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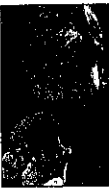
Look inside for your  
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**INSIDE**

**Simon says**

Michigan State University's new president, Lou Anna Simon, plots a steady course for a green-and-white future.



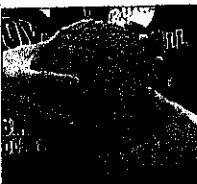
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**College bound**

This week's special section takes a look at tuition and career advice for the college-bound.

Special Section

**SPORTS**



**An even dozen**

The Novi Wildcat basketball team has won 12 straight games and hopes to keep the wins coming as they head into the playoffs.

— Page 1B

**Hello, Hawaii!**

When Northville resident and Detroit Lions' comeback Dre Bly was drafted into the National Football League, he made a commitment to himself he wouldn't go to Hawaii until he was selected to the Pro Bowl.

— Page 2B

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Nancy Cassis



Lou Csordas



Mike Kowall



M. Bouchard

## OFF TO THE RACES!

**■ Cassis makes campaign for governor official**

By Cal Stone  
EDITOR

Just before the Republican Party kicked off its state convention in Grand Rapids, Nancy Cassis ended several weeks of speculation and announced her candidacy for governor.

The senator from Novi held a press conference last Thursday at

continued on page 7A

**■ State Senate hopefuls: Mayor Csordas and White Lake's Kowall eye 15th District seat**

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Novi Mayor Lou Csordas says he's a man of his word. He stated publicly that he was only going to serve one term as mayor, and he's sticking to that plan.

"When I ran, I did mention that it would be a one-term

thing. I'm just living up to my word," he said Tuesday. "But, I really enjoy it, and I'm having a great time."

Csordas said that although he'll only sit in the mayor's seat for another nine months, he'll actually have served the city for nine straight years. "I was on the planning commission for three years, which is a

continued on 6A

**■ Bouchard takes aim at Stabenow'**

By Alex Lundberg  
STAFF WRITER

Michael Bouchard tested the waters before deciding to take on U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow in the mid-term elections, which are still two years off, and found them to be agreeable.

The response from family

continued on 6A

## Hospital beds in Novi get approval

**■ Providence pushes forward with plans; suit being appealed**

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Providence Hospital and Medical Centers at Providence Park have obtained approval for a 200-bed hospital at the Novi facility, bringing inpatient capabilities to the western Oakland County area.

The new hospital facility on Grand River Avenue at Beck Road now has six private inpatient beds and will eventually expand to 200 private inpatient rooms.

Rob Casalou, president, Providence Hospital, said hospital executives filed a request with the Michigan Department of Community Health in November to license Providence Park because the hospital was granted that ability by a law passed in Lansing in December 2002.

"The law is subject to an ongoing lawsuit but for now is still in effect," Casalou said. "Because we won the circuit court ruling, which is now on appeal, we decided to proceed."

continued on page 5A

## Seniors tell their tales of...



By Kim Kovelie  
STAFF WRITER

With shy hesitation, Jan Hanson recalled the first time she saw him at MacAlester Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minn.

"There was this young man who was apparently the leader," she said. From the neck up, she could tell he was very handsome. But then, she noticed the green tweed suit and brown-and-white saddle shoes. "It was startling," Jan admitted.

Sitting next to her with a big smile, her husband, Donald "Hoppy" Hanson, said: "That was me. I think that's the first and only suit my mother let me buy."

After 60 years together, the couple still laughs at the story — and with each other.

Now at Novi's Fox Run, the St. Paul natives were properly introduced at a barn dance following a high school youth group sleigh ride.

"When she danced, she was just so light. It was different than a girl I had been dating," Hoppy said. As for the other girl, "She was gone right away."

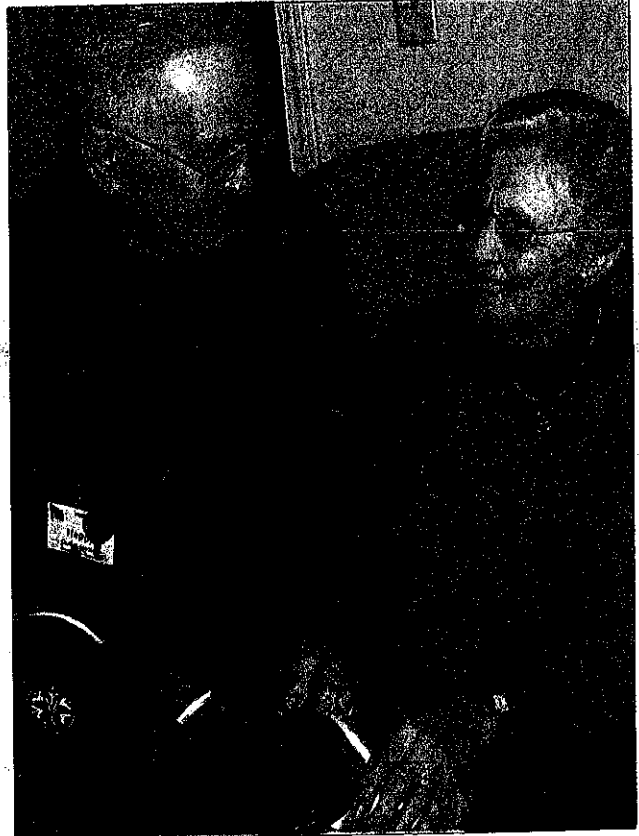


Photo by KIM KOVELIE

Donald "Hoppy" Hanson smiles at Jan, his wife of 60 years. Jan helped him pick out the blue snow shoes, which Hoppy wears around his home grounds at Fox Run.

Jan recalled their first date when he was 16 and she was 15.

"It was at least 20 below. He took me to the bowling alley

and we walked. I presume that was a good mile to mile and a half," she laughed.

Hoppy then enlisted in the Navy. Home on leave, he did

n't have much time to arrange a proposal.

"We were parked by the

continued on page 8A

## Schools pick new leader

**■ Grosse Ile's superintendent coming to Novi**

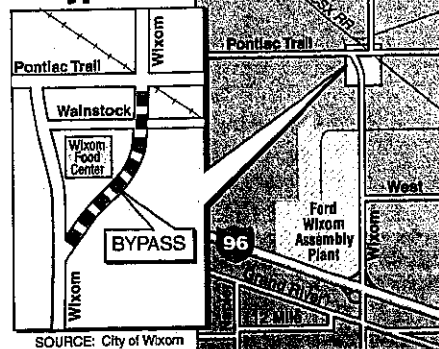
By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

In a span of less than a week, the Novi Community School District Board of Education went from having three superintendent candidates to two and finally one.

The board announced early Monday morning that it has chosen Peter Dion, superintendent of Grosse Ile Township Schools, to be Dr. Emmett Lippe's successor as the Novi schools superintendent. Lippe plans to

continued on 20A

## Wixom Road Bypass



SOURCE: City of Wixom

## Wixom Road gets connected

**■ Construction to cut Pontiac Trail congestion**

By Kim Kovelie  
STAFF WRITER

To avoid peak-hour traffic jams near Wixom Food Center, owner Sam Poota drives to work as early as 5 a.m.

That's due largely to the jog in Wixom Road along Pontiac Trail, right in the center of town.

"The traffic is becoming so

heavy," Poota said. "The existing roads... have been designed for a small community. Now things are changing, just like in Novi."

Recognizing that, the city of Wixom began in November work on a Wixom Road Bypass to join the disconnected stretches of road.

An extension of a small "stump" street called Johanna Ware, the \$8 million, five-lane road may be open for traffic as soon as May.

"The extension of Wixom Road will correct... and straighten out a surveyor's error that took place 100 years ago or so," City

Manager Mike Dornan said. "When complete, (it will) take one of the most difficult parts of a person's journey to and from work and straighten that out."

Major construction will start in April and span six to eight weeks.

**Plan underway**

Plans for a bypass were in the works since the 1990s, Assistant City Manager Tony Nowicki said. "It's critical for the congestion relief up and down the Wixom Road and Pontiac Trail corridor,"

continued on 3A

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Left, work continues through the winter months on the commercial thoroughfare that's to run from south Wixom Road, running northeast, and re-connect to North Wixom Road near the city's new development near Pontiac Trail Road. Right, Marvin Poota, assistant manager of the Wixom Food Center, will probably see business increase when the city of Wixom completes a spur running from south Wixom Road to North Wixom Road called Johanna Ware which runs directly by their location.



## Construction to cut Pontiac Trail congestion

continued from front page

Nowicki said, "There's been a lot of traffic on it. There's been increased maintenance."  
 Named for a longtime Wixom resident and planning commissioner, Johanna Ware was originally intended as a residential street.  
 "The city over the years had purchased most of the right of way," Nowicki said.  
 Federal funding will cover 80 percent of the project through grants, Nowicki said, while downtown development authority taxes will help cover the approximate \$1.6 million remaining.

## Changing terrain

To travel from the north to south segments, drivers must make a sharp right onto Pontiac

Trail, then a left to continue on Wixom Road.  
 Now, the road will stretch northeast in a smooth sweep, through work contracted to Six S of Waterford.  
 Utility wires for phone, cable and other services will be buried underground.  
 Just under an acre of wetlands in the new road's path will be replaced on the northwest corner of nearby Wixom Habitat Park.  
 Currently, the bypass is a city road. However, a maintenance agreement with the Road Commission for Oakland County is in the works.  
 "We're going to look to transfer over to Oakland County," Dorman said, adding that discussions are underway.  
 Other options, such as an underpass or overpass at the intersecting CSX Railroad tracks, were discarded due to high costs and water levels.  
 Even the train crossing will get an upgrade, including new traffic and train warning signals on east-side "arms."  
 "It'll just be an entire improvement to that crossing," Nowicki

said. "It appears right now that we are the first community in the nation to enter into an agreement with CSX to locate their warning lights on their mast arms."  
 The road will be ready before Wixom's re-birthed downtown, Tribute at Wixom Village Center, has occupied buildings by the end of the year.  
 Tribute, which will include more than 550 homes and a shopping district, won't significantly contribute to traffic, Nowicki said.  
 "There's enough internal road entrances and exits," Nowicki said. To boot, a street in Tribute will be re-dubbed Johanna Ware.  
 "It will be easier when these roads are done," he said. "It doesn't matter whether it's closed temporarily or not, because it's helping the community."

## Dealing with construction

Once the heavy April building starts, the roads will be partially closed for up to two months. Detours will include surrounding Beck, West and Maple roads.  
 Nowicki said a meeting was held Jan. 31 with business owners

that might be affected.  
 "It will impact the businesses, and we're trying to work with them," Nowicki said. "We'll have signs up that say business is open. Most of the people were supportive."  
 Poota, who's owned his supermarket for 33 years, is among them.  
 "It will be easier when these roads are done," he said. "It doesn't matter whether it's closed temporarily or not, because it's helping the community."

Kim Kovelle is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or via e-mail at [kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net](mailto:kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net).

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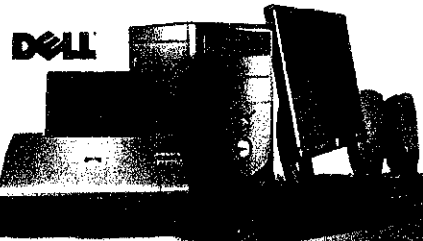
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## Providence pushes forward with plans; suit being appealed

continued from front page

Area competing health systems are challenging the court decision. On Dec. 3, 2004, Providence Hospital received its first notification from the state to begin a process of admitting patients to the six beds which were already licensed.

The remainder of beds — 194 — will open when the new \$224-million hospital is completed in 2008. The Novi campus will feature a five-story hospital, with the existing building being converted to outpatient services.

Casalou said renderings show a glass-and-copper structure that extends south of the campus, with more than 50 percent of acreage left as open space. "When the planning commission saw what we had proposed for maintaining the beauty of the land, they gave us a unanimous endorsement of our preliminary site plan," he said.

Designers will return to the Novi Planning Commission in April with plans for the facility. "The population in this area has been rapidly growing for many years, and there is a definite need for inpatient services. These six inpatient beds allow us to care for surgical patients quicker and more effectively," said Elliot Joseph, president and CEO of St. John Health.

Currently, Providence Park offers outpatient diagnostic and therapeutic services, 24-hour emergency care, a cancer center and more than 35 physician offices. "We would not have obtained this license in December if the Novi city leadership and staff had not worked with our building planners to meet compliance issues."

St. John Health is a network of community-based hospitals and health care services in Southeast Michigan which provides prevention, primary care and advanced treatment programs with more than 125 medical centers and eight hospitals in five counties.



Former Providence Hospital patient Sophia Sobiechowski meets with hospital president Rob Casalou in one of its few overnight stay rooms. The Novi hospital will soon begin construction on an addition that will boost their number of beds from six to more than 200.

## Patient says there's no place like home

■ Wixom resident stays in one of six licensed beds

By Pam Fleming  
 STAFF WRITER

On the day after Christmas last year, Wixom resident Sophia Sobiechowski couldn't speak and was having trouble breathing. She wanted to be with her family, but instead found herself at Providence Park Medical Center's emergency department in Novi. "The good news is that although she had to be admitted, rather than having to travel all the way to the

main Providence Hospital in Southfield, she was able to stay right in Novi in one of six hospital beds recently licensed by the state. "I have a lung problem, and I had a raspy throat. I didn't feel well before, but I refrained from going to the doctor because my kids were here from San Francisco and New York," she said. "I didn't want to go to Southfield since I only live a mile from Providence Park."

Sobiechowski, who suffers from pulmonary fibrosis, learned when she arrived at the hospital that she had both a sinus infection and bronchitis. She's still undergoing breathing therapy for her condition. She said she enjoyed being one of the first patients to stay in one

of the six licensed beds in the center's former birthing center. "It was just like being in a hotel. My doctor, David Schindler, was so proud that I was going to one of the new beds that he wheeled me up there himself. The room was beautiful, and I love ordering off the menu," she said.

Sobiechowski believes area residents need a hospital in Novi so patients don't have to be transported the 17 miles to Southfield. "That's too far. I think we definitely need a hospital here. I feel that everybody would benefit from it," she said.

Rob Casalou, president, Providence Hospital, said it often takes him more than an hour to drive from Southfield to his home in Novi, especially during peak traffic times. He noted that 670,000 vehicles a day pass through the congested I-275/I-696 interchange.

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.

Rob Casalou  
 Providence Hospital president

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## LET'S TALK Jewelry

WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN GEMOLOGIST

BROACHING THE SUBJECT OF BROOCHES

Brooches are enjoying a resurgence in popularity these days. Especially after are vintage-like, gem-encrusted designs that display natural motifs such as flowers and other wildlife. It seems that subjects like butterflies, dragonflies, and fish provide jewelry designers with sufficient inspiration for a seemingly endless array of design and color options. Once relegated to lapels, brooches are being worn in more untraditional ways. It is not all unusual to see a brooch gracing a woman's waistline, the base of her neckline, or wrapping a cardigan. Sometimes grouped in twos, threes, and more, brooches are also adorning hats, shoes and bags. Then again, nothing is more elegant than two matching pave brooches on the straps of an evening dress.

Brooches and other jewelry, as well as gemstones, abound at WEINSTEIN JEWELERS OF NOVI, from chips to

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Bouchard takes aim at Stabenow

continued from front page

members and others he asked was "very positive," he said. Bouchard, 38, currently serves as Oakland County sheriff and has been an elected official since his first term on the Beverly Hills Village Council in 1986.

"I was a small business owner, and I know where government can help by getting out of the way."

Michael Bouchard, Oakland County sheriff and candidate for U.S. Senate

Now he's looking at the U.S. Senate and filed to run against Stabenow this week.

He said if people were going to talk about the most pressing issues of the day they'd be talking about his strength—security.

"It's about job security, job creation," Bouchard said. "I was a small business owner, and I know where government can help by getting out of the way."

He said he's done considerable work to promote family security by pushing for the creation of a sex offender registry and the launching of an internet crime unit.

"People don't make decisions that way," Ballenger said. "They look at name identification and personality."

Of course, it takes more than talent and a good resume to sit in the Senate. He said making a serious run against Stabenow is going to require several million dollars, and the job of raising that has already started.

"There will be huge amounts of fund-raising," Bouchard said. "You've got to raise money to be competitive and get your message out."

Ally Lundberg is a reporter at the Observer & Excelsior Newspapers. He covers Oakland County.

Mayor Lou Csordas and White Lake's Kowall eye 15th District seat

continued from front page

very political board, then four years on city council and two years as mayor," he noted.

He says there may be an opportunity for him to serve in the Senate — if State Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Nowi) wins her bid for governor — or elsewhere.

"Depending on how things shape up in the race for governor and the Senate in our district, I would be very interested in taking a shot at that," Csordas said.

"I'm the mayor of the largest city in our Senate district at 53,000. If it (a state Senate bid) falls into place, that would be fine."

Mike Kowall, currently serving as White Lake Township supervisor, will also deposit \$50,000 into his Senate campaign account this week as he explores a potential state Senate campaign.

Cassis barely inched out former Rep. Kowall two years ago in the 15th Senate District Republican primary. Word has it that Kowall never closed his Senate campaign account, and he'll have a fairly hefty sum to start out with if he decides to run.

Kowall, who said he is glad to see Cassis in the governor's race, said his phone has been "ringing off the hook" with people urging him to get into the Senate race.

"Technically, the seat is not even open. I don't want Nancy to think I'm ripping at her heels. They're testing the waters, and she did have a good reception at the state convention," Kowall said Tuesday.

"I'm thinking about it. The fact that I only lost by 88 votes council."

Csordas said the highlight of being mayor was when he was able to marry his son, Brian, and she did have a good reception at the state convention."

"That was just a beautiful thing. How many people can say they married their child?" Csordas said.

His mother, Julia, who is still living, spent her whole life working on the line for General Motors, according to Csordas.

Csordas and his wife, Cheryl, have lived in Novi for 28 years. "As mayor, you're the city's No. 1 public relations guy. I've enjoyed that. And I will continue to enjoy running the city like a private entity/business," he said.

Besides the mayor seat, two city council positions are up for grabs in 2006. Member Laura Lorenzo has already said she will seek re-election; Kim Capello said last week he is undecided if he will run again.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103, or at pfleming@ln.ohiocomm.net.

Csordas, who is a native of Detroit, graduated from Cody High School in Detroit and the University of Pennsylvania.

His late father, Lou, was an immigrant from Budapest, Hungary, and worked in the coal mines in West Virginia before moving to Detroit.

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Cassis makes campaign for governor official

continued from front page

high noon at the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, just a few blocks south of what she hopes will be her future office, the Capitol.

Cassis wasted little time in attacking Gov. Jennifer Granholm, much to the delight of about three dozen friends, family and colleagues.

"At a time when Michigan needs a strong leader," said Cassis, "it has a governor who seeks either unable or unwilling to make the hard choices and tough decisions that must be made if we are going to keep the jobs we have, create new jobs and balance our state budget without raising taxes."

Cassis said she had filed the necessary paperwork the day before and was beginning her campaign Thursday. But the former Novi City Council member will face many challenges on the way to the August 2006 primary and ensuing general election in November.

According to political pundit Bill Ballenger, Cassis will have to raise an incredible amount of money; her name is difficult to pronounce; she is not high profile; and she is not well known outside of southern Oakland County.

"Although I am not well known around Michigan, Governor Granholm knows who I am," said Cassis. "She called me a demagogue when I stood up for you and all the other Michigan taxpayers when she wanted to pass a tax shift, and shaft, that speeds up the time when we pay our county property taxes."

Cassis said the solution to Michigan's economic woes is not to raise taxes but to reduce spending. Reforming the tax structure goes hand-in-hand with

the "business of doing the budget," and she plans on prioritizing how funds are spent by asking voters as she campaigns around the state.

"The budget will reflect what people say they want," said Cassis. "We're going to have to make some tough choices."

Voters will turn, as other Republican candidates include state Rep. Valde Garcia (Howell) and Jack Hoogenjdyk (Portage), who also formally announced his candidacy on Thursday. Business mogul Dick DeVos has also been mentioned among others.

Congressman Mike Rogers, Secretary of State Teri Lynn Land, Congresswoman Candice Miller and Dominion's Pizza CEO David Brandon.

"I welcome different voices," said Cassis. "It sharpens our ability to debate and creates a

machine to take on the Democrats in 2006."

Cassis, a former school psychologist and teacher, served six years in the House of Representatives, beginning in 1996, and made history with her appointment as the first female chair of the House Tax Policy Committee. She was elected to the Senate in November 2002 and represents citizens of the 15th District.

"My campaign will not diminish my Senate service," said Cassis, "but in fact it will invigorate my efforts... I would not have made the decision to run for governor unless I thought I could win."

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



Photo by CAL STONE  
State Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Nowi) formally announced her campaign for governor last Thursday at the Michigan Chamber of Commerce in Lansing. She was introduced by state Sen. Bruce Patterson (R-Plymouth)

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Table with Verizon Wireless Communications Stores listing various locations like Ann Arbor, Farmington Hills, Rochester Hills, etc.

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NOTICE PUBLIC SALE. Pursuant to state law, a public sale will be held on February 19, 2005 at 11:00AM at COLONIAL MINI STORAGE.

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# Seniors tell their tales of...

continued from front page

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## Beachcombers find each other

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Barb Birmingham was certain that her first date with Roy would be her last.

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Their 50th anniversary was spent revisiting first Presbyterian. They'll celebrate their 52nd at their Fox Run home and with family.

"We probably have remained best friends," Barb said. "I think each of us has tried to put ourselves in the other person's spot. He's very gentle; he's very kind; he's very considerate."

Smiling, Roy said of his wife, "Likewise."



Barb and Roy Birmingham coddle a Valentine's Day puppy in Fox Run's gift store. The retired teachers celebrate their anniversary on the Feb. 14 holiday.

very supportive." Added Roy, "Our families have been so good. There's nobody mad at anybody."

Later, they traveled. East Africa was a special spot in the hearts of the outdoor-loving couple.

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Fran and Frank Syroka share a close moment on the lobby couch at Waterwood. They just celebrated their 65th anniversary.

Members voted to have design and construction engineering services for the Novi Road/Post Office Signalization Project to Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick, Inc., for a not-to-exceed amount of \$25,400. AEW submitted the lowest bid on the project.

Member Lynn Paul noted that the Novi post office is an especially challenging spot for local motorists, and that this traffic signal stay help prevent a motor vehicle accident.

"If it saves one person from getting into an accident, it'll be worth it," she said.

Member Bob Gatt, a former Novi police officer, agreed that this is a much-needed traffic signal in Novi.

"This is an issue that is very dear to me. It's a great post office, but it's dangerous getting in and out of it. This signal will improve safety," he said.

Member Kim Capello noted that this signal is only a temporary one and that a more permanent traffic signal will be placed by the post office when the Novi Road widening project continues between Ten Mile Road and Grand River Avenue.

The Novi Road widening project is part of the city's master plan to improve traffic flow and safety on this busy street and

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# Fate brought 'Marry Me At Twelve' couple together

They lived near each other, but never met

By Pam Fleming  
 STAFF WRITER

It seems that Tim Reardon, 30, of Berkley and Kristen Seed, 28, of Birmingham, winners of this year's "Marry Me At Twelve" Contest at Twelve Oaks Mall, were destined to be together.

The two met on a blind date when a co-worker of Reardon's met Seed at a party and thought they'd be perfect for each other.

"They'll marry at 7 p.m. Sunday at the mall's center court."

"We always lived in the same city, but our paths never crossed," Seed explained. "We both grew up around this area — I was from Northville, he was from Farmington Hills. Then we both went to the University of Dayton, and we never met," she added, even though her maid of honor dated one of his roommates.

Then, they both moved to Cincinnati and lived about three blocks from each other — and never met.

When they both moved back to Michigan several years later, Seed met a girl at a party.

"She was telling me how she wanted to set me up with this guy, and she did," she said.

As the saying goes, the rest is history.

The two had to write an essay of 100 words or less to win a wedding couples' shower, dinner reception and honeymoon in the contest presented by Emerald City Designs of Farmington Hills and Twelve Oaks Mall.

Reardon is a sales representative for Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, and Seed is a fourth-grade teacher for Farmington Public Schools. He went to Catholic Central; she went

to Farmington High School. They said it only took them about 20 minutes to hammer out the essay. The next thing they knew, a camera man from WDIV-TV Channel 4 was at their door, and they went later heard live on WNIC-FM 93.1 radio.

A Hummer limousine pulled up in front of their door the morning of Feb. 4 to drive them to Emerald City Designs and Twelve Oaks Mall to pick out their wedding ensemble.

"It was like Ed McMahon showing up with the big check," Reardon said, referring to the fanfare of the Publishers Clearinghouse Sweepstakes winners.

The couple chose a color scheme of black and white with accents of plaid and stripes, bright green and raspberry.

So when did they first hear wedding bells?

"I definitely thought she was someone special when we met. We knew pretty soon," Reardon said.

"We were talking marriage after six months," Seed said. "Since we're older, we had both dated so much already and knew exactly what we wanted."

They dated a year and a half before Reardon popped the question.

He had her over to his home, cleaned the house, made dinner, and had pinsettias and candles everywhere the night he proposed.

"He told me we were going to his boss' Christmas party," she said.

Her sister, Kimberly, who lives with Seed in Birmingham, got engaged to Steve Gallagher of Royal Oak the same night. "My future brother-in-law and I planned it that way," Reardon said.

The couple is just thrilled that they won.

"I am so overwhelmed. It's just wonderful — such a blessing," Seed said. "We were thinking about buying a house in Novi, and now we can afford to now that we won this wonderful contest."

The couple will be provided by Professional Vaid.

The couple will enjoy a five-night, four-day honeymoon including airfare in Nassau, Bahamas, compliments of The Travel Store in Wyandotte. Additional services are provided by BandAyd Systems (lighting and sound) and Hot Rentals. The couple also chose wedding items from over a dozen stores at Twelve Oaks Mall last Friday.



"Marry Me At Twelve" (Oaks) soon-to-be newlyweds Tim Reardon, left, and Kristen Seed plan their mall matrimony with WDIV TV lifestyle correspondent Jon Jordan on a recent visit to the Novi shopping complex.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### NHS Class of 1995 reunion

The Novi High School Class of 1995 will be holding its 10-year reunion on Saturday, Aug. 13 at the Doubletree Hotel in Novi. For more information, contact Melissa Cohn (248) 473-2840 or Dyan Ahrens (313) 543-0045.

### All ages welcome to special skates in February

In addition to its normal open skating and drop-in hockey schedule, Novi Ice Arena will hold a Valentine's Skate on Sunday, Feb. 13 as well as special Sticks & Pucks sessions during the mid-winter break in mid-February.

The Valentine's Skate will be held at the normal public skate time of 3-4:50 p.m. on Feb. 13.

### Winter taxes due Monday

Novi property owners are reminded that their 2004 winter taxes are due on Monday, Feb. 14.

Payments must be received by the Novi treasurer's office on or before the due date to avoid a 4-percent penalty. There is a drop box located at the curb behind the Civic Center for tax/water and sewer payments.

Contact the Treasurer's Office at (248) 347-0440 with questions.

### Stoplight approved by Novi Post Office

The Novi City Council voted Monday night to award a contract for a traffic signal to be installed on Novi Road by the Novi Post Office between Ten Mile Road and Grand River Avenue.

Arena, call (248) 347-1010 or visit [www.novicarena.com](http://www.novicarena.com).

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**Copy Deadline**  
 Tuesday, March 1, 2005  
**Publication Dates**  
 Thursday, March 17, 2005

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 Northville Record . . . . . 248-349-1700  
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 Southfield, MI 48034  
 Telephone: 248-735-0511  
 Facsimile: 248-735-0521

Novi Community School District invites qualified contractors, including MBE/WBE/SBE firms, to submit proposals/bids for the above-referenced project for the following Bid Category:

**BIDS ARE DUE at 2:00 pm local time on Monday February 21, 2005.**

On behalf of the Novi Community School District, Skanska USA Building Inc. will receive sealed proposals for the above project at the Skanska USA Building Inc. main office, 21600 American Drive, Suite 200, Southfield, MI 48034 - Attention: Chris Becker, until the stipulated bid opening date and time. Bids received after the stipulated date and time will not be considered and will be returned unopened. Bids will be opened at a public meeting to be convened at 3:00 pm on Monday February 21, 2005 at the Novi Community School District Educational Services Building. Bids must be clearly marked with the project name and bid category.

All interested bidders may obtain copies of the drawings and specifications from Skanska USA Building Inc. upon request and upon providing a bid deposit of \$50.00. Skanska USA Building Inc. will return all bid deposits to contractor(s) after bid date and when bid documents are returned to Skanska USA Building Inc. in good condition.

A minimum of 5% bid security, either in the form of a Bid Bond or Cashiers' Check payable to Novi Community School District, must accompany each bid. In accordance with Michigan Compiled Laws Section 129.201, successful contractor(s) must obtain Performance and Payment Bonds for any Bid Category exceeding \$50,000. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be in an amount equal to the contract amount. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be solely for the protection of Novi Community School District and Skanska USA Building Inc. as dual obligees. A surety company authorized to do business in the State of Michigan and be listed in the Federal Register or have an AM Best Rating of B+ or better shall execute the Performance and Payment Bonds.

Novi Community School District and Skanska USA Building Inc. reserve the right to reject any or all bids and to waive irregularities in bids.

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## Seniors tell their tales of...

continued from front page

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### Family ties keep teachers' marriage strong

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"It was in a car under a streetlight," Roy said of his proposal.

But Barb didn't have too long to celebrate with her new fiancé. "He was on his way overseas," she said. "We didn't see each other for 20 months. We wrote letters every single day." Barb still has all her letters.

When Roy returned, the two opted for a simple wedding at First Presbyterian Church in Plymouth with a tea, sandwiches, coffee and cake reception.

Both say family ties have kept marriage strong. During the 44 years they lived in Livonia, Barb's parents lived three doors down.

"If they needed me, I'd be there," Barb said, and their two children grew up knowing their grandparents. "Our folks were



Barb and Roy Birmingham coddle retired teachers celebrate their anniversary.

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Added Roy, "Our families have been so good. There's nobody mad at anybody."  
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Kim Kovelie is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or by e-mail at kovelie@ht.homecom.net

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The couple chose a color scheme of black and white with accents of plaid and stripes, bright green and raspberry.

So, when did they first hear wedding bells?

"I definitely thought this was



'Marry Me At Twelve' (Oaks) soon-to-be newlyweds Tim Reardon, left, and Kristen Seed plan their mall matrimony. WDIV TV lifestyle correspondent Jon Jordan on a recent visit to the Novi shopping complex.

# GRAPHIC SCIENCES

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### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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Novi Community School District and Skanska USA Building Inc. reserve the right to reject any or all bids and to waive irregularities in bids.

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## Seniors tell their tales of...

continued from front page

river there in St. Paul," he said. "I was trying to get some good mood music on the radio."

"What song came on?"  
"MIK Man Keep Those Bottles Quiet." It was not exactly a romantic song, so I waited," said Hoppy.

"They were wed Oct. 20, 1945, in the same church Jan first spotted Hoppy. A whirlwind tour of Minnesota, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Niagara Falls followed before landing in Florida, where Hoppy was stationed.

During Hoppy's 22 years of military service, the couple had three children, all in different states.

Settling in the Detroit area in 1964, Jan and Hoppy said they've lived in a total 35 homes.

Six grandchildren, Ward Presbyterian Church and Fox Run activities — including snow shoeing for Hoppy — now keep them busy. Both say their friendship is what has kept them together.

"For me, the bottom line is friend," Jan said. "He's very dependable."

Wearing a tane flannel shirt, Hoppy added, "She's the love of my life and always has been."

**Beachcombers find each other**  
Nearly 70 years ago, Frank Syroka headed out to Singden Lake in Commerce to show off his first new car.

On the Sunday trip, he also met a lovely New Yorker named Fran.

"She stood on the running board while we were to fill a bucket of sand," said Frank, 88. "She was a hairdresser and I was

a hardware salesman."

Fran, 86, said, "I used to swim and drive. I liked the looks of him."

Fran worked at Estelle's Beauty Salon in Detroit, while Frank dabbled with sales and autos. With the long hours, Frank courted his gal with evening dances and movies in downtown Detroit.

"The first date was a drive to Belle Isle in the evening," Frank said. "For 50 cents we could go in and dance to the big name bands."

Some dates were less romantic: When Frank bid business contracts for home improvement, Fran sometimes waited for him in his car.

"When I got back, she was always asleep," Frank said. But that didn't deter Fran. They were wed at Detroit's Immaculate Conception Church on Jan. 28, 1939.

They honeymooned in Florida, visiting racetracks and catching night shows.

Now, 65 years later, the Syrokas have two children, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Fran said part of their secret has been keeping active. "We used to entertain a lot, too," she said. "We used to get together with couples. We keep going. We help each other."

They still take trips to beaches, too. New rings were exchanged for their 40th anniversary. The couple recently moved from a 45-year home in Troy to Novi's Waltonwood.

One constant Valentine's Day tradition is card exchanging.

"Now, our grandkids and great-grandkids send us cards of happiness," Frank said.

### Family ties keep teachers' marriage strong

Barb Birmingham was certain that her first date with Roy would be her last.

After they'd met through mutual friends at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, they saw the film "Battleground." Barb had a bad cold.

"I sneezed so loud and (was) sure the roof moved," she said. "I was sure I'd never see him again. But he was brave."

Now married 54 years this Valentine's Day, the retired schoolteachers joke that the sneezing blended in with the movie's booming artillery. Both remember the date: April 17, 1950. It's the same date Roy, 76, later proposed to Barb, 74.

Roy had just been drafted and was about to leave home. He made a surprise visit to fetch his girl from waiting tables at the college dormitory.

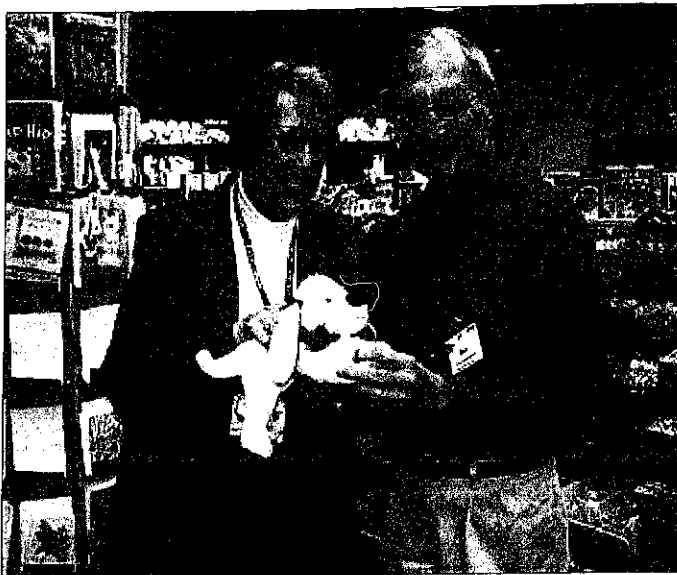
"It was in a car under a street-light," Roy said of his proposal.

But Barb didn't have too long to celebrate with her new fiancé. "He was on his way overseas," she said. "We didn't see each other for 20 months. We wrote letters every single day." Barb still has all her letters.

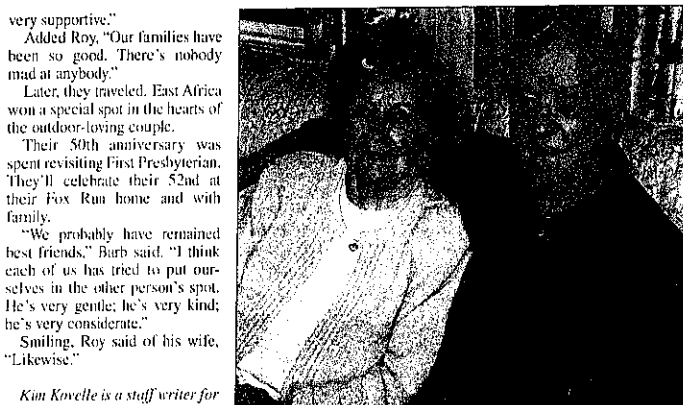
"We probably have remained best friends," Barb said. "I think each of us has tried to put ourselves in the other person's spot. He's very gentle, he's very kind, he's very considerate."

Smiling, Roy said of his wife, "Likewise."

Kim Kovelte is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or by e-mail at kovelte@nl.honcom.net



Barb and Roy Birmingham coddle a Valentine's Day puppy in Fox Run's gift store. The retired teachers celebrate their anniversary on the Feb. 14 holiday.



Fran and Frank Syroka share a close moment on the lobby couch at Waltonwood. They just celebrated their 65th anniversary.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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Member Lynne Paul noted that the Novi post office is an especially challenging spot for local motorists, and that this traffic signal may help prevent a motor

vehicle accident.

"It saves one person from getting into an accident, it'll be worth it," she said.

Member Bob Gatt, a former Novi police officer, agreed that this is a much-needed traffic signal in Novi.

"This is an issue that is very dear to me. It's a great spot for an accident, and it's dangerous getting in and out of it. This should improve safety," he said.

Member Kim Canello noted that this signal is only a temporary one and that a more permanent traffic signal will be placed by the post office when the Novi Road widening project continues between Ten Mile Road and Grand River Avenue.

The Novi Road widening project is part of the city's master plan.

Compiled by Staff

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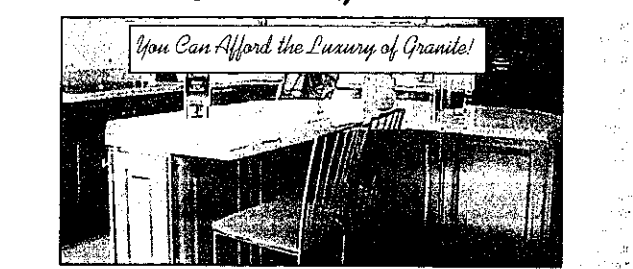
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# Fate brought 'Marry Me At Twelve' couple together

■ They lived near each other, but never met

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

It seems that Tim Reardon, 30, of Berkley and Kristen Seed, 28, of Birmingham, winners of this year's "Marry Me At Twelve" Contest at Twelve Oaks Mall, were destined to be together.

The two met on a blind date when a co-worker of Reardon's met Seed at a party and thought they'd be perfect for each other.

They'll marry at 7 p.m. Sunday at the mall's center court.

"We always lived in the same city, but our paths never crossed," Seed explained. "We both grew up around this area — I was from Farmington Hills. Then we both went to the University of Dayton, and we never met," she added, even though her maid of honor dated one of his roommates.

Then, they both moved to Cincinnati and lived about three blocks from each other — and never met.

When they both moved back to Michigan several years later, Seed met a girl at a party.

"She was telling me how she wanted to set me up with this guy, and she did," she said.

As the saying goes, the rest is history.

The two had to write an essay of 100 words or less to win a wedding couples' shower, dinner reception and honeymoon in the Jordan presented by Emerald City Designs of Farmington Hills and Twelve Oaks Mall.

Reardon is a sales representative for Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, and Seed is a fourth-grade teacher for Farmington Public Schools. He went to Catholic Central; she went

to Farmington High School. They said it only took them about 20 minutes to hammer out the essay. The next thing they knew, a camera man from WDIV-TV Channel 4 was at their door, and they were later heard live on WNIC-FM 93.1 radio.

A Hammer limousine pulled up in front of their door the morning of Feb. 4 to drive them to Emerald City Designs and Twelve Oaks Mall to pick out their wedding ensemble.

"It was like Ed McMahon showing up with the big check," Reardon said, referring to the fanfare of the Publishers.

Cleavinghouse Sweepstakes winners.

The couple chose a color scheme of black and white with accents of plaids and stripes, bright green and raspberry.

So, when did they first hear wedding bells?

"I definitely thought she was someone special when we met. We knew pretty soon," Reardon said.

"We were talking marriage after six months," Seed said. "Since we're older, we had both dated so much already and knew exactly what we wanted."

They dated a year and a half before Reardon popped the question.

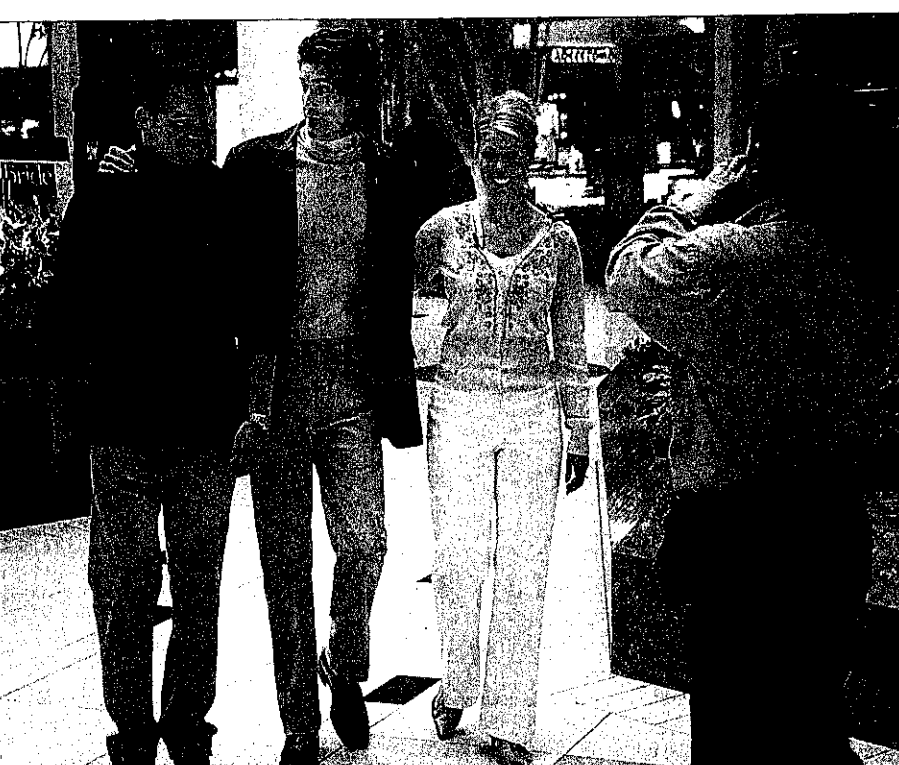
He had her over to his home, cleaned the house, made dinner, and had pinecones and candles everywhere the night he proposed.

"He told me we were going to his boss' Christmas party," she said.

Her sister, Kimberly, who lives with Seed in Birmingham, got engaged to Steve Gallagher of Royal Oak the same night. "My future brother-in-law and I planned it that way," Reardon said.

The couple is just thrilled that they won.

"I am so overwhelmed. It's just wonderful — such a blessing," Seed said. "We were thinking about buying a house in Novi, and now we can afford to now that we won this wonderful contest."



"Marry Me At Twelve" (Oaks) soon-to-be newlyweds Tim Reardon, left, and Kristen Seed plan their mall matrimony with WDIV TV lifestyle correspondent Jon Jordan on a recent visit to the Novi shopping complex.

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# Valentine's Day not always so rosy

By Maureen Johnston  
HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

## TIPS FOR LESS-THAN-PERFECT MARRIAGES

Some say that Feb. 15 cannot arrive soon enough. Store shelves saturated with pink hearts, red candy and plump cherubs since Christmas merchandise was cleared can grate on the nerves of shoppers about to endure Cupid's holiday without someone special with whom to share it.

Even some blessed with a soul mate by their side eye Valentine's Day as a greeting card manufacturer's machination, a florist's feast or the candy industry's excuse to crank it up.

Romantic status aside, there it is every year — Feb. 14. The laziest, most syrupy and sentimental date on the calendar, on the heels of the coldest, media-hyped, mostly sports event from which lost ground may need to be made up anyway.

How is either gender supposed to cope this week?

Just in time: New York-based Simon & Schuster released Bennett Madison's, "I Hate Valentine's Day." Even the red cover is a sarcastic twist on the holiday's trademark candy conversation hearts.

"It's only one day," Madison advises. "Tomorrow it's just dead flowers, empty calories, and a wicked champagne hangover."

Valentine's Day can be as traumatic for people in relationships as well as singles, the author says. The date each year comes wrapped in rituals and tied up in expectations.

"While the single folks are sitting alone in their studio apartments, weeping into a champagne flute for one, the couples of the world are busy bickering over where to go to dinner," Madison writes. "There are presents to think about, and cards, and flowers."

"There are girlfriends (and boyfriends) who treat the day like dry runs for the dream weddings that they have been planning since they were in sixth grade."

Madison's good news is the day does not have to mean annual theft of self-esteem. His first chapter takes readers back to their fond memories of Valentine's Day in elementary school: the cards, the parties, the little construction paper valentine holders.

Then he invites his audience to ask themselves how to make it fun again.

"Hallmark and your stupid boyfriend aside — the misery is not coming from an outside source," Madison advises. "You are inventing it."

"It's all in your head." Subsequent chapters take readers through their potential for the approaching 24 hours:

- Rethinking Valentine's Day
- Emergency Dating
- The Platonic Cure
- Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Buying a Valentine's Gift but Were Too Broke to Bother Inquiring About
- Hell Night
- Wallowing When All Else Fails
- Troubleshooting, or, When the Dolly Hiss the Fan
- Epilogue: The Day After

In the 120-page paperback, readers will find humorous tips lists: Top Ten Gift-Giving Don'ts, People to Avoid No Matter How Desperate You Get, the Top Five DVDs to Sub to on Valentine's Day.

"When it's all said and done, you might find yourself with a case of post-holiday blues," the author says. In that case, he has another list of suggestions, including:

- Go on a candy shopping spree. It's all 50 percent off!

Maureen Johnston is a staff writer for the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103, or via e-mail at mjohnston@ht.homecomm.net.

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Your Observer & Eccentric, Mirror and HomeTown Newspapers, in conjunction with the United Way of Oakland County, are calling for nominations for the HomeTown Heroes™ Awards, which recognizes, encourages and rewards outstanding volunteers who have given selflessly of themselves to support non-profit organizations in Oakland County. Nominees and awardees will be recognized at the Sixth Annual HomeTown Heroes™ Luncheon that will take place on June 1, 2005 at Marriott at Centerpoint in Pontiac, Michigan.

NOMINATOR: \_\_\_\_\_ IF GROUP, CONTACT PERSON: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINATING CATEGORY: (Only one person nominated per category allowed)

\_\_\_\_ DIRECT SERVICE \_\_\_\_ YOUNG ADULT \_\_\_\_ SENIOR

\_\_\_\_ YOUTH \_\_\_\_ GOVERNANCE \_\_\_\_ FAITH-BASED \_\_\_\_ BUSINESS

NAME OF NOMINEE: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

(Must volunteer for an Oakland County non-profit organization)

SCHOOL ATTENDING (if appropriate): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

YEARS OF SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_ AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS WORKS PER MONTH: \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED \_\_\_\_\_

A type written essay on a separate sheet, up to one page (no less than 10 point font size). In the essay state the qualities that make this volunteer stand out from other volunteers and list any major accomplishments of the person's volunteer activities. Please give specific examples of how the nominee currently has helped someone, has made a difference for the non-profit organization and/or has had an impact on the community. Include a photo (no larger than 5" x 7") of the nominated person or group, or for Business nominees, include a photo of persons participating in the volunteer activity.

Entries must be received by Thursday, March 24, 2005.

Mail or fax forms to: HomeTown Heroes™ Awards • c/o United Way of Oakland County  
50 Wayne Street • Pontiac, MI 48342 • Fax: 248-456-8809

For questions, further information, or more applications go to  
www.unitedwayoakland.org/hero.html or call 248-874-1601.

**HomeTown Heroes Planning Committee:**  
Assistance League of Southeastern Michigan • Junior League of Birmingham  
Lighthouse of Oakland County • Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency  
Oakland University • St. Joseph Mercy Oakland



# PUBLIC SAFETY

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

## BRIEFS

**San stabs father**

The Novi Police Department responded to a 911 call at 8:14 p.m. on Feb. 7 at 626 Fleddermoose, located in Old Dutch Farms, off Napier Road, from a female caller stating that her husband had been stabbed with a kitchen knife in the face and arm by her 24-year-old son.

Upon arrival, the Novi officers secured the scene and the victim's son was immediately apprehended. The victim, 57-year-old Nate Herkowitz, received four stab wounds to the face, five stab wounds to the chest and one wound to each arm. He was transported by Community EMS to William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak where he underwent emergency surgery and is listed in stable condition.

Preliminary investigation indicates that Cindy Herkowitz and her husband, Nate, had been arguing. Cindy left the bedroom where they had been arguing and entered the living room to sit down. The 24-year-old son then went down the hall and into the bedroom where his father was lying on the bed and allegedly stabbed him. Cindy heard the screaming, entered the bedroom, saw what happened and called 911.

The incident remains under investigation by Novi Police detectives. The suspect has no prior criminal history and there is no prior history of mental health treatment.

The Novi Police Department is currently presenting this case to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office for official charges. The police department anticipated that the suspect would be formally charged and arraigned on Feb. 9 at the 52-1 District Court in Novi.

**Buckle children up**

As part of Child Passenger Safety Week Feb. 9-15, the Novi Police Department is reminding parents and children providers to buckle up their children.

Preventative safety actions like these can lead to a lifetime of good health for all our kids.

While most infants and toddlers ride in the right child safety seat, less than 10 percent of the children who should be in booster seats use one. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is stressing that children who have outgrown child safety seats be properly restrained in booster seats in the back seat until they are at least 8 years old, unless they are 4 foot, 9 inches tall.

The four steps for children are:

- Rear-facing infant seats in the back seat from birth to at least 1 year old and at least 20 pounds.
- Forward-facing toddler seats in the back seat from age 1 to about age 4 and 20-40 pounds.
- Booster seats in the back seat from about age 4 and 40 pounds to at least age 8, unless 4 foot, 9 inches.
- Safety belts at age 8 or older or taller than 4 foot, 9 inches. All children 12 and under should ride in the back seat.

Michigan law requires children under age 4 to be in an approved child safety seat, regardless of the seating position. Children from ages 4-15 must wear a safety belt, including in the back seat.

The contract was awarded to Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and

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## DISTRICT COURT REPORT

*These are the cases that were scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for Dec. 3-Jan. 14.*

- Neil Alan Meyers: False report of felony.
- William James Troher: Felony assault.
- Jordan Hosea Jaime: Financial transmission device (two counts).
- Sekenna Renee Smith: First degree retail fraud.
- Dennis Michael Douglas: Operating under the influence of alcohol-per se (third offense felony), violation of license restriction, sentence enhancement (second offense).
- Danovon Edward Weeks: Embezzlement of more than \$1000 but less than \$20,000, sentence enhancement (third offense).
- Frank Allen Getz: Second degree home invasion.
- Arthur Andrew Diecker: Delivery and manufacture of marijuana, failure to display license upon demand.
- Christopher W. Thurlow: Assaulting, resisting and obstructing a police officer, driving while license suspended (second or subsequent offense).
- Michelle Shanya Williams: Conspicuous uttering and publishing, uttering and publishing.
- Dean Masood: Delivery and manufacture of marijuana.
- Geri Lynn Brooks: Possession of controlled substances under 25 grams (two counts).
- Dennis Anthony Farr: Larceny in a building.
- Shauntel Avery Perry: Violation in a weapon free school zone.
- Nicole Lynn Puitlar: False report of a felony.
- Daniel James Grigg: Assaulting, resisting and obstructing a police officer, minor in possession, consumption and purchase of alcohol.
- Breton Reid Conlay: Delivery and manufacture of marijuana, controlled substances-possession of marijuana.
- Marc Nicholas Hughes: Carrying a concealed weapon.
- Johnathan Arthur Hudgins: Possession of a controlled substance under 25 grams, driving while license suspended, sentence enhancement (fourth or subsequent offense).
- Brian Keith Henderson: Operating under the influence of alcohol-per se (third offense felony), driving while license suspended (second or subsequent offense).
- Alicia Montique Boyd: Uttering and publishing (four counts).
- James Tung Huic: False report of a felony.
- Jennifer Lee Jones (aka Baby Chiks): Possession of a controlled substance under 25 grams, controlled substance possession of marijuana.
- Enoch Walter Cox Jr.: Assault, resisting and obstruction of a police officer (two counts), domestic violence (second offense notice), sentence enhancement (4th or subsequent offense).
- Joseph Ryan Herz: Second degree home invasion.
- Drew Thomas Mitrowski: Delivery and manufacture of methamphetamine.
- Craig Joseph Hatemore: First degree retail fraud.
- Aries Lee Huston: Third degree criminal sexual conduct - 13- through 15-year-old (four counts), assault with intent to commit sexual penetration.
- Jam Jose Valdez Jr.: Larceny over \$1,000 (three counts).
- Mark Christopher Lindsey: Delivery and manufacture of marijuana, controlled substances-possession of marijuana.
- Michael James Muscatello: Operating a vehicle while license suspended, controlled substances - use of marijuana, driving while license suspended.
- Alicia Montique Boyd: Uttering and publishing (four counts).

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Back Row, Left to Right: Sam Messina, Realtor, Keller Williams Plymouth Market Center; Hank Salla, Certified Public Accountant; Denise Varner, Volunteer Coordinator, Our Lady of Good Counsel Church; Daniel Herriman, CEO, Herriman & Associates, Inc.; Philip Curtiss, Retired Information Technology Manager

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# SENIORS

Kim Kovelie, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net

## Sun still shining on Irishman's face

■ 100-year-old Marty McShea sings, bingos, brightens lives

By Kim Kovelie  
STAFF WRITER

At 100 years old, Marty McShea still stops a room in its tracks when he belts out an old tune. More often than not, he's pushing his wheel chair, not sitting in it.

And he'll tell you about the "WGN" in a heartbeat.

"The 'World's Greatest Newspaper,'" McShea exclaimed. "The Chicago Tribune. It's a good outfit to work for."

That's where the spirited Irishman, who celebrated his centennial at Manor of Novi last week, spent decades delivering dailies from a truck.

Novi Rotarians, nurses, and friends gathered Feb. 5 to mark McShea's milestone with hugs, kisses, cake, gifts, green beads and a top hat.

And they cheered his pitch-perfect rendition of "Red Roses for a Blue Lady," "Shine On Harvest Moon" and "Wedding Bells Are Breaking Up That Old Gang of Mine."

Eyes shining, McShea turned the nursing home room into a stage.

"I had about my age to get my chauffeur's license. I told them I was 18," McShea said. "I had to get work. Every two years we'd get a different truck."

He said he admired the newspaper's union, which offered employees health care benefits in tough times. McShea's route took him 30-40 miles around his hometown.

Early years also were spent at St. Patrick's Grammar School and tending the Chicago White Sox with the boys.

"We loved it when they had the City League," McShea said. "They would play the Cubs and the White Sox."

Even as a young man, he aimed to impress audiences: "I used to sing 10 songs in a row — no applause — in the nightclubs in Chicago," he chuckled.

His wife, whom he wed in 1926, worked at Marshall Fields and spoke four languages. At the time they met, she was dating a different fellow.

"She's the one who says, 'Why don't we go on a date?'" McShea recalled. He wanted half a dozen kids, but the couple settled on two. Two grandchildren and one great-grandchild followed.

After McShea retired from his truck route, he moved to Michigan to help his daughter and her family. He lived at Farmington Hills nursing home for a time, transferring to Manor of Novi five years ago.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi resident and new member of the 100-year-old club Marty McShea sings songs during his birthday celebration last week. Among other tunes, he sang "Red Roses for a Blue Lady" to those gathered for his party.

### Windy City and WGN

Growing up with four brothers and three sisters in Chicago, McShea said money was spread thin for the Irish Catholic family.

"We were always in debt," he recalled. "We had meatloaf once a week."

His dad, a steelworker, often was unemployed. Neighbors in his community helped each other by sharing food.

When he turned 16, McShea applied for work at the Chicago

### A bubbly character

McShea's friends know him as a determined man who's quick with a joke and a natural entertainer.

"Marty's got a great sense of humor. He can light up a room when he walks in," social worker Teri Jones-Cieska said. "He is always the belle of the party."

Donna Batchelor met McShea about 10 years ago while volunteering.

"His mind is so sharp," she said. "He still reads without glasses. He

can tell me exactly how much I spent (on groceries) without a calculator."

The day before his party, he left Beaumont Hospital after a minor medical problem. Batchelor said McShea was determined to sign himself out.

"I had no doubt that he would do that, if push came to shove," she said. "I love him. He has definite opinions."

Before that, games ran 10 cents. The Irishman plays chips at Novi's

stickler for Hall's Honey Lemon cough drops and two natural raisin cookies per day.

Pat Williams, interim activities director, recalled the first time she met McShea.

"He was a bubbly kind of little guy," she said. "The only thing he'd ever fuss about is bingo. He made us up the price to 25 cents a game."

Before that, games ran 10 cents. The Irishman plays chips at Novi's

Church of the Holy Family and bowls on Thursdays with a plastic set at the Manor.

Every Sunday, he attends mass. He's also religious about trying to attend Novi Rotary meetings.

"He's quite a character," Rotarian Mav Sanghvi said. "His spirit and gusto and his joy for life — he's a living history."

After cake and gifts, McShea bid his friends farewell. Batchelor he took by the hands. "God bless you,"

he said. "Please pray for me once in a while."

"I think the Lord's going to bless him and keep him around a little bit longer," Williams said. "He's just a joy."

Kim Kovelie is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or via e-mail at kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net.

## SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

**Friday 2/11**

8:45 a.m. Panera Bread

9 a.m. Stretch & Strength

10 a.m. Body Recall

noon Computer - Excel

11 a.m. Blood Pressure and TOPS Class

noon Lunch

12:30 p.m. Clogging

1:30 p.m. Bingo held in activities room

2 p.m. Bridge

7 p.m. Valentine's Novi Chorales Concert, Cabaret and Chocolate (advance ticket required)

**Monday 2/14**

9 a.m. Stretch & Strength

10 a.m. Body Recall

noon Lunch

12:30 p.m. Pinocle

1-3 p.m. Healing Touch

2 p.m. Valentine's Tea Decorate your own cookies!

6:30 p.m. Clogging

**Tuesday 2/15**

9 a.m. Panera Bread

9 a.m. Line Dance

10:30 a.m. Asian Pacific

11 a.m. Healthy Fasting - L.Romansorty, R.D.

noon Lunch

12:30 p.m. Bingo

**Wednesday 2/16**

9 a.m. Stretch & Strength

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Massage

10 a.m. Body Recall

11 a.m. Computer - Excel

11 a.m. Blood Pressure and TOPS Class

noon Lunch

12:30 p.m. Clogging

1-2 p.m. Estate Planning by appointment

**Thursday 2/17**

9 a.m. Line Dance\*

9:30 a.m. Travel Meeting

noon Lunch

12:15 p.m. Clogging\*

1-2 p.m. Line Dance

Activities designated with an "\*" will be held at the Novi Civic Center. The Senior Center is located at 25075 Meadowbrook Road.

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Presented by Michael S. Rowe, M.D., F.A.C.P., C.C.R.I.

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Watch for our upcoming St. Patrick's word search contest on March 10, in our classified section of HomeTown Newspapers Green Sheet.

Complete the puzzle, mail entry and you could win a \$25 gift certificate to 1 of our advertisers.

## HOUSE CALLS

By Botsford General Hospital

### SNOW SHOVELING SAFETY

Shoveling snow is a feat of life in Michigan. But, it's also serious exercise. One best left to the physically fit.

Avoid shoveling if you have heart disease, high blood pressure, are overweight, inactive or have other health conditions that put you at risk for injury or a heart attack. Everyone needs to take care when clearing those sidewalks and driveways.

1. Warm up. Stretch your back, arms and legs before and after shoveling.
2. Dress in warm layers. Remove layers as you warm up.
3. Drink plenty of water. We dehydrate quicker in cold weather. And skip warming up with a cup of "bleeded" coffee.
4. Clear the snow in stages. Don't fill up the whole shovel.
5. Push snow instead of lifting it as much as possible.
6. When you do lift snow, bend at the knees and use the strength in your legs not your arms.
7. Don't throw snow over your shoulder or to the side.
8. Watch your footing. Ice may be lurking under that snow.
9. Take your time. Start slow and take a break every 15 minutes. Limit shoveling sessions to 30-60 minutes at a time.
10. Feeling winded or really working up a sweat? Stop. It's a sure sign you're overdoing it.

**NEXT WEEK: WARNING SIGNS OF A STROKE**

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# BUSINESS

Pam Fleming, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 pfleming@ht.homecomm.net Kim Kovelie, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net

## Credit union expanding its community

■ Hometown looks to new office, attorney and safety in '05

By Kim Kovelie  
STAFF WRITER

After a name change and a year of searching, Hometown Community Credit Union is spreading its wings.

Located in Novi for seven years, it will soon have a Livonia branch, plus new services and safety precautions.

Thanks to a charter granted by the state in late 2003, financial services are now available to 26 Oakland and Wayne county communities.

"We used to get actually traffic walking into our office, before we expanded, from Farmington Hills," said marketing director Jeanette Assaf of Novi. "We're starting to get more members from our neighboring cities."

But, she said, the credit union still prides itself on a one-on-one approach.

### On the same track

Originally developed in 1997 to serve CSX Railroad employees in Marquette, the credit union moved to Novi in 1997.

Mike Thomson, CEO, said since the chartering, Hometown took care in expanding.

"We know we need to grow to compete, but at the same time we don't want to lose that small-organization attitude or feeling," he said. "We weren't going to go out and just spend a lot of the dollars needlessly. Now we're making a concerted effort."

Formerly known as the Novi Community Credit Union, the federally insured group's services run from certificates of deposit and mortgages to a variety of accounts and pension plans.

Three days a week, attorney Charles Haroun now provides a no charge will and must help to members by appointment.

"Always in the past, you've had to apply for that privilege," Thomson said. "We figured if you belong to the organization, you should have the ability to pick up the phone and call the attorney."



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi Hometown Community Credit Union employee Jeanette Assaf, left, talks to member Rita Dieter about benefits of belonging to the credit union on a recent Friday afternoon.

At a fee of about \$100 an hour — up to 50 percent less than typical fees, Thomson said — Haroun also helps with legal matters: from driver to real estate.

"Our business is to provide the avenue of the service," Thomson said.

### Safety and service

Hometown also has an array of other new services and making identity fraud.

Topping the list is a new computer system that will include digital photos of members and scans of drivers' licenses.

Novi officers will close on March 31 and April 1 to install and train on the new system.

"From a security point of view, it's going to help us maintain safety and sometimes of member accounts," Thomson said. "We're going to start seeing more and more of that because of fraud. It's one of

### HOMETOWN CREDIT

- What: Novi's Hometown Credit Union is expanding its locations and programs to include a new Livonia branch, attorney services and anti-fraud computer system
- When: Livonia office and computer updates are due out April; attorney services available now
- Where: Novi locations are at 22245 Hagerty Road and 42250 Grand River Ave.
- Contact: (248) 348-8500; (248) 465-1370
- Hours: The credit union's lobby is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Wednesday; 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday, and 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday. The drive-thru is open 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday, and 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday.

the biggest things we have to deal with."

Tellers will access the computers by fingerprint identification. After a minute of inactivity, the computer will shut down.

"Currently, there are 12 full-time and nine part-time workers.

from A to Z," she said. "That's what we pride on doing. We still know their first names."

Services will translate to Livonia and an existing locale in Grand Rapids.

Though there's an eye on expanding to Milford next, Thomson said keeping the tagline "Old-fashioned values with high-tech services" alive is a priority.

Community involvement, including Novi's Rotary, Chamber of Commerce and 50's Festival, are part of that.

"I didn't know about the philosophy of credit unions before I joined one, which was too bad for me," Assaf said. "It's the people helping people."

Thomson said three new employees will be brought on to help at the new location.

Services including no-annual-fee Visa credit cards also are being offered, Assaf said.

"We do handle our customers

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Pamela's learns, mentors

Pamela's Salon was busy last month learning new hair techniques in Las Vegas and receiving accolades for work with high-risk adolescent girls from Dearborn Heights-based Vista Maria.

Held in Troy, the Metro Detroit Mentor Collaboration honored Pamela's as mentor of the year for Vista Maria. The salon treats the girls to salon styling once a month, and, recently, donated 160 robe and slipper sets.

Pamela's owner Pam Manza spoke at the event.

In addition, three salon employees trekked to Las Vegas for the ReSkin Symposium. There, they participated in clinics and learned new techniques for haircutting and coloring.

Located at 23965 Novi Road, Pamela's Salon can be reached at (248) 349-9925.

### ITC offers meeting recap

Novi-based International Transmission Company recently held its first quarter 2005 Partners in Business Meeting.

Now available online, the meeting included a review of 2004 activities, 2005 plans and reports on current activities within the industry. Last year marked the first time the electric transmission provider became an independent entity. Other topics included local and national influence to regulatory and legislative arenas.

The presentation can be found at [www.itctransco.com](http://www.itctransco.com). The next stakeholders' meeting will be Tuesday, April 26, 2005. ITC is located at 39500 Orchard Hill Place, Ste. 200.

### Taubman eyes Atlantic City

Taubman Centers, Inc., manager of Novi's Twelve Oaks mall, recently announced it has joined Gordon Group Holdings LLC to invest in an Atlantic City, N.J., shopping center.

continued on page 15A

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# Money dispute with contractor delays expo construction

**■ New expo center won't open until August**

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

The opening of Novi's new \$18 million exposition center will be delayed more than three months until August, after a disagreement over money caused the owner to switch construction firms last week.

Blair Bowman, managing partner of THON, L.L.C., the Novi-based company who owns and is building the center, charges that Clayco Construction Inc., of Livonia reneged on its contract.

Bowman noted that "THON doesn't really stand for anything, but some people have coined the phrase 'The Best of Novi,'" Bowman said.

According to THON representatives, Clayco agreed to a guaranteed maximum price of \$17,050,000 for the complete design and construction of the new 320,000-square-foot center on the north side of Grand River Avenue just west of Taft Road.

THON representatives charge that after the contract was signed, Clayco representatives demanded additional hundreds of thousands of dollars and threatened to abandon the project. THON charges that when they refused to pay more than the agreed maximum price, Clayco walked off the project.

"Clayco Construction expects to be paid for additional items that the owner asked for which are beyond the guaranteed maximum price," said Mark Tomaski, regional vice president of Clayco Detroit.

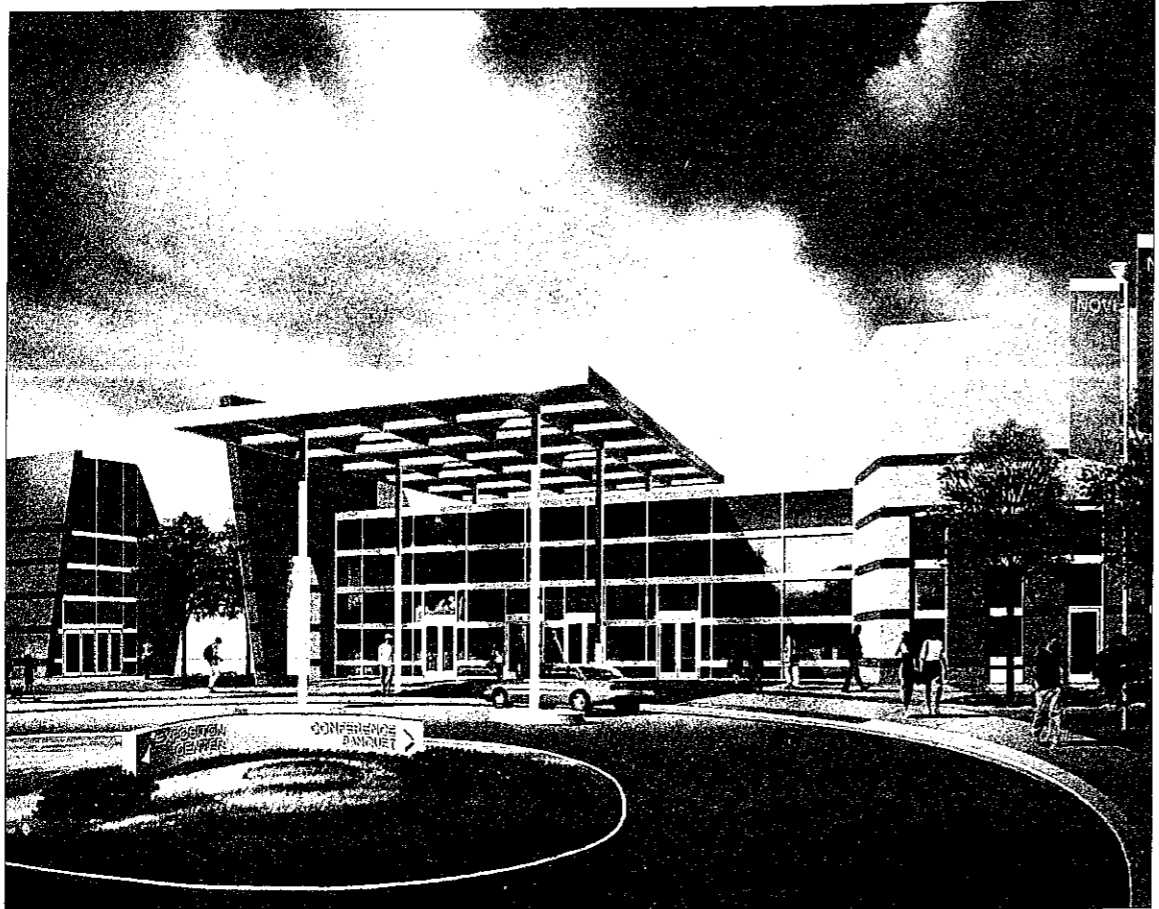
For its part, Clayco announced last week that it terminated its contract with THON and halted construction Jan. 31.

"We actually terminated the agreement on Dec. 6, 2004, and extended it in good faith to try to come to a resolution. Both parties could not come to a resolution, so Clayco terminated the agreement. We extended the termination date until Jan. 31," Tomaski said.

"We have worked very hard to make the project a reality," he added. "Unfortunately, disagreements with THON have made this action by Clayco necessary."

THON representatives say they may sue Clayco. They say they tried for months to work through problems with them. But when Clayco walked off the project, they hired Cunningham Limp of Farmington Hills to complete the work.

Bowman said THON intends to enforce its rights under the contract with Clayco and recover all



An artist's rendering of the new exposition center being built on Grand River Avenue, between Taft and Beck roads in Novi.

of the damages caused by their alleged breach of contract.

Clayco broke ground on the center in June 2004 and completed the shell. The center is privately owned and funded by Bowman and financed through Standard Federal Bank.

Clayco defended its action. "No. 1, this is extremely rare for us to do something like this. We had several disagreements, mainly concerning amount owed, change orders and the ability of the client to provide us with critical information. We couldn't get the information we needed to perform," Tomaski said, confirming that Clayco had terminated the agreement.

"When they demanded, and we refused, that was the last straw. The difference was hundreds of thousands of dollars," Bowman added. He said THON actually gave Clayco an additional \$250,000 early on, after they claimed "a change in the market" led to increased construction costs.

"Before the contract was signed, both parties agreed to split at \$500,000 cost increase due to market conditions in regards to the

steel industry," Tomaski said. "We signed a guaranteed maximum price after that. We want to be reimbursed for any additional amount beyond the agreed maximum price."

"He (Tomaski) guaranteed the price, not us. They took the market risk of steel prices rising, not we. We made a concession that we did not have to legally or contractually make. They came back and said there was an increase in steel prices, but they bore the risk for that," Bowman said.

"We have engaged another contractor to complete the project, and we are going to hold Clayco

accountable for the contract originally signed," he added.

Bowman said they struggled with the decision to use Clayco originally, but liked the design of the Clayco tilt-up Construction process, which uses concrete panels versus a typical block and steel building.

Bowman said Clayco signed a contract in September 2003, which was modified in March 2004, but charged that THON had still not received a final set of plans from Clayco. He said his firm had kept in touch with Cunningham Limp, which was then able to swiftly step in.

"Cunningham Limp has a tremendous reputation in the community and is a local contractor with local roots," Bowman said.

John Bowman, executive director and general counsel for the Novi Expo Center, said Cunningham Limp has already coordinated meetings with city officials.

"They're seamlessly picking up where the project left off," Bowen 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.

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# Tower Automotive hopes to emerge stronger

**■ Bankruptcy blamed on high steel prices, low industry demand**

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Steel prices are sky high, and automotive companies are building fewer vehicles.

These are the major reasons Novi-based Tower Automotive, Inc. was forced to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy last week. But, the supplier's top executive believes the firm will survive its financial woes.

Kathleen Ligocki, president and CEO, said that in late 2003

and all through 2004, the company's key priorities were launches and liquidity.

But despite noble efforts, Tower announced Feb. 7 that it and certain of its subsidiaries filed to reorganize under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. The action was taken to address liquidity needs and facilitate a debt restructuring. The company filed its petition with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York.

Tower Automotive designs and produces structural components and assemblies used by major automotive original equipment manufacturers, including BMW, DaimlerChrysler, Fiat, Ford, GM, Honda, Hyundai/Kia, Nissan, Toyota, Volkswagen and Volvo.

Products include body structures and assemblies, lower vehicle frames and structures, chassis

and modules and systems, and suspension components.

With normal operations continuing and no layoffs foreseen, the company expects to receive approval to access the full amount of its financing commitment at a Feb. 28 hearing.

Ligocki noted that the recent termination of early pay programs at certain auto makers has adversely affected the company's liquidity. Under these programs, automakers paid suppliers in 10 days instead of the normal 30 to 45 days.

"These factors, combined with a complex and restrictive capital

structure and an unsustainable debt load, have made it clear that a financial reorganization was necessary," Ligocki said.

She noted that Tower has \$1.4 billion of new business launching through 2005, a diverse product profile, and product development capabilities ranging from design and analysis to prototype and testing as well as manufacturing.

"As we came into January with low car volumes, we really did not have a choice but to file for Chapter 11," she said. Ligocki said the board made the decision the night before the bankruptcy filing.

Ligocki said current goals are to emerge from bankruptcy with at least a BB+ rating, which would mean that the company would have significantly less debt, and the debt would be less complex.

She added that the company notified its customers in January of its financial problems.

"We've been keeping them abreast as things unfolded," Ligocki said. One factor leading to the firm's bankruptcy filing was the fact that the price of steel has risen recently from \$600 to about \$720 per ton, according to Ligocki.

"We're looking for prices to continue to be high in 2005," Ligocki said. However, the opening of some new steel mills in 2006 and 2007 may help lower steel prices, she said.

The reorganization plan will take place over a 12- to 18-month period.

So, what's it been like to be in the hot seat, so to speak, as the firm's leader? "It's never dull. I would say what's exciting at Tower is the concept that the business is still sound. I think that's one of the reasons our customers have been supportive," Ligocki said. "Last week was a difficult week, but we got our financing approved by the court. I'm pleased with our first week (in Chapter 11 bankruptcy). Once we get our balance sheet right, we'll emerge as a much stronger company."

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.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

continued from page 13A

Currently under construction, The Pier at Cascares is expected to open early next year. In the agreement, Taubman will have a 30 percent interest in the \$175 million project.

During development, Taubman will provide as-needed leasing and development administrative services, and continue the latter once the center opens.

Also, the developers also forged a joint agreement for future endeavors near the center, including casino retail-oriented and entertainment-related projects.

### Borders talks finances

Borders Group Inc., which runs a Novi Town Center shop, yesterday discussed 2004 fourth quarter sales and full-year sales in an analyst/investor conference call.

Led by CEO Greg Josefowicz and CFO Ed Wilhelm, the call also provided initial guidance for this financial year. Internet replays can be accessed through Feb. 28 at [www.companystatroom.com](http://www.companystatroom.com); phone replays are available until 5 p.m. through Feb. 16 at (800) 427-1700.

Novi's Borders is located at 43075 Crescent Blvd.

### Grant to help jobs

Thanks to \$200,000 in federal grant money, unemployed Oakland County workers may be better able to find jobs.

The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth announced Feb. 2 that it awarded the funds Oakland County's Michigan Works program. The capital will be used to provide re-employment services tailored to individual needs. Services include long-term job preparation for displaced workers who have been laid off or have received notice of layoff.

Compiled by Kim Kovelte

## Regional economy stuck

Registering 113 points in December, Commerce Bank's Detroit Area Business Activity Index showed a six-point drop from November.

That reversed a prior six-point gain. New Commerce Bank Chief Economist Dana Johnson said the index last year finished in a narrow range, averaging 7 percent.

"The story for Detroit in December, as it was for the entire year, is that the local economy is struggling to develop any positive momentum," Johnson said.

"Production, employment, and sales all are moving sideways."

## Calling startup companies

Emerging Michigan companies soon will vie for a chance to attract millions in venture funds thanks to the Illinois Venture Capital Association.

In a competition begun last week, early-stage companies in Michigan and Midwest are submitting applications to compete in the Midwest Venture Summit 2005.

For a \$295 application fee, the successors get to present to hundreds of venture capital, private equity, and angel investors expected to attend the May 20 Chicago event.

More than 450 flocked last year, and presenting companies' funding exceeded \$30 million.

Richard Karlgason, technology journalist and Forbes magazine publisher, will be the keynote speaker.

Executive summaries are due March 25. Visit [www.midwestventuresummit.org](http://www.midwestventuresummit.org).

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## Honey Tree liquor license request fails again

**■ Councilmen answer conflict of interest claims**

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Tom and Pete Goulas, owners of the Honey Tree Restaurant in Novi, tried once more Monday night to obtain Novi's last city quota Class C liquor license.

But, when Mayor Lou Cosca voted no, the council's earlier decision to not grant the license held.

The request came before council again after city attorney Tom Schultz informed council members about the Jan. 24 meeting that the matter could come up for reconsideration if it was done at the next meeting on Feb. 7.

So, the Goulas family asked for the request to be reconsidered. After voting in favor of reconsid-

ering the request, another motion to grant the request failed again in a tie vote, 3-3, as it did on Jan. 24.

Those voting to grant the license request Monday night included Bob Gatt, Mayor Pro Tem David Landry and Kim Capello.

Those voting against the license request were Cosca, Lyne Paul and Laura Lorenzo. Member Toni Nagy did not arrive at the meeting until later in the evening as the final out-of-town work commitment.

Much discussion centered around the fact that Capello and Landry had disclosed at the last meeting that they had been involved in some legal work with the Goulases.

However, they both said that they did not feel that they needed to recuse themselves from voting on the Honey Tree liquor license request, as their involvement did not represent a conflict of interest.

Member Lyne Paul said that she had received more than three phone calls from citizens who

complained that Capello and Landry voted on Jan. 24 on the Honey Tree matter.

Schultz said that to be seen as a conflict as far as voting that members have to have a direct financial interest to recuse themselves. If not, they are required by council rules to vote.

"You actually have an obligation to vote," Schultz said.

Member Laura Lorenzo said that she had also received a call about Landry and Capello voting on the Honey Tree's request on Jan. 24. She said the caller was also disappointed that Lorenzo did not challenge the two council members' decision to vote.

"Nobody's called me," Landry said. "Our attorney gave us the opinion that it's not a conflict of interest, and I don't think it's a conflict of interest."

Landry added that his "yes" vote on the Honey Tree's request shouldn't be a surprise, since he has publicly stated that he would only approve a liquor license

request from an existing business. "It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see how I'm going to vote," he said.

Landry said he will only support a current business being granted a liquor license because the city "got burned" when the owners of the former Jake's Fish House took their city quota liquor license with them when the business left Novi.

"I'm a little bit stunned at what I'm hearing tonight — that two members would accuse members of not being impartial," Gatt said. "I don't like what I'm seeing tonight. I think it's dirty politics."

Capello said that he would receive no financial interest from the granting of the license, and that Lorenzo and Paul were concerned that the vote would not go their way. "They're trying some underhanded means to get the vote their way," he said.

Lorenzo said that she was just bringing forward an objection raised in the community.

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# LIFESTYLES

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

## NAMES IN THE NEWS

### Gasiorek one of the best

Southfield-based law firm Summers & Gasiorek announced that Donald Gasiorek of Novi has been named one of the 2005 Best Lawyers in America.

Inclusion in Best Lawyers is considered a significant honor because it is based on an objective peer review survey of 15,000 leading attorneys throughout the country. Gasiorek has been listed in Best Lawyers in America for 12 consecutive years. His practice areas include civil rights, employment and labor litigation and legal malpractice. Gasiorek holds a juris doctor degree from Detroit College of Law and a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University.

The 2005-2006 edition is the 11th edition of The Best Lawyers in America. Since its inception in 1983, Best Lawyers has become universally regarded as the definitive guide to legal excellence in the United States.

### Piecuch joins DeMaria

The DeMaria Building Company, which has its regional office in Novi, recently hired

Michael Piecuch as its human resource manager.

Piecuch, previously with the Edward C. Levy Company, will be responsible for all training, hiring, performance reviews and benefit programs at DeMaria. In addition to Novi, that scope includes company headquarters in Detroit.

DeMaria's Novi locale is at 45500 Grand River Ave.

### Brennan appointed director

Novi resident Michael Brennan recently was appointed director for the International Automotive Oversight Bureau. Effective Jan. 10, Brennan began assisting Tripp Martin, managing director, with over-

sight responsibilities related to automotive quality technical specification at the Detroit-based organization.

Previously an associate quality director with Visteon Corp., Brennan has more than 17 years of automotive leadership experience.

Brennan earned his business master's degree from the Michigan State University Executive Program and bachelor's in business administration from the University of Detroit. He's a longtime member of the American Society for Quality.

### Junior queen

Katherine Henry, a junior at Novi High School, recently won

the title of Miss Junior America City Queen for Novi. She will be competing in the Miss Junior Michigan State Finals Feb. 19-20 at the Sheraton in Novi.

Henry participates in choir, is a sprinter on the varsity girls track team and a member of French Club. For the past three years she has been nominated for "Who's Who in American High Schools."

She is also active in her church, "Journey to Adulthood" youth group, volunteers in various outreach and service projects, and serves as a teen assistant in the church nursery.

The Miss Junior America pageant is a cash scholarship and recognition event.



Katherine Henry



Courtesy photo

### Klondike Cubs

Novi Cub Scouts Pack 239 - Village Oaks (Novi) held a Klondike Race Jan. 29 at Lakeshore Park. Shown are young Tiger Cubs (first graders) spelling out "Cub Scouts" at the end of the Carry the Supplies event.

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## 15 MINUTES WITH ... DR. ROGER MANELA



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi resident Dr. Roger Manela (shown with wife Pam and daughter Rachel, 12) was recently recognized as Michigan's top school guidance counselor for 2004.

In the 12 years that Novi resident and Detroit School's social worker Dr. Roger Manela has been on the job, he:

- Won School Social Worker of the Year for 2004 by the state of Michigan.
- Helped write a proposal that won over \$25 million for extensive and innovative after school and summer programs. He also authored a series of "White Papers" documenting the role of school social workers and arguing for their essential value in educational services.
- Worked as an adjunct professor of social work at Wayne State University and Eastern Michigan University and has taught more than 1,500 graduate level social work students and 1,000 undergraduate students.
- Has helped establish the Center for Evaluation and Organizational Learning with the Children's Center.
- Has helped 21st Century Sisterhood work with adolescent girls.
- Has authored or co-authored three books and 15 published articles.

Place of employment: Detroit Public Schools, Wayne State University and Eastern Michigan University

Title: school social worker

Length of time in that position: 12 years

Favorite aspect of job: A lot of variety, spending time with children, parents and teachers

Least favorite aspect of job: Paper work

Biggest challenge you face: Working with individuals on major issues, such as poverty and family problems

If you could have any other job: Professor

What's your best advice: Commit yourself with head, heart and guts

Three words to describe you: Multi-tasker, involved and thoughtful

Person who most influenced you: Mother and aunt because they were both social workers

### AT-A-GLANCE

Full name: Dr. Roger Manela

Age: 62

Marital status: Pamela, 14 years

Children: step-daughter, Mara DeLuca, 23, and Rachel, 12  
Hometown: Detroit  
Where do you live now: Novi  
Education: Mumford High School; Ph.D. in social work from the University of Michigan

Community involvement / activities: After the Detroit Public School District laid off the entire district, Manela did research and wrote a paper that got everybody reinstated.

Faith / religious affiliation: Jewish

Quality you most admire in a person: A sense of striving for excellence in whatever they do

What is your pet peeve? Rigidity or closed minded people

What was your first car? Mercury Comet

What's your greatest fear? To never get out of debt

What's your most treasured possession? The time spent with family

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be? New knees

What was your first car? Mercury Comet

Who are your favorite writers? William Faulkner, Joyce Carol Oats, William Shakespeare, Carl Hiaasen

What are your favorite films? Orion Wells movies and "Mr. Smith goes to Washington"

What kind of music do you listen to? John Coltrane, classical, folk, Beatles, Bob Dylan, Benny Goodman, Johnny Mercer

What's your favorite restaurant? Commanders Palace in New Orleans, Steve and Rocky's, Shiro, French and Japanese cuisine

What do you like to watch on TV? Law and Order, Discovery Channel, the History Channel, Mysteries of the Bible, Seinfeld and Saturday Night Live

What are your hobbies? Boating, fishing, sailing, bird

hunting, cooking, gardening, canoeing, painting, sculpting

If you won \$10 million in the lottery tomorrow, what would you do? Pay off all debts, set up a trust fund for both daughters, finish up repairing my boats, invest much of it, pay taxes and keep a few hundred thousand for fun activities

Interview by Ramez Khuri

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# EDUCATION

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

## DION BIO

**WORK**  
 July 1998-present: Superintendent of Schools, Grosse Ile Township Schools.  
 July 1995-June 1998: Superintendent of Schools, Birch Run Area Schools.  
 August 1994-July 1995: Elementary School Principal, Pine Ridge Elementary School in the Forest Hills Public School District in Grand Rapids.  
 June 1978-August 1984: Elementary School Principal, Pine Trails Elementary School and West Ward Elementary School in the Allegan Public School District.  
 August 1977-June 1978: Elementary School Principal/Teacher, sixth grade at Luttrell Elementary School in the Pine River Area School District in Luttrell, Michigan.  
 September 1976-June 1977: Elementary School Teacher, first grade at Brooklands Elementary School in the Rochester Public School District.  
 September 1973-June 1976: Elementary School Teacher, first and fourth grade at Algonac Elementary School in the Algonac Community School District.

## New superintendent brings wealth of experience

### District will welcome Peter Dion on July 1

By Ramez Khuri  
 STAFF WRITER

The Novi School District took one step closer to cementing the end of an era and starting a brand new one on the morning of Feb. 7, as the board of education chose to hire Peter Dion as its next superintendent. Dion will take over for the retiring Dr. Emmett Lippe on Friday, July 1. Dion is the current superintendent of Grosse Ile Township Schools, a district with an enrollment of 1,980 students and a budget of approximately \$18 million. He believes that there are four major accomplishments he has made during his time spent there: experience he believes will come in handy in Novi.

- Increased student achievement
- Developed great employee relations
- Developed a fiscal responsibility
- Increased parent involvement

"I think people in Novi will see that I communicate well and I'm visible in the community and in the schools," Dion said. "I have lived in every community where I've been an administrator. I like it because it gives me more credibility." Dion explained that as a superintendent living in the community, he is most likely going to want to work hard to increase the value of the schools, and in turn increase the value of the neighborhoods. As he enters his new position, Dion said maintaining quality education and keeping student achievement up in Novi are two big issues he faces. In Grosse Ile, his school district earned all A's on its Adequate Yearly Progress reports, as has Novi. In that regard, he feels the two districts have a lot in common. "That is no simple task," he

said. "How do you keep it at that level and even improve? Also, with state funding not being increased for the last two years, how do you still provide a solid financial basis? Those are issues I handle." As Novi's superintendent, Dion would like to maintain the many partnerships that the Novi Community School District has acquired in a professional way. He also feels that keeping employee relations positive is vital. That's one of the many things that attracted him to Novi. "I'm not just talking about the teachers, I'm talking about all employees," Dion said. "To continue the parent and community involvement at the level Novi is at, which is very high, is vital. Also, Novi is already working on redistricting, so what I would hope to provide is a smooth transition and keep that going." As he moves from a smaller school district to a larger one, Dion would like to take time to learn how things work in Novi. He said one way to do that is to delegate.

"Novi has very professional administrators, and it's a very high achieving school district with an emphasis on student achievement," Dion said. "That's the focus of the whole district. I would like to come in there and be a listener and orientate myself to the staff and understand the goals that have been developed. I would like to allow all of those professionals to do their work and not get in their way." Dion understands that Lippe is a well known and respected figure in the Novi community, and he wants to build upon what Lippe has developed. "He's an excellent educator and the government has given a lot to the community and to the boys and girls in Novi. I want to continue that," Dion said. "That's what I've done here (in Grosse Ile). I'm going to be attending events, visiting classrooms and going to the buildings during lunch time to see the kids." Dion explained that keeping quality programs is an expectation that comes down from the board of education and seeps into all the different portions of the Novi Community School District. He believes that community education is a very important aspect of the total district and that the school district is the center of the community. "Both the K-12 education and community education are very vital to that," Dion said. "I'm

excited about working with Novi's community." During his time spent as superintendent of Birch Run Area Schools during the mid 1990s, there wasn't a community education program when he started. But after two years on the job, one was started, which is still going strong today. "It's so important in a community," he said. "I looked at the Novi community education program and they're wonderful. I can't wait to get involved in it." Dion hopes to facilitate Novi's long-range plan, which was just recently approved by Novi's school board. He is relieved to know that that portion of the process is completed and feels he needs to help move it along. "I'm excited about working and being in Novi," Dion said. "It's a premier, high achieving school district in the state that is growing and I'm very excited to be a part of that and to help the district and the community continue on that path. I can't wait to get there."

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.

## Seven file for Novi School Board seats

By Ramez Khuri  
 STAFF WRITER

Seven Novi residents have filed applications for two seats on the Novi School Board of Education. The board, which has looked the same the past two years, is guaranteed to be different after the election Tuesday, May 3, as board

president John Streit and board member John Balagna both will not seek re-election. Each term is for four years and the board usually meets on the first and third Thursday of each month during the school year. The board has seven members, and the two new members' terms will begin Friday, July 1.

**Danford Austin**  
 Age: 59  
 Resident of Novi: 10 years  
 Spouse: Randi  
 Children: Ashley, 26; Nicole, 13  
 Profession: Currently the Deputy Superintendent for Oakland County Schools. Served for a year as interim superintendent in 2003.  
 Education: Bachelor of arts from Kalamazoo College, Master of Arts and a Ph.D. from Michigan State University

**Mario Fundarski**  
 Age: 60  
 Resident of Novi: Two years  
 Spouse: Grazyna Rajat, deceased  
 Children: None  
 Profession: Professional matchmaker; owner/manager of Looking for Love Introduction-International Marriage Agency  
 Education: Bachelor of arts degree, political science, history, Michigan State University

**Ann Harold Glubzinski**  
 Age: 48  
 Resident of Novi: 22 years  
 Spouse: Bob  
 Children: A.J., 18; Amy, 16  
 Profession: Area administrator for Young Life  
 Education: Bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in Political science and MBA  
 Business administration with an emphasis in marketing

**Paul Flavin**  
 Age: 53  
 Resident of Novi: eight years  
 Spouse: Diane  
 Children: Zachary, 18; Katie, 15  
 Profession: Sales

**Education:** Illinois State, Bachelors in Education

**Dennis O'Connor**  
 Age: 47  
 Resident of Novi: 14 years  
 Spouse: Gail  
 Children: Sara-Beth, 20; and Lisa, 18  
 Profession: Training/marketing consultant, DDCOM Consulting, LLC  
 Education: MBA, Wayne State University, Major: Marketing/management; BA, University of Michigan, 1979 double major: Journalism, mathematics, secondary teaching certificate

**Katie Raean**  
 Age: 47  
 Resident of Novi: 18 years  
 Spouse: Floyd Raean  
 Children: Nick Raean, 17; Elissa Raean, 15; and Alex Raean, 10  
 Profession: Registered nurse for 25 years, currently working part-time at Berry Surgery Center in Farmington Hills  
 Education: University of Michigan School of Nursing; bachelor of science in 1980

**Lisa Ann Smith**  
 Age: 42  
 Resident of Novi: 7 years  
 Spouse: Rick  
 Children: Elizabeth, 10; Rebecca, 5  
 Profession: Part time independent consultant, part time  
 Education: Bachelor of Arts in science and computer science and masters of science and administration



**Penguins at Orchard Hills**

As a culmination of their penguin unit, Jennifer Smith's kindergarten students made penguin costumes and had a penguin parade around the school.



**Eating bagels with buddies**

During the Bagels with a Buddy program at Orchard Hills Elementary School, an event sponsored by the parent teacher organization, students get to invite a special "Buddy" to have breakfast with at school. Breakfast includes bagels donated by Panera Bread, donuts, fruit, juices and coffee donated by the Coffee Beanery. Here, second grader Helena Robertson and her first grade brother, John, invited their little sister and dad, Dan, to be their special guests.



**A visit from the big girls**

Novi Meadows' recent Family Volleyball Night Included Novi High School's varsity volleyball team coming in and being captains of different teams at Meadows. Eight teams play at a time and then the varsity team gives a demonstration on how competitive volleyball is really played. After that, everybody enjoyed ice cream sundaes to end the event. Here, fifth graders Lesley Harrington and Ryleigh Groner get autographs from the Novi High varsity volleyball team.

**Pioneer Day at Orchard Hills**

Third grade students at Village Oaks learned a lot and had fun during the school's Pioneer Day celebration recently. The focus of the day was to have the kids try crafts that were a necessity for day-to-day life in Pioneer Days. Pictured is Kelsie Carter.

**EDUCATION**  
 Post-graduate: coursework at Michigan State University 1983-1995 and Madonna University, 2003-present  
 Master of Education, 1976 from Wayne State University Administration/Early Childhood Education  
 Bachelor of Science, 1973 Western Michigan University Elementary Education/Social Science

### Grosse Ile's superintendent coming to Novi

continued from front page

retire following the current school year. He has been with Novi 13 years, and his current salary (base plus additional compensation) is \$208,171. The board interviewed seven candidates for the position and narrowed the search to two finalists on Feb. 2. Board members then visited each candidate's school district and met with school administrators, union per-

sonnel and other staff, and community members to gather input on the candidates. After this process, the board voted unanimously to extend the offer to Dion. The district will now begin working with Dion to finalize the details of his contract. "It was an extremely difficult decision as the two remaining candidates both had much to offer," board president John Streit said. "The board is pleased to offer Peter a contract as he has demonstrated the ability, skills, and vision that will enable Novi to continue its mission of excellence and its never-ending quest for greatness." Dion has held the position of superintendent of Grosse Ile

Township Schools for seven years. Prior to this, he served as superintendent for Birch Run Area Schools. The original plan was to hold a special meeting at the Educational Services Building tomorrow night to make a final decision. However, after conducting a board member poll, Streit received enough feedback on Feb. 4, suggesting that school board members wanted to meet sooner. Rather than waiting a whole week, he called a special meeting on Monday morning. "I worked all day Saturday to call a special meeting," Streit said. "The vote was unanimous, and we're meeting with (Dion) again (today) to discuss a contract for

employment. We're just going to sit down with each other to work it out." The district's contract committee includes board member John Balagna and board vice president Bruce Bagdady. The board narrowed the pool of candidates from three to two on the night of Feb. 2. Eliminated from the list that night was Virginia Kyro, superintendent of the Oxford Area School District. Tom Hosler, superintendent of the Haron School District, was the other candidate. After the board held a special meeting on Jan. 31, to give school district stakeholders a chance to voice their opinions, they had planned visits for all three candidates starting

Tuesday of last week. The board visited Dion's school district on Tuesday and Hosler's on Wednesday. "Both districts did such an excellent job, it made our decision even more difficult," Streit said. "Both visits were very positive and all the people we talked to said they hated to see their superintendents leave. They are worried about the same things we were worried about, like how will they go about replacing their superintendent?" 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.

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**CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 2005-149.08**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Novi City Council has adopted Ordinance No. 2005-149.08 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 3, ARTICLE I, OF THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADOPT RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE MICHIGAN LIQUOR CONTROL CODE REGARDING THE PURCHASE, POSSESSION, OR CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR BY MINORS.

The provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, January 24, 2005. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the Office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

(2-10-05 NN 192511)

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# It's a team effort for trio of Meadows fifth grade teachers

**DETAILS**  
**Nicole Modrzewski**  
 School teaching at Novi Meadows  
 Grade: fifth  
 Subject: language arts, math, social studies  
 Years teaching: seven  
 Years in Novi Community School District: seven  
 College: Michigan State University  
 Spouse: Scott Modrzewski (also a teacher)  
 Interests (outside of school): Going for long walks, watching hockey, traveling, watching movies, spending time with family and friends and relaxing at home with her husband and cat.

**Mary Grim**  
 School teaching at Novi Meadows  
 Grade: fifth  
 Subject: special education  
 Years teaching: eight  
 Years in Novi Community School District: fifth  
 College: University of Illinois and Vanderbilt University  
 Children: Mia Grim  
 Interests (outside of school): Playing with Mia, swimming, walking her dog, reading, gardening and traveling to Chicago to see her family.

**Michelle Campos**  
 School teaching at Novi Meadows  
 Grade: fifth  
 Subject: science, math, language arts  
 Years teaching: 11  
 Years in Novi Community School District: 11  
 College: The University of Michigan - Dearborn  
 Spouse: Steven Campos  
 Children: Brooke, 8; and Adam, 5  
 Interests (outside of school): Playing with her children, walking, reading and learning Spanish

## Three provide best learning experience

By Ramez Khuri  
 STAFF WRITER

Many educators receive praise from parents and students for their hard work and dedication on a daily basis. That's nothing new. But it's quite unique when a whole team of teachers get equally positive feedback.

In this case, the three-woman team of Nicole Modrzewski, Mary Grim and Michelle Campos, all fifth grade teachers at Novi Meadows Elementary School, have received such high praise for their teaching style, teamwork and overall dedication to their craft, that it was too hard to choose just one to feature.

### Nicole Modrzewski

Nicole Modrzewski enjoys being able to make a difference in a child's life. She loves learning and has always wanted to instill that in others, as well as be a positive influence on her students.

"Ever since I was a little girl, I wanted to be a teacher or work with animals," Modrzewski said. "When I was choosing my career in college, teaching felt like the right path for me."

Modrzewski's most memorable moment while teaching involved a student who struggled with reading and hated it. She found a book that she thought was really interesting and decided to share it with my students and after that and doing activities with it, that student was turned on to reading.

"His mom told me later that his new favorite place to go was Borders (book store) each weekend," she said.

Like all teachers, Modrzewski tries to meet the needs of all her students, but that is sometimes difficult with today's large classrooms. One thing she would like to see changed in her profession would be to have smaller classes so that students could get more individual attention.

Modrzewski's favorite teacher growing up was Mr. Raben, when she was in fifth grade.

"He was kind, funny, understanding and really pushed us to do our best," she said. "I became a teacher because of him."

After they move on to the sixth grade, Modrzewski would like it if her students remember her as someone who cared and respected them, and someone who always wanted what was best for them.

### Mary Grim

Mary Grim describes her profession as the only paid job she could ever really love. In fact, there's not much she doesn't love about it. First off, her students are the ones that make her smile the most. She also believes that Novi Meadows is a place where she can best use her talents and gifts she has been given.

"I have always wanted to be a teacher," Grim said. "By 6 years old I had created my first fictional class and they were having recess on the swing set in my back yard."

Growing up, Grim's favorite teacher was named Barb Cottingham. She said Cottingham really cared about her and her success in school.

"The respect she had for me made me really try to improve and learn in her class," she said. "I would like to have the same impact on others."

Teaching is not just a job to Campos, it's a part of her and it's who she is. That's why it is difficult for her to "leave her job at work."

Once her students finish the fifth grade, she would like them to remember her as someone who was invested in each of them.

"Mr. Monca taught me to connect with my students and learn



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

## Novi Meadows' fifth grade teacher Michelle Campos, Mary Grim and Nicole Modrzewski are surrounded by some of their fans in their classroom.

is the perfect fit for her personality and strengths she possesses.

"There's nothing like the humor of a fifth grade student," Campos said. "After 11 years of teaching I have many memorable moments, but the most memorable was at the end of my first year of teaching. My entire class attended my wedding ceremony. It was such a blessing to have my 'children' share that day with me."

Campos has had many outstanding role models in the teaching profession and each has made an impact on the teacher she has become.

"Mr. Monca taught me to connect with my students and learn

about who they are," Campos said. "Dr. Wayne taught me to be flexible, patient and supportive while holding high expectations. Dr. Mayer taught me how to help children learn through discovery and Mrs. Shipp taught me how to laugh out loud with my students, and expect the unexpected."

With very similar viewpoints, it's not hard to see why the three have been paired up as teammates at Novi Meadows.

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.

about her job, it would be to reduce the number of students in each classroom.

"Having between 26 and 28 children in a classroom makes it very challenging to meet the individual needs of my students," she said.

With very similar viewpoints, it's not hard to see why the three have been paired up as teammates at Novi Meadows.

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.

## WHY THEY WERE CHOSEN

I would like to recommend the Novi Meadows fifth grade teaching team of Mrs. Campos, Mrs. Grim and Mrs. Modrzewski for Novi News Outstanding Teacher of the Month. I feel so fortunate that my son has had the opportunity to work with such incredible educators. Individually, each have their own unique teaching styles, personalities and life experiences which they share openly with the class. Together, however, they combine to form an awesome learning experience for our children. Every day is a fun, learning experience. The team building activities at the start of the year ensured a smooth transition for each of the students and provided a base from which the students formed their own little community. From life line projects, building roller coasters, to creative plays and skits, everything possible is done to make learning fun and exciting for the students. The teachers have done an outstanding job of keeping parents informed. Not only do they do an excellent job teaching students, but they have taken the extra time to learn what motivates each child. Every child is made to feel important and like they are contributing.

These teachers should be applauded for their efforts. They are excellent role models for their students.

Sincerely,  
 Pat Cauchi



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# FAITH

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

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**Crosspointe Meadows Church of Novi** presents an Alpha Course, "Exploring the Christian Faith," on Sundays at 6 p.m. There are over 28,000 Alpha courses running all over the world. Check out the Alpha Course Web site at [www.alpha.com](http://www.alpha.com). Program includes workbook and light supper. There is no fee.

CMC offices are located at 39830 Grand River Ave., Ste. B1-C (west of Haggerty). Phone (248) 427-2700; 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday-Thursday.

**Faith Community Presbyterian Church** invites you to worship at 9 and 11:30 a.m. services. Communion will be served at both services. Adult Sunday School is offered at the 9 a.m. service.

Faith Community Presbyterian Church houses the Novi Emergency Food Bank, which accepts all canned goods and non-perishable items as donations. The food bank is available to qualified persons in Novi, Walled Lake and New Hudson. All are welcome at worship and any of the Adult Education classes.

**St. James Catholic Church** is located at 46255 Ten Mile Road, Novi. Call (248) 347-7778.

**First United Methodist Church of Northville** presents a community-wide healing service with prayers for healing of body, mind, relationship and spirit on the first Monday of each month at 4 p.m. The service is open to

is located at 44400 W. Ten Mile Road in Novi

**The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross** offers a worship service every Wednesday from 12:10-12:50 p.m. Come and share your lunch hour with God at a worship service that includes scripture and Holy Communion. The church invites all to worship Sundays at 7:45 and 10 a.m. Nursery care is available at 10 a.m. worship service. (The nursery is coordinated by a registered pediatric nurse.)

**St. James Catholic Church** is located at 46255 Ten Mile Road, Novi. Call (248) 347-7778.

**First United Methodist Church of Northville** presents a community-wide healing service with prayers for healing of body, mind, relationship and spirit on the first Monday of each month at 4 p.m. The service is open to

Meadowbrook and Haggerty roads, Novi. Phone (248) 427-1175 or visit [www.churchofthe-holycross.com](http://www.churchofthe-holycross.com)

**Meadowbrook Church**  
 Sunday, Feb. 13 - Worship and Church School is at 10 a.m.  
 Wednesday, Feb. 16 - Confirmation at 5:30 p.m. Lenten Services at 7:30 p.m. - a weekly study of the book, "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time" by Marcus J. Borg. Call (248) 348-7757 for more information.  
 The church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads.

**Oak Pointe Church**  
 Service times will be at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. every Sunday for more information, visit [www.oakpointe.org](http://www.oakpointe.org) or call (248) 912-0043.

**St. James Catholic Church** is located at 46255 Ten Mile Road, Novi. Call (248) 347-7778.

**First United Methodist Church of Northville** presents a community-wide healing service with prayers for healing of body, mind, relationship and spirit on the first Monday of each month at 4 p.m. The service is open to

the Northville/Novi community and persons of all faiths. The church is located at 777 W. Eight Mile Road (at Taft Road), Northville. Phone (248) 349-1144.

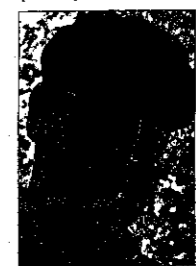
**The Holy Family Church** presents Theology on Tap, a program designed for young adults (but all are welcome), at Gus O'Connor's, on the corner of Grand River and Market Street in Novi from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. on the following Mondays:  
 Feb. 14, "Relationships: Pathways to Holiness" Loving God Through Loving Others.

For more information, please contact the Holy Family Church at (248) 349-8847 or visit [www.holyfamilynovi.org](http://www.holyfamilynovi.org). The Church offers a Spanish speaking mass once a month. All masses begin at 6:30 p.m. in the church: Feb. 26; April 30; May 28; June 25; July 30; Aug. 27; Sept. 24; Oct. 29; Nov. 26

The Church of the Holy Family is located at 24505 Meadowbrook Road, between Grand River Avenue and Ten Mile Road. The church is located at 24505 Meadowbrook Road, between Ten Mile Road and Grand River Avenue.

## Keep kids safe by using car seats properly

It wasn't all that long ago when a lot of our young kids freely roamed the car or sat in the front seat while we drove them from place to place.



Ernie Harwell

While more people now recognize how important it is to use child safety seats, we still have some work to do educating folks on the proper use of child safety devices.

Last year, the U.S. Department of Transportation found that 73 percent of child safety restraints are misused. The most common errors were loose harness straps around the child and loose seatbelts attached to the child restraint. They also determined that four out of five kids who've outgrown safety seats aren't in booster seats as they should be.

We all want our kids and grand-kids to be safe while they're riding everything possible to protect them. And after you secure your little angel in a car or booster seat, make sure to strap yourself in with a seatbelt. You're setting a good example and, once you make it a habit, you won't even realize you're doing it.

Take care of your health before it's ironinggg gone.

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 87, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns titled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5052.

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# Novi High duo tells it like it is

■ Senior class president, VP share happenings with community during school board meetings

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

William Chaklos and Kelsey Collins have a lot in common. Both are seniors at Novi High School, are on student council, were nominated for best personality in their class and both share many of the same friends.

It's no wonder they were chosen to represent their school during district board meetings.

Chaklos, better known as B.J. among his classmates, is the senior class president and Collins is vice president. As such, part of their duties include attending school board meetings every month and reporting on different events, news and important announcements out of Novi High.

Though most students may not list attending board meetings very high on their priority list, the two young politicians take it in stride.

"It's interesting because the meetings aren't really what I expected," Collins said. "Especially when they're held at the different schools in the district. The presentations that the schools put on are always really fun to see."

Collins remembered one particular meeting which took place at an elementary school. She said she and the rest of the school board witnessed a presentation from teachers on foreign language and hats were passed around to each member. They also answered questions with instruments.

"I don't think that's what anyone would expect from a school board meeting," Collins said. "I grew up in this district, so it's kind of fun to go back and remember being in those music classes and art classes and I remember making those hats too."

Since school board meetings usually take place twice a month, Chaklos and Collins switch off each month — he goes to one side and she to the other.

Chaklos is taking it as a learning experience. "It's cool around election time when the talk is all about the different bills," he said. "People ask questions to the school board members and I actually get good explanations of the majority of bills. That's stuff that I didn't really understand before and it has been made more clear to me, so that's pretty interesting."

A tradition in Novi, the high school has been represented well by students for years. Two years ago, it was senior president David Benton and vice president Brian Frey and last year the board welcomed president Anna Switzer and vice president Ashlea Sarles.

Board members have always been impressed with their young counterparts and this year is no exception. In fact, board president John Streit and secretary Carol Elfring would even consider asking Chaklos and Collins for their input on matters concerning the high school.

"I think they're doing a fine job," Streit said. "They're very complete in what they report and they cover the entire spectrum of activities at the high school from academics to the co-curricular activities to even some of the off school accomplishments of the students as well. I wouldn't hesitate to ask them for input to see what they had to say and then consider what they said and see if it applied to a situation."



Photo by Ramez Khuri

Kelsey Collins and William Chaklos represent their class during district board meetings.

Elfring had similar thoughts. "There have been a couple times where something has come up at the high school and we've just asked (Chaklos and Collins) how they think it's working," she said. "Most of the activities that the general community could participate in, happen at the high school, regarding sports and that sort of thing. That's where (the student board member's job) comes in."

Elfring said that there seems to be more academic issues discussed at board meetings about the high school, than presentations of what the students are actually doing, even when the board meets at Novi High.

"A lot of times you get to see a little bit more of what the younger kids are doing," Elfring said. "It's good for the community to know about all of the things that the high school kids are involved in. They just don't go to school from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and just do their studies. A lot of them are involved in a lot of things."

Novi High seniors Julia Lyskawa and Jordan Barnes are friends with Chaklos and Collins. They both said that the two do a fabulous job at school board meetings.

"I think it's good to have communication between the student body and the school board," Barnes said. "It shows great dedication to their school for them to do that. I think it kind of makes the school board more approachable."

Lyskawa agreed. "I know this is Kelsey's first year in that position as vice president, so I just think this year that she's really stepped up in something that she's never done before," she said. "Kelsey is a very outgoing, friendly person and because of that she does quite well in situations like that, where she might be around people who other kids might be intimidated by."

Both Chaklos and Collins plan to attend college after high school. Chaklos will be going to Michigan State University and is leaning toward studying business marketing. Collins still has to decide between attending Albion University or Michigan State University, and she is leaning toward studying business management.

Lyskawa said that most people think school board meetings are kind of boring and maybe a little scary. But Collins is the type of person who can take it head on. "B.J., on the other hand, has been president for four years, so I wasn't too worried about him," she said.

## SCHOOL BRIEFS

### Preschool registration begins

Preschool registration for Novi residents is currently under way.

Registration for non-residents begins Tuesday, March 1.

After these start dates, parents may register their children between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Child Care Services Office, 25345 Taft Road (in the ITC between Novi Meadows 5 and 6 Grade Houses).

Novi Community Education Preschool offers tradition half-day preschool and an all day preschool program. Children must be age 3, 4, or 5 by Dec. 1, 2005, and must be fully toilet trained. A

registration packet and more information is available on the school district's Web site, [www.novi.k12.mi.us](http://www.novi.k12.mi.us). Parents can also call (248) 449-1713.

### Code of Conduct forums

A public forum to discuss the revision of the Athletic Code of Conduct, which includes random drug testing, has been scheduled for 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 24, at Novi High School's Auditorium Lecture Hall B. The topic will be to answer submitted and new questions.

Compiled by Ramez Khuri.

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**Aloha**

Northville resident Dre Bly will be making his second appearance at the Pro Bowl Sunday when he represents the Detroit Lions as one of the best athletes in the game today. Bly earned the trip through the respect he has gained from the players and the coaches.

— Page 2B



**SPORTS**



**Regional Marketplace**

With home prices dropping slightly in 2004, Abe Ayoub realizes that his clients need a Realtor who will work harder to help them sell their houses. "I thrive in this kind of market because I don't mind spending money on advertising homes for my clients," said Abe.

— Page 6B

**It's more than just fun and games**

Gymnastics is a sport buoyed by showmanship and prone to crowd-pleasing feats.

But it's a lot harder than it looks. The Northville-Novi Wild 'Stangs girls gymnastics team may make it look easy, but that's mostly a tribute to the competitive athletes who behind the scenes put in a lot of practice time.



**Sam Eggleston**

"It's not uncommon to see girls sitting out during practice with bags of ice strapped to them," said senior captain Jessica Glancy. "It's a demanding sport that can take a toll on your body."

Flips off vaults. Twists in midair. Balance beam routines. Full sprints. Intricate dance moves. It sounds like a joint injury just waiting to happen.

"People get hurt all the time," said Marcie Fink, another team captain. "You just have to know when you can push yourself and when you have to take a break. Stretching, warm-ups and conditioning are really important."

Focus is key, she said. And it's the only thing left standing between a slipped foot or a faulty landing.

"You always have to be concentrating on what you're doing," said Glancy. "If you don't, then you're probably going to end up injured." Focus and preparation doesn't spare everyone from the aches and pains of a hard day of drills and repetition. Aches and pains are evident throughout the practice room.

It's just a part of the game, team members said, no more uncommon than a turned ankle in basketball, or bruises in football.

What's different? Gymnasts are just better at hiding it, they said.

"Even if you're still sore or hurting a little, you go out and you participate when it's time for a meet," said Fink. "You know where your limits are."

But, in the end, even a little grunting is worth it. The Northville-Novi Wild 'Stangs are slowly getting their scores up, having collected their highest point total this year in their most recent meet.

The girls don't complain. Some might wear a knee brace and others might have their ankles and wrists taped, but almost all of them are cheering up the room with bright smiles when all is said and done.

"You've got to love this sport," Glancy said. "Most of us have put in too much time and effort not to."

As the old saying goes, love hurts. For gymnastics, though, it also pays off.

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

**"Even if you're still sore or hurting a little, you go out and you participate when it's time for a meet."**

*Marcie Fink*  
Gymnastics captain



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

The Novi Wildcat basketball team has won 12 straight games and hopes to keep the wins coming as they head into the playoffs. From the left are Mark Moore, Jordan Pustover, Anthony Harbin and Kyle Safford.

**IT'S A WIN-WIN**  
**WIN, WIN, WIN, WIN, WIN, WIN, WIN, WIN, WIN, WIN**  
**SITUATION FOR NOVI**

**Wildcat cagers get 12-straight victories**

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Four more games and it's all theirs. The Novi Wildcats basketball team only has to win four out of their final six Kensington Valley Conference games and they'll be the league champions for the third year in a row. So far they are 8-0 in the conference.

But, it's going to be uphill the rest of the way. "The KVC title isn't ours yet," said Pat Schluter, Novi's basketball coach. "It doesn't get any easier between now and the end of the season. There are a lot of hard games left."

The first up? A very dangerous Lakeland Eagles squad that Schluter said he knows is the real deal.

"They're tough," he said. "We have them at home, which is good for us."

The game is slated for 7 p.m. tomorrow.

Next week, the Wildcats visit Brighton Tuesday at 7 p.m. The Bulldogs are in second place in the conference — just two games behind Novi.

Then Novi plays South Lyon at home before visiting Hartland and a tough defensive team in Milford for their final regular-season game.

The key for Novi, said Schluter, is to just keep playing the way they've been playing.

"We've got really good team chemistry right now," said Schluter. "We're playing well. Ever since we lost that second game of the year at Canton where we weren't playing physical enough, we've just stepped it up."

Contributing to the team success has been every Wildcat to step onto the hardwood this year. With 12-straight victories there's no doubt team effort is heavily involved.

"We have a lot more guys contributing," Schluter said. "We're finding ways to win and doing a really good job."

Though it takes a team effort to earn the victories, the Wildcats aren't without stand-out players.

Senior captains Anthony Harbin and Mark Moore have found ways to lead even if they aren't the leading scorers on the night.

Moore even has shown himself to be more than a typical post player.

"Moore is the best big man I've ever coached," Schluter said. "He's so solid. He can handle the ball, he can rebound, shoot frees, pass and play defense."

"Even though he doesn't score 15 or 20 points, I think he easily could if he wanted to. He's the complete package."

Harbin has proven to be everything the team thought he could be this year. He's the leading scorer and the kind of player teams are forced to focus on.

"He's hard to handle," Schluter noted. "He's unselfish. Team's have to concentrate on him and he helps spread them out. With Harbin on the floor we can turn an eight-point lead into a 10- or 20-point game."

Other players that have stepped up and gained recognition this year have been A.W. Stanek, Todd Janer, Jordan Pustover, Kyle Safford, Sean White and Steve Hart.

But, individual names easily blur into a team concept with the Wildcats.

"We really preach team play," Schluter said. "The key is these seniors know what it takes from being here last year and two years ago. They know how to win games, even those close ones down the stretch."

Part of the winning ways is Schluter's number one rule: Play defense.

"They're buying into it," said Schluter. "They do all the little things. They've seen how it works and they do what it takes to win."

Four more games. If Novi can earn wins in 66 percent of their remaining games, they'll be crowned champions yet again.

"It's been a good year so far," Schluter said. "We want to end it that way too."

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

**'Cats get two**

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats basketball team has a problem: They don't know how to lose.

The squad, coached by Pat Schluter, made it 12 wins in a row with victories over the Pinckney Pirates, 43-22, and the Milford Mavericks, 38-27.

"We've been playing pretty good defense," said Schluter, who tries to keep his squad from allowing more than 45 points in a single game.

Last Friday, against Pinckney, the Wildcats made defense a key component to their win. They opened things up with a tightly contested first quarter, holding onto an 11-10 lead when the buzzer sounded.

By the end of the second, the outcome and Novi's determination to keep the Pirates off the board were apparent as the 'Cats led 29-15 heading into the locker room. The surge continued through the third quarter as they increased their lead to 36-22 before Novi shutout the Pirates in the final stanza while scoring seven points of their own.

Anthony Harbin paced Novi with 15 points while Mark Moore notched 10 points and 13 rebounds for another double-double on the year.

Against Milford, the Wildcats were just as stingy on defense despite a strong defensive showing from the Mavericks as well.

Novi was led by Harbin again as he scored 14 of his team's 38 points. Steve Hart added 10 points.

It was a slow game, finding Novi leading by just one point, 8-7, after the first quarter and 12-11 after two. Novi put up some quick points in the third to jump ahead 25-15 and held on for the victory.

**By the numbers**

29

Points scored by Anthony Harbin in Novi's last two contests.

3

Times Novi has beat U of D skaters out of their four meetings over the years.

7 p.m.

Time Novi will play against Lakeland in basketball tomorrow night in KVC action.

13

Matches won by Dan Sprys out of his last 15. He is a captain of the wrestling team.

13-5

Wrestling team's final record after splitting last week's matches.

3

Points scored by Brett Jaussi against U of D. He had two goals and an assist.

1st

Place taken by Novi's figure skating team in their district two weeks ago.



# Headed to Hawaii: Detroit Lions' Dre Bly makes another trek to the Pro Bowl

## Detroit Lions' Dre Bly makes another trek to the Pro Bowl

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

When Northville resident and Detroit Lions' cornerback Dre Bly was drafted into the National Football League, he made a commitment to himself he wouldn't go to Hawaii until he was selected to the Pro Bowl.

Even if his wife, Krystin, got mad about it.

"I told myself I wasn't going to Hawaii until I made the Pro Bowl," said Bly. "My wife wanted to go, and I told her she'd have to wait until I finished playing football unless I made it."

Thankfully for Bly's wife, last season the All-Pro defender snagged enough votes to make the trip. This Sunday, he's making a repeat appearance.

"It was really surprised," said Bly, 27, on the heels of his sixth NFL season. "I missed four games and still made it."

Bly said his votes came from the players and the coaches this year as opposed to the fans last season. Pro Bowl voting is divided into three groups with the fans, the coaches and the players each getting 1/3 of the ballots.

"I was voted in by my peers and by the coaches," he said. "That shows how far I've come. I have respect in this game all around the league."

Bly, who is the first Lions' defensive back to go to the Pro Bowl since Hall-of-Famer Lem Barney, recorded four interceptions this season and was widely considered Detroit's top defender, despite missing nearly four full games with a knee injury. He has 24 career interceptions.

He said he's happy to be going to Hawaii again.

"It's a great experience," he said. "Going last year for the first time, I really enjoyed it. Being the new kid on the block I really took in a lot. I'm just glad to be there and to participate in a game like that."

Bly said Hawaii is a great place for his wife and two sons to vacation as well.

"It's a great family atmosphere," he said. "It's just a real laid-back environment, and it's great to take the family out there."

A local guy

Though the islands are ideal for vacation, Bly said he's happy living in Northville.

"I told the Realtor that I wanted to live in the nice, quiet area in Northville with my practice facilities and the stadium," he said. "Immediately he said we should look at Northville and Novi."

When Bly arrived in the area, he knew it was for him and his family. On the first day of looking he set on a house that's in Northville but located in the Novi school district.

"We really liked what we saw here," he said. "It's quiet, it's easy to get around and there's always nice people around you."

Bly said people often recognize him, but don't go out of their way to approach him.

"They accepted me here," he said. "I'll be happy if I spend the rest of my life here."

Bly said he often dines at local restaurants like Little Italy and cruises Two Weeks Oahu Mall.

"I'm always at the movie theaters," he said. "We go to Emagine and Novi Town Center. Sometimes we even head over to the AMC. We're big on movies around here."

Bly is also big on staying in shape.

"I go up to Lifetime (Fitness) and play basketball," he said. "You can find me there just trying to stay active. I try and do as much as I can to stay in shape. I'm not 21 any more. I can't afford to sit on my butt because it takes even longer to get into shape now."

Game time

Bly's career has been about more than being selected as an All-Pro

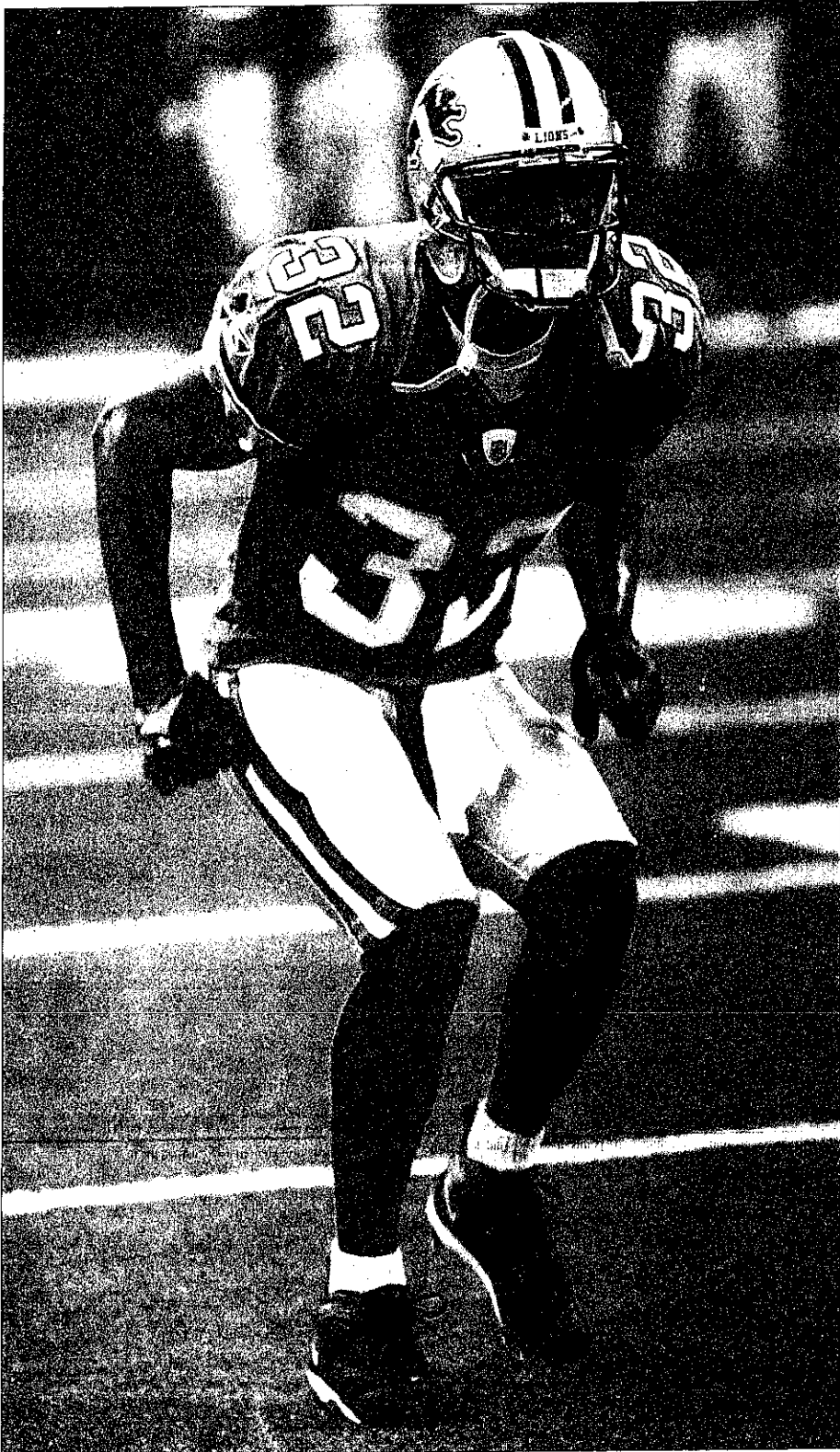
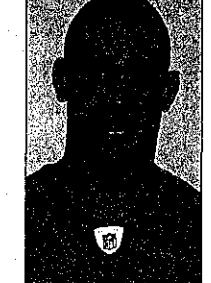


Photo courtesy of THE DETROIT LIONS/STEVE KOVICH

Dre Bly, a Northville resident in the Novi School District, will make his second-ever trip to the Pro Bowl this Sunday. Bly is a cornerback with the Detroit Lions.

**DRE BLY**



**Position:** Cornerback  
**Years Pro:** 6  
**Draft Year:** 1999  
**Draft Team:** St. Louis Rams  
**Born:** May 22, 1977  
**Hometown:** Chesapeake, Virginia  
**College:** North Carolina

- Two-time selection to NFL Pro Bowl (2003-04 and 2004-05 seasons).
- First Detroit Lions cornerback since Lem Barney in 1977 to go to the Pro Bowl.
- Has 24 career interceptions.
- In 2002, collected a career-high 79 tackles and set high for passes defended. Also started all 16 games for the first time.
- In 2001 earned six interceptions and returned two for touchdowns while with the Rams.
- In 2000, collected 51 tackles, 13 pass defenses and one sack to add to three interceptions and eight special team tackles.
- During his rookie year in 1999, earned a Super Bowl XXXIV victory and collected one tackle against Tennessee.
- Bly is the only player in the history of the University of North Carolina and in the Atlantic Coast Conference to earn consensus first-team All-America honors three times in his career. He was the first player to accomplish the feat since Georgia's Herschel Walker (1980-82).
- Holds conference career record with 20 interceptions and finished his career with 102 tackles.
- Is one of five freshmen to ever be named to first-team All-America squad.
- Was ACC Rookie of the Year, setting a conference record 11 interceptions.
- Played football and baseball in high school.

football player. He's always striven to play at the highest level.

"That's been my goal ever since I was playing Little League," he said. "I just want to be the best I can be. I want to be that guy that everyone is pointing a finger at."

Bly has been successful at reaching such lofty goals. As a red-shirt freshman at the University of North Carolina, Bly was selected as an All-American — making him just one of five freshman players to ever receive the honor.

In his first years in the NFL, he played in two Super Bowls and earned a ring following the St. Louis Rams' 23-16 victory over the Tennessee Titans in Super Bowl XXXIV.

Bly knows early success can be

temptous long-term.

"Because I experienced success at such an early age, that might have been my downfall," he said. "During my last years in college I didn't have the same years as I did early. That was because I set the standards so high."

"I did the same thing in the NFL going to two Super Bowls and getting a ring."

Winning time

Bly said he's not content.

"I'm very happy with what I've accomplished," he said. "But I want to keep winning. Before I'm finished I'd like to bring a Super Bowl win to Detroit."

The key?

"We need to have guys start stepping up," said Bly. "We've got the necessary talent but we need to remain healthy. We've gotten better, and we're a better team, but you normally have three years to make a change."

"We've had two, and now we've got to play football. There aren't too many opportunities left."

And what better place than Detroit to bring a Super Bowl championship? Bly said Detroit football fans rank among the best league-wide.

"I did the same thing in the NFL going to two Super Bowls and getting a ring."

"I'm very happy with what I've accomplished," he said. "But I want to keep winning. Before I'm finished I'd like to bring a Super Bowl win to Detroit."

The key?

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.hometown.com.

Source: www.nfl.com

# Grapplers end regular season on a high note

Junior Dan Spys continued his outstanding season Friday night by picking up two more victories by way of pin against Howell and South Lyon. He has now won 13 of his last 15 matches.

The night started with the wildcats taking the mat against the Howell Highlanders. The Highlanders got up early on the wildcats 6-0 after the first two matches and never relinquished the lead. As the final match ended the Wildcats were on the short end of a 28-25 score.

Picking up victories for Novi were Al Vellahottam, Riley Lokar, Jason Sierra, Alex Baum, Jon Favorite and Spys.

The nightcap saw the wildcats take the mat against the South Lyon Lions. The Cats picked up 18 points on forfeit to help them cruise to a 51-25 victory.

Earning victories this time around were Vellahottam, Dan Matheny, Nick Lichorobiec, Lokar, Sierra, Favorite, Cameron, Spys and Alex Calvert.

In the Canton Invitational, the Novi-Northville squad found themselves competing against 13 of the top 14 ranked teams in the state. With seven meets over the past three weeks, it was obvious the squad was suffering from a little fatigue.

That didn't stop several gymnasts from having an outstanding day.

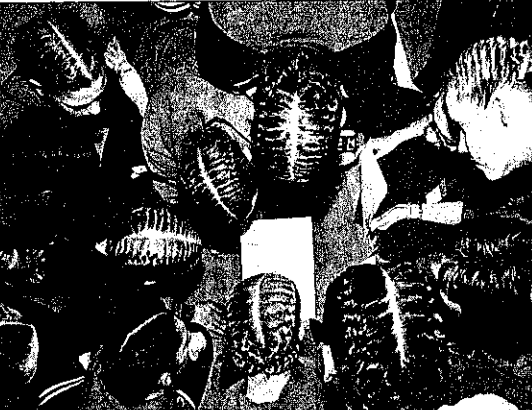
Amanda Perelli tied for fourth in the vault in Division II competition. In Division II competition, it was Janna Ramsey taking fourth on the vault and eighth on the bars. Maggie Mills had a nice day as well, tying for 10th in a highly competitive beam final. Rachel Deneau took third with her impressive floor routine and Julie Foucher took ninth in the same event while taking ninth overall.

Against Hartland, the Wild 'Stangs earned 139.35 points compared to the Eagles' 129.70.

On the vault, Ramsey took a 9.3 while Perelli scored a 9.1 and Mills earned an 8.7 from the judges. Sarah Hkham-Pour had a strong showing on the bars, scoring an 8.75, while Foucher scored 8.7 along with Mills.

The beam found Mills and Deneau leading the way with 8.95 each while Emma Platt scored an 8.4 with her routine. Foucher continued her strong night with an 8.8 on the floor while Platt and Ramsey tied with an 8.6.

Jacqueline Gazette scored 32.75 points overall to lead Novi-Northville in all-around points.



Submitted Photo Members of the Novi pom pon squad check their scores as provided by the judges in last week's regional competition. The team earned enough points to compete in the state finals, which are slated to be held at Eastern Michigan University at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

## Gymnasts give strong performances

The Novi-Northville wild 'Stangs gymnastics team had quite the week, taking a win over Hartland in dual-meet action before collecting eighth in a highly-competitive invitational with 140.975 points. Farmington took first with 147.9.

In the Canton Invitational, the Novi-Northville squad found themselves competing against 13 of the top 14 ranked teams in the state.

## Skill snapped

The Novi Wildcats hockey team snapped a losing skid they were desperately trying to find a way out of.

The squad found the right team to do it against as they upended a tough University of Detroit Jesuit squad last Friday, 5-3.

The Bulldogs proved the latter portion of that statement true last week when they beat Novi, 634-567.5.

On Feb. 5, the Wildcats fared much better. The team attended the Ladywood Competitive Cheer Invitational and finished second in their division with a total of 604 points. Bedford took first with 642.

## Cheer fails to Brighton

One thing is always certain in KVC cheerleading action — Hartland and Brighton are going to be tough to beat.

The Bulldogs proved the latter portion of that statement true last week when they beat Novi, 634-567.5.

## On to states

The Novi pom pon team is going to the state finals this week-

## UNDERCLASSMAN SCORES

### Volleyball

The freshman volleyball team won Jan. 31, taking out Pinciny in four games. Lauren Farley maked seven aces and Katie Chakles helped bring back the cats with nine serves in a row. The 'cats won 25-21, 25-18, 19-25 and 25-18.

The freshmen girls' volleyball team had an amazing weekend taking first in the Northville tournament. Novi came out on top of 20 teams taking first in their pool beating Plymouth, Fordson and Walked Lake Central. The Wildcats went on to beat second seed South Lyon in the semifinals, and stole the tournament from the top seeded Northville in the finals. All of the girls have made tremendous improvements during the season and played their best on Saturday. Some of the top performers for Novi were Katie Chakles with 13 kills, Roni Salons had 10 kills and Madelyn Gardner had 2 key blocks. Lauren Shelar served up 12 aces and Lauren Eibel aced 9 serves. Jaqueli Longe and Katie Morrison played great defense.

The junior varsity volleyball team played well, but lost to Howell in

four games on Feb. 3. Lauren Purdy had five blocks, Hayley Miller had four aces and two kills. Natalie Loyal provided a huge spark by playing good defense and adding seven points. Joe McNamara came off the bench and played only six minutes but gave Novi seven rebounds and two points. The loss drops Novi to 7-6 and 4-3 in the KVC.

### Basketball

On Jan. 28, the freshman Wildcats hosted the Hartland Eagles in a KVC match-up and fell 50-45.

In the fourth quarter Novi brought one of their best quarters of the year against Hartland and went on a huge 17-2 run to take the lead by one. The squad then had a couple of costly turnovers in which the Eagles capitalized on before hitting some critical free throws in the end to take the game, 50-45. Novi was led by Collin Crandell, who had 15 points. Yuta Kitaga added 7 points and Phil Coleski had 6 along.

Just three days later, the Wildcats hosted Milford in another KVC

game and lost, 33-24. Crandell led again with 11 points while Alex Loyal provided a huge spark by playing good defense and adding seven points. Joe McNamara came off the bench and played only six minutes but gave Novi seven rebounds and two points. The loss drops Novi to 7-6 and 4-3 in the KVC.

The junior varsity 'Cats continued their winning ways Feb. 1st as they soundly defeated the Milford Mavericks, 35-22. Two of the key areas that the Wildcats focused on was limiting opponents to less than 10 points a quarter and less than seven offensive rebounds a game. The Wildcats accomplished both goals as Milford's biggest scoring quarter was seven points and they only had three offensive rebounds for the game. The Wildcats also recorded 12 assists on 16 of their baskets, which demonstrates how well the team shared the ball.

John Brown and Tyler Hoover led the team in scoring with eight points apiece. Ryan Figurski and Nick Fugano came off the bench to hit a couple of huge shots to extend Novi's lead when Milford started to challenge the Wildcats.

### Wrestling

Sophomore Jarric Espinoza and Junior Derek McClelland both finished the day undefeated as they earned the championship at the end of the season junior varsity KVC league meet.

Spinoza, wrestling at 145 pounds, finished the early rounds with two hard fought victories, one against a Milford wrestler and the other against a Hartland wrestler. In the finals he was matched up against fellow Wildcat RJ Gordon. Espinoza finished off Gordon and earned the title.

At 171 pounds, McClelland was unstoppable. He pinned all four of his opponents on the day, including Kyle Goodwin of Hartland in the finals. The victory was his fourth

tournament championship of the season, and he ended with a perfect 14-0 record on the JV mat.

Joining Espinoza and McClelland in the finals were Jon Lichorobiec at 103, Brad Frey at 112, Jeff Lai at 119, Kyle Simone at 135, and Gordon at 145. Unfortunately, they fell short in the finals and took home second place honors.

Also placing for the Wildcats were Henry He who was fourth at 112, Dennis McHugh was fourth at 119, Josh Freeman was third at 125, Joe Pritchard was fourth at 130, Jeremy Young was third at 140, Ryan Riderour was third at 160, Zach Erickson was fourth at 160, and Charles Satterwhite was fourth at 189.

### Cheerleading

The junior varsity cheer team came from behind to defeat Brighton during a Feb. 2 cheer meet.

**Meet Lumpy.**

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**THE WEDDING DATE**

Viewing schedule:

City	Channel	Time
AMC FORTUM 30	9:00 AM	AMC LITTLE ROCK 20
AMC LITTLE ROCK 20	9:00 AM	AMC LITTLE ROCK 20
AMC LITTLE ROCK 20	9:00 AM	AMC LITTLE ROCK 20
AMC LITTLE ROCK 20	9:00 AM	AMC LITTLE ROCK 20
AMC LITTLE ROCK 20	9:00 AM	AMC LITTLE ROCK 20
AMC LITTLE ROCK 20	9:00 AM	AMC LITTLE ROCK 20
AMC LITTLE ROCK 20	9:00 AM	AMC LITTLE ROCK 20
AMC LITTLE ROCK 20	9:00 AM	AMC LITTLE ROCK 20
AMC LITTLE ROCK 20	9:00 AM	AMC LITTLE ROCK 20

**BOOGEYMAN**

You thought it was just a story

Viewing schedule:

City	Channel	Time
AMC FORTUM 30	9:00 AM	AMC LITTLE ROCK 20
AMC LITTLE ROCK 20	9:00 AM	AMC LITTLE ROCK 20
AMC LITTLE ROCK 20	9:00 AM	AMC LITTLE ROCK 20
AMC LITTLE ROCK 20	9:00 AM	AMC LITTLE ROCK 20
AMC LITTLE ROCK 20	9:00 AM	AMC LITTLE ROCK 20
AMC LITTLE ROCK 20	9:00 AM	AMC LITTLE ROCK 20
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AMC LITTLE ROCK 20	9:00 AM	AMC LITTLE ROCK 20
AMC LITTLE ROCK 20	9:00 AM	AMC LITTLE ROCK 20

# Harrier Huprikar honored

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Amol Huprikar sure can't complain about his senior year in athletics.

The harrier earned All-State status, ran a 15:58 over three miles and finished eighth in the MHSAA state finals. He also took second in the USAFJ National Cross Country Championships.

To top it off, Huprikar was honored by Sen. Nancy Cassis with a special tribute from the state of Michigan.

"The Novi School District is very proud of Amol," said his coach, Robert Smith. "He serves as a fine example of what is right with athletics and education in the state of Michigan."

Huprikar was honored two weeks ago during a school board meeting with a tribute plaque signed by Cassis. He earned the award for all of his accomplishments while representing Novi and the state of Michigan.

"Most people would be quite satisfied with those results," said Smith of everything Huprikar accomplished prior to the tribute and his national race. "But for Amol, the best was yet to come."

And the best still may be yet to come. Huprikar still has his track season this spring to compete in and will be looking to add to an already impressive senior resume.

Smith said his work ethic and dedication should be examples for all athletes to follow.

"Through hard work and dedica-



Amol Huprikar (center) poses with Senator...

**"Amol serves as a fine example of what is right with athletics and education in the state of Michigan."**

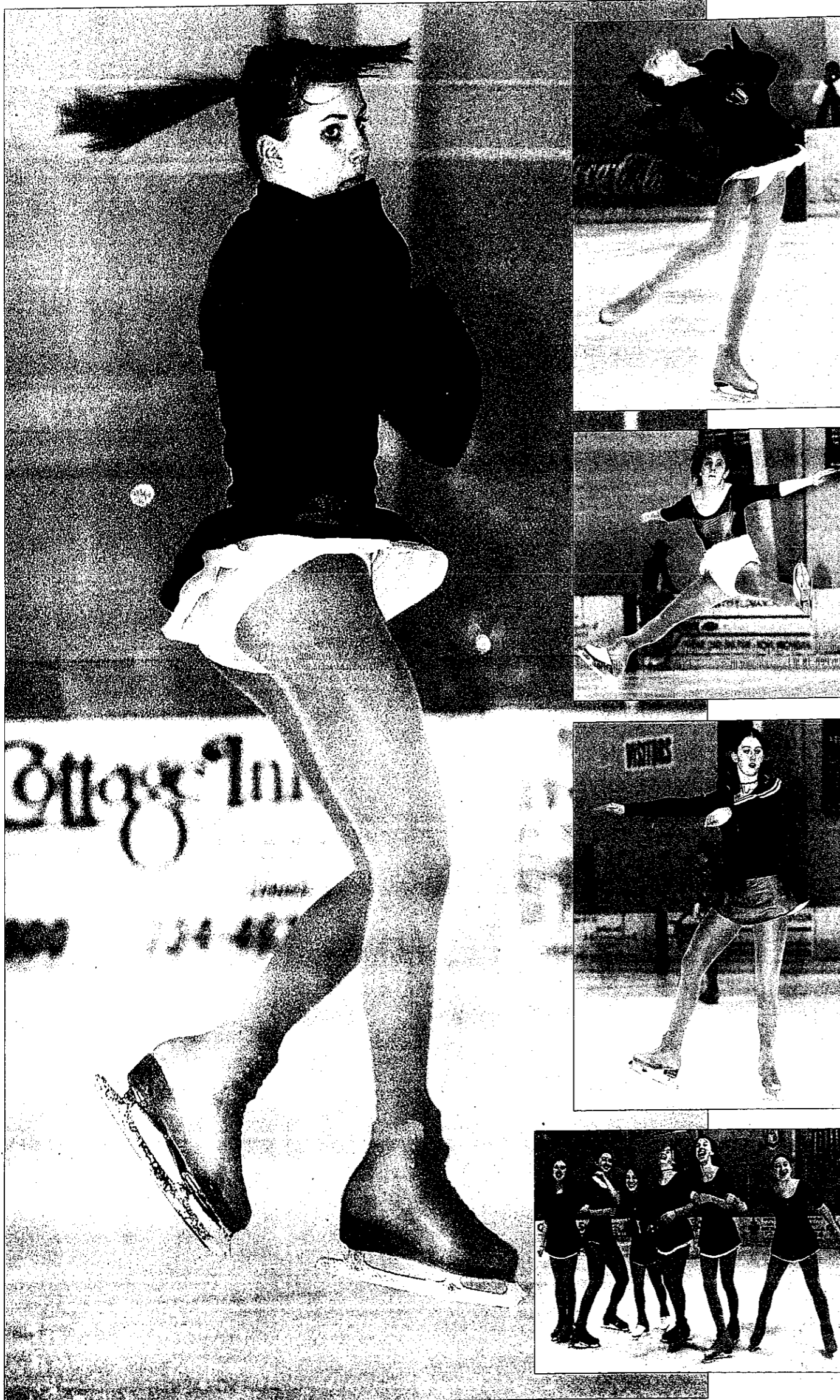
Robert Smith  
Novi boys cross country and track coach

Amol has gone from a freshman with great potential to a senior who is one of the best runners in the United States of America," he said.



# COOL CUSTOMERS

## Novi's figure skating squad top in District



ABOVE: Novi's Taryn Knedgen lifts off the ice and completes a rotation or two during practice at the Novi Ice Arena. INSET (FROM TOP): Novi's Megan Spitz performs a layback at the Novi Ice Arena; Ashley Marderosian performs a jump; Novi Competitive Skates Team member Megan Sanctorium glides across the ice; and the Novi High School competitive skating team takes a lap and laughs with their recently received trophy at the Novi Ice Arena. From left: Megan Spitz, Megan Sanctorium, Ashley Marderosian, Chelsea Anderson, Taryn Knedgen and Christine Pytel.

Photos by JOHN HEIDER

## EVENTS

### Lyon Oaks Bark Park Saturdays

DATES: Feb. 12, March 12 and April 9  
TIME: 9-11 a.m.  
DETAILS: Caribou staff will treat park guests to free coffee while exercising your dog. The Nature Center will be also be open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturdays.  
CONTACT: Sue Wells, chief of recreation, at (248) 858-4634.

### Gardeners of Northville and Novi meeting

DATE: Monday, Feb. 14  
TIME: 7 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road.  
DETAILS: Joe Barsons will present Water Gardens 101; public is welcome.  
CONTACT: Call (248) 349-5583.

### Democrats Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 15  
TIME: 7 p.m.  
LOCATION: UAW Local 36, 28930 Wixom Road, Wixom  
DETAILS: Democrats Of West Oakland County will meet with pizza and social hour preceding at 6 p.m. David Woodward, chair, Oakland County Democratic Party, will speak on "Vision For A Democratic Majority in 2005 and 2006."  
CONTACT: Jack Schneider (248) 685-1882

### Wild Game Dinner

DATE: Saturday, Feb. 19  
TIME: 4-11:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia  
DETAILS: The SCI- Novi Chapter will host its 14th annual Wild Game Dinner. Tickets for the event are \$65 per person and include a family style wild game dinner and hors d'oeuvres. The event will include a live and silent auction featuring hunting and fishing trips from around the world, sport memorabilia, jewelry, furs, and related outdoor items for your home, cabin or cottage. Raffles will be available for the chance to win an assortment of hunting rifles and shotguns, motor sport equipment and cash prizes. Attendance to the Wild Game Dinner can also attend an outfitters party at 6 p.m. on Feb. 18 at Laurel Manor to meet the various donors for the event. SCI- Novi is a non profit organization that will use the proceeds from this event for conservation and education programs related to the outdoors.  
CONTACT: Tickets can be purchased by calling (248) 620-0161 or by visiting www.sci-novi.com.

### Novi Lioness Club Euchre Tournament Fundraiser

DATE: Saturday, Feb. 19  
TIME: 7 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Rd.  
DETAILS: All are welcome to win prizes and enjoy cash. All proceeds benefit Lioness/Lioness charities such as Michigan Eye Bank, Leader Dog and Penrickton Center.  
CONTACT: Maggie Meeker at (248) 344-4633.

### Daughters of the American Revolution Meeting

DATE: Monday, Feb. 21  
TIME: 10:30 a.m.  
LOCATION: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main St., Plymouth  
DETAILS: This meeting of the Sarah Ann Cochran Chapter of Plymouth-Northville will be a good citizen reception. Irene Foster will be the speaker.  
CONTACT: For more information, call (734) 420-2775.

### Threads of Power

DATE: Friday, Feb. 25  
TIME: 8-10:30 a.m.  
LOCATION: Wyndham Garden Hotel, 42100 Crescent Blvd., Novi  
DETAILS: A group of business men and women affiliated with the Novi Chamber of Commerce have joined forces to support and assist others striving to enter the workforce. Donations of gently-used business attire will go to several organizations through this sixth annual event. Cost is \$15; RSVP by Friday, Feb. 18.  
CONTACT: (248) 349-3743

### Second Annual Sock Hop

DATE: Friday, March 4  
TIME: 7-11 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Expo Center's McKenzie Room, 43700 Expo Center Drive (I-96 and Novi Road)  
DETAILS: Break out the school colors, poodle skirts and hobbie socks for this Michigan 50's Festival fund-raiser, sponsored by Novi Expo Center and Leone Imports. Don't miss Sherman

Arnold's tribute to Elvis and contests for best costume, dancing and Hula-Hoop. Full cash bar at '50's prices, sliders, hot dogs and pop. Cost is \$10 for adults; free for children 12 years and under.  
CONTACT: (248) 349-1950 or www.michiganfestivalsival.com

## SCHOOL/GOVERNMENT

### Novi Planning Commission Meeting

DATE: Monday, Feb. 23  
TIME: 7:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road  
CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

### High School Athletic Code of Conduct Revision Public Forums

DATES: Thursday, Feb. 24  
LOCATION: Novi High School auditorium lecture hall B.  
TIMES: 7-8:30 p.m.  
DETAILS: Forum to answer question submitted at previous forum and new questions.

### Novi City Council Meeting

DATE: Monday, Feb. 28  
TIME: 7 p.m.  
LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road  
CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

### Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday, March 3  
TIME: 7:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Rd., Novi  
CONTACT: (248) 449-1200

## BUSINESS

### Business Referrals

DATE: every Wednesday  
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Rd.  
TIME: 7-8:30 a.m.  
DETAILS: Meeting of local professionals and business looking to increase word-of-mouth referral business. Various classifications open and eager to bring you qualified business leads.  
CONTACT: (734) 462-6460

## CLASSES

### Infant/Child CPR Class

DATE: Saturday, Feb. 19  
TIME: 8 a.m.-noon  
LOCATION: Holy Cross Episcopal Church, 40700 W. Ten Mile Road (between Meadowbrook and Haggerty Roads), Novi  
DETAILS: You must have a current Adult CPR card. Cost is \$20 per participant; includes materials and refreshments. Classes are limited to 16 participants per class. You must be at least 16 years old to participate.  
CONTACT: To register for a class, please call (248) 427-1175 or send an e-mail to holycross-novi@hotmail.com

### Novi Community Education Seminars

DATE: Monday, Feb. 21  
TIME: 7-9 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Middle School, room 207, located at Eleven Mile and Wixom roads.  
DETAILS: Novi Community Education Center will sponsor a seminar on Understanding the Stock Market featuring Scott Whyte, of Bloom Asset Management. There is a \$17 fee and reservations are required.  
CONTACT: Call Joyce Robb at (248) 449-1206.

### Novi Community Education Seminars

DATES: Monday, Feb. 28  
TIME: 7:30-9:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Room 202, Novi Middle School, Eleven Mile Road  
DETAILS: Novi Community Education Center will sponsor two seminars on the Market Outlook of 2005 and Investing Strategies featuring Rick Bloom, of Bloom Asset Management. There is a \$17 fee and reservations are required.  
CONTACT: Call Joyce Robb at (248) 449-1206.

### Providence Center for the Healing Arts' "Tuesdays at Assarian"

DATE: Every Tuesday night  
TIME: 5-8 p.m.  
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi  
DETAILS: Variety of activities for the adult community to come

# CALENDAR

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

## EXPO EVENTS

### 39th Annual Detroit Camper and RV Show



February 16-20, 2005  
CONTACT: (800) 422-6478 or www.nrvac.org

### Outdoorama

DATES: Feb. 23-28  
TIMES: Wed. 2-9 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. noon-9 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
DETAILS: Now in its 32nd year, Outdoorama is a family show with something for everyone who enjoys the outdoors. Get the latest in hunting and fishing gear, boats, recreational vehicles and guided trips with nearly 300 exhibitors. Enjoy a new five-day format, new retail section, great cats of the world

### Metro Green Landscaping Association Expo

DATES: March 2-3  
TIMES: Wed. 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
DETAILS: See the latest products and technology in landscaping. Cost is \$10 for members; \$15 for non-members. Parking is free.  
CONTACT: (248) 646-4992 or www.landscapexpo.org

### Wonderful Wildlife

DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 16  
TIME: 7-7:45 p.m.  
DETAILS: Novi Oaks Nature Center brings live reptiles, mammals and birds to the library to help us learn about our wildlife neighbors. For all ages. No registration.  
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

### Library Board Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 16  
TIME: 7 p.m.  
LOCATION: City Council Chambers at the Novi Civic Center  
DETAILS: Community members are welcome to attend. Meetings are also broadcast live on cable channel 13.

### Ming the Magnificent

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 17  
TIME: 1-1:45 p.m.  
DETAILS: One of our favorite magicians helps chase away the winter blues. For ages 4 and up. No registration.  
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

### AARP Tax Assistance Workshop

DATE: Monday, Feb. 21  
TIME: 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
DETAILS: AARP volunteers will be at the library to assist taxpayers \$5 and over in preparing their tax returns. Please note that the volunteers help in the preparation of simple tax returns only. Call the library to make an appointment.

### Starlight Story Time

DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 22  
TIME: 7-7:30 p.m.  
DETAILS: Preschoolers and their families are invited to enjoy bedtime stories. No registration.  
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

### E-Mail for Seniors

DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 23  
TIME: 1-3 p.m.  
DETAILS: Learn the basics of sending and receiving e-mail, and sign up for a free e-mail account. This class includes interactive discussion and hands-on practice. Call the library to register.

### Internet Practice Lab for Seniors

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 24  
TIME: 1-3 p.m.  
DETAILS: Work on any internet skills you wish, with librarians to assist you and answer any computer-related questions. There is no set agenda for this class; you may come and go as you please during the session. Call the library to register.  
Send your calendar items to Cal Stone, editor, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-9832; or e-mail to cstone@hl.homecomm.net.

### The following events will be held at the Novi Expo Center, 43700 Expo Center Drive, Novi (southwest corner of Novi Road and I-96).

### Design and Construction Expo

DATES: Feb. 10  
TIMES: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
DETAILS: Since 1985; register online. Parking is \$5.  
CONTACT: (248) 972-1000 or www.cdn-online.com

### Antique Arms Show

DATES: Feb. 12-13  
TIMES: Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
DETAILS: Buy, sell and trade collectibles. Parking is \$5.  
CONTACT: (248) 676-2750

### Camper & RV Show

DATES: Feb. 16-20  
TIMES: Wed.-Fri., 2-9 p.m.; Saturday, noon-9 p.m.; Sunday, noon-6 p.m.  
DETAILS: All the latest models of all types of campers, trailer and recreational vehicles. Cost is \$8.50 for ages 13 and up; free for children 12 and under; \$5 for seniors on Wed. and Thurs. Parking is \$5 (no private campers for sale allowed on the lot).

### adoptive families together. Twice-a-month meetings provide families with the opportunity to share play and conversation.

CONTACT: Michelle Pergau (248) 887-4955 or Sandra Noonan (248) 960-3257

### Novi Toastmasters

DATE: first and third Tuesdays of the month.  
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Activities Room.  
TIME: 7-8:45 p.m.  
DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills, voice your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.  
CONTACT: Colleen (248) 685-9226

### New Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) chapter

DATES: Wednesday mornings  
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons Activities Room, 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi.  
TIME: 11 a.m. weigh-in; 11:50 a.m. meeting  
DETAILS: \$20 per annual membership includes handbook; \$1 per meeting. New members welcome.

## HEALTH

### Pilates at the Park

DATE/TIME: Mondays 7-8 a.m., Jan. 24-March 14 (Conference Room C), Mondays 4:15-5:15 p.m., Jan. 24-March 14 (Conference Room B); Wednesdays 4:15-5:15 p.m., Jan. 26-March 15 (Conference Room C)  
LOCATION: Providence Park (southwest corner of Beck Road and Grand River Avenue), Novi  
DETAILS: Rehabilitation Services will be offering Pilates mat training classes, an effective form of exercise to strengthen, stretch and streamline one's body with minimum stress on joints. The cost for the program is \$120. Due to limited class size, it's recommended to register early.  
CONTACT: (248) 465-4416

### Novi Providence Park Heart Fair

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 17  
TIME: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
LOCATION: Cardiac Rehab Unit, Providence Park located at 47601 Grand River Ave.  
DETAILS: There will be screenings of blood pressure, cholesterol, blood glucose and Body Mass Index counseling including nutrition (dietitians), exercise (exercise physiologists), smoking (community health), stress and anxiety (behavioral health). There will also be displays of electro-physiology, cardiac surgery, and the Cardiac Cath Lab. Also, a design your own red dress pin contest and fresh fruit for everyone.  
CONTACT: Call (248) 465-4800 for more information.

### Oakland Physical Therapy P.C. classes

DATES: Wednesdays, Feb. 23, Tennis elbow; medical, surgical and physical therapy management; March 9, Throwing; mechanics and injury prevention; April 6, Fit for golf; and May 11, The latest advances in exercise for low back pain.  
CONTACT: (248) 465-4800 for more information.

### Schoolcraft College Choral Union Auditions

DATE: Call for audition info.  
LOCATION: Schoolcraft College, Colville Forum Building, Room 310, 18600 Haggerty Rd., Livonia  
DETAILS: All voice parts welcome.  
CONTACT: Shari Clason (248) 349-8175 or dpcsc@aol.com, Re: auditions

## LIBRARY LINES

### Novi Public Library Hours

LOCATION: 45245 W. Ten Mile Road  
HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-5 p.m.  
DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the



# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 6B

Thursday, February 10, 2005

## Small business, technology Part Two

Last week we discussed the e-commerce industry and the fact that it is divided into five major categories in terms of solutions providers. Last week we focused on the 'Basement Developer', the individual who created Web sites on the side while working full-time or going to school.

For the purposes of simplification, the e-commerce industry is being divided here into five distinct categories. The second category is "Small Boutique".

### Small Boutique

Small boutique operations are similar to basement developers in their knowledge of e-business. Although they may appear to be better presented than the basement operator, these firms specialize in technical areas and don't know much about e-business.

Many of these small boutiques offer the highest pricing in the industry.

Clients have been charged tens of thousands of dollars for basic sites as these small boutiques have capitalized on client ignorance.

Most of these small boutiques consist of more than one developer. They may be operating out of a commercial office location and positioning themselves as a "high-end" Web development firm. Although they may have the expertise to provide medium to high technology, the prices they charge are exorbitant and they have little knowledge in the area of e-business. They also have little expertise in the area of traffic generation and usually see this as the responsibility of the client.

These boutiques often have more than one developer and may have a greater ability to adapt to new technologies than the basement developer, but they are still limited by their size. Although these small boutiques will invariably produce better graphic designs than the basement developer, in most cases they do not employ specially trained graphic artists.

Small boutiques focus on Web site development and therefore their range of products and services seldom stretch beyond Web sites. You will not generally find small boutiques that offer a broad range of additional e-business products and services. In fact these small boutiques are as uninformed in the area of e-business as the basement developer. They are ill equipped to provide businesses with the necessary e-business reporting, training materials and on-going e-business consulting services.

Next we will look at the third category in the e-commerce industry, "IBM".

*Nipa Shah is a Novi e-commerce solutions provider who specializes in providing affordable solutions for small- and medium-sized companies. She can be reached via e-mail at nshah@vstcoolvresults.com or via phone at (248) 470-6299.*

**Small boutiques focus on Web site development and therefore their range of products and services seldom stretch beyond Web sites.**

**Send us your business news:**

Novi News  
104 W. Main  
Northville, MI 48167

fax: (248) 349-9832  
cstone@tt.bornecomm.net

ADVERTORIAL

"I thrive in this kind of market because I don't mind spending money on advertising homes for my clients. You've got to market the home properly right out of the gate to get the maximum price for it."

**Abe Ayoub**  
Mayfair Realty associate broker



Photo by Hal Gould

Abe often works from his office at home when he's not on the road working out of his vehicle or in the Livonia office.

## Abe thrives in tougher real estate market

By Duane Ramsey  
SPECIAL WRITER

With home prices dropping slightly in 2004, Abe Ayoub realizes that his clients need a Realtor who will work harder to help them sell their houses. Selling prices decreased up to 5 percent last year due to the larger volume of homes on the market, he said.

"I thrive in this kind of market because I don't mind spending money on advertising homes for my clients," said Abe. "You've got to market the home properly right out of the gate to get the maximum price for it."

Abe provides virtual tours of all his listings on his web site and includes photos of listings in open house ads in the newspapers. He strongly believes in holding open houses on Sunday when he says he makes about 40 percent of his sales.

"People need someone

who is going to market their home not just list it," said Abe, who takes the time to host open houses and show homes to people throughout the week.

Real estate is a "round the clock job" for Abe who makes himself available to his customers 24 hours a day and seven days a week. He has become known as "Mr. Real Estate" to his clients by helping them buy and sell their homes.

Abe is an associate broker with Mayfair Realty in Livonia, but spends more time working out of his Chevy Avalanche and his home office in South Lyon. With his license plate reading "SOLD ABE," he drives a versatile vehicle to take people around to view property.

Abe said he became known as "Mr. Real Estate" by providing the best possible service to his customers. Much of his business consists of repeat customers and referrals from

existing clients.

"When people tell me 'I heard about you from a friend,' that's the best form of advertising you can get as a Realtor," he said.

Abe believes that there is no better investment than a home as a long-term asset and there is no reason to wait if you're in the market to buy or sell. Listing a house for sale in February or March helps get the jump on the flood of homes usually listed in the spring.

If you are in the market to buy a home, interest rates remain favorable for first-time buyers or anyone looking to upgrade to a better home. The slightly lower prices are also in the buyer's favor, he added.

Abe has been working full-time in the real estate business for the past 12 years, all with Mayfair Realty. His membership in the firm's Million \$\$\$ Sales Club reflects his success in the competitive business.

"It takes a combination of

hard work and technology to be successful in this business today," Abe said.

He uses his Web site at [www.soldabe.com](http://www.soldabe.com) to market all of his listings complete with virtual tours. The site also includes links to the area cities, townships and school districts, a home finder, relocation tools and information about mortgages for people to check out.

Abe specializes in residential real estate in Oakland, Wayne and Livingston counties. He knows the areas from Brighton to the west, Milford to the north, and east through Novi, Plymouth, Livonia and Redford. He previously lived in Redford and Livonia before moving his family to Lyon Township just outside South Lyon six years ago.

"I believe that it's easier to sell in a community in which you live and believe in," said Abe, who knows

### DETAILS

**Abe Ayoub**  
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the South Lyon area extremely well since he lives in the community. "We just love living here. It offers a high quality of life for a family."

Abe not only lives in the area but is actively involved in the local community. He serves as a volunteer firefighter in Lyon Township and is a member of the South Lyon Area Chamber of Commerce and South Lyon Kiwanis Club.

Put "Mr. Real Estate" to work for you by contacting Abe Ayoub by email at [soldabe@comcast.net](mailto:soldabe@comcast.net) or by telephone at (248) 486-9227.

**Don't Mess With The Rest**

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**CALL ABE**

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**mayfair REALTY**

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