

olume 47 Number :

# **REGIONAL MARKET**



**Milford Jewelers** 

It's hard to tell sometimes that it's a jewelry store at all. Sure, the cherrywood cases overflowing with sparkling diamond and gemstone delights often give it away. And the constant whir of a respected craftsman put-ting the final hand-engraved ting touches on a customized ring is

yet another tell-tale sign. But that's such a small part of the real Milford Jewelers story that it often seems redundant. - Page 8B

#### NSIDE

#### It's time to party!

Holiday parties can send a host control platter can send a host or hostess into a lizzy. Fear not. Executive Chef Mary Brady, of Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro in Novi and Mary Brady's Custom Catering, has a few tips to smooth out the wrinkles in this year's fes-tive feast ive feasts -Page 14A

\* 0

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She's a backer of business Three local champions of small business were recognized Monday by the Small Business Association of Michigan, including State Senator Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) who was named the association's 2003 Legislator of the Year.

- Page 7A

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53174-22222



Novi figures out how to deal with cuts after Dec. 5 decision

By Ramez Khuri ee waitee

Say you are the superintendent of a school district and you had planned July I on a fund equity of \$500,000 to fund an educational program for the 2004-05 school

#### Turkey tunes

year. Then the state comes in and says that they're going to reduce the per pupil foundation grant amount by \$200 per student, which equals \$600,000. Now, what is your school dis-trict to de trict to do?

Are you going to cut programs to save part of your fund equity or use your fund equity to run the programs running until there's no

programs running until there sho more fund equity left? This is just one realistic dilem-ma that many school districts in Michigan are facing right now because of the state's nearly \$1 billion budget deficit. Of that, the

state educa-tion fund is running a of deficit more than \$300 million. The

the 2004-2005 foundation grant of nearly \$200 per student (Novi currently receives \$8,310 per stu-

to say that school districts can avoid some of the pain by using fund equity and, in fact, they are talking about possibly mandating

A fund equity is like a savings A fund equity is like a savings account that some school districts have been able to build up over the years. Schools say that having a fund equity is prudent. It gives them some cushion for the unexpected and it provides money to carry them over while waiting for

pay interest. The Novi Community School District currently has a 14-percent planned fund equity for the 2004-05 school year. That equals almost \$8 million in cash. Fortunately for Novi, it is not in the same boat of some other school districts. But, according to Jim Koster, assistant superintendent of business and finance, there is still need for concern.

the foundation grant, there shouldn't be a mandate that



Over 200 first and second graders from Deerfield Elementary School sang a collection of Thanksgiving songs for students at Novi Middle School a few weeks back. Deerfield Music Teacher Ainsley Sonntag coordinated the event.

# 175 vehicles vandalized at dealerships

# **By Phil Foley**

While most people celebrated Thanksgiving with turkey and parades some marked the day with a rampage of destruction.

Police in Novi and Farmington Hills are looking for the people responsible for more than \$100,000 damage to 175 new vehicles at 10

dealerships in Novi, Farmington Hills and Waterford Township. Although half the dealerships attacked belong to one group,

Suburban, police in Novi and Farmington Hills say they don't believe the company was singled out

Chief William Dwyer, who has been Farmington Hills' top cop for 19 years, said he's never seen any-thing like it. "We will not tolerate it," he said, adding that Farmington Hills police are offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the identity, arrest and conviction of the person or people responsible for , vandalisr th

Novi Police Chief Doug Shaeffer

said some 80 vehicles were vandalized at four dealers along Haggerty Road. He said a spokesman for Mercedes of Novi estimated damage to the 19 vehicles struck there at least \$1,500 each. "Anything over \$1,000 in malicious destruction is a

felony," noted Shaeffer. He said investigators in Novi did catch a break, Jaguar of Novi, where 17 vehicles were damaged, has a video surveillance system. Shaeffer said the Michigan State

Police Crime Lab in Northville has the tape now. "We don't know what

it will show, but we are very inter ested," he said

In addition to Jaguar and Mercedes, the vandalized Novi deal-ers included Suburban Infiniti and Suburban Jeep Chrysler. Across the street in Farmington Hills the vic-tims included Bill Cook Imports, Saturn of Farmington Hills, Suburban Honda, Suburban Acura and Tom Holzer.

and form Holzer. According to Chief Dwyer, Suburban Ford on M-59 in Waterford Township was the biggest single victim with 30 cars damaged.

**JB GUINEY** 

# Culvert gathering wasn't a meeting By Phil Foley

#### STAFF WRITEF

vert

the

Mayor Lou Csordas' meeting with a Walled Lake area home owners association president and

three city council mem bers at a cul-vert last month did not constitute a meeting under the terms of state's open meeting



act, according L. Csordas to City Attorney Gerald Fisher

However, the man who made the original complaint says the city attorney had no business offering that opinion and has writ-ten a letter calling on Fisher to turn his files over to the Oakland County Prosecutor's office. Austin Street resident Mark

Robbins filed a complaint with the Novi Police Department Nov. 17 contending that a meeting arranged by Asa Smith two days earlier had violated the state's

open meeting act. Smith, president of the Lakes Area Homeowners Association, was unhappy that a concrete culwas unnappy that a constrict cut-vent connecting Shawood Lake with Walled Lake as part of a proj-ect to upgrade South Lake Drive provides a foot less clearance for people trying to negotiate the seasonal waterway between the two lakes. According to Smith, that denies canoeists and other small

continued on page 3

See Novi resident Mark Robbins' letter to the editor regarding 'the meeting on page 12A.

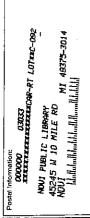
Bobdemonium: Fans pack Borders for

Michigan Education Association J. Koster has already warned school districts to expect a reduction in the 2004-2005 foundation grant

state aid payments to arrive. Otherwise, they would have to borrow money to meet payroll, which would mean they have to dent). This prompted lawmakers

"If the state cuts money from

continued on page 10



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# glimpse of Bob 'The Bachelor' Guiney

ABC reality TV star stages performance, CD signing

# By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

You've heard of pandemonium Well, it was "Bohdemonium" at the Novi Borders Books & Music the evening before Thanksgiving as an estimated 1,200 fans crammed into the store for a glimpse of America's favorite bachelor - Bob Guiney.

They came to see the famous bachelor from Ferndale and the star of ABC's television show "The Beckelor" The Bachelor.

Guiney's performance Nov. 26 with fellow band members from Fat Amy was followed by a sign-ing of Guiney's new CD, "3 Sides."

He was in Birmingham's Borders the previous day for a signing of his new book, "What a Difference a Year Makes" Difference a Year Makes

Ashley Stohler of Milford came to see "Bachelor Bob."

"I watched every episode of 'The Bachelor,' and I just really liked the show. I really got into it. I decided it would be fun to come," she said.

Stohler had not listened to Guiney's new CD yet. "I didn't even know

iz he band," she said. What did she think about his choice of Estella Gardinier, the 28-year-old fellow ortgage br ills, Calif.? broker from Beverly Hills "I liked her more than the other

"Thied her more than the other girls," she said. And her ophinon of Guiney giving Gardinier a ring he placed on her right hand? "I kind of thought he was going to propose. But, if he needs more time, that's cool," Stohler said. Stohler's friends, Ben and Amber Wilson of Spring Arbot.

Amber Wilson of Spring Arbor, said they watched the television

continued on page 3



Bob Guiney of Ferndale, star of the ABC TV reality TV show "The Bachelor," signs a CD for a fan at Borders Books & Music in Novi Nov. 26. Guiney and fellow mem bers of the band "Fat Amy" scheduled a performance followed by a signing of his new CD, "3 Sides."



For Novi football coach Tab Kellepourey, it doesn't matter if everyone remembers this team 10 years down the road. All that matters to him is that he and his fellow coaches, along with every member of the 2003 football team, will reminisce about it. Join us in a tribute to the NHS Wildows for the team. - B Section



# Purse snatchers drag woman through lot and the car sped north on Crescent

Just one

boad.

Heading home

POLICE BRIEFS

stopped a 2000 Jeep on Novi Road near 10 Mile Road at 1:46 a.m. Nov. 27. The driver, a 22-

year-old Brighton woman, said

she'd only had one beer at Fifth

Avenue Billiards, but she failed field sobriety tests and registered

a blood alcohol content of .15.

Officer Lowen charged her with

operating under the influence of liquor. The woman was later

released after posting a \$100

oman behind the wheel of the

2002 Buick Officer Michael Prough stopped on eastbound 10 Mile near city hall at 6:35 p.m.

Nov. 27 said she was on her way

home after having three glasses of wine with her sister in South

Lyon, After failing field sobriety

tests and registering a blood alcohol content of .13 she made a detour to Novi Police

detour to Novi Police Headquarters where she was

booked for operating under the

Following a traffic stop on easthound I-96 at Novi Road at

9:46 p.m. Nov. 27, Officer

Andrew Hudechek discovered the 39-year-old Detroit woman behind the wheel was being

sought by authorities in Wayne

Department departies.

Tip and run

Warrant Arrest

inty. He released the woman Wayne County Sheriff's

A 50-year-old Novi man told

Officer Mark Stone that vandals

tipped over a large plastic platter at the Emagine Theater some-time before 10:40 p.m. Nov. 28.

stopped a 1998 Pontiac Grand Prix on eastboard Nine Mile

Road near Sunrise, the 22-year-old Detroit woman behind the

wheel told him she was on her

way from her job at Heslip to see her mother at Henry Ford Hospital. She never made it. A

warrant check revealed she was

pect.

influence of

Golcha

luence of liquor and later eased after posting a \$100

woman was later

18 1

# By Phil Foley

Drive, dragging her 15 or 20 feet before she let go of the purse. A 26-year-old South Lyon man An Ionia woman staying at a local hotel for a training session inwitnessed the incident and told Romalus narrowly escaped serious injury Nov, 30 when a man in a sil-ver car grabbed her purse and sped police the car was either a Hyundai or a Ford Taurus. Although she complained of pair

in her wrist and forearm, the The 41-year-old victim, accordwoman declined medical treatment ing to a report filed by Novi Police Officer MIchael Marchetti, was She told investigators that while she was in town for a training session standing outside Borders Books at stated for Dec. 1 in Romulus, with 7:52 p.m. in Novi Towne Center her purse, eash and credit cards gone, she'd have to return home to Ionia. A search of the area failed to when three black men in a silver ca drove up and asked directions for 1-596 and Walled Lake. The woman said she told the trio - locate the suspects. that 1-696 diln't go into Walled Lake and leaned torward to give them directions from the shopping center to the expressivay. As she dil (248) 349-1700 ext. 108 or at pfoone of the men grabbed her purse - ley@ht.homecomm.net.

Woman sells parts online, suspects fraud

# By Phil Foley

address arrived containing a cashier's check for \$2550. The envelope also contained instructions A 27-year-old Novi woman to send the balance of the money to believes she may have been the vic- an address in London and a promise tim of a wire fraud, but Novi Police that someone would be by to pick up the price The woman told Officer Craig Felix that she agreed to sell some tandem bicycle parts online for ber The woman said that after eashing the check she began to worry that it was some sort of Internet 29-year-old sister. She said after get-ting several e-mail responses, she scam, but the staff assured her th check was good. Fearing she might be held responsible, if the check agreed to self the parts to someone for \$150. eventually proves to be bad, the A few days later an envelope with woman turned to Novi Police.

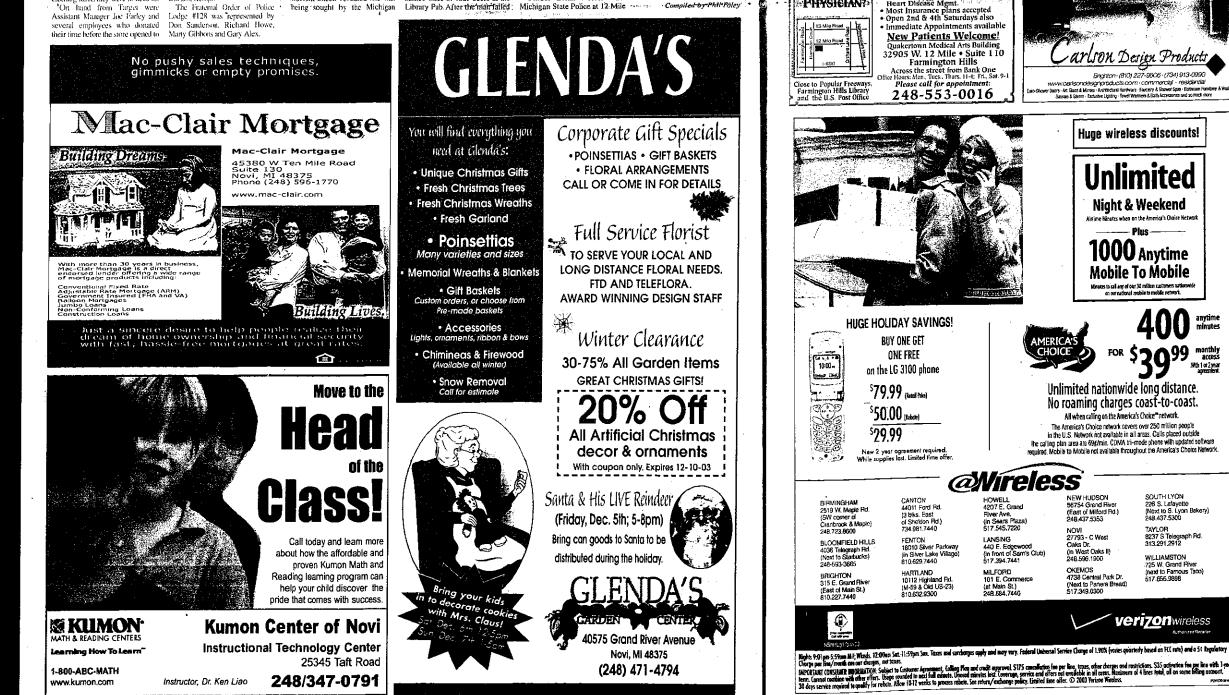
an English postmark and no return

# Children shop with cops

Police

Department

A Shop With a Cop program was held at the Target store on Wixom Road in Novi Nov, 22, The uniformed police officers present from area departments were This event was sponsored by the Jim Stames, Oakhaid County Sherifi Fraternal Order of Police, Department: Mark Mackie, Oakland Southwest Oakland County, Lodge #128 and the Target store of Novi. County Sheriff Department; John Marasco, Wolverine Lake Police Department; Linda Fultz, Wixom The Lakes Area Youth Assistance chose five children to benefit from Police Department; Lou Bigliardi, this program. Each child shopped with a uniformed police officer for approximately one hour choosing Novi Representing the Lakes Area Youth Assistance were Deborah Lindsey dothing items they were in need of. and Dot Kempf. 'On hand from Target were





NOVIPUL

#### **Bobdemonium:** Fans pack Gathering Borders to see 'The Bachelor' wasn't a meeting continued from front continued from front show together as students at Spring Arbor University. boaters their traditional navigation Amber Wilson, however doesn't really buy-in to the realrights. According to a report filed by

ity TV dating concept. "I don't think it's realistic. Novi Police Officer Shawn Penzak, Smith said he had e-They're behind the camera the mailed all seven members of the whole time, and they can be in a manee an seven memory of me city council inviting them to look at the culvert and other road issues his group has in the area. Although Novi City Council Members Lynne Paul and Toni Nagy have said they were not contacted about relationship there. But once you get in the real world, I think it's a lot different. You have jobs and other responsibilities," she said. She was also somewhat sur-prised that Guiney picked the gathering, they've also said it didn't bother them since they had Gardinier. "I thought he was going to independently gone out to examine pick Kelly Jo. 1 think he didn'i pick her because she was fun all the time, and people need more While several city council members asked questions about the than that." she said project at the council's Nov. 24 Kelly Jo Kuharski, a 24-yearold marketing analyst from Wheaton, Ill., was the heartbromeeting, no votes were taken, even after City Engineer Nancy McClain told council members ken runner-up. that the only change contemplates in the project was to have the con-tractor, Anderzack-Pitzen Sister gives Estella 'thumbs up' tractor, Anderzack-Pitzen Construction, elevate the culvert's

southern end in order to comply with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality permit. Fisher told council members By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER that in order for a gathering o council members to be a "meeting" there has to be more than a quorum Bob Guiney's older sister. Dee Dee DeMare, who was in Novi Nov. 26, said she wasn't surprised by her brother's choice of Estella Gardinier. of members in one place. He said hat under the terms of the open neetings act, to be a me She watched with other fami-members Nov. 19 as her cil members have to deliberate an issue or hold a vote. He said that since neither happened at the cul-vert, it didn't constitute a meeting brother, star of the ABC reality TV show "The Bachelor," gave the final rose to the 28-year-old mortgage broker of Beverly under the terms of the act. He noted the act indicates that social or chance gatherings, where no business is conducted, are not Hills "Actually, I would have been rprised if he had picked Kelly meetings. Csorclas called the complaint against him and the other council "Mainly because I just saw members an "unfair" and "unsub-stantiated attack." different level of bonding going on between him and Estella. I saw more of a goofy, crazy friendship with him and Kelly

Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Jo," she added.



11

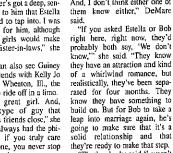
#### Kim Mackniesh also came to 19," she said. "I think he's definitely cute, though." She had already purchased see "Bachelor Bob." She grew up in Novi and now lives in Canton. "I followed 'The Bachelor." and listened to his new CD. "We bought it today, and we like it," Hawke said. We watched every episode twice," she said. The show's Her twin sister, Kim, came reruns recently began appearing on the ABC Family channel. with her to Borders. "We watch the show together every week with our friends, so we thought it would be a fun Some of Guiney's fans weren't familiar with his music or the fact that he recently wrote thing to do - come meet him, see him play," she said. So, what did the twins think a book. But both book and CD sales were brisk at the Novi

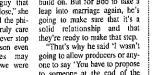
about the ring thing? "I think I would have been a Borders Nov. 26, Guiney fan Robbie Hawke of Novi also came to Borders. "We watched the show every little disappointed if I was her," Robbie Hawke said. "But, she still got the nice Wednesday and thought it would be fun. We're home for ring," Kim Hawke noted. Thanksgiving, so it was some-thing to do," she said. Since Guincy's still single, Pam Fleming is a staff write Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homecomm.net. does she think she has a chance

with the 32-year-old bachelor? "He's a little old for me. I'm

"My brother's got a deep, sen-timental side to him that Estella really seemed to tap into. I was very excited for him, although both of the girls would make vonderful sister-in-laws," she said. DeMare can also see Guiney remaining friends with Kelly Jo Kubarski of Wheaton, Ill., the girl he left to ride off in a limo. "She's a great girl. And, Bob's the type of guy that always keeps friends close," she aid. "He's always had the philosophy that if you truly care about someone, you never stop aring about that person even though circumstances may change. That's how we were raised

So, does DeMarc see a family wedding in the future? "I don't know, It's hard to say.





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verī<u>zo</u>nwireless

to someone at the end of the show;" she said. "I think he knows what i takes to make a marriage work.



# Bob's parents pleased with their son's choice

#### **By Pam Fleming** STAFF WRITER

Bob Guiney's parents, Bob and Nora Guiney of Riverview, came to Borders Books & Music in Novi Nov. 26 to see their son perform. Guiney, a 32-year-old mortgage broker from Ferndale and co-owner of Allied Mortgage in Dearborn, recently picked Estella Gardinier, 28, also a mortgage broker in Beverly Hills, Calif., out of 25

Bob and Nora Guiney of women on the ABC TV show "The Riverview came to see Bachelor.' their son, Bob Guiney, stal He had to keep his choice a secret of the ASC reality TV profrom everyone - even family members. So, the whole Guiney gram "The Bachelor," per-form at Borders Books & family watched the final episode

Music. They said their lives together in suspense. What did Mom think of him choosing Gardinier over 24-year-old markethave changed dramatically since their son became ing analyst Kelly Jo Kuharski of Wheaton, Ill.?

"Well, he brought both of the girls home, and they were both wonder-ful girls. But the chemistry -Ilives "We get noticed everywhere we go," Bob Guiney said. "I flew into Washington, D.C., the mean you could almost feel it in the air with Estella and Bob. It was beautiful. It was like poetry," she day after the final show, and I couldn't get through. I thought I was "She's so classy," she noted. "Fun, classy and beautiful. That's how I would describe her." Even though she was the runnergoing to miss my plane," she said. "People were stopping me, wanting to take pictures and get autograph she said. "I was like, "Why would you want my autograph?" Nora Guiney even met First Lady Laura Bush recently on "Good up, Kuharski seems to have a good attitude now about the outcome that occurred about four months ago and wants to remain friends with Morning America." "Her back was to me when I walked in because they were doing her hair. When they turned her Guiney. "[ think they']] be real good

"I think they'll be reat good friends forever, but I believe that had it been the other way around that Estella would have taken the loss wherear" Nora Guiney said. So, how has their son being on a two beautiful daughters. Tell your national TV show changed their son," Nora Guiney said.



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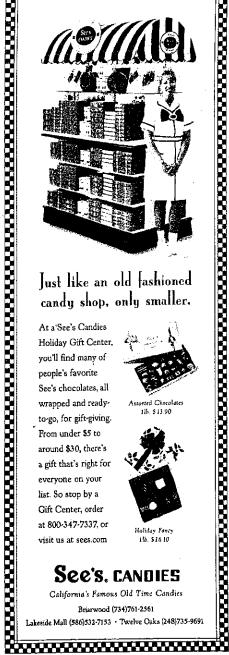
Publication Number USPS 395290



lust like an old fashioned candy shop, only smaller.



Thursday, December 4, 2003-NOVI NEWS 3A



44 NOV NEWS Frunspar December 4, 2003

# Deer and drivers don't mix very well

# By Phil Foley

With 52 Lines of the seat latest Will Source An Oracea Series and residence for the city office and year. Not an Pointer of the mean of the type of a series of the series and the series of the series of Source and Manager of Source of Source and Manager. Sciencerco

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#### Welcome Home

Novi Mayor Lou Csordas (right) welcomes home Novi Police Officer Ayren Edgar and presents him with a plaque commending his service in Kuwait with the U.S. Marine Corps. Shortly after joining the Novi Police Department and getting married. Edgar's Marine Corp Reserve unit was actived for duty in the Middle East. He recently returned home and expects to trade in his Marine Humvee for a Novi PD Crown Victoria after the first of the year.

# Online traffic map upgraded



LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public



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OBITUARIES

Thursday, December 4, 2003-NOV! NEWS 5A

# SENIOR CALENDAR

# Thursday 12/4

6:30 p.m. .....Clogging\* Oglebay & Greenbriat Trip noon 12;15 p.m. Bridge I p.m. Beginuers/2 p.m. ..... Adv. Line Dance Rotary Luncheon at Novi Middle School (advanced reservation required) Tuesday 12/9 9 a.m. 12 p.m. ..... Massage Therapy 9 a.m. Panera bread 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Computer Class-Windows 9:30 a.m. Line Dance\* 10 a.m. Asian Pacific Friday 12/5 noon .....Lunch 12:30 p.m. ....Bingo 12:30 p.m. ....Focus Hope & TFAB Distribution Wednesday 12/10 10 a.m. Body Recall 10:30 a.m. Quilting 11:00 a.m. Blood Pressure 11:00 a.m. .....

## Monday 12/8 \*Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Phone (248) 347-0414.

.....Panera bread

NOW

TWIN SIZE

MATTRESSES





ious Sales

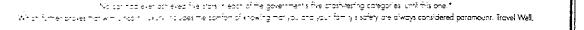
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FINANCO

aday, December 4, 2003-NOVI NEWS 74

loon mortgages, adjustable rate mortgages, interest-only mort-

"Basically, a reverse mortgage

is a service provided to sentor cit-izens in need of additional income? Gipson explained. "You compare the loan to value and

allow a certain percentage to be provided as income based on the customer's needs and the equity in the home. The investor then

pays a monthly amount to the

homeowner." Selhy said reverse mortgages are very popular in Florida, but

not a lot of mortgage companies in Michigan are approved to pro-vide this option. Interest-only programs in

mortgages are another great

option to homebuyers, according

o Gipson and Selby. "These are great for season

workers, commissioned employ

ces and the self-employed," Selby said. "This type of mortgage would

allow a homeowner to pay only \$850 a month for a \$250,000

home," Gipson said. "Plus, you can apply funds to the principal on the loan with no

penalty." The new Novi branch boasts

about 1,400 square feet with a nautical theme.

officers for the branch," Selby

said. For more information, visit Mac-Clair Mortgage's Web site

at www.mac-clair.com or call

Pam Fleming is a staff write

Selby at (248) 596-1770.

gages and reverse mortgages. Gipson said very few compa-nies offer reverse mortgages because the firm has to also be a

lender.



Emie Hanwell ----

"LAST YEAR, BLUES' MEMBERS SAVED MORE THAN \$4 MILLION OUT OF THEIR OWN POCKETS BY CHOOSING GENERICS. NOW THAT'S AN EASY PILL TO SWALLOW."

With the help of our generics program, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan members are getting the same active ingredients in the bottle-with more savings in their pocket.

One of the ways we've been helping our members save out-of-pocket expenses is by urging everyone to get the facts about generic drugs. Starting in 2001, we began telling physicians, employers, legislators, members and the general public about the safety, effectiveness and cost-savings offered by generics.

One thing we all need to remember is the FDA requires generic drugs to meet the same standards for strength, purity and quality, and to contain the same active ingredients as the brand name drugs. Which means that generics give you the same therapeutic effects-for less. Last year, Blues' members saved more than \$4 million in out-of-pocket costs due to lower copays for generics.



NOVI NEWS-Thursday, December 4, 2003



## The Small Business Association of Michigan (SBAM) presented awards Monday to three local people. Pictured, front row, left to right, Linda Jolicoeur of Farmington Hills, Advocate of the Year; State Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi), Legislator of the Year; Mary Kramer of Detroit, Communicator of the Year; and Cynthia Holste Pepper, chair, SBAM. Back row, left to right, Rob Fowler, president and CEO, SBAM, and Bill Largent, Board mem-

# SBAM honors three, including Sen. Cassis

behalf of the small business com-By Pam Fleming munity," she said, "She and her busband know firsthand what small business issues are because they Three local champions of small business were recognized Monday by the Small Business Association owned a small business. And what better advocacy can you have than f Michigan. State Senator Nancy Cassis (R-

Cassis and her husband, Victor, Novi) was named the association's 2003 Legislator of the Year. Mary Kramer of Detroit, associ-ate publisher/editor of *Crain's* used to own the Big Boy Restaurant on Novi Road. "He taught me what it really means to be in business," Cassis said. Cassis was elected to the Detroit Business, was honored as

Denote business, was honored as the association's 2003 Communicator of the Year. Linda Joicceur of Farmington Hills, a member of SBAM's Legislative Action Council and Michigan House of Representatives in 1996 and became a state senator in District 15 in 2002. She has registered 100 percent on roll call votes owner of Target Equipment and Leasing Inc. of Farmington Hills, for the last two legislative sessions. Cassis was recently responsible received the association's 2003 for introducing recent legislation to Advocate of the Year award. eliminate the Small Business Tax. As chair of the Senate Taxation Committee, she led efforts to defeat SBAM officials at the presenta-tion included Rob Fowler, president and CEO; Barry Cargill, vice presi-dent, government relations; Bill Largent, Board member; and Cynthia Holste Pepper, chair. a major package of tax increases. "In many ways I am here as a symbol to honor all of you — the small business men and women of Pepper said that when selecting the Legislator of the Year, SBAM members look at legislation intro-duced, votes cast and leadership of fl our community — and the work that you do. I am merely your voice, hyourisupporter and solarididate int Lansing," Cassis said. small business issues.

"I can tell you that small business Pam Fleming is a staff writer for has no better friend in Michigan than Nancy Cassis," said Jolicoeur, who presented the award to Cassis. the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or at We are proud of her work on



# Mac-Clair Mortgage opens Novi office of mortgage programs, including veterans' loans, Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loans, bal-

Local firm boasts 13 branches in seven states

**BUSINESS** 

By Pam Fleming STAFE WRITER

As a boomtown, Novi has become an attractive location for both developers and morigage

Hence, Mac-Clair Mortgage Corp. thought the community would be a great place to locate their new office, which recently their new office, which recently opened at Tea Mile and Tait routs. Located on the northeast cor-ner of the basy intersection, the office offers a prime location for-potential homebuyers and sellers. Mae-Clair Mortgage now has 140 employees working in 13 beneficien seven states and also branches in seven states and also just opened an office near Santa Monica, Calif, John Selby serves as the new branch manager. "We primarily do all of our

processing and underwriting at our corporate office in Flint," said Ron Gipson, executive vice president. "That's why we set up offices

like this, so loan officers can meet with clients to confirm information about credit and debt," he said. David Harthen, a Michigan

native, started Mac-Clair Mortgage Corp. in 1970 in Macomb and St. Clair counties. The company name is a combina-tion of the two counties' names. "We've been expanding the operation over the last three roads.

marily a service to the market-place and that there's a big demand in Novi," Gipson said. "We found there was a need in this community for a company to originate the loan, underwrite the Novi with Realtors, title compa-



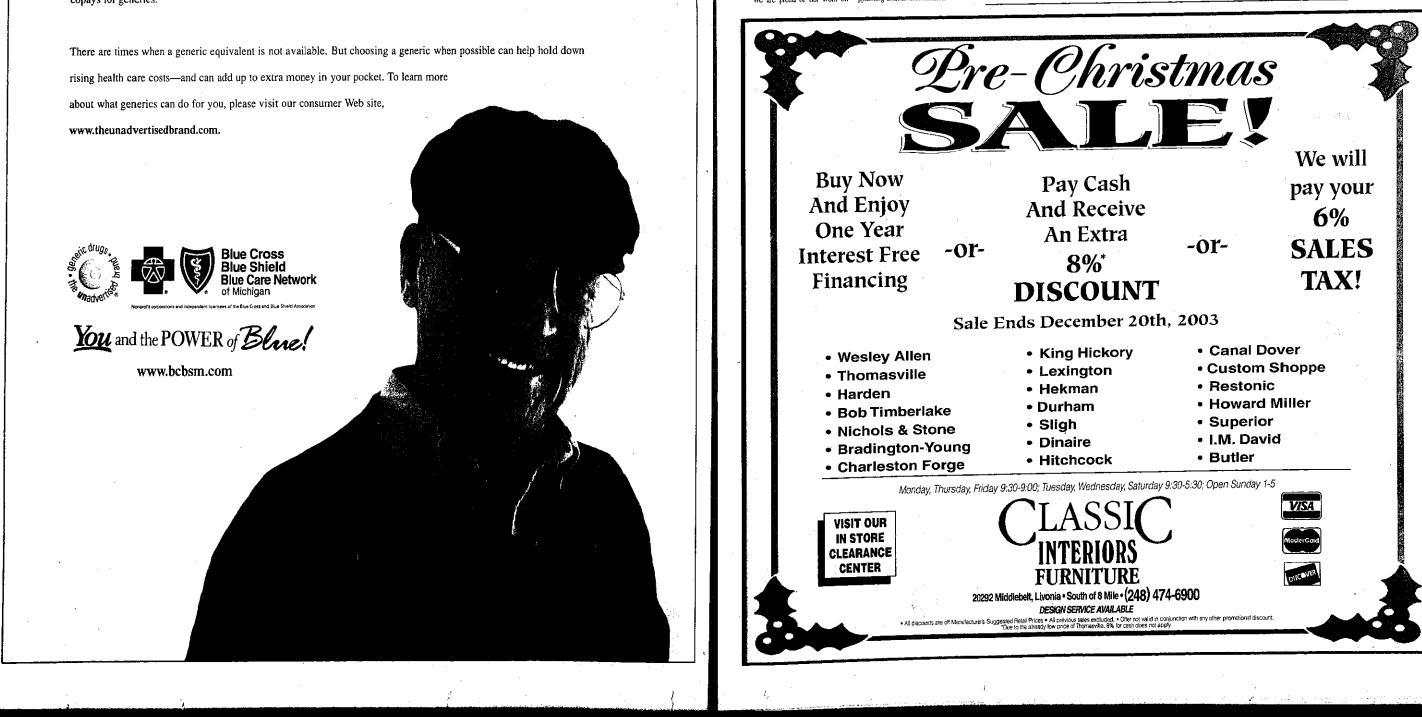
Photo by Pam Fleming John Selby, branch manager, and Ron Gipson, executive vice president, outside the new office of Mac-Clair Mortgage Corp. in Novi. The new branch office is located in the Rossi Office Building at Ten Mile and Taft

"We understand that we're pri-"We understand that we're pri-toan, close the loan and fund the nies and builders as well as cus-tone loan fund the nies and builders as well as cusoan itself. It's one-stop shop-ping." We want to establish lifetime Gipson said Mac-Clair relationships with customers.

relationships with customers. Relationships with customers. We're not here for the one-time close." The company offers a variety from the Novi News, She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at. pfleming@ht.homecomm.net.

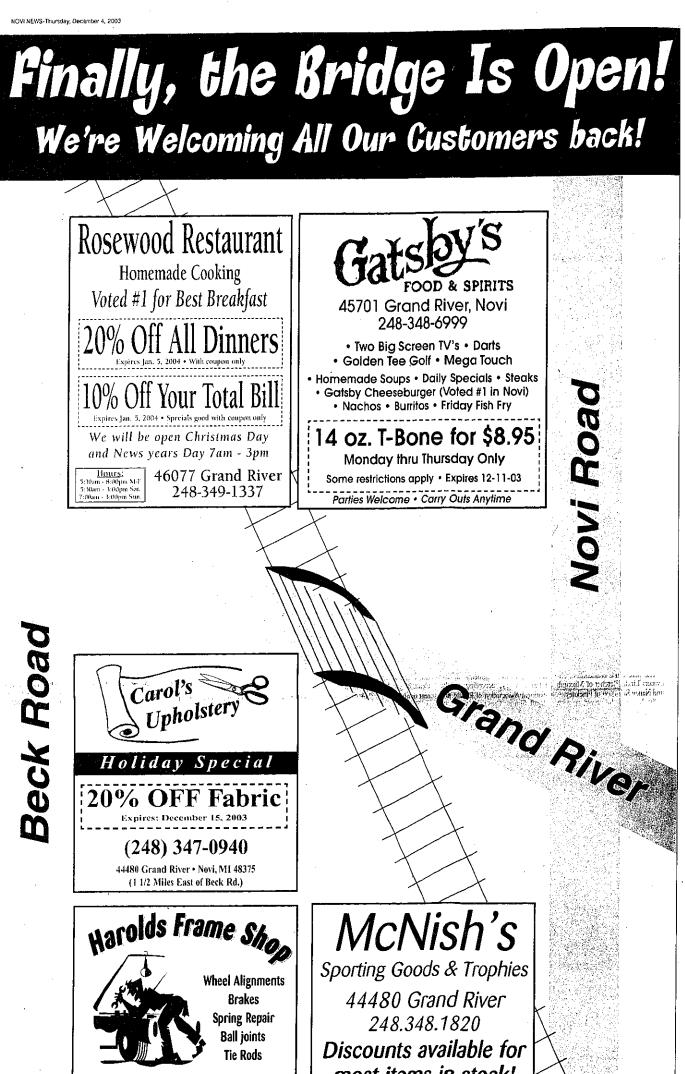
o.::We want to establish lifetime relationships with customers. We're not here for the one-time close.' Ron Gioson

Executive vice presiden



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Nancy Solomon, left, and Linda Fletcher show off some of the clothing available at Smart Chicks Consignment, their new store that just opened on Grand River Avenue

# **Smart Chicks caters to** cost-conscious shoppers

to plus, is available at prices as low as 75 percent of suggested retail price. Shoppers can also purchase Consignment store offers new costume jewelry plus one-of-a kind pieces by local artists. designer look for A consignment shop accepts mer-chandise on a consignment basis, paying the owners of the merchana whole lot less

dise a percentage when and if the items are sold. If clothing doesn't sell in 60 days at Smart Chicks Consignment, and By Pam Fleming the consignor agrees, items are donated to Dress for Success, a charitable organization that provides business suits, confidence boosts When it comes to women's fashion, it doesn't hurt to be a smart Or, to shop at Smart Chicks Consignment, a new women's clothing store that just opened Nov. 22 in Novi for the cost-conscious and career development to more than 45,000 women in over 75 cities each year.

Resale shopping is one of the hopper. The store is the brainchild of cofastest growing segments of the retail industry, according, to the National Association of Resale and Thrift Shops, Currently, there are more than 15,000 resale shops owners Linda Fletcher of Macomb and Nancy Solomon of Pinckney. So, how did they come up with the name? "It's pretty evident," Solomon across the country, and that number increasing. Because Novi is such a popular "We were the smart girls in high school, and we still are," Fletcher shopping area, the two entrepreschool, and we still are, Fletcher said with a smile. The store plans a grand opening celebration through Saturday with prizes and discounts on selected neurs thought it would be an ideal place for their new business. "Women in this area are savvy shoppers," said Selomen, an avid consignment shopper herself. "They want designer-quality merchandise but at discount-store prices. And, Formerly occupied by Banks Vacuum, which moved to Novi ing,

**BUSINESS BRIEFS** 

### Blair joins THAW board

Village in Novi, was recently ranked 10th in the American Seniors Housing Association ranking of the 50 largest owners Linda Blair, vice president of policy and business development for International Transmission Company, headquartered in Novi, was recently elected to the Board of and managers of senior housing in the U.S. Moving up one slot in its rank-ing this year, Erickson currently owns and manages 11 campus-style communities. Fox Run in Directors THAW, the Heat Fund. Blair

International Transmission's

overhead and underground highvoltage transmission lines, trans-mission structures, stations,

rights-of-way and easements, and the power coordination cen-

tem reliability and lower overall

Childtime Learning Centers,

Inc., headquartered in Novi,

recently announced systemwide

sales and improved gross profit

for the second quarter of liscal

Net revenue for second quarter 2004 increased \$1.5 million or 3.5 percent from the same period last year to \$45.1 million.

Learning Center revenues increased \$1.3 million, with comparable center revenues,

defined as centers opened 18

months or longer. Franchise Operations rev-enues, which consisted primarily of royalties, increased, \$200,000

or 20.5 percent from the same period last year to \$1.4 million. Net revenue for the year to date 2004 increased \$20 million

or 22.8 percent from the same

period last year to \$107.8 mil-

Fox Run owner ranked 10th

Retirement

Erickson

Childtime's profits up

r in Ann Arbor

energy costs.

2004

The store, at 43039 Grand River Avenue, is located on

the south side of Grand

Consignment is open 10

a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday

Smart Chicks

River just east of Novi Road

through Friday and 10 a.m.

to 5 p.m. Saturday. For more

signing guidelines, call (248) 347-1600 or e-mail at

shoosmart@smartchicks.net

clean, in good repair, and in a cur-rent or classic style," Fletcher said. "We also don't require appoint-ments to bring in items. After the

first time they consign with us, we offer our consignors a drop-off serv-ice because we know how busy they are in a typical day. In fact, we'll

even come to a consignor's hom

and pick up items," she added. The owners, who have been friends and co-workers for years,

found the site for their new business

×.

information including con-



living communities with and without assisted living; continu ing care retirement communities and assisted living residences. The list included properties lies, individuals and senior citiens facing temporary financial and units in stand-alone nursing

facilities, single-family homes in retirement communities and fed-erally-subsidized senior housing Since its inception in 1986 THAW has provided more than \$22 million in energy assistance to homes in 65 Michigan counas of July 1, 2003.

**Residence Inn opens in** Nevi service territory covers 7,500 square miles in southcast Michigan, Its system comprises more than 2,500 pole-miles of Residence Inn of Novi, a new

The awards when to plants in 107-suite hotel operating as a Marriott International Inc., fran-Lancaster, Texas and Gardena Calif. These plants received the Circle of Excellence award, the chise opened its doors Nov. 19 at 27477 Cabaret Drive next to highest-level award earned by Fountain Walk shopping center plants that exceed the established The franchise, owned by Etkin Equities of Southfield, is maniop safety score. Compiled by Pam Fleming ged by White Lodging Services,

The firm invests in infrastruc-Inc., of Merrillville, Ind. ture and engineering solutions that create greater efficiency in the flow of electricity, better sys-

# Photo by Jim Far

Deborah Southworth (I to r), gift and basket coordinator, along with proprietors David and Julie Cole show off some of the tasty gift bas-kets available at Great Harvest Gread Co. at 139 E. Main in Northville



The hotel offers studio, bedroom and two-bedroom

nights or mor

suites designed for stays of five

Local couple wins in Vegas

Norm and Patty Sophia, own

ers of Final Cut Video Services

in Novi, recently received two awards for "The Best Photo

Montage" and most improved studio out of 35 studio owners nationwide.

The awards were presented to the Sophias at the annual nation

al convention for Home Vidco Studio in Las Vegas. Presented by HVS1 of

Indianapolis, training at the con contion featured workshops or

Brass Craft recognizes safe

Brass Craft, a leading manu

facturer of plumbing products headquartered in Novi, recently

of its manufacturing plants.

ived safety awards for three

plants

the video production business

# **CLASS NOTES**

# Earth dome inhabits Orchard Hills

Mobile Ed productions brings our world to elementary

#### By Ramez Khuri TARE WRITER

Orchard Hills students learned If about our planet when Mobile Ed Productions visited with a 19foot-high inflatable globe, which was made from satellite photographs from space.

The globe was placed in the school gynuasium a couple weeks ago for two days. According to Visiting Instructor David Killion, the reason for his visit was to teach students the seven continents; the four oceans; which animals and plants can be found in different parts of the where it's cold in the north orsouth poles

of our premier science programs Killion explained that the globe very visual, some are very audi-has a scale of 30 miles per inch-ble, who remember what they read Many boundaries are not marked, and some are very kinetic. This is however, because it is a duplicate - a type of program that's going to "We did include the biggest cities by population and several through to them, one way or other points of interest like high- another with the information they

est mountains and the Great Barrier Reef and Cape Canaveral in Florida," Killion said, "Things like that are marked, but we're ike that are marked, but we're using it on different grade levels



Dave Killion presents the Earth Dome last Thursday morning to Orchard Hills students. The 22' wide inflat able globe was made with detailed satelite images of Earth

they re-covering in school to support the curriculum and testing "Mohile Ed Productions has a slogan – Education Through Entertainment," Killion said, that he believes this type of pro-earth and about conservation "What we're trying to do is come to the schools with a variety of programs and earth dome is one "Kids learn on different chan-estation and other issues like that. "Kids learn on different chan-nels," he said, "Some of them are about this type of program because it's not very often they're going to see anything that big and spectacular unless it's in a parade or something like that," Killion said. "This is something that they're going to think and talk about for a while and that gives that they in a while and that gives their learning some momentum

Municipal Advisor

Ramez Khuri is a staff write



continued from front page Dec. 5. "Trying to take \$1.2 million out of a budget with six months said. "It should be up to each district what to do. There are said. "So, you're a superintendschool districts that could actu-ally stop school after their fund equity is all gone. They could stop school or they could cut would you recommend the con-tinuation of a good program until the money runs out? That's programs, but that has to be the decision of the district. There are some districts that probably won't make it through the year, a very big question." Novi is in a circumstance that but we're not in that boat,' Though he believes mandat-ing that schools use their fund has a roughly 14-percent planned equity for the 2004-05 school year. That percentage is equity during this time of financial crises is wrong, Koster can not much, however, as Koster explained that it would last probably about a month in the Novi Community School still understand the state's reasoning. He also explained, how-ever, that Novi is committed to running its 150,000 square feet District. of schools – and it won't get any additional money to do so, "We have to start saving a little, bit before we open up school," he said. "That's just Dec. 5 in order to survive.

decision, says Cassis, "That's only tair," she said, "Some school districts may need to and others may not need to.", Cassis believes the shortfall is Like all other boards of education in Michigan, Novi's will have to figure out what to do temporary. She says that the The district's annual budget of common sense and good plan-ning. That's what an equity is for. It prohibits you from bor-rowing and to allow for more \$60 million equals \$5 million per month. best thing that could happen is that the state subcort Michigan that the state support Michigan's economy so that it will again be strong and healthy and that the "If everything just stopped right now and you had no income at all, we would have dollars that are going to the schools are strong and healthy "Our Michigan economy, as well as our national economy is inexpected expenses," The Novi School Board of four to six weeks with the fund equity, then we would have to go Education has the option, when faced with the reduction of dolborrow money from a bank." beginning to round the bend now," Cassis said. "I think that mandating schools to go into lars from the state, to cut pro-grams, dip into its fund equity, do both or do nothing at all. 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 their fund equity would be taking away from the spint of Proposal A."

rkhuri@ht.h

Cassis sides with district

Michigan State Senator Nancy Cassis agrees feels that the state should not mandate schools to use their fund equity The lose of mandating that schools use their fund equities to offset some shortfalls in the schools month the

basic schools foundation grant is very inappropriate," she said, "It's often termed 'Robin Hood," i intend to support the districts i,

represent because they ve been smart and wise and prudent and have been able to save money."

Cassis explained that right

now Governor Jennifer Granholm is looking to provate the foundation grant by about

\$196 per student - something

she is required to do according

to the constitution in order to

ensure that the school aid fund

s balanced. That, in turn, might

make school districts dip into

their fund equity - but that should be the school board's

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Bingo Night at Novi Woods! Oct. 24 was the annual Novi Woods PTO sponsored Bingo Night. Students and their families gathered for a fun night of Bingo, prizes and snacks, Here, second ent Christy D'Annibale helps kindergartner



Courtesy phot

Troop adopts 109th Medical Battalion Novi Woods Brownie troop number 2297 has adopted the 109th Medical Battanon, stationed in Iraq, as a community service project. The girls sent a tree, complete with lights, hand decorated ornaments and a personalized garland. They also collected and shipped five large boxes of books, magazines, toiletries, candy, gum, cook ies, towels, sheets, socks and other items to make the soldiers' lives more comfortable.

The 109th Medical Battalion provides medical care to US soldiers along with emergency care to citizens of Iraq. Pictured, top row from left to right are: Emlly Kate Callahan, Julia Ghannam, Keri Masserant, Hannah Latham, Katie Casselton and Rebecca Bartlett. Middle row: Kaitlyn Berg, Lexi Giragosian, Emily D'Ascenzo, Olivia Bradford and Michelle Kobylarek Bottom row: Natalie Trainor, Megumi Kambe, Kaitlin Wickham and Elizabeth Leinonen, Not pictured is Karla Cindy Callahan. The photo of the 109th Medical Battalion was taken just before it shipped out in February.



Save up to

ì

VO students receive fun lessons in puppetry

Madcap Productions Puppet Theatre visits school for one week

# By Ramez Khuri

If someone saw the inside of Village Oaks Elementary School from Oct. 3-7, they would swear they were walking on to the set of Sesame Street or the Muppet Show. That really wan't the case, but it's not too far fetched. Karie Gipson of Madcap Productions Puppet Theatre came visiting from Cincinnati along with many pup-pets for a whole school week to share with the lide school week to Novi Meadows student Christopher Fandaneili, far right, and other wanna'-be puppeteers get some lessons during a workshop last Wednesday morning from Mad Cap Puppet Theater's Karle Gipson of Cincinnati, Ohio. share with the kids some of the tricks of the trade. Madcap Productions was created by Jerry Handorf about 21 years

. Before that he worked with Jim Henson and used to build pup-pets for Sesame Street and in fact designed and built the first Elmo being an artist. you do," Gipson said, "I talk about being a performing artist as well as

Puppet. Madcap is a nonprofit, touring children's theater company which combines giant puppets with a building artist and writing artist and that sort of thing. It just gives the kids a different perspective on art, puppetry, story telling and crembines giant puppets with actors to create a unique style of puppet theater and wants to introduce children to a whole new conative writing. cept of puppetry, one that allows all the elements of theater to be combined in an artistic and educational form of an education in the arts and performance. knowledge that there are things out there that adults do that are fun. She hopes they also received the knowl-With that in mind, teachers at Village Oaks knew they were get-ting the real deal when it came to

puppets. Gipson, who is Madcap's special projects coordinator, said that her edge of how puppets are made and built. "Puppetry is normally something

#### job for the week was to teach the they see on television, like Sesame kids puppery, creative writing, stokids puppetry, creative writing, sto-rytelling and puppet manipulation, but her angle was talking about Street," Gipson said. "To see it real-ly where they can actually do it, that just gives them a whole different perspective of something that "There is an in everything that they see on television and as well as meet with me.

they see on television and as wear how puppels are put together." Gipson explained that the reason her company has puppets is to tell trovies and that her puppels are trovies are trovies are trovies and that her puppels are trovies are trovies are trovies and that her puppels are trovies are trovies are trovies are trovies and that her puppels are trovies are t pets on. That went on each day until Friday's rehersal with some of the to the kids what a character is, why it looks the way it does and how fourth graders. For more information Gipson head that by the end of the week students received much knowledge from her visit in the week students received much knowledge from her visit in the students received muc Madcap Productions, visit www.madcappuppets.com or call

good guy or the had guy, among other things. By the end of the week, Gipson hoped that what stu-(513) 921-5965 dents got out of her visit is the love and respect for the arts as well as interests in continuing their early story writing or creation of charac-Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News, He can be reached

at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-

Thursday, December 4, 2003-NOVI NEWS 11A

assembly where I explained who I am, what I'm going to do and I did

a puppet show," Gipson said. "I then did a session with each grade

twice, where they come in and

ters. "On Monday we had an opening

Storyteller sings his tales at Meadows objective in life and taking you

> "I generally have certain kinds of messages that 1 try to put across and those are messages of peaceful conflict resolution, col-lective problem-solving, self-

harmoný a few weeks ago, as professional storyteller La'Ron Williams visited with his drums and songs. He also brought some important messages for students. All together, Williams has been telling stories for 13 years although it has been his profes-sion for seven years. He really didn't start visiting a lot of schools until about eight years ago, and before that he did a coulittle festivals. He lives in Ann Arbor and tells stories all

Novi Meadows was filled with

over the country. Williams explained that generally, when he tells stories he wants to deliver certain kinds of messages, so no matter what age his audience is, everybody can

**ON CAMPUS** 

J Lie

By Ramez Khuri

Novi resident Joanne Gore was among the graduates of Western Michigan University during summer 2003 com

Blue D⊚t,



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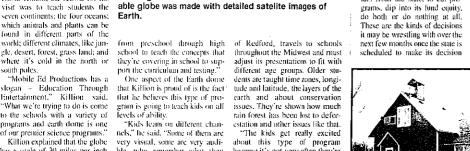
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340 South Main Street 800-704-4024 www.ubs.com/financialservicesinc	But at this time of year, who But at this time of year, who cally wants to think about buying a new furnace, right? buying a new furnace, right?	BERGSTROMS Cherry Hill NAST Berg Berg Berg Cherry Hill NAST Berg Berg Berg Cherry Hill NAST Call for details. Some emitricities apply. Call for details. Explore 1/1544 Frank Frank Frank Cherry Hill NAST Call Constructions apply. Call for details. Explore 1/1544 Frank Frank
If sold prior to maturity, municipal securities are subject to gains/losses based on the level of interest rates, market conditions and the credit quality of the issuer, income may be subject to the alternative minimum tax (AMT) and/or state and local taxes based on your state of residence.	That's why I'm pleased you at no cost. Santa has asked for my So, if your furnace is 10 unique emergency feature. help. In addition to the years old or older, don't let If you ever have a problem <u>s500 instant cash-in-your</u> pocket rebate, here's what one is for one buying the conditioner, all you do is	Bindines Bindines Bindines SERVICE SAVINGS FULL SYSTEM SPECIAL 60+ YEARS OF TRUST
store of result in e.	<ul> <li>• \$1,000 - \$2,000 off the your family safe and warm button and the thermostat regular list price of a top this winter.</li> <li>• quality system</li> <li>• 0 down 0 interset</li> <li>• 0 Describer 20 and cet</li> <li>• 0 Describer 20 and cet</li> </ul>	FREE \$7900 FREE SECOND
UBS Financial Services Inc. e2003 LIBS Financial Services Inc. All Rights Reserved Member SIFC	<ul> <li>payments for 6 full months</li> <li>s500 cash rebate to spend winter</li> <li>Low weekly payments of regular full price of a top</li> <li>s20 starting</li> </ul>	SERVICE CALL with REPARS - A \$59 VALUE! Blue Dot: Prest in wine of strike Blue Dot:
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Novi News

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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

# GUEST COLUMN Freedom isn't free be thankful for that

On this Thanksgiving of 2003, pid. We are in too much of a hurry with the war going on in Iraq, did to get somewhere, which turns out you feel safer than you did two to be nowhere worth being - in the source of the safer than you did two to be nowhere worth being - in the safer that the saf years ago...and if so, was it in spite of it, or because of it? Looking front of a television, or computer, watching garbage or pornography. Playing with the countless toys there are to enjoy these days, but which have become our masters around and seeing how people act would make one believe there is not a war going on at all. It is so far away from us physically, that it has become even farther from us emo-tionally. What we all really stand up for what we What we all really need to do is

stand up for what we believe and Hundreds of soldiers have died not let politicians, judges, and world free from terrorists and tyramy; preserving and protecting the basic beliefs this country was in the basic beliefs this country was but which so many be these two-hundred plus years down the road, which we speed today would like to modify and change to fit their own personal beliefs. Here at home, marriage is under attack from those who think upon, looking only towards the future, while totally ignoring our that all it takes to be a family is two base on the second second second second second second second under attack from those who think who believe that once you are consenting adults. Families are under attack from those who think

children are just as well-off when elected, you represent every-they are raised in schools and day one, everyone in this country. Not care establishments. Life is just those in your political party. attacked (and killed) by those who believe it is the pursuit of happiness those who helped pay for your which must be preserved, even if it election. Not just those who can help you get elected next time. The majority has frequently spois at the expense of another's life one they thought they created themselves. Life and Liberty? Too ken through their representatives to themselves. Life and Liberty? Too many believe it belongs only to them, and no one else. I pray and give thanks for President George W. Bush every day. He is not perfect, but he is willing to do what he believes is right, and he does not need to take a poll her/ore he decides what to do. Boing policious is seen by see many change things in this country because the current laws and/or their interpretations are not work- ing like they should, yet a judge here, or a governor there, or a filibuster in some back room, blocks justice, change, and growth. We are not, as some member of the enter Being religious is seen by so many these days as being a sin. Being tol-erant of everyone and everything is seen as being a virtue, Being tolertainment industry (since when is entertainment an industry, any-way?) said, "A nation of laws." That is the scariest thing I have ever ant is easy to do because all you heard, especially when the interprehave to do is do nothing. It has been said that all it takes for evil to suc-eeed is for good men to do nothing. tations of the laws today are so far removed from their actual, intent, purpose, goals, and design. We are a nation of people, who If the good men, and women, who are fighting to protect our country were doing nothing, evil would be are all Americans, and if there are those who do not consider them-selves to be so, then they should here today. Because they are doing something which needs to be done, return to where they have come and which very few of us are willfrom. If we are not all willing to ing to do ourselves, life goes on here in the United States as usual. fight for this country and what it once was, and what it still can be,

life, ignoring speed limits because they do not apply to us. Conserving gasoline by driving slower is stu-

## **GOVERNMEN**T

**State Senate** 

then we will never be free again.

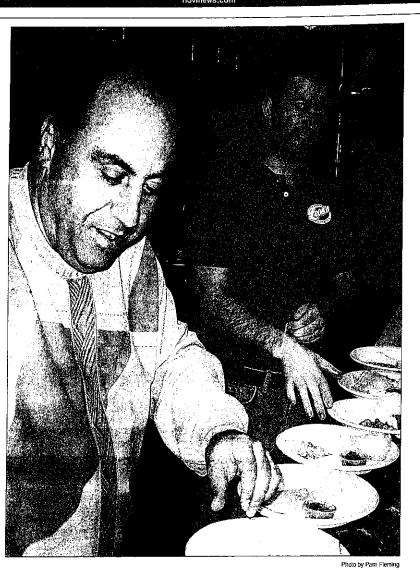
Rawland Storm

## United States Senate

We speed down the highways of

Carl Levin (D-Detroit) 269 Russell Senate Office 15th District Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) Building Washington D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6221 PO Box 30036 Lansing, MI 48909-7536 (517) 373-1758 senator2@levin.senate.gov senncassis@ senate.michigan.gov Local office: 124 W. Allegan Suite 1810 State House of Reps Lansing, MI 48933 (517) 377-1508 38th District

()PINION



Holiday tradition

Moe Leon, left, co-owner of Leon's Family Dining restaurants throughout the Metro Detroit area, helps employee Paul Vukaj of Wixom serve free turkey dinners to patrons Nov. 25 at the Wixom location across from the Ford Motor Co. plant on Wixom Road. This is the 11th year Leon and his brothers have served the free meal the day before Thanksgiving. "I look forward to this every year,"

#### LETTE S

## MEAP is JUNK

research.

How long will principals and teachers need to explain to families about last year's MEAP? How long will the creators of this tool, make us wait? How long will it be before MEAP creators do what they say, and create an instrument that is useful and timely? When will they become accountable for the S30 miltiated attack". I'm concerned that this lack of good judgwill they become accountable for the \$30 milment should then be turned into political

It is interesting to me that I an expected to accomplish a task by a deadline, prepare stu-dents, test students, make sure students are "spin" by describing this unadvertised meet-ing as "doing a good deed for our citizens." I'm concerned that when I suspected wrong calm, collected, and applying themselves, keep track of students who miss a portion, catch them up, continue to teach all other curdoing by these elected leaders that the police, citing a lack of expertise in the matter, would turn the matter over to the city attorney to riculum, attend meetings, keep up on nvestigate. I'm concerned that the city attorney, who

I can't think of one teacher in this district who has not complied with these require-ments and yet. The MEAP creators continue investigated the violation, is an outside legal consultant to the city who receives his compensation via the city council. to fumble. It is interesting to me, when teach-ers were made aware of the changes in our assessment the first question that came to mind was logistics. As "experts" in checking I'm concerned that the city attorney would conclude his investigation with only speaking to the four members of council and an indi-vidual who was with them. The city attorney ninu was togestes. As experts in checking papers, on a very small scale, not one of us thought the task of reading that many tests, not to mention evaluating them would be pos-sible. Did anyone ask us? If you had, perhaps we wouldn't be facing a loss of \$200 per abid. should have also interviewed the three exclud ed members to confirm that they had been invited. If he had contacted them he would have found that they had not been invited. But what concerns me most of all, is that

mayor pro tem David Landry and councilman Kim Capello tried to make this serious situa-Personally, I don't think we should have to

ing across the street from my home to review ness the proceedings and to comment if we wish to be heard on the subject being disconstruction project. I'm concerned when as a citizen, I raise the cussed. Even worse, in this situation, three

other elected officials were either not present question regarding the status of the meeting under the Open Meetings Act, the new mayor portrays his and his fellow councilmen's lack or excluded. The voters of Novi elected seven members to city council, not four, As a concerned Novi resident, I won't sit of good judgment as a "fierce and unsubstan-

idly by when someone steps on my rights. I will report it, I will make sure my voice is heard and I will insist on accountability from mayor Csordas and council members Gatt,

Capello and Landry, This situation could have all been avoided had these elected officials simply got back into their cars and drove away. Frankly, the four individuals may have assembled to review South Lake Drive and the Shawood Culvert with good intentions. My greatest concern is that if they are willing to violate our rights on a minor issue, what happens the next time, or when they are faced with a major issue? Are we left to trust their word that they just stood around with their hands in their pockets and didn't discuss city business? The Open Meetings Act was put in place to pro hibit situations like this. You can call it unsubstantiated You can call it fierce. You can call it vicious You can call it what you will. But what I wouldn't do is call it a joke nor

would I make light of it. Elected officials are accountable to those

# **OTHER OPINIONS** No greater power than an idea whose time has come

called

would call for Americans to vol-

was a candidate for the Presidency, talking to us in our

own language, challenging us to believe we could help make a

better world. The idea struck a

spark with countless young peo

ple, and many in Kennedy's cam-paign later felt the young con-

tributed significantly to his slim

margin of victory. Now, nearly lifty years after that speech, I conclude only two

things. First, that there is no power greater than a good idea whose time has come. Second, that something has gone terribly

wrong with our politics - now

so partisan, parochial, tasteless and vicious — for such ideas seem these days to be in such short supply.

Phil Power is the Chairman o

the Board of the company that owns this newspaper. He would

be pleased to get your reaction to this column either at (734) 953-2047 or by e-mail at ppow

er@homecomm.net.

to save the state money by let-

What really moves him, how

ever, is education. He thinks

charter schools are not the

lems; fixing the public schools

"My father died when I was a

years old, and my mother took a

job as a school crossing guard — which paid nothing — so that she could keep an eye on me and

and initiative."

unteer to serve abroad or that our

before with precision and passion rs were moved us. "The torch (of leader-ing the ship) has been passed to a new Thanksgiving, the papers were filled with stories marking the gave the piece to U.S. Sen. Hubert Humphrey, D-Minn., who iversary of the assassina-President John F. 40th and generation," he said in his inautalked about it on and off during 40th abuiversary of the assassma-tion of President John F. gural address, and it was true. For Kennedy. The pictures, especially me and for many of my genera-those of Mrs. Kennedy's blood-stained suit and glazed eyes, brought back so many sad memor to the public and taken and the political file of Senator Kennedy's presidential I was a student at Oxford I saw him up close just once, Little did we know that hiversity in while I was an Kennedy intended to talk about rics I couldn't avoid tears.

University England when undergraduate at undergraduate at the University of Michigan. Here's on October 14th. And little did President Kennedy was killed — a far away place at a far away time. l how. we know, as we waited in an In 1959, I enormous crowd gathered on joined a group State Street in front of the rather ponderousremember being at a formal dinner when the Master **Americans**  
 Americans
 unteer to serve abroad of mar on idea would eventually wind up as

 World
 the Peace Corps!

 Responsibility.
 All I can remember about that
 of my college came in, pale and drawn. I think he said something I ike this; "I am ter-We sat up too late night - in fact, it was 2 a.m.; drank too much ning late – was how young and coffee (and far too contemporary he looked as he ribly sorry to interrupt this din-ner to say that the Phil Power

ner to say that the first over in much beer). But stood on the steps of the Union news has just we wound up con-come over the radio that cluding our generation had more with that distinctive accent, moved us beyond measure. Here President Kennedy has been shot and, in all probability, killed." ly going into business and makly going into business and mak-ing money. We felt young people could volunteer to serve abroad in less developed countries, teaching English, helping with I had arrived at Oxford that fall, directly from Fairbanks, Alaska, where I had been working as the sports editor of the Fairbanks Daily News Miner. public health, doing whatever we

change was fairly extreme, and I had not been at Oxford long the make many friends. enough to make many friends. I finished dinner, took my wrote all this down as a mani-festo. And because I was editori-al page editor of the student leave, and walked in tears across the quadrangle to my little room. When I opened the door, to my newspaper, The Michigan Daily, I ran our manifesto in the paper. It provoked enormous interest. And so I sent it to the intercolleastonishment I found a dozen stu dents — some acquaintances, some absolute strangers — in my giate press service, which moved it to other student newspapers around the country, where it pro-voked much excitement, as well. room, listening to the radio. They all sat the death vigil with me until morning. I will never ever forget their caring and kindness. In time, we got the article to Mildred Jeffrey, the highest-rank-ing woman in the United Auto Workers union and a diminutive So while my wife, Kathy, and I attended Thanksgiving service at our church, JFK was on my mind as somebody to be thankful for. His grace and sense of ironic force of nature, still alive and or charmed us. His intelleckicking in Detroit today at 91 tual capacity, knowledge of histo-ty and ability to use the language years young. At the time, she also was, a Democratic National

Clarke's political star is shining again

This is the story of a mixed-He could pass for an Italianup young man who couldn't find himself, and a black lady named American in his early 30s, or get away with claiming just about the savings. "You need to put any Middle Eastern or Mediterranean pedigree. But he "You need to reward risk-taking Octavia Lyons who cleaned house for a wealthy family in the suburbs. Hansen Clarke was is actually a 46-year-old native Detroiter with a twist — his father was a Muslim from India; a 23-year-old college dropout in His parents were dead. The his mother, African-American. kids he had grown up with on the mean streets of Detroit's lower east side were getting in Raised a Muslim; he is now a answer to our educational prob-Roman Catholic. Clarke's life has had its twists

rouble, or worse. And Octavia, who happened o be his godmother, gave him a alking to. trouble, or worse. talking to. Several talkings to, in fact. "She really was the Academy --- and back again. He on my education. But many kids has gone from don't have what I had. What homelessness about the mother who happen and food stamps to be on crack? How is shi one who made a difference." he said over a late lunch last week, to Cornell going to know what is a good University and a charter school?"

soon after flying in from an eco tomic development meeting it Africa. State Hansen Clarke is one of

Today,

the Democrats'

brighter lights in

Jack Lessenberry washed-up loser. vears after

way.

Must ve been 75 feet tong fast Wednesday night - the day before Thanksgiving and traditionally the busiest night of the year for clubs. At the corner, Gus O'Connor's opened its doors to customers for the first time, and things were hopping inside there as well. I opted for Local Color where I was able to grab a seat and actu-ally read (now speed browse) both Detroit newspapers and enjoy a are treat for me - a cigar. Afterwards, I headed to Borders where I was going to peruse the jazz CD offerings. Instead I found a throng of people waiting to meet The Bachelor, Bob Guiney. Instead, I moved on to 12 Oaks where it was just as busy. For some folks, all the action is annoying. Me, I love it. Why head to Royal Oak or any of the other metro Detroit hot spots when Novi has so much to offer? Novi has so much to otic?<sup>1</sup> Tonight will be just as fun as the city's **Ringing in the Holidays** festivities run from 6-9 p.m. on Main Street. (See the details on page 15.) The **Novi** Chamber of Commerce is also throwing a party, or holiday mixer as they like to call it over at the as they like to call it, over at the Island Lakes Toll Brothers development at 5 p.m. Obviously, there's lots of shop-Forunately, most of the children forunately, most of the children in Novi will have a great Christmas with plenty of gifts. However, **Pauline Gaffrey** with the Toys for Tots Novi/Northville has an event that will help those not so fortunate. At 10:20 a.m. Saturday, you can head over to Novi Middle School and participate in their All Stars, event, Al. T. p.m. next Saturday, Pauline's squad will come to the Novi High School to gather toys. Contact her by e-mail at wgaffney@twmi.rr.com for info on either one. And, if you want to take it a bit easier and just cruise around, the Novi Homeowners Council Holiday Decorating Contest will be all lit up Saturday and Sunday. The judges will look at approxi-mately 500 homes and the win-ners will be presented gift certifi-cates at the Dec. 16 city council meeting. Check out our Calendar of Events each week. There's all kinds of music, mixers and meet-ings going on this holiday season. Get out and enjoy it!

Cal Stone

Holidays are

happening

around here

The line outside the Post Bar must've been 75 feet long last

Cal Stone is the editor of the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 or at **NOVI NEWS STAFF** Grace Perry - Publisher gperry@ht.homecomm.net (248) 349-1700, ext. 120 Cal Stone - Editor cstone@ht.homecomm.net (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 nnifer Dinning - Acct. Exec.

jdinning@ht.homecomm.ne

(248) 349-1700, ext. 102

Pam Fleming - Staff Writer

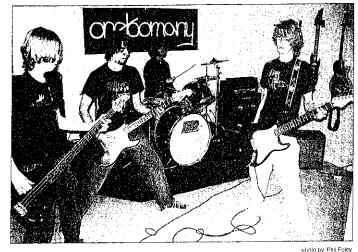




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117 East Main St. • Downtown Northville 248-349-0105

FAX: (517) 377-1506	Craig DeRoche (R-Novi)	pay for it. It seems to me that the MEAP cre-	tion sound like a joke. Our rights as citizens	who elect them.	Octavia took him to task, sh	e Now, his star seems to be		pfleming@ht.homecomm.net	
Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing)	S0887 House Office Building	ators owe the students of this state 30 million		Mark Robbins	took the first and only plane tri		ter to put our energy and resources into a system of reli-	(248) 349-1700, ext. 105	
702 Hart Senate Office Building	PO Box 30014 Lansing, MI 48909-7514	dollars.	appropriate to make light of violating our	Mark Houms	of her life, to Ithaca, N.Y., to se him graduate from Cornel	Michigan Senate last year,	able public schools that parents		
Washington D.C. 20510	(517) 373-0827	Rebecca Purcell, Orchard Hills	The need for the mayor and city council to		University	where he is one of only 16	could count on, no matter where	Phil Foley - Stan Writer	1
(202) 224-4822	FAX: (517) 373-5873		be reminded during a city council meeting		Three years later, he got a law	v Democrats, and where he has	they might live. Such schools	pfoley@ht.homecomm.net (248) 349-1700, ext. 108	
senator@stabenow.senate.gov	craigderoche@house.mi.gov	Fourth grade teachers	about their responsibilities under the Open		degree from Georgetown. There	e on the appropriations commit-	still existed when he was a little	(246) 345-1700, 6XL 100	🚡 Chrístmas 🔬 🚠
Local office:	2		Meetings Act is a ridiculous. Every one of the council members has previously be briefed on	On behalf of veterans	then, But today, he thinks his	e on the appropriations commu-	that when he was in junior high,	Ramez Khuri - Staff Writer	
280 East Saginaw	39th District		the Open Meetings Act, and made fully awarc		particular past has given him a	a Incidentally, while he loyally	he unexpectedly got a scholar-	rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net	Sin the Country
East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 203-1760	Marc Shulman (R-West	Concerned about	of the consequences of breaking or compro-	We, the people of Novi welcome our new	certain insight into the problem	s praises Gov. Jennifer Granholm,	ship to Exeter. He didn't stay to	(248) 349-1700, ext. 110	Fin the Country
(317) 203-1700	Bloomfield)	GUIIGEITIEU ADUUL	mising the law.	City of Novi leaders, council members, mayor	of his city: Simply put, he say	s he thinks what is needed to			
Inited States Congress	351 Capitol Building PO Box 30014	meeting	Regarding council comments likening this situation to the Christmas festival, it is impor-	Louis Csordas.	"Kids need two parents." Clarke's biggest cause in the	solve the budget crisis is more outside-the-box thinking. "We		Sam Eggleston - Sports Writer	Craft Show A
United States Congress	Lansing, MI 48909-7514	mooring	tant to note that under the Open Meetings Act,	We say many thanks to our retired mayor, mayor Richard, Clark, Richard, you, did an	Senate has been pushing a bil		So which school had the	seggleston@ht.homecomm.net	Juried Craft Show
11th District	(517) 373-1799	I'm concerned when I see our newly elect-	chance social engagements are taken into	excellent job as Novi mayor. You were very	for "grandparent rights," which	n few areas," he said.	biggest impact on him? No con-	(248) 349-1700, ext. 104	
Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia)	FAX: (517) 373-5777	ed Mayor of Novi raise his hand to three	account. Also, regarding the Grand River	considerate for Novi residents, especially war	he says would help keep fami-	"Well, let's get a new model.	test. "Jones Elementary School," an Detroit public	John Heider - Staff Photographer	ج Saturday, December 6, 2003 ج
415 Cannon HOB	mshulman@house.mi.gov	judges and swear to uphold our laws on		veteran heroes.	lies together.			jheider@ht.homecomm.net	😤 10:00 a.m 4:00 p.m. 😤
Washington D.C. 20515-8171	-	Monday, and then possibly break one of those laws on Saturday.	which a quorum may be present, are not con-	We veterans thank you, Richard. God protect you and Diane always.	"It is no secret that you have many cases where the parents	look at this in an entirely new	hood, he grins.	(248) 349-1700, ext. 106	
(202) 225-8171	Oakland County		sidered violations of the Open Meetings Act	God Bless our new leaders and the City of	many be non-existent, or or	way. Yes, we need more revenue	Jones is still there today.		😺 South Lyon High School 😺 🚽
FAX: (202) 225-2667	<u></u>		as long as the meeting has been advertised	Novi,	drugs, and where the grandpar-	- and we shouldn't be alraid to	Pernaps it isn't what it was in	Karen Whikehart - Receptionist	Eleven Mile & Pontiac Trail
Local office:	Executive	Capello - who also swore to uphold our laws,		Rolland Heaton, WWII Veteran	ents are raising these children,"	ask for it," he said. "But I know	could be again. He plans to keep	kwhikehart@ht.homecomm.net	Cir Over 150 Booths Cir
17197 N. Laurel Park Drive Suite 161	L. Brooks Patterson	do the same as the mayor.	When an unadvertised city council quorum is assembled, the public, and 1 as a resident.	Novi	he said. Clarke knows that sometimes		an eye on it, and I plan to keep	(248) 349-1700, ext.	
Livonia, MI 48152	County Service Center	and those three city council members conven-		nun	even when loving parents are	age."	an eye on what promises to be	Mercie Cromes Descriterial	Admission \$2.00
Elionia, mi 4010E	Building #34 East				present, kids need extra help.	Whether that is right or not -	an interesting political career.	Marcia Cromas - Receptionist mcromas@ht.homecomm.net	
Cavarnar	1200 N. Telegraph Road Pontiac, MI 48341	Chara your eninterer w			His main problem was that he		Jack Lessenberry is editorial	(248) 349-1700	
Governor	(248) 858-0484	Share your opinions: We we	icome your letters to the editor. Please if	nclude your name, address and phone	didn't have his parents long enough. Incidentally, when peo-		vice president of Hometown	(2-0)010 1700	South Lyon
Jennifer Granholm (D-Northville	(210) 000 0101	number for verification. We ask that you	r letters be 400 words or less. We may	edit for clarity, space and content	ple meet the senator for the first	hudget - Clarke at least has a	Communications. He can be	Billy Fraser - C.A.D.	S <sup>C</sup> Football Boosters
Twp.)					time, it is amusing to watch	can-do, entrepreneurial spirit.	reached by phone at (248) 901-	bfraser@ht.homecomm.net	
P0 box 30013		Mail: Letters to the Editor, Cal Stone,	Novi News, 104 W Main St. Northville	MI 48167	them try to guess his age and	For instance, he would reward	2561 or by e-mail at jlessenber-	(248) 349-1700, ext. 103	The second second
Lansing, MI 48909				MI 48167 HomeTown	ethnic background.	state employees who find ways	ryenomecomm.net.	L	$\sim$
(517) 335-7858		E-mail: cstone@ht.homecomm.net	Fax to: (248) 349-9832	NETWORK				-	



Matt (left) and Kevin Dye along with friends Alfy Chang and Brennan Quinville prac-tice in their parents' basement for the Saturday release concert for their first CD. The Novi High School students have self produced an 11-song collection of origina music. While everyone but Matt, who's a freshman, is headed of to college next fall, the four agree they would not mind being rock stars.

# Novi students premier CD at Northville veterans club

ONETOOMANY

Tickets: \$3

Other bands playing

The Mattress Testars

First Place Lose

Hate the Barlin

This Dying Hour

CDs \$8

Sidlivan

#### By Phil Foley

Kevin Dye has been in a rock onetoomany CD release show and roll band since he was eighth grade, but what the Novi High School senior really wants to do is study mechanical engi-neering so he can design roller Saturday, Dec. I Doors open at 5 p.m. American Legion Halt 100 West Dunlap Northville

But, at least until he heads of to college in the fall, Dye, his younger brother Matt and two friends - Brennan Quinville and Alfy Chang are working on a different kind of thrill ride.

Their band, onetoomany, is tak ing over the Northville American Legion Hall, on Center Street, at 5 p.m. Dec. 6 to mark the release of Is first CD.

"Lots of bands sell CDs at their show," said Dye, "It's something people have been asking for." He added that the band "finally got T-

place to play can be difficult. shirts a month ago." Dve who works 18 hours a Finding a place to record was week at Target, loaned the band the money to get the T-shirts made. The band financed its CD significantly easier. Richard Quinville, the lead singer's father, offered the use of his equipment at Playground Studies. with the winnings from a battle of

the hands earlier this year. "We just want to play music," Dve said that while all the guys in the baid are passionate about the music, they all "just kind of think of it as a hobby. None of us said Dye. "We have a passion for it." It's a passion his mother, Connie, encourages, "I'm a little biased, but I think they're pretty good," said the Novi fourth grade think this is really going to g anywhere," Besides, lie added, "everyone's got places to go." teacher. She noted the boys man-age to book one or two shows a the band's lead singer, is really smart and looking forward to Not bad considering none of going to harvard and how and reader in going to harvard and har here. Chang, is looking at bar.

Dye said his group plays moststarting his sophomore year of by basement parties, a few coffee houses and venues like the Bentley Center and the Majestik State, practices would be somebecause of their ages, finding a



# Party tips can make you host with most

weeks beforehand," she suggest-ed, "Appetizers and cookies can be made ahead of time and Consider entreés budget, time frozen," she added. Brady believes having a spe-cific theme helps make a party nore memorable. Caadles and available before decorations can then be tied into the theme. Don't be afraid to be creative. "Use an old quilt as a table-Holiday parties can send a host cloth or your grandmother's linens. Spend an hour at the hostess into a tizzy.

event

Fear not.

neous.

simply play what's not on the radio. Dye's band has more than a

Dye said he grew up listening to his parent's Guns and Roses recordings and described his band

as somewhere between hard and

"It's Vial of like a fad." he said.

Everybody likes rock. It was dis

opearing the last three years, but

Dye said the band writes most of the music as a group and Quinnville writes most of the

lyrics, with the music coming

first. For their CD, Matt, the youngest member of the band, created the art work.

Between school, work and con-

flicting family vications. Dye said it's been hard to get the CD together - It's been "instanely hard," he said, but worth it.

Plat False is a stall writer for

**Career Training** 

the Novi Yews He ranibe reached at (248) 249 1700 ext. 108 or at

ntelever ht homes omm net.

gette.

fozen oficinal songs.

own's conting back

off-pop rock

year's festive feasts.

eluborate dishes.

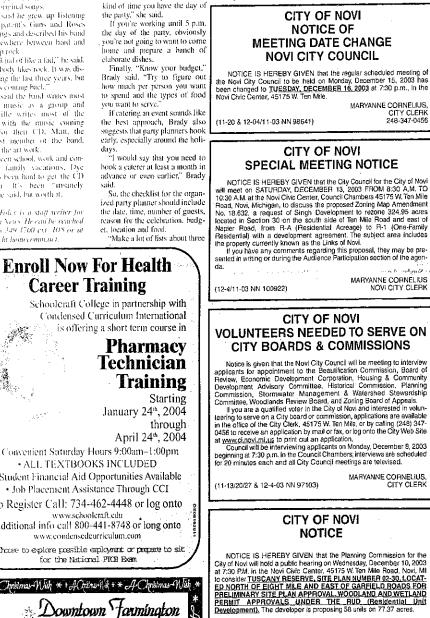
arly, especially a

By Pam Fleming

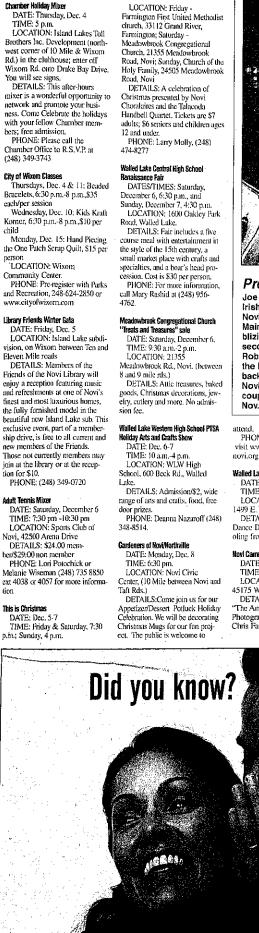
library looking at books on cater-taining that feature table settings Executive Chef Mary Brady, of Diamond Jim Brådy's Bistro im Novi and Mary Brady's Custom Catering, has a few tips and holiday decor." Brady said. The design of the food served is extremely important, Brady said, "Ninety percent of the impression of food is from the to smooth out the wrinkles in this Preplanning is number one. This is not the time to be spontafood's display, she noted. Remember that entertaining doesn't necessarily have to be fancy, "Chili, combread and involvement at the event.

party --- and not washing dish-es," Brady said. "People are com-"Determine what you're able to do on your own. Brady said. "I can have 40 or more people in my home with no problem. But a apple pie, for example, would be a perfect menu for a post-Christmas-tree-hunting party," ing to see you, so don't be in the kitchen all the time." lot of people would prefer to Brady said. Pam Fleming is a staff write Color contrast fresh ingredi

have an event catered if they have more than just a few people." "Make sure you will have enough room in your kitchen for ents, such as red and yellow pep-pers, and try to use items that are in season, Brady said. "Apples for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or by e-mail at 105 or by e-mail pfleming@ht.homecomm.net. the menu you've chosen," she and squash are good now, said, "Next, ask yourself what Incorporate them into your



One of her best tips is to make sure to have carryout containers for guests for any leftovers. "Think about your traffic flow, too, in case you have any valu ables that might be broken," she said. "Check to see that lavatories bers: free admission. are stocked and think about where you want peoples' coats. You may have to empty a closet ahead of time if you don't want a City of Wixom Classe big pile of coats on your bed, Brady said, As far as alcoholic beverages each/per session Brady suggests having splits o champagne on hand, at least one white wine and one red wine. Perhaps her most important tip focuses on the host's or hostess child "Consider yourself part of the erson 'LOCATION: Wixom Community Center. www.cityofwixom.com Library Friends Water Gala Eleven Mile roads new members of the Friends. PHONE: (248) 349-0720 42500 Arena Dri DETAILS: \$24.00 member/\$29:00 non member tion This is Christmas DATE: Dec. 5-7 p.m.; Sunday, 4 p.m.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chamber Holiday Mixer

DATE: Thursday, Dec. 4

Pre-opening preparation Joe Nolan of Wexford, Ireland, was part of a crew of Irish lads working on re-constructiong a bar at Novi's Gus O'Connor's Public House in the Novi Main Street development. Nolan is working on stablizing a support for a handrail leading to the bar's second floor. Wexford and Jef Brooks (Waterford) Robbie Moore, and Robert Drennan and others from the Emerald isle constructed the bar seen in the background in Ireland, had it shipped over here to Novi and then re-assembled it over the span of a couple of weeks. The bar opened for business on Nov. 26.

Send colendor items to Cal PHONE: Call 248-348-2426 or Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main visit www.gardenersofnorthville-Northville, MI 48168 or e-mail to cstone@ht.homecomm.net.

Walled Lake Tree Lighting Coremony DATE: Monday, December 8 TIME: 7 p.m.-9 p.m LOCATION: City complex, 1499 E. West Maple Rd. DETAILS: Visits with Santa, Dance Dynamics performing, car oling from Harmony.

Novi Camera Club meeting DATE: Tuesday, December 9 TIME: 7:30 p.m. LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd. DETAILS: The program will be "The Amazing Power of Digital Photography" with guest speaker, Chris Fannon.



Build a Bear Workshop will be hosting the Kringle Jingle Workshop and there will be a North Pole Express train to ride. A Kalamazoo woman is slated to bring to reindeer and a calf to Ringing In The Holidays and Santa will be at the North Pole for pic-

said. times Dec. 5 with opening night for "A Christmas Carol," at the Novi Civic Center, Linda Wickert,

nfolev@ht.home



of his new book Now You See Him on Sunday, December 7 at 2:00pm.



Thursday, December 4, 2003-NOVI NEWS 184

sale at the Novi Parks.

Recreation and Forestry

Friday. Advance tickets may

# Ring in the holidays

# By Phil Foley

The curtain will go up on "A Christmas Carol" at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5 and 6 and at 3:30 p.m. Dec. 7. Tickets will be \$10 in advance and Christmas cheer will engulf Novi's Main Street tonight as the eity's Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department presents Ringing In The Holidays for its \$12 at the door and go on. second year. From carolers to carriage rides, Department desk in the Nov Tracie Ringle, Novi's event/mar keting coordinator, is promising an Civic Center Nov. 18. Ticket may be ourchased at the evening of fun and best of all, free

Civic Center, 45175 West 10 Mile Road, from 8 a.m.to 5 activities to mark the beginning o the holiday season Ringing in the holidays will run p.m. Monday throi from 6-9 p.m. with an electric light parade at 6:45, Ringle said about 20 units are expected for the also be purchased with a credit card via fax. For more

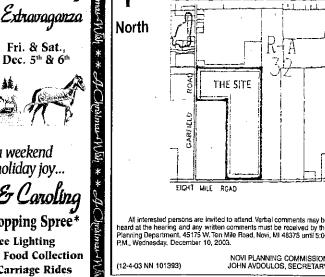
parade. Cast members from the Novi information call (248) 347-0400. Theaters' production of "A Christmas Carol" will be strolling the area in costume. Ringle said at least 10 local restaurants will be since 1997, has a new director, new costume designer and a new set. However, many of the actors are offering samples and the city wil be giving away limited numbers of its annual Christmas ornament. from the 2001 production of "A Christmas Carol," including Ror Ringle said that in keeping with the city's theme of Ringing In The Dzwonkowski, editorial editor fo Detroit Free Press, who will be Holidays, this year's city ornamen reprising his role at Ebenezer

will be in the shape of a bell. Holiday revelers will be able to take advantage of free carriage Scrooge, Dzwonkowski has been a regular with the Novi Theaters playing Fagan in "Oliver" an Lazar Wolf in "Fiddler on Roof." rides along Main Street as well as free calls home courtesy of T-The show's new director, Carrie Wickert, said this year's production will have a fairly limited set and no For kids, Twelve Oaks Mall's

special effects. "We want to give more focus to the actual production," she said. Wickert added they'll be using the same Brian Way adaptation of the Charles Dickens classic that the group has used in the past. "There's a wonderful message there, and we want it to come right through." she

Novi's holiday celebration con-

Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 108 or at Novi Theaters' artistic director, said this year's production, the sixth



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All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may b An interested persons are invited to attend, verbal comments may be eard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the lanning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 5:00 M., Wednesday, December 10, 2003.

AREA MAP

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION JOHN AVDOULOS, SECRETARY

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# **One heck of a year!** Team of 2003 showed the meaning of Wildcat

# By Sam Eggleston SPORTS WRITER

For Novi football coach Tab Kellepourey, it doesn't matter if everyone remembers this team 10 years down the road. All that matters to him is that he and his fellow coaches, along with every member of the 2003 foot-ball team, will reminisce about ż١.

it. "I'm hoping these kids will always be talking about it," he said. "I know we, as coaches, will go back and have great memories ourselves

To make it to a 12-1 mark and arn their conference, district earn their cor and regional

2003

titles was something that not one single indi-vidual on the Novi football

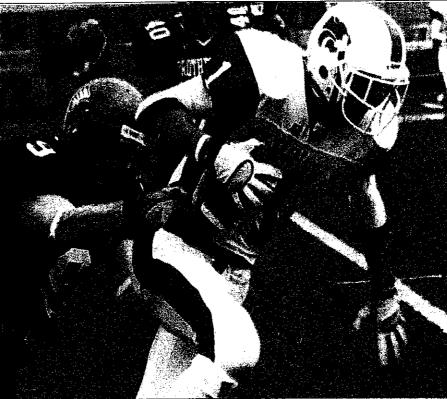
Wildcat Football would team

have been able to accomplish. Instead, they had to do it as a

team. "It was an ongoing develop-ment with us," Kellepourey said. "We had to work together as a team, through any ups and downs we came across. It was really the kids that had to keep it together.

"Staning out, our goal was to be a really good team. To be a good team meant we were going to have to be able to respect each other through the course of the year. The kids went beyond that. They really cared for each other, and still do. From that, we had a lot of wins. That was nice. But what was truly important was that our kids really played together as a team

Being part of three titles, a record-setting 12-win season and the third-straight victory



Novi's Kerry Kreutzberg tries to break free from a Brother Rice defender's grasp in the final game of the 2003 sea-son. Kreutzberg noted earlier in the year that he hoped to be part of a team that would be remembered for a it appears he got what he hoped for. decade

over cross-town rival Northville began playing football for the wasn't the reason these athletes green and white early in their

high school career. They did it of something that had, been because they wanted to be part forged out years before under

the guidance of then-head coach John Osborne – a win-ning tradition.

ning tradition. Winning traditions don't always mean titles, or undefeat-ed seasons. Instead, it means the players have the dedication, here and desize to be winner. heart and desire to be winners no matter what the final

no maiter what the final win/loss record may be. "There's a lot of pride that goes into being a football player in Novi," Kellepourey said. "Every year, it's renewed with our kids. The pride was there in the people who played before them, and the pride will be there in the players pride will be there in the players that come after them."

Kellepourey said to have win-ning seasons is just the frosting on the cake.

"The last two years have been good years for Novi football," he said, "Both teams made runs in the playoffs, and both teams in the playous, and both teams were full of remarkable kids. Every year is full of remarkable kids. That's why we do it. Not for the wins, or the awards. We do it for the kids." And it's the kids that make it

work. "Twelve victories in a season is tremendous," Kellepourey said. Every time I think about it, I think back to the power out-age and how we missed two and a half days of practice in double sessions. I didn't know how we'd be ready to play when our first game rolled around, but the hist game rolled around, out the kids were. They just got any doubts out of the way and let it happen. That's what they did all year long, and that's why we were so successful."

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 seggleston@ht.homecomm.net. at

# More than just a game

All year long, I've rambled and I've rambled about the Novi football team — and I'm going to ramble some more

Novi football means more determination, desire, accountability, responsibility and, most of all, heart. Football was invented as a game, but at the high school level, it has grown into much more than that. These kids come out, year after year, to experience the rush of being a part of something bigger than themselves. In many schools, a student is just a number - one of a couple thousand kids in the school district that makes their way through. On a football

field, they are something else — they're part of a team. Being a team means working together as a unit. Sure, there are a few names that get in ink more than others, but it happens because of a team effort. Novi football is all about team. They work together at a common goal and this year, with desire and hard work, that goal was reached. They ere undefe



#### Sam Eggleston

amazing year. At the end of the 2002 season, Novi High School's total wins in football was 199. By the end of the 2003 season, it's 211. That's a pretty impressive number. It took more than 60 kids in a single season to reach it --- it took generations of Wildcat football to hit that mark. That's what programs are built on — dedicated individu-als who know their progress may not have been as much as ams in the past, nor the future, but it still matters nonetheless

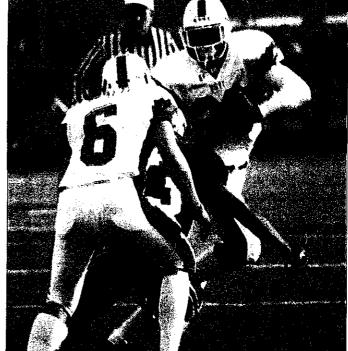
has something to talk about and records to beat. They've made sure they'll have a lifetime of memories amongst themselves and anongst the coaches. That's what Wildcat football

is all about and what it means to be a Wildcats. Be you undefeat-ed or winless, you're still a Wildcat and great memories come from your time in those football pads. Some of us never had the chance to be Wildcat football

players — but we're still a part of the program through our sup-port and dedication. Some of us have been on the field and will cherish those memories forever. It's just ton bad the entire

world couldn't have a taste of what Wildcat football represents - they have no idea what

they're missing. Good luck to all the genera-tions of Novi football yet to come, and thanks to all of those who have come and went. Everything that has been done and has yet to be done just adds to the inspiration that Novi football has become.



in the regular season, won the Baseline Jug, earned the Kensington Valley Conference title and they brought hor District Championship and a Regional crown. That is an

The team of 2003 helped make sure the entire state knew about Novi football and the program that has been built here. They've made sure that the next generation of football players

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or by analytic 104 or by e-mail at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.



PHOTO BY SAM EGGLESTON

J.W. Woods (with ball) benefits from a block by Joey Fratto (6) against Brother Rice.

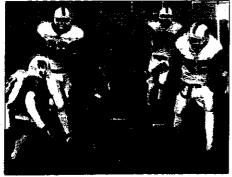


Photo by Sam Egglestor

Brother Rice ball carrier is suddenly feeling like a trapped rat as senior defenders Drew Hoffman (31), Joel Dragan (55), Sean Costello (82) and Mark Kaminski (50) close in.

# Fans meant a lot in Novi team's success

#### By Sam Eggleston ORTS WRITER

To win takes heart, dedication and a willingness to put the effort forth to grate out a difficult victory in some of the toughest situations — and Novi had it.

situations — and Novi had it. To keep it going week after week after week is another story. It takes support, cheers, loyalty and love — it takes fans.

"This year, we really felt their pact," Novi head coach Tab mpact, Kellepourey said of the fans. "The fan base was wonderful."

Students, parents, family, friends and die-hard green and white fans packed the stands every week - and found ways to keep it fresh and new no matter who they played or what the score was

"They did a nice job in terms of creating a fun environment," Kellepourey said. "It was a fun season, and a lot of that is due to the fore:

the fans the fans." Tail-gate parties, painted faces, hand-made signs and group chants were just some of the many things the fans did to keep their boys in the green and white jerseys on their tocs and proud to be Wildcats. In the final Navi error against

In the final Novi game against Brother Rice, Kellepourey, who is normally 100-percent locked on the field of play, took a brief second to note the dedication of year

the fans who packed the stands. "They stood the whole time and paid very close attention to

what was going on," he said. "There was a lot of cheering at the right times."

And it went far beyond the stands and the field of play.

stands and the field of play. "I saw banners flying in the community and there was tail-gating and we noticed a lot of noise at the home games," Kellepourey said. "They got together for the right reasons. They go out, get together, have fun and see what happens. We ware fortunate to have the addiwere fortunate to have the addition of some really great fans this

And, it seems, a lot of it has to

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do with the parents who made sure to keep things going smoothly this year. "They were networked and

made sure that everything was coordinated and going the way they are supposed to," they are supposed to," Kellepourey said. "They hosted team dinners, kept everyone informed and made sure to get everyone behind this football team

And the student help was

greatly appreciated as well. "The student body took it upon themselves to get activated," Kellepoorey said. "Our fan base definitely improved this year, and I hope to see more for next year." see it grow

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Nick Owens



# **Congratulations Novi Football** on A Great Season From These Area Supporters

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Rice

By Sam Eggleston

No matter how much they would

have liked to averge the loss of the Novi football team to the Brother Rice Warriors, they couldn't

Instead, they suffered a very similar

fate. The Novi Wildcats hockey team, under the guidance of Dan Phelps, fell 3-2 to a strong skating squad

from Brother Rice, dropping their record to 0-3 thus far in the season.

The game, which was marked

with numerous penalties, found the Wildcats making a hard drive to notch a final goal to knot the game up, but it wasn't to be even with a

wo-man advantage after pulling

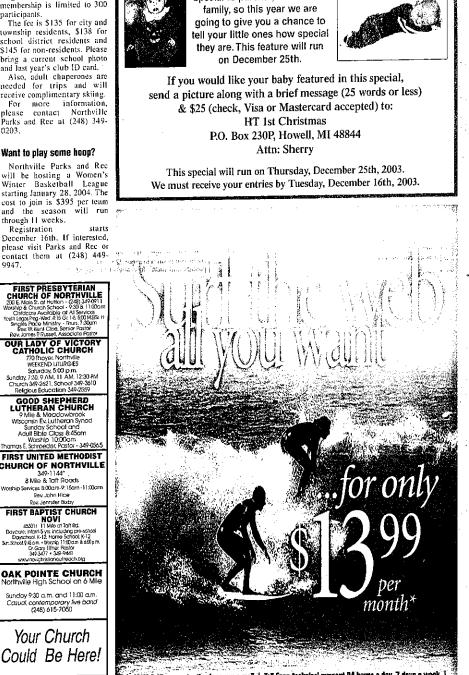
Dan Morrison from his position

Rice started the game off in their

favor at the nine-minute mark in

between the pos

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Diamond Castle 39555 Grand River Ave. Novi 248-442-2440	Varsity Lincoln Mercury 49251 Grand River Ave. Novi 248-305-5300	Harold's Frame Shop 44170 Grand River Ave. Novi 248-349-7550

the first period when they scram- bled for a loose puck off a rebound	How Days Vom Sab pm, Jos pm Fr, John G, Budde, Pastor Fr, Paul Basen, Associate Pastor Parish Office: 349-8847	Coula Be Hele!	SPAM & Views protection for your o-mail   Toll-Free technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
and managed to sneak it by Morrison as they put the rubber up	WORLDWIDE HARVEST CHURCH	MILL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH	Available parental controls fitter   And NO CONTRACTS!
over his left shoulder for the score.	"A Place To Grow" Postor Keith J. McAro	At Mill Race Historic Village	AAGINTAG INGLAUGUE FOUTING UNEEL   VIIT ING CONTINUO LOS I
Three minutes later, the struck	Sunday Worship Service, 11:00 AM The Baymount inst Wittm, Mi (1-56 and Watern Rd. easil)	Practical Christianity	A deal this good won't last long,
again, this time forcing Morrison to	More Info: (248) 919-0829 E-moil:	Contemporary Worship Sun. 10 AM - Wed. Prayer 7 PM	
go to his left before tagging the	Recpinglicrystiticol.com Web: whc.20ft.com	248-388-1509	so sign-up and start surfing today before this offer expires.
right side of the net for the score and a 2-0 lead.	WARD EVANGELICAL	HARVEST FELLOWSHIP	
The Wildcats weren't about to be	PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	49329 Pontiac Trail	
denied though. The second period	Dr. James N. McGuire Senior Postor 4000 Sz Mile Road - Northyfe Mil 248.374.740	Wixom	4 AAA TAK BRAS
was filled with claw marks as they	Traditional Services 7:55, 10:15, 11:30 a.m. Contemporary Service 9:05 a.m.	248-926-8332 Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.	<b>1.888.761.8742</b> or www.btdconnect.com
fought to a 2-2 tie thanks to some	Sunday School & Numery Provided Sunday Evening Service 7:00 p.m. Live Service Broadcast WMU7 560AM 11:00 a.m.	Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.	
impressive shooting by Jordan		ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH	or www.htdconnect.com
Collins. With 10:53 left on the	BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL	23225 Gill Road	'New customers only
clock in the second period, Collins took the puck past two Warrior	LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this	Between Grand River & Freedom	New castoniers only
defensemen and drove the shot into	fbing that has laken placeLuke 2:15 35300 W. & Mile, Farmington Hilb, MI (248) 478-6520	248-474-0584 9:15 Traditional, 11:15 Contemporary	٤
the back of the net for the score.	(2 m) E. of Hosperty N. side of 8 Mile)	Sunday School 10:30 Daniel Cave, Pastor	Broeght to you by your trusted, Hometown Newspaper.
Five minutes later, Mark Eberline	Sunday Morning Worship 8:30 & 10:45 AM Sunday School (All Ages) 9:30 AM	Stephen Brackett, Intern	
took the puck down center ice on a		CROSSPOINTE MEADOWS CHURCH	A second s
two-on-one situation with Collins	CHURCH	Pastor Danny L. Langley	
and the Brother Rice goalie. A		Traditional Service - 9:00 A.M. Contemporary Service - 10:30 A.M.	
quick pass to Collins found the goalie out of position as the puck	DIRECTORY	Meeting at Novi Civic Center	
sailed by him for the 2-2 tie.	<b>Dire</b> ui vni	248-444-7755 crosspointemeadows.org	
The third period was all Rice			
would need to seal the deal though	For Information re-	garding rates call	
- and just a short time in. With	The Northville Record or I	Novi News (248) 349-1700	Muscular Jerry Lewis,
11:59 left on the clock, the			Dustershy Association National Chairman
Warriors gobbled up a rebound and	REMEMBER, ONLY YOU CAL	N PREVENT FOREST FIRES	1-800-572-1717
fired it in for the score and a 3-2	A Public Ser		www.mdausa.org
lead that held through the final buzzer to maintain the victory.	USDA Forest Service an	vice of the d Your State Forester.	·
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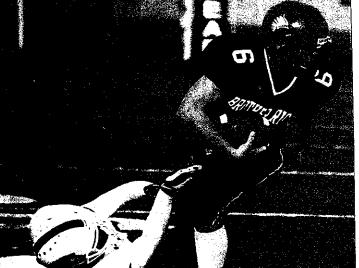
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Photos by John Heider and Sam Eggles

Top to bottom; Tight end Chris Scott makes a block on a crashing linebacker to free up quarterback Mike Hart on an option play; Kyle Margrave gets some help from tackle Steve Jabbori as he eyes a blitzing backer against Brother Rice; Drew Hoffman isn't about to get beat with a juke move or let go of his catch as he grabs belt, holds on tight and waits for some Novi assistance. Bottom (left to right) Josh, J.W. and Jarrell Woods, Trevor Hoover, Kerry Kreutzberg, Mike Hart, Robble Carter. Josh Buck and Mark Kaminski show their pride in the green and white.

· For the first time all season, the Novi Wildcats had to prove what they would do in a situation where they fell behind. At one point, Novi trailed 7-0 quickly before tying the game up at 7-7 on a 2-yard touchdown carry by Buck. With less than a minute left in the first half, the Brighton gridders made it 14-7 on a 29-yard passing play that found the Wildcats coverage breaking apart.

• Brighton went up 17-7 with a 42-yard field goal before the Wildcats went to work. With 10:42 left in the game, Hart found Hoover in the middle of the field on a post play that ended up going 69-vards for the touchdown to cut the Bulldogs' lead to 17-14.

. With 26 seconds left in the game, Angelocci nailed a 33yard field goal to tie the game and force it into overtime.

· The Novi defense held strong, forcing a field goal in Brighton's first offensive series in overtime for a 20-17 Bulldog advantage. Two plays later, Jarrell Woods took the ball in from four yards out behind a crushing block from Buck to earn the first Novi victory over Brighton since 1994 with a 23-20 final.

· Jarrell and J.W. Woods combined for over 100 yards in rushing, while Hart went 17-of-32 for 209 yards.

. The Wildcat defense held Brighton to only 37 yards in the

#### Game 5 Novi 17, South Lyon 15

. In a game that pitted the only two undefeated KVC teams against one another, it was clear that whoever scored first was probably going to win the game. Thanks to Angelocci, it was Novi who first got on the board as he hit a 38-yard field goal to put his squad up 3-0.

The Wildcats found themselves down for only the second time this season. South Lyon scored to make it 6-3 after a missed extra point, but Novi quickly regained the lead as Hart hit Hoover in the middle of the endzone for a 10-6 lead on a 12-yard strike.

· Novi continued to build on their lead, scoring their final touchdown of the night after J.W. Woods broke five tackles and sprinted 40 yards to set up his younger brother Josh for a 26-yard run. The two sprints put Novi three yards out, and Hart finished it off with an option keeper around the end for the touchdown and a 17-6 lead.

. The Novi defense held the Lions to a field goal for a 17-9 score and then found the South Lyon gridders scoring on a bootleg around the end to cut the lead to 17-15. The following two-point conversion attempt was cut short as senior Trenton Sisson read the quarterback's eves and intercepted the ball to end the threat from a then-state-ranked team.

. The Wildcat offense gained 238 yards on the ground and tacked on 60 yards through the air. · Novi's defense recorded four quarterback sacks on the

The Novi Wildcats secured an outright victory in the Kensington Valley Conference with the massive drubbing of the winless Pirates

· Buck was the first 'Cat across the goal line, scoring on a 5-yard pound up the middle. Not big after, J.W. Woods took 86-yard sprint and to give the 'Cats a 24-13 lead. the ball in from one yard out for abother touchdown run.

· Angelocci hit a 29-yard field goal for a 17-0 lead in the first quarter.

· Drew Hoffman intercepted his first pass of the season to set up a 53-yard scoring strike from Hart to Hoover. On the following Pinckney offensive possession, Kreutzberg snagged the ball for another interception before J.W. Woods scored on a 4-yard run to take a 31-0 lead with three minutes left in the first half.

· Junior Kevin Cislo grabbed yet another first-half interception from the Pirates and then hauled it back 46 yards for the defensive score and a 38-0 halftime lead.

· Novi's sixth touchdown of the game came in the fourth quarter as junior Justin Davis ran 25 vards for the score.

· Hart, who played only in the first half, threw 13-for-20. gaining 186 yards, a touchdown and an interception in the process. Hoover hauled in five catches for 97 yards.

. The Novi defense held the Pirates to just 17 yards in the first half.

#### Game 9 Novi 35, Northville 16

· The two biggest breaks in the Northville defense came on the second and third touchdowns of the night for the Wildcats. On the first, which made the score 14-0, senior wide receiver Kerry Kreutzberg caught a 21-yard strike from Mike Hart with 9:16 left on the clock in the second quarter. Kreutzberg had nothing to fear but dropping the dead-on pass as he turned and caught it in the endzone without a soul around (except fellow receiver Trevor Hoover). The second landed in Hoover's hands, this one on a 33-yard pass that found him catching the ball in stride without a single defender marking him.

 Novi continued to march on their cross-town rivals – even without one of their top players. After Hart took the ball on a ground gain, he found himself being slammed to the ground on a low, hard hit from Brendan Buckley. The hit found the senior quarterback exiting the game with a hip injury. Hart returned for one play from the 13-yard line as he hit senior Mark Angelocci for a score and a 28-0 lead after Angelocci hit his own point-after attempt. Junior Kevin Cislo entered the game for Novi after the

Wildcat defense held strong. Cislo took the ball down to the 3yard line as the third quarter came to an end. Two plays later, Cislo put the Novi Wildcats up 35-0 with their fifth touchdown of the night on a two-yard keeper.

. The victory marked Novi's third-straight over Northville in the Baseline Jug game. The series stands at 17-16 in Novi's

 The Wildcats handed the ball to senior J.W. Woods, Woods headed for the middle of the line, found a linebacker waiting for him, and then danced to his right before breaking two tackles on the sideline. He outran his foes to the endzone for an

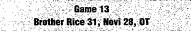
> Game 12 Novi 20, Detroit Mackenzie 19, OT

· Hart found Kreutzberg from six yards out to give Novi 7-6 lead following Angelocci's extra point. · Buck pounded the ball in from one yard out to score with

27.9 seconds left in the game to tie it up at 13-13.

 In overtime, Mackenzie scored but missed the extra point before the Wildcats took the lead and the win on a five-yard touchdown by Buck. Angelocci nailed the extra point to win the game for the Wildcats.

Novi earned the Regional Championship with the victory.



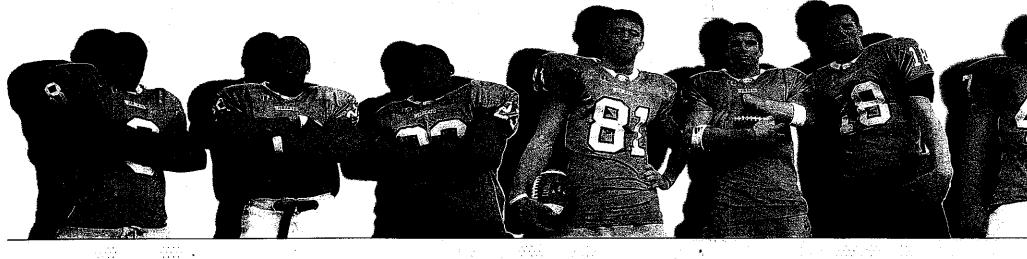
. The Wildcats lost their bid to go to the Pontiac Silverdome and the Division II state finals by just three inches as Hart stretched the ball for the line in overtime but was ruled down by contact by a line judge - which gave Rice the win following their OT field goal.

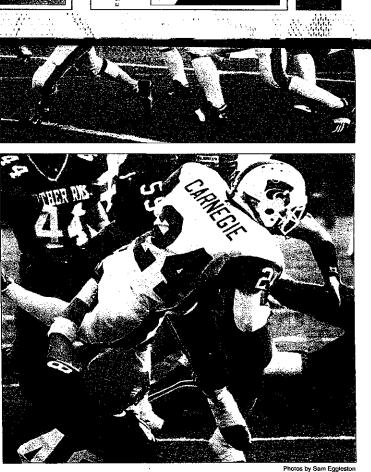
· Earlier in the game, Novi took advantage of a Brother Rice turnover. Hart steadied his team with some impressive throws from the backfield and eventually found Hoover on a 9-yard touchdown strike. Angelocci's kick tied the game

. The Wildcats took the lead early in the second quarter following a third-and-nine scenario. Hart backed up in the pocket, guarded by protection from Ryan Pritchard, Kyle Margrave, Chad Thurman, Steve Jabbori and Mark Kaminski, and found Hoover streaking down the sideline for a 27-yard scoring pass to take a 14-7 lead.

· With the game tied 14-14 and time expiring in the half, the Wildcats went to work trying to gain enough yardage to get within Angelocci's range. After multiple passing plays, the Wildcats opted for a halfback draw that sprung for 39 yards and the touchdown as Josh Woods bounced outside, uked a linebacker and outran the defense to the endzone for the surprising score with just under 11 seconds left in the hali

 Hart put together 60 yards in passing and 10 on the ground before finding Hoover in the endzone for a touchdown and a tied game with 21.4 seconds left in regulation.





Top to bottom: Josh Woods makes a few moves on his way to a touchdown before the end of the first half against Rice; Kevin Cislo follows a lead block by David Compiled by Sam Eggleston Carnegie; Carnegie shows he can take hits with the best of them.



# **REGIONAL MARKETPLACE**

ADVERTORIAL

## **BUSINESS BRIEFS**

#### Fine print: Read first or pay later

Consumers are unwittingly becoming ensnared in a credit card trap called universal default, an often overlooked item in a credit card agreement that allows issuers to increase a cardholder's interest rate if they've fallen behind on their payments. Only credit card companies are penalizing cardholders for late payments made to other creditors

payments made to other creditors and lenders. Consider these tips for staving off those unexpected interest rate

spikes: Go over your credit card agree-ment with a fine-toothed comb. Your card agreement contains a variety of term - late fees, over-the-limit fees, transaction fees, annual per-centage rate (APR) and grace period to name a few --- that you should be familiar with. Knowing what these terms mean, and in many cases knowing how to avoid them, is your best defense against getting blind-sided by an interest rate hike or socked with unexpected fees. Also, read the informational inserts that come with your monthly statement. They contain important addendums

They contain important addendaries to your credit card agreement. Familiarize yourself with all of your accounts. Commit to memory as much information as you can about all of your accounts; your pay-ment due dates, balances and credit ment due cates, balances and croun limits. By knowing your accounts inside and out, you'll not only remember to pay your bills on time, you'll know quickly whether you're missing a bill — a proactive step in guarding yourself against identity theft.

Take the U.S. Postal Service out of the picture. Many financial institutions now offer online bill payrunning now oner online on pay-ment services where members can pay their bills with a few clicks of the mouse. With e-bill pay you don't have to worry about checks sitting in your mailbox for people to steal, or making it to the post office before the last scheduled pick up.

You also eliminate the possibility You also eliminate the possibility of the post office sending your check to Florida when they should have services range in cost from 54 to 515 per month. Realizing it costs much less to process an electronic pay-ment than it does to process a check, financial inclutions are increasing-In a set of the service for free. Alternatively, if you don't want to pay your bills online but still want the convenience of not writing financial institutions are increasingchecks each month, consider having your monthly payments automati-cally deducted from your account. Review your credit report regular-

ly. Don't assume your credit report is accurate and timely. In 2002 the Consumer Federation of America (CFA) and the National Credit Reporting Association (NCRA) extensively reviewed the credit files of 1,700 individuals, maintained by the three major credit bureaus — Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. Their research revealed that 78 per-Their research revealed that 78 per-cent of the 1,700 credit files exam-ined were missing a revolving account in good standing, while 33 percent of the files were missing a mortgage account that had never been late. More concerning, in 43 percent of the files, reports on the same accounts conflicted with screent the bare of one concurrent respect to how often consumers were reported as being 30 days late making payments. And in 29 per-cent of the files, there was conflicting information about many times the consumer had been reported as being 60 days late with a payment.

You can request a copy of your credit report from each of the three credit repositories (Equifax: www.equifax.com; Experian: www.experian.com; TransUnion: www.transunion.com). Costs range from \$10 to \$40 depending on whether you want your credit score and report from just one bureau or all three. Peruse your history for inaccurate information. One advantage of looking at your history online is your ability to challenge any discrepan-cies by clicking a box on the Internet site. A credit bureau has 30 days from the time the challenge is filed to check with the creditor who reported the information. If the or agrees, the bureau corrects formation. If the creditor disthe inf putes the information, you have the right to add a statement explaining the dispute to your credit file. The Federal Trade Commission (www.ftc.gov) can explain your rights in a credit dispute.

It's hard to tell sometimes that'

It's hard to tell sometimes that' it's a jewelry store at all. Sure, the cherrywood cases overflowing with sparkling dia-mond and genstone delights often give it away. And the constant whit of a respected craftsman put-ting the final hand-engraved touches on a customized ring is yet another tell-lade sign

yet another tell-tale sign. But that's such a small part of the real Milford Jewelers story that it often seems redundant What makes the store located in downtown Milford unique — besides its quaint 441 N. Main St. existence, that is — is its uncanny

ability to make everyone seem Not simply purchasers of fine-ly-crafted jewelry. Not only the fancilly-dressed and the well-to-

do. But everyone. The mom who is hurrying home from work, two children in tow; the father who waited intil the last minute on the day of his wedding anniversary to find "just the right gift."

The made-up, And the casually dressed. Those searching for the perfect engagement ring. And those just stopping by to say "hello," or gmb a cookie. Indeed, the real gems at Milford Jewelers are the 1,500 or so customers who have to date graced the store during its 18-month life. And the many more who simply stop by to chat. Or share a joke. Or tell a story. Or borrow the local

Milford Jewelers: Your friendly jewelry store

At Milford Jewelers, located in downtown Milford at 441 N. Main St., gifts are available between \$25 and \$10,000.

newspaper. "We are a people-oriented fam-"We are a people-onented ram-ily," Tamar Aguilar said, who long with older brother, Jacques Chopjian, owns Milford Jewelers. "We could be selling widgets on the side of the road and we'd still take the same approach: people first

Maybe that's why so many new

Photo by Hal Gould

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Tamar Aguilar and Jacques Chopjian have been a huge success in Milford. The

discovered customers have Milford Jewelers and 'then Maybe it's because Milford Jewelers is family-based. Maybe

it's because the family of four brothers and one sister proudly owns four jewelry retail stores and operates its own jewelry manufac-

uring facility. Or maybe it's simply because after 30 years of hand-etching a professional nameplate, the fami-ly is still not content, still unwavering when it comes to watermark items such quality crafts-manship, friendliness and professional customer service.

"We have never tried to be any-

"We have never tried to be any-thing we are not," lacques said. "We have never tried to reinvent ourselves, simply to be the biggest jeweler around or the fanciest. "What we do is simply open the door and let people come in -- to discover us in whatever way they feel comfortable." Sometimes that's dressed casu-

ally in sweats, Tamar said. Sometimes that's in a \$1,000 dress, It doesn't really matter

"And they all deserve respect," she said. "Everyone deserves to be listened to, especially in this business where people are looking for something that feels unique to

That's where having a family business which can design, customize and manufacture any lewelry piece comes in especially handy, she said.

handy, she said. "We specialize in doing things everyone else says can't be done," Tamar said. "Because we have resources most jewelers don't — Ubu due addition accortion to like the ability and expertise to actually design and cast jewelry, even platinum — we can always offer a significant step up in qual-

MILFORD JEWELERS

Milford Jewelers has extended Holiday hours: Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday Noon to 4 o.m.

Milford Jewefers is located at 441 N. Main St., in downtown Milford. For more infor-mation, call (248) 676-0721.

jeweler who can do the job, start to finish," Jacques said. "When someone comes into our store and

some context into our score and says they want a ring like this or like that, we say, 'No problem.'' Tamar said the family's busi-ness philosophy is by design. And from the heart. "We know people are sometimes intimidated by the are sometimes intimidated by the jewelry store experience," she said. "That's why we go out of our way to make people feel at ease." Don't believe it? Ask around.

Don't believe it? Ask around. "Ask the people who are already sitting here whenever that front door swings open," Tarnar said. "People come in all the time, just to say hello. Or to sit down and share a cup of coffee." Friendliness begets its own rewards che said

Friendliness begels its own "That tells us people know we are interested in much more than simply solling them jewelry. We are most interested in forming friendships that last as long as the pieces we design." She thought a moment, then returned the enthusicistic wave of

returned the enthusiastic wave of someone walking by outside, along the brick-path sidewalk. "What better compliment could

we ever get than having someone ask one of our customers, 'Where did you get that beautiful ring?'

Then having our customer

Photo by David Aquila

Thursday, Decer

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL), a statewide brade 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) to learn more about smart money management.

on? People are simply comfortable entering their downtown Main Street store to shop, browse or say hello.

And a step down in price. "That's the benefit of having a at Milford Jewelers."

proudly reply: 'From our friends

