



# Novi News

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Look inside for your  
**GREEN SHEET**  
Classifieds

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INSIDE



### Coping with grief, loss during the holidays

Holidays are a time when the world seems to slow down. We concentrate on what is important. Time is typically centered on relaxing and enjoying ourselves with family and dear friends. We nurture and celebrate our relationships, undistracted by everyday life. Consequently, any losses are felt more acutely during this time. If the pain is related to the loss of a relationship, the holidays can make the hurt more painful.

— Page 6A

### Giving back to his roots

When Novi-based Realtor Joe Williams was growing up in Redford Township his family got a lot of help from Wayne's St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Joe Williams

He never forgot that or his mother's admonishment to "give 'till it hurts a little and then that's enough."

— Page 8A



### Holiday shopping at school

Parents of Parkview Elementary students will be receiving some surprises under the tree this holiday season, as their children have all gone shopping... by themselves. The school's PTO sponsored the "Holiday Shop" event, which allows children to choose gifts for the whole family, pay for them and have them gift wrapped. The shop took place on Nov. 19 and 20.

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## Ex-employee commits murder-suicide

### Shooting at ValleyCrest Landscape Management

By Victoria Sadlocha  
STAFF WRITER

Police are wrapping up their investigation into the tragic events unraveling last week when a confrontational employee killed his supervisor and then turned the gun he was carrying on himself shortly after being fired from his job.

Novi police said they are wrapping up some details, but the investigation of the crime rare to

this community is coming to an end.

"We've had confrontations of disgruntled employees before," said Police Chief Douglas Shaeffer, "but nothing that raises to this type of magnitude."

On Thursday, Nov. 21 at about 4 p.m., ValleyCrest Landscape Management employee Michael Henley walked into the Trans X Drive trailer office and shot 24-year-old Bryan Bowden of Madison Heights before killing himself with a single gunshot wound to the head, police said.

Shaeffer said it appears the 36-year-old Westland landscape employee was fired from his job about one hour before the shooting occurred.

"Apparently he (Henley) confronted two of the supervisors

when asked to perform a particular activity," Shaeffer said. "He became very irate and confrontational and it was decided then he needed to be dismissed."

Henley later returned to the trailer carrying a .22 caliber semi-automatic rifle, witnesses told police.

According to a press release issued by the city, a female employee of ValleyCrest was standing with her back to the door when she heard loud noises believed to be gunshots.

She then saw Henley chase Bowden into an office, heard gunshots and saw the man fall to the floor.

"As soon as he finished shooting Bowden, he pointed the gun at the secretary," Shaeffer said. "He was very agitated at the time."

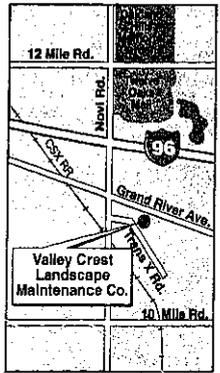
Shaeffer said Henley dictated a letter to the woman talking very despairingly about a couple of other employees not in the office at the time.

"There is no doubt in my mind we would have a much greater tragedy if the other employees would have been at the scene," Shaeffer said. "It could have been much worse."

Police said the gunman let the woman leave after the note was complete because he told her she had been nice to him.

"We've been in business for 53 years, and we hope this is the first and last time our company ever experiences anything like this," said Renu Nallicheri, ValleyCrest Landscape Management assistant

### Murder/Suicide



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SOURCE: Novi Police Dept.



Photo by John Heider

Four of Novi's Plan Review Dept. employees check out a preliminary site review blueprint for a retail center along Novi Road last Thursday afternoon. From left is Planner Tim Schmitt, Civil Engineer Ben Croy, Civil Engineer Brian Coburn, and Community Planning Assistant Donna Howe.

## Catching Up

Employees of the city's plan review center show they are making improvements and catching up on their workload

By Victoria Sadlocha  
STAFF WRITER

Two months after receiving heavy scrutiny, the city's plan review department opened its doors to the community to show improvements are underway.

Employees demonstrated the progress the department has made during an open house held Nov. 20.

Some of the most noticeable changes included the reduction of back-logged projects and a new physical layout of the employees' work space.

The department, located on the first floor of the Novi Civic Center, received a new floor plan, allowing for easy communication between different disciplines.

The ease of talking over the wall and around the corners of office cubicles was devised to ensure communication between all disciplines resulting in a decrease of time site plans come back through the review process.

"We look at the plans when they first come in as a group," said Barbara McBeth, City of Novi planner. "There's always discussion."

And not only has the number of projects in the center for longer than 25 days been reduced, but bringing together the landscape architect, woodlands and wetlands, planning and engineering professionals has

also reduced the number of site plans submitted multiple times for approval.

McBeth said the fiscal year-to-date average of site plan resubmittals is .9 for each project, meaning when looked at as an average, plans are coming back about once through the process.

Other data provided by the center indicates the center has 46 stamping sets completed, has held 13 pre-application meetings and 48 concept meetings.

"We really try to focus a lot on the pre-application meeting," McBeth said. "It ultimately reduces the amount of resubmittals. We're catching up very quickly."

City officials said the planning, engineering, traffic, fire and facade reviews are all caught up and it is only the landscape and woodlands review departments that are behind, resulting in plans being in the center

longer than the 25-day goal.

A site plan status report as of Sept. 19 showed 45 active projects, 15 of which were beyond the target completion date for at least one of the disciplines being reviewed.

Interim landscape architect Mike McGinnis agreed the bottleneck is now in landscape and woodlands review.

McGinnis is helping the city with reviews while officials search for a permanent full-time landscape architect to replace Lauren McGuire, who left the city Oct. 2.

City of Novi Assistant City Manager Clay Pearson said the focus is on getting it right the first time and the department is saving money for the city.

"A lot of good work is getting done," Pearson said. "And we're always striving to do better."

The plan review department came under fire during the Sept. 23 Novi

City Council meeting. Some members of council were concerned the department was not performing where it should be since opening Jan. 1.

Talks of halting resources to the city's newest division also came up during the discussion.

"It is good to hear that they are taking the matter seriously and that they are working to make changes to increase the effectiveness," said Craig DeRoche, Novi city councilman.

The idea for the plan review center originated from the city manager to bring the process of reviewing site plans in-house to reduce the city's reliance on outside consultants.

Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or at vsadlocha@ht.homecomm.net.

**We really try to focus a lot on the pre-application meeting, It ultimately reduces the amount of resubmittals. We're catching up very quickly."**

Barbara McBeth  
City of Novi planner

## Ring in the holiday

City hall buzzes with preparations for Novi's new celebration, electric light parade

By Victoria Sadlocha  
STAFF WRITER

Holiday spirit is heading to Novi in a new, sparkling package.

The city's annual holiday celebration is scheduled for next week, featuring many enhancements including an electric light parade.

The Thursday, Dec. 5 event, appropriately titled, "Ring in the Holidays," is a great way to gear up for the season whether you are 5 or 75.

"The event will offer something for everyone," said Randy Auler, director of the City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department. "From the young to the old, our hope is for the entire community to come out and kick off the holidays, share the spirit of the season and enjoy some good, old-fashioned fun."

What was once known as the "Main Street Holiday Walk" has evolved into a large-scale production.

Attendees at the Main and Market streets event will enjoy plenty of sensory delights inside and outside of the downtown festival area.

The night begins at 6 p.m. with caroling, music and complimentary samples from many of Novi's best restaurants.

Food booths lining the Main Street area offering some of their best known stomach fillers will include Mesquite Creek, Lazy Lizard, Cantina, Guernsey Farms Dairy, BD's Mongolian BBQ, Red Lobster, Buffalo Wild Wings Grill & Bar, Cottage Inn Pizza, Coffee Trader, Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro, Panera Bread Company and McDonald's.

Sheryl Walsh, City of Novi communications manager, said everything from pizza to soups to kettle corn to biscuits to chicken wings to hot fudge sundaes will be available.

At 6:30 p.m., the city's first electric light parade complete with floats and marching bands from Novi schools will begin.

The parade, beginning at Market Street and turning right onto Main Street, will feature self-created luminary floats from many groups and organizations including Schoolcraft College, The Prisoner of War Committee of Michigan, Novi Lions and local Boy Scouts.

The city's 25-foot-tall holi-

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**Council Briefs**

**Open space preservation**

Members of the Novi City Council voted unanimously during the Nov. 12 meeting to approve the first reading of an amendment to a Novi zoning ordinance relating to open space preservation. The amendment was created to comply with a new state law requiring cities, villages and townships in Michigan to allow developers to plot subdivisions in a manner that preserves valuable open space resources. The legislation allows development up to 80 percent of the property with the preservation of at least 20 percent of the site in open space.

**Police hiring**

The decision to hire one to three additional police officers was postponed once again during the Novi City Council Nov. 12 meeting. Members of the council decided to discuss the issue at a later date because of the late hour. The city recently learned it would not be receiving a COPS universal hiring grant, placing the original plan of employing three additional officers this year in limbo. The city has \$137,000 set aside for the hiring which was initially earmarked as grant matching funds.

**New fence**

The Novi Department of Public Works will receive security chain fencing as the result of an unanimous approval by members of the city council during the Nov. 12 meeting. Northern Fence Company, the lowest bidder, received the \$30,000 contract. The fencing will secure the DPW facility, equipment and the surrounding area.

**Telecommunications update**

Members of the Novi City Council voted during the Nov. 12 meeting to approve a proposal for telecommunications services to Plante & Moran, LLP. For \$8,000, the firm will perform an analysis of local and long distance service, which is done by the city about every three years. The intent is to make sure Novi is getting the best pricing and service available. Plante & Moran was the lowest bidder.

**Dump trucks**

The city's dump trucks will be receiving new bodies after the Novi City Council voted to approve the expenditure during the Nov. 12 meeting. City officials said the trucks are about 10 years old, the beds are no longer usable and replacing the bodies is a practical and economical solution to replacing the entire truck. The \$9,429 contract was awarded to C.E. Billard Company, the low bidder. The funds for the expenditure will come from the vehicle maintenance account.

**City announces philanthropic spending**

■ The city announces its 2003 allocation of Community Development Block Grant funds, benefiting organizations helping residents of Novi

By Victoria Sadiola  
STAFF WRITER



Craig Klaver

The City of Novi 2003 Community Development Block Grant spending program has been allocated, placing the focus on city services including fighting family violence.

Once again, HAVEN will receive a portion of the \$109,749 federal funds Novi will allocate for the upcoming year.

The organization, dedicated to building violence-free communities one family at a time, will receive \$12,000, an increase of \$1,000 from the 2002 program year.

"We're very pleased that they will be continuing to utilize a portion of the Community Development Block Grant funds to support the victims of domestic violence and child abuse that so desperately need HAVEN's help," said Holly Nuriel, HAVEN president and CEO.

HAVEN started receiving funds from the city during fiscal year 1994-1995.

According to data provided by Nuriel, from July 1, 2001 through July 31, 2002, 126 individuals from Families in the City of Novi sought assistance from the organization.

Nuriel said Novi is about the sixth largest community utilizing HAVEN's services and within the

top ten of all communities in Oakland County.

The total CDBG funds allocation for the new year including HAVEN includes:

- \$9,000 to OLSHA for the manager of the city's senior center
- \$8,000 to Novi Youth Assistance for the benefit of specialized counseling and camp scholarships
- \$20,000 to the Senior Van Program for senior transportation services
- \$62,749 to the Minor Home Repair program for residential home repairs
- \$12,000 to Haven for the benefit of battered and abused spouses

The organizations closest to receive money remained the same from last year, with some changes in the dollar amounts.

This year, Novi Youth Assistance and HAVEN will receive \$1,000 more than last year while the city's senior center manager will receive the same amount in 2003.

The senior van program will receive close to \$10,000 less than last year's amount and Novi's

minor home repair program will receive close to \$8,000 more in the 2003 program year.

"The Minor Home Repair Program reflects an increase over the money that was funded last year because the committee is very pleased with the success of that program and there is a reduction in the senior van program, which was not based on the merit of the program, but on the fact that they had to find the money to increase the minor home repair program," said Craig Klaver, program liaison and City of Novi chief operating officer.

The city received 31 requests for assistance through the city's minor home program and the senior van program serviced 10,069 passengers last year.

Representatives of Novi Youth Assistance said they have received CDBG funds for moderate to low income and special needs youth since 1994.

According to information provided by Claudia L. Walter, M.S.W., a Novi Youth

Assistance youth and family caseworker, this year 44 families benefited from specialized scholarships to send children to Summer camps and by offering skill building activities and supportive programming.

The youth organization is pleased to be chosen again for further funding.

**HAVEN**

One of the organizations receiving Community Development Block Grant funds through the City of Novi is HAVEN.

During the city's fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, the organization dedicated to ending domestic violence assisted 126 individuals from families in Novi.

Out of the 126 Novi individuals, the breakdown of type of assistance consisted of:

- Two adults and two children in the residential (shelter) program
- Twelve participants in the domestic violence counseling program
- Seven participants in the sexual assault and child abuse treatment program
- Eighty-two participants in the advocacy program (people seen in court or hospital)
- Eleven participants in the supervised parenting program
- Nine participants in the batterers intervention program
- One participant in the START program or forensic nurse examiner program

The organization also received 59 crisis calls from Novi residents.

Oakland County serves as the initial recipient of the grant money and provides financial oversight for the expenditure of the allocated funds.

The allocation along with organization choice was submitted to the city by the Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee, a group

comprised of five members of the community.

*Victoria Sadiola is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or vsadiola@ht.homecomm.net.*

**Company spreads gospel of lean management beyond auto industry**

■ Focus on "discovery learning rather than lecture"

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

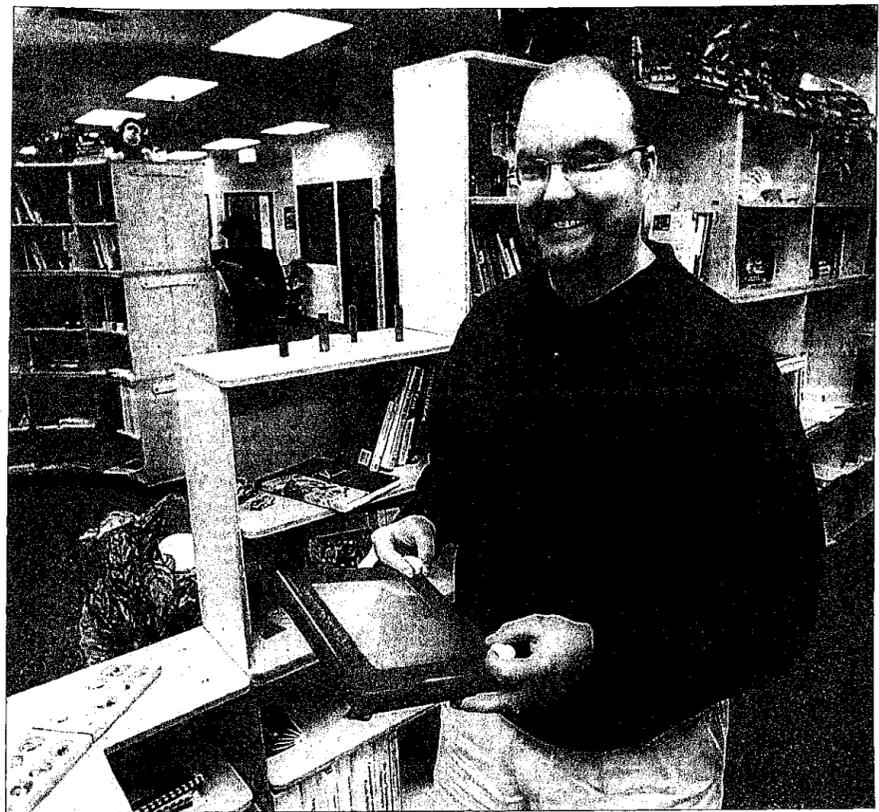


Photo by John Heister

There's more to lean management than chopping heads and slashing budgets.

That's the message out of a non-descript office block in Novi that looks more like a daycare center on the inside than a corporate training center.

The non-traditional atmosphere at the Lean Learning Center, said Jamie Flinchbaugh, one of the center's three founders, is the result of a method of teaching based on "discovery learning rather than lecture."

After the Japanese auto industry handed Detroit its head in the early 1980s, words like six sigma, kaizen and kaizen began getting tossed around at engineering gatherings and the Toyota Production System became the El Dorado of manufacturing.

The Lean Learning Center opened its doors in Novi in April 2001, five months after one of its founders, Dennis Pawley resigned as CEO of lighting supplier Guide Corp, following a spectacular blowout the General Motors Corp. Pawley, who was one of the key executives credited with transforming Chrysler Corp into the auto industry's most profitable company in the 1990s, vowed to "stop the madness" and help teach automotive suppliers how to stay in the game.

Pawley joined with Andy Carino, president of Achievement Dynamics, a Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.-based consulting firm, and Jamie Flinchbaugh, an engineer who had helped develop the Chrysler Operating System and worked with DTE Energy on implementing lean management processes at the giant public utility.

Flinchbaugh said they chose Novi for their base of operations because it's centrally located for companies in Metro Detroit and Novi offers easy access to their airport for the centers national and international clients as well as things to do after the sessions are over.

"I know this is a very hot issue," said in-coming chamber chairman Lou Martin following the vote, "and I want to be able to work with the committee on this."

Martin and his new board were slated to hold workshop sessions in Lansing the Thursday and Friday before Thanksgiving to set their agenda for the coming year.

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**Novi Chamber bylaws changes stalled**

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

Novi Chamber of Commerce members voted Nov. 19 to put off deciding whether they should alter the way chamber bylaws are changed until after the first of the year with the group's new board in place.

With less than 10 percent of the chamber's membership on hand for its November luncheon at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, a measure to give the board of directors the power to change the group's bylaws was held off by just an eight-vote margin.

Chamber members have been buzzing since last month when the chamber's bylaws revision committee suggested that members eliminate a provision

requiring all members to be notified 10 days before a vote on a proposed bylaws change. The committee also wanted to allow bylaw changes to be made by a two-thirds vote of the chamber board of directors.

Novi Police Chief Doug Schaeffer, who headed up the committee appointed by outgoing chamber chairman Jane Thomas, argued that the chamber's current bylaws are "inflexible" and that the board needs "the ability to change rapidly when we need to."

Noting that chambers in Troy, Farmington Hills and Southfield have long allowed their boards to modify the groups' bylaws, Schaeffer argued, "We don't need to reinvent the wheel, we just need to make sure it's

handed and that's just not the case."

"This is like a dictatorship," thundered Jim Moody, arguing against the change. "We pay to be in this organization and we should be able to protect ourselves."

Novi Expo Center's John Bowman, a lawyer on the bylaws revision committee, said the committee was asking for nothing different from what's already being done in places like Farmington Hills and Sterling Heights as well as in many corporation board rooms. Besides, he added, "you still have the opportunity to get 50 people to overrule the board."

Committee member Jonathan Brateman argued the change would simply make the chamber

"more effective and more efficient."

The membership voted 30 to 22 to wait on making that decision until January.

"I know this is a very hot issue," said in-coming chamber chairman Lou Martin following the vote, "and I want to be able to work with the committee on this."

Martin and his new board were slated to hold workshop sessions in Lansing the Thursday and Friday before Thanksgiving to set their agenda for the coming year.

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**The O'Brien Family Annual Holiday Memorial Program**

December 17, 2002 at 7:30 pm  
Novi Civic Center  
41575 W. Ten Mile, Novi

Refreshments Provided

Please RSVP to the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home  
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By December 14, 2002

# Coping with grief, loss and the holiday season

## Part I - WHY DO THE HOLIDAYS MAKE LOSS SEEM ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT?



Theresa Lynn

Holidays are a time when the world seems to slow down. We concentrate on what is important. Time is typically centered on relaxing and enjoying ourselves with family and dear friends. We nurture and celebrate our relationships, undistracted by everyday life. Consequently, any losses are felt more acutely during this time. If the pain is related to the loss of a relationship, the holidays can make the hurt more painful.

It is not unusual to feel as if we are "going crazy," especially if we have lost someone we love. However, any loss may turn our world upside down: that of a pet, a job, or a physical ability; any kind of broken relationship, possession, or a sense of safety and security. Other occurrences can cause upheaval, including miscarriage or abortion; life plans gone awry; missing an important event; or the loss of hope, freedom, or even sobriety. Missing anything that has become familiar to us, even alcohol, cigarettes or an unhealthy relationship, can be very painful.

Loss causes many changes in our lives and can alter how we perceive the roles we play. If my child is dead, am I still a mother? Am I half a person without my life's partner? If I have lost my job, am I still a valuable member of society? Our self-esteem may plummet and we may question our identity.

If we are mourning the death of someone we love, the circumstances surrounding the death have an important effect on our grief experience. If the death was due to an illness, we may have watched the one we love suffer many debilitating changes. Terminal illness typically steals bodily functions as well as the ability to move, or even the ability to communicate. It is not uncommon to have difficulty at first recalling what our loved one looked like when they were healthy.

If the death was sudden, unexpected, traumatic or violent, we are wrenched into a new reality. How can we ever feel normal again? How can anything, including the holidays, ever feel special once more? If we believe we were somehow responsible for the death, every morning is a painful reminder. While we may not be truly suicidal, we may wish for an end to our pain, because we cannot imagine ever feeling different than we feel right now.

As we struggle to find meaning connected to our loss, we may find our faith battered. Why is it that something so unfair has happened to us? How could our God

let something this painful occur? If we feel this way during a holiday that is set up around our faith, bitterness and anger may build, perhaps unhealthily or even dangerously, ways. Our pain is real and deserves a voice. There are many ways to express grief: talking, crying, writing, praying, singing, living with intentional awareness, or expressing appreciation for what we have. Expressing grief can be done privately - in a journal or in a silent prayer. It can occur in a more public fashion - support group meetings, remembrance services, or visiting memorials. Some of our world's most memorable music and works of art were created during a time of incredible loss in an artist's life. We give ourselves a gift when we create space in our lives to allow our feelings to surface, whatever those feelings may be. If we stay busy or numb our feelings with drugs and alcohol, it only delays the inevitable.

It is also very important to take care of our physical selves during this time. Our immune system can be affected by grief and we are more vulnerable to illness and accidents. As much as we are able, we need to eat balanced meals and drink plenty of fluids, especially water. We need rest and may find ourselves sleeping more than usual. We should try to stay away from alcohol and other substances that numb our pain.

Sometimes grief counseling is suggested for someone who seems to be having a difficult time coping with a significant loss. Keep in mind that grief is not a problem to be fixed, nor is it a disease to be cured. Grief is not the same as depression and cannot be permanently alleviated with medication. We may or may not need a grief counselor. What we can do is have company during our grief. Those individuals can listen with their whole being. Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, U.S. Army (Ret.), puts this concept into an easy-to-remember formula: "Pain Shared = Pain Divided. Joy Shared = Joy Multiplied." When and wherever we express and share grief, we benefit from its gifts and experience growth.

Ideally, families are a built-in support system. When a death occurs in the family, everyone mourns the loss of the same person. However, the relationships between the person who died and the remaining family members were different for each of them, and their manifestation of grief is different. A display of emotion - or lack of it - can cause misunderstandings and hurt feelings, even in well-adjusted families.

Sometimes we want our pain to remain private. Having a place where no one knows what we are going through can be a haven. But, what about those times we do not want to be alone in our grief? Can we say to another person, "I'm hurting. I'm having a really hard time." We need to look for support from those who can give this. We should find a support

group, or a trusted individual who will be a companion and give us their quiet presence during this difficult time.

If we are mourning the death of someone we love during the holidays, there are many special ways we can acknowledge our loss. Here are a few:

- Change some holiday traditions; keep some of the old ones and create new ones.
- Develop a special ritual that remembers the loss/person who is gone.
- Light a candle daily and spend a few minutes in quiet reflection.
- When in doubt, ask the individual what he or she needs at that time. We must recognize we do not have all the answers and that we cannot "fix" this for them.

Loss is part of the human experience and grief is a normal reaction. We cannot know the meaning or purpose behind the loss and the grief. Do not try to take that away from anyone. Just witness their pain and simply be a grief companion.

Perhaps the most valuable holiday gift we can give ourselves is that of preparation. Whom do we not want to spend time with during the holidays? What do we want to be sure to do or not do during this time? Perhaps we can overlook some of our traditions this year, if they feel too painful or simply too tiring. We can always resume next year.

The best gift we can give others during this time is to take good care of ourselves.

Try not to have expectations of how long a person's grief will last. They are forever changed by their loss and may never completely "get over" it. They will have good days and bad days. Even years later, the memory of a loved one may be triggered by a song or a smell, and there may be a period of reliving some of that more intense grief.

It is also not helpful to compare losses. Pain cannot be measured, and nothing is gained by saying one loss is greater or less than another.

Sometimes our families and friends who cannot understand our grief are, out of ignorance, not supportive of the journey on which we find ourselves. This can make holiday time especially difficult. Their friendship and support can be gifts to us.

Support comes from within us as well. Healing is built into us. After great physical trauma, the body goes into shock. It becomes very still, so that all the energy necessary for healing can be channeled and directed toward the injury. It is the same with emotional and spiritual trauma. When we allow ourselves to be very still and feel what is happening inside us, we create the conditions where natural healing can occur.

About a year ago, I cared for two white rats for my friend Laura. They both contracted cancer, a couple months apart from each other. When it was time to euthanize first Stuart, then Snowball, I was amazed at the depth of my pain at having to let them go. Why did the deaths of these little rodents hit me harder than my grandmother's death when I was 13 years old? I realize now that one of the gifts my grandmother's death gave to me was a softer heart. And it gets softer and bigger with every loss. The death of other family members, pets, job changes, a divorce, my home... I am learning just how much love a broken heart can hold.

The holidays are a special time. The experience of grief in pain and how they really feel. It is one thing to want to help, but it is quite another to initiate action because we want to relieve our own discomfort. It may not be helpful, or even desired by the grieving individual. Grieving individuals want and need space, both literal and figurative, in which to grieve and mourn their loss. Create for them a "healing environment" in which they will not be the inevitable distraction of noise, activity and daily life.

Maintain a calm and peaceful presence. Be available as an understanding, non-judgmental and listening companion should they choose to talk. Or simply sit with them in silence. If we fill the space with words, we may exhaust them further.

When I look over our shoulders, grief is still there. What if, like our ancestors, we recognized our cycles of living in darkness? Perhaps we cannot see a future of hope and brightness. What if we sat very still and listened? What if we trusted that something greater is at work and we do not need to control everything? Can we imagine simply feeling?

When I was elected to council, there were very large issues facing the city, and I'm happy to be a part of what I feel were the solutions," he said. "The state is now facing very large challenges at this time and hopefully my experience with the council will help me with the State of Michigan."

DeRoche said he has already been working very hard getting to know people in Lansing and getting his office up and running. "I'm looking forward to the challenge. This is going to be looked at in history as a very unique time in the state," he said.

Factors such as how the state will handle losing the knowledge and expertise of about 8,000 early retirees from Michigan businesses, the significant turnover of the legislature and the newly-elected governor

all contribute to a momentous time in the state's history. "I think it is the perfect storm," DeRoche said. "And how we deal with it is going to have an impact for a long time on the State of Michigan."

DeRoche was first elected to the Novi City Council in 1997 and re-elected in 1999. The soon-to-be former councilman will be taking the place of current State Rep. Nancy Cassis (R-Nowi), herself a former Novi City Council member, who was recently elected to the state's senate.

Victoria Sadleira is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or at vsadleira@ht.homecomm.net.

# Novi councilman tenders resignation

## DeRoche leaving mid-December to prepare for Lansing duties

By Victoria Sadleira  
STAFF WRITER

Novi City Councilman Craig DeRoche announced on Monday he will be resigning from council in the middle of next month.

The recently-elected State Rep. representing the 38th District will take a seat at the council's bench for the last time Dec. 16.

"I have mixed feelings about leaving, but I'm happy to be a part of what I feel were the solutions," he said. "The state is now facing very large challenges at this time and hopefully my experience with the council will help me with the State of Michigan."

DeRoche said he has already been working very hard getting to know people in Lansing and getting his office up and running. "I'm looking forward to the challenge. This is going to be looked at in history as a very unique time in the state," he said.

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C. DeRoche

## Novi City Briefs

### City offices closed

Novi City offices, the recycling center and the Novi Public Library will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 28 in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday. The library will reopen on Friday, Nov. 29, but city hall and the recycling center will remain closed. All city offices and buildings will be open Monday, Dec. 2.

### Former commissioner honored

Former long-time City of Novi Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commissioner Dennis Colligan was recognized by the mayor of Novi for his commitment to the city. Colligan was presented with a service appreciation plaque during a recent city council meeting, while Clark expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the former commissioner for bettering the city.

### Winter property taxes

City of Novi 2002 property tax bills were mailed this week. All payments are due without penalty on or before February 14, 2003. If payments are not received in the Treasury Department by the due date, a 4-percent penalty will

be added. Postmarks are not accepted. A drop box is available behind the Civic Center at the curb. Late payments will be accepted at the Treasurer's office through Feb. 28 with a 4-percent penalty, but beginning March 1, payments must be sent to the Oakland County Treasurer's Office. For more information call the 24-hour property tax information hotline at (888) 600-3773.

### Mayor can't waive penalties

City of Novi Attorney Gerald Fisher would like to remind all residents the mayor is not permitted to waive interest and penalties on late tax payments due the city. Fisher said it has come to his attention some citizens in the community believe Novi Mayor Richard J. Clark has the ability to waive amounts owed, but it is just not true. "I can marry you, but I cannot waive your taxes," Clark joked.

### Dog licenses

On Dec. 1, 2003 Oakland County dog licenses will be available from the Novi Treasury Department. All dogs four months and older must be licensed and licenses must be renewed annually. Dog licenses expire Dec. 31. The fee is \$15 for owners younger than 65. Senior citizens with proof of age are required to pay \$13.50. Licenses for neutered or spayed pets are only \$7.50 or \$6.75 for senior owners. These prices will be offered through June 1. Beginning June 2, the cost of a dog license will be \$30 with the exception of new dogs. Owners must bring a current rabies certificate in for processing when purchasing a license. For more information, call (248) 347-0440.

### Homeowner association breakfast

The City of Novi Homeowner Associations' Leader's Breakfast will be held Saturday, Jan. 25 from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Novi Civic Center. Heads of homeowner associations are invited to attend the annual event where Novi Mayor Richard Clark, members of the city council and city staff will address questions and concerns in a one-on-one format. In addition, attendees will enjoy breakfast and guest speakers providing plenty of information to share with neighborhood homeowners. Gifts will also be given and much more. For more information, call (248) 347-0437.

# Local veterans group gets new management

## By Phil Foley STAFF WRITER

There are several new faces at the Michigan Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) headquarters in Novi.

Maurice Jordan, who served on MPVA's Board of Directors in 2001, recently the helm at MPVA as its new executive director. Jordan takes over from John Eberhart, who retired in January after leading the 700-member organization for 23 years.

Unlike other veteran's groups, MPVA membership is open to any veteran with a spinal cord injury or disease, regardless of how it occurred.

Jordan served in the U.S. Army in Germany from 1984-91, specializing in supply operations. After leaving the Army he worked in materials management first at the University of Michigan Medical Center and



M. Jordan

later at Ford Motor Company. His spine was injured in a 1997 automobile accident.

In addition to being MPVA's executive director, Jordan is on the board of the Ann Arbor Center for the Independent Living.

recreational opportunities for its members. After a two-year absence, Alan Pomranka returns to MPVA as its director of Sports and Recreation. He held that position from 1998-2000.

Jordan, Pomranka and Richards join Michael Harris at the MPVA's Novi Office at 40550 Grand River Ave. Harris was promoted to deputy executive director. Richards said he will continue his duties in Government Relations and

Advocacy, but will have increased managerial responsibility. Along with its Novi headquarters, MPVA maintains a service center in downtown Detroit. Lisa Langrehr was hired recently as a Service Officer for that office.

For more information on MPVA and its activities call (248) 476-9000.

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

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## Bowling center snowflakes benefit battered women

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

Tari Rutkowski is hoping for a virtual blizzard on the concourse at Novi Bowl. Rutkowski, one of the managers at the bowling center, has set up three artificial Christmas trees and is taking donations to decorate the trees with snowflakes.

Money from snowflake donations will be given to Eastington/Novi Area Zonta to help fund a holiday wish list for First Step, a shelter for battered and abused women in Western Wayne County.

Rutkowski, who was once an abused wife herself, said it's a project that's "close to my heart."

She said First Step has a long wish list for everything from kitchen supplies to underwear to gas vouchers and toys for kids.

Novi Bowl, located at 21700 Novi Road, will be accepting donations through Dec. 15.

Rutkowski said she first learned about Zonta and its support of First Step when the group held Strike Out Against Violence at the bowling center in October.

Zonta is a professional women's organization focused on improving women's lives. Formed in 1994, the local chapter has 20 members who meet at 6 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month for dinner at the Embassy Suites in Livonia.

Terri Pak, a Zonta member,

said her chapter was organized specifically to help support First Step. First Step has offices in Plymouth and Taylor. Its shelter facility is capable of housing up to 40 people for 30 days at a time.

Pak said the club holds several fund raising events for the shelter throughout the year including an annual fashion show at the Parisian at Laurel Park Mall in Livonia.

For Zonta membership information call Carla Hayes at (734) 727-1061.

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

Novi Bowl, located at 21700 Novi Road, will be accepting donations through Dec. 15.

## Novi Realtor gives back to his roots

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER



Joe Williams

When Novi-based Realtor Joe Williams was growing up in Redford Township his family got a lot of help from Wayne's St. Mary's Catholic Church.

He never forgot that or his mother's admonishment to "give till it hurts a little and then that's enough."

"Every year I pick three places to donate to," said Williams. This year he donated 125 turkeys to John Holde Memorial Food Depot.

The food bank is an outreach program of St. Mary's, where Williams also coaches a fifth- and sixth-grade basketball team.

"We always struggle this time of year," said Sladji Jump, the food bank's director. "It was a real blessing when we got the call from Joe. We only had eight turkeys and 250 families to feed."

Williams said that when he learned that only eight birds had been donated, three of them by the parish priest, he knew he had to do something.

The middle child of 13, Williams understands the importance of giving back. He grew up in a bustling household of seven boys and six girls who all pitched in to get by. His father's deteriorating health made it a necessity.

At age 12, Williams sold his first car. "It was matter of making ends meet," he recalled. Ten years later when he was in college, he began selling real estate. "It seemed like kind of a progression," he said.

He said as he became more successful, the urge to give back to the organizations that once helped him during his childhood became stronger as well.

But he added, doing good "always comes back." He recalled stopping to help a stranded motorist a few years ago and by the end of the day spend-

ing \$400 to get the man on his way. The next week, he sold three houses. "Coincidence? I don't think so," he said.

Williams added that end of 1998 he donated \$1,500 of the \$1,800 he had to his name and by the end of 1999 he had sold 60 houses — his best year ever.

"I've been really blessed," said Williams.

Williams joined Re/Max 100 three years ago, and while he markets home throughout Southeast Michigan, he said his focus is Novi. The 33-year-old bachelor said his thinking about moving to Novi from Livonia in the coming year.

"Even though I have achieved success in my professional life," said Williams, "I try not to forget where I came from."

Re/Max 100 is located at Eight Mile and Hagerly roads.

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

"Even though I have achieved success in my professional life. I try not to forget where I came from."

Joe Williams  
generous Realtor

## Partners promise salon with a different style

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

Novi's newest hair styling salon will kick off with a champagne reception from 6-9 p.m. Dec. 7.

Jim Wame said he and partner, Concannon Watson are trying to "create a different style." Wame said he wants to "get away from that pale Italian style to something more voluptuous."

Tres Jolie, promised Wame, "will have a lot of softness and color. We're going to get away from that gray Italian, surgical look." He added, "We're going to treat hair styling as spectator sport. We're going to lots of nice furniture and antiques, so you can

bring in your friends and have a chat and a sip of wine while you get your hair done."

With more than 20 years in the hair styling business, including 3 1/2 in London, where he studied with Vidal Sassoon, Watson will be the principal stylist. Wame's wife, Angela, will manage the salon.

Salon partners, however, won't be seeing Wame wield scissors. He is a project manager with an automotive company in Ann Arbor. Wame observed that his partner has "the style and I bring a certain levelness to this. Between the two of us, I think this is going to work out pretty well."

He said Tres Jolie will be a Aveda concept salon, carrying the

full line of Aveda hair styling products, which are made with natural materials.

Tres Jolie is located in the Grand Oaks Shopping Center on Grand River west of Hagerly Road, next to Picasso's Cafe. Wame said the 3,500-square-foot, full-service salon will have a staff of about 20.

Following the champagne reception Dec. 7, the salon will begin accepting appointments Dec. 10. For more information call (248) 888-0655.

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

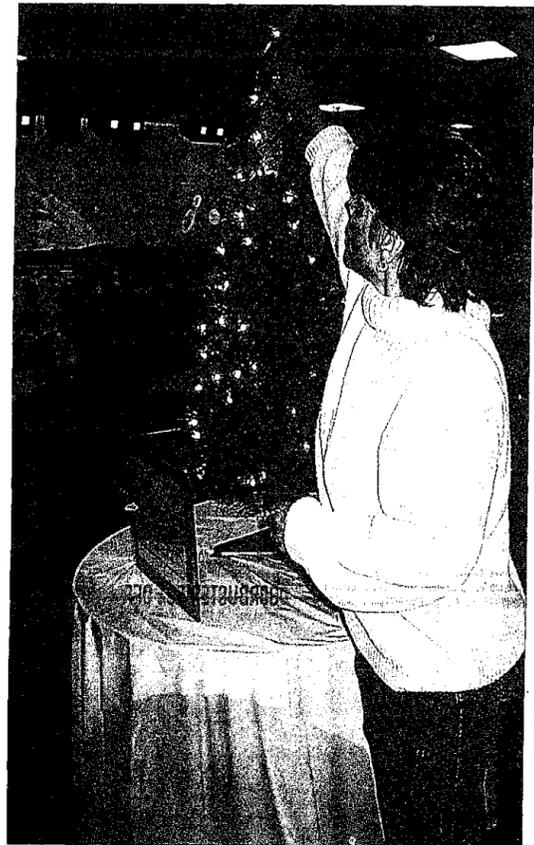


Photo by Phil Foley

Tari Rutkowski puts the first snowflake on one of three Christmas trees at Novi Bowl. Each snowflake represents a donation to First Step, a shelter for battered and abused women in Wayne County. The shelter's 24-hour help lines are 734.455.5800 and 888.453.5900

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Large selection of novelty pants and skirts from relatively. Reg. 40.00-48.00, **doorbuster 20.00-24.00**, after doorbuster price 29.99. IN LADIES SPORTSWEAR.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Large selection of reliability sweaters in striped, marled and cable styles. Reg. 40.00, **doorbuster 20.00**, after doorbuster price 24.99-29.99. IN LADIES SPORTSWEAR.

**INTIMATE APPAREL DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Parisian intimates satin pajamas, robes and gowns. Reg. 32.00-68.00, **doorbuster 15.00-34.00**, after doorbuster price 19.20-40.80. IN INTIMATE APPAREL.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Entire stock of terry velour, fleece and brushed terry robes from Parisian Intimates. Reg. 44.00-72.00, **doorbuster 22.00-36.00**, after doorbuster price 29.99-49.99. IN INTIMATE APPAREL.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Cypress robes in baby velvet, bunny fleece and more. Reg. 54.00, **doorbuster 27.00**, after doorbuster price 39.99. IN INTIMATE APPAREL.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Entire stock of flannel pants and flannel and cotton sleepshirts. Reg. 24.00-34.00, **doorbuster 12.00-17.00**, after doorbuster price 17.99-19.99. IN INTIMATE APPAREL.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Entire stock of bras from Vanity Fair, Bali and Olga. Reg. 24.00-29.50, **doorbuster 12.00-14.75**, after doorbuster price 14.40-17.70. IN INTIMATE APPAREL.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Entire stock of ladies' cold weather accessories. Reg. 14.00-76.00, **doorbuster 7.00-38.00**, after doorbuster price 10.50-57.00. IN ACCESSORIES.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Large selection of handbags. Reg. 85.00-250.00, **doorbuster 42.50-125.00**, after doorbuster price 51.00-150.00. IN WOMEN'S.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Large selection of boxed leather, wallets. Reg. 30.00-36.00, **doorbuster 15.00-18.00**, after doorbuster price 19.99. IN ACCESSORIES.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Large selection of fashion jewelry. Reg. 20.00-200.00, **doorbuster 10.00-100.00**, after doorbuster price 14.00-140.00. IN JEWELRY.

**DOORBUSTER 60% OFF**

Barre sterling silver. Reg. 20.00-520.00, **doorbuster 8.00-208.00**, after doorbuster price 10.00-260.00. IN JEWELRY.

**DOORBUSTER 15.99**

Sterling silver boxed jewelry. Reg. 40.00, **doorbuster 15.99**, after doorbuster price 19.99. IN JEWELRY.

**DOORBUSTER 29.99**

Large selection of famous-maker watches. Reg. 55.00-135.00, **doorbuster 29.99**, after doorbuster price 41.25-101.25. IN JEWELRY.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Large selection of famous-maker slippers. Reg. 16.00-24.00, **doorbuster 8.00-12.00**, after doorbuster price 12.00-18.00. IN ACCESSORIES.

**SHOES DOORBUSTER 60% OFF**

Large selection of ladies' boots from Nine West, Enzo, Rampage, reliability, Parisian Signature and Steve Madden. Reg. 59.00-130.00, **doorbuster 23.60-62.00**, after doorbuster price 29.50-65.00. IN WOMEN'S SHOES.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Great selection of ladies' boots and shoes from Nine West, Enzo, Candie's, White Mountain, Naturalizer and more. Reg. 49.00-129.00, **doorbuster 24.50-64.50**, after doorbuster price 29.40-77.40. IN WOMEN'S SHOES.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Selected Donald J. Pliner ladies' boots and shoes. Reg. 140.00-280.00, **doorbuster 70.00-140.00**, after doorbuster price 98.00-196.00. IN WOMEN'S SHOES. SELECTION VARIES BY STORE.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Selected ladies' designer shoes and boots from Sesto Meucci, Via Spiga, Cole Haan, Coach, Bebe, Anne Klein New York, BCBG, Hype, Phyllis Poland, Martinez Valero and more. Reg. 110.00-145.00, **doorbuster 55.00-72.50**, after doorbuster price 65.00-87.00. IN WOMEN'S SHOES. SELECTION VARIES BY STORE.

**DOORBUSTER 60% OFF**

Large selection of boys' and girls' shoes and boots from Esprit, Suede Rite, Parisian Kids and more. Reg. 40.00-50.00, **doorbuster 9.00-12.00**, after doorbuster price 18.00-25.00. IN CHILDREN'S SHOES.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Large selection of men's shoes from Clarks, Timberland, Johnston & Murphy and more. Reg. 75.00-148.00, **doorbuster 37.50-74.00**, after doorbuster price 45.00-88.00. IN MEN'S SHOES.

**MEN'S DOORBUSTER 24.99-29.99**

Preswick & Moore dress slacks. Reg. 54.00-65.00, **doorbuster 24.99-29.99**, after doorbuster price 34.99-39.99. IN MEN'S.

**DOORBUSTER 19.99**

Savane laundered twill pants. Reg. 42.00, **doorbuster 19.99**, after doorbuster price 24.99. IN MEN'S.

**DOORBUSTER 159.99**

Leather jackets from Preswick & Moore and Perry Ellis. Reg. 395.00, **doorbuster 159.99**, after doorbuster price 179.99. IN MEN'S.

**DOORBUSTER 99.99**

Leather jackets from William Barry. Reg. 300.00, **doorbuster 99.99**, after doorbuster price 129.99. IN MEN'S.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Entire stock of sweaters from Preswick & Moore and Carzani. Orig. 48.00-54.00, **doorbuster 24.00-27.00**, after doorbuster price 28.80-32.40. IN MEN'S.

**DOORBUSTER 14.99**

Great selection of Preswick & Moore woven sport shirts. Reg. 34.00, **doorbuster 14.99**, after doorbuster price 17.99. IN MEN'S.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Fall fashion sport coats. Reg. 350.00-450.00, **doorbuster 175.00-225.00**, after doorbuster price 210.00-270.00. IN MEN'S.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Fall patterned trousers from famous makers. Reg. 125.00, **doorbuster 62.50**, after doorbuster price 75.00. IN MEN'S.

**CHILDREN'S DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Entire stock of Buffalo jeans. Reg. 22.00-48.00, **doorbuster 11.00-24.00**, after doorbuster price 14.99-48.00. IN CHILDREN'S.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Selected sleepwear, slippage and robes from Carter's, Jonathon Martin, Parisian Kids, Mudd and more. Reg. 10.00-36.00, **doorbuster 5.00-18.00**, after doorbuster price 6.00-21.60. IN CHILDREN'S.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Selected boys' and girls' outerwear from Hyde, London Fog, Parisian Baby, Goodlad, Weatherproof and Nicky Jay. Reg. 24.00-125.00, **doorbuster 11.99-62.50**, after doorbuster price 14.40-75.00. IN CHILDREN'S.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Holiday dresswear from Parisian Baby, Goodlad, Baby Needs, Baby Needs, Tiana and CXS-21. Reg. 18.00-32.00, **doorbuster 9.00-16.00**, after doorbuster price 10.80-19.20. IN CHILDREN'S.

**DOORBUSTER 11.99**

Novelty tops for girls from Great Escape. Reg. 24.00-32.00, **doorbuster 11.99**, after doorbuster price 15.00-49.20. IN CHILDREN'S.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Selected boys' and girls' sweaters from PK Clothing, Parisian Baby, Baby Needs, Tiana and CXS-21. Reg. 18.00-32.00, **doorbuster 9.00-16.00**, after doorbuster price 10.80-19.20. IN CHILDREN'S.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Play sets from Parisian Baby and Parisian Kids. Reg. 24.00-40.00, **doorbuster 12.00-20.00**, after doorbuster price 14.40-24.00. IN CHILDREN'S.

**DOORBUSTER 50% OFF**

Selected OshKosh items. Reg. 14.50-39.50, **doorbuster 7.25-19.75**, after doorbuster price 8.70-23.70. IN CHILDREN'S.

**DOORBUSTER 9.99**

Parisian Baby jogging sets. Reg. 22.00, **doorbuster 9.99**, after doorbuster price 12.99. IN CHILDREN'S.

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## Holiday hats heading to Neinas Elementary in Detroit

Novi Meadows does its part to help during the holiday season

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Neinas Elementary School in Detroit will be receiving some special handmade gifts from Novi Meadows School on Friday, Dec. 6. Novi Meadows students from four classes have made hats for students at Neinas and two of the classes made scarves to help them out during the holiday season.

According to Novi Meadows PTO President Michelle Sankovic, the PTO decided to do two-year-long service projects this year, with this being one of them.

"Our first task was to bring in sketch pads and crayons for 600 students at Neinas," Sankovic said. "Novi Meadows also adopted four of their classrooms - two fourth grade classrooms, one kindergarten and one first grade. We are going to Neinas Elementary and we will pass out holiday packages which will contain these hats and scarves."

The kids will pack up 600 packages for the school which will contain coloring books, sketch pads, crayons, hats and most of our classes have collected mittens, scarves and T-shirts and they will all be combined for delivery. One of the teachers is embroidering scarves for the first graders with all their names on them.

Each class was signed up for 20-minute time slots on Nov. 25 to make Christmas packages. On Friday, Dec. 6, about 24 students, teachers, parents and staff from Novi Meadows are going to get on a bus and will go down to Neinas to have a holiday party, where the packages will be distributed. There will also be Christmas cookies for the children.

Sixth graders Nick Abraham and Morgan Gerich were happy



Novi Meadows' student Nicole Woodruff puts the finishing touches on her hat that school was to donate to Neinas Elementary School in Detroit. Behind Woodruff is student Lisa Copeland.

to be making the hats. "We are making hats for the people at Neinas, which is an elementary school in Detroit because they don't have the same luxuries we do and they can't afford as much. So this is a good cause," Abraham said.

Gerich agreed. "I feel that this is for a good cause," she

said. "First, to make the hats you take a piece of felt and fold the ends of it. You then leave it open at the top and you take a piece of the string with the felt and at the top, you bunch it up and cut a little piece at the top."

"This was originally affiliated with Sweet Dreams, which went corporate," Sankovic said. "Two

Northville residents stayed behind and their heart was with Neinas Elementary and I just thought that this would be a great thing for the kids in Northville to help. So we made it an all-school effort. All the classrooms are doing something and we are hoping that the students from Novi Meadows who go, will

come back and do a presentation to the Novi Meadows kids and give a little assembly of their point of view on the whole thing. We are also hoping to give back and we are hoping to make a spring event to help out one of the public schools in Detroit."

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.honcom.net.

## Novi Concert Band tuning up for Dec. 15 performance

By LAUREN BRACKEL  
SPECIAL WRITER

Have you heard the tunes of the Novi Concert Band? If you haven't, you're missing out. The band plays a full variety of different kinds of music, and many of the tunes are well-known, popular songs. In the past, the band has played songs anywhere from dixieland tunes to Broadway musicals.

The Novi Concert Band has a total of 50 members, ages ranging from 20 to 80 years old.

The band consists of full instrumentation, everything a successful band requires. Instruments that are included in the band are clarinets, flutes, saxophones, trumpets, etc.

Having been the band director for 10 years now, Jack Kopnick and the band members of the Novi Concert Band will soon be celebrating their 30th anniversary.

Practicing once a week, at Novi Middle School, the band works hard to get ready for their upcoming concerts.

All members of the group are all quality musicians, and play a high standard of music," said director Jack Kopnick.

The Novi Concert Band is currently preparing for their

upcoming events. The band will be holding a concert at the Novi Civic Center Sunday, Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. The event will have no admission charge. The concerts usually run for an hour and a half, with a fifteen minute intermission provided by Novi Parks and Recreation. The band will be playing their standard band music, along with music for the holidays.

Further down the road, the band is preparing for their spring program that will take place on the first Sunday in May.

Concerts are put on by Novi Concert Band every fall, winter, and spring. The band can be heard in surrounding communities such as Northville, Milford, Livonia, South Lyon, and Bloomfield Hills. The band plays at the Finnish Cultural Center in Livonia every June, and have also played at the Temple of Israel in West Bloomfield numerous times. In the spring, the band mainly plays outdoors.

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### BAND MEMBERS

- Flutes**  
Betsy Barling  
Betany Davis  
Howard Fetherston  
Danielle Hammel  
Carlie Kureth-piccilo  
Maureen Miller  
Nancy Ryan  
Jack Pratkan
- Oboe**  
Heather Thorne
- Bassoon (and flute)**  
A. Rogert Welton
- Clarinets**  
Gail Claire Bouris  
Sharon Conran  
Norma Daniels  
Mike Hardeisman  
Howard Holmes  
"Duran" Kochyan  
Joanna Parker
- Bass Clarinet**  
Ron Salow
- Saxophones**  
Richard Gwiniski-Alto  
Dan Korte-Baritone  
Doris Menk-Alto  
Kayo Nakamura-Alto  
Andy Polinsky-Tenor  
Joyce Pressnell-Alto
- French Horn**  
"Frank" Hussey  
Alice Michard
- Trumpets**  
Gerald Abel  
Paul Cannon  
Herb Cocking  
Matt Frick  
Francine Holincoty  
"Irv" Kalb  
Leonard Mordrow  
Erik Mirmann  
William Frick  
Robert Thomas, Jr.
- Trombones**  
Holy Hibner  
Michael Kane  
Randy Otto  
"Dan" Patient
- Baritone**  
"Ken" Anderson  
Robert Smith  
Robert Thomas
- Tuba**  
Jeff Green
- Percussion**  
Harold Patrick  
Brandt Pruett  
\* first chair
- Katy Speer**

## NHS marketing students hook up with DECA

Novi High School marketing teacher Jodi Forster has officially affiliated 65 members with DECA, an international association of marketing students.

A survey of 45 major corporations employing two million employees reports that 86 percent felt that employees with exposure to marketing education and DECA were better prepared for marketing with their business than those without that specialized background.

The 65 students from Novi High School have united with the over 7,400 students from 160 high schools and career technical centers throughout Michigan and the over 180,000 students from 5,000 schools located throughout the world. These students are heading the call from employers and preparing themselves to become future leaders in the workplace by developing skills and proficiency for marketing-related careers, building self-esteem, and practicing community service.

With their affiliation secured, Novi High School DECA members will now have the opportunity to fine tune and showcase their marketing and leadership skills on a local, state, and international level. Locally they will be able to plan and execute civic consciousness projects, participate in activities to enhance their knowledge of marketing through real world experience, and develop skills needed to succeed in today's workplace.

In destinations ranging from Lansing and Dearborn to Orlando and Louisville, students have the opportunity to attend conferences that will appeal to their career and leadership interests. These educational opportunities take the students out of the classroom and into industry to learn through practical, hands-on experience.

Members have the opportunity to compete with other students on the local, state, and international level in career areas ranging from hospitality and tourism, e-commerce, fashion, and sports and entertainment marketing to areas like food marketing, vehicles and petroleum, and entrepreneurship. Through competitions they will not only get the satisfaction of a job well done, but also the opportunity to earn their share of over \$250,000 in scholarships given away each year.



### On Campus

Melinda George, a graduate of Novi High School, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology and human services at Fort Lewis College's 39th summer commencement on June 1. The college awarded degrees to 165 students this summer.

Located in Durango, Fort Lewis College is Colorado's only public liberal arts college. More than 4,400 students are enrolled in 24 degree programs in Schools of Arts and Sciences, Business Administration and Education.

Five Fort Lewis College academic disciplines have earned the prestigious Program of Excellence distinction by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, more than any other small college in the state.

The following students have become residence hall members for the 2002-03 academic year at Michigan State University: Kevin Coggins (Walled Lake Central) and Ryan Conroy (Walled Lake Central) of Commerce Township; Alina Pasopkhova (Walled Lake Western) of Farmington Hills; Marjan Ansari (Novi), Brian Bilyk (Northville), Daniel Kittle (Novi), Jennifer Krystoff (Novi) and Steven Savickas (Novi) of Novi; Tessa Duke (Walled Lake Western) and Melissa Loomans (Walled Lake Western) of Walled Lake; and Jennifer Lamb (Walled Lake Central) of West Bloomfield.

Mentors facilitate positive living and learning experiences and serve as resources for students living in the residence halls. They serve as the primary facilitators of a floor community and have specific responsibilities for working with students on a particular floor. They create learning communities, plan programs and activities, refer students to campus resources, help with problem solving and mediate conflicts.

Mentors must be academic and personal role models making progress towards graduation. They must have and maintain a cumulative 2.75 grade point average while serving during the one-year term. They receive a single room with board while school is in session and are members of the Department of Residence Life staff.

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Map showing location of Dinser's at the intersection of Dinsler Dr. and Ten Mile Rd. in Novi, MI. The map shows the surrounding area including Grand River, Wixom, and Beck.

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Map showing location of Heslop's at the intersection of Grand River and Wixom Rd. in Novi, MI. The map shows the surrounding area including Grand River, Wixom, and Beck.

# Deerfield students choose St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center to send 2,002 cookies

### School teams up with DoubleTree Hotels to donate cookies to outreach center

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

DoubleTree Hotel and Deerfield Elementary School participated in a schoolwide Great Community Cookie Giveaway with more than 100 DoubleTree hotels across America last week.

Representatives from the hotel were at Deerfield on Nov. 22 to present 2,002 chocolate chip cookies to the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center of Farmington Hills, a center that provides residential treatment, foster care and adaptive services, as well as outreach services to teen parents.

More than 200,000 cookies were donated by DoubleTree hotels across the country last week in similar third grade class community presentations.

"We had an activity where our teachers talked to the kids about caring, so the students had that dialogue prior to the DoubleTree staff coming in," Deerfield Principal Richard Njus said. "Then the DoubleTree staff came in and talked about their roles and the concepts of trying to make it very welcoming and to make it a home away from home. Each one of the houses in the school, each house being two classrooms, talked about how if we had a chance to give these cookies away, who would you want to give them to?"

"They then generated a list, each house gave their suggestions and they narrowed it down to four different agencies. The whole school got together and talked about each agency, and the kids voted on which one of the agencies they wanted to send the cookies to."

"It was really a good teaching experience from our perspective," said Njus.

is what they believe in, and that just sends a really strong message to the kids," Njus said. "We are very pleased with the way the whole assembly went."

Both the survey of where the cookies should go and community outreach initiatives developed by DoubleTree that encourages kids at the right age to start making conscious decisions about how they can care and serve in their own communities. It gives everyone a chance to find out just what today's third graders care most about.

The main goal in the program was an educator-approved lesson plan with three individual activities that were conducted in each third grade class during October and November to reinforce the positive experience of caring and helping others in their own community. The plan was created with the abilities and comprehension level of third grade students in mind.

"DoubleTree Hotels nationwide think it's very important to give back to their communities," DoubleTree General Manager Paul Gjerpen said. "One of the things we have in all our hotels is a care committee, which is comprised of managers and employees, and we spend time sharing with the community and giving back. It's important that we recognize the community for its involvement and to share with it in different ways."



Artist at work  
Village Oaks' student Dean Sansovich paints a ceramic tile with a glaze last Thursday as he and other pupils prepared artwork for the school's hallways.

Photo by John Heider

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# Editorial generates much feedback from Deerfield

### Students voice opinions on state of Upper Peninsula land

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

A Sept. 19 editorial by Phil Power, the Chairman of the Board of HomeTown Communications Network, the company that owns the Novi News, generated a big response from third and fourth graders at Deerfield Elementary.

Power wrote about how the Michigan chapter of the Nature Conservancy announced the start of a campaign to buy 390,000 acres of largely wilderness land scattered throughout the Upper Peninsula. He stated his approval of the purchase and listed several reasons supporting his opinion.

Deerfield teachers Barbara Knight and Janice Wallace went over the editorial with a group of 50 third and fourth grade students, who, in turn, wrote letters to the Nature Conservancy in Lansing, stating their approval and support of the purchase.

"In our curriculum we have a marking on our report card that has to do with public speaking," Knight said.

"In order to satisfy that requirement, the children, once a month, get up in front of the class and they deliver a current event. This was an example of a current event."

"Another reason we did this is because the fourth grade had to study Michigan," said Knight. "We got out our map of Michigan and tried to locate where this land was and said, 'What are some reasons that Michigan should save this

land?' We broke down the article for them and took Mr. Power's reasons and listed them for pros and cons on a chart. We told the children that they're citizens and this is going to affect their lives more in the future. We put the reasons on the board and they had to pick what the reasons were that they agreed with."

Forty-two student letters to the Nature Conservancy prompted a response from State Director Helen Taylor. "She wrote back and she was so appreciative of the children taking a public interest, and it showed the children that there can be a response to public input," Knight said. "You have a voice of what just happens in your state."

Some of the children were very ecologically inclined, Wallace said. "These are the kids you want to reach," Wallace added. "I think it was so strong because they were doing the Michigan unit at the time, so they were researching different parts of Michigan. Some of the children really got involved in a vast portion of it, so it was even stronger for them because that's what they were studying at the time."

Anyone else who would like to support this cause can write to the Nature Conservancy at 101 East Grand River, Lansing, MI 48906 or call (517) 346-0300, or e-mail at [tcn@nc.org](mailto:tcn@nc.org).

Letters are "as written" - Editor

Dear Barbara (Knight) and Janice (Wallace - Deerfield teachers) I was so pleased to receive the letters from your students and want you to know how much their comments meant to me, and to our staff.

As a mother of elementary school children, I would be so proud if my children were writers such as this. It is so important for children to become involved in issues and to learn to speak out about important things which affect their lives. You are doing wonderful work as their teachers!

We are working very hard to protect this land in the Upper Peninsula, and receiving letters such as these gives us a boost of confidence to help reach our goals. I plan to share the letters with our Board of Trustees when we meet early next month.

Thank you for sharing the letters with us. It is very moving to read their comments, and heartwarming to know they care about their environment. We will do our best to help protect Michigan's great places for future generations to enjoy.

Helen Taylor  
State Director  
The Nature Conservancy, Michigan Chapter

I think that the Nature Conservancy should keep all the land in the Upper Peninsula that might be broken up. In one piece. The Core Democratic Value that this supports is helping the common good. The land could be used for a new state park. It would save animals homes and forests. Also, more people could use the land.

I think buying the land in the U.P. would help a lot of people. If we bought the new land people could build new subdivisions and new houses. Michigan could have a state park. The Core Democratic value is to serve the public or the common good, and buying this land would do just that. please buy this land.

Dear Phil,  
I believe that the worker men that they should buy U.P. land. The worker men should split the land buy half and half, or quarters, because we do not litter. It keeps nature, habits, and wild-life, because I care about animals. Well, we should at least split the land up. Because I want people save the land. Because we don't litter that this is a waste land.

I believe the people of Michigan should buy the large pieces of land in the Upper Peninsula. The core Democratic value teaches us to work for the common good. Here are two messes. One if they keep it in one piece of land, it will save habitats. Second it will also be useful for people to use.

Dear Mr. Powers,  
I believe that the people of Michigan should buy and keep the land as one big piece. We, as the people of Michigan, should be able to buy any piece of land that is for sale. I believe we should buy it for public use. Instead of selling it, we could use it for keeping habitat, for recreational use for sports, and for parks. That is my belief of why we should buy the land.

Dear Sirs,  
I have five reasons you should buy this land. One you can preserve the land and stop forest fires. Two you could let animals run wild and let them be free. Three you can have boat races on the lake. Four, you could make it in to a park and you could give it a name. Five, you could split it up in two parts. One could be human and the other could be animals. Thank you for reading my letter.

I believe that the Nature Conservancy should buy the 390,000 acres of land in the U.P. for 2 reasons. First, it keeps habitats of animals and plants like, squirrels, rabbits, racoons, deers, birds and fishes. Those were the animals. The plants are ferns, grass, bushes, trees and wild flowers. Second, it keeps people from being to crowded from going to a park or recreational area. A lot of people like to go to parks and should be near one. The reasons for the Nature Conservancy to buy the 390,000 acres of land in the U.P. are keeping habitats and keeping people from getting too crowded.

Dear Nature Conservancy,  
I believe you should sell the land in the U.P. because I would make a great state park. It is good to keep nature and to keep habitats. If it was park it would be useful to many people. It is good to keep open land.

I think the nature conservancy should buy the 390,000 acres of land. My core Democratic Value is common good. The nature conservancy should buy the 390,000 acres of land because then the people will enjoy the piece of land, and it will stay in one piece of land.

I believe the people of Michigan should buy the large piece of land in the U.P. The core democratic value is common good because it supports this cause. Here are some reasons why I think the people of Michigan should buy the land. Number one recreation for all peripis, number two use ful to all people. Number three places for planned subdivisions, number four the land would continue to be timberland and to provide job vital to the economy of the Upper Peninsula. That's why I think the people of Michigan should buy the piece of land.

I believe the people of Michigan should buy the 390,000 acres of land in the Upper Peninsula. Buying this land is for the people's common good. It is a good place for a state park. I would keep open land in the Upper Peninsula. It would be useful for many people. Please buy this land.

I believe the people of Michigan should buy the 390,000 acres in the U.P. for the common good. It will be a good place for a new park. It will keep the habitats going. Please buy this land.



International Fest  
Deerfield Elementary school student Alix McLeod along with her mother Lisa watch Elizabeth Yoon write Alix's name in Korean characters during last Thursday evening's International Festival at Novi Middle School.

Photo by John Heider

## Obituaries

### Otto H. Natzel

Otto Natzel of Novi died November 20, 2002 at Huron Valley Hospital, Commerce. He was 70. Mr. Natzel was born December 26, 1931.

Survivors include his wife, Evelyn; three daughters, Susan (Raul) Galang, Cheryl (Gordon) Nohoff, and Catherine (James) Anderson; one son, Michael (Janey) Natzel; nine grandchildren, Christine, Tracey, Jason, Matthew, Kimberly, Sarah, Joshua, Travis, and Kevin and three great-grandchildren, Raquel, Brennan and Gavin.

A funeral service was held November 23 at O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi. Interment will be at Oakland Hills Cemetery, Novi.

Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi.

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## Parkview students do their holiday shopping at school

Children learn how to make their own choices during Holiday Shop

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Parents of Parkview Elementary students will be receiving some surprises under the tree this holiday season, as their children have all gone shopping... by themselves. The school's PTO sponsored the "Holiday Shop" event, which allows children to choose gifts for the whole family, pay for them and have them gift wrapped. The shop took place on Nov. 19 and 20.

"This is our annual 'Holiday Shop' that we do every year for the students," PTO Volunteer Coordinator Kim Turck said. "It's just to give them the opportunity to kind of go through the process themselves. We sent home an envelope and they decide who they want to shop for."

Turck said that all the items available for purchase by the students are \$1.50 each. Students fill out their envelopes and come to school with their money to go

shopping. At the school, parent volunteers assist the children as personal shoppers to help them choose the proper gifts for the right people in their families.

"It's nice because the students are making all the choices," Turck said. "First they go shopping, then they go to the cashier and pay for their purchases. Then they go down to gift wrap and they get all their presents gift wrapped by volunteer parents to take home for the holidays."

Students were able to choose from a variety of different artifacts and trinkets, like flashlights, mugs that read "Number 1 Dad," cat and dog toys and much more. Fourth-grade students Dillon Good and Sydney DeNuccio enjoyed their experiences. "We are going shopping in our holiday shop room," Good said. "I got some Christmas stuff, some mugs and some cards. This program is pretty cool because we don't have to do our shopping in the real stores."

"We are buying stuff for our relatives and for other people that we know," DeNuccio said. "I got just little things for my relatives. I like this because you get to do it at school and there is a lot of different choices to choose from. Real stores probably don't have things assigned for just Christmas or staff like for our shop."

According to Turck, the Holiday Shop program empowers the students to make right decisions. "A lot of the time there is a budget," she said. "Mom and dad will say, we will give you \$10 and you can decide what you want to buy. For the younger students, they just feel really important because they have to give gifts to mom, and mom didn't have to take them to the store to get anything, so they love it. For each age, I think it's different. It helps them get self confidence from that. They start thinking, 'I can do this. I can make decisions. I can spend money. I can budget money. I can shop for the holidays.'"

As a PTO-sponsored event, the program is not a fundraiser. Traditionally, it's done in December, but because Hanukkah starts on Friday, Nov. 29, the Holiday Shop it was done in November.

"The kids don't have to shop," Turck said. "We send the envelope home, but if the parents don't want to participate for whatever reason, that's fine. If there are students who economically can't participate, we have some money set aside so they can still shop."

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@bt.homecomm.net.

## South Lyon mayor ready for county commission position

The following is a one-on-one interview conducted by Novi News staff writer Ramez Khuri with Jeff Potter, who ran unopposed for the Oakland County Commissioner 8th District seat.

Potter has been employed by Fort Motors Company in Wixom for over 25 years. He has been mayor of South Lyon for almost 13 years and was on the city council prior.

I am very satisfied and I had won the primary and I'm unopposed. I didn't spend a lot of time campaigning. I have been spending my time instead learning about county government and helping some of my fellow candidates. As a matter of fact, even though I was unopposed, I spent the Tuesday in Walled Lake where I was out campaigning there. I have been spending the last couple months learning a little bit more about county government and preparing myself and my family for this challenge.

I would be remiss to say that I'm not surprised because I had an opponent, but I have a real great love for government and leadership and it's a great opportunity to help our communities to work together for a better life for our families. I have had a lot of fun doing it and taking it to the county level. This is an opportunity because there are a lot of changes on the county commission, so the freshman commissioners such as myself are not going to be sitting on the sidelines for their turns.

We're going to be dealing with a lot of federal mandates, which will have to learn how to accommodate one way or the other in a down budget year. Some of these are going to include things like septic regulation and targeting pollutants and it's going to be a very difficult and challenging thing to deal with - how to accomplish this in a decreasing budget cycle and how to assign costs fairly and appropriately.

I have always had the opinion that development should pay for its environmental impact, and that's not specifically a county issue, but that's an overall leadership issue for city's, townships and counties. I will be looking at ways to accomplish that either through a paying funding or just working with the health department and the county drain commission on sensitive environmental regulation.

A lot of this authority that is going to be coming into this whole environmental issue is going to be coming through the county commission through adoption of health department ordinances and specifically also county responses to governmental mandates. In other words, if we the county cities and townships in Michigan don't adopt these kinds of rules that suit our purposes and achieve the appropriate goals, we are going to include facing mandates that are determined by other people. That's going to be a big experience and finding ways to assist communities with environmental infrastructure again in a decreasing budget cycle is going to be a challenge.

Also, targeting the effort against pollution in a way that's economically sensible, where you get the most bang for the buck. We are also going to be dealing with a lot of cross community taxation in environmental regula-



"There are a lot of opportunities I feel should be developed here in Western Oakland County as communities grow together."

Jeff Potter  
Oakland County Commissioner

tion issues, which are, make no mistake about it, going to be very tricky to deal with.

That's one thing I hope to be effective in and my main interest in the county commission seat isn't just the power that a county commissioner has, which arguably isn't that much on a group of 25, but it's the ability to find ways to help our communities work together to solve problems mutually. It's definitely taking me up to a new level in terms of the kind of people that I will have access to and I will certainly be able to afford some time off of my regular job, which I could not before, so I'm looking forward to it. The other thing is I think we have a very dynamic county executive and we have some really good people on the board right now.

At this point, I'm not pursuing elections at the primary. The main thing about any elected position is county budget issues. Mental health, criminal issues and opportunity of leadership are often a lot larger than the office itself. That has been my experience. Our communities in Oakland County are growing rapidly and we are essentially going to grow together very rapidly. That is going to put more emphasis on regional solutions as opposed to things that we can do separately as communities.

It's also like being a city councilman, but for the county. I have Walled Lake, Wixom, South Lyon, and Precincts nine and 10 in Novi, which are lake-side Precincts.

What attracted me to the office is the opportunity to work

with the communities and become a friend to regional communities as we deal with the onslaught of development, and to find ways to deal with them more effectively and efficiently from a taxpayer point of view. I will be resigning my position as Mayor of South Lyon. It must take effect before I take the County Office.

As a member of a board of 25 commissioners, a real challenge is going to be to help lead as a small member of a very large body. There will be no immediate changes in the communities, but I am concerned about different things, like environmental issues. We will deal with a lot of water quality and environment issues. I can assure all people that in 10 years as Mayor of South Lyon, I have stood for the idea that developments of pollution don't pay for itself. We have challenged the department of environmental quality permits that we feel were granted wrongly. That showed more laxity than we were concerned with. I am in tune with these issues.

I have found in my experience that when you go to agencies of grant funding, communities that are successful will come up with a joint game plan. We worked for a decade on a regional bike path system in Novi and Walled Lake if they want it there. I am going to be honest, the creation of bike paths is not necessarily a county issue, it's a bike issue. County commissioners have recently appointed a bike path coordinator. My job is to be a principal job, just as importantly, serve as a linking and show benefit to the

entire Oakland County community. There are a lot of opportunities I feel should be developed here in Western Oakland County as communities grow together.

I did win both precincts and primaries in Novi. There are a lot of nice people in Novi and Walled Lake. I had a tough and recognized opponent and by in large the county is in good shape. I would like to thank my opponent Nancy Dingledey. She represented Wixom and the Commerce area, we got thrown into a combined district and had a spirited contest in the primary.

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@bt.homecomm.net.

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I am tremendously excited about this seat. Being mayor was my goal in 1989 and since then we have created a three community district library and a bike path system. There are ways that communities can work together to deliver more value for the dollar. The focus is not just on county government, but to work together and explore new areas.

Anything that you do in government begins with a goal. To make people work together is to become more efficient. I really like to look at the issue of best practices. I think our communities like to do that as well, to share them with other communities in Oakland County. It takes an assertive style of leadership to find those things. It's a very exciting opportunity.

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## Walled Lake Consolidated Schools

**SCHOOL OF HARD BLOCKS:** A team of students from Walled Lake Consolidated Schools' Oakley Park Elementary and Walnut Creek Middle Schools will be one of 64 teams to compete in the state Lego Robotics tournament Dec. 7 at the Novi Expo Center.

The Walled Lake team, called the Eagles of Commerce, is one of seven teams to win a spot in the state competition when they competed recently at the qualifying LEGO Fever II event at Carman Ainsworth High School in Flint with 30 other teams.

Using Lego pieces, the goal of the event is to create a complete, autonomous robot within two and a half minutes that does a variety of tasks using touch sensors and motors. It gives students the opportunity to help solve real-life problems such as air and water pollution, transportation issues and other difficulties urban planners face today.

The Eagles, a rookie team, meet twice a week to work on their robot. This year's challenge - City Sights 2002 - requires students to perform a variety of jobs including: city planner, robot designer, builder, programmer, research scientist, artist, and public lecturer.

The team is coached by Andrew Schwartzman and managed by two parents, Debby Rosner and Kathleen Bieck.

"We thought this was just a fun way to learn math and programming. What we have learned is that the students are gaining invaluable problem-solving and adaptability skills as well," Bieck said.

For more information, call (248) 562-1145.

Recently, both Commerce and Maple Elementary Schools hosted silent and live auctions with nearly 1,600 parents and community members attending.

Commerce's auction netted nearly \$12,500 for its fifth grade laptop program as well as other building technology needs. Maple's event, sponsored by Parkwest Gallery, made some \$9,000 for a variety of school projects.

"We would like to thank the parents and staff who make up our Partners in Educational Technology committee," said Dennis Graham, principal at Commerce Elementary. "The many hours of time and energy devoted to this event will enhance the educational experience of Commerce children. We also want to thank the many businesses that donated items for the auction."

Sue Schreiber, principal at Maple Elementary, said, "We would like to thank the local community for their generous outpouring of support through donations. Over 150 local area businesses donated items for the silent auction. Parents and families assisted in the creation of theme baskets that were also part of the silent auction. We are fortunate to be supported by such a caring community."

Staff, students and parents are to be commended for the commitment and dedication to improve educational programs.

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## Interact Club holds monthly meetings at Novi High

Rotary Club branch focuses on fundraising

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Novi High School's Interact Club, which is sponsored by the Novi Rotary Club, held its monthly meeting on Oct. 9. In attendance were Youth Exchange Liaison and Rotarian Keith Tappan Sr. and Interact member Patricia Merritt.

The Interact Club is the High School branch of the Rotary Club. It is a group primarily focused on service activities and also does fundraising to provide money for schoolwide scholarships and for area charities.

Some of the service activities include collecting food for the homeless, making Beanie Babies for the children at Detroit's Children Hospital and volunteering time at Whitcomb Nursing Home in Novi.

The Interact Club is going to be 25 years old at Novi High

School," Tappan said. "The club is a little over 170 kids right now, and we think that they are the best kids out of the high school."

Volunteer opportunities are brought to the meetings as they become available by the sponsor or any of the members. One of the major fundraisers in the past has been the candy sale. In 1995-96, the major scholarship fundraiser was selling flowers in the spring, which has been carried out each year and has become a tradition for the club. Each year, there are also a few opportunities for other activities. Other schools often offer a lock-in so that members of different Interact Clubs can get together and discuss what their groups are doing and have fun.

"We have a wonderful instructor, and I was here this morning asking the students if they would be interested in spending up to a year in a foreign country under the auspices of Rotary," Tappan said. "I have a choice of 40-some-odd countries that they could pick from. Through the youth exchange, which is part of Rotary International, Rotary is going to take care of kids who are going to go on the youth exchange and

they will be hosted by a Rotary Club in the foreign country."

As a service club, "Peace to World Understanding" is the Rotary Club's motto. There are about 1.3 million Rotarians worldwide.

"Our Novi Rotary Club sponsors the Interact Club," Tappan said. "There are some things that we help the Rotary Club with and there are some things that we help the Interact Club with. There are some financial things, and in a while that Novi Rotary will help Interact with."

In addition, the Interact Club distributes five scholarships per year as well. "Some of the scholarships are for academic achievement, one is for vocational and one is for most improved," Merritt said.

The CO-Curricular Activities mission statement is, "The activities program of Novi High School will provide students with CO-curricular opportunities to develop the strong interpersonal skills necessary to become a positive influence in our community. Students will experience learning by being active participants in the

planning and implementation of school events for the enjoyment and education of the student body. High school students are empowered to take on new challenges and participate in each step of a project. The young leaders are encouraged to listen and care about people, as they complete their projects."

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@bt.homecomm.net.

Tonight, make it vegetarian. For more information, contact: Vegetarian Committee for Responsible Eating (248) 866-2210, ext. 209. www.veg.com

## Food for Thought

The official opening of holiday shopping is tomorrow, the day after Thanksgiving. Many stores open at an absolutely deafening hour - six in the morning. Some of us are still doing dishes! The month-long search to find the perfect gift for our family and friends starts then. If you've got a cook to buy for, or if you want to leave Santa a list, here are some of my favorite kitchen tools.

Most of my cooking is done in the restaurant and I have all the "toys" to play with. We have it all, 50-quart mixers to coffee grinders for dry spices. At home though I go back to the basics, the easier the better. Even though I own a duplicate set of most equipment the restaurant kitchen has, I rarely pull it out. It is used as a back-up for breakdowns there.

Some gadgets are used just for very special occasions. For instance, my electric meat grinder was purchased for the sole use of preparing raw kibitz. Years ago my sister-in-law's father turned me on to Arabic food. He made the best kibitz I've ever eaten. Now once in a blue moon I'll prepare the treat. Since it entails cleaning a leg of lamb to perfection, it is very uncommon. But the buttery texture is exquisite, so it's worth the effort. Or, how about Gram's potato fry cutter? Ever have a french fry crutcher? Move over McDonalds.

My collection of baking paraphernalia is out of hand and seldom called to duty. Sometimes I think about having a garage sale, but just can't part with my barely used treasures.

My home kitchen however, is minimalist. I cook on my Grandmother's 75-year-old, beautifully preserved, three-burner, black enamel Chambers stove. There is a soup well in place of the fourth burner. The oven and broiler are unique and yet efficient. Gram and Grandpa both loved to cook and prepared meals for dozens of us at a time with just this equipment. No microwaves (no either), no convection ovens and no extravagant kitchen.

The laundry room often subbed for a prep area. When designing our kitchen the utmost importance was placed on a gathering place for family and friends. Our only extravagance is a wood burning brick oven that is wonderful for roasting and baking.

As far as equipment my knives, pots and pans and small wares get me through most projects. Personally, I prefer Trident knives. They fit my hand nicely and are a nice weight. A paring knife, 6" cook's knife, and a carving knife and fork are a good start. A few months ago I purchased a 7" Santoku hollow edge Japanese knife. It has taken over most of my cook's knives duties. I love it! Kitchen shears are a must. I also use the Trident brand here.

Microplane graters are mandatory. Invest in the zester and coarse grater for starters.

A good selection of pots and pans are a must. I use the All-Clad brand skillets, a good heavy wood and several industrial-strength coated cast-pan. It isn't important that everything matches. What counts is that the job at hand can be accomplished in the most efficient manner. All-Clad is heavy aluminum coated with stainless steel. It's hard conduction is great and clean-up a breeze.

My grandparent's cookware of choice was cast iron. With little care these heavy-duty beauties handle the toughest job with ease. I've particularly enjoyed using

them for the wood-burning oven. Don't forget the cast iron Dutch ovens for stews and chilies. They can't be beat. Make sure that your cook has an amply-sized stockpot. A few electrical appliances can go a long way. Yes, if you're an avid baker a Kitchen Aide stand mixer is a must but most home cooks can get by with a hand-held. Mine is a cheapie, bought 20 years ago. It couldn't stand up to a restaurant kitchen but has done just fine by me over the decades.

Another favorite is a small Cuisinart food processor that was a shower gift. A blender is important for pureeing soups and sauces. I prefer an immersion blender to the counter model. My dad gave all of his "girls" one for Christmas 15 years ago and I wouldn't want to be without it.

# Bondy won't let new judgeship change him

By David Aguliar  
STAFF WRITER

Millions of his most famous funeral director, well-known author Tom Lynch, told Robert Bondy not long ago to think of the time, money and sacrifice he had spent during the past year for his judicial campaign as merely tuition.

"That's the best way it was put to me. He said you are paying your tuition and learning a little bit more about life in the process," said Bondy, the Millford-based attorney who 10 days ago won election to the 52-1 district court bench by a 446-vote margin.

Now the man who found his true political voice following the Aug. 6 primary election, a campaign message steeped in experience and hallmarked by promises kept, must now use that same voice to fulfill the first of those election promises.

He'll be getting a golden retriever.

"He told our (two) boys before the election that if he won, he would get them a dog," his wife, Denise, said not long after news of her husband's election night victory had been made official. "But the truth is, he has already poured the concrete slab for the doghouse. He was going to get them a golden retriever, win or lose."

"Now it's time to pay up." "It's time to get a dog. That's the first campaign promise I am going to keep," Bondy said last week, a day removed from a narrow election night victory which was finally decided when Nov's absentee ballots were tallied. News of his victory came via cellular phone, just prior to midnight.

"You have enough votes, Rob? You've won? You've won?" "We won!" Bondy exclaimed triumphantly, arms thrust high into the air as the Hector and Jimmy's crowd erupted around him. "We won! We won!"

The day which had begun at about 5 a.m. that morning had suddenly ended in victory. For a moment, members of a post-campaigning were washed away. The chill from having spent the final campaign day at lonely area precincts suddenly seemed comfortably distant.

Bondy himself had spent the entire day standing in a glow outside the Novi Civic Center, flanked by his 52-1 opponent and at least four other candidate poll workers. Each was trying to make one last impression just prior to voters stepping into the polling booth.

Dressed in blue jeans, a down vest and a fleece pullover, the Millford-based attorney greeted each approaching voter.

"Hi, my name is Robert Bondy. I'm running for district court judge here in Novi. Thank you for coming out to vote..." Bondy's day-long mantra began, repeated many times by a friendly handshaker, a two-sided pamphlet and a "Bondy mint."

"Hi, my name is Robert Bondy. I'm running for district court judge here in Novi..." "Hello, my name is Robert Bondy. I'm running for district court judge..." "Hi, my name is Robert Bondy. I'm running..." "Hi, my name is... Robert Bondy..."

And just before midnight tonight, I will be elected district court judge.

**Hard Work, and More Hard Work**

"It feels good to work hard... we worked very hard during the campaign. And that hard work showed that we could win the election by running it the right way," Bondy said two days following the election.

"It was nice to win, especially for all the people who worked countless hours. I cannot thank those people enough because they gave me their time and effort for little else than the fact that they believed I was the better candidate."

"Some of them gave me 20 hours a week — 20 hours of their own personal time."

And on the final day, a day which began in the frosty dawn of an early November morning, that time was spent standing in the cold. And later, in the rain.

How do you know your friends are? Bondy said. When they are willing to stand in the cold and the rain for you. When they are willing to stand there — wet, tired and hungry — and rather than go home, choose to stay and pass out your literature well past the time when their fingers have gone numb and their stomachs have gone shallow from hunger.

"I am humbled by the friends who worked and stood behind me, especially the people who stood up to be counted, even though they didn't have to and even though that by doing so they were getting nothing from it other than the satisfaction of supporting someone they believed in," Bondy said.

"They gave of their time and resources... and when I saw that it made me work harder, I worked hard during my campaign because so many people had worked so hard for me."

Being a candidate required considerable sacrifice, he said, not the least of which were subtle detachments from his normal life, family, friends and community interests.

Most difficult was the time he lost away from his family, Bondy said, his wife and twin boys.

That was the toughest part. "It was harder in the fall than it was in the spring and summer during the primary," Bondy said. "Now I need to get back to spending time with them, my boys especially. I have missed some of their practices, and some of their games. I have missed some of those times that you never get back. I miss that. They need me."

The experience has not been all bad, Bondy said.

"It has also been a good experience for them in some ways. I think they have learned about government. They have learned about elections and voting. And they have learned about civic responsibility."

"But I am happy to finally have my life back."

Bondy said he learned firsthand how heavy a political campaign can be.

"You know something's heavy. But not until you pick it up, do you really feel the weight," he said. "I was very surprised at how much time it took... A campaign just takes on a life of its own."

"You get caught up in a course of events and it takes everything you have. In some ways, that's a good thing because you are able to step away from your normal routine and get a sense of perspective. But it requires a great deal of sacrifice, much of which you don't even see once you first get involved."

The night following the election he said he slept restfully for the first time in at least a year. He also had a chance to have dinner with Denise and Lei Ting in downtown Millford.

"For the first time in as long as I can remember, I didn't have to think about the election. I didn't wake up in the middle of the night thinking,

"What did I forget to do?"

**Pull Up a Bench**

Now, however, a year of sacrifice must be parlayed to the bench, where come January Bondy will be sworn in officially as the newest 52-1 judge. He will serve an initial four-year term and will replace Judge Michael Backus, who will be transferring to 52-2 District Court in Clarkston.

There is no election honeymoon, Bondy said. The official transition began almost immediately.

Within 48 hours of his election win, the 52-1 court administrator called Bondy's office to inquire about any vacation time Judge-elect Bondy will be requiring in 2003.

And now that he is technically a state and county employee, he will need to be fitted for his official black robe, something which Bondy said "is no big deal."

Bondy said the 52-1 challenge continued on back

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# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 21A

Thursday, November 28, 2002

## Escape from the stresses of life, head to Scappare

Nestled off of Pontiac Trail just south of downtown South Lyon, Scappare (pronounced scap-pare, meaning: escape to) appears to be an ordinary salon at first glance. Upon entering the large building, however, you'll soon realize it is anything but.

This 6,000-square-foot salon combines a feel of Beverly Hills with the look of Old-World Europe. Scappare has only been open since December.

"We base our business on customer service," said owners Lindsay and Chris Cortis. "We want people to experience Scappare and leave happily planning what they will treat themselves to during their next visit to our salon. We aim to please."

Scappare is a full-service Aveda "A" family salon, which means it carries a full line of Aveda products. Scappare also carries Alterra and TIGI hair care products as well as a line of Repechage skin care products.

As you enter Scappare salon coordinator, Michael, will greet you. He will assist with your check-in and escort you to the coffee and Danish buffet. This is where Scappare tempts your taste buds with muffins, pastries and other delights. Next, you will be seated in a spacious waiting area, and if the timing is right, you may hear sounds of our 19th century piano being beautifully played by Michael.

Continuing on with the tour, Scappare has assembled a team of world-class stylists who will keep you looking beautiful through the seasons. They offer all hair treatments for women, men and children, including color, highlights, perms and precision cuts. In order to offer their clientele the most current, as well as the classic in hair design, the stylists continuously expand their techniques by attending training offered by platform artists from around the world.

Scappare went even further by recruiting Repechage Skin Care District Trainer, Delanie, as their salon esthetician. Delanie keeps



The staff of Scappare of South Lyon are waiting to help you ease the worries of daily life.

your skin in perfect condition with your choice of an exclusive four-layer facial, seasonal facial or mini facial. Your face will never look or feel better. Delanie can also assist with any of your waxing or makeup needs.

There's more. Scappare has the best nail technicians available, whether you're thinking about a simple manicure or full set of acrylic nails, plus

the best pedicure your feet have ever dreamed of. Kelly and Susan K. have a delightful strawberry-and-sugar scrub to soothe and massage away the aches. Scappare also provides a full-body therapeutic massage. Whether it be a 15-minute chair massage or a one-to-two-hour full-body massage, Susan W. will leave you feeling like you have been swept away to paradise.

Scappare would suggest the best way to experience the salon is with one of its many packages. The Madagascar is a three-hour experience with haircut, seasonal facial, manicure and lunch. Or try the Rain Forest, a four-to-five-hour luxury experience with a one-hour massage, seasonal facial, haircut, pedicure and lunch. Day packages include a private sitting area to relax and reflect on life in tranquility. You will find yourself surrounded by exotic artwork by local artist Tim Sabados, all of which are on consignment and available to the public for purchase.

These are just a few of the wonderful packages to choose from, whether it's a special treat for yourself or a very special gift for a person in your life who deserves it.

Scappare serves clients of any age from children to adults, and is truly focused on making each and every visit a relaxing, rejuvenating, positive experience.

Scappare is located at 21190 Pontiac Trail, just north of Eight Mile Road between Eight and



The atmosphere at Scappare is relaxing, complete with the beautiful sounds of a baby grand piano.

Basic manicures, \$25; eyebrow waxing, \$15; massages, \$65 per hour.

Scappare is located at 21190 Pontiac Trail, just north of Eight Mile Road between Eight and

Nine Mile roads. Business hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays, and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays.

### Faris on business

#### Putting Unfair Competition Out of Business

By Jack Faris

Americans love competition. We thrive on it. It spurs our elections, generates pride in virtually every national sport and is recognized as the bedrock of our free enterprise system.

No one loves competition more than small-business owners do. That's why there are more than 22 million of them operating today. Their confidence and their ability to find the right business niche drives our economy to greater heights each year. They love going head-to-head with competitors and testing their mettle.

But some competitors of small business don't share those ideals of fair play. For example, federal pris-

ons. They had a sweet deal with the Department of Defense. Their labor was provided by convicts, their overhead was paid by tax dollars and, most importantly, they didn't have to worry about competition.

That is, until the small-business group NFB challenged their unfair practices and won the right for small firms to compete for contracts that had been automatically handed over to the prisoners.

Government is not the only place where unfair competition exists. Last year, NFB raised the specter of anti-competitive practices going on among Rural Electric Cooperatives (RECs). Yes, those good old co-ops created in 1914 to help bring electricity to

rural areas.

Determined to shed light on the chicanery among RECs, NFB alerted the IRS that some were using their tax-free status to compete against small businesses by selling appliances, satellite TV receivers, propane gas, heat pumps, water heaters, natural gas, internet services, credit cards, personal computers, digital cameras, electric and gas grills, fireplaces and landscaping services. In one southern state, a co-op even had the arrogance to offer customers an electric water heater for 99 cents a month, with service and installation, and a replacement when needed. No small business could compete against that.

In a study for the Tax

Foundation, economist William Orzechowski reported that REC business operations created serious problems for the propane industry. He described how the co-ops use the substantial assets they have acquired, such as a huge customer base, for low-cost marketing.

They engage in "crafty cross-subsidization," taking advantage of federal and state income tax exemptions, loan guarantees and interest rate subsidies.

Orzechowski found that the co-ops used preferential access to federal power, and monopoly franchises "to enter the propane market and drive out private companies."

Clearly, the competition from co-ops and other tax-exempt organizations is a threat to tax-paying, free-market entrepreneurs.

NFB, along with eight other organizations, took their case directly to the Commissioner of the IRS, Charles Rossetti, appealing for him to reverse previous IRS rulings that allowed electric co-ops to sell propane under their tax-exempt status. He agreed and on Aug. 30, the agency made propane sales by co-ops subject to taxation.

That and a companion ruling against a telephone co-op are the first steps toward forcing non-profit organizations to compete fairly or stay out of such businesses. This is not the end of the story; it's another chapter in the continuing effort to keep unfair competition out of business.

Jack Faris is president of NFB (the National Federation of Independent Business), the nation's largest small-business advocacy group. A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFB represents the consensus views of its 600,000 members in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals. More information is available on-line at [www.nfb.com](http://www.nfb.com).

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# Bondy won't let new judgeship change him

continued from 21

will be significant, but it is hardly daunting. He said the fact that much of his nearly 18-year legal career was shaped within that very court will ease his professional transition immensely.

"I am very comfortable in that court. The learning curve will hopefully be smooth because I have worked in that court for almost 18 years," he said.

"But you're the new kid on the block down there, so you have to go down there and learn. I have to go down there and seek the advice of the two presiding judges (Judge Pro Tem Brian MacKenzie and Highland-based Judge Dennis Powers) and discuss the issues of the court with them. They are both fine jurists, so hitting the ground running should not be a problem."

Bondy said he would like to continue 52-1's legacy of inclusion. In time, he will lend his own personal approach to the court, he said, utilizing the business and organizational skills he has refined during a successful professional career.

Bondy said he supports the court's current adjunct programs, such as Sobriety Court and Teen Court, programs for which he has both participated in and served an



Robert Bondy

advisory capacity.

He would also like to begin additional youth-oriented programs and possibly reinvigorate a dormant Day of Court, a program which holds court within a local community.

"I always enjoyed participating in that program as an attorney," Bondy said. "It will all depend on whether or not the court has the resources. If so, I am willing to do the work myself."

That willingness to work was more than a campaign slogan, Bondy said.

"I am going to that court to

work," he said. "Voters are getting someone with experience in that court, and an individual who has been involved in the community. That's important because that is a community court. Your role is to be part of the communities you serve... you should be active and accessible to the community."

Furthermore, he is excited to be armed with public confidence, despite his narrow victory margin.

"It's an exciting thing to have the public trust," Bondy said. "Now it's my job to go down there and give 110 percent."

Will that require a change of address, he was asked, a residence closer perhaps to his new Novi-based 52-1 courtroom?

No, said Bondy. Milford will remain home base.

"I'm not going anywhere," Bondy said. "People will still see me around town. I'll still be stopping to get my coffee at the Milford Coffee Works every morning. I will still be in Rotary and I will still be involved in the community."

"I'm not leaving the community in any way whatsoever."

David Aguilar is a reporter for the *Milford Times*. He can be reached at (248)-683-1507, ext. 18 or by e-mail at [daguilar@ht.homecomm.net](mailto:daguilar@ht.homecomm.net).

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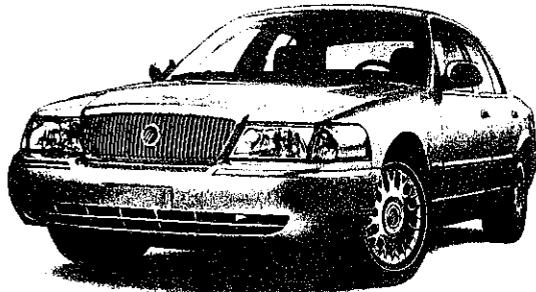
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# Canton proves to be too strong

## But against Salem, 'Cats put points on the board all night Longo as Jessica Haggerty wishes a happy birthday in style

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Though the Novi Wildcats basketball team couldn't bring home the district title, they sure made a good run at it.

Falling to an incredibly tough Canton defense, the Wildcats put up as much of fight as they could manage with a 60-29 loss against the Chiefs. Though that was a tough loss for the 'Cats to take, their top-notch performance the game prior was what let them take a shot at the title anyway.

The Wildcats were able to shut down a very strong Salem squad in overtime November 20 as they looked to the leadership of Laura Longo and Jessica Haggerty to help them in their victory.

"I thought both Laura and Jessica had great nights," Novi coach Dennis Cichonski said. "They really came through for us when they had to. Laura managed to stay out of four trouble in the last half of the game. Jessica really came through shooting her free throws in overtime."

Haggerty wished her mom, Judy, a happy birthday in style that night, sinking 7-of-10 in the overtime period to give the Wildcats a 41-32 victory.

"I can't take any of the credit for myself," Haggerty said. "We wouldn't have won tonight if it hadn't been a team effort. I thought as a team we played really well and came back with strong defense in overtime."

The Wildcats had quite the advantage heading into the half, leading the Rocks 20-7 heading into the locker rooms. Salem wouldn't be denied though and managed to tie the game up at 29-29 to force the overtime.

"They came out a lot stronger than we were expecting in the second half," Longo said. "We relaxed when we shouldn't have and it took us the entire second half to get our defense going again."

Longo, who was key all through the night, found herself with four fouls in the game.

"I learned my lesson this year," she said of not fouling out. "I played smart and made sure not to foul. It's no fun when you're watching the game from the bench because of fouls."

Haggerty led her squad in scoring, gathering 17 points on the night as she started at point guard and pretty much played through the entire game.

"My confidence in my shooting is up," she said. "It was something we worked on all summer with all of the coaches. I'm really happy that we were able to pick up our game when we had to."

Longo was key inside, drawing much of the defense to her in the

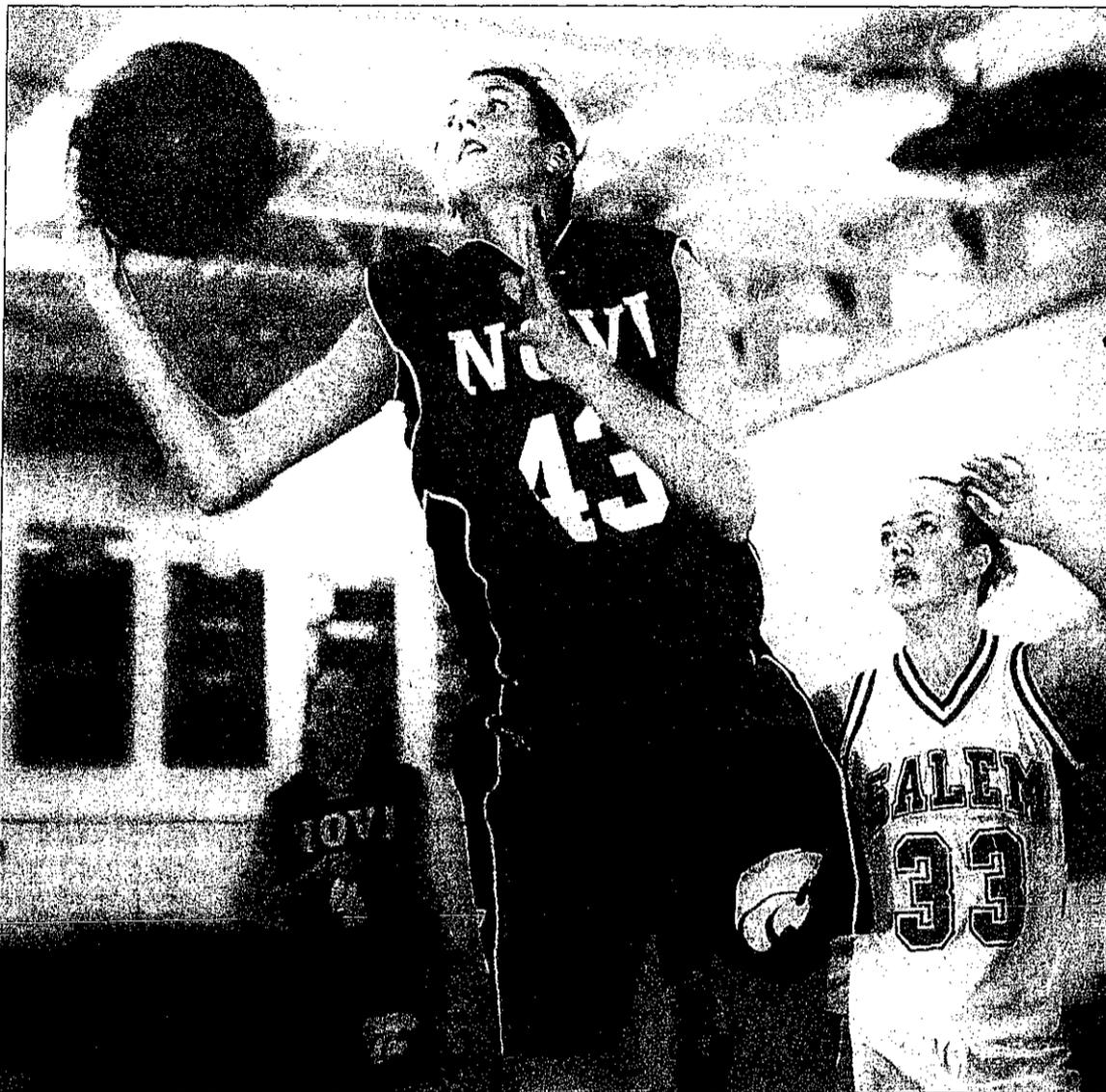


Photo by John Heider

Novi's Laura Longo tries to gather in a rebound during Novi's district playoff game last Wednesday night at Plymouth Salem High School.

second half and the overtime after scoring eight points quickly in the first half.

"We all had a good night," she said. "We only were able to do this because of the team effort."

Against Canton, the team effort was a bit stifled though. Canton's defense smothered the Wildcats, limiting them to 5-of-20 floor shooting in the first half (25 percent) and

4-of-33 in the second (12 percent).

Canton was hot from the floor though, hitting 14-of-27 from the floor in the first half (51.9 percent).

"Canton is a very talented team," Cichonski said. "They have everything it takes to be a championship caliber program. Their defense was very tough to beat, and we weren't able to put together the game that we were hoping to."

Canton went into the game looking to shut down three specific players — Alison Greulich, Angie Schmitt and Longo. Of the three, only Greulich supplied any offense as she put in 16 points. Other than her performance, no Novi cager notched more than three in the game.

"I thought we played solid today," Canton coach Bob Blohm said.

"Our defense was solid, our rebounding was solid."

Canton never trailed in the contest as they went on to beat the 'Cats for the District title.

"We were hoping to stay close," said Cichonski. "We felt if we could keep it less than a double-digit deficit, we could be within range."

"We had a few good-looking shots. Some didn't fall, and we got

called on some violations. We couldn't get anything going."

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

# Smith makes her presence felt at finals meet

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Now that's simply impressive.

The Novi Wildcats only had one swimmer make the cuts for the final day of the finals meet, but they still managed five points in two events with Amanda Smith swimming them for the 'Cats.

They weren't the only ones with just a couple of swimmers though. The Northville Mustangs had only four swimmers hitting the pool in the state finals held at Eastern Michigan University November 22-23, but that wasn't going to stop them from having the times of their careers.

Seniors Jenny Carr, Erin Schubert and Shannon Hogan along with freshman Sarah Carr swam their way to a ninth-place finish in the states with both of their relay competitions placing as well as Hogan taking two impressive finishes in the 50 and 100 free.

"I am ecstatic," Hogan said of her first-place 50 finish in a time of 23.48. "It was just so exciting. I honestly think that was the best day of my life."

It was just amazing and it was a wonderful thing. It might have been the best meet I have ever had."

Hogan wasn't finished with that for her individual performances as she managed to take fourth in the 100 free with her time of 51.62.

"Shannon swam amazing, like she always does," Schubert said. "I thought all of us did well. It was a great meet."

The Mustangs, all four of them, took fourth in the 200 freestyle with a great time of 1:38.85 before packing together for an impressive run of 1:50.88 for their ninth-place 200 medley relay finish.

"We had our best times ever," Jenny Carr said. "It was a big surprise for us."

In the 200 freestyle relay, we wanted to swim our best and we did."

Not only did the Mustangs set their personal best times with the swims, but

all four of the events also set school records. And, for all of those sitting down out there, they did even more than that. The 200 free relay time was good enough for an automatic All-American mark while the 200 medley swim was an All-American consideration mark. Hogan also notched automatic All-American times with both of her individual swims as well as making the cut for the Senior Nationals.

The Senior Nationals are pretty much the highest level (of competition) before the Olympics," Hogan said. "I was just as excited about my time as I was about winning."

Though all three seniors had made the trip to compete in the state finals before, this was Sarah Carr's first,

hopefully of many, treks to the finals.

"It was pretty exciting, getting to go with three seniors," Carr said. "I thought it was a lot of fun."

And not only fun, but Sarah's first state meet and the final swim of her first varsity year coincided with older sister Jenny's last state meet and the final swim of her last year.

"I do think that it's cool," Jenny Carr said. "We'll have both of our names up on the board since we broke the record together."

For Schubert and Jenny Carr, this culminated approximately eight years of swimming together.

"We used to be neighbors," Schubert said. "We've pretty much been swimming together since we were nine. It was great to end it this way."

The Mustangs, who sported what was probably the largest team in school history this season, will be losing their top three swimmers to graduation and only Sarah Carr will have state experience come next season.

The Novi Wildcats were also represented at the meet, with stellar senior tanker Amanda Smith making waves in the state finals.

Her time in the 100 freestyle earned Smith a 15th-place finish as she competed the sprint in a time of 54.28 seconds.

Smith also managed to get a good mark in the 50 free as she collected a

14th-place finish with her time of 24.63 in the very highly competitive event. Though only sporting a single swimmer in the final day of the state finals meet, the Wildcats managed to walk away with a 35th place finish out of the best teams in the state as Smith collected five points for her team and her coaches.

TEAM SCORES: 1. Ann Arbor Pioneer 476; 2. Farmington Hills Mercy 201; 3. Zeeland 165.5; 4. Grand Haven 149; 5. Monroe 139; 6. Livonia Stevenson 127; 7. Holland West Ottawa 125; 8. Saginaw Heritage 87; 9. Northville 83; 10. Okemos 69; 11. Saline 61.5; 12. Rockford 61; 13. Portage Central 52; 14. Grosse Pointe South 45; 15. Troy 39; 16. Grosse Pointe North 34; 17. East Kentwood 31; 18. (tie) Rochester Adams, Holt 30; 20. Ann Arbor Huron 29; 21. Dearborn 27; 22. Kalamazoo Central 26; 23. Howell 25; 24. North Farmington 24; 25. Jenison 21; 26. Forest Hills Central 19; 27. Walled Lake Western 18; 28. Walled Lake Central 17; 29. Hudsonville 15; 30. (tie) Southgate Anderson, Midland Dow 13; 32. (tie) Rochester, Grand Ledge 12; 34. Lake Orion 6; 35. Novi 5; 36. Plymouth Salem 4; 37. (tie) Pinckney, Grand Blanc, Brighton 3; 40. Troy Athens 1.



Photo by ERIC CHERNENKOFF

Novi's Amanda Smith gets ready to sprint in the 100 meter freestyle event.

# Novi gets All-Area soccer nods

## Urick, Simpson and Coles get Dream Team honors for 2002 while Northville's Pat Kelleher is named Player of the Year

By Sam Eggleston and Steve Bell

When it comes to soccer, we are blessed to have some of the best talent in this part of Michigan right at our feet. Quick players with talent, timing off their feet like soccer, this year's All-Area Dream Team is probably one of the best we have ever had the chance to name. It only we had the chance to field this crew of very talented and very dedicated players, we would probably be hosting the state championship trophy above our heads right now.

### Goalie

**Steve Beck**  
Junior  
Northville  
The question, of so it seems, is if there is anything at all that can get past this guy. He's quick, well aware of the field around him and one of the most solid goalies that Northville and the Western Lakes Activities Association has ever witnessed.

### All-Area Offensive Players

**James Hannah**  
Sophomore  
Northville  
Though only a sophomore, Hannah has proven to be one of the most able and talented players in Northville soccer history. Taking direction as well as the best of them, Hannah has the uncanny ability to turn a game around with a matter of moves on an opponent before he can break loose into the defense and rip the ball into the goal with his sure kicks.

**Justin Ferriman**  
Senior  
Northville  
One of the great things about having a guy like Ferriman on your squad is that he not only never gives up, but he encourages his squad to do the same with his actions on the field. A quick footed player, Ferriman showed that a little spirit for your team can take you a long way.

**Adam Strobe**  
Senior  
Milford  
Considered by some to be the best forward ever to play at Milford High School, Strobe was the kind of player that could turn the game around in seconds and have the tempo flowing at his command. A quick player that comes into the game bringing a lot more than just offensive talent, Strobe is quite likely the fastest player on this All-Area squad.

**Brad Simpson**  
Junior  
Novi  
What? You've never heard of Brad Simpson? Yeah, we figured you were just kidding. Simpson is the kind of player that just bleeds soccer. When he gets up in the morning, he probably hits his soccer-ball alarm clock and slides out of his sheets made of soccer jersey. Then, he jumps in the shower that probably has turf on the floor just so he can get used to moving on wet grass.

**Dan Beck**  
Senior  
South Lyon  
Before Steve Bell's departure from HomeTown News-papers, he was very advanced that Dan Beck is a member of this All-Area Dream Team. Why? Well, because Beck is one of the best players in the KVC, that's why.

**Kevin Johnson**  
Senior  
Milford  
This is the other player that Steve Bell made sure was on the team before he left. The Milford MVP, Johnson played both on the field and in goal as the split time scoring on people and stopping people from scoring.

**Ryan Baker**  
Senior  
Milford  
Though this guy has the ability to score on you just as easy as any of our offensive player selections, Baker also can play defense with the best of them. He is one of those players that can just go both ways and do it oh-so-well.

**Matt Urick**  
Senior  
Novi  
When you think KVC soccer and you think of good players, Matt Urick should be one of the first names that pop into

mind. Pretty much the guy that everyone's best marking player was put against, Urick had the talent and the tenacious desire to score that it takes to be a competitive and very dangerous player.

**Pat Kelleher**  
Senior  
Northville  
When the word soccer comes up in Northville, there are two things that happen. First, people nod and think of all the great kids that have come and gone and then they try to think of a name that sums up the talent that has come and gone at Northville High School — that's when Kelleher comes to mind. It seems that soccer is just a natural talent to this player, as he can eat you alive from anywhere on the field.

**Sam Eggleston**  
Senior  
Northville  
The MVP of the Mustangs this season and many would probably agree that he was a front-runner for the MVP in his conference as well. Though always seemingly knocked out by the same squad, the Mustangs made one heck of a run at the District title on the shoulders of a team that looks to Kelleher for guidance and performance.

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# Northville senior pioneer on girls hockey team

By Roger Garfield

SPECIAL WRITER

Versatile senior Amanda LaRiche has always been a basketball player; this year, she decided to take on another challenge. Hockey.

The Northville Mustangs girls' hockey team is not sponsored by the high school, so it is a club sport. The team, which is in its first year, has only one girl with hockey experience.

LaRiche plays defense for the Mustangs, who have won two and lost three so far this season. "I hope it will eventually become a varsity team," LaRiche stated. "There are a lot of younger girls on the team."

"He has been unbelievably encouraging," said LaRiche. "He makes it fun."

Next year, LaRiche may attend the University of Colorado, Arizona State University, or Boston College. Colorado is her number one choice.

Supporting LaRiche every step of the way have been her parents, Dawn and Scott. She also has two brothers, Steve, 20, graduated from Northville in 2000.

"We have a lot of the same interests, and we go to concerts together," LaRiche said. "Whenever I see him, he brightens my day."

In her free time, LaRiche enjoys playing the guitar, writing, and going to concerts.

Roger Garfield is an intern for the Northville Record and the Novi News. Comments can be directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

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she contributed as a deadly outside shooter and positive team leader. LaRiche had one specific highlight that stood out in her mind.

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## Something to be thankful for

Newest Bond flick a refreshing addition to dry movie selection

By Sam Eggleston  
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

The things that amazes me about the James Bond series is the way it has withstood the test of time. In a day and age where a computer only stands up on the market for about six months, Bond has been a staple in our movie watching since before I was born.

In fact, Bond was part of a booming movie franchise when John F. Kennedy was president, when George Lucas was still in high school and "Star Trek" was only a twinkle in the late, great Gene Roddenberry's eye.

The Bond series has weathered through five major starts, the filming of all the original Ian Fleming novels, Vietnam, the end of the Cold War and now September 11. Not only does it blow away all other movies in the case of longevity, it has also given us the most influential formula and aesthetic in cinema history. The Bond series simply wrote the book on the contemporary action blockbuster. Movies like *Die Hard*, *Mission Impossible*, and *XXX* look up to Bond and call him Daddy. And even more amazing is the way that after 20 Bond movies and 40 years of on-screen action, it still comes off as smooth as butter.

*Die Another Day* is the first to kick off the fifth decade of Bond domination, and also the first movie in the series to cost over \$100 million to make. Oh yeah — and this Bond girl, which is normally a flake role, is an Oscar-winning actress in the form of Halle Berry as Jinx.

When all is said and done, who cares about the plot? A familiar melee with Bond in continent-hopping conflict with a fantastically well-heeled villain out to conquer the world. Something about diamonds and a DNA-identifying device and a death-ray satellite are also mixed in there, but who cares? It's James Bond.

**Like all Bond movies, this one has a flair for the action and the quick-witted humor that viewers have come to love about the British secret agent. This time, his adventures brings him in contact with (gasp!), an Oscar-winning Bond girl in Halle Berry.**

I never had the beauty of growing up with Sean Connery as James Bond — only in reruns — so I have come to love Pierce Brosnan in the role. Yeah, some would say he's too stiff for the character, but he's British, right? The action is great, the chase scenes are marvelous and the locations are wonderful. And the gadgets? An invisible Aston Martin, a glass-shattering sonic ring, an arsenal of laser weapons — need I say more?

With John Cleese as the new "Q," Judi Dench better than ever as a dowager "M," several evocative London settings and a dandy duel in a Mayfair fencing club, *Bond 20* also marks the return of an element that's been sorely lacking from the series for years: its essential Britishness. That's what has made Bond in the past, and that's what will keep in rolling probably far longer than I am wandering about on this planet.

Though probably not the greatest Bond movie ever in the



Pierce Brosnan is back again as James Bond in the 20th film of the longest-ever series. There is no drop-off in the quick wit Bond provides, nor his sexual innuendos.

way of writing and such, it's a wonderfully respectful movie that looks to its own past for guidance as it builds a future for generations to come.

If you've been a fan of Bond in the past, this movie is sure to please. And for those who have never watched Bond in action? Where you been? Hiding on the

moon?

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*News*. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at [seggleston@ht.homecomm.net](mailto:seggleston@ht.homecomm.net)

## Rebels without a Claus



Ice Cube is back in another Friday movie — which is surprisingly energetic and still manages to make you laugh.

By Sam Eggleston  
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Looking back, old-school style, some might remember Run DMC busting a rhyme with "Christmas in Hollis," (1987) that gave us Christmas in the hood — "It's Christmas time in Hollis, Queens; Mom's cooking chicken and collard greens."

Fifteen years later, writer/actor/rapper Ice Cube brings us yet another Christmas set in the hood. *Friday After Next* is the third film in Ice Cube's laid-back "Friday" series that reminds some viewers in many ways of the cherished National Lampoon series. This film will probably follow suit, and become a holiday favorite just as Chevy Chase and his family has become a staple of our holiday television watching.

This movie has a way of mixing moments of feel-good Christmas cheer with the fact that real life often doesn't bother to take the holidays off. It opens with a well-done animated title sequence that could remind some viewers of an old-fashioned Christmas cartoon — if that particular cartoon were rather dark and twisted.

Ice Cube is back as Craig Jones, a regular guy that is just trying to

get by. He lives with his cousin Day-Day (Mike Epps), who is back from the second film *Next Friday*, in the projects. Early morning on the Eve of Christmas, a burglar dressed as Santa Claus breaks into their apartment and steals the rent money, which is unfortunate for them. More unfortunately is that they are already behind paying the rent and a muscle-bound son of the landlady is recently fired from the prison system. If Jones and Day-Day don't come up with the dough by the end of the day, they will get kicked-out as well as just plain kicked.

Well, that forces them to land jobs, and a funny twist of events; they end up working as unarmed security guards for an outdoor strip mall. Their employment lands them guarding establishments such as a disgusting donut shop and the barbecue rib joint owned by Jones' father (played by John Witherspoon) and Day-Day's father (Don Curry).

Though lacking compared to 1995's original *Friday* movie, it earns a wealth of respect with the Christmas theme. Writer Ice Cube and director Marcus Raboy manage to get the right mix of Christmas joy and real life and the result is as tasty as eggnog (if you like eggnog).

### Screen Beat

By Brian Renner  
THE MOVIE INSIDER

Coming to theaters this weekend is the animated holiday comedy "Adam Sandler's Eight Crazy Nights." Davey Stone, a 33-year old party animal, finds himself in trouble with the law. The judge gives Davey one last chance at redemption—spend the holiday performing community service as the assistant referee for the youth basketball league or go to jail. Davey thinks he's gotten off easy until he meets Whitey Duvall, the unusual, elf-like head referee. Adam Sandler voices the three lead characters in the film, Whitey, Davey, and Whitey's fraternal twin sister Eleanor. It is a Sony Pictures release and rated PG-13 for frequent crude and sexual humor, drinking and brief drug references.

Spooky futuristic thriller "Solaris," centers on psychologist Chris Kelvin (George Clooney) who is dispatched to investigate unexplained behavior of key scientists on a space station orbiting the planet Solaris. Once aboard, he too falls victim to the unique world's mysteries, as well as an erotic obsession with someone (Natascha McElhone) he thought he had left behind. "Solaris" is a 20th Century Fox release and rated PG-13 for sexuality/nudity, brief language and thematic elements.

Disney's latest animated adventure "Treasure Planet" reinvents the classic novel by Robert Louis Stevenson into outer space with some new sassy cartoon sidekicks. The legendary "loot of a thousand worlds" inspires an intergalactic treasure hunt when fifteen-year-old Jim Hawkins stumbles upon a map to the greatest pirate cove in the universe. "Treasure Planet" is a Walt Disney Pictures release and rated PG for action and peril.

Extreme sports take on a new meaning in "Extreme Ops," when a film crew travels to a mountain top in Europe to film three extreme sports enthusiasts as they outrun an avalanche for a digital video camera commercial.

What they don't know, however, is that they're filming near the secret hideout of Slobodan Pavic, a Serbian war criminal. Accidentally catching him on film, they become locked in a life-or-death chase

through the mountains that includes skiing, snowboarding, sky diving, white water rafting, helicopters, motorcycles, and base jumping. "Extreme Ops" is a Paramount Pictures release and rated PG-13 for violence/peril, language and some nudity.

Engrossing, offbeat drama "Ararat" tackles issues of identity, history, and denial as a film-within-the-film portraying the WWI-era genocide of Armenians by Ottoman Turks, while in modern-day Toronto the ancestors still wrestle with the event's legacy. "Ararat" is a Miramax release and rated R for violence and nudity.

#### Next week

"Analyze That" (R) and "Equilibrium" (R).

#### Video and DVD

The energetic, computer-animated "Ice Age" (PG), comedy "Juwanna Mann" (PG-13), dysfunctional comedy "Lovely and Amazing" (R), sci-fi action-comedy sequel "Men in Black II" (PG-13) and prison and boxing drama "Undisputed" (R).

#### DVD

"Audrey Hepburn Collection" (3-DVD Set) (NR), "The Billy Wilder Collection" (3-DVD Set) (NR), "Boxer Shorts" (NR), "Contempt" (Criterion) (2-DVD Set) (NR), "Doomed Megalopolis: The Haunting of Tokyo" (NR), "Everything Relative" (Director's Cut) (NR), "Fast Food, Fast Women" (R), "Hello Kitty's Paradise: The Series" (NR), "Hiroshima: Why the Bomb Was Dropped" (NR), "A History of Britain: The Complete Collection" (5-DVD) (NR), "Ice Age" (Special Edition) (2-DVD Set) (PG), "Men in Black II" (Full Frame Special Edition) (Widescreen Special Edition) (2-DVD Set) (NR), "MTV Soga" (NR), "Paul McCartney: Back in the U.S." (NR).

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

## Get over here! Mortal Kombat is back!

By Sam Eggleston  
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

The blood and gore is back, though with a lot less complaining from the general public this time. *Mortal Kombat: Deadly Alliance* was recently released for the Playstation 2 and other game systems in hopes of rejuvenating a once prosperous market.

The newest addition to a series that seemed to drop off after *Mortal Kombat 3*, *Deadly Alliance* brings back some old faces and some new ones as well, all combined with a game play that is familiar and comfortable to learn.

Everybody's favorite character, Scorpion, is back for another chance to avenge the death of his

family, as well as Johnny Cage, Sonya Blade, Kano and Shang Tsung. New faces, as far as can be told, include Quan Chi, Nitaru (a vampire) and a ninja woman named Frost — trained in the cold arts by none other than Sub Zero. Though there are a host of other villains and heroes in this new addition.

The story follows the same tale as all the previous installments, with the forces of evil hoping to take over this plane of existence by beating our champions in *Mortal Kombat*. The first step in that undertaking is the murder of our greatest hero, Liu Kang. Well, that's when good-old Raiden steps down from his position as elder god to lead our forces in *Mortal*

*Kombat* in hopes of stopping the overtaking of this realm. That's where you come in. Taking control of your favorite character, you can start out by jumping right into the action via Arcade or Versus mode, or you can hone your skills in the practice rounds. A great addition to this edition of the *Kombat* games is the *Konquest* level. Here, you can learn the importance of using both martial arts styles that your fighter employs as well as the use of their deadly weapon. Unlike other games in this series, this *Konquest* that you undertake eventually even shows you how to use the special attacks like Scorpions spear or Sub Zero's freezing attack. The one thing they don't reveal is your fighter's fatality move, which they sug-

gest you experiment to find.

This game really doesn't bring anything new to the fighting-game genre, but *Mortal Kombat: Deadly Alliance* manages to bring back a little bit of faith in the game series.

Though not the greatest idea for little Johnny's stocking stuffer, *Mortal Kombat: Deadly Alliance* is a great gift for that fighting video game fan in your life as well as those who grew up with *Mortal Kombat* being their first major fighting game since *Street Fighter*.

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

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## No-fuss fitness

By Susan Aschoff  
ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

She stands almost an inch taller and she can now touch the floor with her fingertips when she squats. After two months on an exercise program designed just for her, 76-year-old Juana Reynolds is, literally, walking tall.

"I know it's helping. Whether it's doing anything for me physically, it's doing something for me mentally," says Reynolds of Brandon, Fla., one of the first clients in a new program at the Physical Therapy Center of the University of South Florida.

Open to all ages but targeted at older adults who are sedentary or intimidated to visit gyms and health clubs, the Exercise Screening and Prescription program tailors fitness to the individual.

Participants attend two sessions with a therapist. The first is a screening and physical examination to assess the client's condition and goals; at the second screening, a personalized exercise plan and instructions are presented.

All for a \$75 fee.

"The doctor will look at preventing disease. We will look at staying healthy," says center director Pat Arthur.

The risk of injuries doubles after age 40, statistics show. About 77 million baby boomers will retire in the next 12 years. Physical activity improves joint motion, flexibility, strength and endurance, balance and coordination. It builds strong bones and hearts.

The program at USF is particularly useful for people who, like Reynolds, don't want to fuss with health club fees or super-jock agendas.

Most of the "middle-age and older adult population (is) not comfortable going to a gym and they don't have a lot of home exercise equipment," Arthur says. Exercises prescribed by the center can be done at home with a chair, a stretchy cord or in any open space.

Reynolds signed up in June. Her goals are to alleviate arthritis pain and to prevent changes in her posture. A bonus would be lowering high blood pressure. At a minimum, her workouts will help her stay energetic and flexible, she says.

She's no slouch. She also goes to line dancing and tai chi classes every week, but "I dropped the yoga because it was too much for me."

The exercises are real-world fare. No barbells. No pretzel positions. Push-ups are done against a wall while standing. Weight lifting means pulling two ends of a stretchy cord tied to a doorknob.

Each client's prescription varies, depending on his or her condition and goals. But the target will always be movement and function, not bulk or speed, says Arthur. If a client is still exercising three months after the initial appointment, Arthur says he's accomplished his goal.

Arthur told Reynolds her workout would take about 10 minutes.

"It takes me 30 minutes," she says, laughing.

## HEALTH BRIEFS

### Low-fat diets and PSA levels

The first study to look closely at the issue casts doubt on the value of a low-fat diet in preventing prostate cancer, at least in the short run.

Researchers at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York found that after four years, there was no difference in prostate specific antigen, or PSA, levels among 689 men who ate a diet made up of 20 percent fat and five to eight servings of fruits and vegetables a day and 661 men who were just given written instructions on a healthy diet.

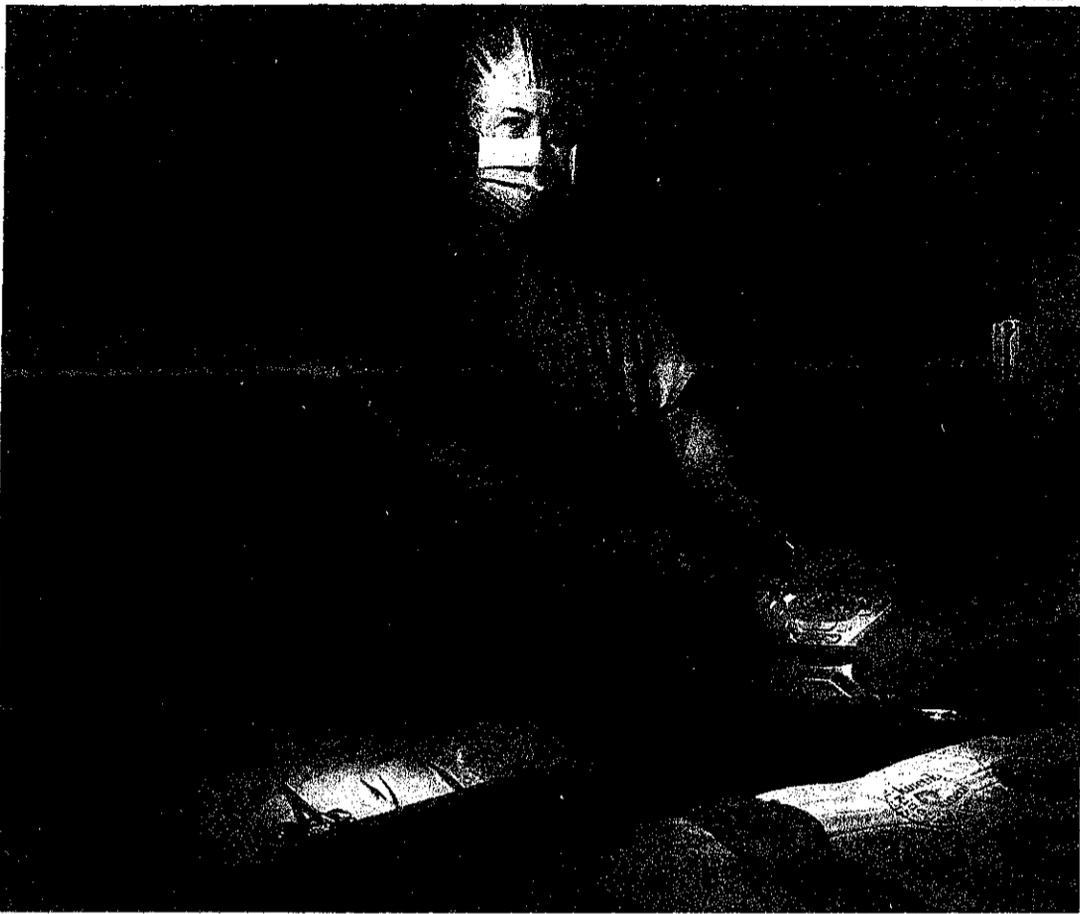
Previous studies had implicated fat in the development of prostate cancer.

### Just two beers risky for drivers

Drinking only one or two beers can significantly impair driving skills, especially one's ability to make split-second decisions, a Texas A&M University study has found. The study compared the driving of 19 men and women while they were sober and also at a blood alcohol level of 0.04, half the legal limit in some states. A 120-pound woman can reach that level after only one beer; a 150-pound man after two.

At 0.04, the drivers' ability had declined significantly. So a person doesn't have to appear drunk to be a highway danger. "They can still mess up in a decision-making situation," says Maurice E. Dennis, a Texas A&M researcher.

—PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE



Dr. Thomas T. Haider is a surgeon who enjoys music during operations. Haider likes listening to soft rock as he works.

# SOUND MEDICINE

By Mike Schwartz  
THE RIVERSIDE, CALIF. PRESS  
ENTERPRISE

From Mozart to Springsteen, many surgeons use music in the operating room to ease pressure and anxiety while they work

"S"calpel." "S"utures." "S"ponge." "S"utures." "S"gipsy Kings." "S"gipsy what? The traditional commands of the surgeon at work are likely to include requests for favorite tunes — from Bach and Beethoven to the Gipsy Kings' Latin rhythms.

Many physicians and their operating-room assistants count portable CD players among their indispensable surgical accessories — right up there with cardiac monitors, catheters and latex gloves.

Dr. Kris Storkersen, director of ophthalmology at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton, Calif., says music and medicine can be a potent combination.

"It has a powerful ability to change mood and alter personality," he says. "Music is not only relaxing to the surgeon, but brings an overall calm to the OR."

Storkersen has "burned" several CDs filled with his favorites that he jokingly calls "Music to Cut By."

Songs likely to waft through the Arrowhead surgical suite during delicate eye operations include Sting's "Desert Rose," R.E.M.'s "Man in the Moon" and Bruce Springsteen's "Secret Garden."

"If it's a difficult case I'll put something mellow on, like Enya, instrumentals or classical," Storkersen says. "If it's easier, I'll want something upbeat like the Gipsy Kings, Garth Brooks or Shania Twain."

Usually, eye operations last 10 minutes to an hour. So, one CD is enough to get Storkersen through a case. However, Dr. Waldo Concepcion, a liver surgeon at Loma Linda University Medical Center in Loma Linda, Calif., keeps at least 10 CDs on hand during operations, which can last six hours.

In the early stages of surgery, Concepcion enjoys classical music by composers such as Vivaldi, Handel and Mozart. But for his "closing music" he wants something livelier — say the Pointer Sisters or Fleetwood Mac. His taste also runs to Miles Davis and Wynton Marsalis. "Beautiful music puts you in a zone," Concepcion says. "You can focus. It keeps you at peace and in sync with what you're doing without anxiety or pressure. Music gives a cadence to surgery."

Orthopedic surgeons Thomas T. Haider and David Siambanes of Riverside, Calif., are a smooth-functioning team. Yet a slight generation gap ensures they don't always appreciate each other's music.

Haider prefers soft rock. Siambanes' selections range from mellow Coldplay and the Dave Matthews Band to what he calls angry-youth music such as Godsmack, Staind and Powerman 5000.

"If it's upbeat, it keeps you working at a steady pace. But his

(Haider's) soft music slows me down," Siambanes says jokingly.

Some surgeons find vocals too distracting and stick to instrumentals. But many, such as Siambanes, love vocals and sing along as they operate.

Dr. Catalino D. Dureza, a neurosurgeon at Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs, Calif., occasionally leans back from his surgical

### Music to cut by

Dr. Kris Storkersen's operating room CD pack:

- Enya, "Watermark"
- Shania Twain, "Come on Over"
- Garth Brooks, "The Hits"
- Eddie Money, "Unplug It In"
- Gipsy Kings, "Love & Liberté"
- Jackson Browne, "The Next Voice You Hear: The Best of Jackson Browne"
- John Mellencamp, "The Best That I Could Do"
- Bruce Springsteen, "Greatest Hits"
- Paul McCartney, "Wingspan"
- Tina Turner, "Simply the Best"
- Good Rockin' Tonight, "The Legacy of Sun Records"
- Yanni, "Yanni Live at the Acropolis"
- Soundtrack: "Honeymoon in Vegas"

microscope to belt out a tune by Roy Orbison or Elvis.

While portable CD players are ubiquitous, some hospitals pipe music into operating rooms over speakers. Anesthesia equipment also can be purchased with optional stereo system included.

Although most hospitals do not prohibit music during surgery, some are concerned that patients may feel it is unprofessional. Others contend there's insufficient evidence it's beneficial.

There is some research, however, suggesting that music may aid surgery. One study published in the September 1994 Journal of the American Medical Association had surgeons perform stressful tasks in a lab experiment. They performed better while listening to music of their choice than they did in silence.

Other researchers have found that music has a calming effect during times of stress for doctors and patients alike. And there is evidence that it also aids pain control.

Most of Storkersen's patients, who usually are sedated but awake during surgery, enjoy his selection of tunes. "It also aids them in relaxation," he says. "Of course, the narcotics help, too."

Many patients will sing along. "Usually, if we're having a good time, they'll chime in, too," Storkersen says.

Patients sometimes balk at what they hear. One of Siambanes' spine patients awoke after surgery to the strains of Godsmack. "It was so distasteful to her that on her first post-operative visit she brought me a Dixie Chicks CD," he says.

## Altered state allows the mind's eye to see what needs to be done

By Molly Rupert  
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

There was no dangling stopwatch. No altering, mind-control tape playing in the background. Just the smooth, lulling voice of the therapist.

"OK, you are standing at the top of a staircase. Notice what you are wearing. What is on your feet? What does the banister feel like? What is it made of?" said Patricia Bay, a licensed marriage and family therapist in Redding, Calif. "Now you're going to

walk down the staircase. Every step you take, you get more and more relaxed. You feel yourself being drawn deeper into the chair."

And just like that, the hypnotic state is reached.

Where you go from there is up to you. For some, hypnosis leads to freedom from cigarettes, overeating, hypertension and pain. It's a tool used by therapists to overcome these problems and more.

"We disconnect the anchors

that are causing the problem," said Bay, who has helped people with a variety of ailments. "Often there are conditioning behaviors paired with some other activity — like you only smoke during your break at work, when you get stressed, when you're drinking. It's just one therapeutic technique."

One that's worked for many people, including Tim Riley, a Redding businessman.

"I was going through a divorce, some substance abuse issues," said Riley. "I guess my

first thought was I didn't want any of that woo-woo stuff. But for me it was a shortcut to releasing a lot of tension and seeing myself more closely. Doors opened up more quickly than in regular sessions."

Robert Grosch, a marriage and family therapist in Redding, has been using hypnosis in his practice for almost 18 years. However, he said he doesn't "hypnotize" patients but rather "assists people to go into a trance state where they are focused."

Grosch also warned prospective clients to be careful of people who "guarantee" the process and to always look for properly licensed personnel.

"You want to look for certain things," Grosch said. "One: They should be a marriage, family therapist, or a clinical social worker. Two: There is no license called hypnotherapist. Also, check how much training a person's had. Find out if they've had experience in working with people in various ways. Ask if they will work with your physician."

# Plus

System offers hope for those fighting with personal debt

By Loretta Kalb  
SACRAMENTO BEE

Dressed smartly, with briefcase and company car keys in hand, no one knew that the woman in San Francisco's financial district was anything but successful.

Truth was, Karen McKall spent every paycheck before it arrived. She was deeply in debt. And she was perpetually on the lookout for ways to turn plastic into cash.

As money problems threatened to ruin her life, she began a process of profound self-discovery, one that led to what she called a "spiritual connection" that helped her turn her financial life around.

McKall founded the San Anselmo, Calif.-based Financial Recovery Institute in 1988 to train counselors and financial planners to help resolve clients' debts.

And this year she produced the "MoneyMinder Financial Recovery" system aimed at helping consumers permanently shed their debt.

"This process shows you how to save money while you are getting out of debt," said McKall. "It's the key to getting out of debt. Otherwise, the day will come when you have to use that credit card again."

Such insight is clearly needed. Consumer debt, \$1.2 trillion five years ago, now exceeds \$1.7 trillion, according to Federal Reserve data. Credit card delinquencies have become a staple of consumers' mailboxes. Not surprisingly, buying on credit has become part of the nation's consumer culture.

That culture and the problems that arise from carrying too much debt have, in turn, spawned an entire industry of get-out-of-debt books.

McKall's 249-page "MoneyMinder Financial Recovery Workbook" and related materials (Financial Recovery Press/\$79 or \$99), are intended to be both inspirational and practical, giving readers the immediate tools and understanding to take action on their own behalf.

The \$79 system has wallet-sized cash trackers and a CD-ROM that includes forms, worksheets and templates to reshape spending priorities month by month and year by year. For those who can't use a CD-ROM, the institute provides a binder filled with a year's worth of financial recovery worksheets in the \$99 system.

For McKall, recovery means achieving understanding and clarity. Understanding your spending and being clear about what is most important in your life, each chapter allows readers to decipher their motivations and feelings while digging deeply into or changing out of debt.

It explains the key concepts in developing a spending plan, including setting money aside for periodic expenses. It gives the strategy behind saving while reducing debts. And it helps individuals achieve their utmost desires (that deprivation isn't the focal point of the financial turnaround).

"Solutions come to people that they can't even imagine," said McKall. The resulting emotional rewards, she explained, are hard to measure.

A reward might be simple, as in avoiding credit-card interest charges by saving money for a car repair or a vacation.

But the overall gains can be great. "This changes people's lives," she said. The system "gives permission" to meet desires that go beyond life's basic necessities.

McKall said she initially thought the system would be most useful to people in deep financial trouble. But she said many individuals have adopted the plan because of its systematic and organized approach to managing spending.

**\$1.2 trillion**  
Total U.S. consumer debt in 1997

**\$1.7 trillion**  
Total U.S. consumer debt in 2002

**14.04%**  
Percentage of U.S. household disposable income used for debt payments



## Policy matters

By Doug Kroutz  
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A mouseon storm rips through your neighborhood, toppling your prized backyard tree, blowing part of the roof off your house, flooding a family room with mud and scaring your pet. Literally, to death.

What's covered by insurance, and what isn't?

Insurance policies vary, but it's likely you'll be covered only for the damage to the roof. Typical homeowner's policies won't protect you against windstorm damage to trees, the loss of pets or flooding.

Recent destructive storms and a host of other threats, ranging from fire to theft, slam home the importance of having insurance - and knowing exactly what it covers.

Homeowners and renters can benefit from some basic insurance savvy.

"Look very carefully at what you're buying. Don't be misled and don't hesitate to ask questions about what's covered," says Vesta Brown, spokeswoman for the Arizona Department of Insurance.

"The amount of coverage you buy depends on how much risk you want to shift onto the insurance company," Brown says. "You have to decide how much risk you'll pay the company to assume, and how much you assume yourself."

Brown and other insurance experts emphasize that there's not a fixed slate of coverage for all homeowners' and renters' policies. Your coverage will vary depending on the insurer you choose, the value of your home and such factors as deductibles - the dollar amount of loss for which you assume responsibility.

But here's a rundown on what's typically covered for homeowners, renters and dorm residents, according to the Arizona Department of Insurance, industry organizations and the University of Arizona.

Most homeowners' policies include four types of coverage: dwelling and personal property; liability; medical payments; and additional living expenses if you must temporarily move out of a damaged home.

**Dwelling / personal property**

**Homeowners insurance policies are all over the map when it comes to what exactly is covered**

The typical homeowner's insurance policy covers you for direct losses due to fire, lightning, tornadoes, windstorms, hail, explosions, smoke, vandalism and theft.

"War, nuclear hazard, neglect, earth movement or power failure damage is not covered."

Although most insurers don't offer flood insurance, homeowners may be able to purchase it through the National Flood Insurance Program.

Rates for homeowner's and renter's insurance vary depending on the value of property and the level of coverage you choose. Renter's policies cost considerably less annually than homeowner's insurance, she says.

Liability: Homeowner's insurance provides personal liability coverage applying to non-vehicle accidents if the injury or damage is caused by you, a family member or your pet.

"The liability coverage in your policy pays both for the cost of defending

had to do to get one. "It seems like for a call center, a chair is pretty basic equipment," Wood says.

Today, callers wait an average of 25 seconds to speak to a rep. Instead of answering just 83 percent of incoming calls (the rest just hung up, frustrated by the wait, presumably the center gets 96 percent of them).

And turnover is down to 7.5 percent for the year so far.

While the chairs are the most visible change, Wood instituted a variety of other alterations.

There were new procedures, new performance goals and new incentive programs. The pay went up and the recruitment strategy changed.

Wood says she no longer necessarily looks for people with basic math and computer



## Smile! It's a mystery shopper

By Devona Wells  
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Mystery shoppers - people paid by companies to observe and evaluate service in writing - have long mingled with consumers. But now this secret army brings along cameras so small they fit inside a shirt button.

The technological leap forward means companies increasingly watch their employees and get a peek at the people hired to shop.

Within a year or two, video shopping equipment will become even smaller and lighter and wireless, predicts Charles Tinsley, president of Shadonshopper.com, which sells the cameras.

Instead of putting shopping excursions on tape, they'll go on the Internet for downloading, he said.

"We are a society that loves photo and video technology, and we want to see it now and we want to see everything. It's just the right time for it," he said.

Mystery shopper David Gilstrap contracts with various companies for enough paid shopping to supply him with full-time work. He says mostly in Southern California but has made trips to Chicago, Seattle and San Francisco, where he conducts at least 10 shopping excursions per trip.

Gilstrap, of Murietta, Calif., started getting paid to shop in April. He doesn't plan to make a career out of mystery shopping but likes the flexible hours.

When shopping, Gilstrap carries a video recorder and battery on a hidden belt. A microphone is pinned to his shirt, which also is outfitted with black buttons - one of which holds a tiny camera taking in arrival to departure.

"It's pretty well-concealed. You need to be aware of where the sales associate is and keep them in your camera's view," he said.

This view allows companies to see their stores and employees just as customers do. Greg Goodwin, president of Friar Tax Shop based in Anaheim, Calif., displays this perspective - from looking at displays to how busy the store is when you go on when nobody appears to be watching.

For six years or so, Friar Tax has evaluated customer service by phone, assigning a caller to inquire about products from one of its 24 stores. Earlier this year, the company began using in-person video shoppers after a short stint with written evaluations at its four shops.

"Video shopping has given us assurances we're doing what we should in all of these small shops flung about Southern California," he said.

To those who perform well on tape, Friar Tax hands out restaurant gift certificates or cash. Employees are told, Goodwin said, they may be shopped by someone using a video camera.

Video removes the subjectivity from a shopper's written evaluations, said David Russell, president of Texas-based FVI Video Shops. Plus, it allows company executives to pick up on what they might not think to ask a shopper to look for, such as employee coats hanging where merchandise should be.

FVI opened in 1995 with a host of investigation services and got its start in video shopping about five years ago. Now, video shopping comprises nearly 75 percent of the company's business, Russell said.

Using Help functions also brought some strange results. Asking "What can you teach me?" brought up my browser's History list. Asking "What can I say?" brought up the time.

I want to do more work with the program to see if I can master it well enough to dictate 100 words a minute or more with 95 percent accuracy, as some users have reported. With as much time as I spend on a keyboard, I'd like to give my hands a rest on occasion.

"The service component in shopping is very important. People can be very easily turned off," he said.

Handreds of companies conduct thousands of shopping evaluations weekly at just about every kind of business, including restaurants, apartment buildings and hotels, said John Swinburn, executive director of Mystery Shopping Providers Association in Dallas.

"Typically, companies are not anxious to reveal who they are because competitors would like to know," he said.

Shadowshopper.com began selling tiny video-shopping cameras and accompanying recorders about two months ago. Previously, the company offered larger cameras not as easily hidden, typically part of a large purse, said Tinsley.

Most shopping companies continue to rely on paper-and-pen evaluations. But as the technology catches on, Tinsley expects videotape use will grow from an estimated 5 percent of the country's 500 mystery-shopping companies.

"This tool isn't designed to go in and find people missing up. It's to show exactly what's happening on the showroom floor," Tinsley said.

## Speech-based software's growing pains

By Dave Gussow  
ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Using speech-recognition software is a lot like raising your kids. It doesn't always hear what you say. It doesn't always do what you want. And it requires a lot of time and patience.

"You talk, it types," IBM prominently promises on the box for ViaVoice for Windows, Pro USB Edition. Yet until you put many hours into "training" the program in your talking technique, it's more "You talk, it may type" or "You talk, it asks you to repeat" or "You talk, and it ignores you."

The good news for those waiting for the right speech-recognition software is that ViaVoice has improved since it last checked in over in early 2000. That's particularly important since the market is down to two major players, IBM and Dragon's Naturally Speaking.

"We've checked out such software from time to time for two reasons: It's an interesting gauge of how well or fitfully, personal technology is advancing for everyday users. And it's also an important alternative to typing for many disabled people."

Installation and setup of the new ViaVoice were easy, taking about 20 minutes. An important part of the setup is reading onscreen text aloud so the program can learn your speech patterns. It was made easier with an included, good-quality Plantronics headset and microphone that connects to a USB port. The whole package that we tested costs \$189.95.

Theoretically, you're then ready to go. In reality, you and the program still need more time to learn each other. I didn't have to talk robotically, one word at a time, though I found myself speaking louder and in a clipped rather than natural, conversational tone.

I lost count of the "Remember to speak clearly and try again" and "Pardon me" messages that flashed on the ViaVoice bar at the top of the screen.

As I did in the previous test, I challenged ViaVoice with the well-known "The rain in Spain falls mainly in the plain" lyrics from "My Fair Lady."

Since it took six attempts to get it almost right. (In the end, "plian" instead of "plain" was the only error.) Among the first five efforts, the software came up with: "Lorraine and Spain stays mainly in the pipeline" and "The rain in Spain stays mainly down the middle of the plain."

The more I worked with the software, the better it responded, though there are still significant problems to overcome. Among those:

It wouldn't let me dictate into Microsoft Word or the Outlook e-mail program even though it's supported and compatible. Instead, I had to use its Speakpad, then cut-and-paste the text into my destination program.

Voice command of programs was only partly successful. For example, saying "surf the Web" opened the Internet Explorer browser. It navigated my Favorites so I could move around the Web. But it wouldn't open a new story from the New York Times site. In addition, it would open some programs, such as Word and Outlook, but wouldn't close them.

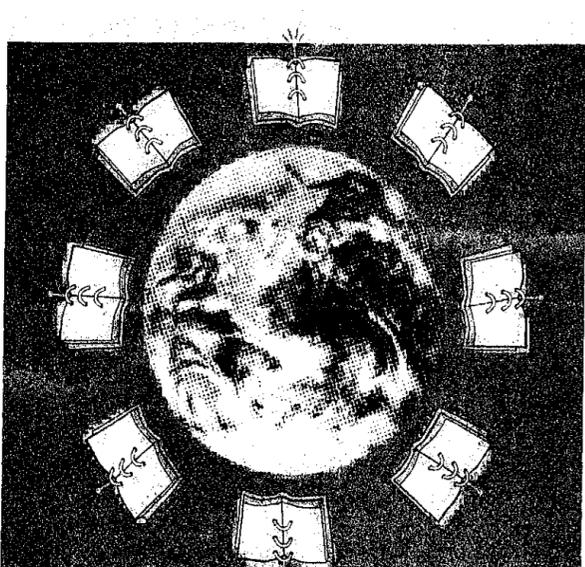
It still has an annoying cartoon pencil called Woodrow that pops up to give you help, sometimes not so successfully. It's like that irritating animated paper clip that appeared in several generations of Microsoft Office.

Using Help functions also brought some strange results. Asking "What can you teach me?" brought up my browser's History list. Asking "What can I say?" brought up the time.

I want to do more work with the program to see if I can master it well enough to dictate 100 words a minute or more with 95 percent accuracy, as some users have reported. With as much time as I spend on a keyboard, I'd like to give my hands a rest on occasion.

Most have the authors' opinions. While blogs have been around for a few years, Sept. 11 spawned new interest and a group called war bloggers, who share information and opinions about the war on terror. One of the trademarks of the blog is that they are made up mostly of short items, easy to write and supposedly easy to read.

In short, blogs can be anything bloggers want them to be. "Everyone truly needs a place on



# Blogging On

Online journals, called Blogs, serve a variety of functions, including group therapy and business networking

By Dave Gussow  
ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Web logs, or blogs, are the personal pages that some say will change the way we communicate. But the digital diaries can range from insightful to insipid.

RaeAnne Thompson keeps a diary, writing down her most personal and private thoughts almost daily. Then she posts them online for the world to see.

"It's a very strange, strange thing," says Thompson, 21. "I had a lot of issues and feelings. I think it's more a form of therapy than anything else."

Her father died in January, and a few days later her fiancé broke up with her. Thompson, a University of South Florida student, turned to her lifelong love of writing to share her feelings on her Web log, or blog.

A blog is a personal Web page that some say will change the way people communicate online. Maybe so, but there are as many different types of blogs as there are different books on Amazon.com. And the writing can range from inspirational to insipid.

Blogs can be personal journals, such as Thompson's. Or they can be someone's opinions on the news of the day. They can be used for business (including sharing notes from meetings written as they happen). Groups with a common interest, such as computer geeks or journalists or fans of particular TV shows, can share information through blogs.

Most have the authors' opinions. While blogs have been around for a few years, Sept. 11 spawned new interest and a group called war bloggers, who share information and opinions about the war on terror. One of the trademarks of the blog is that they are made up mostly of short items, easy to write and supposedly easy to read.

In short, blogs can be anything bloggers want them to be. "Everyone truly needs a place on

the Internet that they can call their home page, a place where they reside," says John Robb, president and chief operating officer of Useland, which makes blog software called Radio. "It's space controlled by the individual. No one has the ability to publish counterarguments. You own it. You own the space."

E-mail to groups of people can be cumbersome, not to mention the potential of recipients mistaking it for spam. Bloggers can choose to invite responses and to post them, but they don't have to deal with the people who disrupt newsgroups with off-topic discussions and the often-obscure attacks known as flames.

"If people are interested in reading what I'm thinking, it's passive. They can come or not."

"They can read at their convenience." Blogs also are a lot easier to set up than a personal Web page used to be, when users had to learn coding and other tricks to set up their page. Most blogs can be set up for free.

Useland's Radio software costs \$40 after a 30-day trial. At Blogger.com, people can set up a basic blog without software and all no cost, or sign up for more elaborate bells and whistles for a \$50 annual subscription.

About 500,000 people have started blogging, according to most estimates.

The power of the blog comes from the fact that anyone can do it and use it for just about any purpose. John Mudd of Pinellas Park, Fla., for example, is trying to build a public relations and marketing business, with his blog as a key mechanism.

"You can easily spread the word very quickly using blogs," says Mudd, 27. "They're a great publicity tool."

One thing that makes blogs powerful for building a business is the way the popular Google search engine works, zeroing in on Web sites that are updated often. Because blogs are updated frequently and often contain links to other sites, Google's software picks up on the content.

"Let's say I have a client who has a product, and they want to tell the world about the product," Mudd says. "Naturally, I want to get the product in traditional media, but sometimes that's harder to do than to get it listed on virtually every blog that's out there. Sometimes just put a little blurb on your blog, and it'll be up on 50 other blogs."

Mudd says the site goes beyond business. He says bloggers have developed a sense of community.

"It's almost like electronic gossip," Mudd says. "Because you can tell your friend about something, then they tell their friend. All of a sudden it's on Web logs all across the world."

Thompson hasn't had quite that reaction. An old friend found her blog and called, but not many people have discovered her writings. Her ex-fiancee did, she was unflinching.

"The issue comes up in almost every single diary" online, Thompson says. "Why am I doing this? I'm not doing it for anybody else."

She finds it fascinating to read other blogs - "It's definitely a way of seeing what's out there" - and to work on her writing.

"I think it's a very empowering thing," Thompson says. "For someone who wants to be a writer, just to have someone read my stuff, it's an ego boost."

"The mission mode caters more to pickup-and-play lovers, as you take your truck into various tracks and accomplish it, testing the most meaningful terrain objects. Trucks should be able to ride over some rocks and other objects. That's why you are riding off-road, not street racing."

The controls are easy to grasp and smooth, although your truck gets caught on seemingly the most meaningless terrain objects. Trucks should be able to ride over some rocks and other objects. That's why you are riding off-road, not street racing.

But beyond these fun missions, this title is more a renter than a buyer.

**Freekstyle**  
Genre: Extreme Sports  
Platform: Gamecube  
Publisher: EA Sports  
ESRB Rating: Everyone

Freekstyle may have a catchy sounding name, but outside of the look and feel of the game, not much is to be desired from this title.

A personality problem seems to be in place here, as this game wants to draw in the fans of extreme sports games, but does not want to stick to what makes those games successful. Instead, Freekstyle takes motocross racing into the fantasy world, and it falls short here.

The setup is basic. You are a fast rider and you have to race others on different tracks. Fair enough. But there are problems with this game that are too much to overlook.

To start, there are only six tracks, and while you can unlock others, it takes an astounding amount of points to do so, after which the wait is not worth it. And once you ride the tracks a couple of times, you get the right feel on how to win almost every time.

Then there is the speed factor. You can really tear it up on the course. So fast that you are literally leaving fumes in your wake. While that is good and all, it almost gets to be too much, as you find yourself losing control and running into invisible barriers.

Lastly is the AI of the game, which could be the most disappointing. No matter how fast you go, your wins or losses will always be close, which is sad. To burn that much fuel and still have to fight it out for a chance victory is silly. EA's G.O. is a better buy and more of what Freekstyle should have avoided trying to imitate.

## TECHNOLOGY

### GAME REVIEWS



**Prisoner of War**  
Platform: Microsoft Xbox  
Publisher: Codemasters  
Genre: Action  
ESRB Rating: Teen

★ ★  
So much promise, so little delivery. That pretty much sums up Prisoner of War, a game that manages to make life in a P.O.W. camp look as boring and uneventful as possible.

The pretense is great: escape from a World War II P.O.W. camp where you and other Americans are being held. Working together, you pick up clues and hints, get your hands on valuable contraband and find a way to freedom.

The game plan is to learn the prison routine, then take advantage of breaks in the schedule to accomplish missions to aid your escape. These include climbing fences (be sure to avoid the guard towers) to access forbidden materials, crawling around in the dark after lights out and even hitching a ride on a supply truck.

However, the awful camera work makes moving around uneventful. The camera is supposed to center itself behind you at the click of a button, but often refuses to do so. As a result, you'll run into guards that could have been avoided.

Each time you get caught or shot, you have to spend a few days in either solitary confinement or the infirmary. Since the goal is to get out of the camp as fast as possible, these little side trips cost you points in the end.

Basically, the game is pretty boring and mundane, with missions that are just a rehash of the same failed attempts to finish objectives until you get them right. Not exactly a thrill a minute, and not exactly like what most of us expect a P.O.W. camp to resemble.

**4x4 Evo 2**  
Genre: Driving  
Platform: Gamecube  
Publisher: Universal Interactive  
ESRB Rating: Everyone

★ ★  
4x4 Evo 2 is not the strongest racing game out there right now. It's just that simple.

The depth of the career mode seems strong, since you start from nothing and have to make a name for yourself in the off-road racing world before being "noticed" by the big-name teams to consider picking you up.

For those unfamiliar with off-road racing, the career mode will come across as a bit confusing, since you are given money to buy and upgrade your truck with products that you don't know anything about. So beginners will have a hard time knowing what's worth the price and what's unneeded.

The controls are easy to grasp and smooth, although your truck gets caught on seemingly the most meaningless terrain objects. Trucks should be able to ride over some rocks and other objects. That's why you are riding off-road, not street racing.

The mission mode caters more to pickup-and-play lovers, as you take your truck into various tracks and accomplish it, testing the most meaningful terrain objects. Trucks should be able to ride over some rocks and other objects. That's why you are riding off-road, not street racing.

But beyond these fun missions, this title is more a renter than a buyer.

**Freekstyle**  
Genre: Extreme Sports  
Platform: Gamecube  
Publisher: EA Sports  
ESRB Rating: Everyone

★ ★  
Freekstyle may have a catchy sounding name, but outside of the look and feel of the game, not much is to be desired from this title.

A personality problem seems to be in place here, as this game wants to draw in the fans of extreme sports games, but does not want to stick to what makes those games successful. Instead, Freekstyle takes motocross racing into the fantasy world, and it falls short here.

The setup is basic. You are a fast rider and you have to race others on different tracks. Fair enough. But there are problems with this game that are too much to overlook.

To start, there are only six tracks, and while you can unlock others, it takes an astounding amount of points to do so, after which the wait is not worth it. And once you ride the tracks a couple of times, you get the right feel on how to win almost every time.

Then there is the speed factor. You can really tear it up on the course. So fast that you are literally leaving fumes in your wake. While that is good and all, it almost gets to be too much, as you find yourself losing control and running into invisible barriers.

Lastly is the AI of the game, which could be the most disappointing. No matter how fast you go, your wins or losses will always be close, which is sad. To burn that much fuel and still have to fight it out for a chance victory is silly. EA's G.O. is a better buy and more of what Freekstyle should have avoided trying to imitate.

—By Kelly Martin and Chris Campbell  
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

## Call center doesn't take morale sitting down

Increased focus on what makes employees happy helps Albuquerque service center keep staff in place

By SSHA Andersen  
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

It wasn't always this way. Lynn Wood still remembers her first day at the call center of PNM, New Mexico's largest utility. "It was horrible," she says. "It was like working in a morgue."

That was May 2001, and Wood was starting her new job as the center's new supervisor, overseeing 150 customer service representatives.

Except that if you called a year ago, you'd be waiting more than three minutes to someone. When you did, that someone might have just gotten the job,

since the center was experiencing a staff turnover rate of between 30 and 50 percent at the time.

Wood describes the staff at the time as "very down, very depressed."

"It was just a slow degradation of service," she says. On Friday of that first week, Wood took a baby step: she met with each rep and gave each one a pair of movie tickets for the weekend.

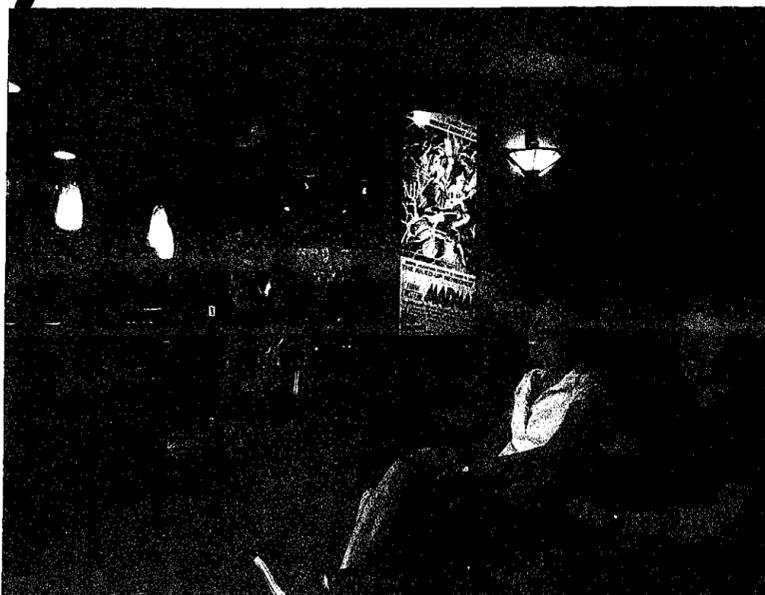
Staff members, unaccustomed to seeing a supervisor unless they were going to be fired, were stunned. But Wood had their attention.

More simple steps followed. Before Wood came along, staff had to "earn" a new chair. But they didn't know what they

skills. "We're about to say that might not be important. We can teach that," she says. Instead, she's looking for folks with an interest in helping people.

# Plus

## HOME & GARDEN



Scott and Keyke Campbell enjoy movies in their basement home theater. Scott used his skills as an illustrator in designing his basement.

# LANDDOWNUNDER

Finishing touches elevate basements to star status

By Jay Dedrick  
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

The unfinished basement stores the boxes you packed the move before last and haven't opened since. It provides an inconspicuous spot for the cat's litter box or Dad's workbench, a burial ground for yesterday's toys. Not all homeowners limit their lower-level environs to such ordinary status, though. Many take the downstairs to new heights by refinishing, creating lavish spaces that rival — if not top — the floors above.

The basements in two suburban Denver homes underwent dramatic custom finishing treatments last year. One, at Mark and Debbi Steffensen's Evergreen, Colo., home, echoes the natural terrain of the Rockies, while the other, at J. Scott and Keyke Campbell's place in Golden, Colo., rockets back to the future.

### THE CAMPBELLS

Simply by descending the stairs at his Golden home, J. Scott Campbell enters a universe's lair, a tiki lounge, a starship pilot's cockpit, a globe-trotting adventurer's library. This basement serves as both work space and play space, but it's a blurry line.

Typically, his lines are razor-sharp, as seen in his artwork for such venerable comic books as Batman and Spider-Man. His drawings of the web-crawler appeared in *Time* magazine last spring and his own creation, *Danger Girl*.

The illustrator's taste for fantasy flows throughout his surroundings, lined with shelf after shelf of toys and action figures. Everything from Frankenstein's monster to Homer Simpson stand guard over Scott's drawing board.

"Being surrounded by this stuff keeps my imagination going," says Scott, 29. Among the fuel for fun: an Indiana Jones hat and whip, a life-size replica of "Star Wars" villain Boba Fett and two working pinball machines.

Scott's wife, Keyke, 26, may not share an equal passion for classic movie monsters and superheroes, but she enjoys the pinball machines as much as her spouse. And she had fun customizing bar stools by adding leopard-print fabric to the seats.

Eye-popping color throughout the 1,105-square-foot basement suits the pop-culture potpourri. Deep blue-purple covers most of the walls, with raspberry on some for contrast; tan within the coffered ceiling panels mirrors the tan carpet. Thick, wine-colored velvet drapes block sunlight from the east-facing windows of the walk-out basement; the dark conversion is critical for enjoying movies on the home theater's 106-inch screen. Cherry cabinets and black granite bar tops add to the richness.

The east-facing wall, the walk-out side of the basement, already featured a sliding glass door, but its location was too close to the home theater's screen. The door was replaced with a window and a door was added within the adjoining game room, which gained a busy window.

"When the windows were put in, it went from being a cave to a space with all this light," Scott says.

The studio is fully equipped. A custom-made maple art desk is stationed in one corner; a bank of office machines nestles in a custom cabinet.

Campbell wanted a hardwood floor — uncommon in basements because of moisture's damaging effects. But a subfloor and a special sealant made it possible.

For the bar, the Campbells found a stylish trio of gold cigar lights, which complement the funky collection of tiki cocktail pieces behind the bar.

The Campbells originally budgeted about \$80,000 for the basement project. By the time they had everything they wanted, it totaled about \$100,000.

Key in elevating the budget: the elaborate home theater, with its three deep chairs — including cup holders — and a purple sofa on a riser trimmed with running lights.

"I'm not into cars or boats," Scott says. "I'm into home theater."

Both are award-winning products of the homeowners' wishes and the work of Finished Basement Co., a Denver business that finished 110 basements last year.

"The biggest thing we've seen since starting up is that people are putting a lot more value on their basements — period," says Patrick Condon, president of Finished Basement. "We'll have clients who are buying new homes because of the unfinished basements. Then they want to have it finished so it's as nice as — or nicer than — their upstairs. They want to show it off to their neighbors."



The basement in Debbi and Mark Steffensen's home in Evergreen, Colo., mirrors the home's mountain setting.

### THE STEFFENSSENS

The basement at the Steffenssens' Evergreen home makes a statement: Welcome to the mountains.

A faux evergreen sits behind the curvy green sectional. Knotty pine borders windows and is pieced over support beams. The silhouette of Mount Evans climbs high on a wall that houses a home theater system. Images of moose and bears are scattered throughout.

Like the Campbells, Mark and Debbi Steffensen worked with Finished Basement on their 1,200-square-foot space.

"None of their clients had wanted anything so rustic before," says Debbi, 40. "I think they enjoyed being able to do something a little different."

"They definitely wanted to bring that more natural feel inside," says designer Gina Schroeder of Finished Basement. "Usually, the post in the basement is wrapped in drywall, but we did a pine-wrap treatment."

The Steffenssens were the first occupants of the home when they moved in almost seven years ago. The basement was unfinished, but its high, 9-foot ceilings invited finishing.

A door from the TV-watching area leads to the guest bedroom, which adjoins a bathroom with fully tiled shower with seat. A kitchenette — with tile counter, stainless-steel sink and wood cabinets with display shelves — sits in a cozy corner at one side of the landing. Carpet covers the theater area and guest room, while ruddy slate tile fills the rest, which also includes a bay window with striking vistas of the surrounding pine-dotted terrain.

Closeted space behind the 53-inch TV and under the stairs provides access to the electronics and storage for videos.

Placing the bathroom in the strategic spot between the landing and the guest room meant moving the basement's existing plumbing — an expense of \$8,000. The slate tile ran around \$10,000. The project totaled \$60,000 to \$70,000, Mark says.

"It was better to do it now and enjoy it for 10 years than wait to do it and not be able to enjoy it," he says.

## A new 'method' for cleaning

By Angelica Pence  
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

They're gone — the days when Windex blue and Mr. Clean's beaming bald look were icons for cleaning-product fashionistas.

The once-dowdy consumer staples are going upscale, flaunting chic packaging, aromatherapy scents and pricey designers. And at least two companies are leading us down the fragrant path.

Take Method, a company that harvested immeasurable hype last year when its Bamboo Kitchen Cleaner was spotted in the neatly kept kitchen of TV's prentiss clean freak: Monica Gellar, of NBC's "Friends" fame.

Started in 1999 by Eric Ryan and Adam Lowry, Method is the first brand created for Generation X and upscale audiences, who make up 42 percent of the \$5 billion household cleaner category, they say.

Now, Ryan and Lowry have come out with their latest offering for the increasingly crowded kitchen of tres-cool cleaners: \$5 liquid dish soap in a package designed by the "poet of plastic," industrial designer Karim Rashid.

"The idea is to change the domestic landscape, the 21st century and the time we live in," says Rashid, whose client list includes Armani, Prada, Sony and Estee Lauder. "Times have changed. The banal is now much more beautiful. A lot of our everyday products are so high-performing and aesthetic that all of us are design conscious."

The Jeromesque bottle is stored inverted so it's always at the ready. Squeeze the 25-ounce container and a valve pops open, spouting a small amount of grapefruit, cucumber, mint or lavender-scented soap. Stop squeezing and the dime-size hole automatically reseals.

Williams-Sonoma was among the first companies to introduce personal cleaning products for the aesthetically conscious cook. The company's Essential Oil Collection includes liquid hand soap and dish detergent, bar soap and a candle, which helps neutralize cooking odors.

"Like fine perfumes (or fine wines for that matter), they contain an array of carefully balanced aromatic components with top, middle and bass notes," Williams-Sonoma says.

The San Francisco housewares giant this year added cleaning products to its collection packaged in classically shaped plastic bottles with apothecary-style labels designed by Caldrea, a Minneapolis company.

These include countertop and floor cleaners and a basil-verbena window wash. All are biodegradable and available in elegant scent pairings of mint, basil, lemon verbena, rosemary, pine and grapefruit.

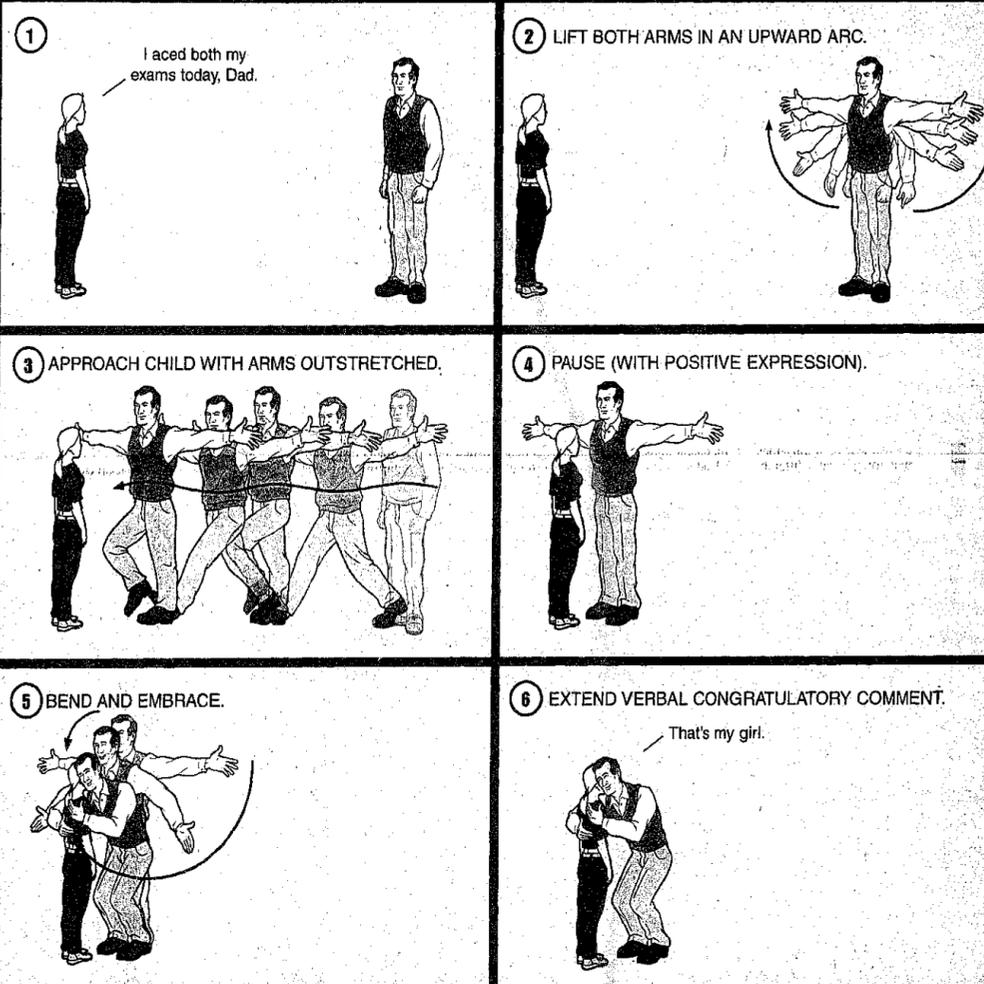
The products retail for between \$8 and \$12.

On the Web:  
methodhome.com  
www.williams-sonoma.com

## Parental Guide #27

# "THE SUPPORTIVE HUG"

(Please see diagram below.)



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# Plus HomeTown

## Nothing says Chesapeake Bay like crab cakes

# Crab Cakes

(REAL OR FAUX)

FOOD

By Jessica Wehrman  
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Blue crabs are more than just a part of life on the Chesapeake Bay, and for those who live in the region crab cakes are more than just food.

Although "Callinectes sapidus" are found from Maine to Texas, Chesapeake Bay residents know crab cakes like Midwesterners know corn on the cob.

Chef John Shields says most restaurants in Baltimore serve crab cakes — even the Greek pizza place serves a crab cake sub. "People here are totally fanatical about crab," he says, adding that crab cakes are the No. 1 seller at his Baltimore restaurant, Gentrude's.

Greg "Cowboy" Richardson, chef at the Rams Head Tavern in Annapolis, Md., insists that blue crab is the only way to go when making crab cakes. Not Dungeness or King crab, which are found on the West Coast, but the Chesapeake Bay's treasure.

Whether served in a sandwich with slaw and fries or as a sweet, moist entree, chefs agree the key is quality crabmeat, preferably lump or backfin. Because crab is a sweet meat, it should be the star of the show. All other ingredients are merely filler.

Katherine Alford, head of the Food Network's test kitchens, warns that "The hardest thing about making crab cake is the sticker shock. You want to get the best quality you can afford."

Alford advises would-be crab cake-crafters to avoid surimi — the imitation crabmeat. Instead, she suggests jumbo lump crabmeat. The larger the lump, the more expensive it is.

Because of the decline in blue crab harvests in recent years, it's getting more and more expensive — about \$22 per pound for Maryland-caught jumbo lump crabmeat last summer, for example.

More groceries are marketing refrigerated pasteurized lump crabmeat — a better option than many frozen brands offered in huge lumps, says Shields, author of "Chesapeake Bay Cooking with John Shields."

"This product is so amazing," he says. "It is like one degree away from fresh picked crab."

The other key is the binder — the stuff that holds the crab cake together. Some recipes call for bread, others for cracker meal or flour. Traditional Southern crab cakes include cracker meal — it gives the cakes a toasted, nutty taste. Other binders include panko, a type of Japanese bread crumb, and even leftover mashed potatoes.

The less filler, the better, Alford says. Use only enough to hold the cake together, she suggests, but not enough to mute the crabmeat's flavor. For an extra kick, include some onions, celery and spices.

Some chefs deep fry crab cakes, others pan fry or saute until heated through. Others broil them. Alford suggests pan-frying, since deep frying mutes the flavor.

Shields says sauteing and broiling both make great crab cakes, but frying is the favorite among native Baltimoreans. "Those who grew up eating crab cakes at the fire hall or church hall always eat them fried," he says. "It gives this wonderful crispy flavor."

Richardson is well aware that his crab cakes come under the scrutiny of some of the toughest crab cake critics around.

"In this town, they'll let you know whether you've got good crab cakes or not," he says.



Crabcakes and corn on the grill dinner at the Ram's Head in Annapolis, Md. (SHNS photo by Bill Clark / Scripps Howard News Service)

Photo by Bill Clark / Scripps Howard News Service

If your budget is thin, try faking it with fish, not crab

By Janet K. Keeler  
ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

There's no question that the folks of Maryland have something to brag about in their luscious crab cake, a Chesapeake Bay original that leaves a big impression wherever it migrates.

Big lumps of cooked crab, not those shreds from a can, are what make Maryland's legendary crab cake so delicious. But the expense of lump crabmeat encourages experimentation with other seafood.

Filler is frowned upon in an authentic Maryland crab cake. It is natural to want to stretch the expensive meat, but it's blasphemous to cover up the richness of crab with bread crumbs from a box. That's the thinking in Maryland.

Less expensive seafood doesn't create such a dilemma. Frozen cod at \$5.50 a pound and calico scallops for about \$4 make it easy to experiment and far less painful if the results are less than perfect.

Almost any seafood can be molded into a cake, held together with eggs and sometimes mayonnaise, then flavored with everything from fruity hot sauces to Asian spices. Because it's not expensive crabmeat, we don't have philosophical problems with adding bread crumbs. Our goal is to get the finicky cakes to stick together.

Chunks of tangy brie added to whichever meat your wallet allows change the profile of the traditional cake. Grated ginger and water chestnuts give an Asian flair to cakes made of shrimp and scallops. If it's the sea you want to taste, go easy on the additions and limit flavorings to salt, pepper, garlic and onions.

Seafood cakes have three elements: cooked seafood, binder and flavorings. We like our flavorings to come from a combination of spices and veggies such as colorful peppers, scallions, shallots, leeks, celery or water chestnuts. Dice everything small and uniformly so the pieces cook evenly during the brief time they are heated. Bread crumbs do help keep your cakes together, despite the protestations of purists. Unflavored crumbs are the most unobtrusive, but then maybe you want Italian seasonings for your halibut cakes. Egg is also a binder and the only ingredient that needs to be cooked.

We like the coarse, untoasted Japanese bread crumbs called panko. Panko is light, almost tasteless, and the larger crumbs make the cakes crunchier, a good thing if you are broiling, rather than frying, your cakes.

We figured on 2-1/2 cups of bread crumbs for the amount of seafood but started with 2 cups. The remaining 1/2 cup was added because the mixture was too loose. We were finally confident when a tablespoon of the mixture held together when compressed by hand. The final ratio was 2-1/2 cups of bread crumbs to about 1-1/2 pounds of seafood.

Seafood, whether it be fin fish or shellfish, should be cooked before being mixed with other ingredients. We sauteed the cod fillets in a little olive oil, let them cool and then flaked the meat into the mixing bowl. Raw seafood lets off too much moisture during cooking, plus it requires more cooking time, which will burn rather than burnish the cakes.

Cooked shrimp and scallops should be chopped coarsely before being added to the cake mixture.

Take the extra time and chill the molded cakes before frying. It makes the difference between failure and success.



Photo by Bill Clark / Scripps Howard News Service

### Crab Cakes

Servings: 4-6  
Source: Food Network  
Kitchens

1 lb. crabmeat  
4 tablespoon unsalted butter  
1/2 cup finely diced onion  
1 stalk celery, minced  
1 tablespoon minced garlic  
2 large eggs, beaten  
1/2 cup heavy cream  
2 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice  
2 tablespoon whole-grain mustard

1 tablespoon minced fresh flat-leaf parsley  
2 teaspoon chopped fresh dill  
Hot sauce, to taste  
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste  
3/4 to 1 cup cracker meal, plus more for dredging the cakes  
1 to 2 tablespoon vegetable oil

Spread the crabmeat out on a pan and pick over it to remove any shell. Transfer to a medium bowl.

Melt 1 tablespoon of the butter in a small skillet over medium heat. Add the onion, celery, garlic, and cook until soft, about 5 minutes. Cool slightly and add to the bowl of crab.

Add the eggs, cream, lemon juice, mustard, parsley, dill and hot sauce to the crab mixture and mix together. Season with salt and pepper. Add 3/4 cup cracker meal to make a moist mixture. (Add the remaining 1/4 cup of meal if the mixture is very wet.)

Form into 2- to 3-inch round patties (cakes) about 3/4 inch thick. Place the crab cakes on a parchment or wax paper-lined pan, and refrigerate for 1 hour.

To serve: Dredge the cakes in the cracker meal. Heat a large skillet over medium heat and add the remaining butter and oil. Cook the crab cakes, in two batches, turning once until golden brown and heated through, about 3 to 4 minutes per side. Serve with tartar sauce.

For cakes:  
1 lb. cod filets (can substitute other firm white fish such as halibut, grouper or sea bass)  
8 tablespoon olive oil  
6-ounce can crab meat  
3 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley  
1 cup chopped green onions  
1/2 cup yellow peppers, diced small  
2 tablespoon flour  
2 large garlic cloves, chopped  
1-1/2 teaspoon grated lemon peel

Sprinkle cod filets with salt and pepper. Heat 2 tablespoons olive oil in heavy large skillet over medium-high heat. Add filets and saute until opaque in center, about 4 minutes per side. Transfer to plate; cool. Wipe skillet with paper towels.

Flake filets into large bowl. Mix in crab meat, parsley, green onions, peppers, flour, garlic, lemon peel and mayonnaise. Mix in 2 cups bread crumbs. Season with salt and pepper; mix in egg. Add remaining 1/2 cup bread crumbs if you need them.

Shape into 10 3-inch-diameter cakes and chill in refrigerator for 30 minutes to an hour. While cakes chill, make sauce by combining all ingredients. Chill. To cook cakes, heat remaining 6 tablespoons of oil in skillet over medium heat. Add fish cakes and cook until brown and crisp, about 4 to 6 minutes per side.

1/4 cup mayonnaise  
2-1/2 cups panko bread crumbs or fresh bread crumbs from crustless bread  
Salt and pepper  
1 large egg  
For sauce:  
1 cup mayonnaise  
1 tablespoon capers, drained and chopped  
2 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
1 clove garlic, minced



Photo by Scott Keeler / St. Petersburg Times

### Seafood Cakes with Caper Sauce

Servings: 10 cakes  
Source: St. Petersburg Times

## 'Cup' teems with comfort

By Marty Meitus  
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

When Jay Weinstein, a chef and food commentator for National Public Radio, was asked by the publisher to participate in "A Cup of Comfort Cookbook" (\$12.95, Adams Media Corp.), he thought it would fill a need created by the Sept. 11 attacks.

The cookbook, one in a series of "A Cup of Comfort" books, is a combination of inspirational stories and recipes.

"It's stories from people across America or even some outside America, about experiences in their lives that were distressing that they overcame," Weinstein says. "The stories describe how people have turned to food to bring that settled feeling into their lives."

The recipes are for well-known comfort foods, "the recipes that people turn to in times of stress," he says. To find stories, the editors put out an all-points bulletin to cooking clubs, sewing societies, chat rooms on home cooking, families and friends.

"We got many times more submissions (than we could use)," Weinstein says. "It was an avalanche of responses, but some of the all-recipes kept repeating. We could do an all-meatleaf cookbook based on their submissions."

Weinstein was in charge of defining the comfort foods and adjusting the recipes. "We got a lot of regional recipes, but I felt it was important that these be universally recognized recipes, a touchstone for people," he says.

Based on an unscientific review of the submissions, Weinstein would name the top 10 comfort foods, in order, as mashed potatoes; roast turkey with stuffing and gravy; milkshakes; apple pie; sweet potato pie; grilled cheese sandwiches; chicken soup; bread pudding; spaghetti and meatballs; and brownie sundaes.

The common denominator is that "they're rich, they're stick-to-your-ribs food," he says. "Everyone has to decide what foods they're going to reach for when a difficult time in their lives sends them into the kitchen."

Most people's top 10 are in the book, he says, including barbecued ribs, pot roast, glazed ham, fried chicken and casseroles and his favorite comfort food, roast chicken.

### Roasted Chicken with Lemon and Thyme

1 chicken (3 1/2 to 4 pounds)  
1 tablespoon oil  
2 teaspoon dried thyme  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper  
1/2 lemon  
1/2 head of garlic, cut in half lateral  
1 medium onion  
1 tablespoon cornstarch, dissolved  
in 1/2 cup cold water

Heat oven to 450 degrees. Rub the chicken inside and out with oil, thyme, salt and pepper. Place the half-lemon and half-head of garlic in the cavity. Place the chicken, breast side up, in a small roasting pan, along with the unpeeled onion. Cook 20 minutes on top rack of oven; lower heat to 325 degrees.

Cook 35 to 45 minutes more, until juices do not appear pink when tipped from the cavity and a thermometer reads 180 degrees in the thigh. Transfer chicken to a cutting board to rest for 15 to 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, add 1 cup of water to the roasting pan. Use a wooden spoon to scrape up all browned bits, transfer to a small saucepan, along with the lemon and garlic from the chicken. Thicken by adding the cornstarch solution. Simmer 10 minutes and season.

Serve the carved chicken with the roasted onion, quartered, and gravy. Serves 4.