



Thursday, December 11, 2003

hometownlife.com

50¢

Volume 48 Number 28

Novi, Michigan

© 2003 HomeTown Communications Network™

Look inside for your **GREEN SHEET Classifieds**

Greensheetclassifieds.com

GIFT GUIDE



Inside this edition of the Novi News find our Gift Guide, filled with holiday traditions, ideas to keep you healthy and stress-free, special events and, of course, gift ideas.

— SPECIAL SECTION

INSIDE

Feature Teacher

People have always recognized how important Janis Burkhardt is to the staff at Orchard Hills Elementary School. In fact, that recognition got her selected as one of 50 international educators to Japan for two weeks in June of 2000.

— Page 12A

CORRECTION

In an article and photo on page 7-A of the Dec. 4, 2003, edition, on Mac-Clair Mortgage Corporation opening a new office in Novi, Ron Newton, executive vice president, was incorrectly identified as Ron Gipson. Gipson is another partner in the business.

INDEX

- Business13A
- Calendar of Events18A
- Classifieds1D
- Obituary17A
- Opinion / Letters14 / 15A
- Police Report5A
- Regional Marketplace6B
- Schools7A
- Screen Beat17A
- Sports1B

CONTACT US

Novi News
104 W. Main
Northville, MI 48167

- Classifieds: 888-999-1288
- Newsroom: 248-349-1700
- Fax: 248-349-9832
- Home Delivery: 888-840-4809



Postal Information: 055821
000000
*****CAR-RT LOT#CC-052
NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY
45245 N 10 MILE RD
NOVI MI 48375-3014

State cuts inevitable

■ School reductions coming; districts just don't know amount

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Dec. 5 came and went with legislators in Michigan passing nothing in terms of setting an amount of money that will be cut from the per pupil foundation grant. That means that the \$196 per student reduction, (Novi currently receives \$8,310 per student), which was prorated by Governor Jennifer Granholm in order to ensure that the school aid fund is balanced, has gone

into effect — for now. According to Jim Koster, assistant superintendent of business and finance for Novi schools, Granholm was supposed to come out with a new proposal yesterday which could very possibly change that amount per student.

Her proposal as of last week was to pause income tax reduction and come up with other funds to reduce the \$196 figure

continued on page 7

THE GAME PLAN

If the state per pupil foundation grant is reduced by \$196 per pupil, it would mean a loss of nearly \$1.2 million for Novi Community School District. The following are the district's proposals and savings. These cuts could change, however, if a new proposal is made by Governor Jennifer Granholm or state legislators.

- Discontinue all district-funded conferences which would save \$42,405
- Discontinue all district-funded instructional field trips which would save \$12,497
- Reduce district-wide capital outlay which would save \$20,000
- Reduce non-instructional supplies which would save \$50,000
- Reduce custodial overtime which would save \$30,000
- Reduce secretarial overtime which would save \$10,000
- Eliminate Imaging project (transferring records to CD format)
- Do not fill current maintenance position vacancy

Will the Links Singh farewell?

■ City schedules special meeting on development

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

West Bloomfield-based Singh Development Company wants to cut the city's number of golf courses in half and donate 65 acres of parkland to Novi in order to create a neighborhood of 428 homes on the city's western edge.

However, some Novi City Council members think that's too dense a development for the 10 Mile and Napier roads area.

That has led to a rare Saturday morning council meeting to decide the fate of Singh's Quail Hollow project, which includes what is today the Links of Novi. The council will meet from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Dec. 13 to consider the company's request to rezone 325 acres from Residential Acreage (RA) to One-Family Residential (R-1) with a development order.

continued on page 3

Friends of Novi Parks support Singh's proposal in our letters, turn to page 14A.

Suspected high-tech thieves nabbed

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

U.S. Secret Service agents in Detroit would only say they have an open investigation, but Wixom Police say they helped the feds take two men sought in an automatic teller machines fraud into custody Dec. 3 at the Baymont Inn & Suites hotel across the street from the sprawling Ford Wixom Assembly Plant.

A spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office said one of the men was Hamdija Aho Frljuckic, one of four men sought in a 13-page indictment charging they used ATM machines in New York, Florida and California to steal at least \$3.4 million from at least 1,400 banks between November 2000 and January 2001.

continued on page 3

Is that thing real, Santa?



Photo by John Heider

Hannah McIntyre, six months, sits for a moment with Santa and grabs ahold of his big white beard during last Thursday's festivities along Novi's Main Street. For more photos from this event, please turn to page 2.

Numerous errors push final MEAP results deadline to Jan. 30

■ Preliminary scores indicate Novi is on track

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

It looks as if the Novi Community School District will have to wait a little longer to receive final MEAP test results from the State Department of Education. Though preliminary scores, which were already delayed months before they were finally received on Oct. 20, indicated that Novi is doing well in most subjects, they could change by the time final scores are scheduled to be released on Jan. 30, 2004.

Most of the preliminary MEAP test scores, however, showed that Novi consistently scored well above both Oakland County and the State of Michigan. Davis believes those numbers won't change too much once final results are received.

"Our data is not going to change dramatically in terms of the test scores themselves because we always know that we're pretty high," Novi Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services Nancy Davis said. "We want to make sure that our appeals get factored in to give us our report card grade, which includes our attendance rate. That's all going to add up to whether we get an A or a B or a C, and we want to make sure that it's all correct."

"...the MEAP test score by itself is very much like stepping on a scale. It gives you a reading on that one day when kids take the test..."

Nancy Davis
Novi Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services

The ultimate goal in the Novi Community School District is to receive an A on its Adequate Yearly Progress rating. Adequate Yearly Progress is the minimum level of improvement that school districts must achieve each year as determined under the No Child Left Behind Act. That Act is the most recent authorization of the elementary

and secondary Education Act, which is the principal federal law affecting K-12 education. Though Novi will most likely receive an A, Davis explained that receiving a B, C or a D doesn't mean a lot other than there are some areas for schools who receive those grades to improve on.

"Overall, Novi scores very well on the MEAP test, so we're in pretty good shape," Davis said. "I tell people that almost every day, people often get up and they weigh themselves on the scale to see if they have gained weight or they lost weight or stayed the same. What I try to encourage parents and

continued on page 7

ATTENTION JOB SEEKERS

Unemployed? Tired of missing out on the great leads? Looking for a career change?

Well look no further than HomeTown Newspaper's POSITION WANTED classifieds. For as low as \$13.62 you can let thousands of prospective employers know you mean business. 3 line minimum.

Call your ad representative today to pick the package that is right for you. Hurry! Get your dream job... before your neighbor does!

CALL 1-888-999-1288



Riley Barry, 3, and Bailey Barry, 5, right get some help with a crafts project last Thursday night from their mother Roxanne. The children's crafts area was donated and staffed by Build-A-Bear.



Visitors crowd the interior of Novi's Main Street development last Thursday during its Ringing in the Holidays celebration.



A street-wide group of youngsters adorned as colorfully wrapped Christmas presents stroll down Main Street.

Photos by John Heider



Santa Claus waves as he's being introduced to the crowd by Mayor Lou Coardas.



Novi Theatres' Jessica Smith, far left, and many others, dressed in Elizabethan garb sing Christmas carols along Novi's Main Street. The singers are from the upcoming production of Dickens' A Christmas Carol.

Kids, if you didn't get a chance to talk to Santa and tell him what you want for Christmas, don't worry - you can send us your letters to Santa. We'll publish them in next week's edition. Send or drop them off at: Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167; fax them to (248) 349-9332; or e-mail them to cstone@ht.homecomm.net.

West Bloomfield woman charged in vandalism spree

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

At presstime, Marian Bryant was sitting in the Oakland County Jail, awaiting a Wednesday arraignment in the 52-1 District Court. The 56-year-old West Bloomfield woman is suspected of leaving a swath of destruction from Waterford Township and West Bloomfield to Novi and Farmington Hills over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Police in the four communities said they believe Bryant is responsible for scratching the paint on approximately 175 vehicles at at least 10 dealerships. So far, said Detective Todd Anger, she's been charged with malicious destruction of property in Novi, Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield.

Novi Police Lt. David Molloy said it was a conversation with a West Bloomfield Police supervisor attached to the SONIC unit. Based at the Farmington Hills Police Department, the South Oakland Narcotics Intelligence Consortium includes detectives from all over southwest Oakland County and investigates crimes that cross municipal lines.

Although Novi Police had a surveillance video from Jaguar of Novi, it wasn't until they spoke with the West Bloomfield officer that the case heated up. After hearing of the vandalism in Novi and Farmington Hills, the West Bloomfield officer told Novi detectives it sounded like a case being investigated in his community where someone was scratching paint on cars at one of West Bloomfield's libraries.

Bryant was arrested Dec. 4 as she drove away from her West Bloomfield home. Inside the home, said Detective Anger, investigators found notes and letters detailing her activities.

The only other physical evidence police say they have is the videotape from Jaguar of Novi, which they concede is "grainy" at best.

Detective Anger said Bryant has refused to speak to investigators without a lawyer, but so far she's neither asked for a court-appointed lawyer or named one of her own.

The detective added the woman was also being sought on an unrelated aggravated assault charge out of West Bloomfield.

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

Will the Links of Novi Singh farewell?

continued from front page

Last month Novi's Planning Commission voted 6-1 (with, now former, Commissioner Larry Papp dissenting) to approve Singh's proposal.

Robert Carson, a Birmingham attorney representing Singh at the city council's Nov. 24 meeting, suggested that the 428 units the company wants to build on the 260 acres it would retain would be relatively low density. He added, the project would have 46 percent open space overall and that the land donated to the city would connect two city-owned parcels creating the

second largest park in Novi.

Council Member Laura Lorenzo noted that most of the property being donated is unbuildable anyway. Lorenzo, a self-described "tree hugger and swamp lover," said she had a hard time considering the rezoning given the burden that would be created by 200 extra homes and the 1,400 extra vehicles the development would put on 10 Mile Road every day.

Council Members Lynne Paul and Toni Nagy also expressed concerns over the increased density the rezoning would allow.

Mayor Lou Coardas called the Singh proposal a tremendous opportunity. "There's got to be a way we can take advantage of this," he said.

Carson cautioned that Singh is under the gun to make the project work. In order to put together the 324.95-acre package, Carson said Singh had to negotiate for five parcels of property and the options on those parcels expire at the end of the year.

While saying the proposed development order was "too broad and open to interpretation," council member Kim Capello wasn't ready to give up on the idea either and called for a special meeting.

Andrew Mutch, representing the Friends of Novi Parks, argued in favor of the project saying it would allow the city to open a park stretching from 10 Mile Road south almost to Nine Mile Road.

Carson noted that once completed, taxes on the property would jump from \$27,000 annually to more than \$1 million.

Lorenzo and Nagy dissented in the 5-2 vote on the Dec. 13 meeting.

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

Suspected high-tech thieves apprehended

continued from front page

Wixom Police Detective Jim Osborne said his office received a call early Dec. 3 from Detroit-based Secret Service agents saying they had two suspects under surveillance at the hotel. Apparently the pair had first drawn the Secret Service's attention a few days earlier when they used a bad credit card at a Wixom restaurant, said Osborne.

He said two Wixom road patrol officers and four detectives joined Secret Service agents as they served arrest warrants on the suspects in rooms on the hotel's first and fourth floors.

Osborne said officers knocked on the suspects' doors about 9 a.m., identifying themselves as hotel maintenance workers. He said there was a brief struggle as lawmen forced their way into the hotel rooms, but no one was hurt.

Although Osborne said two people were taken into custody, a spokesman for the Secret Service in Detroit would only say they have a case under investigation.

A spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's said of the two people taken into custody in Wixom, only Frijaucki was named in the federal indictment. Three other people were named in the New York federal indictment - Elnija Frijaucki, Filicia Konec and Ivan Vrabe - but no addresses were given for any of them.

According to the federal indictment, the four used more than 50 privately-owned ATMs to illegally obtain information for more than 21,000 bank accounts.

Osborne said that when Frijaucki and his unnamed companion were taken into custody a large amount of cash was found in their rooms.

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

PARTIAL DENTURE
Acrylic for only **\$225***

FREE EXAM
New Patient Only

• Senior Citizens Discount Available
• Emergencies Seen Same Day
• 1-Hour Denture Repair Service
• Same Day Denture Refine Service
• Acrylic Partials Completed in One Day
*Prices May Vary

Call for an Appointment
248-478-1495
Lakewood Dental • Dr. Ramsey Atoui, D.D.S.

During a fire you need to scoot, so **plan and practice your escape route!**

USFA recommends knowing escape plans and planning escape ground capabilities. Know at least two exits from every room.

PREVENT FIRE. SAVE LIVES.
<http://www.usfa.fema.gov>

United States Fire Administration • Federal Emergency Management Agency

The Flavor Of Europe... Taorello's The Taste of Taorello's!

SALE DATES: Sun., DEC. 7th thru Sat., DEC. 13th, 2003

FRESH PRODUCE
JUICY NAVEL ORANGES 69¢ lb.
PEARSON COLE SLAW 99¢ BAG
RED DELICIOUS APPLES 69¢ lb.
FRESH BAKING POTATOES 39¢ lb.

MARKETPLACE
U.S.D.A. CHOICE BONELESS BLACK ANGUS NEW YORK STRIP STEAKS \$6.99 lb.
FAMILY PACK BONELESS SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST \$1.99 lb.
DON'T FORGET YOUR HONEYBAKED SPIRAL SLICED HAM \$1.99 lb.
EXTRA LEAN GROUND BEEF FROM ROUND \$1.99 lb.

WINE SHOPPE
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST! 1999 SILVER OAK ALEXANDER VALLEY RANCH WINES \$6.49 750 ml. BTL.
CHARDONNAY, CABERNET or MERLOT LAWSON \$9.99 750 ml. BTL.

JET-FRESH SEAFOOD
ALWAYS FRESH YELLOW FIN TUNA STEAKS \$10.99 lb.
JET-FRESH MAHI-MAHI FILLETS \$7.99 lb.
FLORALS RED & WHITE MIXED BOUQUETS \$5.99 EACH
GOURMET TO-GO CHEF YVONNE'S HOMEMADE HONEYBAKED HAM SALAD \$3.99 lb.
FREE VALET PARKING December 20th thru December 24th
GOURMET GROCERY 19 oz. CANS ASSORTED PROGRESSO SOUPS \$1.99 EACH
IMPORTED FROM ITALY COLAVITA EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL \$9.99 1 LITER
IMPORTED FROM ITALY FERRERO ROCHER HAZELNUT CHOCOLATES \$2.99 12 Ct.

GOURMET DELI
WE ARE NOW PROUDLY SERVING THUMANN'S GOURMET PRIME DELI MEATS & CHEESES!
THUMANN'S - NEW YORK STYLE MÜNSTER CHEESE \$4.49 lb.
THUMANN'S - TOP ROUND CHOICE CORN BEEF \$6.99 lb.
HEARTSMART CHOICE TOP ROUND ROAST BEEF \$7.99 lb.

WE ALSO HAVE THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT! GOURMET FRUIT & GIFT BASKETS
THE PERFECT WAY TO SAY "THANK YOU" TO YOUR EMPLOYEES OR CLIENTS. CORPORATE ORDERS TAKE 10% OFF! (SEE STORE FOR DETAILS)

PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY FOR OUR FAMOUS GOURMET PARTY TRAYS OR YOUR DELICIOUS HONEYBAKED HAMS
WE ARE THE ONLY STORE IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY THAT CARRIES THEM!

PLANNING ON A HOME OR OFFICE HOLIDAY PARTY? TAORELLO'S GOURMET CATERING
WE CAN MAKE YOUR PARTY ONE TO BE REMEMBERED! FROM 2 PERSONS TO 200... OUR GOURMET CHEF'S ARE READY TO SERVE YOU AND YOUR GUESTS.

1007 E. Grand River Avenue • Brighton • (810) 225-8900

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES AND/OR CHANGE PRICES DUE TO MARKET CONDITIONS AND/OR PRINTER ERROR. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT APPEAR AS PICTURED.

IN A WORLD WHERE INGREDIENTS COME OUT OF A CAN, POUCH, FREEZER OR COMMISSARY, THERE'S STILL A PLACE WHERE FRESH ACTUALLY MEANS FRESH.

BAJA FRESH MEXICAN GRILL

NO CAN OPENERS. NO FREEZERS.
NO MICROWAVES. NO LARD. NO MSG.

NO COMPROMISES.

"This is unbelievable..."
The Detroit News

"You want fresh? Oh, yeah, we want Baja Fresh..."
The Detroit News

"...the fresh-cut chicken and steak was a blast of freshness to our mouths."
The Oakland Press

"...it does have flavorful good, in part because it doesn't serve frozen entrees, doesn't make its food ahead and nuke it on your plate and doesn't use canned beans, cheeses and salsas."
Detroit Free Press



Try our NEW Chicken Picado!

NOW OPEN IN:

Northville
(248) 347-3500
17933 Haggerty Rd.
(At Northville Village)

Novi
(248) 735-7000
43271 Crescent Blvd.
(At Novi Town Center)

Visit our other locations in:
Troy • Rochester Hills • Southfield • Farmington Hills

BAJA FRESH
MEXICAN GRILL

DINE IN. TAKE OUT. CALL AHEAD, GRAB IT & GO!

©2003 Fresh Enterprises, Inc.

POLICE REPORT

Lexus 1, Deer 0

A 36-year-old Farmington Hills woman told Officer Craig Felix that she was driving her 1999 Lexus SUV on 12 Mile Road near M-5 at 6:45 p.m. Dec. 4 when a deer ran in front of her. The woman was uninjured, but the deer died.

Failed burglary

A 54-year-old Novi woman told Officer Scott she discovered at 11:33 a.m. Dec. 4 that someone had smashed the handle off the back door at Super Cuts on Grand River Avenue.

Missing machine

A Novi man told Officer Craig Chismar Dec. 4 that someone stole a \$9,000 carpet roller machine from The Carpet Workroom on Venture Street Nov. 5. According to reports, the machine was one of two left on the sidewalk outside the business at the beginning of the work day, but it disappeared within an hour.

Crash, boom, busted

Officer Jeffrey Brown charged a 40-year-old Livonia man with operating under the influence of liquor following an accident at 6:21 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Fed Ex building on 11 Mile Road. The man's supervisor at Roman Vending told Officer Brown that he'd gone looking for the driver and found that he'd been involved in an accident with a van leased to Fed Ex. According to reports, the man failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .15.

No Turn on Red

Officer Andrew Hudochek stopped a 2003 Chevrolet pickup on Novi Road near Grand River Avenue at 1:09 a.m. Dec. 3 after he said he saw it make an illegal right turn. He charged the driver, a 23-year-old Bingham Farms woman, with operating under the influence of liquor after she reportedly failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .12. The woman said she'd had three beers at The Library Pub before being stopped.

License, gun stolen

A 36-year-old Novi man told Officer Mark Kohns that his unlicensed daughter, "Alicia," and Ford Focus were burglarized sometime before 2:10 p.m. Dec. 3 at his Bashian Street home. He said a radar detector, worth \$325, and \$10 were taken.

Identity theft

A 46-year-old Novi man told Officer Scott Tewes that he became suspicious after a woman called his home and then his office to verify his credit card number Dec. 3. He said he contacted Citibank and found his card had been used to make a \$1,000 purchase without his knowledge and later in the day someone had his home phone shut off.

Account closed

A 34-year-old Novi man told Officers Shawn Penzak and Kevin Gilmore that a check on a bank account he closed, after his checkbook as stolen at a Oct. 30 concert in Detroit was used Dec. 2 to purchase \$233.68 worth of items from the Novi Home Depot store.

Just furious

A 23-year-old Novi man told Officer Scott Baetens that someone stole his 1998 Acura from his Pleasant Street home sometime before 10:40 p.m. Dec. 20. The man said the car had been customized to look like one from the movie "The Fast and the Furious" and was worth \$20,000. The owner of Piedmont Concrete later reported finding the man's owner's manual near 9 Mile and Haggerty roads.

Top chopped

A 27-year-old Garden City woman told Officer Michael Prough Dec. 2 that someone slashed through the roof on the driver's side of her 1996 Chevrolet Cavalier convertible while it was parked outside BW3 on 12 Mile Road.

Tires stolen

Officer Eric Lindblade noticed Dec. 1 that three tires had been taken from a 26-year-old River Rouge woman's 1987 Mercury Taurus sedan. The tires were left on the side of her 1996 Chevrolet Cavalier near 31st Road. Officer Kristie Owenwald charged the car as abandoned Nov. 29.

Broken window

A 26-year-old Novi man told Officer Steve Balog that a half-round window worth \$950 was vandalized at Toll Brothers Inc.'s Island Lake development in early October.

Little dope, big dope

Officer David Martino stopped a 1993 Ford Ranger at 4:48 p.m. Dec. 1 after he noticed the driver wasn't wearing a seat belt while driving south on Novi Road. He charged with driver, a 19-year-old Commerce Township woman, with violation of the controlled substance act, after he

discovered a small bag of marijuana and a pipe in the truck. She was later released after posting a \$100 bond.

Mailbox mashed

A 48-year-old Novi woman told Officer Scott Baetens that a small white car drove over the mailbox in front of her Andover Street home about 7:10 p.m. Dec. 1.

Deer loses

A 48-year-old Northville man escaped injury, according to reports, when a deer ran in front of his southbound 1998 BMW

on Beck Road three-quarters of a mile south of Grand River Avenue. The deer was not so fortunate.

Short, strange ride

A 33-year-old Novi man told investigators he had no idea what happened before his 1997 Dodge Intrepid slammed into a chestnut tree behind a Park Forest Street home at 8:45 a.m. Dec. 6. However, it appears the car cleaved up 300 feet of grass along westbound Nine Mile before coming to an abrupt stop. The man, according to reports, refused treatment for non-in-

curring injuries.

One more deer

A 35-year-old Northville man told Officer Kevin Gilmore that he was driving his 2001 Windstar west on Eight Mile Road when a deer ran in front of him. The deer did not make it to the other side of the road.

Kamikaze deer

A 19-year-old Orford woman told Officer Andrew Hudochek that a deer ran head-on into her 2004 Dodge as she and a 19-year-old Wixom woman were headed east on 12 Mile Road

near Donelson at 9:24 p.m. Dec. 2. The women escaped injury. The deer did not.

Pedestrian hit

Officer Scott Wuotinen cited a 24-year-old Wixom man with failure to yield after the man reportedly hit a 25-year-old Novi woman with his 1995 Dodge Caravan at the corner of Beck Road and Pontiac Trail. The man said he didn't see the woman crossing the street because she was wearing dark clothes. The woman appeared not to be seriously injured.

Compiled by Phil Foley

HOLIDAY STORE HOURS: SHOP FRIDAY 8:00 AM TO 10:00 PM; SATURDAY 6:00 AM TO 10:00 PM; SUNDAY 8:00 AM TO 9:00 PM.

GIFTS UNDER \$50

NOW THRU SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14
exceptional savings & special gifts

<p>39.99 Cherille sweaters from Rafaella. Reg. 48.00-54.00. IN LADIES' SPORTSWEAR.</p>	<p>24.99 Great selection of novelty denim jeans. Reg. 36.00-38.00. IN YOUNG CONTEMPORARY. SELECTION VARIES BY STORE.</p>	<p>9.99 Dress shirts from Preswick & Moore. Orig. 45.00-50.00. IN MEN'S.</p>
<p>29.99 PJ's To Go from Carole Hochman. Reg. 60.00. IN INTIMATE APPAREL.</p>	<p>30.00 & UNDER Our exclusive men's and women's fragrance sets, including some of your favorite names. IN FRAGRANCES.</p>	<p>39.99 25 Ct. T.W. diamond bracelet. Orig. 150.00. IN ACCESSORIES.</p>
<p>29.99 Preswick & Moore gifts. Choose from corkscrew, emergency kit, tie rack and cooling set. Reg. 40.00. IN GIFTS.</p>	<p>2.77-49.00 Selected toys and gifts from FAO Schwarz. Choose from creativity sets, dolls and more. Reg. 3.95-70.00. IN CHILDREN'S. SELECTION VARIES BY STORE.</p>	<p>12.99 Great gift sets for coffee, tea and cocoa lovers from Coffee Masters. IN GIFTS.</p>

SAVE EVEN MORE WITH YOUR COUPONS.

<p>TAKE AN EXTRA 15% OFF any single regular-priced, sale or clearance item valid Friday, December 12 thru Sunday, December 14 Take 10% off any single regular, sale or clearance item in electronics, shoes, ladies' suits and dresses and men's suits and sport coats.</p> <p>PARISIAN</p>	<p>TAKE AN EXTRA 15% OFF any single regular-priced, sale or clearance item valid Friday, December 12 thru Sunday, December 14 Take 10% off any single regular, sale or clearance item in electronics, shoes, ladies' suits and dresses and men's suits and sport coats.</p> <p>PARISIAN</p>	<p>TAKE AN EXTRA 20% OFF any single sale or clearance purchase* in fine jewelry valid Friday, December 12 thru Sunday, December 14</p> <p>PARISIAN</p>
--	--	---

NO INTEREST* UNTIL APRIL 2004

WHEN YOU SPEND \$150 ON YOUR PARISIAN CHARGE CARD OFFER VALID THROUGH APRIL 2004. *See bank for details. Offer good on purchases of \$150 or more made on your Parisian Charge Card between 12/12/03 and 12/31/03. Offer subject to credit review. Offer good on purchases of \$150 or more made on your Parisian Charge Card between 12/12/03 and 12/31/03. Offer subject to credit review. Offer good on purchases of \$150 or more made on your Parisian Charge Card between 12/12/03 and 12/31/03. Offer subject to credit review. Offer good on purchases of \$150 or more made on your Parisian Charge Card between 12/12/03 and 12/31/03. Offer subject to credit review.

YOU'RE SOMEBODY SPECIAL
P.A.R.I.S.I.A.N.



TO ORDER ANYTIME, CALL 1-800-424-8188, MONDAY THRU SATURDAY, 9:00 AM TO 10:00 PM CST, AND SUNDAY, 11:00 AM TO 7:00 PM CST.
STORE HOURS: The Village of Rochester Hills (248) 276-6776 and Laurel Park Plaza (734) 852-7700 open Sun. 12-6, Mon.-Sat. 10-9.
CHARGE IT: Parisian Credit Card, MasterCard, Visa, the American Express® Card or Discover®. LOCATED AT THE VILLAGE OF ROCHESTER HILLS, CORNER OF NORTH ADAMS ROAD AND WALTON STREET, AND LAUREL PARK PLACE IN LIVONIA, CORNER OF NEWBURGH ROAD AND SIX MILE ROAD.

No one injured in wetlands blaze

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Kids who were smoking are suspected of touching off a blaze that scorched 10 acres of wetlands next to Fawn Lake. The blaze broke out on Dec. 5, around 10 a.m.



This aerial shot shows the 10 acres that were burned Dec. 5 after kids who were smoking touched off a blaze in the wetlands next to Fawn Lake. The blaze broke out on Dec. 5, around 10 a.m.

Eight trucks, including units from nearby Wixom and Commerce Township, were brought in to fight the blaze. It took 30 firefighters 2 1/2 hours to beat the flames into submission. Walled Lake Fire Chief Ken Van Sparrentak said no one was injured and no buildings were damaged in the fire. He said the Walled Lake Police Department is now investigating the incident for possible arson charges. One Fawn Lake resident told investigators he'd seen three girls and a boy in the 9-to-13 age group smoking near the pond next to the neighborhood.

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

Wixom murder suspect wants a trial

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

The man Wixom Police say masterminded the murder of a Detroit man outside a local factory nearly a year ago has decided to take his chances with a jury.

According to Wixom Detective Jim Osborne, after agreeing to a plea bargain in October that would have put him in a Michigan state prison until 2026 for his part in the murder of Eric Barnes, Kevin Leon Russell, 24, decided last month to ignore his attorney's advice and back out of the agreement. This means that, if convicted, Russell could spend the rest of his life behind bars.

Samuel Lee Henderson, 25, pleaded guilty to being the trigger man and is now looking at spending the next quarter century behind bars. Det. Osborne said Barnes hired Henderson to shoot Barnes and now has no reason not to testify. Henderson, said Det. Osborne, is slated to be officially sentenced before Circuit Court Deborah Tyrer Dec. 12. He said there is still a chance that Judge Tyrer will refuse to allow Russell to back out of his plea bargain, but if a trial would begin sometime after the first of the year and probably take about three weeks to complete.

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

Woman loses her van for a day due to clerical error

A clerical error at a Washtenaw County car dealership cost a 33-year-old South Lyon woman her brand new mini van overnight.

Novi Police Officer Craig Felix stopped a 2004 Town & Country mini van on 10 Mile near Lyndon at 10:20 p.m. Dec. 3 because it appeared to have no license plate. He said as he approached the van he saw a temporary paper plate, but when he ran the number, it came back with a hold from the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department.

Investigations there told Officer Felix the van was one of several vehicles reported stolen in a recent rash of thefts in Washtenaw County in which thieves smashed windows at dealerships and then took the vehicles to the South Lyon woman. He noted that overall, "She was pretty understanding."

The South Lyon woman told Officer Felix that she bought her vehicle from Suburban Chrysler Jeep in Novi Nov. 22. Along with the keys, she had a sales agreement from the dealership. Officer Felix noted the van had only 953 miles on the odometer. Still, Novi Police impounded the van and drove the woman back to her home. According to Lt. David Molloy, it appears a dealer in Washtenaw County had transferred the vehicle to the Novi dealer, but forgot to take it off his books and then later reported it stolen when he couldn't find it on his list. Lt. Molloy said once the mix-up was straightened out, the impounded van was put on a flatbed and returned to the South Lyon woman.

Northville man charged in theft of pots

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

An alert Farmington Hills police officer helped Novi Police capture a grab-and-run bandit who struck Glenda's Nursery on Grand River Nov. 30.

Northville resident William Troher, 44, was arraigned in the 52-1 District Court Dec. 1 on charges of second degree retail fraud, larceny and battery. He was slated to be back in court for his first appearance before Judge Robert Bondy Dec. 10 after posting 10 percent of a \$3,500 cash bond.

Officer Mark Kohls and Sgt. Matt Conquest, a clerk at Glenda's spotted a man putting garden pots and reindeer Christmas lawn ornaments into the back of a van sometime before 8:14 a.m. Nov. 30. When the clerk tried to stop the man, he was knocked to the ground and the man sped off. The clerk was able to get a partial license number, which Officer Kohls and Sgt. Conquest broadcast. Lt. David Molloy noted that a Farmington Hills officer found that when the "O" at the end of the number provided by the clerk was changed to a "D," it revealed a van registered to Troher.

Officer Kohls and Sgt. Conquest went to Troher's Ely street residence. Molloy said when they confronted Troher, he confessed to taking the items. The officers recovered two pots and two reindeer, worth about \$320. Molloy noted that Troher was already facing to larceny charges stemming from an incident in May in Livonia. Molloy urged local residents not to confront thieves like the clerk at Glenda's did. "Your personal safety is not worth \$500 worth Christmas ornaments and some flower pots," said the detective. He said people should write down the suspect's license plate number and call police immediately.

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



Woman trapped in two-car wreck

An 18-year-old Canton woman was taken to Royal Oak's William Beaumont Hospital with incapacitating injuries Nov. 26 after cutting in front of another car on Meadowbrook Road between 12 Mile Road and I-96, according to Novi Police reports.

According to Officer Louis Bigliardi, the woman was in a 1997 Dodge on the west side of southbound Meadowbrook when she apparently tried to make a U-turn in front of a 1998 Ford driven by a 39-year-old Livonia woman. The Ford hit the Dodge

on the driver's side, according to reports, trapping the Canton woman. The Livonia woman escaped with no visible injuries. The Canton woman was cited with failure to yield.

Compiled by Phil Foley

CONNECT INSTANTLY HERE.



INSTANT NATIONWIDE CONNECT PLAN
500 anytime cellular minutes
Unlimited Push To Talk™ walkie-talkie
Unlimited nights and weekends
\$49.99 Other monthly charges apply. See below.**

DATA APPLICATIONS
Available data services include:
Two-way Messaging, AOL® Instant Messenger™ and Wireless Web Access.

NEXTEL
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

@Wireless

- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| DIRMINGHAM
2519 W. Maple Rd.
(SW corner of Cranbrook & Maple)
248.723.6600 | CANTON
4401 Ford Rd.
(3 mi. East of Sheldon Rd.)
734.981.7440 | HOWELL
4207 E. Grand River Ave.
(at Sears Plaza)
517.545.7220 | NEW HUDSON
56754 Grand River
(East of Millbrook Rd.)
248.437.5353 | SOUTH LYON
226 S. Lafayette
(Next to S. Lyon Bakery)
248.437.5300 |
| BLOOMFIELD HILLS
4038 Telegraph Rd.
(Next to Starbuck's)
248.593.3665 | FENTON
1810 Silver Parkway
(at Silver Lake Village)
810.623.7440 | LANSING
440 E. Edgewood
(at front of Sam's Club)
517.394.7441 | NOVI
27793 - C West
Oasis Dr.
(at West Oaks II)
248.556.1900 | TAYLOR
5237 S. Telegraph Rd.
313.291.2912 |
| BRIGHTON
315 E. Grand River
(East of Main St.)
810.227.7440 | HARTLAND
1012 Highland Rd.
(at Main St.)
810.552.9300 | MILFORD
101 E. Commerce
(Next to Pioneer Blvd.)
248.684.7440 | OKEMOS
4738 Central Park Dr.
(Next to Pioneer Blvd.)
517.349.0300 | WILLIAMSTON
725 W. Grand River
(next to Famous Taco)
517.655.9898 |

Stop in and ask how you can keep your same phone number and switch wireless carriers. Coming Soon!

**Monthly fee includes a Federal Privacy Cost Recovery (FPCR) fee of \$1.55 or \$2.83. The FPCR is a tax or government required charge. The fee is charged for one or more of the following: (1) number porting and wireless number portability. Offers expire December 31, 2003. Nextel reserves the right to extend these offers without notice. In-store purchases require two forms of valid identification. Requires new activation and credit approval. \$200 early termination fee applies, after 15-day trial period (limitations apply). Setup fee of \$35 per phone, up to \$70 more per account applies. Additional charges may apply and may vary by market, including state and federal taxes, a Universal Service Annuity of either 1.20% or 25%, a 1% charge of approx. .07%, and a state-specified (E)I fee. Other Terms: Nextel reserves the right to modify or terminate these offers at any time. Offers may not be available in all markets. Other conditions may apply. Read service agreement for details. Instant Nationwide Connect Plan: Requires one-year service agreement. Direct Connect minutes and Nationwide Direct Connect access are unlimited and do not include Group Connect calls, which are \$0.15/min and are calculated by multiplying the minutes of use, number of participants, and the applicable rate. Group Connect can only work with members of the same network within their home market. Nationwide service is not available for Group Connect calls. Callers covering to 50/100 mins. Callers who exceed the limit will pay the next full plan fee. Pre-Wireless: Group Connect, Nationwide Direct Connect, and the Driver Safety logo are service marks, trademarks, and/or registered trademarks of Nextel Communications, Inc. MOTOROLA and the Stylized M Logo are registered in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. All other product or service names are the property of their respective owners. All rights reserved.

DON'T FORGET BONFIRE GIFT CERTIFICATES AND HOLIDAY PARTY BOOKINGS

BONFIRE

39550 Seven Mile Rd. • Northville • 248-735-4330 • nachgarden.com

BEFORE CHRISTMAS SALE

Premium Quality!
FRESH WREATHS BUNCHES and ROPING
25% OFF

ALL Life-like Trees
33-60% OFF

Huge Assortment Select
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
25-60% OFF

Ornaments • Lights • Gifts
Tree Stands • Figurines
Skirts/Stockings • More

PLANTERS
734-453-5500

9000 Ann Arbor Rd. Plymouth Rd.

Errors push final MEAP results deadline to Jan. 30

continued from front page

community members to remember it's the MEAP test score by itself is very much like stepping on a scale. It gives you a reading on that one day when kids take the test, how they're doing in that particular content area - whether it's math, reading, social studies, science - and a lot of factors go into play behind that."

measures and indicators as well, however, like Tara Nova tests and Scholastic Aptitude Tests. "I really encourage people to remember that and not say that the MEAP test is everything that matters because it really isn't," Davis said. "We are very aware of the situation with the MEAP scores. As soon as we have the final information we will be making a full report to the community, to the board of education, and I'm very confident that Novi Community Schools will look very well in regards to the MEAP test."

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

CLASS NOTES

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

MEAP SCORES			
(Percentage of students who met or exceeded state standards)			
MATH	NOVI	OAKLAND CO.	MICHIGAN
4th Grade	88	77	65
8th Grade	82.2	66.1	52
READING			
4th Grade	90	83.3	75
7th Grade	84	72	61
WRITING			
4th Grade	54	56.2	47
7th Grade	81	66.7	57
ELA*			
4th Grade	78	71.5	59
7th Grade	83	69.9	58
LISTENING			
4th Grade	91	83.4	77
7th Grade	89	83.3	77
SCIENCE			
5th Grade	90	85.2	77
8th Grade	88	74	65
SOCIAL STUDIES			
5th Grade	43	41.2	28
8th Grade	36.9	44.5	33

What caused the delay in getting the MEAP results?

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

When the State Department of Education used a new testing company to collect the tests, grade them and report the results back to schools in Michigan, many districts noticed an overwhelming amount of errors in the numbers. Everything from missing test scores to inaccurate attendance data to students being included who shouldn't have been included were discovered.

All districts had 15 calendar days to review the information and question the data. The Novi district had seven appeals that it sent back to the State Department of Education. Each of the elementary buildings in Novi filed an appeal on two issues. One was missing data in the math MEAP testing scores at the fourth grade level and the other one was on the basis of attendance figures. "The Department of Education is faced with an overwhelming number of errors that have to be resolved," Novi Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services Nancy Davis said. "Because of that, they are now telling us that our final report card will not be out until Jan. 30, 2004. That means we're going to have to wait yet another six weeks."

As for Novi's attendance figures, the results that came back from the state showed the district in the 80-percentile range, which administrators immediately knew were wrong. "Our attendance in Novi is extremely high," Davis said. "We average well over 90 to 95 percent every day all through the school year, and we knew that wasn't right."

As it turned out, the problem with the attendance figures was on the district's side. Because of a software (Single Record Student Base system) that schools use to take attendance, the days were not counted correctly for the full school year. There was a day, for instance, where the students weren't supposed to go to school, but it was counted as a day of attendance with no students. "The attendance problem wasn't just in Novi. There are several other school districts in Michigan that use the same software and they all had the same problem in the attendance numbers."

School reductions coming; districts don't know amount

continued from front page

to \$70 per student, which would cost Novi \$426,370. But it was unknown if that would change by the time the Novi News went to press.

Right now, if the \$196 per pupil figure sticks, it would cost Novi an estimated \$1.2 million. Proposed reductions by the Novi Community School Board of Education to alleviate that amount of money would amount to \$229,700. The balance of reductions would come from the district's fund equity, which is like an emergency savings account that Novi Schools has been able to build up over the years, would amount to \$959,057. The district currently has \$8 million in cash in its fund equity.

One question that Koster has, however, is when will the reduction in the per pupil foundation grant start to take effect?

"There hasn't been anything yet that indicates that we're going to get our first chunk of money reductions in December or our first chunk in January," Koster said. "They were going to negotiate on Friday and they probably still are as we speak."

One thing is for certain - there will be some kind of reduction that will affect the Novi Community School District. However, Koster doesn't believe education programs will be affected in the near future.

"The state will still be wrestling around with reductions for a while, and the district doesn't know yet what those reductions will be," Koster said. "I have not seen a scenario where there will be no reductions by the state."

REMEMBER, ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES

A Public Service of the USDA Forest Service and Your State Forester.

Ad Council

"The Department of Education is faced with an overwhelming number of errors that have to be resolved."

Nancy Davis
Novi Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services Nancy Davis

Pre-Christmas SALE!

Buy Now And Enjoy One Year Interest Free Financing -OR- Pay Cash And Receive An Extra 8%* DISCOUNT -OR- We will pay your 6% SALES TAX!

Sale Ends December 20th, 2003

- Wesley Allen
- Thomasville
- Harden
- Bob Timberlake
- Nichols & Stone
- Charleston Forge
- King Hickory
- Lexington
- Hekman
- Durham
- Sligh
- Dinaire
- Hitchcock
- Canal Dover
- Custom Shoppe
- Restonic
- Howard Miller
- Superior
- I.M. David
- Butler

Monday, Thursday, Friday 9:30-9:00; Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday 9:30-5:30; Open Sunday 1-5

CLASSIC INTERIORS FURNITURE

20282 Middlebelt, Livonia • South of 8 Mile • (248) 474-6900

DESIGN SERVICE AVAILABLE

*All discounts are off Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Prices. All previous sales excluded. *Offer not valid in conjunction with any other promotional discount. *Due to the already low price of Thomasville, 6% for cash does not apply.

VISA, MasterCard, DISCOVER

The New Highland Lakes Plaza

Seven Mile Rd. Just East of Northville Rd.

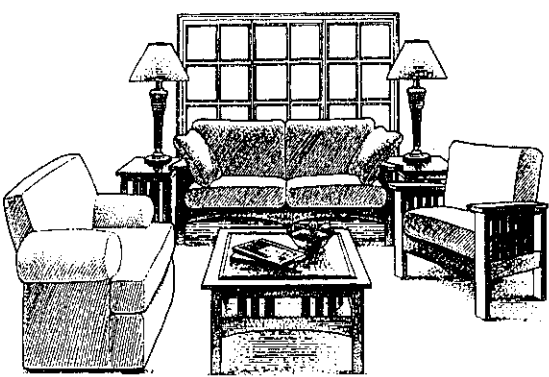


Come See What Northville's So Excited About!

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Northville Family Foot Care | Generation Fitness | Canterbury Cleaners |
| Northville Family Dentistry | Cassel's Family Restaurant | Northstar Sales |
| Northville Family Medicine | Northville Vision Clinic | Trader Tom's Tobacco |
| Northville Pharmacy | Michelle's Hearth | World Custom Alterations |
| Subway Sandwich Shop | B&W Variety Store | Animal Glamour |
| AAA Insurance | Highland Lakes Laundromat | Libby's Hair Salon |
| Little Caesar's Pizza | Home to Home Consignments | Highland Lakes Auto Care |
| Consignment Clothier | "It Figures" Fitness Salon | H2O Express |
| Northville Printing | Decorating by Dan | and More |
| Civic Concern | New Wing Hing Restaurant | New Stores Coming! |

Home-To-Home

Furniture and Accents



Save Up To 80%
on Furniture & Home Accents

- Gently Used • Premium Quality
- Value Prices

Located in the Highland Lakes Plaza
West of I-275 on Seven Mile Rd. near Northville Rd.
Phone #248-348-3750

Home-To-Home Coupon

20% Off
Any One Item*

*Off original price. With this coupon.
Valid thru 1-31-04. NN 12-11

Home-To-Home Coupon

20% Off
Any One Item*

*Off original price. With this coupon.
Valid thru 1-31-04. NN 12-11

Turkey Trot raises money and cans for less fortunate

■ 12th annual event held at Middle School

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

It kind of looked like Novi Middle School was having a mass fire drill last Wednesday as students got out of their classrooms and walked in a giant circle around the outside of the school. It wasn't a fire drill, however, that made them do that. It was the facility's 12th annual Turkey Trot.

Students were asked to bring in cans of food and money each day for about a week to donate to the Novi Emergency Food Bank and by the time the day came to do the trot, over 2,800 cans were collected along with almost \$563.

"This is a record-breaking year," Nancy Moore said, who is a seventh grade math teacher and the organizer of the event. "I was really pleased. This year we tried something a little bit different. We had a competition between the seventh and eighth grades to see who could bring in more cans and money."

The seventh graders won. Moore explained that the Turkey Trot serves two functions:

To promote physical fitness with the students with a walk around the school grounds and to collect food for the less fortunate.

In the past, cider and doughnuts were provided to the students on the Turkey Trot day courtesy of the school's PTO. This year, however, the Wixom Meijer store provided all of that, plus napkins. Also, to help promote the event, computer classes at the school made flyers and art teachers had the students make posters as well.

"As part of our day, the kids do their walk and they have a snack," Moore said. "The PTO is here helping out and we have an assembly to end the day."

The walk started at the front of the school and led the students all the way around it. On their way they encountered a large humiliate turkey.

"The PTO sponsors our turkey by rental of the costume and we have a volunteer from the staff put it on and go out there to greet the kids," Moore said. "It really takes everybody working hard to put this together. The PTO does their part, they have people out on the course, they have people here serving snacks and the teachers are everywhere too. It's a team effort."

PTO Chair people who helped out were Angie Bruder and Cheryl Shepherd.



Orchard Hills Turkey Trot
Third graders take a picture break at the Orchard Hills Elementary Turkey Trot.

Turkey day celebration

Orchard Hills kindergartners got to dress themselves in "pilgrim-wear" as part of their Thanksgiving celebration. Pictured from left to right are Shannon Harmon, Aaron Howe and E.J. Wennerberg.



Novi Woods celebrates Thanksgiving
Novi Woods kindergartners celebrated the holiday by dressing as pilgrims for their Thanksgiving feast. Pictured are (back row) Allison Bally, Scott Pryson, Julia Tvardak and (front) Joost Plaetnick.

Deerfield students become Earth explorers

■ Activity teaches about changing land

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Deerfield Elementary School was turned into an Earth Explorers Camp last week as every grade from kindergarten through fourth participated in 10 different hands-on Earth centers that taught them many facts about the planet we live on.

The Earth Explorers Camp was a culminating activity for the school's unit on changing land. It took place after a three-week study where students learned about land forms, the inside and outside of Earth and things that change the planet over time.

"It was the ending of the unit, so the camp was kind of like a celebration," said Gerard Kenrick, a first and second grade teacher. "We took all of the concepts that the students read about in books or have seen on posters and made them all live and hands-on."

Parents led each of the centers and students participated in each one through hands-on activities. At one of the centers, students were asked to construct a model of Earth out of ingredients that

they could eat. The core was a malted milk ball, and the inner and outer core, as well as the mantle were all made of cookie dough rolled in Corn Flakes. The students were able to eat their model afterwards.

"That was an example of showing the Earth's layers and they went from there to other centers. Like a volcano center where they made model volcanoes erupt and watched the flow of lava," Kenrick said. "The whole activity was a great learning experience for all the kids."

EARTH CENTERS

The 10 centers that students participated in.

- Cave
- Volcano
- Inside The Earth
- Climbing A Mountain
- Earthquake Shock Waves
- The Super Continent Pangaea
- Land Erosion
- Ground Water
- Water Erosion
- Wind Erosion

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

Japanese Club brings Kendo performance to Novi High

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The Japanese martial art known as Kendo was demonstrated to students at Novi High last week by the school's Japanese Club. According to sophomore Janus Tagawa, who did a lot of the demonstrating, kendo is almost like Japanese fencing which was practiced by Samurai in Japan for years in order to use their swords more efficiently.

"For a long time they were doing kendo for practice only, but they just do it for sport now," Tagawa said. "There are kendo tournaments in Japan and it's like a club. When you go to school in Japan, you don't learn this stuff, but you can join different clubs that teach you kendo."

During his demonstration to students, Tagawa wore heavy Japanese armor and sparred with a female student, who also was in the club. They used very large sticks and showed their audience different techniques of fighting.

"We did this demonstration so everybody can know what kendo is," Tagawa said. "Many students didn't really know before."

Freshman Andrew Games was also involved in the demonstration. He explained that in kendo, one uses his or her sword to test their physical and mental control. In the past it was a combat technique, but now it's more of a true martial art where the whole aim is control. "Kendo isn't a very publicly known sport, so we just wanted to get the word out to people and see what they thought," he said. "It was well received from the audience. Judging from the amount of people who showed up, I think they understood it pretty well and they enjoyed it."

Games attends classes about martial arts at Hillsdale Middle School in Northville.

CLUB MEMBERS EARN

TRIPLE CASH BACK

All Day, Every Day!
December 1st - December 24th

Casino Windsor's Players Prestige™ Club is offering you three times the fun with TRIPLE CASH BACK on your slot play - all day, every day, December 1st - 24th. It's definitely the area's highest Cash Back bonus by far. And it's only at Casino Windsor!

Membership in the Players Prestige Club is free and brings you all the benefits that you'd expect from the area's biggest and best Players Club, including TRIPLE CASH BACK! Sign up today and turn \$5 into \$15 - it's that easy.

For more information call 1-800-991-7777 or visit the Players Prestige Booth on your next visit.

CASINO WINDSOR
www.casinowindsor.com

MOVIE GUIDE

THE GIFT OF MOVIES!
\$10 Book Plus \$1 Free
GIFT CERTIFICATES
\$20 Book Plus \$2 Free

BRING THE FAMILY IN AND ENJOY OUR HOLIDAY WALK

SHOWTIMES 12/12 - 12/19

CATCH UP (PG-13)
11:30, 12:10, 2:00, 2:40, 4:30, 5:10, 7:00, 7:40, 9:25
10:00 FRISBEE 11:50

COMEDY (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50 FRISBEE 12:10

THE GIFT (PG)
11:50, 2:30, 4:50, 9:00

THE SANTA CLAUSE (PG)
11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45

FRISBEE 11:45

TIME LIFE (PG-13)
9:00 FRISBEE 11:40

ROCKY (PG)
12:00, 12:40, 4:40 FRISBEE 12:15

THE GIFT (PG)
11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50

FRISBEE 11:50

BROTHER BEAR (G)
11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 9:00

THE HUMAN STAIN (PG)
2:10, 6:50

PERANIMAY JURY (PG)
13:20, 9:35

FRISBEE 11:55

COUPON
FREE DRINK
with \$10 purchase
at 40¢/cup (other restrictions apply)
BEST DEAL! Expires 12/31/03
www.novitancenter.com

WINNER WONDERLAND
Dec 1 - Dec 28

See Players Club for Details

Use your Players Club Card to accumulate a flurry of Scratch & Win Cards for a chance to win up to \$500 instantly. Plus, be at the Stage Bar every Sunday in December for your shot at \$10,000 during Second Chance Drawings. At MGM Grand, you'll be playing in a Winner Wonderland.

MGM GRAND
1300 John C. Lodge Detroit, MI 48226 • Call 1-877-688-2121 or visit mgmgrand.com

DoubleTree Hotel and Village Oaks donate 2,003 cookies to Special Olympics cause

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

If you could give 2,003 freshly baked chocolate chip cookies to a special group of people in your community to show that someone cares about them, who would you give them to and why?

That was the question posed in a survey to elementary school students in more than 100 cities across the country this fall.

Two weeks ago, their caring answers were turned into a reality. *philanthropic* experience as all of the fourth grade classes at Village Oaks Elementary School personally presented 2,003 cookies to representatives from the group they voted for most: The Special Olympics.

DoubleTree Hotel of Novi joined more than 100 DoubleTree Hotels and their adopted elementary school classes to make similar presentations as part of a Great Community Cookie Giveaway. Organizers anticipated single-work donations of more than

200,000 chocolate chip cookies to organizations selected by elementary school kids across America.

Both the survey and community giveaway are part of the Teaching Kids to CARE, an educational outreach initiative developed by DoubleTree that encourages kids at the right age to start making conscious decisions about how they can care about and serve in their own communities.

It also gives everyone a chance to find out just whom today's elementary school students care most about.

The main tool in the program was an educator-approved lesson plan, with three individual activities to be conducted in each class during October and November, to reinforce the positive experience of caring and helping others in their own community.

"The 2003 Great Community Cookie Giveaway allowed our children the opportunity to experience how rewarding it can be to give back to the community in their own special way," Village Oaks Principal Mary Goedert said. "The overall Teaching Kids to CARE program introduced how easy it is to be a caring kid. This helps build a foundation for kids to become good citizens and possible leaders in their local community or wherever they are in the future."

One of the main Teaching Kids to CARE activities centered around a "caring cookie." Each student was encouraged to write a paragraph on their caring cookie to share with a group of people in their community they felt could use 2,003 cookies. The students individually decorated caring cookies and were then placed on a Community Caring Cookie Tree poster in their classroom. Their decisions were also collected for both a local and national survey of elementary school students.

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



Photos by Elaine Mayton

Deerfield students jump start their holiday shopping

Sponsored by the Deerfield Community Council, Deerfield students purchased holiday gifts for friends and family. All gifts cost \$1.50 each. The holiday store was open Friday evening and during the day on Saturday. Deerfield third grade student Brad Harrison is assisted by Emily Kostzewa, an eighth grader at Novi Middle School.

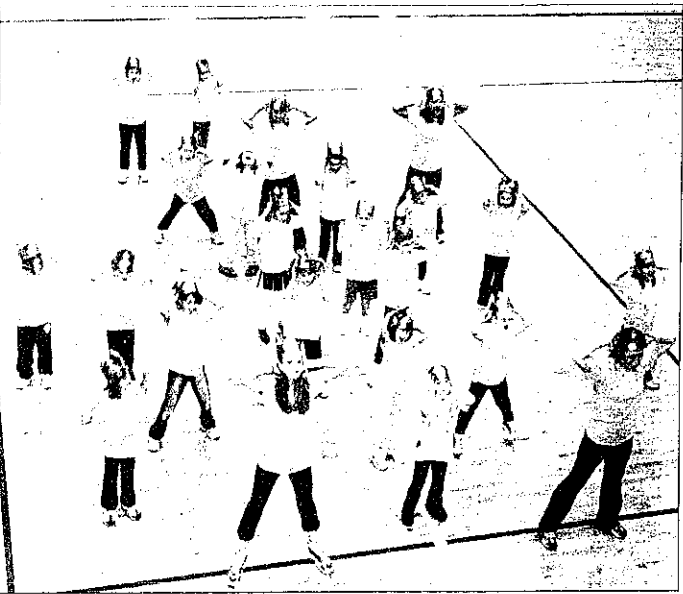


Photo by Elaine Mayton

Novi High School Pom Pon Clinic

The Novi High School Varsity Pom Pon team sponsored a two-day clinic for girls in kindergarten through sixth grade. Girls from throughout Novi learned pom and dance routines, then performed them for their parents. Pictured are K-2 girls performing their dance routine to Disney's Lion King.

MATTRESS & FUTON SHOPPE

UP TO **50% OFF**

Lowest Prices of the Year!

Serta Serta Great Value	ELANA Pillow Top Our Best Value
Twin \$285 Full Set \$385 Queen Set \$485 King Set \$635	Twin \$385 Full Set \$485 Queen Set \$585 King Set \$685

\$100 OFF **\$200 OFF**

0% FINANCING

TWIN SIZE MATTRESSES \$59.95

FUTON VS. SOFA SLEEPERS

WHAT WOULD YOUR GUESTS PREFER?

WOOD FUTON \$299	FUTON BUNK BED \$499	DAY BEDS \$199	FUTON COUPON \$50 OFF \$100 OFF
----------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------	---

ALSO A GREAT SELECTION OF...

LOG FURNITURE \$299	CANOPY BEDS \$119	BUNK BEDS \$199	DAY BEDS \$199
-------------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

WHERE CAN I USE A FUTON?

BIRMINGHAM 3276 Woodland 4100 S. G. Pk. E. 1300 248-549-1951	LIVONIA 1820 Plymouth Rd. 1 1/2 Miles W. of 24th St. 734-425-1500	SOUTHGATE 1700 Eureka Rd. West of Rock & Allen Hwy 734-281-7766	2 TAYLOR LOCATIONS 2100 E. Park Rd. P.O. Box 10000 734-287-0454
--	---	---	---

ROYAL OAK
4100 E. 13th St.
248-414-6909

YPSI / ANN ARBOR
3130 W. Main St.
48106-1000
734-975-9200

313-291-3603
www.mattress.com
Futon Mattresses & Covers Sold Separately

DECEMBER TO REMEMBER
LEXUS GO DOWN SPECIAL EVENT

\$499*

2004 RX 330

OPEN SATURDAY 10-5 PM

LEXUS OF ANN ARBOR 590 Auto Mall Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 866-645-3987 • 734-996-1662 lexusofannarbor.com	LEXUS OF LANSING 5701 Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing, MI 800-539-0748 • 517-394-8000 lexusoflansing.com
---	---

*MSRP. \$499. \$1,000. \$1,274. Includes 1st payment, \$795. excl. tax, title, license and doc fees.

You're Invited for...

Sunday Brunch

with shopping and tour the Village!

December 14th 11:30-3:00 pm
Call for Reservations 800-803-5811
Visit Mrs. Santa's Shop where big & little folks can buy gifts & hear stories.

Before you make a decision to move into a retirement community, you've got to visit our community in Plymouth and talk to our knowledgeable staff about the wonderful senior lifestyles we've created.

We have an exciting activities calendar. We serve delicious meals in a warm and comfortable dining room. And we have apartment homes with all the amenities you're looking for and a wide range of floor plans and sizes.

Call us today and make an appointment to tour our community. Come join us for lunch, dinner or ask about our Stay & Play! Food and entertainment throughout the day. Singers, Bands, Violinist, Choral Group, Magician, Pianists as wonderful delights are presented by our executive chef for your pleasure.

14707 Northville Rd. • Plymouth, MI 48170
www.seniortvillages.com
800-803-5811
OPEN DAILY
PROFESSIONALLY MANAGED
BY FIRST REALTY

Senior Living
At It's Best!

Deerfield holds multi-cultural feast

■ Families bring in dishes from all around the world

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The fourth annual Deerfield Elementary School Multicultural Feast was the most successful one yet.

Every Tuesday before Thanksgiving the staff of Deerfield asks the families of its

students to bring some kind of dish that is from their culture so all the students can sample food from around the world. Kids in the Lighthouse part of the school lined up in long rows on the floor eating and enjoying themselves for their lunch hour and when they were all done, it was the teachers' turn.

"We got everything from peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches to egg roles to baklava," Deerfield Educator Cindy Lyon said. "The kids really enjoy it, and we have kindergarten through fourth grade eating together."

Before the feast begins every year, students are always asked to

think about what they're thankful for, so they can tie it all with the Thanksgiving holiday. Many parent volunteers were also present assisting the teachers in everything from serving food to everything to cleaning up afterwards.

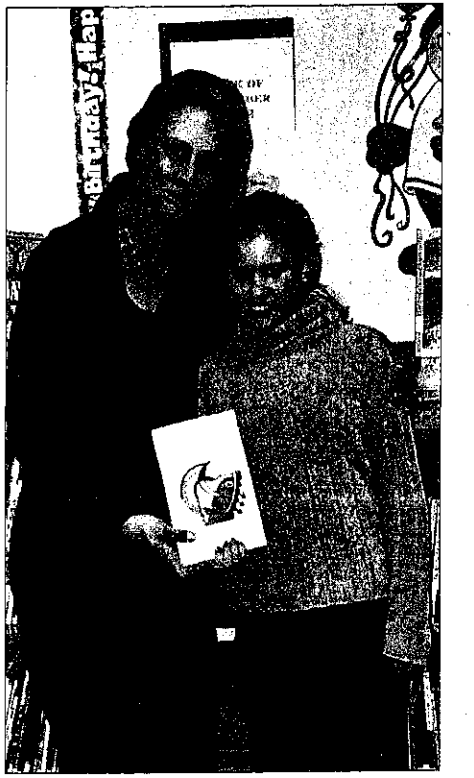
"This has been such a success every year and that's why we just continued it," Lyon said. "We couldn't do it without the parents though, so we're very grateful to have them here."

Lyon explained that the reason Deerfield doesn't just do a traditional Thanksgiving party with the students is because there were so many different cultures in the building when it opened, and the

staff wanted to celebrate that fact.

"The American Thanksgiving holiday doesn't always take place in every country, so we wanted to be able to have everybody be a part of this," Lyon said. "We have parents come in the month of November and talk about their culture, their traditions and their holidays. We wanted it to be not so much an American celebration, but a multi-cultural celebration."

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



Courtesy photo

Talented fifth grader

Orchard Hills Elementary Fourth Grade Teacher Becky Purcell is presented with a poetry book by former student Katie Smak as a thank you. Last year, when Smak was in Purcell's class, one of her poems was submitted to a poetry contest and ended up being published in a book, "With One Voice."

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Bats at Novi Woods

Novi Woods PTO sponsored a bat assembly for second graders in early November. Conservationist Dale Smart from Cranbrook Institute of Science brought three live bats to each classroom and introduced the children to the fascinating world of bats. The students learned why bats are beneficial, how to attract them, and why conservation is important. They also heard ecolocation with a bat detector.

The second graders adopted Boomerang, a straw colored fruit bat who now lives at the Bat Zone at Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills. This adoption helped provide Boomerang with a wide variety of fruit and enhancement items.

Orchard Hills movie day at Emagine Theatre

Orchard Hills Elementary students saw "The Cat in the Hat" at Novi's Emagine Theatre as part of the school's movie day a few Saturday's ago. Only Orchard Hills families were invited and everyone brought canned goods to donate to the Oakland County Food Bank.

Kindergarten theme: It's Time for Bed!

Sleepwear, underwear, diapers

First grade theme: Breakfast Time!
Cereal and breakfast items

Second grade theme: What's For Dinner?
Mac N Cheese, Spaghetti sauce, Pasta, Canned goods

Third grade theme: Let's Clean Up!
Laundry soap, bar soap, Shampoo, cleaning products.

Fourth grade theme: Keep Warm!
Mittens, hats, scarves, gloves.

All grades also donated "greatly used" winter coats & jackets. Photo

Novi High ceramics sale

The Novi High School is having a ceramics holiday pottery sale, which is sponsored by the Art Department and Art Club, during the Dec. 16 choir concert. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. and all work is student and teacher made. The sale will take place before, during intermission and after the show in the auditorium lobby.

Compiled by Ramez Khuri

Orchard Hills visits State Capitol

Fourth grade students at Orchard Hills Elementary School made a trip to the State Capitol as part of their Michigan History curriculum. Students studied the three branches of government and they toured the Capitol, seeing

where both the House of Representatives and Senate make laws. The tour included many facts about the history of Michigan's Capitol. Students pecked into Governor Jennifer Granholm's office and some of them even had the chance to say hello to her. Following the tour of the Capitol, the kids visited the Michigan Museum of History to learn about logging, mining and the automotive industry.

National Merit Semifinalists & Letters of Commendation

Eleven Novi High School students were recently recognized. Seven of them were announced as National Merit Semifinalists and the remaining four were awarded Letters of Commendation. The seven semifinalists were Kristen Giacobbe, Megan Hsu, Douglas Lambert, Chao Meng, Vishal Rungta, Alison Sansom and

IT'S BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS

A baby's first Christmas is special to parents, friends and family, so this year we are going to give you a chance to tell your little ones how special they are. This feature will run on December 25th.

If you would like your baby featured in this special, send a picture along with a brief message (25 words or less) & \$25 (check, Visa or Mastercard accepted) to:

HT 1st Christmas
P.O. Box 230P, Howell, MI 48844
Attn: Sherry

This special will run on Thursday, December 25th, 2003.
We must receive your entries by Tuesday, December 16th, 2003.

FRESH CUT CHRISTMAS TREES

IN-STORE FLYER NOW IN PROGRESS

MAKE IT A FAMILY OUTING

Bring the entire family and visit our winter activities while you select your tree and fresh greens. Saturday and Sunday 11-3pm

HUGE SELECTION!

- Premium Firs
- Trees from 3' table tops to 14' majestics
- Custom flocking available

LIFELIKE TREES 25-50% OFF

Huge selection of styles and heights, including pre-lit trees. Quality, well constructed trees.

\$7.99 POINSETTIAS

6 1/2" POT REG. 9.99

Other sizes and prices available. Many styles to choose from.

\$5.00 OFF

Any Fresh Cut Christmas Tree 6' or Larger

Limit one coupon per customer. Not valid with any other offer. 12/4

16" NOBLE FIR MIX WREATH \$9.99 REG. \$12.99

PLYMOUTH NURSERY
Christmas in the Country

734-453-5500

www.plymouthnursery.net

HOLIDAY HOURS
Mon-Fri 9-6 • Sat 9-6 • Sun 10-6
Offers Expire 12/10/03

9900 Ann Arbor Rd./Plymouth Rd.
7 Miles West of I-275
1 1/2 Miles South of M-14
Corner of Goffredson Rd.

Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver.
Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.

For the Perfect Holiday Dinner - Trust HoneyBaked

Now we've made it more convenient for you to enjoy The Authentic HoneyBaked Ham, spiral-sliced and coated with our famous sweet, crunchy glaze. Visit us at our HoneyBaked Ham and HoneyBaked Express locations listed below.

Special Meals Made Simple!

STORE LOCATIONS			
Ann Arbor 318 S. Main St. 734-777-5500	Dearborn Heights 23100 Dearborn 588-373-8000	Livonia 15000 Plymouth Rd. 424-223-2882	Taylor 2314 Steeles Rd. 734-777-4800
Birmingham 1000 S. Dixie Hwy. 462-523-2144	Detroit 1221 E. Grand 477-272-2222	Roseville 24000 Grand Ave. 426-277-7799	Troy 100 E. Jackson Ave. 462-671-2288
Canton Township 1000 E. Main St. 734-381-3288	Harper Woods Eastland Center 13400 Harper Rd. 734-327-3200	Sterling Heights 12275 Hwy 10 734-963-2100	West Bloomfield 10000 E. 12 Mile Rd. 482-277-7799
EXPRESS LOCATIONS			
Auburn Hills Meijer 1100 E. Big Beaver Rd. 248-351-9100	Chesterfield Twp. Meijer 1100 E. Big Beaver Rd. 248-351-9100	Oxford Meijer 1000 E. Big Beaver Rd. 248-351-9100	Waterford Meijer 1000 E. Big Beaver Rd. 248-351-9100
Birmingham Papa Joe's 1000 S. Dixie Hwy. 462-523-2144	Ft. Gratiot Twp. Meijer 1100 E. Big Beaver Rd. 248-351-9100	Rochester Hills Papa Joe's 1000 E. Big Beaver Rd. 248-351-9100	Wixom Meijer 1000 E. Big Beaver Rd. 248-351-9100
Brighton Taorella's Market 1000 E. Big Beaver Rd. 248-351-9100	Highland Snack's Butcher Shops 1000 E. Big Beaver Rd. 248-351-9100	Warren Produce Palace 1000 E. Big Beaver Rd. 248-351-9100	

www.honeybaked.com

U.S. Department of Transportation

Finding sense of community

Several months ago, I was having lunch with a Novi businesswoman who was trying to figure out why Novi does not have a sense of community that he had felt in other towns and cities where he worked or lived.

We tossed around various theories. Maybe it's because Novi is like California — there's not too many folks who are actually from here. Everybody seems to have moved here from some- where else, or they work here but don't actually reside in Novi (like me).

There seems to be a disconnect between businesses, residents and city government, he explained. Then we thought it was because Novi doesn't have a center of activity, or a genuine downtown, like most traditional communities have.

It was an interesting conversation, and one that's had me thinking about what he said ever since. I understand his frustration, though. As a local businessman, he wants his establishment to be an intricate part of the community and not just a building to serve his customers. And, trust me, he has done more than his share of reaching out to try and create that environment.

I've written columns and asked for reader feedback and the response has been minimal if not nonexistent. Over 5,000 readers and they're ALL apathetic?

No. There's got to be a better

reason, and it's got something to do with what my business friend is trying to figure out.

But there was an event that made me think it's not as dire a situation as it seems.

Last Thursday, the city held its Ringing in the Holidays celebration in "downtown" Novi. It was, for the most part, a scene out of a Norman Rockwell painting. A marching band, floats, Santa riding into town (in a bright red, convertible Thunderbird, no less), the mayor addressing the crowd, the lighting of a huge Christmas tree, and lots of activities for kids.

What's going on here, I wondered. This is Novi? Who are all these people? They're not the shoppers I run into at 12 Oaks who buy and buy. I don't think they're the cut-of-owners who come to enjoy our fine eating establishments before heading back home.

No, these were the real people who live in Novi and this was a real "community" event. Business people, city officials and residents coming together as one.

As I get more and more involved in Novi — whether it's through participation in the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Music & Motor Festival, etc. — I think there is a growing sense of community here.

I hope this newspaper is one of the components that creates that atmosphere. I'm proud to be your local editor, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts (come on, you can do it).

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



Cal Stone

OPINION

novinews.com

Novi News

Part of HomeTown Communications Network™

Cal Stone
EDITOR
Grace Perry
PUBLISHER
Richard Brady
VP/COO

Jack Lessenberry
VP, EDITORIAL
Dick Asplein
PRESIDENT
Phillip Power
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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.



Photo by John Heider

For a worthy cause

Jewelry items made by Novi's Larson Jewelry Design are currently on display. From left, a piece designed by Anna Troiano, a seventh grade Novi Middle School student, and one by Emma Walters, a Novi school fourth grader. The jewelry is available for silent auction at the Novi Main Street shop and proceeds will benefit the Novi Goodfellow.

GOVERNMENT

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

United States Senate

Carl Levin (D-Detroit)
702 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
(202) 224-6221
senator@levin.senate.gov
Local office:
124 W. Allegan
Suite 1810
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 377-1508
FAX: (517) 377-1506

Oakland County

Executive
L. Brooks Patterson
County Service Center
Building #34 East
1200 N. Telegraph Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 858-0484

7th Commission

Christine Long
1342 E. Commerce Road
Commerce Twp., MI 48382
(248) 366-2666
longc@co.oakland.mi.us

8th Commission

Jeff Potter
1099 Sable Lane
Southfield, MI 48178
(248) 437-7597
potterj@co.oakland.mi.us

Townships

Novi
Raymond Schovers,
supervisor
PO Box 924
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 348-0365

Commerce - Charter

Thomas K. Zoner, supervisor
2840 Fisher Avenue
Commerce Twp., MI 48390
(248) 624-0110
FAX: (248) 624-5834

Cities

Novi
45175 West Ten Mile Road
Novi, MI 48375-3024
(248) 347-0460
FAX: (248) 347-0577

Walled Lake

1498 E. West Maple Road
PO Box 99
Walled Lake, MI 48390-0099
(248) 624-4847
FAX: (248) 624-1616

Wixom

49045 Pontiac Trail
Wixom, MI 48393-2567
(248) 624-4557
FAX (248) 624-0863

39th District

Marc Sullman (R-West Bloomfield)
351 Capitol Building
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

38th District

Craig DeRoché (R-Nov)
50887 House Office Building
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
(517) 373-0827
FAX: (517) 373-5873
craigderoché@house.mi.gov

39th District

Marc Sullman (R-West Bloomfield)
351 Capitol Building
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

OTHER OPINIONS

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

Higher education cuts will take toll on competitiveness

There's been lots of complicated and very political haggling in Lansing about how best to deal with this year's state budget deficit, which was at last count, \$930 million and rising. But make no mistake, behind the smoke and mirrors and spin and counter-spin, our political masters are in the process of making a set of fundamental policy decisions that certainly will damage Michigan's ability to compete in the world economy — and could wind up condemning us to life as Mississippi North.

It's now clear that state support for our public colleges and universities will be cut yet again this year. The cuts aren't just in education, they are in all areas. The state's reduction in 6 percent or 3 percent, because higher education as a whole has absorbed more cuts in state appropriations over the past three years than any other sector. All told, I'd guess the net overall effect of these cuts is pretty close to 20 percent. Looked at another way, they will have cost each student at the University of Michigan's Ann Arbor campus almost \$1,500.

The short-term cost is that university boards will be forced to increase tuition yet again, making it still tougher for families of ordinary income to send their kids to college. According to the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, Michigan rates a D+ for college affordability, and that was before this year's round of cuts. The long-term cost is, if anything, worse. Our public universities are already losing gifted faculty members and researchers to private institutions; class size is going up; buildings are deteriorating; morale is, not good. It will take years and years to undo the kind of damage that is being done to our public universities. One missed among the nation's very best.

Of course, the political system — both the legislature and the executive branch are complicit in all this — will respond that times are tough, that higher education has had a pretty cushy deal over the past few years and that any cuts to university budgets can easily be passed on to the students and their families.

A picture-perfect example of this sort of pass-the-buck thinking was produced last month by Speaker of the House Rick Johnson. In a letter to newspaper editors responding to the 5,000 college students who wrote letters objecting to further cuts for higher education, the Speaker made these points: "Protecting our state's students has been — and continues to be — one of my priorities. I'm proud to have fought to keep the Merit Award Scholarship Intact (sic) for students who do well and achieve, along with the Michigan Competitive Scholarship, and the Michigan Educational Opportunity Grant."

It's all for higher education, you don't blame me for all this. • "It's sometimes misunderstood, but the ultimate decisions as to how our universities balance their budget are not done by the legislature; the decisions are made by university boards. Constitutionally autonomous, the ultimate decision to consolidate programs or raise your tuition is made locally and unfortunately is insulated from any pressure or direction by the legislature."

Go blame university governing board members for any tuition increases. The legislature's decision to slash state funding for universities has nothing to do with their tuition decisions. Anyway, if it was up to us legislators, your tuition increases wouldn't be so high.

• I would encourage you to continue the energy and mon-

Prosecuting monsters doesn't leave Cheryl Matthews jaded

Cheryl Matthews kisses her husband and two baby sons good-bye every morning, and goes off to spend the day dealing with people who rape and ruin the lives of little children as young as your daughter then hers.

I guess it has a certain effect. I mean, I don't let my kids go see Santa by themselves, she said. For six years, she has been in charge of prosecuting child sexual assaults in Oakland County, Detroit's largest and most affluent collection of suburbs.

No, she doesn't have a firm conviction about Michael Jackson's guilt or innocence. She has seen cases where children do make false charges.

"People in the public eye have a spotlight on them and probably do attract these types of accusations," just by virtue of their celebrity. "On the other hand, if I had another boy a few years ago, as he was, I wouldn't be found within 500 miles of a child." And while they aren't definite proof of anything, Jackson's public statements about liking to sleep in bed with children "definitely set off my red-o-meter," sending a warning that something was not normal here.

We live in a highly sensationalist society where round-the-clock broadcast media daily trumpet any news of scandal, especially of a sexual nature. There also seem to be more sensational cases, from Elizabeth Smart to Michael Jackson, involving children. Could it be that the problem is overblown?

Sadly, I think it is underreported, said Matthews, who has prosecuted hundreds, perhaps more than a thousand, such cases. At 40, she looks considerably younger and much more like a

executive branch are complicit in all this — will respond that times are tough, that higher education has had a pretty cushy deal over the past few years and that any cuts to university budgets can easily be passed on to the students and their families.

Jack Lessenberry is editorial vice president of HomeTown Communications. He can be reached by phone at (248) 901-2561 or by e-mail at jlessenberry@homecomm.net.



Phil Power

NOVI NEWS STAFF



Grace Perry - Publisher
gperry@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 120



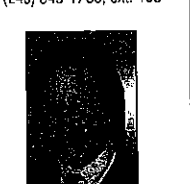
Cal Stone - Editor
cstone@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 113



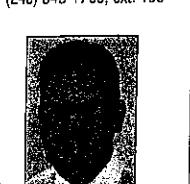
Jennifer Dinning - Acct. Exec.
jdinning@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102



Pam Fleming - Staff Writer
pfleming@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 105



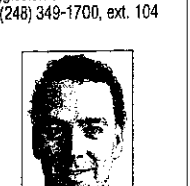
Phil Foley - Staff Writer
pfoley@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 108



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



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



John Heider - Staff Photographer
jheider@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 106



Karen Wilkhardt - Receptionist



Marcia Gramas - Receptionist
mgramas@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700

The office of
DAVID H. STONIK, CPA, P.C.
has been relocated to the Thompson Morello Building at:
41000 Seven Mile Road, Suite 220
Northville, MI 48167
(between Haggerty & Northville Roads)
Office: (248) 347-0727
Fax: (248) 347-0817
E-mail: davestonik@aol.com
Offering: Tax Preparation, Accounting, Financial Planning and Business Coaching
Formerly affiliated with BarStone Financial Services

International Adoption is for Everyone
FREE Novi, MI SEMINAR
— Sat., Dec. 13th —
adopt from Russia, China, Colombia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Vietnam, Panama, India
• Babies, Children and Siblings
• Excellent Orphanages
• Many Family References
• Timely Referrals
Please RSVP
616.874.9830
Licensed by Michigan's Dept. of Human Services
www.commonwealthadoptions.com
Free Family Adoption Story Book available at Seminar!
Non-profit agency, accredited in Russia
Headquarters 328.327.7574 • Offices throughout U.S.
NOVI, MI
Sat., December 13rd, 10:00pm-3:00pm
Novi Public Library
45245 W. Ten Mile Road • Novi, MI 48375

Handcrafters ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW
NEW LOCATION
OPEN FRIDAY NIGHT 10 PM - 9 PM
DECEMBER 12, 13 & 14
Fri. 6-9, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 11-5
NEW LOCATION!!!!
NORTHVILLE RECREATION CENTER
at Hillside Middle School
700 W. 8 Mile (at Sheldon)
Admission \$2.00
No Baby Strollers, Please
Promoters: Sue Smith • Molly Pemberton
P.O. Box 87444 • Canton, MI 48187
(734) 459-0050

Faith Community Presbyterian Church of Novi
A Christmas Invitation
The Surprising Christmas Pageant
Children's Christmas Musical
December 14, 7:00 PM
The Glory of the Lord
Christmas Cantata by the Adult Chancel Choir
December 21, 9:00 & 10:30 AM
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
5:00 pm Family Traditions Worship Service
8:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
11:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion Service
Visit us at:
44400 West Ten Mile Road
Between Novi & Tall Roads
Novi, MI 48375
248-349-2345
www.faithcommunity-novi.org
e-mail: office@faithcommunity-novi.org



Friends of Novi Library celebrate 2003, plan 2004

Members of the Friends of the Novi Library hosted "A Gathering of Friends," a "Fundraiser" and reception Dec. 5 at the Claridge Williamsburg, the fully furnished model home in Toll Brothers' new Island Lake subdivision in Novi.

Violinist Jeff Sinkovitch provided entertainment as members celebrated this year's accomplishments and discussed plans to increase contributions of funds, equipment and programs for the library in 2004.

This year, the Friends supported a summer reading program for 1,300 kids, sponsored adult lectures, purchased library equipment, granted a college scholarship to a Novi High School graduate and purchased books for the Gift of Reading program.

Most funds for Friends' contributions are generated by the on-going used book sale at the library. But this year, the group added new fund-raising activities.

Friends manned children's craft tables at Fountain Walk shopping center's summer festivals and will wrap gifts at Borders Books & Music Dec. 21-23.

The Friends' spring lecture series includes:

- Thursday, Feb. 12: "An Evening with General Custer"
- Thursday, April 1: "English Castles and Maritime History"
- Thursday, April 29: "The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 — What a Deal!"

The popular Irish music group Blackthorn will highlight another "Fundraiser" May 7, 2004, at the Novi Middle School.

The Friends of the Novi organization includes about 200 members. For more information about membership or making a donation, call (248) 349-0720 or visit www.novi.lib.mi.us.

'Holiday at the Fountain'
Fountain Walk shopping center, south of Twelve Mile and west of Novi Road, will host "Holiday at the Fountain" from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Activities include free photos with Santa Claus, crafts, carriage rides, visits with Sesame Street's Elmo and Nickelodeon's Hey Arnold and more. All activities are free. For more information, call (248) 348-8762.

Animal Care Fair tops \$1 million

Thousands of fairgoers made the 12th Annual Animal Care Fair, presented by the Michigan Humane Society and Pet Supplies "Plus" on Nov. 29-30, part of their holiday festivities to help homeless animals. Held for the first time at the Novi Expo Center, the event placed 160 animals into new homes and raised funds to benefit the Michigan Humane Society's many life-saving programs and services. Since its inception in 1992, the Animal Care Fair has raised over \$1,000,000 and placed nearly 2,000 animals into new, loving homes.

"The Michigan Humane Society would like to acknowledge Pet Supplies "Plus" for their years of support in presenting the Animal Care Fair, an event that thousands of area animal lovers look forward to each year," said Michigan Humane Society Executive Director Cal Morgan. "Through adopted pets and purchases of discounted pet supplies and holiday gift items, the event allows our organization to improve the lives of many more animals."

Adopters from as far as Albany, New York visited the event to find their new best friend among the many adoptable cats, dogs and rabbits. With brand name pet supplies

such as food, bedding, toys and treats at incredible discounts, many visitors took home a carload of purchases for their four-legged friends. All proceeds from the sale of these items benefit the Michigan Humane Society.

The entertainment-packed event included crowd-pleasing demonstrations by former Detroit Tiger pitcher Milt Wilcox and his talented dog "Sparky" who was sponsored by Pet Supplies "Plus"; the Southfield Police Department K-9 Unit; and dog performance teams such as the Freestyle Families, Rude Dogs Flyball and RPM Dog Sports. Michigan Humane Society cruelty investigator Debby MacDonald, who is featured in the award-winning Animal Planet series, "Animal Cop-Detroit," and fans signed autographs for the supportive crowd.

Another highlight was an exciting flyball tournament, hosted by Rude Dogs Flyball and RPM Dog Sports, which showcased the impressive speed, skill and agility of the canine competitors. The addition of the flyball tournament this year raised over \$4,000 in new revenue through the generous support of the over 60 teams that entered the tournament from throughout the Midwest and Canada.

Adding to the festivities, the fair offered holiday gift shopping for people and pets in a unique atmosphere and included hundreds of Michigan Humane Society gift items.

Pet Supplies "Plus" has been an avid supporter of the Michigan Humane Society since their founding in 1988. In addition to the Animal Care Fair begun in 1992, they helped to initiate another annual Michigan Humane Society fundraiser, the Pet Telethon, in 1997 and have played a major role each year in its continued growth. The Pet Telethon is the most successful such event in the country, and will be held next year on March 3.

The Michigan Humane Society extends special thanks to sponsors, Pet Supplies "Plus" and Line Rock 93.9 FM for their help in making the event another success for the animals.

Nancy Gantigile is a community relations specialist for the Michigan Humane Society in Southfield. She can be reached at (248) 799-7475.



Members of the Friends of the Novi Library attended "A Gathering of Friends," a "Fundraiser" and reception Dec. 5 at the Claridge Williamsburg, Toll Brothers' new model home at Island Lake subdivision. Shown are (front row, left to right) Carol Bauer, Lou Corodas, Hugh Crawford, Barbara Brunett, Kathy Mutch, Thomas Swopce, Evelyn Young, Norman Young; (back row) Denise Sinkovitch, Judy Bridon. All are Novi residents.

HOLIDAY STORE HOURS: SHOP FRIDAY 8:00 AM TO 10:00 PM; SATURDAY 6:00 AM TO 10:00 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

HOLIDAY GIFT SALE

40-50% OFF ENTIRE STOCK OF FINE JEWELRY

DIAMONDS in white 14K gold
A. GREAT BUY 2350.00, 7.18 ct. tw. solitaire, Reg. 3300.00, sale 2350.00.
B. With coupon 2390.00, 7.18 ct. tw. solitaire, Reg. 3300.00, sale 2390.00.
C. With coupon 1959.00, 2.3 ct. tw. bracelet, Reg. 2300.00, sale 1959.00.

SAPPHIRE & DIAMOND
J. With coupon 3990.00, 1.18 ct. tw. solitaire, Reg. 5400.00, sale 3990.00.
K. With coupon 1559.00, 1.18 ct. tw. solitaire, Reg. 2000.00, sale 1559.00.

14K GOLD
D. GREAT BUY 2290.00, 7.18 ct. tw. solitaire, Reg. 3000.00, sale 2290.00.
E. With coupon 2590.00, 7.18 ct. tw. solitaire, Reg. 3000.00, sale 2590.00.
F. With coupon 599.00, 7.18 ct. tw. bracelet, Reg. 1000.00, sale 599.00.

BLUE TOPAZ
H. With coupon 143.99, 5.18 ct. tw. solitaire, Reg. 300.00, sale 143.99.
I. With coupon 279.00, London blue opal solitaire, Reg. 500.00, sale 279.00.
M. With coupon 199.99, bracelet in 14K gold, Reg. 375.00, sale 199.99.

PLUS, USE YOUR COUPON FOR EXTRA SAVINGS
TAKE AN EXTRA 20% OFF any single sale or clearance purchase in fine jewelry already reduced 40-50%.

25% OFF ALL BULOVA, CARAVELLE, SEIKO & CITIZEN WATCHES
FINE JEWELRY NOT AVAILABLE AT DOWNTOWN BRIMMINGHAM OR NORTHEAST HALL.

YOU'RE SOMEBODY SPECIAL
PARISIAN

TO ORDER ANYTIME, CALL 1-800-348-2198. MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, 9:00 AM TO 7:00 PM EST. SUNDAY, 11:00 AM TO 7:00 PM EST. PARISIAN is a registered trademark of MDA. All trademarks are the property of their respective owners. ©2003 MDA. All rights reserved. PARISIAN is a registered trademark of MDA. All trademarks are the property of their respective owners. ©2003 MDA. All rights reserved.

MDA Muscular Dystrophy Association Jerry Lewis, National Chairman
1-800-572-1717 www.mdaua.org

Did you know?

More people choose auto insurance through AAA because a friend recommended it.

That's right. With auto insurance through AAA, you get service that's so satisfying it'll be no surprise that most of our insurance customers come to AAA because someone they know recommended us. Plus, you can choose the coverage that's right for you and your budget with the help of your local AAA agent — a friendly face in your neighborhood that can take care of all your insurance needs. But with AAA you don't just get excellent customer service, you also get multiproduct discounts and superior claim service. That means when you call AAA with a claim, you talk to a real person, you insure what time of day or night it is. For you FREE, no-obligation insurance quote, get in touch with your local AAA agent.

Novi
2020 Grand River, Ste. A
(248) 347-6969

AAA Insurance

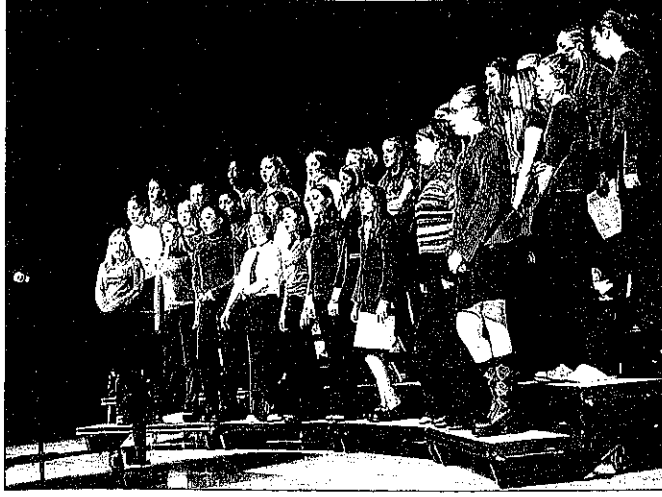
More people choose auto insurance through AAA because a friend recommended it.

That's right. With auto insurance through AAA, you get service that's so satisfying it'll be no surprise that most of our insurance customers come to AAA because someone they know recommended us. Plus, you can choose the coverage that's right for you and your budget with the help of your local AAA agent — a friendly face in your neighborhood that can take care of all your insurance needs. But with AAA you don't just get excellent customer service, you also get multiproduct discounts and superior claim service. That means when you call AAA with a claim, you talk to a real person, you insure what time of day or night it is. For you FREE, no-obligation insurance quote, get in touch with your local AAA agent.

Novi
2020 Grand River, Ste. A
(248) 347-6969

AAA Insurance

www.aaa.com



Holiday Luncheon
The Novi Middle School Choir sings for the annual Novi Rotary Senior Citizens Holiday Luncheon. This year nearly 150 Novi seniors, including residents of Meadowbrook Commons and Whitehall, attended the event at Novi Middle School Dec. 4. Novi Rotary held its first Senior Citizens Holiday Luncheon more than 30 years ago at the old Novi Elementary School on the site of what is today the Novi Towne Centre.

SCREEN BEAT

Opening in theaters this week
"Love Don't Cost a Thing," is an update on the classic 1987 teen comedy "Can't Buy Me Love." Nick Cannon stars as unpopular high-school senior Alvin Johnson, who hires a cheerleader (Christina Milian) to pose as his girlfriend so that he can improve his reputation in school. "Love Don't Cost a Thing" is a Warner Bros. Pictures release and rated PG-13 by the MPA for sexual content/humor.

In theaters next week
Fantasy trilogy conclusion "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" (PG-13), drama "Moulin Rouge" (PG-13), and British comedy "Calendar Girls" (R).

On video and DVD shelves this week
Romantic comedy "How to Deal," the story of 17-year-old Halley Martin, who has been convinced that the whole concept of true love is overrated. "Halley's Parents" stars Ewan McGregor and Mandy Moore. Moore adds that Halley's best friend Scarlett, "with whom she made a pact that they were not going to fall in love, betrays her and falls head-over-heels for a new guy. So, that solidifies Halley's view on love — it doesn't exist." But when a tragic event in her life leads to a romantic encounter with a young man, Halley realizes the possibility that true love can lie in the most unconventional places. "How to Deal" is a New Line Cinema release and rated PG-13 by the MPA for crude and sexual humor, and some language.

"Something's Gotta Give" features Jack Nicholson as New York City music executive Harry Langer, a man of age and experience who generally dates younger women. Unfortunately, he has a heart attack while visiting the beach home of the divorced playwright mother of his latest trophy

State environmental council honors Novi parks organization

The organization Friends of Novi Parks was recently selected as a Michigan Land Use Hero by the Michigan Environmental Council in Lansing.

Inclusion in the council's Land Use Heroes book reflects the organization's commitment to the stewardship of Michigan's land, water and community resources.

The premise of the Land Use Heroes project is to highlight and chronicle the work of geographically diverse groups as they struggle against the common threat of urban sprawl, according to the MEC.

The council has recognized 110 organizations — one in almost every House legislative district — that share the vision of protecting the state's parks, trails, farmland, forests, waterways and city centers.

"We are honored to be cited by the MEC as a Land Use Hero for our continuing efforts to promote parkland preservation," said LuAnne Kozma, secretary of the Friends of Novi Parks.

"The award came about when an intern from MEC called us. They were monitoring newspapers and caught our story on saving North Novi Park, now called Lakeshore Park. They were watching us," she said.

Kozma said the booklet includes useful contact information on local groups involved in environmental concerns.

"Promoting park preservation in the climate that we've been in recently during the weeks after 9-11, then in the midst of a lawsuit hasn't been easy. Protecting the environment is never an easy thing, and it can be very unpopular, depending on the situation."

"We've been arguing consistently for what we think is the best interest of the community. We want Novi to be a great place to live, not just a great place to sleep. Livable communities have plenty of good parks and a healthy environment, and that's what we want for Novi," she said.

The award added that members of the nonprofit organization have been involved for more than 30 years on Novi's various city boards and commissions. "We've been around for a while — long before we organized as Friends of Novi Parks," she said.

The main goal of the organization is to promote protection and acquisition and protection and development of parks and open spaces in Novi. Membership is open to anyone interested in promoting Novi's current and future parks and recreational areas.

A recent report produced by the Lansing-based think tank Public Sector Consultants revealed that from 1980 to 1995, developed areas increased by about 25 percent, while the population increased by only 3 percent.

The report noted that if

Ben Stupka
Michigan Environmental Council

Michigan's current development patterns continue that the state will lose 15.1 percent or 1.49 million acres of farmland by 2040.

For a copy of the Michigan Land Use Heroes book, contact Stupka at (517) 487-9439 or visit www.mecprotects.org.

Information about Friends of Novi Parks can be obtained by calling Kozma at (248) 475-5761 or by visiting their Web site at www.friendsofnoviparks.org.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or at pfleming@nlh.comcon.net.

OBITUARY

Douglas Gene Adams
Douglas Adams died December 5, 2003 in Botsford Hospital. He was 40.

Mr. Adams graduated from Northville High School in 1981 and attended Oakland Community College for two years. He was an adjuster with the Ford Motor Company.

Survivors include his daughter, Courtney Adams of Canton; his parents, Douglas and Barbara Adams of Northville; two sisters, Julie (Daniel) Trotter of Novi and Jodi (Rick) Nasser of Commerce Township; and many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held Dec. 7 at the Northrop-Sassaman Funeral Home, Northville with the Rev. Thomas M. Lange from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills officiating.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Arrangements were made by the Northrop-Sassaman Funeral Home.

Hey Kids! Come Join Our "NO CAVITY CLUB!"

All children 10 years of age and under who come in for a dental check-up and have no cavities are entered in our drawing. At the end of the month one boy and one girl are chosen as winners of a gift certificate to TOYS R US!

Winners of the NO Cavity Club for November are
Trey Cooke and Mequani Kaubke

Adrian Ackerman, Travis Ackerman, Joshua Barnes, Matthew Blazanski, Stephanie Blazanski, Joseph Chawy, Richard Cooke III, Rye Dombrowski, Sio Dombrowski, Savannah Everett, Austin Fright, Jordan Freight, Jackson Galbraith, John Mitchell, Michael Mitchell, Robert Mitchell, Erin Nels, John Henry Nels, Anthony Pihlak, Julie Pihlak, Michelle Rich, Alexandria Sanford, Northside Slocum, Stefan Uterli

DENTISTRY FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN
Dr. A. Allen Tuchkloper
Edson Center 43410 W. Ten Mile Novi
248-348-3100

Enroll Now For Health Career Training

Schoolcraft College in partnership with Condensed Curriculum International is offering a short term course in

Pharmacy Technician Training
Starting January 24th, 2004 through April 24th, 2004

- Convenient Saturday Hours 9:00am-1:00pm
- ALL TEXTBOOKS INCLUDED
- Student Financial Aid Opportunities Available
- Job Placement Assistance Through CCI

To Register Call: 734-462-4448 or log onto www.schoolcraft.edu
Additional info call 800-441-8748 or log onto www.condensedcurriculum.com

Choose to explore possible employment or prepare to sit for the National PTCB Exam.

Oakland Community College

Get Anywhere From Here

- University Transfer programs in Liberal Arts, Science, Business Administration, Pre-Education, Pre-Engineering
- Five convenient Campus sites in Auburn Hills, Farmington Hills, Royal Oak, Southfield and Waterford
- More than 120 Certificate and Degree programs in high-demand professions
- Affordable tuition—\$52.50 per credit hour for district residents
- Thousands of classes from which to choose
- Register on campus, online, or by phone
- No charge to apply

Enroll NOW for Winter Classes

Touch Tone & Web Registration: Extended - NOW thru Jan. 6
Final Registration: January 7-9
Classes begin: Monday, January 12

Register for classes online: oaklandcc.edu

For information call: 248.341.2350
Visit Our Website: oaklandcc.edu

OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Oakland Community College is an affirmative action equal opportunity institution.

diamond boutique

Happy Holidays

Custom Made Jewelry Exquisitely Designed to Be Exclusively Yours

GRAND RIVER AT HALSTEAD
Grand River • Halsted Shopping Plaza
(248) 478-3131
Hours: M-W & F 10-6
Th 10-7:30
Sat 10-5 • Sun 12-4

HALSTED RD.
GRAND RIVER AVE.

45% OFF ALL FINE JEWELRY
with coupon • not valid with any other offer • excludes prior sales

FREE WATCH BATTERY
with coupon • not valid with any other offer • excludes prior sales

diamond boutique

LEAPRIS 12104 CERRILWOOD LEAPRIS 12104 CERRILWOOD

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

City of Wixom Classes

Thursday, Dec. 11: Beaded Bracelets, 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m., \$35 each/per session
Wednesday, Dec. 10: Kids Kraft Corner, 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m., \$10 per child
Monday, Dec. 15: Hand Piecing the One Patch Scrap Quilt, \$15 per person
LOCATION: Wixom Community Center.
PHONE: Pre-register with Parks and Recreation, (248) 624-2850 or www.cityofwixom.com

Walled Lake United Methodist Church "Christmas Vigil"

DATE: Sunday, December 14
TIME: 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: 313 Northport, Walled Lake.
DETAILS: Join us for a venture back in time to witness the journey leading to the birth of Jesus Christ.

Winter Concert

DATE: Sunday, Dec. 14
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, between Taft and Novi roads
DETAILS: The Novi Concert Band will play its annual winter concert, an enjoyable reading of traditional Christmas and Hawaiian music plus other new and seasonal music. Sponsored by Novi Parks and Recreation Department; free.
PHONE: (248) 349-4322

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Evening Connection

DATE: Thursday, December 11
TIME: 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Wixom Community Center, 49015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
DETAILS: Klebba Agency, Inc. is hosting this business connection. Robert Hamelin from American Medical Security presents a discussion on Health Reimbursement Accounts and saving money on your company's health benefits. Bring your business cards. Free event.

Novi Theatres Present "A Christmas Carol"

DATE/TIME: December 12, 7:30 p.m.; December 13, 7:30 p.m.; December 14, 3 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, Ten Mile Rd., Novi.
DETAILS: Tickets on sale at Novi Parks and Recreation office, November 18. \$10/advance, \$12/door.

Faith Community Presbyterian Church presents "Magical and Messianic"

DATE: Saturday, December 13
TIME: 8:00 PM
LOCATION: 44490 West 10 Mile Road, Novi MI
DETAILS: The Cantata Academy Detroit's World Class Chorus, Dr. Michael Mitchell-conductor. Admission \$15 (\$12 Seniors/Students)
PHONE: (248) 349-2345

Walled Lake Northern High School presents Percussion Works Project

DATE: Monday, Dec. 15
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Performing Arts Center, 6000 Bogie Lake Rd., Commerce.
DETAILS: The group features a large percussion ensemble composed of the classical chamber ensemble, jazz and steel drum ensemble, world music ensemble, and marching percussion ensemble. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Advance sale tickets will be available for pick-up at the Northern box office one hour prior to the performance.
PHONE: For more information, to reserve tickets, call Chris Blackmer at (248) 956-5570
www.percussionspecworks.com

Precidence Park-Novi, "Lasting Impressions"

DATE: Saturday, January 10
TIME: 2 p.m.-5 p.m.
DETAILS: A community art project. Everyone is invited to witness and experience the unveiling of the completed project.
PHONE: 248-465-4490



Photo by John Heald

Practice makes perfect
A line of trumpeters, including R.J. Thomas, second from left, rehearses along with other members of the Novi Concert Band on a recent Tuesday night at Novi Middle School. The band's directed by Jack Kopnick and will be performing its Winter Concert Sunday at 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center.

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Morning Connection

DATE: Wednesday, January 14
TIME: 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Wren's Nest Bed and Breakfast, 7405 West Maple, West Bloomfield.
DETAILS: Free, a wonderful

Officers. The speaker will be from the Oakland County Business For Better Road

LOCATION: Charter House of Novi, 24500 Meadowbrook Road, Novi, MI 48375
PHONE: (248) 477-2000

Oakland County Health Division Health Checkups

DATE: every Monday
TIME: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

ON-GOING

Free blood pressure screening
DATES: every Monday
TIME: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Adoption Support Group

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

Wash Services and Programs

LOCATION: 44400 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, 248 349-2345
DETAILS: We invite you to attend worship at Faith Community Presbyterian Church in Novi. We offer a variety of education and fellowship opportunities at both our 9 and 10:30 a.m. services. The LOGOS program started October 8, but it's not too late to join this fun children's Christian education and fellowship time which is open to all youngsters first through sixth grades. The Junior and Senior High Youth Fellowship Kickoff meets weekly for fun, fellowship and Bible study.
PHONE: Please call the church office at (248) 349-2345 if you have any questions.

continued on next page

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Breast Cancer Support Group

DATES: second and fourth Tuesdays of the month
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C on the ground floor of the hospital.
TIME: 10-11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: There is no need to call ahead and register.
PHONE: If you have any questions, call (248) 937-5017.

Oakland County Health Division Expectant Parent Classes

DATE: ongoing series
LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple, Walled Lake
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
DETAILS: Classes will be taught by Public Health Nurses. Topics will include childbirth preparation, labor and delivery, care of the newborn baby, breast-feeding, bottle-feeding, information about keeping children safe, and caring for them when they are ill. Cost is \$25.
PHONE: (248) 858-4003, or (888) 350-6900 ext. 84003

Women's Prayer Support

DATE: every Saturday
TIME: 9:10-10 a.m.
LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49329 Pontiac Trail, Wixom (Parking is behind the church)
DETAILS: You are welcome to come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer as you face life's problems, issues and frustrations. Drop in for five minutes or longer.
PHONE: Nancy & Susan (248) 926-8332 or e-mail at harvest-fellowship@comcast.net

Adoption Support Group

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

Novi Teachers

DATE: first and third-Tuesdays of the month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, activities room
TIME: 7:45 p.m.
DETAILS: Teachers will help you improve your communication skills, voice your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.
PHONE: For more information, call Colleen at (248) 685-9226.

Send calendar items to Cal Stone, Novi News,
104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48168 or e-mail to
cstone@ht.homecomm.net.

(((BONAVENTURE)))
FAMILY SKATING CENTER
24505 Holstead Farmington
248-476-2200
www.bonaventureskate.com
PRE-SCHOOL SKATE SPECIAL EVENTS
Christmas Lunch & Skate
With Santa
Wednesday,
Dec. 17th, 2003
10:00 am -
12:00 Noon
(6 & Under)
\$6 includes: Admission,
skate rental, hot dog,
snack & drink.
Eat lunch with & get a
treat from Santa!
Push Toys & Strollers
are Welcome.

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church Presents
A
Concert
of
Christmas
Music
Saturday, December 13, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.
and Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m.
Participants in the service will be:
The Ward Chancel Choir, Children's Chorus,
Crossfire, The Ward Orchestra and Chancel Ringers
40000 Six Mile Rd.
248-374-7400
www.wardchurch.org



'A Christmas Carol'

The Novi Theatres, under the artistic direction of Linda Wickert, will present "A Christmas Carol" this weekend at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Ron Dzwonkowski will play "Scrooge." Purchase tickets at the Parks, Recreation & Forestry desk between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or call (248) 347-0400 to request a form that can be faxed.

Photo by Hugh Crawford

verizon wireless
We never stop working for you!
GIVE THE NATION'S LARGEST
MOST RELIABLE WIRELESS NETWORK
GET THIS SEASON'S PICTURE
PERFECT GIFT.
UNLIMITED Family Calling
GIVE THE NATION'S LARGEST MOST RELIABLE WIRELESS NETWORK
UNLIMITED Night & Weekend Minutes
\$20 MONTHLY ACCESS
per additional line
With new 2-yr. Agreement. See fine print. Offer good in participating markets.
With an America's Choice Calling Plan of \$39.99 monthly. See plan details.
Buy one
LG VX-6000
Camera Phone
\$79.99
Get UP TO 4 LG VX-3100s FREE
CALL 1.866.235.1341
CLICK vzwshop.com/holiday

No pushy sales techniques,
gimmicks or empty promises.
Mac-Clair Mortgage
Building Dreams
Mac-Clair Mortgage
45380 W Ten Mile Road
Suite 130
Novi, MI 48375
Phone (248) 596-1770
www.mac-clair.com
Building Lives

The Gift of Excitement
GLIDER RIDES FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Still the most exciting gift you can give...EVERYONE remembers this gift forever!
Thousands of people have enjoyed these truly exciting beautiful rides over the Grand River of Ionia. Gift Certificates Available.
Standard Ride, 2500 height.....\$54 High Performance Ride, 2800 Height.....\$69
Standard Ride, 5000 height.....\$105 High Performance Ride, 5000 Height.....\$125
Standard Ride, 10,000 Height.....\$165 High Performance Ride, 10,000 MSL Height.....\$225
THE FLEDGLING
A three flight package course to introduce learning to fly a glider.....\$209
Benz Aviation Services: Glider Rides,
Glider Training, Rental/Towing, Airplane
Training, Private - Commercial, Aircraft
Maintenance, Aerial Signs, Aviation Fuel
100LL, Hangars
BENZ AVIATION
1-800-527-9070
Ionia County Airport 3147 South State Road, Ionia, MI 48846
Flying without an engine since 1965
www.benzaviation.com

OF ALL POSITIVE SYMPTOMS OF DEPRESSION THERE IS ONE THAT CAN BE ESPERED.
www.depressioncenter.org

EXTENDED HOLIDAY HOURS!
VERIZON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS STORES
ANN ARBOR
2570 Jackson Ave.
(Next to Blockbuster)
734-769-1722
BIRMINGHAM HILLS
1625 S. Skyway St.
(In Grand Blanc Mall)
910-605-1700
CAGWARR
3531 S. Lapeer Rd.
(Opp. Mail 2 Miles N.
of the Palace)
248-393-6800
CANTON
4242 Ford Rd.
(Corner of Ford & Lilly
Hts., Canton Corners)
734-944-0451
GADSDEN
2417 Ford Rd.
(Just West of Telegraph)
313-276-4491
FAYETTEVILLE
313-441-0168
GREENVILLE
14125 Woodward
313-899-7922
FARMINGTON HILLS
5101 Orchard Lakes Pk.
(S.W. Corner of Orchard
Lakes Rd. & 14 Mile Rd.)
248-358-2800
DETROIT
1246 Silver Piny
(In the Sea's pizza)
248-388-2700
STROM BLANE
1625 S. Skyway St.
(In Grand Blanc Mall)
910-605-1700
LACEWOOD
2531 S. Lapeer Rd.
(Opp. Mail 2 Miles N.
of the Palace)
248-393-6800
NORFOLK
43225 12 Mile Rd.
(Twelve Oaks Service Dr.,
North of Sea's)
248-385-9600
TAYLOR
734-287-1770
PONTIAC/WATERFORD
454 Telegraph Rd.
(Across from
Summit Place Mall)
248-335-5900
ROCHESTER HILLS
3035 S. Rochester Rd.
(At Auburn Rd.)
248-955-0550
ST. CLAIR SHORES
26401 Harper Ave.
(At 14 Mile Rd.)
586-777-4010
SOUTHFIELD
23117 Telegraph Rd.
(South of I-24 Mile Rd.)
248-388-2700
20728 W. 8 Mile Rd.
(Gasline Plaza, just
west of Emgivan)
248-367-1259
STERLING HEIGHTS
45111 Park Ave.
(M-59 & M-53
Lions Park Plaza)
586-751-0747
TAYLOR
23455 Elmka Rd.
(Across from
Southland Mall)
734-287-1770
TROY
1913 E. Big Beaver Rd.
(Troy Sports Center)
248-526-0040
WESTLAND
32105 Warren Rd.
(S.W. Corner of Warren
& Wayne Rds.)
734-722-7330
WAL-MART LOCATIONS
Westland
3589 Grand River E.
517-546-5511
Pati Home
4475 24th Ave.
810-385-1231
Warren
25240 Van Dyke
586-421-9900
White Lake
9190 Highland Rd.
248-698-0043
AUTHORIZED RETAILERS
EQUIPMENT other and
Warranty Free Quotations may vary.
BIRMINGHAM
Global Wireless
1-888-207-1800
BRIGHTON
Aula One Brighton
810-227-2800
GREENVILLE
GREENFIELD TWP.
Vendors Communication
586-421-9900
WARREN
Herkner Radio
734-242-0800
BIRMINGHAM
Dynam Tech
313-535-1000
ROCHESTER
Callstar Technology
248-299-0006
WESTLAND
248-655-1200
FARMINGTON HILLS
Callstar City
248-646-8800
GROSSE POINTE
Authorized Dealer
1-800-VIP-Plus
WEST BLOOMFIELD
Global Wireless
248-681-7200
NORFOLK
Authorized Dealer
1-800-VIP-Plus
MORON HEIGHTS
Authorized Dealer
1-800-VIP-Plus
STEELES HEIGHTS
Authorized Dealer
1-800-VIP-Plus
WEST BLOOMFIELD
Global Wireless
248-681-7200
NORFOLK
Authorized Dealer
1-800-VIP-Plus
RADIO SHACK
You've got questions. We've got answers!

Right & Weekend Hours: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Taxes and surcharges apply. A very easy, Federal Universal Service Charge of 1.9% (added quarterly based on FCC rates) & a Regulatory Charge per line/month. All other charges and taxes. SERVICE CHARGE (REGULATORY) Subject to terms and conditions of Service Agreement. Calling time and on-call service 11:00 am - 5:00 pm. All services subject to change without notice. Service not available in all areas. Activation of line may be required. Retailer takes 10-12 weeks to install equipment. Service not available in all areas. © Verizon Wireless 2003. Device not for sale. Coverage, service and features subject to change without notice. Service not available in all areas. Activation of line may be required. Retailer takes 10-12 weeks to install equipment. Service not available in all areas. © Verizon Wireless 2003.

Common sense guarantees a safe, happy holiday

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

The stockings may be hung by the chimney with care, but that still doesn't mean your holiday season won't include a trip to the emergency room or local urgent care.

Northville resident Sue Smith is urging local residents to take an extra moment to make sure their holiday is a safe one. Smith, a registered nurse and the trauma coordinator at Detroit's Children's Hospital of Michigan, said that emergency room numbers at area hospitals are rather deceptive.

She said that while the number of children visiting the emergency room appears to remain constant throughout the year, the types of injuries change significantly around the holidays.

"There are about 400 fires nationwide involving holiday decorations annually," she said. "Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, they all include candles," added Smith.

Along with candles, holiday wrapping tossed into a blazing fireplace and past their prime holiday lights draped on a too dry tree are other major sources of holiday tragedy.

Home safety at the holidays, said Smith, is mainly a question of common sense. For instance, if you've had your tree lights a few years and aren't 100 percent sure about them, toss them and get a new UL-approved set.

"Most of the serious burns we see come from fires started by

lights that were too old," she said. According to Smith, it's just not worth the risk to squeeze one more season out of a worn string of lights.

She added it's also important to make sure you only use lights approved for outdoor use outdoors. Using indoor lights outdoors, Smith warned, adds the risk of electrocution to the risk of fire.

Second to fire, she said, are spill/scald injuries during the holidays. Most of these, she said, could be prevented by adults simply paying more attention.

"You're with people you love, but no one's keeping a close eye on the kids," she noted. As a result, small children frequently tug on a table cloth or the cord to a crock-pot with disastrous results. Last year, she recalled, one child was brought to the emergency room with burns suffered when they pulled over a crock pot and a head

injury from being hit by the crock pot.

Smith noted that just as there should be a designated driver for holiday revels, there should be a designated adult to keep an eye on the kids at family functions. Smith noted that many holiday mishaps are the result of every adult in the house thinking that someone else is watching the children.

She said people should take a page from the summer time pool party safety book and have an "I'm watching the kids" sign to hand from adult to adult during the course of the party. This way, everyone can be certain there's always at least one adult keeping an eye on the children.

One of the most dangerous things in any holiday home for the under-5 set, it turns out, is grandma's purse, said Smith. She noted that grandma frequently comes with candy, gum and other treats in her purse, and when she tucks

her purse behind the sofa or under her coat on the front hall chair, it becomes a danger to small children.

Smith explained that's because older women's purses are frequently a veritable store house of medications for not only themselves but their companions. Small children, she said, often associated older female relative's purses with candy. Since they can't tell the difference between heart medication and mints, trips to the emergency room frequently result.

She noted even things as benign as antacids and vitamins can be dangerous for small children.


For a safe holiday season, said Smith, "Nothing replaces adult supervision."

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




Photo by Phil Foley

Northville resident Sue Smith is the trauma coordinator at Detroit's Children's Hospital of Michigan and she'd rather not make any more new friends at her emergency room over the holidays. Smith said a little common sense can go a long toward making the holidays safety for everyone in your family.




Just like an old fashioned candy shop, only smaller.

At a See's Candies Holiday Gift Center, you'll find many of people's favorite See's chocolates, all wrapped and ready-to-go, for gift-giving. From under \$5 to around \$30, there's a gift that's right for everyone on your list. So stop by a Gift Center, order at 800-347-7337, or visit us at sees.com



Assorted Chocolates
1lb. \$11.90



Holiday Fancy
1lb. \$16.10

See's. CANDIES
California's Famous Old Time Candies
Briarwood (734)761-2561
Lakeside Mall (586)532-7153 · Twelve Oaks (248)735-9591

THE \$5-A-DAY LEASE IS BACK...

Drive a new 2004 Ford Mustang for just \$5.00 a day



NICELY EQUIPPED WITH....

- OHV V6 Engine ■ Auto. O/D Trans.
- Interior Upgrade Pkg. ■ Manual A/C.
- AM/FM Stereo W/6 CD Changer
- Anti Lock Brakes & Traction Control
- Power Driver's Seat and more....

Now Current Ford Employee lessees can Re-lease a 2004 Mustang
for as low as **\$150 a month for 48 months***

With \$2,823 customer cash due at signing. Includes security deposit and acquisition fee, excludes taxes, title and license fees. Customer cash due at signing is net of all rebates. Payment includes \$3000 RCL cash.

THE 2004 FORD F-150

ONLY ONE TRUCK EARNED THE RIGHT TO BE THE NEXT F-150.



NICELY EQUIPPED WITH....

- 4.6L EFI V8 ■ 4 spd. Auto. O/D Trans.
- Sliding Rear Window ■ Fog Lamps
- Trailer/Towing Pkg. ■ XLT Series
- AM/FM Stereo W/6 CDchanger and more..

Current Ford Employee lessees can Re-lease a 2004 F-150 SC XLT 4x2
For as low as **\$274** A month (1) with a 36 month low mileage Red Carpet Rental Lease.

With \$1,943 customer cash due at signing. Includes security deposit and acquisition fee, excludes tax, title and license fee. Customer cash due at signing is net of all rebates. Payment includes \$1000 renewal cash.



IF YOU HAVEN'T LOOKED AT FORD LATELY...
LOOK AGAIN.



SUBURBAN FORD DEALERS
OPEN SATURDAYS

(1) Some payments higher, some lower. Not all Lessees will qualify for lowest payment. For special lease terms and RCL Cash, \$3000 RCL cash on 2004 Mustang Coupe, take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 1/2/2004. RCL Cash may be taken in cash, but is used towards down payment in examples shown. Lease renewal cash of \$1000 on 04' F-150, only available to customers terminating their Ford Division Red Carpet Lease and re-lease for 36 months by 1/2/2004. Leases terminated early qualify if terminated within program dates. Supplies are limited, not all dealers will have all featured models. Residency restrictions apply. See dealer for complete details. All payment examples are for Current Ford Employees and eligible family member Lessees.

HINES PARK FORD



**1-96 at Milford Rd.
Lyon Twp.
248-437-6700**

OPEN SATURDAYS

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY ^{B-1} SPORTS

NOVI NEWS

hometownlife.com

Thursday, December 11, 2003

Graduation was painful, but Wildcats ready to compete

■ New rule changes should help with tactics

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's nice to know you have the ability to be one of the strongest teams in the conference — and that's the knowledge the Novi Wildcats volleyball team has this season.

Under the guidance of Julie Fisette, the Wildcats have been extremely competitive in years past and look to be that way once again.

"If I had to pick the top three (teams in the conference) it would be Novi, Milford and Howell," Fisette said. "I'm looking forward to it. We have a great chance of taking the league again this year."

And with the numbers to back it up, the Wildcats are hoping to show they have a program that is here to stay.

"I think we had 35 going out for the JV and varsity, and 29 girls out for the freshman team," Fisette said. "That really helps tremendously."

"The middle school is giving a lot more kids the opportunity to play with a White team and a Green team. That means we usually have a lot of very excited girls coming out for the high school teams."

This season, the KVC volleyball schedule has switched back to each team playing their conference opponents twice in a season. For the past couple of years, the schedules had been more of a tournament format instead of a true conference format.

What that means for each team in the KVC is that they now have 14 of their 18 competition dates filled — leaving room for only a handful of tournaments.

"Some coaches in the conference seem a little discouraged," Fisette said. "I think they won't get the exposure for their kids that they have in the past. I'm not discouraged this year. We have four tournaments to go to and I really like the competition we see at those tournaments."

Another change for volleyball is the implementation of a rally scoring system. The varsity Wildcats will be playing the best three out of five to 25. The lower level teams will play best three out of five to 21.

The MHSAA also adopted the rule that the ball can touch the net on a serve, instead of the



Novi High's Laura Rybicki practices last Friday evening with the school's volleyball team. Rybicki is projected to be the varsity team's starting center.

Photo by John Heider

opposite in years past.

"It does make a difference," Fisette said. "It's a heck of a lot easier on officials to determine if

the ball hit the net or not. For the last 12 years, the girls have been preached to not to let the ball touch the net, but it should be a

nice tactic now that we can."

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record

and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or by e-mail at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

Where are their ruby slippers?

There's no place like home. There's no place like home. Dorothy would no doubt be tapping those heels of her ruby slippers together if she was a member of the Novi boys swimming and diving team, the boys basketball team or the volleyball squad.

You see, each and every one of those teams have been selected for the time being — and now they have to make use of other homes.



The boys swimming and diving team is the worst off. They don't get the chance to swim at home in 2003-04. Instead, they are on the road again thanks to the ongoing construction that is making Novi into one giant of a school. It doesn't matter though, the Wildcats are determined and dedicated and will no doubt make the best out of a promising year with some great swims no matter where they are.

The volleyball team hasn't had to relocate far. Instead of playing in the gym where they've become so accustomed over the years, the Wildcats will be hosting their home games in the very large and no-so-very-used fieldhouse. Though the arena must seem like they are a stranger in a strange land, the Wildcats are looking to be competitive nonetheless and have already been eyed as being potentially better than last year while away at a volleyball camp — despite losing six seniors to graduation.

The boys basketball team has also been forced to relocate from their gym — the reason for which can be associated with food. You see, the gym which housed all basketball and volleyball games in the past, is now the cafeteria at the high school while the old one is under construction. The boys will be showcasing their talents in a gym — most of them have already played in with a blast from the past — they'll be hosting all of their home games at Novi Middle School.

Though each and every one of these teams would no doubt prefer to be back in their home arenas with familiar tiles and hardwood under their feet, it is fully expected that they won't miss a beat as they prepare to show just how competitive they're going to be this year.

If you're a big Wildcat fan, and no doubt you are, then make sure to go and cheer these 'Cats on in their temporary homes. Maybe some loud cheers and a good turnout by fans, parents and student body will help make their new homes into a place they grow to love.

You know what they say anyway — a home is where you hang your hat. For these Wildcats, it's where you hang your swimsuits, basketball shoes and knee pads.

Novi remains winless after KVC loss

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats have nothing they can hang this loss on.

Sure, they were without shooter Jordan Collins due to an injury, and they were playing in their first Kensington Valley Conference game of the season — but they were also up by three goals in the first period and ended up losing the game 4-3 to the Howell Highlanders.

The Wildcats took a 3-0 lead off their first eight shots of the

game to simply dominate the first period of play. Most of their shots were out near the blue line and all of the goals came against starting goalie Trevor Bushong, who was replaced with less than five minutes left to play in the first.

Bryan Ellis started the game off on the right foot as he took assistance from Mark Eberline and Chris Zarem before rifling home a shot for a 1-0 lead.

Just a few minutes later, Tom Ciaverilla scored, and Steve Rousseau notched another for

the Wildcats for a 3-0 lead with plenty of time left in the first period of play.

Howell, however, wasn't about to be dismissed so easily.

After getting their bearings, they came out in the second period looking for some goals.

Novi, which fell to 0-4 overall and 0-1 in the KVC, found the Highlanders earning two goals in the first 10 minutes of the second period. Justin Ingram scored the first goal of the night for Howell just a few minutes into the period, and

then assisted on a Chad Rutzel goal with about five minutes left in the second to cut the Novi lead to 3-2.

In the third period, the Highlanders tied the game on a loose-puck goal by Eric Miras that found Novi's goalie down on the ice. Then, with 3:37 left on the clock, Howell won the game as Jon Madden notched a final tally to make it 4-3.

Howell climbed to 4-0 with the victory, and 1-0 in the KVC.

Novi will be back in action when they play host to South Lyon December 17 and then

play Northville at Novi Ice Arena December 19. Both games start at 6:30 p.m.

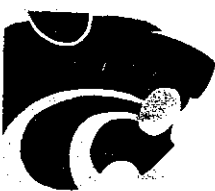
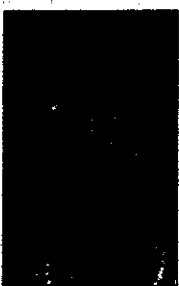
Northville already beat Novi once this year — marking the first time in four years the Mustangs have escaped with a win over the Wildcats.

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

Hockey

Bryan Ellis
Senior
Hockey

Ellis showed it takes one heck of a defense to slow a Wildcat as he notched the first goal of the night in a three-goal Novi period against Howell this week (a game Howell actually won 4-3). Ellis' quick reflexes and ability to adjust his speed on the fly makes him one of the most dangerous players on the ice in any scenario.



Athletes OF THE Week

If your business would like to sponsor our Athletes of the Week, please contact Jennifer Dinning, advertising executive, at (248) 349-1700 or by e-mail at jdinning@ht.homecomm.net.

Jordan Collins
Senior
Hockey

Collins scored two goals in a 3-2 loss against Brother Rice last week. This guy is the kind of player that teams at the next level should be clamoring over — wait a minute, they are. His play for Novi this year has been a great one as his statistics keep rising and so does his value to all the teams that have been eyeing him.



GAME OF THE WEEK

Novi Wildcats

There's no place like home.

Senior cagers key to success again

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

After last year's run, the Novi Wildcats are looking to be competitive once again — and once again, head coach Pat Schluter is looking to his seniors to lead the way on the hardwood.

"The key is our seniors," Schluter said. "They have to have good leadership and great chemistry for us to be successful."

The Wildcats will be looking to be more than just successful. As with every year, they are going to be eyeing the Kensington Valley Conference title as well as district, and then the rest will unfold as they go.

Schluter said that above having a super star or a trio of great players like he had last year, he's looking for the players on his team to understand their

roles and to go out in each contest looking to play that role. "That's what basketball is," he said. "Everyone needs to know their role and work together towards a common goal. That's what we did last year and we did it well."

The Wildcats lost three stellar seniors to graduation, they return a number of experienced players. That experience is what helps a team

come together and stay together through the ups and downs. "The key this year is if our seniors can step up and bring the same leadership they did last year and play the same team basketball," Schluter said. "They know what it takes to play that game, and we need to do it. We have to play unselfishly and as hard as we did last year."

Besides his own Wildcats,

Schluter said he is looking at Pinckney, Brighton and South Lyon to be the strongest teams in the KVC. To help his team schedule, Schluter made a point to drop some of the easier teams off that lineup.

"We dropped Hamtramck, Ypsilanti Lincoln and we added Belleville and John Glenn," he said. "Belleville is usually a ranked team and should make it

to the quarterfinals. John Glenn is always good, too. It's not going to be easy, but we know we wanted to make the schedule tougher and take it one step at a time."

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

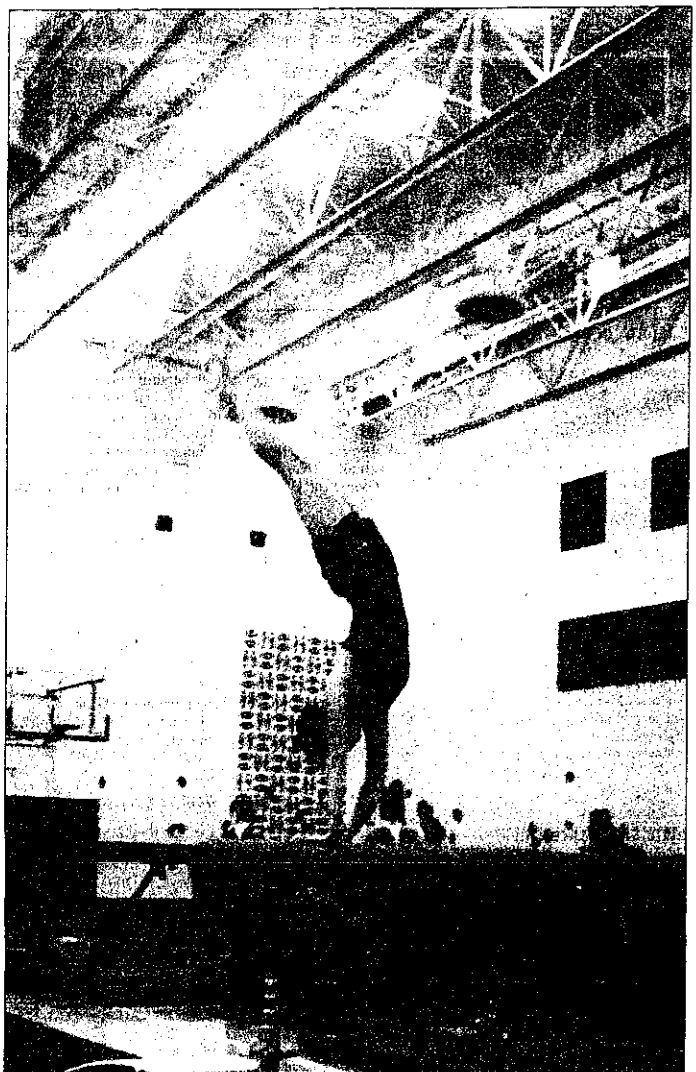


Photo by Sam Eggleston

Novi's Jen Mehl practices on the vault at Northville High School. The Novi-northville Wild 'Stangs are looking to be competitive again this year.

Wild 'Stangs geared up, ready to showcase their many talents

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Not only will most fans recognize a slew of names that return to the Wild 'Stangs gymnastics team, but they'll recognize the talent that's associated with it as well.

The Wild 'Stangs, which is a combined gymnastics squad of Northville and Novi High Schools, are coached by Lindsey Schultz and are aiming to get back in action this year.

With a slew of talented and experienced gymnasts combining with some new faces, the gymnastics team is looking to be competitive across the board and could possibly challenge for the top spot in their conference and beyond in the 2003-04 season.

The squad will consist of Courtney Paul, Megan Wallen, Amanda Perelli, Rachel

Deneau, Kylea Pohl, Jenna Bites, Balene Jacqueline Gazette, Lauren Duda, Trish Brownfield, Jill Guffey, Adrienne McHenry, Julie Foucher, Erin Yankovich, Emma Platt, Marcie Fink, Jessica Glancy, Maggie Mills, Sarah Ikhani-Rouf, Jenn Mehl and Sara Wilchowski.

Each and every one of the gymnasts listed are capable of scoring points for the Wild 'Stangs and will no doubt get their chance throughout the year. Every season, the talent in the sport of gymnastics grows and grows, and each team looks to be more and more competitive. The combined Northville-Novu team fits in well in that area, as they've continued to grow and prosper through hard work, dedication and past success that spurs more interest in the sport each season.

Captains are often looked to

as leaders on and off the mats, bars and vaults. And the Wild 'Stangs seem to have made a wise choice in the two captains who will represent their squad this year. Amanda Crawford and Nika Rimenko have not only been names that are well recognized in gymnastics, but also as good representatives as student-athletes and leaders in and out of the competitive arena.

Expect to see these Wild 'Stangs give everyone a run for their money. Not only do they have talent in all fields, but the desire it takes to be champions at any level of competition.

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

Wildcats can't seem to get the close ones

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It could prove to be an interesting year for the Novi Wildcats hockey team.

For the first time in a long time, and quite possibly since the start of the hockey program, the Wildcats stand at 0-3 on the year. This isn't an indication of lack of talent, desire or dedication but rather a rough start for a team that just hasn't had its fair share of breaks.

The Wildcats, who are coached by Dan Phelps, have one of the toughest schedules in the Detroit metro area, and they aren't afraid to admit it. They've already played teams such as Livonia Stevenson and Brother Rice, not to mention a strong revival of the Northville Mustangs program. Their first loss in the conference, and their latest loss to date, came against the Howell Highlanders, who are 4-0.

The Wildcats have what it takes to win though. Solid forwards, strong defenders and a goalie that has been a staple on this team for the past couple years.

There's no doubt about it, this team should be competitive, but they haven't been able to get the close ones.

Novi dropped three games by a single point and has shown that they are remarkably capable of playing with pretty much any team on the ice. The prob-

Third-Annual Alumni Hockey Game scheduled for Dec. 20

It's that time of year again, and the Novi hockey alumni are getting geared up and ready to go.

The alumni, who have taken to the ice in an annual hockey game for the past three years, will do so again Dec. 20 from 6:30 p.m. at the Novi Ice Arena.

Though the squads haven't been officially formed, it is expected that a number of alumni who strapped the skates on last year will be back again for this year's event.

In the 2002 game, the Wildcats brought back a slew of familiar names: Travis Malott,

Jeff Poulos, Angelo Barduca, Brock Vigna, Nick Kariz, Robbie Harrell, Rbite Overfield, Ryan Leizeiser, Rob Jones, Andy Saari, Beau Bandau, Stephen Stork, Kyle Major, Dan Szlaga, Brad Zarem, Curt Russell, Anthony Ngyen, Matt Hoy, Justin Harvey, Fred Napier, Adam Haberman, Geoff Paquette, Brian Ward and Jeremy Goodman.

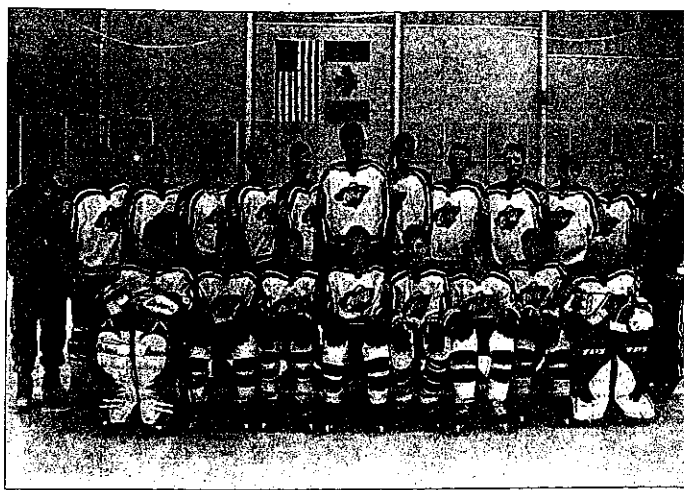
The teams, much like in years past, will be coached by Dan Phelps, Dave Zarem, John Smith and Dennis Gagnon. The coaches are likely to skate in the event as well.

Don't be surprised if this squad comes back with a vengeance, and they've got themselves a very strong conference to do it in. No wins come easy, but Novi definitely has what it takes to get them.

Under the guidance of Phelps, there's really no telling what this team is going to be capable of doing.

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

CLUB RESULTS



It's been a good year to be a member of the Novi Wild.

The Wild, which is the prep hockey team for Novi, watched as the Novi varsity squad fell to Brother Rice — the same team that beat Novi's football team in the semi-finals just a week before. Novi's last chance to top the Warriors came in the form of the Wild, and they weren't about to

let their friends, fans and family down.

The Wild skated away with a 5-3 victory over the Warriors and just a few days later they skated to the championship game of the Big Bear International Ice Hockey Tournament hosted at the Kensington Valley Ice House. The Wild played some impressive hockey, but ended up falling 5-4

to Brighton in double overtime to secure second-place in the highly competitive tournament.

In games earlier this year, the Wild topped Walled Lake North 5-2 in their first league game and also beat Jackson Lumen Christi, Troy Junior Blackhawks and the West Bloomfield Lakers by a combined score of 32-1.

Wildcats have some obstacles to overcome

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats wrestling team is well aware that they are going to have some tough obstacles to overcome this year — not to mention the legacy that the Churella family left behind when their youngest son, Josh, graduated last year.

That, however, isn't a concern for coach Brad Huss and his staff. Instead, it just means he and his team will have to show that there has always been more to a wrestling team than just one name.

"There are 14 weight classes, and a team is never just one person," Huss said. "We have a pretty young crew this year, but from what I've

seen so far, I am very impressed. We have good numbers and we're well aware that it's going to take some time to get these kids the experience they need."

That doesn't mean Huss doesn't expect his team to be competitive this year. In fact, Huss said he knows there is talent on his squad just waiting to break out.

"This is the first time in a long time that we don't have a one or two kids that we know are automatically going to be All-State caliber wrestlers," Huss said. "There are some kids on this team that I feel have the opportunity to make it if they continue to improve the way I expect them to. But, there are no sure bets."

The Wildcats have a strong crew to take on some equally strong teams throughout the Kensington Valley Conference. Brighton looks to be strong again this year, as does Howell and South Lyon. In most opinions, the KVC looks to be as strong as they come in wrestling this season.

"There aren't any easy dates on our schedule," Huss said. "There are a lot of good wrestlers out there. We just have to go out and be the team we know we can be and we could be successful. Only time will tell."

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

SPORTS SHORTS

Girls A.A.U. Basketball Club

Michigan Motion, Girls A.A.U. Basketball Club, will be holding open tryouts at Novi Middle School on Saturday, Dec. 13 and Sunday, Dec. 14. Times are from 9-11 a.m. for 10u, 11u, 12u and 13u and noon-2 p.m. for 14u, 15u, 16u and 17u on Saturday. For Sunday, times are noon-2 p.m. for 10u, 11u, 12u and 13u and 2:30-4:30 p.m. for 14u, 15u, 16u and 17u.

Please arrive early to check in, so have your shoes on and be ready to go. Your age as of Dec. 31 is your age group. There will be a \$20 fee to tryout and a parent or guardian must sign you in.

For more information, call (248) 486-1515 between 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

More Girls Basketball Tryouts

2004 Western Wayne Wolfpack (Northville) A.A.U. Girls' Basketball Tryouts will be held Tuesday, Jan. 6 and Thursday, Jan. 8 for 14's, 15's and 16's from 7:30-9 p.m. at Northville High School; Sunday, Jan. 11 from 5-6:30

AAU Girls Basketball Tryouts

The Legion AAU girls' basketball team will be holding tryouts Dec. 13 at Andover High School. The time and details are available at www.legionbb.com or at legionbb@hotmail.com.

There is a \$20 fee to participate in the highly-competitive tryouts, and there will be teams in age groups from 10 years of age through 18-year-old players.

For more information, email legionbb@hotmail.com.

Ski and snowboard club registration

Northville Parks and Rec is currently taking registrations for the popular ski and snowboard club. All students in mid-

dle school and high school are encouraged to participate and membership includes: luxury motor coach transportation to local ski areas on Friday evenings and some Saturday evenings as well as group lift tickets, rental equipment discounts and lessons at Mt. Brighton Ski Area. The club membership is limited to 300 participants.

The fee is \$135 for city and township residents, \$138 for school district residents and \$145 for non-residents. Please bring a current school photo and last year's club ID card.

Also, adult chaperones are needed for trips and will receive complimentary skiing.

For more information, please contact Northville Parks and Rec at (248) 349-0203.

Want to play some hoop?

Northville Parks and Rec will be hosting a Women's Winter Basketball League starting January 28, 2004. The cost to join is \$395 per team and the season will run through 11 weeks.

Registration starts December 16th. If interested, please visit Parks and Rec or contact them at (248) 449-9947.

The Best Gift Idea:
For Anybody On Your List!

One Year Subscription **\$26**

Renew your subscription & get a 2nd for **\$18 for a Friend!**

Milford Times
Northville Record
Novi News
South Lyon Herald
888-840-4809

HOME TOWN
Newspapers

The perfect surprise
Balloon Ride
Christmas Gift
Certificates.
Save up to
\$50 each

Certificates valid for 2004 season

GRAND TRAVELINE
BALLONS
1877
Traverse City, Michigan
231-947-7433
www.grandtraveline.com

Urgent news for people who have used WELDING RODS

Scientists have discovered that elevated manganese exposure from welding rod fumes has been associated with Parkinson's disease (like Parkinson's disease) and manganese. Symptoms include: shakiness, distorted facial expressions, loss of equilibrium, decreased hand agility, difficulty walking, joint pain, loss of short term memory, shuffling/shovele gait, stiffness in muscles and tremors. Call us today toll free at 1-800-THE-EAGLE for a free consultation to evaluate your potential claim. We practice law only in Arizona and coordinate with lawyers throughout the U.S. to help people across the country.

GOLDBERG & OSBORNE
1-800-THE-EAGLE
(1-800-846-3124)

Cost-Effective Statewide Coverage

Place your 2x2 display ad and reach over 3.5 million readers for just \$949! Place a 25 word classified ad and reach over 4 million readers for just \$299! Contact this Newspaper or Wendy and Christine at Michigan Newspapers Inc.

Michigan Press Association
Michigan Newspapers, Inc.
827 N. Washington Ave.
Lansing, MI 48206-5199
Phone: 517-372-2424
Fax: 517-372-2429
www.michpress.org
wendy@midpress.org

It's not simply mind over matter.

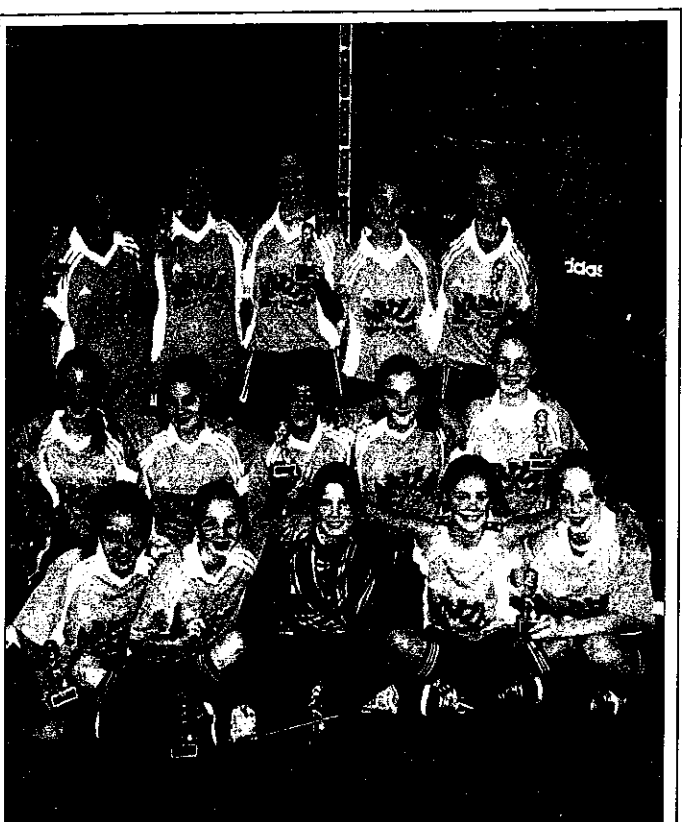
You can't be talked out of heart disease, diabetes, asthma...or depression. Depression is a serious illness that needs medical treatment. Ask your doctor for a depression screening today!

Depression
Treat it as if your life depended on it.

FOR INFORMATION CALL 1.888.511.SAVE OR VISIT WWW.SAVE.ORG

High Kick winners

The Novi JV Pom Squad led by coach Amber Cohl recently took first place in the High Kick competition at the 13th annual Mid American Dance Team Championships at Eastern Michigan University. They are judged in the following categories: showmanship, execution, technique, choreography, creativity, use of music, and kicks. Members of the team include co-captains Julian Angelucci and Nicole Minghine as well as Laurel Kiline, Marissa Oates, Amanda Zorza, Lindsay Yusko, Michelle Kohls, Stephanie Jaussi, Colleen Fraser, Chrysten Flennoy, Jenna McCarty, Kelsi Okowski, Sara Reiche, Kat Elrod, Casy McCarthy, Meghan Hoen, Lisa Hebda, Aubree Bixman, Nicole Niflin, and Kaitlyn Hagan.



Submitted Photo

Soccer champs!

The WAZA FLO soccer club won the Western Suburban Soccer League's U-13 select division fall championship and tied for first in U14. The team had members from Novi and Northville. Team members include: (Back row from left) Maria Gjoloschaj, Dana Grabowski, Rachel Baker, Ashley Tripietti, Olivia Lewis and coach Dennis Brose. (Middle row from left): Katie Hendrickson, Abigail Blackburn, Sarah Tindall, Sarah Mariley, and Amanda Hult. (Front row from left): Sara Talon, Cassie Zena, Melissa Kosztowny, Kerry McWhirter and Laura Bou-Maroun. Not pictured is Sarah Green.

Surf the web all you want

...for only **\$13.99** per month*

Includes:
- SPAM & Virus protection for your e-mail - 24 Hour technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Available parental controls filter - And NO CONTRACTS!

A deal this good won't last long, so sign-up and start surfing today before this offer expires.

1.866.761.8742
or www.htdconnect.com

*New customers only

Brought to you by your favorite, HomeTown Newspaper.



Photo by Pauline Gaffney

All-Star Gymnastics in Novi was the site of a Toys for Tots drive Dec. 7 that featured Barb Farris of the Detroit Shock...

Shock treatment

WNBA's Farris supports Toys for Tots drive

Barb Farris, a member of the Detroit Shock, 2003 world champions in the Women's National Basketball Association...

2003 All-KVC Football

Table listing football teams (All-Kensington Valley, Brighton, Lakeland, Milford, etc.) and their schedules for 2003.

Don't Miss...

The Grand Valley State University Lakers will defend their Division II college football national title Saturday in Florence, Alabama...

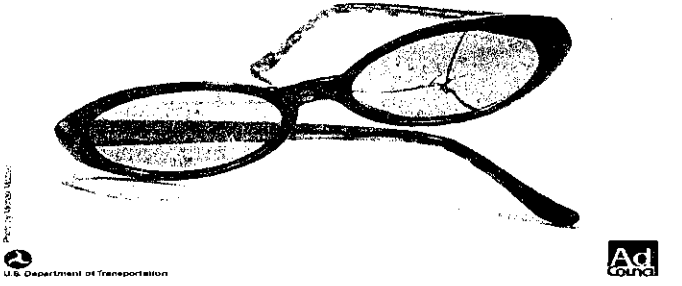
Mustangs win yet again

Northville knocked off top-ranked Stevenson 3-1 December 3 in a game that proved the Mustangs are here to play...

2003-04 Novi High School Winter Sports Schedules

Large table listing winter sports schedules for various Novi high schools, including boys varsity basketball, boys JV basketball, ice hockey, and volleyball.

Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver. Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.



Advertisement for 'Something's Gotta Give' featuring Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton, listing showtimes at various theaters.

Advertisement for 'The Missing' featuring Tommy Lee Jones and Cate Blanchett, listing showtimes at various theaters.

Advertisement for the movie 'Honey' featuring Jessica Alba, promoting it as 'The Feel Good Film Of The Year'.

Advertisement for the movie 'Tom Cruise The Last Samurai'.

Advertisement for 'Church Directory' listing various churches and their services in the Novi area.

Advertisement for MDA (Muscular Dystrophy Association) promoting organ and tissue donation.

Advertisement for US Forest Service regarding forest fires prevention.

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Thursday, December 11, 2003

Page 52

MONEY MATTERS

The gift that keeps on giving? It's your Christmas bonus invested wisely

Christmas mornings did not always greet my family with wall-to-wall presents spilling from under the tree.

The explanation my older brother gave me for these "lean" Christmases went something like this: "Santa's elves just didn't work as hard as they should have making the toys. That's why there are fewer presents than there were last year."

Oddly I accepted this explanation as if God himself had uttered it even though my friends were getting brand new Schwinn bicycles with pink handlebar tassels. Why were the elves in my toy section such slackers, I wondered?

About the time it dawned on me that Santa didn't actually exist, I realized that the size of my mother's Christmas bonus check was proportional to the level of lavishness she bestowed on her kids at Christmas time. We didn't talk about money in our household but I wish we had.

If you're fortunate enough to receive a Christmas bonus this year, consider taking a portion of it and spending it on yourself. You deserve to treat yourself for all of your hard work. Then think about using the remaining amount on things that will provide you and your family with some long-term financial benefits.

Pay off high interest credit card debt. Nothing rings in the New Year like a zero balance on your credit cards. If you're wondering which debt to attack, start with your high interest rate credit cards first. On a balance of \$8,000, even with a relatively low interest rate like 9 percent, you're still paying upwards of \$750 a year in interest alone. Imagine what you could do with the extra money you'll be saving by paying off your credit card balance.

Set up an emergency fund. If you don't have the cash to cover at least three to six months of living expenses, add your bonus to your emergency fund.

Invest in a Roth IRA. This investment vehicle allows you to fund your retirement with up to \$3,000 after tax dollars per year. Unlike a traditional IRA, where your contributions may be tax deductible and your dividends are taxed, contributions to a Roth IRA are taxed but your earnings are tax-free and penalty-free provided you begin withdrawing funds after you turn 59.

You can participate in a Roth IRA even if you're participating in another retirement plan as long as you don't contribute more than \$3,000 to any IRA contribution you have. (For individuals 50 and over the total allowable contribution is \$3,500.) And your non-working spouse can also contribute the full amount to his/her Roth IRA as long as he or she has an earned income of equal to the amount of their contribution. There are income restrictions. Typically you're eligible to make full contributions to a Roth IRA if you're single, head of the household and your adjusted gross income doesn't exceed \$95,000. Likewise, if you're married and file jointly, you are eligible if your adjusted gross income is less than \$150,000. Consult your financial institution's IRA specialist to determine if a Roth IRA is the right choice for you.

Open a Christmas Club Account. In January, consider opening a Christmas Club account with your bonus money. Most credit unions and many banks offer them. This way, when it's time to shop for the holidays again, you'll have all the money you need. And you'll earn interest rather than making big interest payments to finance next year's holiday shopping.

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

ADVERTORIAL



Photos by Duane Ramsey

Polished Outlook provides private rooms with a peaceful atmosphere for all massages and body treatments.

Polished Outlook's an oasis for personal pampering

By Duane Ramsey
SPECIAL WRITER

There is a luxurious oasis for the ultimate in stress relief located just off Main Street in downtown Milford. Polished Outlook is a full-service salon, day spa and boutique known for its intimate atmosphere and elaborate beauty treatments.

"With today's fast-paced lifestyle, you need to relieve that stress—a spa treatment is the ideal solution," said Mona Ruggers, owner of Polished Outlook, Inc. for the past 17 years.

Polished Outlook offers traditional salon and spa services for men and women with advanced skin care technology. The selection of body treatments includes Swedish massages, facials and

body wraps, a full array of hair services, manicures for natural nails, and its famous hydrotherapy "pedi-care."

Although the majority of its clients are women, more men are taking advantage of the spa's services, Ruggers said.

Nationally, men purchase 35 percent of all spa services, according to Ruggers. She said many male customers regularly come in for facials, pedicures and massages. She also has one male professional on her staff.

"It's not a girl thing to do like it used to be," Ruggers said. "Men especially like the hot stone treatments."

Heated basalt lava stones are used for facials, pedicures and massages. The hot stone massage incorporates Swedish massage tech-

niques placing warm stones in the hands of the massage specialist and along pressure points of the body.

"The hot stone massage is the ultimate in stress relief," Ruggers said. "The heated stones impart a soothing deep tissue experience, a perfect warm-up for winter."

This year, Polished Outlook offers the new Chocolate Raspberry Smoothie. No, it's not for eating but a manicure and pedicure for treating your hands, arms and feet.

"At last, there's a way to enjoy chocolate without the calories," Ruggers said.

The hands and arms are immersed in heated raspberry or chocolate paraffin for the ultimate in moisturizing. The manicure includes a chocolate nut exfoliate followed by a hand and arm mas-

sage with a choice of chocolate whipped cream or very berry sundae sauce.

The pedi-care begins with a chocolate and raspberry foaming foot bath. The legs and feet are buffed and exfoliated with a chocolate nutty scrub enhanced with Vitamin B and avocado.

Polished Outlook also has its own private-label line of cosmetic and skin-care products formulated to improve all skin conditions, hydrate and renew your skin.

"Our 21st century treatments provide the latest anti-aging technology and other skin care benefits," said Ruggers.

The salon will create a more polished outlook for customers with a mini-makeover. After a complimentary consultation with its expert hair designers, your hair will be cut, shaped and styled into the perfect look for you. A cosmetic application suited to your facial structure and skin tone is included in the mini-makeover.

Heat massage therapy chairs are located throughout the salon so customers can enjoy the additional treatments while having their hair done or getting a manicure or pedicure.

Polished Outlook is not just for individual treatments, offering special packages for holiday and wedding parties. The business is open until noon on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve for customized individual or group treatments.

The day spa offers bridal programs for the wedding day including a bride's brunch and a pre-rehearsal dinner spa package. They are already booking appointments through June 2004, Ruggers said.

"The bride and her wedding party spending a day at the spa before the wedding has become very popular," she said.

DETAILS

Polished Outlook Salon Spa
Boutique
119 East Washington
Milford, MI 48381
(248) 685-9898

Open Tuesday through
Saturday
Appointment recommended

www.polishedoutlook.com

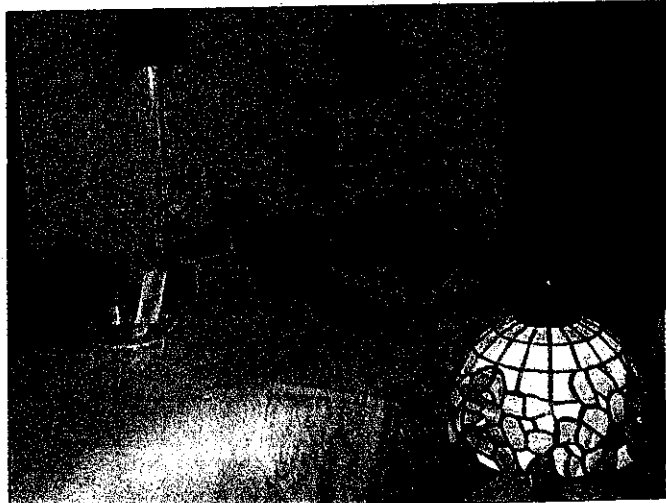
Polished Outlook offers a variety of spa packages featuring the ultimate in deep relaxation, stimulating tonal therapy and elaborate beauty treatments. Ranging from two to eight hours, the packages provide a combination of facials, manicures, massages, pedi-cares, hair designs, cosmetic applications and body therapy treatments.

Gift certificates are available for numerous spa packages in any amount or for clients to customize their own packages. Individually prepared, boxed and wrapped, gift certificates can be ordered in person or on its web site, polishedoutlook.com.

"What better gift than a gift of caring and preventive health care," said Ruggers. "Christmas is our biggest gift season."

The boutique offers a large selection of exclusive gifts for all occasions with candles, chakra herbal teas, dolls, lamps, purses, decorative home accessories, and its own line of spa and skin care products.

Polished Outlook recently was chosen as one of the top 200 salons in the nation by Salon Today Magazine, according to Ruggers. Her business is a member of the Day Spa Association and The Salon Association.



The boutique at Polished Outlook offers a variety of unique gift items for all occasions.

THE PERFECT GIFT!

You Deserve the Best...a place where your personal needs and well-being are expertly indulged!

Gift Certificates Available

Happy Holidays!



Polished Outlook
Salon Spa Boutique

119 E. Washington St., Milford, MI 48381
248-685-9898

SHOP OUR BOUTIQUE FOR YOUR GIFTS
AND DECORATIVE HOME ACCESSORIES

MENU OF SERVICES

- Complete Hair and Natural Nail Care
- European Body Treatments
- Signature Facials
- Anti-Aging Facials
- Make Up Lessons and Application
- Aromatherapy
- Hydrotherapy Pedi-Care
- Spa Packages
- Massage
- Body Waxing
- Gift Certificates
- Gift Baskets
- Hot Stone Therapy

www.polishedoutlook.com

Major Credit
Cards Welcome!