes Program for awhile now. In fact, back at the March 13 school board meeting, the *baseline* of a lengthy discussion about the two programs was.

Combining the two programs is an attempt to get every child to make annual yearly progress in academics.

Not only each child, but each school and the four disaggregated groups, economically disadvantaged students, students from major racial or ethnic groups, students with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency will determine whether or not any school district is making annual progress.

At the school board meeting on May 15, Jane Hesse, K-12 coordinator of Curriculum and Assessment, updated to the board on the issue. Not much has changed.

It's important to try to paint a picture of not only what is occurring currently in May and June, but what has just recently happened and what we, as the community of Novi, expect to happen in the next year." Hesse said. "It's hard to do that because nobody seems to know what those things are. While the Michigan Department of Education is putting their plan together, we are kind of putting pieces of it. Sometimes they need to change their plan, not because they have poor planning, but because the federal government is also critiquing that plan as it's developing. That's the hard part because there is a lot of uncertainty now."

### What parents need to know

According to Hesse, the most important facts that parents need to know right now are the baseline scores for Michigan and to compare them to Novi's current scores. There is a big differential between the state's baseline scores and Novi's individual school scores.

"Our Novi scores are why parents are here in the first place," Hesse said. "They are familiar with the Novi scores. Nevertheless, parents also need to know that wherever Novi is, Novi still has to improve. So, even though the math score at Novi Woods is currently at 88.3 percent, that still needs to go up. In effect, these are our baselines for

	2000	2001	2002	Total
HURON VALLEY	298	321	299	918
NORTHVILLE	190	223	233	646
NOVI	196	215	258	669
SOUTH LYON	121	165	183	469
WALLED LAKE	293	357	398	1048

SOURCE: Mich. Dept. of Education

Novi and we need to go up from there. The state has to go up from the state scores."

Another fact that parents should know is that these numbers reflect the students in the fourth grade at a particular time. These students are going to be fifth graders next year, so the improvement might be measured for fourth graders, but the students that are being talked about are now in fifth grade.

"Parents should know that all of this is generated from one single MEAP experience," Hesse said. "A 45-minute math MEAP experience. If you think of taking a test that lasts for 45 minutes and you answer 25, 35, 40 questions, all of their other work is based on that experience

point in time, but we are just not there yet."

### Waiting for MEAP scores

Some Novi students took the MEAP test back in January. Under normal conditions, those results would have been back by now. But with the new design of the MEAP, they were expected back in April. That didn't happen.

"When we didn't receive them in April, we expected to have them in May, but that also didn't happen," Hesse said. "Now we are hoping that they will be here by the end of June, and that's not likely to happen unless and until the board of education of the state can determine what those formulas for Adequate Yearly Progress should be."

The state of Michigan, along with every other state in the country, for the first time, is in the middle of the federal government and the school districts. It used to be that the state just made decisions and the districts just responded to those, but now the federal government is involved.

"It's hard for the state to make a decision, so there's a period of flux. And we have been in that period now for a year and a half," Hesse said. "There are a lot of requirements for No Child Left Behind.

One of the big requirements is that the state has to have its own accreditation for Education Yes. That also is in flux in terms of its definitions. We have the federal government and the mandates from the federal government to the states. One of them is they have their own accreditation policy, which is Education Yes in Michigan. From the federal government also comes the notion of Adequate Yearly Progress and that demands that the state has a testing measurement."

That is where the school districts got involved. Last year's MEAP data was the baseline year and the first AYP reports. So far the federal government is just requiring English, language arts and math in terms of measuring AYP.

"Our state, for the first year, we will have baseline scores and our second year of our report will be this year's MEAP data," Hesse said. "These are the scores that have not arrived yet. Our students took these tests in January and February, but the scores haven't come back. Typically, the scores will just come back in the summer, but now that we have AYP in there, the scores have to be fit into that formula and that formula isn't certain yet, so they can't release our scores until they are certain."

## POLICE REPORT

### Yes, you are

Farmington resident Ryan J. Pugh, 27, reportedly told Novi Police Officer Karen Jackson, "I'm in big trouble" after she stopped his 1994 Ford Thunderbird on Grand River Avenue near Haggerty Road at 1:18 a.m. May 21. According to reports, Pugh cut in front of Officer Jackson's patrol car while trying to turn right onto Haggerty, nearly striking the officer's car. Officer Jackson reported the license plate on Pugh's car had been expired since October. After failing the field sobriety tests, Pugh was taken police headquarters, where he was charged with OUI, after registering a 14 and 13 on the Breathalyzer.

### No kidding

Novi Police Officer Brian Woloski stopped two Novickians in a 1993 Ford Escort at 20 minutes past midnight May 18 after their vehicle reportedly blew through a stop sign

on Birchwoods Drive turning onto northbound Wisconsin Road. The driver, Brandon R. Kummer, 18, reportedly told the officer, "No, I would rather speak to a lawyer first," when he was asked if he minded the car being searched. Officer Woloski held Kummer and his companion Matthew P. Black, 17, until a K-9 unit could arrive. According to Officer Woloski, a million case containing a glass bowl marijuana pipe was discovered in the car's glovebox after the dog alerted to the presence of marijuana. Kummer was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and bond was set at \$100. Black was cited for minor possession of alcohol after officers discovered an open 12-ounce can of Coors under the passenger seat. The car was impounded.

### Drifting away

Novi Police Officer Jeremy Stempien reported May 17 that he stopped James K. Crofoot, 45, at

1:35 a.m. after he spotted the Novi man's 2001 Lincoln cross the center line of Novi Road several times while driving south toward Nine Mile Road. Crofoot was charged with OUI, after reportedly failing the field sobriety test and registering a 13 on the Breathalyzer.

### Homeward bound

While Lake resident Erik K. Oberle, 22, told Novi Police Officer Brian Woloski that he was headed home from a Novi nightclub with his 22-year-old female companion when the officer stopped his 2001 Jeep Cherokee on northbound Novi Road at Crescent Drive at 1:25 a.m. May 17, Officer Woloski said he stopped Oberle's vehicle after he observed it drifting in and out of its lane. Oberle was charged with OUI and UBAL, after failing the field sobriety tests and registering a 14 on the Breathalyzer at police headquarters. Bond was set at \$100.

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# Memorial Day Parade 2003

## northville



Girl Scouts carry American flags during Monday's Northville Memorial Day Parade.



Members of Northville's Veterans of Foreign Wars march in Monday's 2003 Memorial Day Parade.

...but grief is not the end of all. I seem to hear beyond the funeral march the moving banners of a hidden column. Our dead brothers still live for us, and bid us think of life, not death-of life to which in their youth they lent the passion and joy of the spring. As I listen, the great chorus of life and joy begins again, and amid the awful orchestra of seen and unseen powers and destinies of good and evil our trumpets sound once more a note of daring, hope, and will.

— Oliver Wendell Holmes, 1884

## novi

On Memorial Day, America honors her own. Yet we also remember all the valiant young men and women from many allied nations, including France, who shared in the struggle here, and in the suffering. We remember the men and women who served and died alongside Americans in so many terrible battles on this continent, and beyond.

— President George W. Bush  
D-Day Commemoration, 2002



Emon Winship, left, and Eric Pasturale, Cub Scouts of Novi's Pack 375, carry the American flag during Monday's Memorial Day parade through Novi.



Members of the Redford Township Unicycle Club roll through Monday's Memorial Day parade in Novi.

photos by john heider

Road Work Under Way

SOURCES: Wayne and Oakland County road commissions, Northville City and Township departments of public services, Michigan Department of Transportation



- 1. Sheldon Road Project
2. Beck Road Project
3. Eight Mile/Haggerty Project
4. Northville Road Project
5. Grand River Avenue Project
6. Twelve Mile Road Project
7. Old Plank Road Bridge Project

Season of snarls

continued from front page

The 24 detached condominiums called Northville Hollow can enter only off of Sheldon Road.

Northville Road Project

Wayne County road crews in the next couple of weeks are expected to commence the \$148,800 project of resurfacing Northville Road from Seven Mile Road north to Beal Street.

Beck Road Project

There is not yet a firm date to start work on widening Beck Road between M14 and Six Mile Road.

Weaver said, "There are definitely peak hours we need additional lanes." A Wayne County engineer also is looking into the timing of the traffic signal at the Six Mile/Beck Road intersection to try to alleviate congestion.

In Northville Township, a four-lane concrete boulevard is planned from Five Mile to Six Mile.

In Plymouth Township, the county contract specifies a simultaneous project for an asphalt cap and road widening to five lanes.

Thus, the township slated approximately \$80,000 for the mile stretch of grassy median, rather than additional center-turn lane.

Grand River Avenue and Bridge Project

The \$6.1 million construction on Grand River Avenue from Beck Road east to the CSX railroad bridge is scheduled through November, Bryson said.

Old Plank Road Project

The Michigan Department of Transportation closed Old Plank Road from Pontiac Trail to Grand River Avenue to reconstruct the bridge over I-96.

During the Beck Road construction, preliminary plans detail a small wedge of acutely shifting traffic to the east, allowing cars to travel northbound only from Five Mile to Six Mile.

"It's definitely a case of short-term pain for long-term gain," Bryson said. When completed, Grand River Avenue will handle more motorists, more smoothly and more safely.

Meanwhile, workers are creating the largest bridge on an Oakland County road, the spokesman said, over the CSX railroad tracks.

The new bridge will last 30-40 years, the spokesman said. While the old bridge was of legal height at 13-foot, 10 inches, the new span will be 16-feet tall.

"For a summer of detours, we're not going to encounter those bridge hits of before," Morosi said.

Removing the possibility of trucks swaying the overpass will eliminate safety concerns, related maintenance costs, as well as delays for 1-

96 travelers, he said. "Bobby the Barrel" radio ad sponsored by one MDOT project ask drivers to be careful during the construction season.

"It's not like they're adding another lane of traffic," Weaver said. "But people will notice it's more convenient there."

Because of the volume of traffic in that area, the contractor might work at night, Weaver said. "They're really constrained out there because of the amount of traffic," he said.

Eight Mile/Haggerty Project

Asphalt overlay resurfacing, concrete repair and minor widening is planned at the Eight Mile/Haggerty Road intersection, as well as east on Eight Mile to I-96 interchange.

"We're anticipating any time now," Wayne County Road Commission project engineer Blaine Bizok said Tuesday. It is a 90-day estimated \$1.4 million project that likely will last through September, he said.

"It's not like they're adding another lane of traffic," Weaver said.

Twelve Mile Project

Work started last year continues on the widening of Twelve Mile Road from Meadowbrook to Novi. Drivers will travel the two temporary lanes until the four lanes and 65-foot median are complete.

Wayne County Road Commission project engineer Blaine Bizok said Tuesday. It is a 90-day estimated \$1.4 million project that likely will last through September, he said.

"It's not like they're adding another lane of traffic," Weaver said.

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OBITUARY

BIRTHS

ENGAGEMENTS

LIBRARY LINES



Amanda C. Gee

Amanda Gee of Novi died in a car accident, May 23, 2003. She was 18.

Amanda was a 2002 graduate of Novi High School. She was a member of the Novi High School swim team for four years...



White

Dr. and Mrs. William R. White of Arvada, Colorado announce the birth of their daughter, Miranda Marie, born April 30, 2003...



Streit-Hwang

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Streit of Novi announce the engagement of their daughter, Rachel Anne, to Jung-Taik (J.T.) Hwang...



Kukuzke-Hart

Jim and Marlene Kukuzke of Novi announce the engagement of their daughter, Dawn Marie Kukuzke, to Adam Michael Hart...

Novi Public Library

Hours

The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Book discussion group

Our June selection is "One Hundred Years of Solitude" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

Community forum

The Novi Public Library Strategic Planning Task Force will hold a Community Forum at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 4.

Senior book discussion group

Senior booklovers are reading "John Adams" by David McCullough for their June meeting.

is located at 25075 Meadowbrook Road, between Ten Mile Road and Grand River. For further information, please call the library at (248) 349-1700.

Teen volunteer orientation

Orientation sessions for teens who signed up to help with the 2003 Summer Reading Program will be held at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, June 4, and Thursday, June 5.

Board meeting

The Novi Library Board of Directors meets Monday, June 9, at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room.

CLASS NOTES

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

Wall Puzzle teaches Novi Meadows students respect

■ Fifth and sixth grade teams come up with respectful thoughts

By Ramez Khuri STAFF WRITER

Gail Jiskra, the sixth grade counselor at Novi Meadows, believes that respect is the starting point to being successful.

Jiskra had a parenting group when she first arrived at Meadows eight years ago.

Education foundation's golf outing June 26

Novi Educational Foundation's 8th Annual Golf Outing will take place Thursday, June 26, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Links of Novi.

respect program," Jiskra said. "I couldn't do it by myself, so I convinced these parents who said that they didn't just want to bring speakers in, they wanted to do something else."

"We kick off the whole respect program with what I call chalk board chat," Jiskra said.

The Renee Plant, Sharon Phillips and Brad Whittatch team, which consisted of sixth graders Alli Pew, Jennifer Felcher, Max Wujczyk and Brady Rodriguez,

helped the school a lot with looking at the posters and being involved with this school and showing respect for each other."

"It's really fun," she said. "I will go in and tell the kids it's their week, and I will ask how they are going to sell respect in the school."

Wujczyk and Rodriguez both enjoy the respect project.

"I think that the Novi Meadows program is really good about respect because it has really helped us in the future in every-

RESPECT

A list of thoughts that Novi Meadows students came up with:

- Respect is like a flame that always flickers.
Respect is like a game of darts.
Respect would be the bulls eye.

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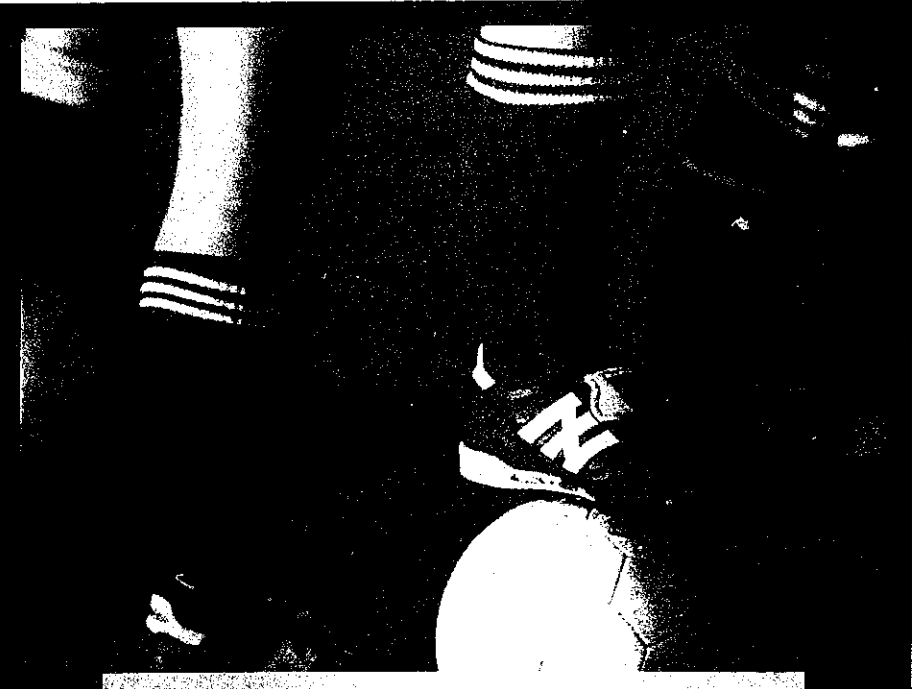
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Church Directory table with columns for church name, address, phone, and services.

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Art, Crafts and FUN! Fountain Walk - 1-96 at Novi Road Arts & Treasures. Saturday, June 7th • 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Sunday, June 8th • 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Relay For Life. The American Cancer Society is hosting Relay For Life in our community again, this year in two locations - Ford Field in Northville and City Hall Field in Walled Lake.





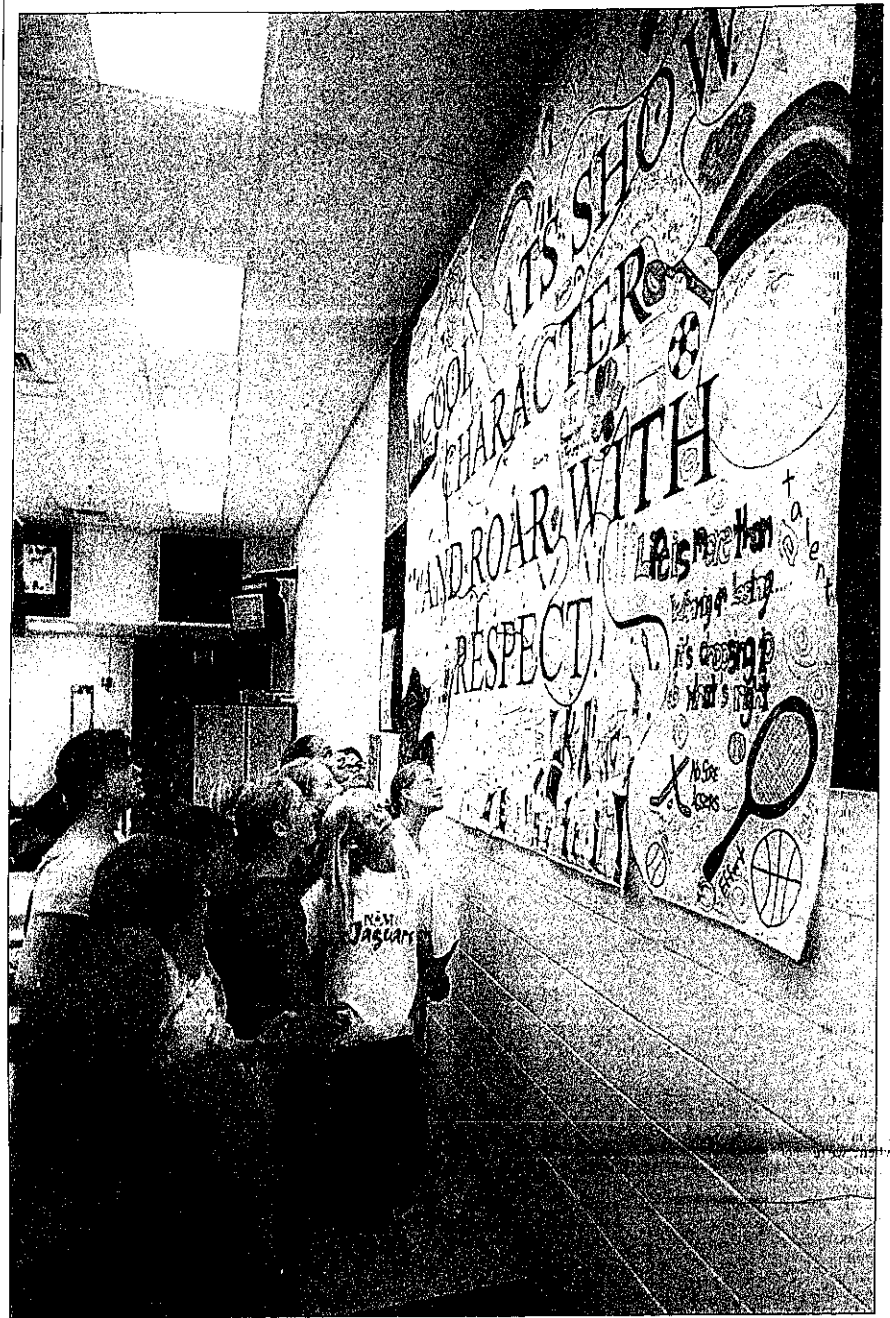
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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the home towns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Trash importing

The old saying, "There's two sides to every story" isn't always true in the news business. More often than not, there are substantially more than two. But in the debate of import of Canadian trash into Michigan landfills...

OPINION



Respect Novi Woods students look at their school's Character and Respect puzzle in the school cafeteria last Wednesday.

GOVERNMENT

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

LETTERS

- Parade was perfect I am writing this letter to inform residents who were unable to attend the Novi Memorial Day Parade to try and come next year. This parade was a slice of old Americana. I felt that I stepped back in time and enjoyed the sense of community that marched down our streets. The parade started with our police on motorcycles leading the way for marching bands, baseball players, girlscoouts and boyscoouts, unicyclists, sheriffs on horseback, cars, elected officials passing out candy to the children, and much more. The parade recognized the veterans and really brought the community together. I want to compliment Randy Auler, director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, and his staff for an excellent job. There are countless hours behind the scenes that took place to host this event and it was a very big success! Thank you. Lynne Paul Novi

OTHER OPINIONS

Driving: A dangerous privilege

When I was growing up, I always wanted to drive a car. I envied my older brother as he would hop into his brown Ventura and take off to the movies, go shopping or just cruise around. So when I got a driver's license I followed suit. After all, driving and metro Detroit seem to go hand in hand. Then I moved to California and got a job driving a cab. Ten to 12 hours a day behind the wheel started to take wear away from the cool factor of driving. For the last five years, I've been commuting from Charlotte to Brighton and now downtown Northville. Needless to say, I hate driving now. It's a necessary evil. But even though the glamour, if you will, has worn off for me, I still need to be reminded - even at age 43 - the seriousness of driving. Last Friday, I spent the morning running around Novi handing out certificates to our People's Choice winners. My co-workers were worried because they hadn't heard from me, and I didn't arrive into our office until 2:30 p.m. They had heard there was a serious auto accident in Livingston County, and they feared that I was involved in it. Although we didn't know it at the time, it was the accident that took the life of Novi's Amanda Gee. My Amanda goes out to her family and friends as I can't imagine what they are going through. That night, I worked a little later than usual because I knew I would be off Monday for the holiday. I was tired when I left the office, so I went to Starbucks and got a jumbo latte in hopes that it would give me a much-needed jolt. I started fading around Chelsea, and figured I would pull over at the I-94 Jackson rest area. I didn't quite make it there. I nodded out as the traffic ahead of me braked. I ran right into the rear end of a Taurus being driven by a young couple heading on vacation. Miraculously, there was no damage to either car and nobody was injured. But it served as a wake-up call, literally, for me. Embarrassingly, I fell asleep at the wheel five years ago and totaled my car. Obviously, this is not something I'm proud of - but it's something I have to share with readers in hopes that it might hit home with some. Driving is a privilege and perhaps one of the most dangerous tasks you will ever perform. A split second can mean the difference between life and death. Please be careful. Cal Stone is the editor of the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 or at cstone@ht.homecomm.net.

NOVI NEWS STAFF

Grid of staff member photos and names including: Grace Perry - Publisher, Cal Stone - Editor, Jennifer Walker - Acct. Exec., Pam Fleming - Staff Writer, Phil Foley - Staff Writer, Ramez Khuri - Staff Writer, Sam Eggleston - Sports Writer, John Heider - Staff Photographer, Karen Whitehart - Receptionist, Marcia Cromas - Receptionist.

If we're not driving, then park!

A plea to Northville city leaders: please, please, please finish the proposed parking deck as fast as you possibly can. For you see, based on the amount of road construction planned for Northville and the surrounding community over the next six months, I'm worried I'll have no means to travel from Point A to Point B, meaning I'll need a place to park while I wait for the orange barrels to be moved. All this would be comical, were it not for the fact that in a shockingly real sense, it's the truth. We may live in the part of the country that puts the planet in motion, but here in Northville, when we're not mowing and salt-ing, we're patching and paving, and you know what? This, my friends, is the Detroit's heavy-weight title as The Motor City. Unfortunately, I'm getting the sense that this little slice of Northville is as much a part as anyone else — of building more roads / urban sprawl / more cars / so build more roads isn't going to let up anytime soon. Neither my wife's transit political babble from regional leaders who insist that mass transit is needed, and oh, yeah — we mean it this time! We're gonna solve this problem once and for all, and we recognize that worldwide cities need worldwide transportation! And hah blah blah...all of this is just a bore to throw at a public that worships the car more now than ever. Nearly all of us have been to other metropolitan areas in the U.S. Pick any one you'd like — Boston comes to mind for me — and think about how slick it was to grab a coffee and the morning newspaper, flop down in a subway seat, zip along without a care in the world, and re-emerge 10 minutes later footloose from your office. No car to fuss over, no traffic jams to fight, no fenderbenders to narrowly avoid. Sure, there was that weird guy lane of cogging at you three seats away, but you never saw him again, so what's the deal? Compare that to here in Northville. By show of hands, how many of us have jumped into our autos at the crack of dawn (supposedly to beat The Rush, but once again failed to do so), performed the bob-and-weave at 65 mph only to be whittled back to a dead stop at a red light? All this in the name of a deal to stop moments-later-slopped that same cup of Boston coffee in our laps, cursed at the idiotic driver next to us, and showed up to work in 15 minutes late? Uh huh. That's what I thought. I'm not saying anything new here, obviously. Southeast Michigan leaders two years ago this week powwowed on Mackinac Island and formulated their best-looking window dressing yet — this time that suspender buses would rocket us along to work and to play. They made the case all the more believable when they actually continued to discuss the Mackinac Manifesto a full month after the conference ended, unlike previous years where such topics were a distant memory by the time the Shepley's Ferry docked on the mainland. (IRONIC TWIST: Marine mass transit is used to take community leaders from a mass transit-hungry region to an island that has no means of transport besides bicycles.) Oh yes, that's what I thought. I'm not saying anything new here, obviously. Southeast Michigan leaders two years ago this week powwowed on Mackinac Island and formulated their best-looking window dressing yet — this time that suspender buses would rocket us along to work and to play. They made the case all the more believable when they actually continued to discuss the Mackinac Manifesto a full month after the conference ended, unlike previous years where such topics were a distant memory by the time the Shepley's Ferry docked on the mainland. (IRONIC TWIST: Marine mass transit is used to take community leaders from a mass transit-hungry region to an island that has no means of transport besides bicycles.)

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A few tips for the Class of '03

- As graduation time draws near and high school seniors are preparing for final exams, commencement and a whole lot of during commencement, don't trip and fall. \* If someone trips and falls, do laugh at them, but not too loud. \* No matter how tempting it is to spend all of your graduation money on stupid junk, don't. \* Do attend your friends' graduation parties if you're invited. \* Don't give them a scratched up compilation CD from 1994 as a gift. \* Do keep in touch with high school friends. \* Don't crash other people's graduation parties just because you thought you should have been invited. \* Do remember to thank all of your teachers who helped you get to where you are. \* Do try to get everyone in your class to sign your year-book. Those are memories you will keep forever.

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### Novi Jaguar Invitational Champs

Submitted Photos



The Novi Jaguars U9 squad defeated the Michigan Wolves 3-2 in overtime to earn their Invitational title. The members of the team are: Back row (left to right): Coach Brian Zawislak, Tyler Hoffman, Jacob Hague, Andrew Bock, Brock Krygler, Chase Jabori, Joey Kamal, John Willet, Coach Pete Pososki. Front row: Nick Shelar, Trevor Maresh, Jake Tairiol, Joe Schubring, Beau Prey and John DeLeon.



The Novi Jaguars UB soccer squad handily defeated the Michigan Wolves 5-2 in the title game of the 2003 Novi Jaguar Invitational. The squad's members include: Back row (left to right): Coach Mike Scoble, Coach Dan Trospier; Standing: Travis Hamers, Stephen Kovacinski, Zachary Bock, Adam Haynes, Mark Breaugh, Alex Robert, Philip Soong, Corey Odell; Kneeling: Joceb Bedi, Tyler Holt, Justin Danks, Unsh Thakore and Colin Warner.

### SPORTS SHORTS

#### Basketball Camp

The Northville High School Basketball coaching staff will be hosting the 2003 Summer Basketball Camp July 7-11 at Northville High School. The camp is open to boys and girls entering grades 5-9 grades. The camp for 5-7 will be from 9-11:30 a.m. and the camp for 8-9 will be from noon-2:30 p.m. The cost for the camp is \$85 and for questions, call Darrel Schumacher at (248) 344-8420.

will be holding their summer camps June 16-18 at Novi's Powers Park; June 23-25 at Northville's Community Park; July 7-9 at South Ljodi High School; and July 15-17 at Wixom Camp.

All camps run from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. for ages 7-17 years old. Professional players and college coaches will instruct kids in the proper techniques of pitching, hitting and fielding. Kids will also be clocked on a radar gun for arm speed.

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NEWSPAPERS

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# Wallen's passion on the trails

By Brian Doyle  
SPECIAL WRITER

Although Novi senior tennis player Jeff Wallen enjoys two fairly more tame sports in tennis and golf, he also has a passion for mountain biking.

Wallen likes to go out to Mayberry state park and Island Lake recreation area and hit the trails on his bike.

"I think its fun, I like to go out and explore," he said.

Wallen started biking around seventh grade when his friend Mitch Kelly told him that D and D bicycles were hiring. Wallen got the job and it was there where he learned more about the sport.

"It just sprouted from there," Wallen said.

Wallen now works for D and D and really enjoys his work there. He is a sales associate and also works on repairs.

"Its fun," he said, "I'm good friends with all the people there."

Besides playing tennis and mountain biking, Wallen is also active in Novi High School's DECA club, which is a business marketing club. Wallen recently received the Business departmental award. It's no surprise, that Wallen's favorite teacher is Mr. Akouri who is a teacher in the business department.

"I really like his attitude," he said, "He's a fun guy and I can talk to him about anything."

Wallen also enjoys computer classes and just working with computers in general.

"I like to do a lot of computer type work," he said.

He will be going to Central Michigan University next year to



Jeff Wallen

pursue either business or computers.

"I'm interested in business," he said, "but I want to get into a field dealing with technology."

Wallen is looking forward to his time and Central Michigan and moving away to college.

"I think its going to be a great experience," he said, "I'm looking forward to meeting new people."

For now, Wallen enjoys hanging out with his friends, Matt Haggerty, Conor Hogan and Kelly. They enjoy heading out to the movies and going to Lifetime Fitness. Wallen's favorite movie is Rush Hour 2 and his favorite actor is Tom Cruise.

He also likes to go out to Carraba's, which is his favorite restaurant. There is no particular item on the menu that he likes, so he usually gets something different every time.

"I switch it up every time," he said.

Wallen also has a strong family base and his parents, Dave and Diane, have always provided him with encouragement.

"No matter what I do or what actions I take they have always been very supportive," he said.

Wallen has two younger sisters also, Megan, who is a freshman, and Kellie who is in seventh grade.

Wallen manages to stay active all year round. Besides playing tennis for the high school, Wallen also plays golf in the summer-time, works out when he can and mountain bikes even in the winter. "I ride year round," he said.

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Thursday, May 29, 2003

## What if God was one of us?

By Sam Eggleston  
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

And just what would you do if you could harness the powers of God for a spell?

No doubt, plenty of options run through your mind. Some may even think of answers like world peace and the end of starvation and poverty — kudos to those people.

Others, however, no doubt find themselves thinking of a few more self-serving things to do with the omnipotent abilities of God. I know I'd probably end up rearranging things a little, making sports writers one of the highest paid professions in the world, and dropping lawyers down to just about the level of a newspaper delivery boy. But, that's my personal preference.

Jim Carrey is really no differ-

ent. Playing down-trodden TV newsmen Bruce Nolan in his newest release, "Bruce Almighty," he finds himself accusing God of failing to do a decent job after he's passed over for an anchor job that he feels he rightfully deserves, crashes his junker car into a lamppost and fails miserably at housebreaking his dog.

Well, sometimes even God gets tired of all the whining.

God, played by the always impressive Morgan Freeman, decides to give Bruce a chance at holding the key to the universe and all of the powers to go with it. The intention? To show the puny mortal that being God isn't all sugar and spice and everything nice. And, no doubt, you can guess the end to that is nothing but humorous havoc.

Just like any of us would, Bruce has a heck of a time being the

most powerful being ever. And he doesn't mind being self-serving while he's at it. In one scene that nearly everyone has watched on the television previews, he smiles over breakfast after his live-in girlfriend Grace, played by Jennifer Aniston, comments that her breasts seem to have grown overnight.

In a particularly funny scene, Bruce even shows the vengeful ability of God. After coming across some muggers who had beat him up the day before he gains his newfound ability, Bruce demands an apology.

The leader of the gang isn't so sure that's a good idea.

"You'll get your 'sorry' the day a monkey comes out of my butt," he says with an evil grin.

"What a coincidence," replies Bruce.

He even uses his powers to get ahead at work by getting back at a rival anchor in one of the funniest scenes in the movie, as well as to forward his love life as he romances Grace after erasing the clouds from the sky and pulling the moon closer to Earth to enhance the romantic mood. And, while he's at it, Bruce decides that he's tired of scooting around in a car that definitely needs work, and puts himself in the driver's seat of a sweet Italian-made coupe instead. Behind the wheel of that little beauty, Bruce finds he can part traffic just as easily as he can part tomato soup.

Oh, and let's not forget, he even manages to take house-breaking his dog to a whole new level as the canine is suddenly lifting the toilet seat and reading the Sunday paper to help pass the time on the commode.

But, with every job comes responsibility. It's not long until Bruce suddenly finds his head filled with a thousand prayers whispered around the world. Thinking quickly, though not thoroughly, Bruce organizes all of the prayers into e-mail form and adjusts his system to automatically reply "yes!" to all of them. And as we all know, with every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Soon, Bruce is learning the consequences of his own prayer-answering as tidal waves



Courtesy photo

The "Almighty" played by Morgan Freeman, gives Jim Carrey, in the role of Bruce Nolan, a lesson in his new powers in this scene from "Bruce Almighty."

flood Japan because of unusual lunar activity and 11,000 lottery winners find themselves only getting \$17 from the jackpot.

In the end, the movie has a predictable story arc as Bruce has a lesson to learn and there's no way God is going to let him escape without learning it. The writing, done by Steve Koren, Mark O'Keefe and Steve Oederkerk, is wickedly witty and his home runs with highbrow and lowbrow humor. Carrey also makes the movie work by not always being the crazy, rubber-faced actor. Instead, he balances it nicely and comes off as a believably regular guy prone to sidesplitting fits of craziness.

In fact, "Bruce Almighty" strikes me as one of Carrey's funniest, and wittiest, movies. Combined with the acting ability of Aniston, who has been showing great progress since her initial steps into the world of the silver screen, and the always impressive

presence of Freeman, Carrey finds himself in a role among some of the most recognizable faces in the industry. That's a big leap from holding up movies on his own, as he's been asked to do more times than I care to think about.

The only major downfall is the closing of the film almost finds it crashing and burning in the final scenes. For some reason, the writers found their minds tapped of witty and intelligent humor, and resorted to the suddenly awkward deliverance of feelings to the audience. The scene is almost painful to watch, but doesn't ruin the film as a whole. Luckily, the entirety of the flick, combined with Carrey's ability to pull it out of the fire, finds "Bruce Almighty" a decent film to go and watch — just make sure you don't go when you should be sitting in the pews.

And, for those who love the outrageous out-takes that movies have been known to splice into

their ending credits, "Bruce Almighty" is one to stick around in your chair for. In a movie like this one, there was no doubt that some funny antics would take place, and the scenes intertwined with the final credits show that is definitely the case. If you have the time, hang around and enjoy.

All in all, this movie does a fine job of making up for some of the more devastatingly humiliating movies Carrey has found himself in. Though many fans of the comedy genre will pass this off as another freak-fest with the antics of the film's star, those who have come to enjoy Carrey's wide abilities and creative process will no doubt enjoy seeing him back in form.

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 seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.



Courtesy Photo

Bruce Nolan, played by Jim Carrey, finds a creative way to cool his soup as he puts the powers of God to the test.

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NOVI NEWS-Thursday, May 29, 2003

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SWOCC Special Meeting Notice
DATE: Thursday, May 29
TIME: 8 a.m.
LOCATION: SWOCC Studios, conference room, 3300 Nine Mile Rd., Farmington.

Friends of Maybury State Park Meeting
DATE: Tuesday, June 3
TIME: 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Classroom building, 8 Mile Entrance, at the park.
DETAILS: General Membership Meeting to plan interpretive programs for the balance of the year. Public welcome.
PHONE: 248-347-0899.

Arts and Treasures Weekend
DATE: June 7-8
LOCATION: Fountain Walk, Novi.

Friends & Family Walk for Juvenile Diabetes
DATE: Saturday, June 14
LOCATION: Maybury State Park, 20145 Beck Rd., Northville.
DETAILS: Proceeds will benefit children at the Beaumont Pediatric Endocrinology Unit.

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.)

Quick Date
DATE: Tuesday, June 17
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Fifth Avenue Ballroom, 25750 Novi Road, Novi.
DETAILS: Meet 10-15 new people for five minutes each. It's fast-paced, fun & exciting! Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$40. Ages are 25-35 and 35-45.
PHONE: (517) 552-0673 or visit www.quickdateinfo.com

Jazz Concert
DATE: Wednesday, June 18
TIME: 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi High School Auditorium.

Henry Ford Health System Alternative Medicine Learning Series
DATES: Wednesday, June 25
TIME: 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Henry Ford Medical Center, Novi, 40000 Eight Mile, one block west of Haggerty.

TOPICS

ON-GOING

Women's Prayer Support
DATE: every Saturday
TIME: 9:15-10:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49329 Pontiac Trail, Weston (Parking is behind the church).
DETAILS: You are welcome to come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer as you face life's problems, issues and frustrations.

Experimental Watercolor
DATE: Tuesdays through June 17
TIME: 6:30-9:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Walled Lake Community Education, 615 N. Phoenix Trail.

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.)

American Business Women's Association
DATE: third Mondays
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Wyndham Garden Hotel in Novi.

Parenting Workshop
DATES: Three Tuesday evenings starting June 3
TIME: 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Psychological and Counseling Services, 670 Griswold, Ste. 4, Northville.

Breast Cancer Support Group
DATES: Second and fourth Tuesdays of the month
LOCATION: Karan Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C on the ground floor of the hospital.

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

"Novi Needlers" Quilting Group
DATE: Second and fourth Wednesdays of the month
LOCATION: Novi Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook, Novi.

Business referrals
DATE: every Wed. ongoing
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 Mile Rd.
TIME: 7 - 8:30 a.m.
DETAILS: Meeting of local professionals and business looking to increase word-of-mouth referrals business leads.

Oakland County Health Division Expectant Parent Classes
DATE: ongoing series
LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple, Walled Lake.

New TDPS chapter in Novi
DATES: Wednesdays
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons Activities Room, 25075 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi.

Dakland County Health Division breast-feeding support sessions
DATE: ongoing series
LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple, Walled Lake.

Novi Toastmasters
DATE: First and third Tuesdays of the month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, actv. res. room.

Overeaters Anonymous
DAYS: every Friday
TIME: 7 p.m.
DETAILS: free; for overeaters looking for a support group.

Providence Park
All Community/Health Events are held at Providence Park-Nov, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi, unless otherwise noted.

Cancer Support Group
DAYS: first and third Tuesday of every month
TIME: 6:30-8 p.m.
DETAILS: free, for adult cancer patients and significant others.

Alcoholics Anonymous
DAYS: every Tuesday and Thursday
TIME: noon
LOCATION: Providence Medical Office Center-Nov, 3900 W. 10 Mile Rd.

Strokes Support Group
DAYS: first Thursday of every month
TIME: 7 p.m.
DETAILS: free
PHONE: (248) 465-4190

Parents Supporting Parents
DAYS: fourth Thursday of every month
TIME: 7 p.m.
DETAILS: free; for parents coping with the loss of an infant through miscarriage, stillbirth or newborn death.

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

THE SCREEN BEAT

By Brian Renner THE MOVIE INSIDER

Coming to theaters this week-end is computer-generated "Finding Nemo" where you can dive into a whole new world with this underwater adventure.

Now in theaters is kids' comedy "Daddy Day Care" starring Eddie Murphy as a father who is laid off from his "dotcom" job and finds himself in jeopardy of financial ruin.

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"Come swing with us," say Novi Rotarians

The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis will play two shows (7:30 and 9:30 p.m.) on Wednesday June 18 at Novi High School auditorium (see the ad in this section for details). This is a Novi Rotary Club event, sponsored by JCK Associates.

Ted Nash (alto and soprano saxophones, clarinet) was born in 1959 in Los Angeles into a musical family - his father Dick Nash and uncle Ted Nash both being well-known jazz and studio musicians.

Herlin Riley (drums) was born into a musical family in New Orleans, Louisiana and began playing the drums at age three.



Wynton Marsalis (center) with members of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. From left to right: Herlin Riley (drums), Marcus Printup (trumpet), and other musicians.

mentor and a co-founder of the FIFE Youth Jazz Orchestra program in Scotland, which now enrolls 70 young musicians ages 7 to 17 playing in three full-size bands.

Ron Westray (trombone) was born on June 13, 1970 in Columbia, South Carolina. He began studying piano at age 5 and was introduced to the trombone at age 11.

Woody Herman, Buddy Rich, Joe Henderson, Duke Pearson, the Jazz Composer's Orchestra, Thad Jones-Mel Lewis Orchestra and Clark Terry, among many others.

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# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Thursday, May 29, 2003

Page III

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Job loss mortgage insurance

I love my home. I love how its wood floors creak in protest to our footsteps, how its walls have come to life with some novice brushstrokes of color, and the way it stands stoically in the face of inclement weather protecting all who languish beneath its rafters.

While not everyone shares my level of enthusiasm for their dwellings, most people shudder at the thought of losing a home, particularly to the bank.

Traditionally, if homeowners couldn't make the mortgage payments, they were doomed for foreclosure. However, to the relief of nervous homeowners everywhere, fewer are walking the home foreclosure plank. According to a recent article published in Seattle Times (Nov. 10, 2002), lenders are actually helping delinquent borrowers avoid foreclosure.

The Federal Housing Administration (FHA), the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Mortgage Corp (Freddie Mac) have all implemented national "loss mitigation" programs that enable delinquent borrowers to avoid foreclosure by making short term modifications to their loan terms, in the form of more affordable monthly payments or lower interest rates, depending on the severity of the borrower's financial problems.

While it's comforting to know that foreclosure isn't necessarily eminent if you can't make your mortgage payments, borrowers shouldn't assume their lenders would recast loans in the event of unemployment.

If you think your job may be in jeopardy this coming year and you don't have an emergency fund to cover at least six months worth of expenses, consider looking into a mortgage payment insurance policy that will pay all or a portion of your mortgage payment if you suffer involuntary unemployment.

Mortgage Payment Protection and Assurant Group both offer job loss mortgage insurance. These policies are typically sold through lenders and builders and are available to buyers and individuals who refinance their mortgages at the time of closing or soon after. Mortgage insurance policies are also available to individuals who have existing mortgages. General Electric (GE) Casually recently unveiled a program geared toward homeowners who make their monthly payments on time. For \$45 per month—tacked onto a monthly payment for \$100,000 loan—GE will pay 100 percent of the mortgage for up to six months in the event the homeowner gets laid off. Or for \$25 per month, GE will cover half the mortgage.

To find out about job loss mortgage insurance, contact your lender. Keep these questions in mind when conducting your research:

1. What is the policy's vesting period? (Many policies require the insured to pay into the policies for six months before benefits are administered.)
2. If I lose my job in the vesting period, will I be refunded my monthly premiums?
3. How many payments will the policy make if I'm unemployed?
4. How much is the monthly premium?
5. What is the maximum monthly benefit? In other words, does the policy pay all of the mortgage (principal, interest, taxes and insurance) or just a portion?
6. How soon after I become unemployed will benefits kick in?

If you are currently unemployed and struggling to make your mortgage payments, contact your lender right away. They may know of programs offered through public-private partnerships and state agencies that can help you avoid foreclosure. RealEstateJournal.com recommends some steps you can take to help you stay in your home:

- Get permission from your lender to postpone making payments until you find employment.
- Talk with a foreclosure prevention counselor.
- Consider refinancing or taking out a temporary loan.
- Sell your existing home and purchase one that's more affordable.

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL), a statewide trade association representing Michigan credit unions. Send your financial questions to "Your Money Matters" c/o the Michigan Credit Union League, P.O. Box 8054, Plymouth, MI 48170-8054, or stop by our Web site ([www.mcul.org](http://www.mcul.org)) to learn more about smart money management.



Mary Davis

ADVERTORIAL

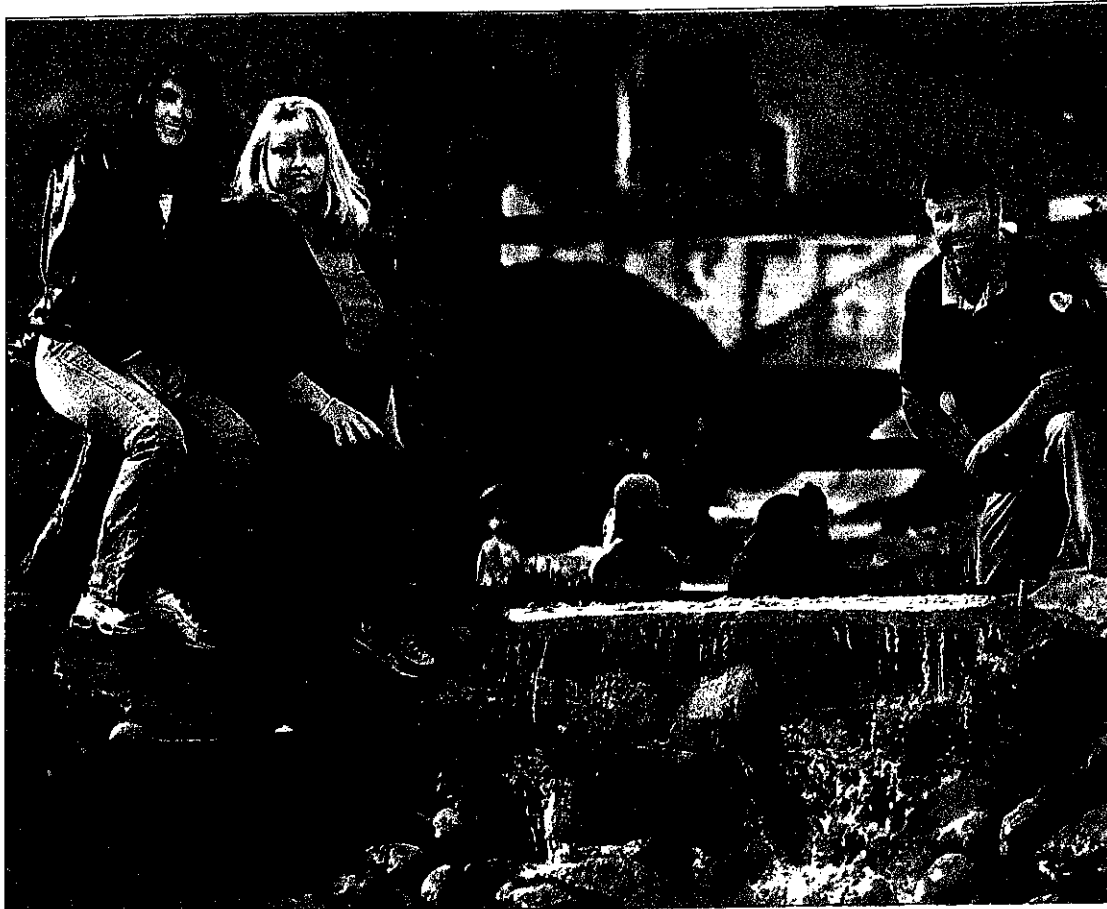


Photo by HAL GOULD

Standing near one of the waterfalls built by Landscape Magic, Shelly Coomer, manager Tami Baldwin and owner Kurt Kilroy offer experience and ideas to make the most of any landscaping project.

## Come home to relax with Landscape Magic

By Elizabeth Heer

In a hectic world, home can be the center of our universe where we find much-needed safety and calm. Creating a soothing oasis for homeowners to come home to is what Kurt Kilroy does best. The Highland landscape contractor and owner of Landscape Magic designs and builds waterfalls and ponds, from initial sketch to the final finishing touches that will blend perfectly with the surrounding landscape.

Every job is unique, he explained. "You can put a waterfall, pond, or water feature at anyone's house, and each would

be completely different," Kilroy said. "Many people are spending more time and money at home now and want to enjoy the serenity of water."

Kilroy's special touch is in making newly-installed waterfalls and ponds look as if they were created by nature.

"The trick is the origin of the waterfall. It must be in the right spot and blend naturally into the setting," he said. For example, Kilroy explained that for a recent job, he created a 145-foot-long stream and waterfall system, beginning at the house and running down to a lake where the water was recirculat-

ed. Tucked under spruce trees, he said the stream looks as if it comes out of a hillside, and incorporates 35 waterfalls, boulders, rock, and slag stone for a natural look. The project was neatly finished with landscaping. "The homeowner was just elated, and said it just could not be any better," Kilroy said.

Low voltage pond lighting is another feature that Kilroy provides, which not only gives a dramatic look to the water, but is practical as well. "Most people work all day and come home in the evening, but still want to sit and relax by the pond," he explained. "With the pond light-

ing, you can enjoy seeing the fish and the plants."

Ponds are fun, and actually require little maintenance, according to Kilroy. "Initially, it takes three to four weeks for the water to balance. After the initial clear water period, it tends to turn a little cloudy but then it will stabilize," he said. "Adding the plant material and fish helps, because you're actually building an ecosystem. There are no chemicals to add, and because the water is filtered, it's all natural bacteria." Kilroy explains that his company uses a 45-mil liner for the bottom of the pond, and then completely covers the liner with natural stone, which acts as another natural filter. Conveniently located at Landscape Magic is The Pond Place, where customers can find quality pond plants, fish, and all the supplies needed to finish their pond.

Of course, one of the nicest features of a waterfall and pond is the relaxing sound of running water. Kilroy only installs high efficiency water pumps that don't cost an arm and a leg to operate. "These water features are designed to run 24/7 year round, and are never shut off. You'd be surprised at what pumps can do today," he said. Besides creating that inviting sound, the pumps also serve to oxygenate the water so fish can survive in the pond.

Like the natural evolution of the ponds he creates, Kilroy's life has been one of meeting change and challenge head on — evolving from factory worker, to student, to business owner, and finally to a specialized landscape contractor, "who builds really cool waterfalls

### DETAILS

Kurt Kilroy of Landscape Magic is a specialist in designing and building waterfalls, retaining walls, stone steps, and low voltage lighting for your outdoor water features. The showroom, located at 2586 South Milford Road in Highland, has several waterfalls and ponds on display. Call Tami Baldwin, store manager, at (248) 684-1626, for more information or to schedule an appointment.

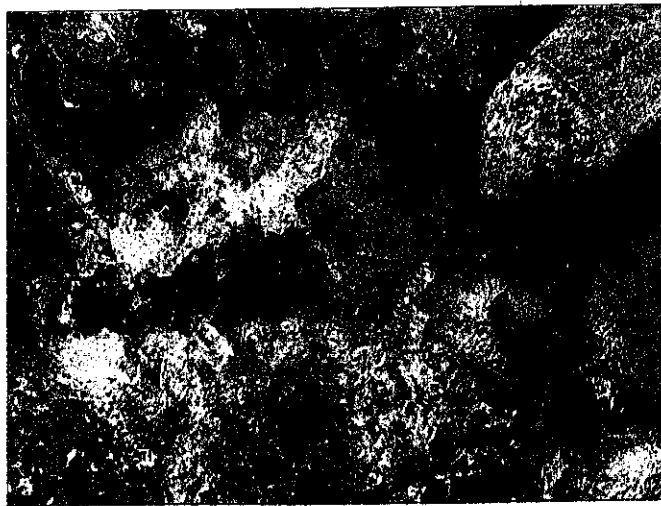


Photo by Hal Gould

Landscape Magic's waterfalls appear to be created by nature.

and water features," he laughed. While working at a GM factory job, Kilroy attended night school to complete a degree in business. After the factory was sold, employees were given the option to enter a job bank program, work at community service jobs, or go back to school. Kilroy choose to continue his education. After enduring another job layoff, however, he opted again for adding to his education, ultimately completing degrees in golf course management and horticulture from Michigan State University. Fueled by his growing expertise, Kilroy took his lawn service business and morphed it into a successful landscaping business, and then to his current specialization in creating mini resorts for everyone's backyard.

Visit Landscape Magic at 2586 South Milford Road where you can see six working examples of the magic Kilroy can build for you.

## Landscape Magic

(Your Local Landscape Company)

(248) 684-1626

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