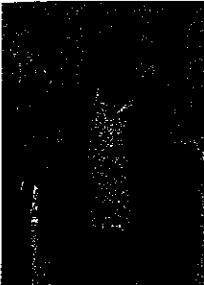


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#### Rehab in Northville

Whatever your personal physical goals are for 2004, make it your best year possible. The staff at Northville Physical Rehabilitation has the expertise, equipment and experience to help people achieve their individual goals.

— Page 8B

### INSIDE

#### Residents save money

A fraction of a percent change in interest rates for the city will save residents thousands of dollars over the next few years.

— Page 7A

#### Better than expected

Though nothing is set in stone yet, it does appear that school districts in Michigan will have an easier time dealing with per pupil foundation grant reductions than originally anticipated.

— Page 13A

#### Church services

A listing of Novi-area churches and their services offered for the Christmas holiday.

— Page 21A

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# City OKs 439 new homes

## ■ Question remains: How will new subdivision impact 10 Mile traffic?

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

Friends of Novi Parks members celebrated with cake and cocoa Saturday morning after Novi City Council members reached an agreement with Singh Development Company that could pave the way for the city's second largest park while allowing the West Bloomfield company to build 439 new homes in the city.

"For those who say the city of Novi won't work with developers, they're wrong," declared Mayor Lou Coardas. "For those who say

the planning commission won't work with developers, they're wrong. For those who say city council won't work with developers, they're wrong. We will listen to your concerns, if you'll listen to ours."

While members of the Friends of Novi Parks, the Planning Commission and the city's Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission all trooped to the podium in favor of the project, support was not unanimous.

Wixom Road resident John Foley suggested that money should have been set aside for

improvements to Ten Mile Road instead of park upgrades. Nagy said she's worried about the cumulative effects of projects like Singh's Quail Hollow and wondered if the city has the sewer capacity to support it.

Two Lyon Township Trustees made a rare appearance in Novi City Council Chambers. Trustee Steve Adams said 16,200 cars already use 10 Mile Road on Novi's west side on a daily basis. He said projects already approved in his community will put another 23,000 vehicles on 10 Mile daily over the next four to five years.

"We must work with the state to four-lane it to keep it from becoming the worst road in the county," Adams said.

While saying that he wished he

### DETAILS OF AGREEMENT WITH SINGH

Novi City Council voted 5-1, with council member Toni Nagy dissenting and council member Laura Lorenzo absent, to rezone 324.95 acres near the corner of 10 Mile and Napier roads from residential acreage (RA) to one-family residential and to approve the Singh Development company agreement, which included the following:

- The agreement includes the donation of 73 acres to the city;
- construction of a mile-and-a-quarter pathway through the property and adjacent city-owned property;
- the creation of a trail maintenance trust fund with a \$45,000 donation; and
- funding of traffic signal improvements along 10 Mile Road.

had a magic wand to make traffic go away, council member Bob Gatt suggested that not allowing Singh to build because of projects

in Lyon Township and farther west would be "silly."

continued on page 3

### It's all in the Family



Photo by John Heider

Family of Pets employees have puppies: Debbie Stottele, Tracie Bastlen and Tricia Stottele hold onto a trio of pups. From left a pomeranian, Saint Bernard, and a King Charles spaniel. Family of Pets recently opened in Novi's Fountain Walk plaza. The full story is on page 10.

# State budget cuts sting

## ■ But not as much as they could, say local officials

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

While state officials are slicing \$379.8 million from state spending to balance Lansing's budget, local governments are saying the 5-percent hit they'll have to take in state revenue sharing will lead to little more than belt tightening. In Novi while the 5-percent cut in state revenue sharing will be a \$205,000 hole in the city's budget, City Manager Rich Helwig promised, "We are not talking layoffs or cuts in service."

Helwig explained that's because following a 3-percent cut in state revenue sharing last year, the city opted to increase its fund balance when it set its budget last summer. Novi's fund balance, which is the municipal equivalent of a savings account, currently equals about 17 percent of the city's annual budget.

Helwig said about half the \$205,000 in state shortfall will come from the fund balance and the other will come from canceled travel. Faced with the uncertainty

continued on page 4

For our editorial on the state budget cuts, please turn to page 16A.

# Hussein's capture could help '04 economy

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

The capture of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein Saturday is one reason the future looks bright for our economy in 2004, according to J.R. Atiyeh, CFP.

"It resolves mentally the unrest that people have regarding terrorism. It's a stepping stone," said Atiyeh.



J.R. Atiyeh

He is owner of Financial Planning & Investments, Inc., in Novi and has been in the investment business since 1979. "Business always runs in cycles. The

leading indicators in my business are transportation and financial stocks, and those are both doing well," Atiyeh said. "The stock market leads the economy by nine to 12 months. We had a good market during 2003, so, historically, the economy should be good in 2004."

This was an unbelievable year for the market, according to Atiyeh. The Dow was up over 35

percent year to date, and the NASDAQ was up even more — over 59 percent over last year's figures, he said.

Atiyeh's firm used to be located at the Holly Hill Village corporate park at Ten Mile and Haggerty roads in Novi and just moved last weekend to a new office at 43390 W. Ten Mile Road at Eaton Center

continued on page 6

# Fountain Walk gets six new tenants

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Six new businesses plan to open at Fountain Walk shopping center in Novi next year, including four restaurants, a photography store and a cigar store.

"Two stores we know are signed and are coming in," said Linda Busse, Fountain Walk marketing director. "One is called My Photographer, which is a photography studio where you don't necessarily have to make an appointment. They're known for the variety of unique props and settings for kids. That's their claim to fame," she said.

"You can make an appointment if you choose. But, if you don't know if your kid is having a good day until you get there, you can

come back. They accept walk-ins," she said.

"A restaurant, Megawraps, which serves rolled sandwiches, has also signed a lease," Busse said.

Both of these businesses will be located along the drive that goes through the center of Fountain Walk, Busse said.

A third business that has signed will feature cigars. "The official name of the business hasn't been determined yet. The deal is signed, and they are working on the name for the business," Busse said.

"We are also in serious talks with three restaurants, each of them quite different from each other. I can't offer any additional information on those proposed tenants at this time," Busse said. "But, we're very excited about the

discussions that we're having with them, because we feel that they will round out the entertainment portion of what Fountain Walk is all about."

Fountain Walk, located at I-96 and Novi Road, combines shopping, restaurants and entertainment in one center. It is located just south of Twelve Mile Road west of Novi Road. Fountain Walk is managed by Schostak Brothers of Southfield and is owned by PLC Novi West Development, headquartered in Newport Beach, Calif. The shopping center opened in 2001.

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



Photo by John Heider

### ...and the winner is...

The Novi Homeowners Council recently voted the Bristol Circle Court home of Craig Szewc as having the best holiday home decorations. Homeowners were slated to be recognized at the Dec. 16th Novi City Council meeting.

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PROVIDENCE PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Happy Holidays From Providence Park Novi

Large holiday-themed graphic featuring a tree of ornaments, each containing a local business name and contact information. Businesses include various medical offices, dental practices, and specialty services.

Council approves 439 new homes

continued from frontpage

Planning Commission Member Gwen Markum urged approval of the plan, saying the "potential benefit to the city at large is enormous." Markum has long advocated expanding the city's trail system.

He noted in a Dec. 10 memo to council that while that would have been a "pipe dream" for the city, Singh has agreed to complete the pathway by Halloween 2005.

Approval of the project, however, means regulars at The Links of Novi will have to find some place else to sink their puts in 2005.

He said Singh plans to begin work on Quail Hollow next fall or the following spring. He said homes in Quail Hollow are expected to start at about \$300,000 and be built in phases

over the next six to eight years, depending on the market.

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

Photo by Phil Foley

Council member Kim Capello, Mayor Lou Csordas and council member David Landry listen to council member Toni Nagy outline her reasons for voting against a zoning change for Singh Development Company's Quail Hollow project.



Federal lawsuits worries school more than loss of golf course

By Phil Foley STAFF WRITER

If and when the Links of Novi becomes the city's newest posh neighborhood, it will leave the Novi High School Boys Golf Team looking for a new home course.

However, according to Curt Ellis, athletic director for the Novi Community School District, a federal lawsuit filed in Kalamazoo nearly five years ago by the Ada-based Communities for Equity, could have a more immediate and severe impact on the district's golf program.

Two years ago U.S. District Judge Richard A. Enlen ruled that the way the Michigan High School Athletic Association scheduled some girls sports vio-

lated the 14th Amendment, the federal Title IX statute and Michigan civil rights law.

If upheld by the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, the ruling would force Novi and other high schools across the state to flip their boys and girls golf seasons.

That said, Ellis, is a bigger potential headache than the possible loss of The Links.

He said that while he has heard nothing officially from the owners at The Links, he has heard rumors and has been putting out feelers to several nearby golf courses including Coyote, Tanglewood and Walnut Creek.

"I don't think anybody is waiting for us to knock on their door," said Ellis. But, he added, he thinks hosting a high school golf

team is a win-win situation for any course. "It's good for business. When a high school golfer knows [a given course] is going to be his home course, he tends to play there in the off season and when he does, he tends to bring mom and dad."

Currently the boys squad plays in the fall, and Ellis said he expects between 40 and 50 boys to try out for the 18 slots available.

The problem, said Ellis, is that a lot more boys come out for golf than girls, making it more difficult to schedule boys events in the spring. And demand by adult leagues for tee times limits availability.

Ellis said he doesn't know when the boys began playing at The Links, but they were there when he joined the district three years ago and "they've always accommodated all our needs."

He said that while it will be "a sad day" if the school loses The Links, "in terms of immediate challenge, it won't be a heck of a lot more daunting than moving swimming and basketball teams around during all this construction. By hook or by crook, we'll get by."

Advertisement for Michigan Shower Door Center and Carlson Design Products, featuring a shower door image.

Advertisement for The Novi News, providing subscription rates and contact information.

Advertisement for the movie 'Cheaper by the Dozen' featuring a family photo and showtimes.

Large advertisement for Taorello's restaurant, featuring various food items, prices, and promotional offers like 'Gourmet Deli' and 'Wine Shoppe'.



POLICE REPORT

Bambi-napping

A 47-year-old Novi woman told Officer Craig Felix 10:48 p.m. Dec. 12 that someone stole a law ornament, a lighted wire doe, from her family's residence while she was at church. She estimated her loss at \$40.

Second opinion

Officer Keith Wootton stopped an SUV on Grand River Avenue near Haggerty after clocking a 63 mph on a 45 mph zone. The driver, a 50-year-old Dearborn man, initially denied driving the car but later admitted to having some beer at a Birmingham bar. After failing field sobriety tests and registering a blood alcohol content of .097, Officer Wootton charged the man with operating under the influence of liquor. The man then asked for a blood test.

Wild ride

A 27-year-old Oak Park man was taken to Botsford Hospital for observations at 11:55 a.m. Dec. 8 after he lost control of his 2003 Nissan on eastbound Grand River Avenue, clipped a business sign, careened off some rocks and slammed into a parked 1991 Oldsmobile at 4000 Grand River Avenue.

Well, one, maybe

A 48-year-old Farmington Hills man told Officer Erick Zinsler that he had not been drinking after Officer Zinsler stopped his 2002 GMC Envoy on 13 Mile Road near M-5 at 1:45 a.m. Dec. 11. Then he said he had one beer at the Lakeview Bar. Then he failed the field sobriety test. Then he registered a blood alcohol content of .12. The man was charged with operating under the influence of liquor and later released after posting a \$100 bond.

Faster than smart

After clocking a Mercedes at 48 mph in a 30 mph zone on 11 Mile Road near McAlisterbrook at 11:14 a.m. Dec. 11, Officer Steven Balog discovered a 48-year-old Highland man was being sought by the Oakland County Friend of the Court. The man was later released after posting a \$200 bond and being told to report to the Friend of the Court Jan. 6.

Funny money

A 46-year-old Novi woman told Officer Erick Tupa Dec. 11 that her husband had found several pieces of torn money near Constitution and Congress Streets the day before. She said her mother was able to piece together three \$20 bills, but when she noticed they all had the same serial number, they decided to call the authorities. The counterfeit twenties were handed over to the Secret Service.

Bambi-napping II

A 54-year-old Novi man told Officer Louis Bigliardi Dec. 11 that someone stole a wire deer from his Golden Ridge Street yard sometime before 2:39 p.m. He estimated his loss at \$20.

Wire fraud

A 41-year-old Novi man told Officer Timothy Farrell Dec. 11 that he received a notice from Household Finance Corp. that he owes them \$5,040.66. The man said he never filed for a loan application with the company.

Fake five

A 37-year-old Northville man told Officer Brian Tillman Dec. 11 that someone paid for their meal at the drive-up window of the Burger King on Grand River Avenue with a counterfeit five sometime before 4:06 p.m.

Light fingers

A 21-year-old Commerce Township man told Officer Brian Tillman that a peckpocket snatched a \$300 cell phone while he was in Twelve Oaks Mall sometime before 4:43 p.m. Dec. 11.

Santa snatched

A 17-year-old Novi woman told Officer Edgar Ayrén that someone stole a yard Santa from her English Street home sometime before 4:15 Dec. 11. She said the decoration was worth \$35.

Easy way, hard way

Officer Brian Tillman charged a 40-year-old Novi man with operating under the influence of liquor after stopping his Jaguar for driving 69 mph in a 40 mph zone on Grand River Avenue near Taft. After failing field sobriety tests, the man at first refused a breathalyzer test. However, after Officer

Tillman explained at police headquarters that if he didn't consent, the officer would obtain a search warrant for blood, the man relented and registered a blood alcohol content of .08. The man was later released after posting a \$100 bond.

Hit and run

A 30-year-old Northville man was charged with operating under the influence of liquor and leaving the scene of an accident at 3:58 p.m. Dec. 11 after he reportedly sideswiped a 1993 Mercury driven by a 27-year-old Livonia woman on Beck Road north of Grand River Avenue. The Livonia woman appeared unharmed, but her car had to be towed. Officer Keith Wootton stopped the man on Beck near Pontiac Trail after a brief chase. After registering a blood alcohol content of .33 the man was taken to Providence Hospital for detoxification.

Erratic driving

Officer Erick Zinsler stopped a 2002 Mercury Sable on 12 Mile Road near Haggerty at 9:18 p.m. Dec. 10 after he spotted it driving erratically. He charged the driver, a 46-year-old Northville man, with operating under the influence of liquor after the man failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .18.

Fresh smelling crooks

A 23-year-old Novi woman told Officer Brian Tillman Dec. 5 that she had stolen \$25 worth of snow freshener from her unlocked vehicle outside her unit at Applegate Condominiums sometime before 3:01 p.m.

Lawn job

A 31-year-old Novi man told Officer Leonard Lowen at 11:41 p.m. Dec. 5 that a Ford F-150, drove through his lawn on Nine Mile Road. There is a suspect.

Expired tag

Officer Leonard Lowen stopped a 2003 Lincoln on Novi Road near I-96 at 1:16 a.m. Dec. 6 after he noticed the license had expired last month. The driver, a 25-year-old Canton man, at first denied having been drinking, but then admitted to having a beer at Fifth Avenue Billiards. After the man failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .111, Officer Lowen charged

him with operating under the influence of liquor.

You are right, sir

After being stopped for turning right on a red light at Grand River and Novi Road, a 27-year-old Wayne man told Officer Andrew Hudcech, "I know I shouldn't be driving." After failing field sobriety tests and registering a blood alcohol content of .22, Officer Hudcech agreed and charged him with operating under the influence of liquor. The man was later released after posting a \$100 bond.

Just a little lost

Officer Andrew Hudcech clocked a Honda Civic at 32 mph in a 15 mph zone in Home Town Novi at 8:59 p.m. Dec. 6. When he stopped the car at Pierre and LeGrand, the driver, a 22-year-old Commerce Township man, told him he lived with his girlfriend on Montmorency, but wasn't sure where that was. After failing field sobriety tests and registering a blood alcohol content of .13, Officer Hudcech charged the man with operating under the influence of liquor. The man was later released after posting a \$100 bond.

Effect on Novi's neighbors

While Wixom will see the \$60,000 evaporate from its coffers as a result of the Governor's budget cuts, City Manager Mike

Cuts sting

continued from front page

While controversy continues to swirl around the police version of Ford's Crown Victoria, don't look for the Novi Wixom or Walled Lake police departments to pack their bags anytime soon. For the past several years concerns about the most popular police car in North America have grown as the number of police officers dying in fiery crashes has crept upward. At last count, according to the Center for Auto Safety, the total sat at 15. "We've been concerned about Crown Victories," said Novi Police Chief Doug Shaeffer. However, he added that he hasn't seen any data indicating the Ford product is any more dangerous than anything else on the road. Part of the problem is that there isn't too much data on the road when it comes to police vehicles. Only two other cars, the Dodge Intrepid and the Chevrolet Impala, are certified for police pursuit work. "We've been concerned about Crown Victories," said Novi Police Chief Doug Shaeffer. However, he added that he hasn't seen any data indicating the Ford product is any more dangerous than anything else on the road.

Effect on Novi's neighbors

While Wixom will see the \$60,000 evaporate from its coffers as a result of the Governor's budget cuts, City Manager Mike

Dannan said all that will mean is that residents will see a few less picnic tables and benches, and a planned railing enhancement for the government complex won't happen this year.

By Phil Foley

STAFF WRITER

Police stick with Crown Vic

By Phil Foley

STAFF WRITER

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City forced to rehire fired police dispatchers

Chief says there are no layoffs coming

By Phil Foley

STAFF WRITER

An arbitrator ruled that Novi Police Department must rehire two of three dispatchers fired in June 2002 for falsifying time sheets, but Chief Doug Shaeffer denied there would be any layoffs as a result.

Chief says there are no layoffs coming

By Phil Foley

STAFF WRITER

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Easter Sunday 2002

when Barbara Hare, a shift leader in the police department's communication division, told her employees in the time-off records for herself and several other employees.

The supervisor, Joe Burchett, told her to check all time-off records between Jan. 1 and March 31, 2002. Hare found four discrepancies for six employees, including herself, ranging from one to 36 hours.

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been rated as "good dispatchers"

prior to their termination. Rimaek had been rated "adequate."

According to McDonald's arbitration award issued Sept. 18, 2003, both Viers and Hare were to be reinstated within two weeks. However, the dispatch center was already operating at full staff. In addition, two employees off on medical leaves were scheduled to return Nov. 1.

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waiting six months before issuing any layoff.

Shaeffer said he has no plans to let anyone go. He explained that he typically loses one dispatcher every five to six months. Noting the job involves a lot of night, weekend and holiday work, Shaeffer said dispatchers typically don't have long careers.

In her September memo, Gronlund-Fox also noted that a dispatcher was contemplating retiring on or before March 2004.

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Phil Foley is a staff writer for the

Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 108 or by e-mail at pfoley@ht.homedomain.net.

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# New Web site makes motoring easier for handicapped drivers

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

Buying gas for most people is usually a question of finding the cheapest pump price, but for those with mobility problems it can be a major challenge. Novi-based Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America recently launched a new service to help ease that challenge. The PumpGuide.com provides handicapped motorists with a list of gas stations that will pump gas for disabled motorists at the self-serve price. The new Web site is the brain child of Michael Harris, Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America's deputy executive director.

Instead, said Harris, he's hoping companies will see this as a competitive advantage. He noted that of the 800 stations on the list, 92 belong to Meijer, the Grand Rapids-based retailer. According to Harris, ThePumpGuide.com is the only program of its kind in the country. He said handicapped motorists can use the site to search for gas stations by zip code or county or plan a trip across the state with a list of handicapped friendly gas stations along the route.

Harris said the last feature can be especially helpful because although most people are very familiar with the handicapped gas stations in their home town, once they get out of their local area, finding a station can be a time-consuming and nerve-racking proposition.

"In the last few years, people with disabilities have really gained independence through the new adaptive technologies for vehicles. Unfortunately, as the number of drivers with disabilities increases, so has the number of self-serve gas stations," Harris said. "This makes it difficult for drivers to fill their tanks when they are traveling and decreases that new-found independence."

Harris said his group tried producing a brochure several years ago, but it was too difficult to keep up to date. He noted organizations in Ohio and Oklahoma produce brochures listing handicapped-friendly gas stations, but less than 10 percent of the businesses in those states participate. He said the best way to be a disabled motorist in Ohio and New Jersey, which state law prohibits self-serve gas stations.

Since ThePumpGuide.com's launch just before the Thanksgiving holiday, 1,958 people have visited the site.

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



Photo by John Heider  
**Much better**  
Novi's Wayne Hogan, chairman of the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority, uses the wide, easily accessible handicap parking spaces at the Novi Public Library. Parking at the library was recently re-configured and improved.

# Hussein's capture should help '04 economy

Continued from front page

west of Novi Road. "I own the building and wanted to give the company a new home," he said. Aiyeh has owned the building for a couple of years and was able to move in when a tenant left recently.

Aiyeh, who is a member and former president of the Novi Chamber of Commerce, used to write a column on financial matters for the Novi News. He worked for Investors Diversified Services, now American Express Advisors, for six years, then opened his own business.

He is sole owner of Financial Planning & Investments and also a founder and part owner of Crown Capital Securities, the firm's broker-dealer headquartered in Orange County, Calif. He even used to have a Chamber financial roundtable in which local business people met once a month to discuss their business and local issues.

The firm specializes in investment management plus mortgages, insurance and tax preparation. Aiyeh, who was born in Redford, graduated from Stephenson High School in Livonia and received a degree in

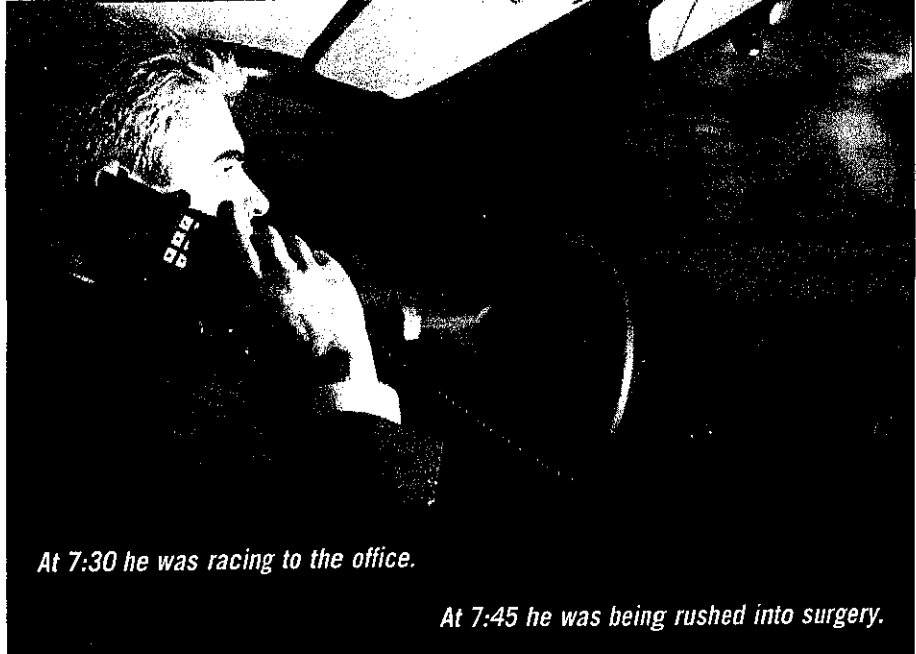
**"This was an unbelievable year for the market."**

J. R. Aiyeh  
Financial Planning & Investments, Inc.

(248) 380-6669.

business administration from Madonna University in Livonia. He later graduated from the College of Financial Planning in Denver, Colo. For more information about financial matters, call Aiyeh at

Fun Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homconet.net.



At 7:30 he was racing to the office.  
At 7:45 he was being rushed into surgery.



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# New county online service simplifies paying the piper

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

Oakland County officials rolled out a new way to take a little of the sting out of minor traffic tickets during ceremonies in Rochester Hills Dec. 9. "Pay Ticket" will allow people cited with certain civil infraction tickets to pay their fines online using MasterCard or Visa credit cards.

"I really hate to call it a service," said Judge Brian MacKenzie at the 52-1 District Court in Novi. However, he added, "By in large, people who get traffic tickets are decent, law-abiding people."

According to the 52nd District's chief judge, Julie Nicholson, the district's four divisions handle roughly 106,000 civil infractions annually. MacKenzie said his court handles about 15,000 cases a year that would be eligible for online payments. "That could be a substantial savings to the court," he said.

How much that savings won't be known until the system is ran-

ning awhile. "Pay Ticket" is part of the Oakland County Web site www.co.oakland.mi.us.

"We are quickly expanding our Web site to include services that everyone can use and benefit from," said County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. Patterson was an early proponent of using information technology to increase convenience for county residents.

Phil Bertolini, Oakland County's Department of Information Technology director, said the new service, like others on the county Web site, is protected by redundant firewalls and other monitoring systems. He added no personal information is collected or stored about any of the county's online customers.

For more than a decade, Oakland County has been expanding its online service offerings to the public through its eGovernment Initiative. "By using technology to facilitate these routine transactions in a 'self service' environment, we can do more with less - meaning we can use our valuable internal resources for tasks that need more



Julie Nicholson, 52nd District's chief judge, explains how residents can pay traffic tickets easier using the county's new online service "Pay Ticket."

personal attention," explained Bertolini.

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

# Bond rating means more money in city

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

A fraction of a percent change in interest rates for the city will save residents thousands of dollars over the next few years. According to Novi City Manager Rick Helwig, a boost in bond ratings by New York's Moody's Investor Service from Aa1 to Aa2, means the city will get somewhere between one-eighth and one-quarter percent lower interest rates when it goes to sell Special Assessment Limited Tax Bonds for what is being called the Maybury-Tusculum-Singh extension of the city's sewer system.

Last month city council approved the creation of a special assessment district for the construction 13,983 feet of 10-inch sanitary sewer, which will benefit 23 properties along Beck, Eight Mile and Garfield roads. The higher bond rating, said Kathy Smith-Roy, the city's finance director, means homeowners in these developments

will save a total of between \$30,000-\$40,000 over the 15-year life of the bonds. She said the city expects to save another \$20,000 to \$25,000 when it refinances \$6.6 million of the city's \$90 million in general obligation bonds. She explained the smaller savings despite the larger bond amount is the result of a shorter period to pay back the debt.

City Manager Rick Helwig noted that Aa2 is the fourth highest rating Moody's issues and that less than 15 percent of communities nationwide receive it annually. "Given the status of the economy, the upgrade is a welcome surprise," said Smith-Roy. "It is a direct result of the City of Novi's commitment to maintaining a healthy reserve and responsible fiscal policy."

Helwig said it was also the result of the city finally settling its long-standing lawsuit with Sandusque Development. He added there is a certain irony to the city's bond rating

improving, as the state's declines. Smith-Roy said Moody's was impressed by the city's 17-percent fund balance, which is essentially the city's savings account. She said it's a constant challenge for the city to maintain a high enough fund balance to be prepared for rainy days while "not holding too much taxpayer money."

Novi levies the seventh lowest millage rate of any city in Oakland County. A city spokesman said Moody's expects the city's tax base to grow as a result of its location on the I-96 corridor and the continued availability for land to develop. The spokesman added that Moody's noted that while the regional economy is still tied to the auto industry, Novi has a broad mix of taxpayers and employers.

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.homconet.net.

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Marilyn Renee Carnegie was born on December 22, 1961, in Novi, Michigan. She was a loving and caring mother, a devoted wife, and a wonderful friend. She passed away on December 25, 2002, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Her death leaves a void that can never be filled. She is survived by her husband, David, and their three children: David, Jennifer, and Matthew. She is also survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carnegie, and her siblings, Mr. and Mrs. John Carnegie, and Mr. and Mrs. James Carnegie. Her funeral service will be held on Monday, December 29, 2002, at 11:00 a.m. at the Botsford Funeral Home, 28050 Grand River Avenue, Farmington Hills, Michigan. Burial will be in the Botsford Cemetery. Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 1500 Broadway, New York, NY 10036. Condolences may be expressed to the family at [www.funeralhome.com](http://www.funeralhome.com).

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# BUSINESS

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

## Local retailers say holiday figures look good

■ Shopping center managers predict slight increase

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

The crowds are hitting the malls, and the cash registers are humming. This holiday season's retail sales are moving along, with the experts predicting a slight increase over last year's figures.

Dan Jones, general manager of Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi, has figures based on a sampling of merchants conducted at the mall. "From Thanksgiving weekend through the early weeks of December, I'm hearing anything from mid to high single-digit increases in sales—in the range of 5 to 8 percent over last year's sales."

Jones believes that the country has finally started to recover from the terrorist attacks on the U.S. on September 11, 2001, that rocked the retail world.

"The industry definitely suffered after 9-11. It was an interesting time period for every industry. We've let people get back to regular life," Jones said.

Jones said that Twelve Oaks Mall management staff talked to different stores in different categories at the mall to obtain a cross-section of local retail activity.

"Everybody's upbeat and smiling. I absolutely expect the good retail outlook to continue through the holiday season," he said.

Steve Russo, spokesperson for Novi Town Center, said that retail sales started out strong and have remained steady. "They are trending to an above-average holiday season," he said.

"The first week, sales were very strong. Since then, traffic has

remained steady. It's too early to tell absolute figures, but we are already assured that sales will be above average and much better than 2002," Russo said.

Clothing, electronics and specialty gifts, such as collectibles and artwork, have been especially strong this year, Russo said.

"I think people have thought out what they want in advance this year. I think that's an economic price point issue, too," he said.

"People are really into it being a holiday season this year. Shoppers are more into shopping this year and the whole holiday atmosphere," Russo added. For example, the Seventh Annual Candlelight Choralfest held at Novi Town Center earlier in the month drew the largest crowd in its history, attracting more than 500 people.

Linda Busse, marketing director, Fountain Walk, said that the interesting thing about the holiday season at Novi's newest shopping center is that it provides not only shopping opportunities but also entertainment opportunities.

"That's really what Fountain Walk is about and how we promote ourselves," she said.

Busse said the shopping center's big-box retailers have started out the season on a positive note.

"Our anchor stores, The Great Indoors and Galyan's, have been experiencing a wonderful shopping season so far. You see parking lots brimming around these stores because they provide shopping opportunities for all ages," Busse said.

She noted that Fountain Walk also provides a place to take a

break from shopping with restaurants like the Bamboo Club and New York Deli.

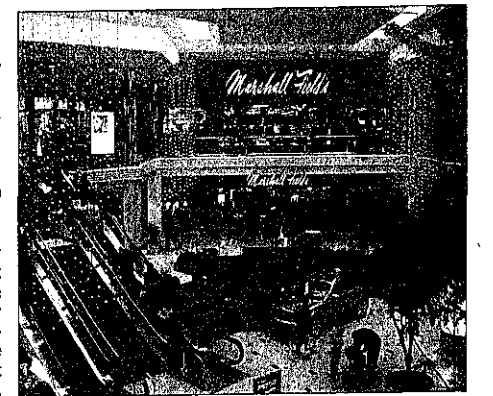
"The Putting Edge and Vans Skatepark are also getting booked up for family parties. These are wonderful opportunities for families to do something together while the kids are out of school for the holidays," Busse said.

"Fountain Walk is where shopping, food and fun come together. It's that type of experience," she said.

Although Busse had no specific sales figures for the Novi shopping center, "The overall feeling is that people are pleased with what's happening this holiday

season. I think the atmosphere is a very positive one," she said.

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



Shoppers even crowded Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi during the day on Tuesday — just one indication that the retail outlook looks a little brighter this holiday season. Retailers are forecasting a slight increase this year's figures over last year's.

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Dan Jones  
Twelve Oaks Mall

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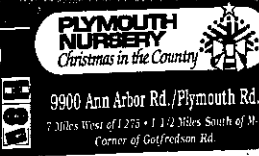
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## Family of Pets comes to Fountain Walk

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Looking for the perfect gift this holiday season?

How about adding a new puppy to your list?

Family of Pets, a new 1,800-square-foot pet store that just opened at Fountain Walk shopping center at I-96 and Novi Road, has a variety of breeds just waiting for a home.

John and Debbie Stottele of Novi, owners of the new store, were able to open their doors just in time for holiday gift-giving, opening Dec. 6 after only nine weeks of construction.

"We love the shape of the space and the location. This is a real dream for us to have a store in our hometown," John Stottele said.

The Stotteltes have lived in Novi for 13 years. Their daughter, Tricia, a 2001 graduate of Novi High School, manages the new Novi store.

Other Family of Pets stores are located at I-75 and Westland, Oakland Mall in Troy, McQuibb Mall in Roseville and Summit Place Mall in Waterford.

John Stottele has worked in the pet industry for 25 years and was a former district manager for a pet store chain. He will have owned the Family of Pets stores for six years in January and has a district manager that oversees the stores.

"However, he still visits each location from time to time in the family-owned business."

"I started cleaning kennels in college for the pet store chain I used to work for," said Stottele, a native of Buffalo, N.Y. He eventually advanced in sales and management and was transferred from Nashville, Tenn., to the Detroit area in 1989.

The family has lived in Novi for 13 years. Debbie Stottele is originally from Hialeah, Fla.

"I've always wanted to own my own business, and I learned a lot from the pet store chain I worked for," he said. He takes special pride in the new Novi store.

"I've been working on the design for two years," he said.

With high ceilings and brightly colored walls, the new pet store was designed in a backyard theme and includes an area called Punny Playland where prospective owners can take the puppies out of their cages to one of five sectioned-off spaces to see how they interact with them.

The store offers only puppies and kittens.

"That's what we do and what we do best," he said. Kittens are only available in the store if unwanted litters are brought in for adoption. They are adopted out at the price of



Photo by John Heider

Tricia Stottele fills a stuffed toy at Fountain Walk plaza's Family of Pets Create-a-pet machine last week. The pet shop has been open for about two weeks.

## Pet store visitors can make their own

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

One of the highlights of the new Family of Pets pet store at Fountain Walk is a special machine that helps guests make their own stuffed animals.

"I started cleaning kennels in college for the pet store chain I used to work for," said Stottele, a native of Buffalo, N.Y. He eventually advanced in sales and management and was transferred from Nashville, Tenn., to the Detroit area in 1989.

The machine can be operated by stepping on a pad on the floor and it plays music.

With the motto, "Stuff you will love," the stuffing machine can even be made available for children's parties.

"The animals have special outfits that can also be purchased at the store that include

themes from sports to professions.

"We have over 20 different animals to choose from," said store owner John Stottele.

"Eventually, we will have 13 styles of dogs."

Dolls are also available, and each item comes with a special guardian angel bear that's placed inside the toy when it's stuffed.

Stottele isn't quite finished decorating the new store, which will eventually feature mechanical figurines from the ceiling, including a model resembling Noah's ark with animals that will go into the vessel two by two.

"I'll also have mechanical dogs going through an agility course overhead," he said.

medical services for the animal.

The store has both prebred and crossbred puppies and offers a 30-day warranty if an animal becomes sick in the first 30 days the medical bills are covered. The store also provides a two-year birth-defect warranty.

All puppies are also microchipped, which is a permanent identification program.

Hours at Family of Pets new Novi location are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday; noon to

9 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call (248) 305-7008.

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

For more information on buying a dog for Christmas, please turn to page 8B.

## Aladdin hopes to open new location in Novi

### Planning Commission gives plan preliminary approval

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Area builders and homeowners may soon be able to shop for heating, cooling and fire-place equipment in a new showroom planned for Novi.

Developer J.B. Donaldson Company of Farmington Hills won approval from the Novi Planning Commission recently for a preliminary site plan and special land use permit for a new Aladdin Heating, Cooling & Fireplace Design Center in Novi.

Donaldson proposed a change in use from the A & M Label manufacturing company, which recently closed its doors, to the new business.

If approved by the city, the business will be located in a vacated building on the south side of Grand River Avenue just east of Beck Road in the light industrial district. The property covers about three acres.

Tom Liserman, owner of the building, is very excited about the prospect for improvements to his property as well as being a part of the revitalization of the Grand River Corridor, according to a recent letter from Donaldson to Planning Director David Evanoff.

The business will mainly be a showroom for builders. But it is open to the public, and individual homeowners will also be able to shop for fireplaces, gas logs, gas stoves, wood burning equipment, heating and cooling

equipment at the new location. This will be the fourth location for the business. Other stores are in Lake Orion, Warren and Rochester.

Ed Turowski, owner, appeared before Commission members Oct. 1. After modifying his original request, he came before the group again Nov. 19. His revised request included less retail area and a widening of the driveway on the east side of the building.

The residential contractor and commercial supply business will have 13,200 square feet of space.

Turowski said that no changes will be made to the parking lot or the exterior of the building.

"We're serving the Novi community now from the Warren location. We hope to open August of 2004 after our extensive interior remodeling project," Turowski.

The next step is for the owner and developer to appear before the Zoning Board of Appeals for final approval from the city.

"We're looking to get on the January docket," Turowski.

The Novi Planning Department did not recommend approval of the request because of the required variances from the Zoning Board of Appeals. If the board grants the necessary variances, however, department staff members said they would be able to recommend approval.

"This [plan] is an improvement over what we saw in October," said Commissioner David Ruyke.

Turowski said that the new location would not generate a lot of traffic in the area since the "cash and carry" side of his business represents only about 3 percent of total sales.

"I'm a contractor, I'm not really competing with Home Depot," Turowski said.

### Aladdin Heating & Cooling



His father, the late Ed Turowski, started the business in 1945, and his brother, Dave, is a co-owner in the business.

"We will be hiring between five to eight business once we open," Turowski said.

"I grew up in a poor, working-class neighborhood where people didn't become doctors. But I kept taking classes, and here I am. I haven't looked back," he said.

Dr. Swanson earned a bachelor's degree in physiology from the University of Michigan and his doctorate of optometry from the University of Houston in 1989.

He completed internships at the U.S. Naval Air Station in Brunswick, Maine, and at the

Houston Lighthouse for the Blind. Dr. Swanson also completed his residency training in ocular disease at Cleveland Veterans' Administration Hospital in Ohio.

He noted that less than 10 percent of practicing optometrists in the nation have served a residency.

Following his residency, he returned to the Novi area, where he worked as an associate in a local optometric clinic. In 1992, he joined the Ophthalmology Department of the Detroit Medical Center's Health Care Center in Novi. While he was with DMC, Dr. Swanson worked closely with ophthalmologists, internists, pediatricians and urgent care physicians in providing care to patients.

When DMC dissolved its satellite offices, he had the option, along with other optometrists working there, to leave the DMC office or start his own practice. Although he's gone solo, he still receives referrals from DMC physicians.

Dr. Swanson also has post-graduate training in the management of LASIK surgery and works closely with the area's top refractive surgeons. He noted that in medicine today there is more overlap in the fields of optometry and ophthalmology.

For example, "Most ophthalmology offices now sell glasses," he said.

He tries to give his patients a

different experience than the large or optical services in the area.

"We can't compete with the big chains price-wise, but we do what we can by not having high costs for office visits and not offering high-end eyewear. One of the things I wanted to do when I left DMC was to establish a more traditional practice and get away from the assembly-line atmosphere," he said.

"We try to be more individualized."

Dr. Swanson's wife, Sue, who has an accounting degree from Kent State University in Ohio, and an MBA from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, serves as the business manager in the office.

Other staff members include Barry Potter, a certified optician who was director of Henry Ford Hospital Optical Services for more than 10 years, and assistants Ruth Jaffe and Lee Ann Kelly.

"Michigan does not require opticians to be licensed or certified," Dr. Swanson noted.

What advice would he give to would-be entrepreneurs?

"If what you're offering is a good product, the business will come," he said. For more information about eye care, call Dr. Swanson at (248) 427-9620.

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

## Swanson Family Eyecare celebrates first anniversary

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

The first year usually makes or breaks a new business.

Swanson Family Eyecare, located at 39915 Grand River Avenue in the Grand Oaks Center shopping center, celebrates its one-year anniversary this month in Novi. Owner Craig R. Swanson, O.D., says he's pleased with the outcome.

"We really enjoy it here. It's a good community," he said.

In observance of the business' anniversary, Dr. Swanson will give a 20-percent discount on all eyewear to patients this month.

An active member of the Novi Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Swanson grew up in Warren and became interested in eye care in high school.

"I had my first eye exam when I was in the ninth grade, and I was entranced by it," he said.

"I grew up in a poor, working-class neighborhood where people didn't become doctors. But I kept taking classes, and here I am. I haven't looked back," he said.

Dr. Swanson earned a bachelor's degree in physiology from the University of Michigan and his doctorate of optometry from the University of Houston in 1989.

He completed internships at the U.S. Naval Air Station in Brunswick, Maine, and at the

### Keford Towing honored for service

Tim Herrington, of Keford Towing of Novi, has received the prestigious American Towman ACE Award for achievement in service performance.

Recipients were nominated by the nation's major motor clubs and dispatch centers, including: Allstate Motor Club, Canadian Roadside & Recovery, Coash Net, Cross Country Automotive Services, GE Financial Assurance, GEICO Direct, and Road America.

The nomination guidelines for the ACE Award include: the highest percentage of calls when the estimated time of arrival is achieved; consistency in response time; written appreciation from customers; and percentage of calls serviced instead of turning them away reflecting reliability and overall professionalism. ACE recipients rank in the top 1 percent of the towing industry's service providers.

The ACE Award is presented by American Towing Magazine, the leading trade publication serving emergency road service professionals.

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David Mendelson, M.D.

Eric Borofsky, M.D.

Martin Kornblum, M.D.

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PHI AT DOCTORS AND NURSES IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD



The staff of Swanson Family Eyecare including Sue and Craig Swanson, left, and Barry Potter, right, gather in their office at 39915 Grand River Ave. Optometrist Craig Swanson is celebrating his one-year anniversary operating in Novi this month.

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL MAZINO

U.S. Department of Transportation

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Wouldn't you love a gift that actually changes your life? We're all struggling with emptiness, loneliness, even fear, but God wants more for us. This Christmas join us as we talk about the peace, hope and joy we can know because of the gift God has already given. It's a gift that won't wear, fade or change but it's a good unless you open it!

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Christmas Service: December 21, 9:30 & 11:00 am  
Christmas Eve Service: December 24, 7:00 pm  
Northville High School (6 Mile, west of Sheldon)  
248.91.20043/www.oakpointe.org

**Faith Community Presbyterian Church of Novi**

*A Christmas Invitation*

**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 & Taft Roads  
Novi, MI 48375  
248-349-2345  
www.faithcommunity-novi.org  
e-mail: office@faithcommunity-novi.org

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- Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 6, 8, & 10 pm (Special Cantata Services with 20 piece orchestra & choir at 8 & 10pm)
- Christmas Day 10 am

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School**  
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248-349-3140

Sunday Services

8:30 Regular Weekly Service

9:45 Sunday School & Bible Study

11 am Modern Contemporary Service

11:30 Traditional Worship Service

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Celebrate the Birth of Christ with us on  
**Christmas Eve, December 24th**

5:00pm Family Worship & Children's Choir  
7:00pm Candlelight Service, Carols, Youth Choirs  
9:00pm Candlelight Service, Carols & Bell Choir  
11:00pm Candlelight Service, Carols & Chancel Choir

- WORSHIP-CHURCH SCHOOL 9:30AM & 11:00AM
- NURSERY AT ALL SERVICES • CHILDREN, YOUTH & SINGLES MID-WEEK MINISTRIES



## BUSINESS BRIEFS

## Senate approves tax rollback

Legislation sponsored by Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Now) to reduce Michigan's tax penalty on employer-funded health benefits was overwhelmingly approved by the Michigan Senate last week.

Senate Bill 672 was sponsored by Cassis, and Senate Bill 673 was sponsored by Sen. Tom George (R-Kalamazoo). The legislation will reduce the taxes paid by employers on healthcare benefits under the state's Single Business Tax by 20 percent in 2005 and an additional 20 percent by 2006.

The bills now go before the House for consideration.

"These bills are especially important and long overdue in order to make Michigan's economy more competitive, stem the loss of jobs, and address our crisis in healthcare," Cassis said. "This legislation will allow job providers to retain or hire more workers and maintain healthcare benefits for their employees."

## Novi resident joins Citizens Bank

Citizens Bank recently named Novi resident Michael Michon as senior vice president, commercial business manager.

Tom Shafer, president of Citizens Bank Southeast Michigan region, announced the selection.

Michon is responsible for hiring staff to work with entrepreneurial organizations and enhance branch relationships with Oakland County business clients.

In his previous position at president.

Michon received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Michigan and an MBA from Central Michigan University.

Citizens has nearly \$8 billion in assets and operates more than 220 offices in Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and suburban Chicago.

## Chiropractor attends conference

Nicholas S. Doinidis, D.C., a Novi chiropractor, recently attended a conference on Sports Injuries & Chiropractic. Chiropractors

from throughout the Midwest were at the meeting, which reviewed sports injuries related to the shoulders, back, hip, knee, ankle and foot along with adjustment and correction procedures.

Dr. Doinidis' office is located at 24037 Meadowbrook Road at Ten Mile. He has practiced in Novi since 1979.

## Audette Office observes 35th year

Audette Office Equipment, which serves many businesses in Novi, celebrated 35 years in business this year. The Dearborn-based business joined the Novi Chamber of Commerce in July.

Gina Kozlowski, account manager, Audette Office Equipment, has been a member of the Novi Chamber Board of Directors for five years. She joined Audette in May 1973.

## Chamber introduces talent site

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce recently announced the launch of [www.Michigan-Talent.com](http://www.Michigan-Talent.com), a program to help Michigan-based companies and Michigan-trained talent prosper.

"The state has lost 170,000 jobs in the past three years. This trend has got to be reversed," said Jack Aikman, senior vice president of marketing for the Michigan Chamber.

"The State of Michigan, through its many outstanding colleges and universities, continues to produce extraordinary human talent — talent we cannot afford to lose," he said.

"The Michigan-Talent program will bring together the talent base of alumni and students from Michigan colleges and universities and job opportunities from Michigan companies," Aikman said.

More than 20 of Michigan's leading colleges and universities will participate in the program. The Chamber is providing its member companies the opportunity to post job openings and search through the talent database at [www.talent.com](http://www.talent.com).

Imagine to open Canton location

Imagine Entertainment, Inc., which includes the Imagine Theatre at Fountain Walk shopping center in Novi, will soon open its third luxury theater in Canton.

A groundbreaking ceremony took place at the Canton site yes-

terday on the south side of Ford Road east of Lotz Road about a half mile east of I-275. The theater will be directly east of Home Depot.

## Holiday raffle winners

The top four winners in the Novi Chamber of Commerce Holiday Raffle awarded Tuesday at the Chamber's holiday luncheon were Leonard Williams; Keith Wilson, new chamber president; Fil Superfisky; and Nikki Pearce. Superfisky and Pearce split the raffle prize of a \$5,000 shopping spree at Twelve Oaks Mall.

## Domino's receives five-star rating

The Domino's Pizza in Novi at Ten Mile and Meadowbrook roads recently received a five-star rating, the highest rating attainable from the company, following a corporate inspection.

"Each store has a quarterly inspection during which the company evaluates a store's overall appearance, cleanliness, customer service, driver time, safety and product quality," according to Jim Stevens of Domino's. The most points are awarded for cleanliness and product quality.

"Employees have to make a pizza on the spot for the inspectors," Stevens said.

Steve Grover serves as manager of Domino's Ten Mile and Meadowbrook store. For more information, call Domino's Pizza

at Ten Mile and Meadowbrook at (248) 349-9101.

## Lakes Area Chamber offers display

The Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce has worked with Profile Display in Charlotte, N.C., to provide a display cabinet for its lobby. The display offers a unique way to disseminate information to newcomers and visitors to the area. Profile Display also offers opportunities for members to advertise in the display so that companies can receive additional exposure to the people who visit the Chamber office each year.

## Domino's receives five-star rating

The display is provided free of charge to the Chamber and is paid for by sponsoring advertisers.

Local businesses interested in featuring their products or services in the display can call Rhea at Profile Display in Charlotte, N.C., at (888) 545-9853, Ext. 107, for more information about advertising rates.

Also joining the Chamber are Standard Federal Bank in Novi; Style Eyes Optical in Novi; T-Mobile U.S.A. in Novi; Uniquescreen Media, Inc., in Oakland Township; Y2 Marketing in Novi and Your Marketing Dept., Inc., in Novi.

The proposed 31,640-square-foot, one-story office and research/development building,

S.C. Novi One, will be located on the northeast corner of DeSoto Court and Hudson Drive on a 2.39-acre site in the corporate park.

The Planning Commission approved a preliminary site plan and facade waiver Nov. 6, 2002.

## Chamber welcomes new members

The Novi Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed several new members to the organization.

New members include Arch Wireless in Southfield, Canton Construction Corp. in Canton; Cityscape Architects, Inc., of Novi; Cornerstone Dental Studio, Inc., of Novi; Creative Menories Consultant of Novi; and the Department of Veteran Affairs in Detroit.

Other new members include Fidelity Investments of Novi; Fish Window Cleaning Co., of Southfield; ReMax 100 of Novi; Residence Inn by Marriott in Novi; and Smart Chicks Consignment of Novi.

A member of the Accident Fund team for 18 years, Hogle has worked in virtually every aspect of claims from supervisor to his current position as chief operating officer. A renowned expert on workers compensation issues, he is a frequent lecturer and instructor on the subject. He serves the industry as a member of the board of directors of the Workers Compensation Research Institute, and also serves on several committees of the Alliance of American Insurers.

Governor appoints Hogle Vice President & COO Mark Hogle

Accident Fund's Executive Vice President & COO Mark Hogle

Compiled by Pam Fleming

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

December 24, 2003  
4:00\*, 5:30\*, 7:00 & 11:00 p.m.  
\*childcare through age 4

**New Years Eve Service**  
December 31, 2003  
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11:00 p.m. service in the Sanctuary

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# Christmas Coloring Contest



**Northville Record/Novi News Coloring Contest Rules:**

- Open to all readers up to age 10
- Family Members of HomeTown employees not eligible
- All entries must be received by Noon, December 22nd
- All entries must be completed by entrant
- Judging will be broken down into age groups: 2-3 / 4-5 / 6-8 / 9-10
- Winners in each category will have their drawing, photo and bio printed in the December 25th edition.

**Coloring Contest - Entry Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Age \_\_\_\_\_  
School Attending \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please send or bring entry blank and colored picture to:  
**104 West Main St.  
Northville, MI 48167**

## CLASS NOTES

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

## Fire caught in time at Novi High

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Though school was already out for the day, Novi High was evacuated at 2:08 p.m. last Thursday because of a small fire in the Link Cafeteria area.

According to Principal John Lawrence, the fire started when one of the demolition crews on campus was using a torch to cut a steel beam and a spark from the torch ignited a cardboard separation. The only visible flames were on the ceiling area, but those were quickly extinguished. Nobody was hurt and there was no permanent smoke damage to the building.

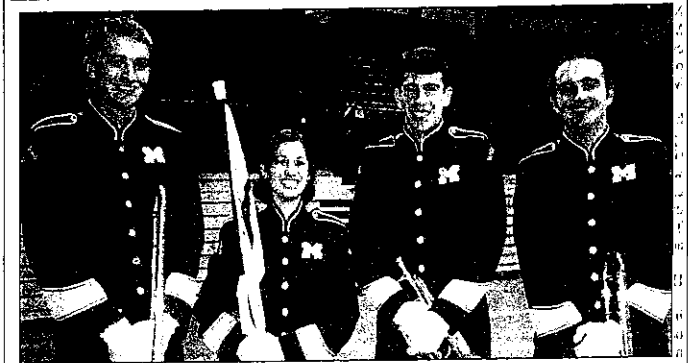
"We mainly had smoke in the building," Lawrence said. "As soon as I walked into the auditorium

lobby a student came and told me that there was smoke coming out of an outlet, so I followed her down there to have her show me."

As soon as Lawrence saw the smoke, he pulled the nearest fire alarm and the building evacuated in about four minutes. There were some kids still left in the building along with some of the faculty staff.

Students were shuttled to the Novi Public Library until the fire department arrived and ascertained what the problem was.

"We didn't know what had happened at first," Lawrence said. "Between Skanska, our construction manager, and the fire department, they were able to ascertain what had happened, and then firefighters put the blaze out by pouring water down into the column."



**Rose Bowl-bound**  
Novi High School Alumni, now with the University of Michigan Band, will be performing in Pasadena, Calif. for the 2004 Rose Bowl. The Wildcat alumni are (l to r) Andrew Laskowski, Asha Radhoman, Ryan Slater and Jeff Gdowski.

## Novi School District gets good news about reductions

## New deal may lessen per pupil foundation grant by \$100

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Though nothing is set in stone yet, it does appear that school districts in Michigan will have an easier time dealing with per pupil foundation grant reductions than originally anticipated.

An executive order to balance the fiscal year budget was presented Dec. 10 by Governor Jennifer Granholm and State

Budget Director Mary Lannoye to a joint session of the House of Representatives and State Appropriations Committees.

Although state cuts are inevitable for the K-12 per pupil foundation grant, it may not be the \$196 amount that was being considered. In fact, that number may be cut by about \$100.

The ball is now in the House of Representatives' court. The Senate has approved the components of the deal and the governor is able to sign it. That is anticipated to happen some time this week, before the legislature goes on Christmas break.

"We feel confident and we're very hopeful that the House will

follow the Senate's lead and pass these initiatives, so we can mitigate the blow to public education," said Greg Bird, director of communications for the State Budget Office.

However, Andy Anuzis, House of Representatives legislative assistant, warns that it would be irresponsible to try to predict where the house is leaning at this point. He said that the house will have to vote this week and put its own program forward — but it could very well be somewhat different from where the governor and Senate have it.

"The House is having meetings pretty much non-stop, and this is one of the top issues that's being worked on," Anuzis said. "The top

priority for the Republican caucus has been to not raise taxes and maintain education funding. That means you have to go to other areas of the budget to cut. There's going to be many discussions and many negotiations in the next week and it's just really hard to predict right now what's going to happen."

The reason for the reductions is because of the state's nearly \$1 billion budget deficit. Of that, the state education fund is running a deficit of about \$350 million.

Granholm struck a deal with Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikken that included passing the income tax rollback (from 4 percent to 3.9 percent), which is scheduled to take place on Jan. 1. That six-month pause would generate approximately \$77 million to the state and the deal would put \$44.5 million of the \$77 million into the school aid fund to help mitigate that proration.

"Unfortunately, there will have to be some spending reductions in

K-12," Bird said. "That just could not be avoided, but the plan that the governor has struck a deal with will certainly soften the blow to public schools. We will have knocked approximately \$100 per pupil off that \$196 figure. That's a good sign."

The state budget office is anticipating an overall deal which, along with other components, will bring the \$196 per pupil reduction down to somewhere between \$80 and \$100.

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](mailto:rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net).

## How Novi schools plan to deal with different scenarios of budget cuts

Jim Kostzer, assistant superintendent of business and finance for Novi Schools, explains what if Gov. Granholm's budget proposal passes, it would be better for Novi Schools because instead of a \$1.2 million cut, it would be a \$600,000 cut.

"We just don't know what the cut is yet," Kostzer said.

The Novi Community School District currently receives \$8,310 per student for its per pupil foundation grant.

If the Michigan House of Representatives doesn't make a decision by this week, about \$200,000, which equals \$196 per student, will be taken out of Novi's next per pupil foundation grant check, which is expected to be in the mail on Monday. \$200,000 would be one tenth of the total of \$1.2 million reduction by the state. If the reduction stays at \$196, it would mean a loss of \$1.2 million for the Novi Community School District and the balance needed from the district's fund equity would be \$959,057.

If the House does make a decision where the \$196 per pupil is cut by \$100, the state reduction for Novi would be \$600,000. \$200,000 would have already been taken out and the rest of the reduction would equal \$400,000, which will be spread out over nine payments. If the per pupil reduction is cut by \$100 from the original \$196 figure, it would mean a loss of \$600,000 for the Novi Community School District. The balance to make up the reductions, roughly \$370,000, would come from the district's fund equity.

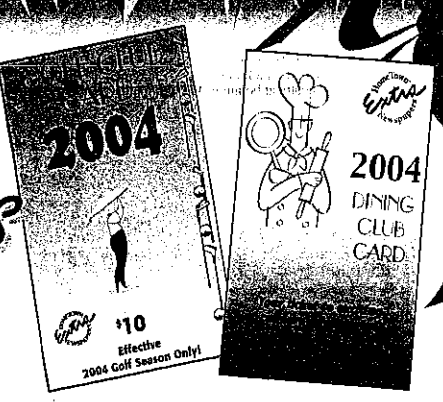
Regardless, the Novi Board of Education has already implemented a reduction of \$229,700 from its budget through eight cuts of its own, which are:

- 1 - Discontinue all district funded conferences which would save \$42,405
- 2 - Discontinue all district funded instructional field trips which would save \$12,497
- 3 - Reduce district-wide capital outlay which would save \$20,000
- 4 - Reduce non-instructional supplies which would save \$50,000
- 5 - Reduce custodial overtime which would save \$30,000
- 6 - Reduce secretarial overtime which would save \$10,000
- 7 - Eliminate imaging project (transferring district records to CD format) which would save \$34,184
- 8 - Do not fill current maintenance position vacancy which would save \$30,614.

"That would get us through the 2003-04 school year and we'll hold our breath for 2004-05," said Kostzer.

Compiled by Ramez Khuri

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(248) 685-1509

**NORTHVILLE OFFICE**  
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# CASINO WINDSOR

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# RESPECT program begins at Meadows

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

The Wild Cat, which can usually be seen prowling the sidelines of Novi High School football games, paid a special visit to Novi Meadows Elementary a few weeks ago to kick off the RESPECT and Character building program at the school. The program is in its second year, and this year's theme is "Keys to Character."

According to Sally Denoyer, a parent volunteer, the program is designed to be an extension of the character education program that was started in the various elementary schools.

"We wanted it to be a little bit different and also at an age appropriate level," Denoyer said. "We don't want to talk down to the kids. We emphasize that respect is a very key thing here at Meadows. Kids are seeing themselves as older, cool kids and we want to make sure they know that respect is still a part of that."

For the program, students throughout the whole school are broken down into teams and each one will have one week to design and present their idea of a character word that they are given. Students will be assembling a poster, a puzzle piece, and this year a new component was added called the "classroom connection," where the kids are going to exchange keys that have character words printed on them. Students will be adding pictures, anecdotes and stories to put their point across. The goal is to make the kids think of how that character word fits into their lives.

"We're trying to make it more meaningful for the kids this year, and we can go back and use this program with them when situations come up," Denoyer said. "We always refer back to the fact that this is a school that values kids and we value respect, so when the kids come in they know that."

Through this program, the Meadows staff found that when the kids break into small groups, they tend to start sharing their experiences better and they start bringing up many words such as honesty and loyalty. That's why this year more of an emphasis was put on those words, and because this program is starting so early in the year, teachers will be able to use the words throughout the rest of the year as they go on.

From now until the end of the year, each week a different classroom will be presenting on a character word. There will be a poster, a puzzle piece, the kids will do announcements and they'll do a skit for the other children at lunch time. They're going to meet in small work groups, design their announcements, design their skits, do their artwork and then present it the following week.

The character word is placed on a hanging poster in each classroom and each class makes key connectors, which are shared with each other classroom. When a class receives a new character word, they will be able to add it to their key chain. That is also a good way to get new vocabulary, such as perseverance, in the classrooms as well.

"Every one has a need to feel that they're respected and not harassed or not treated in an unkind way," Denoyer said. "This program makes the kids think that acting with respect is cool. There is a lot of parent support for this event to be pulled off and the kids know their parents value respect and character. They don't take it casually. There is also a celebrity, who is the Wild Cat from the high school, who believes in respect, so that's cool to the kids as well."

The Wild Cat met the kids at the bus and greeted them in the hallway to start the day on Nov. 5. The Wild Cat then went to each classroom and talked about respect. Kids were told about what the cat was there for and staff was hopeful that there will be some carryover of that respect when kids go to football games.

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@hthome.com.net.

## NOVI MIDDLE SCHOOL SECOND MARKING PERIOD HONOR ROLL

### 7th Grade

Enik Appelbacher  
Grant Alexander  
Michael Aljagha  
Elizabeth Andrews  
Patrick Ansara  
Tawny Aspley  
Rudina Arghal  
Nicole Austin  
Garrett Babichak  
Fernanda Babler  
Matthew Baker  
Megan Barber  
Michelle Barrar  
Rachel Barratt  
Tyler Barnes  
Erika Bator  
Kathryn Beaton  
Ryan Bell  
Sneha Bhattacharyya  
Morgan Bird  
Benjamin Blanchard  
Elizabeth Bosco  
Logan Boyajian  
Bradley Brasel  
Bernard Brockman  
Kali Brown  
Leslie Brown  
Christina Brudzynski  
Chelsey Bufalung  
Dawn Buelow  
Megan Bumpgar  
Andrew Burkhardt  
Megan Burns  
Joshua Burns  
Thomas Butler  
Robert Caldwell  
Jacob Carless  
Austin Carter  
Krislie Carter  
Katherine Caruso  
Ansha Chaudhri  
Margaret Check  
Stephanie Chan  
Dylan Clark  
Samantha Clarkson  
Stephanie Cook  
Lisa Copeland  
Mason Cormie  
Elen Coyne  
Krislen Cremens  
Sally Dalavayi  
Katherine Dale  
Nathaniel Daly  
Zachary Dawks  
Leslie Davies  
Hillary Diacono  
Adam Dieter  
Jonathan Dietrich  
Heather Doroshue  
Ryan Dougherty  
Ashley DuFrene  
Shane Dumbar-Gaynor  
John Dwyer  
Christopher Edwards  
Cody Fackender  
Danielle Falchome  
Justin Faraco  
Paul Favorite  
Darryl Favaz  
Jordan Feight  
Jennifer Felder  
Michelle Fernandes  
Laura Ferriss  
Kelly Flanagan  
Alicia Fleming  
Michael Frestak  
Benjamin Fraser  
Nicholas Gardner  
Thomas Garland  
Anthony Gasparotto  
Jordan Gawn  
Nicholas Genise  
Debolina Ghosh  
Evan Gompas  
Alexia Gomes  
Dana Grabowski  
Rovanna Grangeiro  
Summer Griesinger  
Grace Gartin  
Mark Haddad  
Kristie Haefner  
Kaley Hall  
Mallory Hall  
Jing Jing Han  
Nicholas Hansen  
Gordy Hao  
Hailey Harold

### 8th Grade

Jillian Harold  
Ian Hart  
Evan Hartland  
Ann Hartman  
Corey Haught  
Erin Hawkins  
Andrew Hazen  
Dalton Herbel  
Jeremy Hjalte  
Kimberly Hildreth  
Shachi Hitomi  
Konomi Hiyanaka  
Angela Hong  
Justin Hoomaan  
Kimberly Homacek  
Mary Howell  
Shubeng Huang  
Erika Ikeyama  
Nishat Islam  
Christine James  
Brittany Jeffe  
Jennifer Jett  
Elika Johnston  
Janica Jorgensen  
Sophia Jurcaj  
Srikshmi Kadiyala  
Kristian Kalaj  
Navam Kapur  
Bernie Karobousky  
Masato Kawasaki  
Kevin Kerwan  
Takashi Kikuchi  
Jina Kim  
Ashley Kim  
Goutham Kondapi  
Molly Kortz

### 9th Grade

Bradley Kobylo  
Gregory Kozma  
Masahashi Kusume  
Kelsey Lash  
Brady Laski  
Kristen Laski  
Robert Laski  
Jesse Lee  
Jonathan Lee  
Seung-Min Lee  
Yeeun Lee  
Dane Lefevre  
Shane Lemere  
Michael Leppeck  
Andri Li  
Liana Li  
Allen Lin  
Jesse Linton  
Jeamine Liu  
Jenna Ludwick  
Bradley Lonsway  
Michelle Louie  
Joshua Lovatt  
Danielle Lowy  
Todd Lukasiewicz  
Kaitlyn Lusk  
Lisa McDermott  
Thomas Maciasak  
Subramanian Mahadevan  
Charles Mallo  
Matthew Mandeville  
Nicholas Marcus  
Chelsea Marx  
Benjamin Maynard  
Conselmo McAboy  
Brian McClure  
Shane McCusker

Sean McDonald  
John McKenna  
Alison McKinley  
Hollie McManaman  
Matthew McPherson  
Jacob Meadors  
Amanda Metz  
Nicholas Meyers  
William Mikkeles  
Caroline Miller  
Jenna Miller  
Stephanie Miller  
Anthony Mirasole  
Robert Mitchell  
Sudharshan Mohanram  
Kaley Moore  
Kristen Moran  
Courtney Morelock  
Annalisa Morgan  
Evan Muller  
Brianna Murphy  
Joseph Murphy  
Sean Murphy  
Gautam Mujumdar  
Kathleen Nagler  
Adam Nagle  
Nicholas Nuttle  
Erin O'Connor  
Trevor O'Connor  
Tyler Odum  
Timothy Oh  
Anna Oishi  
Colton Okamoto  
Alexandra Palmer  
Nathan Parkins  
Jill Passanante  
Brandon Pence  
Allison Perin  
Paul Petros  
Allison Pew  
Matthew Phinika  
Andrew Phillips  
Joshua Piche

Marisa Pierson  
Ryan Pollard  
Jacob Porter  
Ryan Potocsky  
Nicole Powell  
Abhijeet Prasad  
Erica Qiao  
Aubrey Quinley  
Duggan Quinn  
Kevin Quinn  
Brent Rau  
Roland Rachtburgaj  
Julia Reed  
Stephany Renwick  
Christopher Reynolds  
Derek Richard  
Ane Rietmiller  
Sarah Robb  
Ellen Robinson  
Sarah Robinson  
Betsy Rodriguez  
Rachel Ross  
Zachary Rothermal  
Carly Houston  
Sukanya Roychowdhury  
Kelsey Sandovic  
Michael Schneider  
Macala Schell  
Victoria Schmidt  
Caitlin Scholt  
Arlin Schorr  
Sarah Schreiffmueller  
Eli Schubring  
Barrett Schwablose  
Elizabeth Scriba  
Jeffrey Sebastian  
Julia Sheeran  
Shahen Shahik  
Spencer Shepherd  
Charles Mallo  
Matthew Mandeville  
Nicholas Marcus  
Chelsea Marx  
Benjamin Maynard  
Conselmo McAboy  
Brian McClure  
Shane McCusker

Amelia Schuchman  
Cynthia Burgess  
Robert Burgess  
Daniel Burns  
Jennifer Byrnes  
Nicholas Calderone  
Alyssa Carosio  
Christian Carter  
Matthew Cash  
Kaitlin Charles  
Balachandran Chandrasekaran  
Amy Chang  
Amanda Chili  
Sooyoung Chung  
Brittany Cigna  
Alexa Cirka  
Jonathan Clarkson  
Devan Clements  
Matthew Cramer  
Stephanie Cios  
Shannon Cody  
Kara Collins  
Almes Cooper  
Ananda Costello  
Abigail Cracraft  
Collin Crandall  
Jordan Crandall  
Ashley Crawford  
Julie Cripps  
Julie Crist  
Aaron Cross  
Paula D'Amico  
Stephanie D'Oruz  
Yalda Dastmalchi  
Scott Davis  
Steve DeBono  
Joseph DeNovo  
Casey Denoyer  
Elizabeth Diaz  
Andrea Dieterle  
Paola Diez  
Alexandra Diner  
Thomas Dicks  
Alessandro Donini  
Kathryn Doss  
Benjamin Dralik  
Christy Duan  
Kristine Engla  
Daniel Englight  
Matthew Emerson  
Dana Esser  
Abanes Evans  
Abanes Farhad  
Matthew Fegert  
Arthur Ferris  
John Fitzpatrick  
Morgan Flaherty  
Alyssa Fraser  
Janie Fratio  
Paul Fritschen  
Kaitlin Gaffney  
Madelyn Gardner  
Melissa Gasinek  
Jacquelyn Gendoff  
Michael George  
Allison Good  
Ryan Goodman  
Robert Gordon  
Ashima Goyal  
Jonathan Greipre  
Nicole Grimes  
Elizabeth Gutowski  
Eric Guttman  
Rachelle Hadley  
Andrew Haggerty  
Martha Hagan  
Kristen Hansen  
Amara Harden  
Kosuke Harfoti  
Kendra Hay  
Mark Heard

## NOVI MIDDLE SCHOOL SECOND MARKING PERIOD HONOR ROLL

### 10th Grade

Miranda Smith  
Amaya Sohani  
Stephan Sorenson  
Taylor Spears  
Courtney Siaschke  
Nicholas Switzer  
Michael Szuma  
Navya Talluri  
Kyle Tecklenburg  
Erica Tevers  
Lindsay Thomsson  
Matthew Thompson  
Samantha Thompson  
Kyle Tice  
Kody Tinton  
Lauri Tolls  
Anna Troiano  
Takuya Uehara  
Kelsey Volante  
Maitlan Van Horwick  
Adam Vavie  
Megan VanDusen  
Matthew VanZooest  
Vimithra Venkappa  
Taylor Vento  
Abigail Vercetti  
Zef Vujovic  
Jordan Walker  
Jennifer Watson  
Claire Weber  
Kaitlin Wells  
Megan Wendt  
Alexander White  
Kyle Williams  
Christopher Willing  
Stephanie Wilson  
Sarah Wisniewski  
Brent Womack  
Saori Yamada  
Marie Yasutake  
Laura Yee  
Lynne Yonemura  
Carolyn Youngs  
Deeicka Yuvraj  
Hiroaki Yuyama  
Eric Zang  
Michelle Zarkich  
Dexter Zhuang  
Christine Zagaro

Amelia Schuchman  
Cynthia Burgess  
Robert Burgess  
Daniel Burns  
Jennifer Byrnes  
Nicholas Calderone  
Alyssa Carosio  
Christian Carter  
Matthew Cash  
Kaitlin Charles  
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Amy Chang  
Amanda Chili  
Sooyoung Chung  
Brittany Cigna  
Alexa Cirka  
Jonathan Clarkson  
Devan Clements  
Matthew Cramer  
Stephanie Cios  
Shannon Cody  
Kara Collins  
Almes Cooper  
Ananda Costello  
Abigail Cracraft  
Collin Crandall  
Jordan Crandall  
Ashley Crawford  
Julie Cripps  
Julie Crist  
Aaron Cross  
Paula D'Amico  
Stephanie D'Oruz  
Yalda Dastmalchi  
Scott Davis  
Steve DeBono  
Joseph DeNovo  
Casey Denoyer  
Elizabeth Diaz  
Andrea Dieterle  
Paola Diez  
Alexandra Diner  
Thomas Dicks  
Alessandro Donini  
Kathryn Doss  
Benjamin Dralik  
Christy Duan  
Kristine Engla  
Daniel Englight  
Matthew Emerson  
Dana Esser  
Abanes Evans  
Abanes Farhad  
Matthew Fegert  
Arthur Ferris  
John Fitzpatrick  
Morgan Flaherty  
Alyssa Fraser  
Janie Fratio  
Paul Fritschen  
Kaitlin Gaffney  
Madelyn Gardner  
Melissa Gasinek  
Jacquelyn Gendoff  
Michael George  
Allison Good  
Ryan Goodman  
Robert Gordon  
Ashima Goyal  
Jonathan Greipre  
Nicole Grimes  
Elizabeth Gutowski  
Eric Guttman  
Rachelle Hadley  
Andrew Haggerty  
Martha Hagan  
Kristen Hansen  
Amara Harden  
Kosuke Harfoti  
Kendra Hay  
Mark Heard

Nina Abboud  
Majeed Abdul-Wahab  
Alberto Albaneli  
Alexander Auletto  
Kevin Auletto  
Ashley Babichak  
Christina Baidger  
Michael Baker  
Vidhi Barman  
Nicole Bang  
Michael Barbour  
Lia Barouca  
Sarah Barone  
Craig Bateman  
Eric Baumgarten  
Ryan Belanger  
Allyson Beninger  
Mark Bernier  
Brittany Bell  
Matthew Blahunka  
James Borwick  
Kristina Bray  
Saraanna Bourme  
Shannon Boyle  
Kelly Bradford  
Kelsey Brademihl  
Kristina Bray  
Alyssa Breughl  
Alexander Bray  
Adam Britten

### 11th Grade

Chelsie Reynolds  
Ryan Reissner  
George Riegel  
Matthew Rigdon  
Eric Rogg  
Chelsea Rozak  
Veronica Salas  
Jessica Salley  
Emily Samuelson  
Aditya Sathi  
Matthew Schaffer  
Patrick Schlenke  
Melissa Schmidt  
Katharine Schmitt  
Tyler Scott  
Jeanine Seidt  
Elaina Sekutowski  
Joey Shada  
Erica Shewell  
Ashlyn Shawver  
Joseph Sheeran  
Sara Sheeran  
Lauren Shekar  
Christopher Shen  
Sarah Sherman  
Rusmah Sivananth  
Marybeth Shively  
Vivika Singh  
Brittany Smith  
Jennifer Smith  
Logan Sojthava  
Eren Sparrow  
Daniel Spisak  
Camille Press  
Joseph Pritchard  
Nicholas Protop  
Adam Pyle  
Alexandra Rabban  
Smita Reddy  
Jordan Reilly  
Paolina Reizhan  
Michael Bendewicz

Andrew Tehranisa  
Kevin Thomas  
Ryan Thomas  
Ryan Timar  
Gabrielle Torossian  
Stephanie Toth  
Kelsuke Toyama  
Andrew Traylor  
Brandon Tuckey  
Kelly Turk  
Emily Turner  
Maiali Vadapalli  
Matthew Varady  
Navya Varshney  
Brooke Vermilion  
Catherine Vernon  
Sandon Voelker  
Nicola Vulovic  
Colleen Wagner  
Katy Wagner  
Sarah Walker  
Suzanne Wall  
Kalin Walton  
Jackie Wang  
Rachel Waranowicz  
Kevin Walsh  
Christina Wilde  
Alexander Wilfer  
Kaitlin Willett  
Rachel Winagar  
Graeme Wood  
Caitlin Woods  
Tanling Xiao  
Karin Yamaguchi  
Emily Yanke  
Sarah YegorahLayeh  
Kenya Yonemura  
Clara Yoon  
Megan Young  
Christopher Youngs  
Robert Yuskio  
Christopher Zampas  
Rachel Zbranchik  
Char Zhang Ziang  
Valerie Ziegler  
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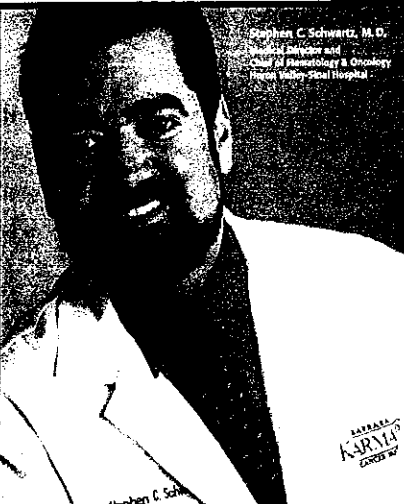
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Courtesy photo

Members of a Christmas gathering club met for the 50th year Saturday in Novi. Pictured after a mass group attended at St. James Catholic Church in Novi are, left to right, Walt Palivoda of Novi, this year's host; Bill Mural of Parma, Ohio; Elsie Hugel of Cleveland, Ohio; Helen Mural of Parma; Tary Labyk of Brecksville, Ohio; Father George of St. James Catholic Church in Novi; Dorothy Labyk of Brecksville; Helen and Walter Shipka of Port Charlotte, Fla.; Eve and Andy Boyko of Parma.

## Christmas gatherers celebrate 50th year

Novi resident hosts group's anniversary

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

It's important to keep traditions going. And a Novi resident is part of one that's been carried on for a half century this year.

Fifty years ago in Cleveland, Ohio, Andy and Eve Boyko invited several couples for a pre-Christmas "get-together" where they enjoyed hot dogs, dessert and coffee.

Every year since 1953, the group has been gathering at Christmas for the annual event, taking turns at each other's houses alphabetically.

This year, Walt Palivoda, a former resident of Cleveland and resident of Novi since 1963, hosted the group's 50th anniversary.

The Cleveland visitors met Saturday at Palivoda's house after attending mass at St. James Catholic Church in Novi, where they received a special blessing from Father George. The group then had dinner at McKinnon's in downtown Northville and met for dessert at Palivoda's.

"At first, we had hot dogs. After that, we started going to each other's homes, and the wives did the cooking. That went on for a few years. When everybody started getting more successful in their careers, and we had more money, we started going to restaurants. That went on for about the last 10 years," Palivoda recalled.

"Their lives have changed since 1953 and four members from the 14 in the original group have died. One of those four is Palivoda's wife, Jo, who just passed away in May."

Palivoda said that was the main reason he wanted to have the dinner at McKinnon's, a well-known restaurant in downtown Northville.

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

## OBITUARY

### Joseph R. "Joe" Knoph

Joseph Knoph died Friday, Dec. 12, 2003. He was 54. Survivors include his mother, Genevieve of Novi; six siblings, Judi, John, Greg (Sharon), Jerry (Marcie), Mark (Jeanette) and Mary

Kay; 13 nieces and nephews; and 12 great-nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Edwin. A funeral service was held Dec. 16 at Our Lady of Loretto, Reford. Memorials may be made to the

American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 2680, North Canton, Ohio, 44720. Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi. Sympathy messages at www.obrienfuneralhome.com.

## SENIOR CALENDAR

### Thursday 12/18

9 a.m.-noon ..... Massage Therapy  
9:30 a.m. .... Line Dance  
9:30 a.m. .... Travel Meeting  
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. .... Sundry Shop Open  
noon ..... Lunch  
12:30 p.m. .... Rehearsal-Christmas Show  
12:15 p.m. .... "Bridge"  
1 p.m. .... Bridge\*  
Adv. Line Dance will be held in the Activities Room

### Friday 12/19

9 a.m. .... Stretch & Strength-held at the Novi Civic Center  
10 a.m. .... Body Recall Canceled  
10 a.m. .... Crafts with Loretta cancelled  
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. .... Sundry Shop Open  
noon ..... Holiday Luncheon  
noon ..... Clipping\*  
12:30 p.m. .... Dupl. Bridge\*  
No Bingo

### Monday 12/22

9 a.m. .... Stretch & Strength  
9 a.m. .... Body Recall  
10 a.m. .... Sundry Shop Open  
11:30 am.-2 p.m. .... Lunch  
12:30 p.m. .... Pinocle\*  
1 p.m.-3 p.m. .... Healing Touch

### Tuesday 12/23

9 a.m.-12 p.m. .... Massage Therapy  
9 a.m. .... Patners bread  
9 a.m.-11 a.m. .... Computer Class-Windows  
9:30 a.m. .... Line Dance\*  
NO Asian Pacific  
12:30 p.m. .... Lunch  
12:30 p.m. .... Bingo  
1 p.m.-3 p.m. .... Computer Class-Internet

### Wednesday 12/24

Senior Center Management Office Lunch Service  
Transportation Closed for Christmas Eve

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

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## SCREEN BEAT

By Brian Renner

### Opening in theaters this weekend

J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy trilogy comes to its conclusion with "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King". Frodo and Sam continue their trek towards Mount Doom while the rest of the Fellowship tries to rally together an alliance to make their last stand against Saruman's invading forces from Mordor. "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" is a New Line Cinema release and rated PG-13 by the MPAA for intense epic battle sequences and frightening images.

For sexual content and thematic issues. Based upon a true story, "Calendar Girls" follows 11 middle-aged women, ages 45 to 60, from the small village of Rylstone in Yorkshire, England who posed naked for the annual calendar of the local branch of the Women's Institute to raise money for medical research. After the husband of one of the members, Angela Baker (Julie Walters) becomes terminally ill from leukemia, "Calendar Girls" is a Touchstone Pictures release and rated PG-13 by the MPAA for mild thematic elements, and some language.

Fantasy-adventure "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen", loosely based on the Alan Moore graphic novel epic of the same name, is the story of a group of characters drawn from famous works of literature, including Captain Nemo, Allan Quatermain, The Invisible Man, Mina Murray and Dr. Jekyll. These characters must band together to investigate the threat posed by a madman who intends on starting a world war near the turn of the 19th century. "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen" is a 20th Century Fox release and rated PG-13 by the MPAA for intense sequences of fantasy violence, language and innuendo.

### In theaters next week

Comedy remake "Cheaper by the Dozen" (PG), Civil War romantic drama "Cold Mountain" (R), science fiction thriller "Psychlock" (PG-13), and family-adventure "Peter Pan" (PG).

### On video and DVD shelves this week

Remake of the 1977 Disney classic "Freaky Friday" which follows a tomboy teenage girl, Annabel (Lindsay Lohan), and her widowed mother, Ellen

(Jamie Lee Curtis). The two who are always arguing with each other, simultaneously wishing they could be someone else, somehow magically exchange bodies, and they both learn what it's like to be in the other person's situation. As nice as that might be, the duo faces a deadline, as the mother is due to get married soon, and doesn't want to miss the big event. "Freaky Friday" is a Walt Disney Pictures release and rated PG by the MPAA for mild thematic elements, and some language.

## Pianist gigging at 13

By Stephanie Rutherford  
STAFF WRITER

Amidst the chatter of customers and the snip of the scissors at South Lyon's Scappare Salon, the tinkling of piano keys drifts through the shop. People stop to listen.

The music is coming from 13-year-old Michael Baker, who plays for the Saturday crowd at Scappare. Though young, Michael makes an impressive musician as he plays from a diverse repertoire on the salon's 136-year-old grand piano.



Photo by Hal Gould

Novi Middle School student Michael Baker, 13, tickles the ivories for customers at Scappare, beauty salon in South Lyon.

"I had to get my hair cut anyway," Baker said. "So I thought I could try out the piano when I was there."

Scappare owner Chris Cortis let Michael play and was amazed he could play so well.

"This kid called and asked if he could play on the piano, and I thought he was just going to mess around and hit some keys, but he was amazing," Cortis said. "He started playing a classical piece without sheet music and he just blew everyone's mind."

Cortis hired Baker to play for his customers on the spot. Baker comes every other Saturday and performs a wide range of songs - from classical, to holiday carols to the modern rock.

"I like to play a lot of different music," said Baker, who counts music by Billy Joel and Elton John as well as jazz as some of his favorites. "Music always came easier to me than most things."

Baker credits his parents, Hank and Veronica, for making him stick with the piano.

"My mom kept me in piano when I was younger even when I wanted to quit," he said. "At 6 you want to go play in the sandbox, not practice piano. Now I am so grateful that she kept me in."

Baker practices piano an hour a day, every day and taught himself harmonica, saxophone, guitar and bass and composes pieces on the piano. One of Baker's crowd favorites is his performance of Billy Joel's "Piano Man," in which he plays both harmonica and piano simultaneously.

Baker loves his gig at Scappare and said he is available to play piano for any occasion. He hopes to have a career in music.

"I've gotten a lot of good reactions at Scappare. I definitely want to keep going with music. It's a huge passion of mine," Baker said. "But studying law would be really interesting, too. I guess I could do both."

Stephanie Rutherford is a reporter for the South Lyon Herald. Reach her at (248) 437-2011 or e-mail srutherford@htdhome.com.net.

For more information, please log on to The Movie Insider at [www.themovieinsider.com](http://www.themovieinsider.com). Please direct any questions, comments, and/or feedback to [brian@themovieinsider.com](mailto:brian@themovieinsider.com).

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Toy and Hobby Expo**  
DATE: Dec. 28-29  
TIME: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday  
LOCATION: Novi Expo Center, 1-96 at Novi Rd.  
DETAILS: Featuring model railroad displays, vendors and collectors selling vintage toys, trains, dolls and hobby items. Admission \$7, kids under 12 admitted free with an adult; parking is \$5.  
PHONE: (734) 455-2110.

**LOCATION:** Oakland Schools Technical Campus SW, 1000 Beck Rd., Wixom  
DETAILS: Installation of new Officers. The speaker will be from the Oakland County Businesses For Better Road addressing road congestion in Oakland County.  
PHONE: (248) 624-2826

**ON-GOING**

**Providence Park-Novl, "Lasting Impressions"**  
DATE: Saturday, Jan. 10  
TIME: 2 p.m.-5 p.m.  
DETAILS: This service is available until January 31.  
LOCATION: Charter House of Novi, 24500 Meadowbrook Road, Novi, MI 48375  
PHONE: (248) 465-4490

**Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Morning Connection**  
DATE: Wednesday, Jan. 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 breakfast will be waiting for you. Come prepared to mix and mingle, reservations necessary.  
PHONE: (248) 624-2826

**Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Membership Luncheon**  
DATE: Tuesday, Jan. 20  
TIME: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Providence Center for the Healing Arts "Thesdays at Assarlan"**  
DATE: every Tuesday night  
TIME: 5 p.m.-8 p.m.  
LOCATION: Assarlan Center, 47601 Grand River, Novi.

**Oakland County Health Division Child Health Clinics**  
DETAILS: Free wellness check-ups, immunizations, physical exams, guidance/referrals on behavioral, learning, and health problems.  
PHONE: Oakland County Health Division, Mary White, Program Coordinator, Child Health Clinics, (248) 858-1380.

**Providence Center for the Healing Arts "Thesdays at Assarlan"**  
DATE: every Tuesday night  
TIME: 5 p.m.-8 p.m.  
LOCATION: Assarlan Center, 47601 Grand River, Novi.

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

**Women's Prayer Support**  
DATE: every Saturday  
TIME: 9-10:30 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 by e-mail at harvest-fellowship@comcast.net

**Brightmoor Christian Church**  
40800 13 Mile Rd. 668-7000  
Christmas Eve 7 p.m.  
Christmas Day no service

**Church of the Holy Cross Episcopal**  
46200 Ten Mile Rd. 349-1175  
Christmas Eve 7 p.m., 11 p.m.  
Christmas Day no service

**Church of the Holy Family**  
24505 Meadowbrook Rd. 349-8847  
Christmas Eve 4 p.m., 6 p.m., midnight  
Christmas Day 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m.

**Faith Community United**  
Presbyterian Church  
44400 W. Ten Mile Rd. 349-2345  
Christmas Eve 5 p.m., 8 p.m., 11 p.m.  
Christmas Day no service

**First Baptist Church of Novi**  
45301 Eleven Mile Rd. 349-8847  
Christmas Eve 7 p.m.  
Christmas Day no service

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
41415 W. Nine Mile Rd. 349-0555  
Christmas Eve 7 p.m.  
Christmas Day 10 a.m.

**Meadowbrook Congregational Church**  
21355 Meadowbrook Rd. 348-7757  
Christmas Eve 6 p.m., 9 p.m.  
Christmas Day no service

**Novi United Methodist Church**  
41571 W. Ten Mile Rd. 349-2652  
Christmas Eve 7 p.m., 11 p.m.  
Christmas Day no service

**Orchard Hills Baptist Church**  
23455 Novi Rd. 349-5555  
Christmas Eve 6 p.m.  
Christmas Day no service

**St. James Catholic Church**  
46325 Ten Mile Rd. 347-7778  
Christmas Eve 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 9 p.m.  
Christmas Day 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

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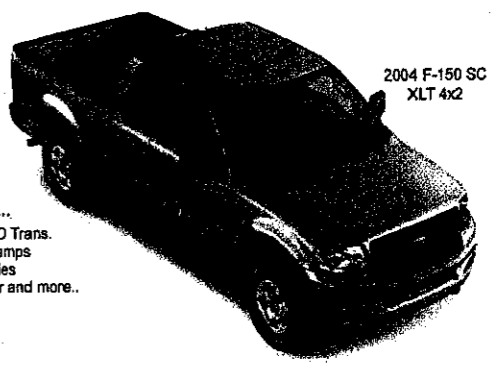
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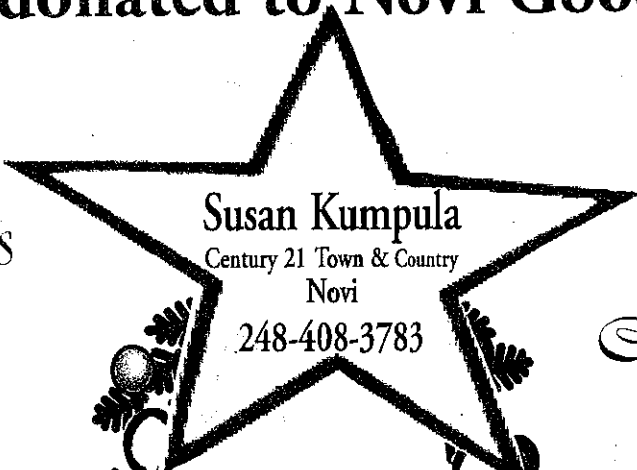
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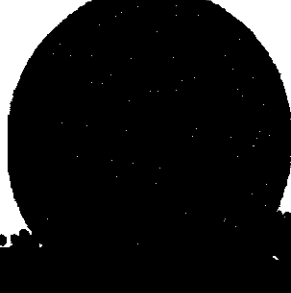
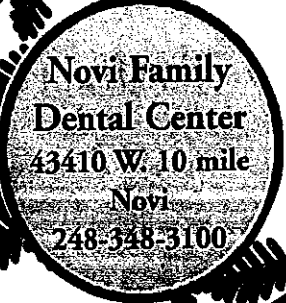
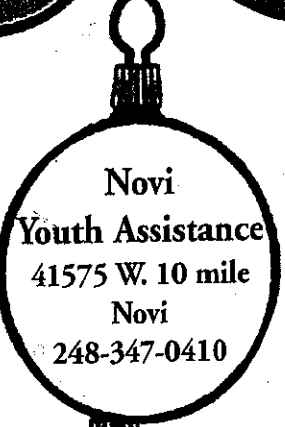
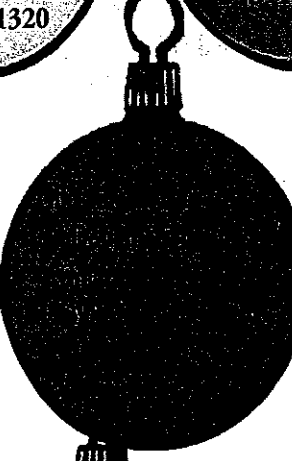
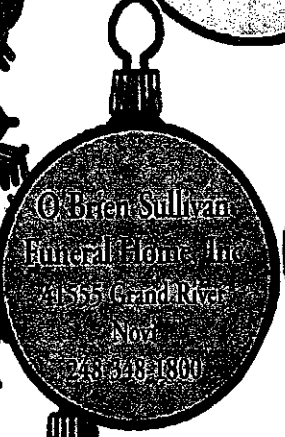
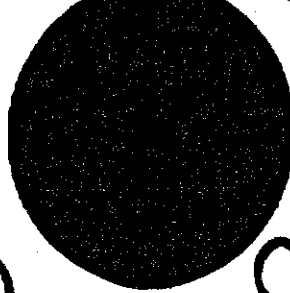
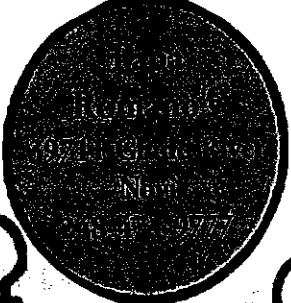
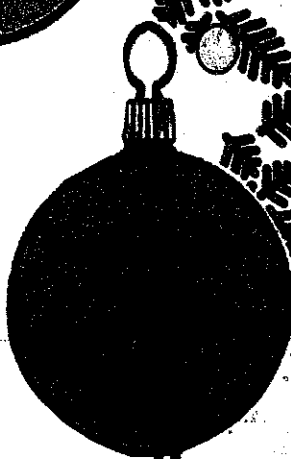
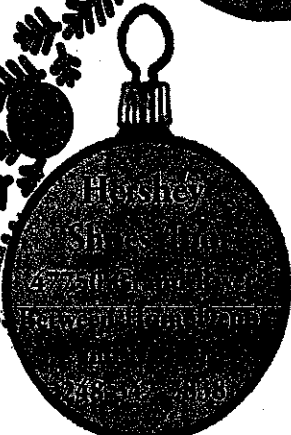
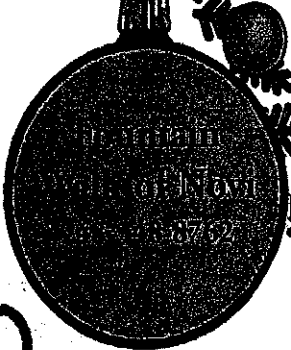
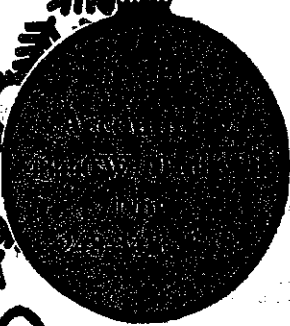
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## Dominating Defense

## Hockey match-up is classic

This can only be described as one heck of a rematch.

The Northville Mustangs hockey team skated away with a tight victory over the Novi Wildcats in the opening tournament of the year and have gone on to win every game since that date to spark a season that looks to be one of the best they've had in a long time.



Sam Eggleston

The Novi Wildcats, on the other hand, have won only one game this year, making this one of the roughest starts in the team's history. The thing about those losses though is none of them are really blowouts. One goal here and a goal there would have made them victories in a heartbeat - Novi is definitely better than their record indicates.

Whenever these two teams skate against each other, it's a classic match-up and one that any hockey fan should be eager to see. Strong goaltending on either side will make this a close game, and an impressive display of offensive skill will make it an exciting night for everyone on the ice as well as in the stands.

The nice thing about both of these teams sharing the Novi Ice Arena as their home rink is the fact that it should mean a packed house with plenty of cheering fans. Even when the Mustangs were down over the past couple years, the stands still managed to overflow with students, parents and fans when these two teams squared off.

Novi comes into this game trying to jumpstart their season. After suffering a loss to Northville in the second game of the year, the Wildcats have slid into a slump unlike any they have encountered before. They're a capable squad, and they know it - it's just getting all of the pieces of the puzzle to come together and getting that win that seems to be eluding them at this point.

The Mustangs come into this contest knowing full well that a win over the Wildcats is going to push their season into overdrive. They've taken on the top teams in their conference already and have fought through some pretty tough games to come away with some impressive wins. It also helps that they have the ability to notch some quick scores, as well as a defense and a goalie that have been rock solid all season.

No matter how this game works out, you can expect it to be a hockey contest that makes the glass shake and the pucks fly. Both teams are coming out to get the win over the other, and whoever gets the bragging rights will hold on to them until the playoffs when, hopefully, these two squads will square off again in the Regional tournament.

Like I've said a hundred times, I'm going to avoid calling a score on this one. I have too much respect for either team to try to decide which one is the better. I will say on paper, the Mustangs have things going in their direction - but never underestimate a cornered "Cat."

### After shaky start, Wildcat boys fend off Plymouth Canton, 46-33

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Yikes! Falling down by 10 points before you can even score a bucket is not the start any team would want, especially against a squad like Plymouth Canton.

The Novi Wildcats boys basketball team was down in the opening minutes of the first quarter, but managed to fight back and beat their foes from the Western Lakes Activities Association, 46-33.

The key to the victory was defense. The Wildcats closed down the avenues to the basket and held the high-powered Chiefs to just three points in the second quarter after their offense went on a 19-0 run for a 22-13 lead at the half.

"Our defense was awesome," Schluter said. "We held them to 33 points, when they scored 62 in their previous game."

And with the Chiefs' defense focusing their attention on senior shooter Brad Simpson, thanks to an 18-point night against Walled Lake Western, it took some other players to spark the Wildcat run.

"Our bench really came through for us," Schluter said. "Trevor Hoover, Joey Fratto, Ryan Corte and J.W. Woods really sparked us."

Schluter noted the bench will probably play a much larger role this year.

Hoover led the Wildcats with 11 points, while Brad Simpson scored nine and Anthony Harden added eight in the winning effort. Matt Payne was Canton's leading scorer with eight points, including two three-pointers.

Schluter said he wouldn't mind if his guys didn't come out that flat anymore.

"Everyone, including myself, thought we were going to get killed at the start of that game," he said. "But we started to play hungrier and started playing a more tenacious defense. We were working hard, and our defense was just awesome."

Defense is something Schluter always preaches to his teams - and he never wants to see his opponents' score climb over 45.

"That's our goal," he said. "Canton is a high-scoring



Photo by John Heider

Novi's Joey Fratto tries to get down the lane against Walled Lake Western during a home game last week.

team, and to hold them to 33 points is pretty impressive."

Novi will be back in action today when they visit the Walled Lake Central Vikings, another Western Lakes Activities Association school.

"They've got some good teams in that league," Schluter said. "They really test us at times and let us know where we need to improve and what we need to work on."

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.

### Hoover, Harden showcase verticles with dunks

In the decade that Pat Schluter has been at Novi High School, he's never seen a Wildcat dunk the basketball - guess there's a first time for everything.

Schluter, as well as the multitude of fans in attendance at Novi's opening basketball game, were wowed when not only one dunk occurred, but two. The first came off a dish from newcomer Anthony Harden to Trevor Hoover, who shook the Novi Middle School gym with the slam. The second was just the

opposite, as Hoover floated a high pass to Harden, who poured in 18 points on the night.

Beyond the spectacle, the Wildcats as a whole had the fans cheering - especially since they went on to win 52-34 in their opening contest.

"Our offense didn't do too good in that game," Schluter noted. "But defensively, we played a great game. We held them to 34 points, and that's key against a team like Western."

The Wildcats also benefited from Brad Simpson, who poured in 18 points on the night.

Though the score indicates a blow-out of a contest, the Wildcats found themselves up 13-4 in the first quarter but only up by eight by the half and by the end of the third. With about five minutes to go, the Wildcats were sparked into a scoring frenzy thanks to the two dunks courtesy of Hoover and Harden.

By Sam Eggleston

## Bulldogs too much for Wildcat hockey

### Squad takes loss without shooter Jordan Collins and goalie Danny Morrison

By Sam Eggleston  
and John Mueller  
SPORTS WRITERS

In a year that has found the Novi Wildcats hockey team struggling to find a path to victory, it was no surprise they ran right into a dead-end when they visited the Brighton Bulldogs.

Novi, which has won just a single game this year, fell to the top team in the Kensington Valley Conference, 4-1.

The victory dropped Novi to 1-5 on the year and 1-2 in the conference, while the Bulldogs climbed to 5-1 and 3-0 in the KVC.

The Bulldogs were the first to get on the board against the Novi skaters, scoring just over a minute into the second period following a scoreless first stanza. Senior forward Davey Mika took an assist from Eric Swiatek and Jeff Wiley and notched the goal for a 1-0 lead.

Midway through the same period, the Wildcats finally got on the board themselves, scoring on a Chaz Bulbuk shot to knot the game, but a powerplay goal from Brighton's Wiley at 1:05 made it 2-1 in the Bulldogs' favor

heading into the third period of play.

Though the Wildcats couldn't get on the board in the final period, the Bulldogs notched two more. Mike Hautimaki scored at the 11:53 mark with Nathan Schenemann and Todd Pietila earning assists. Zachary Hitch added the

final nail to the Novi coffin with a little help from Mike McCoy and Addison Doyle.

Novi was still without the presence of Jordan Collins, who is suffering from an injury, and was without starting goalie

Dan Morrison, who was recently diagnosed with mono.

Novi coach Dan Phelps told the Livingston County Press and Argus that being without those players shouldn't have been enough to hold the Wildcats back.

"We had the tools tonight," he said. "Our players showed up to play, and I was very proud of their effort. The effort was 100 percent."

The Bulldogs were aware of the vacancies in the Novi lineup, but senior defenseman Jack Darr said his team didn't walk into the Kensington Valley Ice House expecting an easy ride.

"We'd been expecting a real good game, and I believe it was," he told the Press and Argus. "It helped us that they were missing some players, but they still played well."

Novi is back in action when they take on the Northville Mustangs tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. at the Novi Ice Arena. Northville, which is 6-2 on the year, beat the Wildcats earlier this season.

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.

### Brad Simpson Senior Basketball



Simpson showed he isn't all about soccer in the first two games of the basketball season. After an outstanding 18-point night in the opening game of the season against Walled Lake Western, Simpson went out and still managed to notch eight against Canton even though the Chief's coach made it very clear his squad's defense was focused on the shooter. No doubt, he'll have more than one game where he'll prove the best shooter on the floor.



## Athletes OF THE Week

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

### Jacquie Peruski Junior Cheerleading



It's basically the equivalent of a football coach grabbing a player and telling them to learn the entire playbook in one night, and Peruski did it without flinching. The junior, who is a captain for the Novi cheerleading squad's third round of competition, was asked to fill in for another cheerleader in a round she wasn't familiar with. Peruski learned the routine, perfected it and performed it in 24 hours - and she did it well. Not many athletes, in any sport, could have pulled that off.

### GAME OF THE WEEK

Novi  
Wildcats  
Hockey  
vs  
Northville

Friday, December 19  
6:30 pm  
at Novi Ice Arena

**SPORTS SHORTS**

**AAU Wolfpack tryouts**  
 2004 Western Wayne Wolfpack (Northville) AAU Girls' Basketball tryouts will be held Tuesday, Jan. 6 and Thursday, Jan. 8 for 14's, 15's and 16's from 7:00-9 p.m. at Northville High School; Sunday, Jan. 11 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Hillside Middle School (Northville Recreation Gym) and Monday, Jan. 12 from 7:30-9 p.m. at Northville High School for 12's and 13's; and Tuesday, Jan. 13 and Friday, Jan. 16 from 4:00-6 p.m. at Hillside Middle School (Northville Recreation Gym) for 11's.  
 For more information, contact Jeanne Hoffnes at (248) 347-6425.

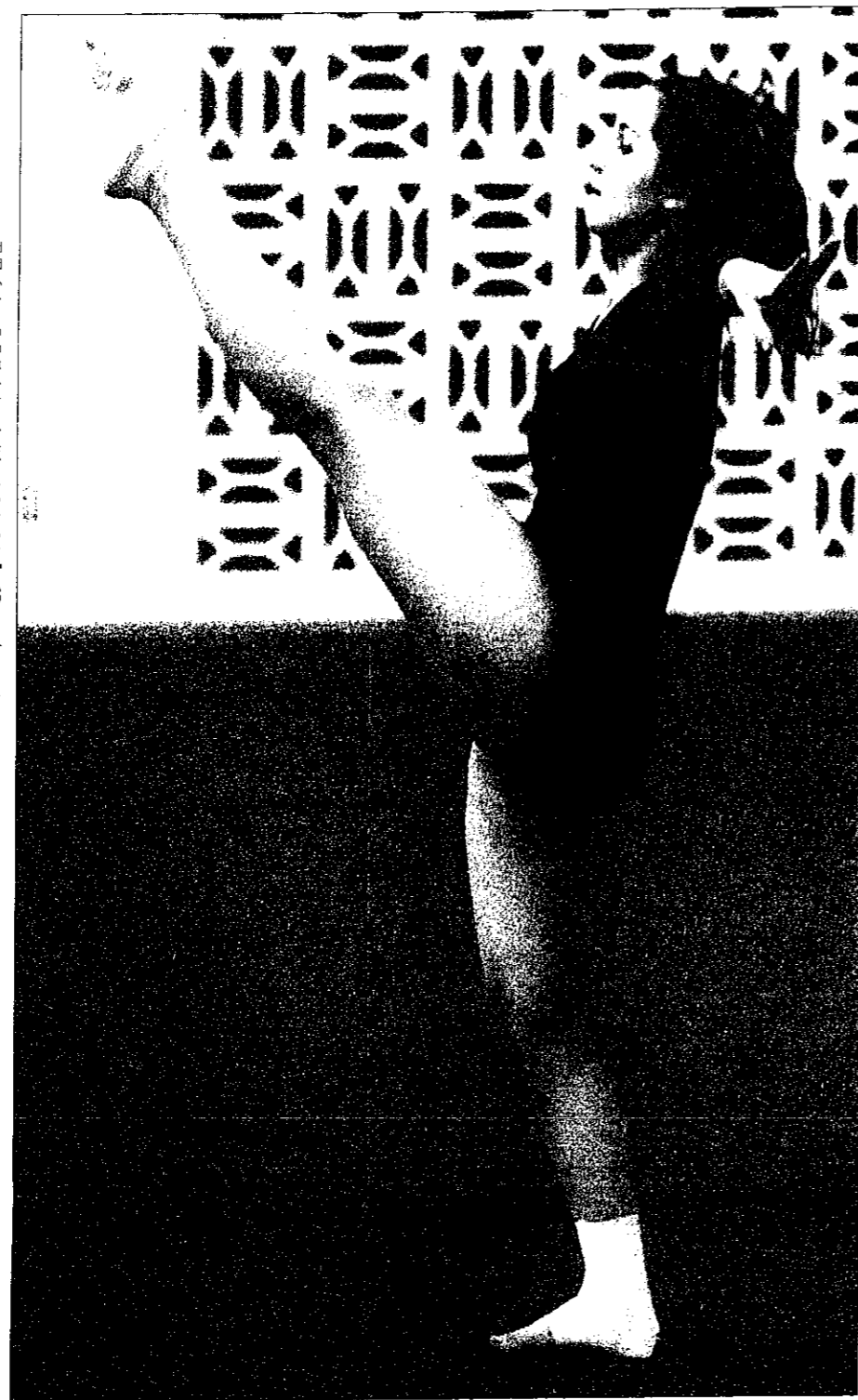
**Hockey clinics to be held**  
 Suburban Hockey will hold two-day Power Skating and Puck Handling clinics for mites (ages 6-8), Power Skating & Stick Skills clinics for squirts (ages 9-10) and Checking and Scoring clinics for pee wee/shanigans (ages 11-14) at the end of December at various locations. On December 22-23, Novi Ice Arena, the Jays - Rochester Ice Arena, Kensington Valley Ice House in Brighton and St. Clair Shores Civic Arena will hold Christmas Clinics, followed by Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills, the Ice Box Sports Center in Brownstown, Redford Arena and Ann Arbor Ice Cube on December 29-30. There will also be a holiday goaltending clinic for ages 8 & up on December 22-23 at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills.  
 The Mite Power Skating and Puck Handling Clinic will focus on individual skill development with an emphasis on balance and edge control, as well as stickhandling and puck control.  
 The Squirt Power Skating and Stick Skills Clinic will develop each player's skating skills with a focus on control, power, acceleration and speed, while enhancing individual puck skills by working on stickhandling, passing and shooting.  
 The Pee Wee-Shanigan Checking and Scoring Clinic is designed to enhance the offensive and defensive skills for players, with comprehensive instruction in areas such as driving to the net, rebounding, one-time shooting, body checking technique, angling, stick checking.  
 These clinics fill fast, so don't delay. For more information on classes and schedules, call Suburban Hockey at (248) 478-1660 or visit [www.suburbanhockey.com](http://www.suburbanhockey.com) today.

**Intersquad meet offers lots of insight**

**Gymnastics team sees their depth, as well as areas for improving**

By Sam Eggleston  
 SPORTS WRITER

Though it was an intersquad meet the Novi-Northville Wild Stangs gymnastics team was competing in, they were competing nonetheless.  
 The entire team was split in two with a Green team taking on the orange team - and Green left their opponents a little envious as they squeaked out a 137.95-137.15 victory.  
 "It was probably one of the best intersquad meets we've had since I have been the coach," Lindsay Shultz said of the event.  
 In the vault, Emma Platt was the top scorer for the team, earning a 9.15 for her performance, while Jacqueline Gazette collected an 8.9.  
 On the bars, Sara Wilkchowski recorded a 9.4, Sarah Bikhuni-Pour went 8.85.  
 The team found Jenn Mehl scoring an 8.85 and Courtney Paul not far behind her with an 8.7.  
 In the floor routine, Rachel Deenot put together an impressive performance, notching a 9.35 while Julie Foucher collected an 8.9.  
 "Our beam was a little shaky," Schultz said of things her squad is still concentrating on. "We had several falls, but it's so early in the season that I'm sure they'll gain more confidence in their skills and begin to stick their routines."  
 This team, according to the coach, has a lot of talent to develop this year.  
 "This team has a lot of potential and I think they are eager to begin their season," she said. "They have been working hard at each practice to add difficulty to their routines and put them together for 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 at [seggleston@ht.home.com.net](mailto:seggleston@ht.home.com.net).



**Wild Stangs Gymnastics**  
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**Learn to Skate programs**  
 Novi Ice Arena will run two Holiday Break Learn to Skate Camps at the end of December. The first session will take place December 22-23, with another session running on December 29-30. Classes will be held from 11:00-1:00 a.m.  
 Holiday Learn to Skate camps are open to skaters ages 6 and up, with each group limited to just six skaters. The cost of enrollment is \$36, and skate rental is available for \$2 per day. As an added bonus, Learn to Skate camp participants are welcome to attend open skating immediately following class from Noon-1:50 p.m. free of charge.  
 Registration for the Holiday Learn to Skate Camp has already begun. Stop by or call the Novi Ice Arena at (248) 347-1010 to register with a credit card.  
**Ski and snowboard club registration**  
 Northville Parks and Rec is currently taking registrations for the popular ski and snowboard club. All students in middle school and high school are encouraged to participate and membership includes luxury motor coach transportation to local ski areas on Friday 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 child 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 hoops?**  
 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 has already begun. If interested, please visit Parks and Rec or contact them at (248) 449-9947.

**Whalers get big wins**

The Plymouth Whalers kicked off their Eastern Conference road trip with a 5-1 victory in Peterborough December 11. The Whalers trailed 2-0 at the end of the first, but scored three goals in the second and two in the third to ice the win. John Vigilante led the Whalers with the game winning goal and also added two assists.  
 The Petes took the early lead with a power play goal from Liam Reddox at 2:07 and then Michael Tuomi tallied at 11:27 to give his team the 2-0 lead.  
 The Whalers came back in the second with three goals to take a 3-2 lead. Sean Thompson scored his second of the season at 2:17 and Gino Pisellini added his ninth goal of the year at 3:35 to tie the game. James Neal scored his first of the year at 11:41 to give the Whalers the lead.  
 In the third it was Plymouth continuing its scoring touch as Jonas Fiedler scored on the power play at 2:58 for a 4-2 lead. But Peterborough finally answered with a goal from Mike McKewon at 4:31 and Josh

Patterson scored on the power play at 8:08 to tie the game at 4-4. But Vigilante capped off another solid outing with goal at 13:43 to secure the win. James Wisniewski also let his presence be known for the Whalers as he returned from injury to add three assists to the victory.  
 Plymouth took advantage of its chances in the second to build a 4-1 lead. Vigilante scored his second of the game and 14th of the season at 6:27 of the second. Tim Sestito and Erik Lundmark assisted on the goal. The Whalers followed with a power play goal as Mike Letizia took a pass from Ramsay and outwaded Brown for the goal at 17:44. Jonas Fiedler picked up the other assist.  
 Fiedler capped off the scoring with the only goal of the third period. John Mitchell and John Vigilante assisted on the goal at the 1:00 mark of the third. Paul Drew earned the win in net with 28 saves on the night while Brown turned away 13 of the 18 shots he faced.

Misharin scored less than a minute later. The Whalers then closed out the period with a goal from John Vigilante to take the 2-1 lead. Ryan Ramsay fed the puck in Vigilante who outwaded Spirit goalie Mike Brown and slid the puck underneath him at 15:14. Mike Letizia also assisted on the goal.  
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**Whalers 5, Saginaw 1**  
 The Plymouth Whalers used a complete team effort to knock off the Saginaw Spirit 5-1 December 5 at Compuware Sports Arena. Dearborn's John Vigilante paced the Whalers with two goals and one assist. George Misharin scored the lone Saginaw goal.  
 Despite a low amount of shots on goal, 7-6 in favor of Plymouth, the Whalers still managed to take a 2-1 lead at the end of the first period. Plymouth struck first when Sean Thompson scored his first goal of the year at 5:23. Brent Mahon and Craig Cescon earned the assists. The Spirit quickly answered the call when George

**Great Hockey Deal**

**Plymouth Whalers vs. Saginaw Spirit**  
 Wednesday, December 17 • 7:30 p.m.  
 Buy One Ticket Get Your Second Ticket FREE  
 Good for the Dec. 17 game only • No limit  
 Must present coupon in person  
 Individual Tickets just \$9 and \$12  
 Start time 7:30 p.m.  
 14900 Beck Rd. • Plymouth • MI  
 Between M-14 and 5-mile  
 Call (734) 453-8400 to charge tickets by phone

**DON'T MISS...**

Members of the Skating Club of Novi will perform in the Skating Club's Holiday Exhibition, which will take place on Saturday, December 20 from noon - 2 p.m. at Novi Ice Arena. Skaters age four through adult will be skating to their favorite holiday music during this United States Figure Skating Association-sanctioned event. There will be a \$2 donation at the door.  
 The Skating Club's Melissa Bedell of Farmington Hills, who will compete along with partner Brandon Hanson in Novice Pairs at the United States National Championships in Atlanta from January 4-11, will be among the performers at the Exhibition, along with Halle Bojovic, who recently finished 10th in the Senior Ladies competition at the Midwestern Sectionals.  
 Established in 1998 with 25 members, the Skating Club of Novi is a volunteer organization that has been a member of the USFSA since 1999. Since then, the club has grown to almost 150 members. In addition to the Holiday Exhibition, the Skating Club of Novi and Novi Ice Arena will also host the annual ice show in April, as well as the Tri-State Figure Skating Competition.

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**Cheer team wins CCCAM tournament**

By Sam Eggleston  
 SPORTS WRITER

It's never easy to gear up and compete in a full-fledged tournament just a few weeks after practice begins - yet the Novi Wildcats competitive cheerleading team has done it year in and year out.  
 The 2003-04 season is no exception either, and the Cats took their show on the road as they competed in the Competitive Cheer Coaches Association of Michigan's annual cheering tournament.  
 This year, the event was held in Oxford December 13, and the final outcome found the Wildcats earning a fairly convincing win over their fellow competitive cheer squads. Novi gathered 633 total points to beat out Airport's 594.5 and Woodhaven's 503.5 to take the top spot in the CCCAM event.  
 "It helped that we had already competed once," Novi coach Amy Denys said. "Our girls looked pretty confident, and our material had a wow to it that not everyone's did."  
 Denys, who is the CCCAM president, and Emily Parker are the coaches for the Novi cheer squad - a team that thought they might find themselves in a bit of a bind just the night before the competition.  
 As of the night of December 12, the Wildcats found out they would be without one of their cheerleaders in a round that required plenty of knowledge of the routine and quite a bit of repetition in the position that was now suddenly vacant - so the coaches turned to junior Jacqie Perussi.  
 "We had an athlete that wasn't able to compete Saturday, and Jacqie knew some of the material but not all of it," Denys said. "And this was as of Friday night. We were expecting a lot from her."  
 And she pulled through, Perussi learned the remainder of the material, perfected it and completed the following day in that round as well as her normal round and helped the Wildcats to victory.  
 "Not every athlete can do that," Denys noted. "She did a phenomenal job."  
 The CCCAM tournament is set up so that each team is put into a pool randomly and competes in rounds one and two. After scoring, the teams are regrouped into pools with teams that have similar final numbers and then showcase all three of their rounds in hopes



The Novi competitive cheer team smiles after a recent victory against Howell in their first-ever dual meet.

**Girls get victory in first-ever dual meet**

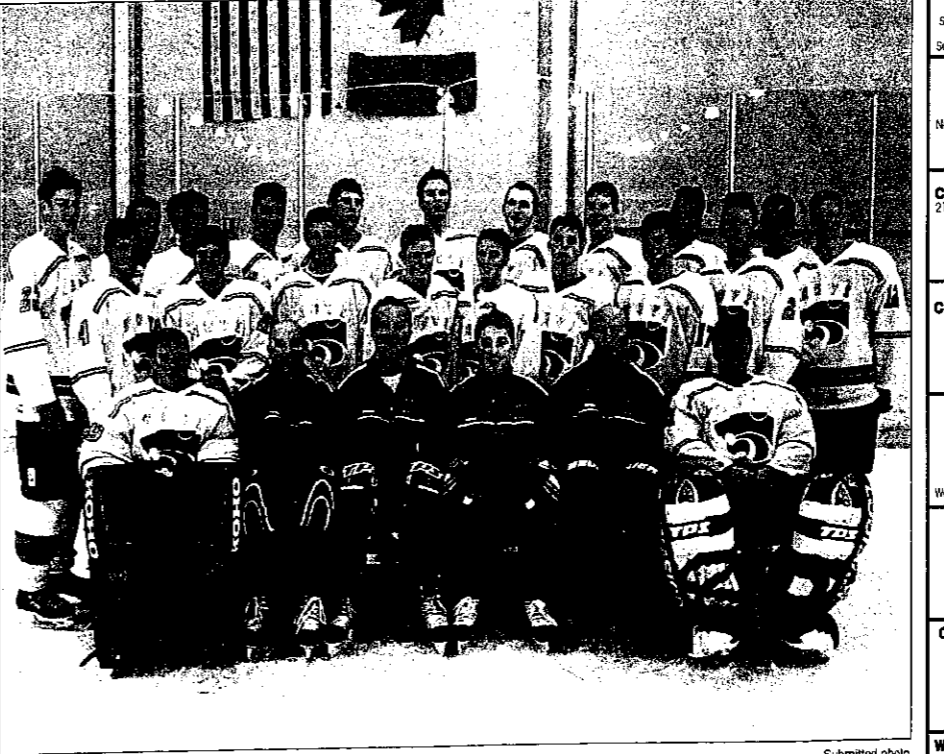
By Sam Eggleston  
 SPORTS WRITER

It was as though they had been doing it their entire lives. The Novi Wildcats competitive cheerleading squad competed in their first-ever dual meet December 11 - but you couldn't tell by watching them in action. The Cats, who are coached by Amy Denys and Emily Parker, put together an impressive 641.5-561 victory over the Howell Highlanders.  
 "It was our first time in a dual meet," Denys said. "It's a new format."  
 This year, each varsity, junior varsity and freshman team in the Kensington Valley Conference will have one dual meet against

each of the other teams in the KVC. The varsity teams will then convene at Hartland High School for the conference championships February 14. The final standings for competitive cheer will be determined half by the dual meet record and half by the performance at the KVC championships.  
 The Wildcats are well on their way though. The squad earned 179 points in round one before notching 191.5 in round two and 271 in round three. Howell, on the other hand, scored 164, 174.5 and 222.5 in the respective rounds.  
 Not only did the meet present some new challenges for the girls, it also meant they had to come out of the gates for the season in full sprint.

"It's definitely early in the season, which requires you to put forth some extra effort," Denys said. "We're thrilled with the outcome. We're not only happy that we won, but by the significant amount of points that we won by."  
 In the past, it seems the Novi Wildcats have landed in a perennial third-place position in the Kensington Valley Conference behind Hartland and Brighton - but things may be a bit different this year.  
 "We definitely have a talented team," Denys said. "We're going to change (our standing in the conference) this year. I'm not being facetious when I say that. I really do think it's possible."  
 And though she has coached national talent in the past, Denys

said this team brings a bit more to the bargaining table.  
 "The gymnastics programs just keep getting better and better and with how integral gymnastics skills are in competitive cheer I have to say this team has raised the bar," she said. "The girls are improved over last year's team and I think we are capable of great things."  
 The Wildcats are back in action today when they host a dual meet at Novi High School at 7 p.m.  
 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.home.com.net](mailto:seggleston@ht.home.com.net).



The Novi hockey team has plenty of talent and depth - they are just looking to get over that small speed bump that has been keeping them from winning most of their games. Recently, they earned a victory over the Lakeland Eagles.

**Novi hockey gets first victory**

By Sam Eggleston  
 SPORTS WRITER

They say that good things come to those that wait - and the Novi Wildcats hockey team has been waiting very, very patiently for this.  
 The Cats secured their first victory of the season with a 7-1 drubbing of their Kensington Valley Conference rivals in the Lakeland Eagles December 6.  
 The Wildcats made a statement right from the drop of the

puck as they scored five goals in the first period to crush the Eagles into submission. Chaz Bulbak started things off right as he took a pass from John Janssens and skated through the Lakeland defense for the score and the 1-0 lead.  
 Pat Meier was the next to get in the stat book on a goal that marked the first of his varsity hockey career. Following Meier's lead, Chris Zarem, Mark Eberline and Mario DeGrazia notched a goal each to hold the

6-0 lead over the Eagles.  
 Lakeland hucked down in the second period, not allowing a Wildcat goal throughout, but Bulbak was back in action by the third period. The stellar shooter ate up the Lakeland netfinder with a hard shot that found the back of the net for the 6-0 lead.  
 Novi finished the game up with goals by Greg Morisette and Brett Jussis to end the period. The Eagles notched their lone goal of the contest in the third as well.  
 Playing between the posts was Justin Ruocco, who closed the door on the Eagles to keep them off the scoreboard throughout much of the contest. The Wildcats climbed to 1-5 on the season, including a loss to Brighton later in the week.  
 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.home.com.net](mailto:seggleston@ht.home.com.net).

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE**  
 High & Elm Streets, Northville  
 1 Lutheran Pastor  
 Church School 9:30 AM-10:30 AM  
 Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.  
 Contemporary Service at 11:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School & Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.

**IMMANUEL CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
 Nov Rd between 13 & 14 Mile • 248-345-6224  
 Bible Study & Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
 Worship Service 11 a.m.

**MEADOWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
 21355 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi at 8 1/2 Mile  
 Morning Worship 10 a.m.  
 Sunday School & Nursery 10 a.m.  
 248-348-7157  
 Minister: Rev. Dr. Neil Hunt  
 Minister of Music: Patrick Nubi

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL (Anglican)**  
 10 Mile between 10th & Beck, Novi  
 Phone 347-1175  
 Sun. 7:45 & 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
 Sunday School & Nursery 10 a.m.  
 Rev. Karen Henry, Pastor  
 Fax: 347-1175

**FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
 46600 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-349-2345  
 1/2 mile west of Novi Rd.  
 Dr. Richard J. Henderson, Pastor  
 Worship & Church School 9:30 a.m. Sunday  
 46325 10 Mile Rd.  
 Novi, MI 48374  
 248-347-5111  
 Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.  
 Reverend George Chappley, Pastor  
 Phone: 347-5111

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
 5425 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48375  
 10 Mile between 10th & Beck, Novi  
 8:45 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m.  
 Nov. 9 a.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.  
 Fr. Paul B. Bode, Pastor  
 Fr. Paul Bode, Associate Pastor  
 Fr. Paul Bode, Director  
 Phone: 347-5111

**WORLDWIDE HARVEST CHURCH**  
 91 Ross St Novi  
 Pastor Keith J. Mackay  
 Sunday Morning Service: 11:00 AM  
 The Sanctuary: Rt. 140, Novi, MI 48375  
 More Info: (248) 918-8229 E-mail:  
[harvest@worldwidechurch.com](mailto:harvest@worldwidechurch.com)  
 Web: www.wwc28.com

**WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
 Dr. James L. McQuinn, Senior Pastor  
 4000 So. Main Road - Northville, MI 48374-2600  
 11000 rd Services: 7:30, 10:15, 11:30 a.m.  
 Contemporary Service: 9:30 a.m.  
 Bible Study: 7:30 a.m. (M-F)  
 Service: Morning: 9 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. (S)  
 Sunday School (All Ages) 9:30 AM

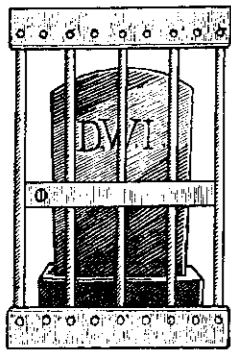
**BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**  
 7115 Main St, Novi, MI 48375  
 Pastor: Dan L. Langley  
 5300 For children and families  
 7:30am Morning Service  
 10:30am Festival Service  
 Sunday Service 9:30am and 11:15

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 23225 Gill Road  
 248-347-2566  
 CHURCH & WORSHIP SCHEDULE  
 7:30am For children and families  
 9:30am Morning Service  
 10:30am Festival Service  
 Sunday Service 9:30am and 11:15

**CROSSPOND MEADOWS CHURCH**  
 Pastor: Dan L. Langley  
 Traditional Service - 8:00 A.M.  
 Contemporary Service - 10:30 A.M.  
 Meeting at Mead Oaks Center  
 248-444-7755

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

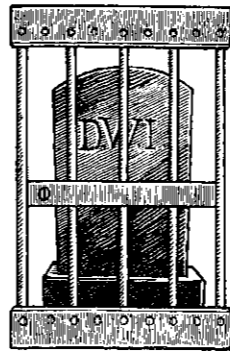




# Drunk Driving jeopardizes your freedom, your life, and the lives of others.

These local businesses wish you a happy, healthy & safe New Year

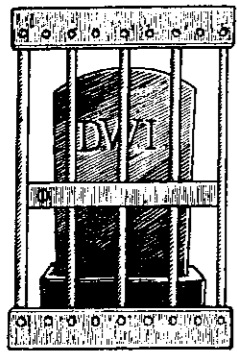
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<b>ALBERT WORRELL ASSOCIATES, INC.</b> 905 S. Hickory Ridge Trail Milford (248)684-6955	<b>BILL'S TREE &amp; CO., INC.</b> 2299 Childs Lake Rd. Milford (248)684-5077	<b>CLASSIC WINDOW LLC</b> 57245 Travis New Hudson (248)437-5861	<b>DALE YOUNG &amp; SONS COLLISION &amp; FRAME, INC.</b> 1540 N. Milford Rd. Highland (248)684-5646	<b>ECCO TOOL CO.</b> 42525 W. 11 Mile Novi (248)349-0840
<b>ALLSTATE INSURANCE</b> Agent Lisa Vanderhoof 22322 Pontiac Trail South Lyon (248)486-2800	<b>BISTRO 127</b> 127 E. Lake South Lyon (248)437-9000	<b>COLDWELL BANKER</b> Callan Realtors 525 N. Main Milford (248)685-1588	<b>DANCE DYNAMICS</b> 1400 E. West Maple Walled Lake (248)624-0707	<b>EDWARD JONES INVESTMENTS</b> 345 N. Main St. Milford (248)685-1600
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<b>ANEW THERAPEUTICS</b> 696 N. Mill St. Plymouth (734)459-3399	<b>BORDER CANTINA</b> 21420 Novi Rd. Novi (248)347-7827	<b>COMMUNITY DENTAL OF WALLED LAKE</b> 2340 S. Commerce Rd. Walled Lake (248)669-3434	<b>DAVID A. FARLOW D.D.S., P.C.</b> 204 Whipple South Lyon (248)437-6200	<b>EMILY'S RESTAURANT</b> 505 N. Center Northville (248)349-0505
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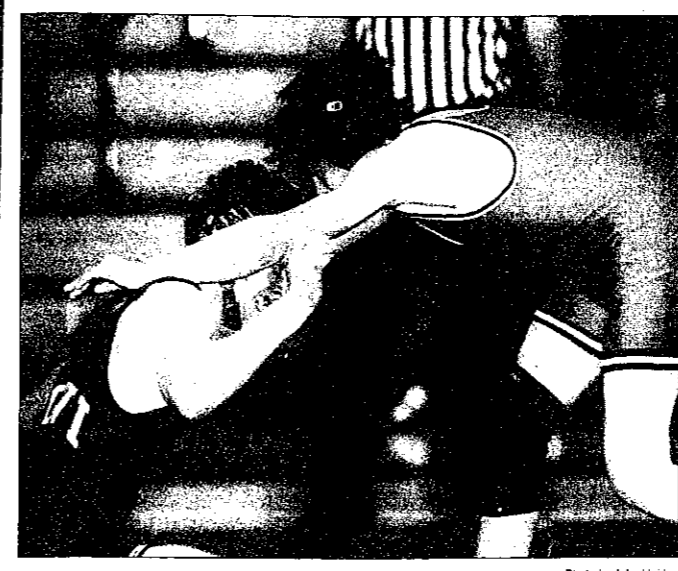
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<b>GREENOCK MILLS</b> 10470 Rushton South Lyon (248)486-5655	<b>HURON VALLEY SCHOOL CREDIT UNION</b> 290 North John St. Highland (248)887-0666	<b>LINKS OF NOVI</b> 50395 10 Mile Rd. Novi (248)380-9595	<b>MILFORD MEDICAL SUPPLIES</b> 2185 S. Milford Rd. Milford (248)685-3859	<b>NORTHVILLE LOCKSMITH</b> (248)348-1856
<b>H &amp; R BLOCK</b> 626 N. Lafayette South Lyon (248)437-6191	<b>INCH MEMORIALS</b> 580 S. Main Northville (248)349-0770	<b>LYON MECHANICAL, INC.</b> 56849 Grand River P.O. Box 130 New Hudson (248)437-1046	<b>MILFORD PARK PLACE</b> 555 Highland Ave. Milford (248)685-1460	<b>NORTHVILLE LUMBER</b> "Custom door & window installation" 615 E. Baseline Northville (248)349-0220
<b>HADLEY HOME BUILDERS, INC.</b> 56861 Grand River New Hudson (248)437-1728	<b>IVERSON LUMBER CO.</b> 300 E. Huron Milford (248)685-8702	<b>LYON VETERINARY CLINIC</b> 21188 Pontiac Trail South Lyon (248)486-8800	<b>MILFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 238 N. Main St. Milford (248)684-2805	<b>NORTHVILLE VISION CLINIC</b> 43041 Seven Mile Rd. Northville (248)348-1330
<b>HAIR 2000</b> 1103 S. Milford Rd. Highland (248)887-0339	<b>JACK'S BARBER SHOP</b> 111 E. Dunlap Northville (248)348-4147	<b>LYON'S BOOK DEN</b> 116 East Lake St. South Lyon (248)437-2500	<b>MILFORD REDI-MIX</b> 800 Concrete Dr. Milford (248)684-1465	<b>NORTHVILLE WATCH &amp; CLOCK</b> 132 W. Dunlap Northville (248)349-4938
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<b>JAMES J. CAREY CPA, PC</b> 138 E. Liberty South Lyon (248)437-2000	<b>MARGO'S SALON &amp; SPA OF NORTHVILLE</b> 141 E. Cady Northville (248)348-9130	<b>MOBILE HOME DEPOT</b> Sales, Service & Parts, Inc. 101 E. Livingston, Suite 2 Highland (248)887-3187	<b>NOVI BIG BOY</b> 26401 Novi Rd. Novi (248)349-4243	



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|---|--|--|--|--|
| <b>NOVI EXPO CENTER</b><br>43700 Expo Center Dr.<br>Novi<br>(248)348-5600                                 | <b>PITTSBURGH PAINT</b><br>40400 Grand River<br>Novi<br>(248)478-1300  | <b>SEASONAL EXPRESSIONS</b><br>21200 Pontiac Trail<br>South Lyon<br>(248)437-1952                        | <b>SUPPORTIVE ALTERNATIVE LIVING, INC.</b><br>314 S. Main St.<br>Milford<br>(248)685-2639                            | <b>TUFFY AUTO SERVICE CENTER</b><br>22750 Pontiac Trail<br>South Lyon<br>(248)437-4800             |
| <b>NOVI FAMILY DENTAL CENTER</b><br>43410 W. Ten Mile Rd.<br>Novi<br>(248)348-3100                        | <b>PLUMBER SERVICE, INC.</b><br>3200 E. Maple Rd.<br>Milford<br>(248)685-8440                                  | <b>SHEPHERD INSURANCE AGENCY</b><br>33305 W. Seven Mile<br>Livonia<br>(248)349-1317                      | <b>SUSAN G. BAILO, ATTORNEY</b><br>601 S. Lafayette<br>South Lyon<br>(248)437-2065                                   | <b>TYRRELL ELECTRIC</b><br>56808 Grand River<br>New Hudson<br>(248)437-3233                        |
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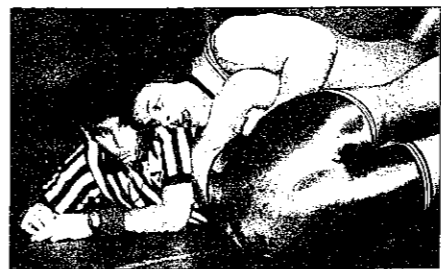


Northville's Adam Blunk, right, tries to keep Novi's Scott Bergeson from making an inside move as the two wrestled last Thursday night at Northville High.

## Novi off to a good start

### Wildcats have a 3-3 dual meet record in early weeks

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER



As a referee looks for signs of a pin, Northville's Ben Mason seems to have the upperhand on Novi's Phil Cullen in the 189 weight class matchup last week at Northville High.

The Novi Wildcats wrestling team has been going into each and every meet and tournament this year looking to prove they can overcome any challenge that faces them. For the most part, they've done exactly that.

The Wildcats have climbed to a 3-3 dual meet record and had some impressive showings in tournaments thus far this year.

Against the Adrian Maple, Novi took a 49-24 loss December 7. Leading the way for the Wildcats was a crew of experienced grapplers. Scott Bergeson beat Ed Mohr in the 119-pound class, 15-0. At 135, Alex Baum had little trouble as he pinned John Justice, and Andrew Kristofik pinned Brandon Kirby at the 215-pound class.

Against Flat Rock, the Wildcats had a better showing, this time escaping with a 57-17 victory. At the 103-pound weight class, while Nick Lichonbric (112), Bergeson (119), Jeremy Young (143) and Kyle Margrave (Heavyweight) won by voids, Mike Cash (130) pinned Devin Haynes, Dan Sprys (171) pinned Austin Kinick and Kristofik (215) pinned Mike Kopas. A.J. Morris (160) topped Jesse Holbrook, 6-1.

Novi took another victory over Monroe Jefferson, 47-27, with the help of pins by Baum over Shawn St. Andre, Morris over Jon Whitaker and Justin Cameron (171) over Calvin Stover. Novi took points via void at the 135, 215 and heavyweight divisions while Bergeson beat Curt Dingelme, 11-

3, and John Favorite (152) beat Jared Arter, 16-1. Also earning a win was Jason Ballantyne, as he topped Stephen Giannmarco, 17-2, in the 145-pound weight division. Cameron also earned a victory topping David Cain, 9-3.

At the Plymouth Salem Individual Invitational December 13, the Wildcats found three grapplers earning honors. Baum, who wrestles at 135 pounds, took second place, as did fellow Wildcat Morris, who wrestles at 160 pounds. Kristofik, who is grappling in the 215-pound division, took third for his efforts on the day.

Currently, Bergeson boasts the best record on the team with a 7-1 showing through the first weeks of the season, while Hansen is 6-2, Baum is 7-3, Morris is 8-3 and Kristofik is 7-3.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1786, ext. 104 or at seggleston@hlanet.com.net.

## Alumni game Saturday

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 6-7:30 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 Maloni, Jeff Poulos, Angelo Barduca, Bryan Vigna, Nick Karisz, Robbie Harrell, Rhile Overfield, Ryan Letzinger, Rob Innes, Andy Saari, Beau Bandan, Stephen Stork, Kyle Major, Dan Szlaga, Brad Zarem, Curt Russell, Anthony Nguyen, 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.

### UNDERCLASSMEN SCORES

**FRESHMAN BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Overall: 0-1

The Novi freshmen boys' basketball team opened its season with a 35-31 non-league, overtime loss to Walled Lake Western last Tuesday at Novi. The game was close throughout. Danny Piligan (five points and four steals) snuk a three-pointer to tie the score at 28-28 with just over one minute left in the game. That is how it remained until overtime when Western outscored Novi's ninth graders, 7-3, to secure the victory. The Wildcats were led by Corlan White with seven points, and three steals. Mike Longo added five points and seven rebounds, and Brandon Carnegie chipped in with four points and four steals.



**Championship Jaguars**  
Novi Jaguars Boys U-9 Green team won the Western Suburban Soccer League's select division fall championship. The team finished the season with an 8-0-1 record. The team played excellent defense throughout the fall season, only giving up 4 goals in their 9 games. The team is coached by Mike Seoble (standing behind the players). Team members include (back row from left) Cory Odell, Travis Hamers, Alex Robert, Phillip Soong, Craig Latham and Jacob Bedi; (front row) Justin Danks, Zachary Book, Colin Warner, Nick Shelar, Tyler Holt and Pierce Tattersall. Not pictured is Adam Haynes.

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# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

## MONEY MATTERS

### Dogs come with a hefty price

It's Christmas morning and your children are all excited because you just got them a new puppy, we'll call her Belle. Before making the purchase, did you think about what it costs to own a dog?

For starters she'll need to be spayed. She'll also need annual vaccinations against diseases like Parvo, distemper and rabies. She'll have to be examined by a vet at least once a year, and she'll have to take heartworm medication. During the course of her life young Belle will likely develop ear and gastrointestinal infections, which will require swift medical attention. Further, she's a flat coated/Labrador retriever mix, and as such, could be prone to a condition called hip dysplasia, which, if serious enough can require surgery. She'll eat hundreds of pounds of food. She'll need to be exercised, bathed, brushed, chauffeured, petted and played with.

As Belle's example illustrates, the decision to adopt a pet comes with long-term financial and emotional consequences. Animals rarely do the choosing, so the onus is on prospective pet owners to take a thoughtful and intelligent approach to selecting a pet. If you are considering adopting a cuddly companion, consider these issues when making your selection.

### Examine your lifestyle

Look for a pet that will fit easily into your lifestyle. If you live in a one-bedroom apartment, but would love nothing more than to have a dog, consider adopting a small pooch. You don't want to commit a bullmastiff, for example, to a life of cramped living. Not to mention you'll likely have to pay a hefty pet deposit to house such a large animal. If you work long hours, you'll have to ask yourself how much time you're realistically going to be able to spend with your pet. Can you afford to hire a pet sitter to come over during the day and spend time with your dog?

What kind of home do you have? Is it decked out in expensive fabrics? Do Persian rugs adorn the floors? Dogs don't know the difference between a Karsten rug and rug from Target. If you love your home more than life itself, then an animal might not be a good fit. But, if you're willing to put up with an occasional infraction, consider adopting a calm older dog that's already house trained.

### Purebred considerations

If you prefer a purebred to a mutt, be prepared to shell out some cash. A pet's price will depend on how popular a selection it is. And the more popular the breed the harder it is to come by. Rare breeds like the flat-coated retriever (FLC) are also expensive.

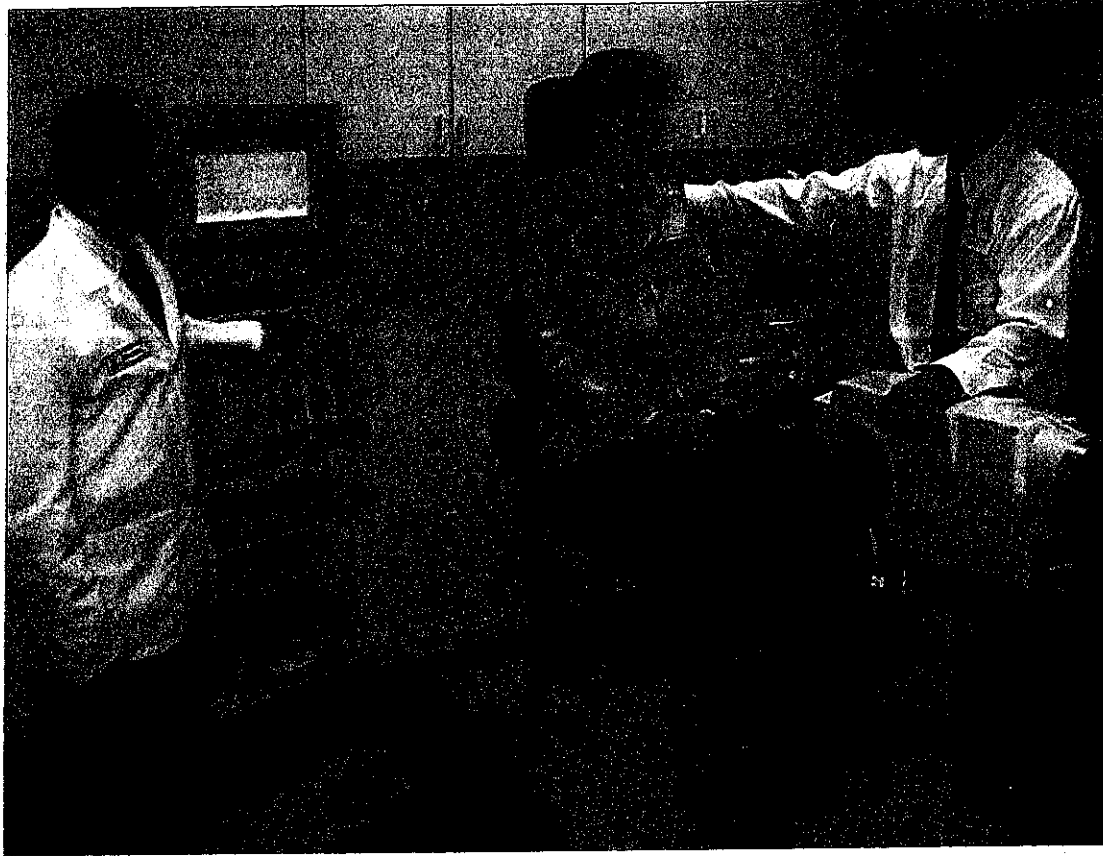
Consider spending some time researching the breed before you buy it. A good place to start is the American Kennel Club's (AKC) Web site at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org). There you'll find a variety of articles that will help you determine the breed that will fit your lifestyle. The article entitled, "Be a Responsible Dog Owner," is particularly good because it includes 102 easy-to-read suggestions for raising a happy and healthy dog.

The AKC also has descriptions of registered purebreds on their Web site, as well as links to breeder referral contacts, breed-specific clubs and rescue groups. Rescue groups are organizations that take in purebred dogs that have been abandoned or surrendered due to the death or illness of their owners. You can also phone the Human Society of America (HSUS) at (202) 452-1100 to locate a rescue group in your area. Ask for the Companion Animals section.

Many purebred animals are prone to hereditary diseases and conditions. After you've narrowed your search down to a couple of breeds that you think will make a good addition to your family, consult a good pet healthcare reference like the free online Merck Veterinary Manual at <http://www.merckvetmanual.com/nvni/index.jsp>.

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

ADVERTORIAL



Photos by Duane Ramsey

Dennis Engerer, at left, watches the results on the screen, as Physical Therapist David Sawecki explains to Ardith Borgia how the Biodex dynamometer measures her strength for rehabilitation therapy.

## Meet goals for year at Northville Physical Rehabilitation

By Duane Ramsey  
SPECIAL WRITER

Whatever your personal physical goals are for 2004, make it your best year possible.

The staff at Northville Physical Rehabilitation has the expertise, equipment and experience to help people achieve their individual goals, which could include:

- regaining muscle strength

and/or endurance;

- learning to use a new hip or knee joint;
- recovering after a long illness or serious injury;
- relieving chronic back or headache pain; or
- simply losing the weight gained over the holidays.

Northville Physical Rehabilitation is a full-service physical rehab agency providing physical, occupational and

speech therapy, and social services in the modern 4,000 square-foot facility located in downtown Northville.

"Many people in the community are unaware that they can receive the level of care that they might expect from a large hospital facility right here in their hometown," said Dennis Engerer, a licensed physical therapist who has operated the business there since 1985. "In addition to being of the best quality and affordable, medical care should also be convenient."

Some of their clients require very involved care, such as someone recovering from an auto accident or a stroke may want to have a facility as close to their home as possible. Even someone with a simple diagnosis as back or neck pain may prefer to be treated near home or work to minimize the inconvenience, according to Engerer.

The licensed staff utilizes the latest treatment techniques and most advanced equipment to treat a wide spectrum of orthopedic, neurological and general medical conditions that require physical rehabilitation.

Northville Physical Rehabilitation also offers personal fitness training, nutritional counseling services and a health wellness program. Affordable monthly memberships are available for the fitness programs, said Engerer.

"We have earned the reputation in the medical community that when a physician has a patient who requires immediate or preferential treatment, they can rely on us," said Engerer. "I am confident that we have the very best staff, the latest equipment and a broad range of experience to treat even the most

challenging cases."

The staff has provided restorative care to patients for almost 20 years, prescribing the right exercise program or physical therapy for a given diagnosis.

"People respond to physical treatment. Exercise is good medicine," Engerer said.

Northville Physical Rehabilitation has licensed physical therapists, an occupational therapist, speech therapist, physical therapy assistant, exercise physiologist, personal trainers and nutritional counselor on its staff.

In a typical day, the staff may treat a range of diagnoses from simple shoulder tendonitis to a person on the long road back from a spinal cord or brain injury, Engerer said. They use many tools to assist people from a complex piece of equipment to our own hands, he added.

"It's tremendously rewarding to assist individuals in maximizing their physical potential whether it is helping a senior citizen learn to walk again or a young athlete regain as much strength as possible. It's exciting to participate in the rehabilitation process," said Engerer.

In addition to seeing patients at its downtown Northville facility, the staff is available to treat patients in their homes or in an extended care facility if necessary.

"Our clients are referred to us by their doctors or case managers, but you don't need to have a physician's referral for the initial evaluation," said Engerer. "We welcome anyone who needs our services."

"We work closely with the referring agent to insure that they are kept informed of the patient's progress and potential

### DETAILS

Northville Physical Rehabilitation, PC  
215 East Main Street  
(downtown Northville)  
(248) 349-9339

Hours:  
Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Saturday 8 a.m. to noon

[www.northvillephysicalrehab.com](http://www.northvillephysicalrehab.com)

for improvement," he added.

The staff can assist patients with obtaining a referral by sending its report and recommendation to their doctor. Most insurance plans cover physical rehabilitation. Northville Physical Rehab is approved by Medicare, Blue Cross/Blue Shield and most other insurance plans, according to Engerer.

Prospective patients may call the office to make an appointment for an initial evaluation that usually takes from one to two hours. Typical treatments require about one hour per visit.

A treatment plan is established specifically for each patient's needs, physical capabilities and limitations. The duration of treatment is estimated at the time of the initial evaluation with periodic progress assessments conducted as needed.

"We accept some patients without medical insurance," Engerer said. "We will establish an affordable payment plan based on the treatment provided and the patient's financial ability."



Louise Austin, a physical therapy assistant, demonstrates a device used for strengthening and stabilizing the back.



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