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Volume 47 Number 40

Novi, Michigan

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INSIDE



Gateway Village opens

Southfield developers Mike and Pierre Nona help Novi City Council Member Mav Sanghvi and City Manager Rich Helwig cut the ribbon to their newest project, Gateway Village a 188-unit condominium with 25,900 square feet of retail space on Grand River Avenue near Meadowbrook Road.

— Page 5A

Changes at Twelve Oaks

There's been a changing of the guard at Twelve Oaks Mall. After nearly seven years at the helm of Novi's largest retail complex, Catherine O'Malley has left to take over as general manager at Dearborn's Fairlane Town Center, another Taubman Center's Inc. property. In her place in Novi is Daniel Jones.

— Page 8A

Bowling madness

March Madness doesn't have to be reserved for just college basketball any more. Bowling fans have a chance to participate in a fun Saturday afternoon at Novi Bowl to help the Novi Youth Assistance finance the summer youth center, camp, recreational and educational scholarships as well as drug/alcohol awareness programs.

— Page 14A

SPORTS

Kings of the KVC

The Novi cagers completed their first goal of the season as they simply dominated the Kensington Valley Conference and clinched the title with an 82-60 victory over the Hartland Eagles February 21

— Page 1B

INDEX

- Business 5A
- Classifieds 3D
- Entertainment 4B
- Obituary 15A
- Opinion / Letters .16 / 17A
- Police Report 2A
- Regional Marketplace .19A
- Schools 10A
- Sports 1B

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Local road work coming

By Victoria Sadlocha
 STAFF WRITER

Whether you like it, love it, hate it or dread it...construction will soon begin on Novi neighborhood streets.

The City of Novi 2003 Neighborhood Road Repaving program is moving ahead with an anticipated spring commencement.

"The construction time frame will be from June to September, to reduce conflicts with schools," said Nancy M. McClain, City of Novi engineer.

The roster of streets included in

this year's program is not final, but Novi Assistant City Manager Clay Pearson said the list will most likely include:

- Glyme Drive between Meadowbrook and Penton Rise Court
- Penton Rise Court between Meadowbrook and Glyme
- Manor Park Drive between Meadowbrook and 10 Mile Road
- Ripple Creek Road from 10 Mile to end
- Glen Ridge Court in its entirety
- Willowbrook Drive from 10 Mile to Oak Tree
- Bashian Drive from 10 Mile to

- Grand River Avenue
- Sierra Drive from Strath Haven to Beck
- Strath Haven Drive from Sierra to Glamorgan
- Glamorgan Drive from Strath Haven to Sanford
- Chase Drive from Eight Mile to Dundee
- Portsmouth Avenue from Sutherland to Emerald Forest
- White Plains Drive from Falmouth to Portsmouth
- Emerald Forest Drive from Taft to Fremont
- Fremont Road from Emerald Forest to Davenport

- Avon Court in its entirety
- Nilan Drive from Cranbrooke to Oak Tree
- Ladene Lane from Sunflower to Whispering

Connie Garbaick and her husband John are looking forward to the road renovations.

John is the president of the Yorkshire Place Subdivision, encompassing Emerald Forest, Fremont, White Plains, Avon Court and Portsmouth Ave.

"I can speak for him (John) and say he is looking forward

Please see ROADS page 3



Photo by John Heider

Nancy McClain points to areas where a 2003 street repaving project is slated to happen.

Firefighters extinguish two blazes

Department keeps busy in 24-hour period

By Victoria Sadlocha
 STAFF WRITER

City blazes kept Novi firefighters busy last week, extinguishing flames at two locations within a 24-hour period.

Novi Fire Chief Arthur Lenaghan said the first call came in at about 10:50 a.m. on Friday.

The department received a call reporting a fire at Master Jig Grinding & Gage Co. located at 24301 Catherine Industrial Road.

"The fire started from a metal dust collector filter system," Lenaghan said.

Officials said the machine enclosed by a plywood structure is used as part of the company's operations.

"There was an attempt to extinguish the flames by employees, but they were unsuccessful," the chief said.

Firefighters were able to keep the flames from spreading to adjacent businesses, but two sustained injuries.

"One firefighter injured his back and was taken to Providence Hospital where he was treated and released, but is not back to work yet," Lenaghan said.

Officials said the fireman injured his back during hose connection to a fire hydrant.

Lenaghan said another fireman slipped from a ladder while carrying a heavy tool used on the roof of the structure.

"He fell about 10 to 12 feet," he said. "Fortunately, he sustained no other injuries other than a sore foot and is back to work."

The department left the business at about 12:10 p.m., and damage was estimated at \$5,000.

The second call came in at about 6:23 p.m. Neighbors living in the 23000 block of Chipmunk Trail called the department reporting smoke in the area and one resident called saying he could see flames in the

Please see FIRES page 2

KEEPING BUSY

In the past two weeks, the City of Novi Fire Department has battled four blazes. The calls happened on Feb. 12 and 21 and included:

■ Santino's Place for Pasta 22200 Novi Road Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 8:51 a.m., on scene: 45 minutes

■ Maybury State Park Eight Mile and Beck roads in Northville Township Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 9:44 p.m., on scene: 6 hours

■ Master Jig Grinding & Gage 24301 Catherine Industrial Road Friday, Feb. 21 at 10:50 a.m., on scene: 1 hour 20 minutes

■ 23000 block of Chipmunk Trail Friday, Feb. 21 at 6:23 p.m., on scene: nearly two hours

source: Novi Fire Department



Photo by John Heider

Aloha!

Brittany Hamilton, bottom, dances to surfer music at last Friday's Hawaiian spirit day at Novi Woods Elementary. Joining her are Kaley Bowles, top, and Nicole Kozinsky. Fourth graders took a virtual trip to Hawaii as they were told to dress in Hawaiian attire and bring towels to sit on. The activity was part of a study of regions in social studies. "So far they have gone to the northeast, the southeast and now they have moved down to the west," Novi Woods fourth grade teacher Dawn Wagner said. "We have gone to the island of Hawaii to study it as a part of our region study. They were told a couple of weeks ago that they were going to go to the state of Hawaii and to bring Hawaiian clothes, a towel to lay on and a cooler. We talked about the islands and how they were formed and they saw an informational video on Hawaii and now they are drawing their own islands. It's built in with our curriculum as a study of Hawaii. It's just kind of a fun way to teach Hawaii."

Ford: Wixom facility's staying

By Phil Foley
 STAFF WRITER

"Ford's Wixom plant has uncertain future," blared the Detroit News Sunday headline, but city manager Michael Dornan insists he's "more concerned about what Jennifer Granholm is going to do than what Henry Ford is going to do."

The News article speculated that faced with financial losses, excess capacity and declining luxury car sales the Number Two Automaker might be considering closing its sprawling complex on Wixom Road at I-96.

Brenda Hines, spokesman for Ford Motor Company's Manufacturing Department, declared rumors of the plant's closing "absolutely false."

Dave Berry, president of UAW Local 37, which represents more than 2,600 hourly workers at the plant, dismissed the story as just that - speculation. "We don't deal rumors, just facts. And so far here at the Local, we've heard no facts," said Berry, referring additional questions to the UAW's Ford Department.

However, he did say that the Local's four-year contract comes up for renewal this September.

According to a UAW spokesman in Detroit, there is a moratorium on plant closings until then, and under the current contract Ford employees cannot be laid off for more than 42 weeks during the life of the contract. "We've built some protections into the contracts," the spokesman said.

"There's always a little bit of saber rattling before the contract's signed," offered Michael Robinet, vice president of Global Forecasting at the Farmington Hills automotive consultant CSM Worldwide, "but you've got to be

Please see FORD page 3

Heidi heads to Hollywood to make her mark

Novi High grad appears on American Idol TV show

By Ramez Khuri
 STAFF WRITER

It's not every day that Novi is represented on national television in such a positive light. That's why when it does happen it's a chance for the city to stand tall and be recognized.

Nobody was standing taller than the parents of former Novi High student Heidi Fifield after her recent appearance on the current season of the hit FOX television show, American Idol. The show's purpose is to find the next all-around ultimate performer according to America.

Fifield, who graduated from Novi

High School in 1997, has wanted to be a musical performer ever since fifth grade. "That's all I wanted to do, to be a performer," she said. "I was really into music when I was growing up. When I was in high school I did everything possible with music. I did all the musicals and I was a Novi singer for three of my four years of high school."

After graduating, Fifield attended Berklee College of Music in Boston, where her and her roommate started a singing group. "There were two of us and we worked on that project with a manager for about three and a half years," she said. "We got to the point where we got the whole package together. We took pictures and we had a demo tape and our manager started promoting it overseas in the United Kingdom to different labels and industry professionals within the market we wanted to go into. We were singing pop music at the time."

The pop group, however, was



H. Fifield

broken off about a year and a half ago. After that, Fifield moved back to Michigan for a little while before taking the next step in her career and moving out to Los Angeles.

"I moved to L.A. for creative reasons," Fifield said. "I wanted to move to L.A. ever since my senior year of high school. Basically, in college, my life consisted of working on the group, but when it broke up I just felt that it was time to move on to something else and L.A. was definitely the place to go to do that."

Little did she know that moving to California would pay off in such a big way. While attending the Rose Bowl, she decided to be one of approximately 10,000 people to try out for American Idol and was

accepted to be on the show. "There was about 50,000 people in all trying out in six or seven major cities throughout the U.S.," Fifield said. "There were at least 10,000 in L.A. alone."

Fifield went through a series of auditions, and each time the number of her competitors decreased. The auditions consisted of singing a verse and a chorus part of any song of the contestant's choice in front of three judges: Paula Abdul, Randy Jackson and Simon Cowell.

"They just tell you if they want you to stay or if they want you to leave," Fifield said. "When I was performing in front of the judges, I was really nervous. In the past I have never gotten nervous for something like that, but it's such a stressful situation. They are sitting there with no expression on their face whatsoever and you have cameras in your face and so much is going on

Please see HEDI page 2



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Novi firefighters extinguish a fire at a Catherine Industrial Drive business last week. The fire was one of two calls the department received on Feb. 21.

FIRES: Dept. kept busy recently

continued from front

Lenaghan said the chief said a super-vac fan was also used to clear smoke from the residence contributing to the time. Officials estimate total damage to the home at about \$35,000. Other units in the complex also incurred damage caused by smoke. Lenaghan said the cause of the fire is undetermined and an investigation is ongoing. On Feb. 12, Novi firemen also experienced a day of fighting double blazes. A grease fire in the kitchen of Santino's Place for Pasta brought

firefighters to the Nine Mile and Novi roads location at about 9 a.m. Later that night, The City of Novi Fire Department received a call to assist the Northville Township Fire Department fight the devastating blaze at the Maybury State Park parking farm. The flames killed 50 animals and ravaged the popular family destination.

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POLICE REPORT

Who stopped the music

An employee of Buffalo Wild Wings in Novi found his sport utility vehicle was broken into after he finished work during the weekend. The 30-year-old Redford male told police when he went to his 1998 Lincoln Navigator at about 11:45 p.m. on Feb. 22, he noticed the passenger side window was smashed in. The part-time employee said when he went to the south of the Fountain Walk restaurant at about 4:30 p.m., his doors were locked and his vehicle was intact. A radio-compact disk combo player was taken from the dashboard. An amplifier and speakers were also stolen from the vehicle's cargo area. Police found a flashlight on the ground under the passenger's window, but it was not proven the light was used to break in the auto.

No change please

Bills, but not coins were stolen from a Coca-Cola machine last week at the Double Tree Hotel on Sheraton Drive. A security officer at the hotel called police to report the felony Thursday, Feb. 20 at about 3:30 a.m. He told the officer he started his shift at about 10 p.m., but believed it happened before then. The Coke machine was located in the hallway about 100 feet from the front desk.

Roads close for water project

The exterior lock had been drilled open, allowing access to the inside of the machine where the money is kept. According to the report, about \$130 in bills was taken and no change. The security guard told police soda machine break-ins was an on-going problem at the hotel.

Going, going, gone

Unknown residents called police on Sunday, Feb. 23 at about 2:15 a.m. reporting a fight at the corner of Cranbrook and 10 Mile Road. The caller said several people were involved in the fight. While driving to the location, dispatchers called police and said some subjects left in a vehicle going eastbound and others took off on foot in a southbound direction. The officer checked the area, but did not find any of the subjects involved.

Both closures are expected to last for approximately three days, so 14 Mile should be open to traffic on March 7, and Haggerty should be open to traffic March 14.

The closures are necessary so that the Water and Sewerage Department can construct a water storage facility and pump station on the south side of 14 Mile. The detour route while Haggerty is closed will be Maple, M-5 and 14 Mile.

The detour route while Haggerty is closed will be Maple, M-5 and 14 Mile.

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FORD: Automaker says Wixom facility to stay open

continued from front

careful about how much labor saving you do."

Ford Motor Company has been under tremendous pressure to cut costs, but the automotive landscape is a vastly different place than when the Big Three slashed and burned its way across Metro Detroit in the 1980s.

These days, said Robinet, a plant closing is "about as difficult as finding 70-degree weather in Michigan in mid-February." He explained that's because the unions have won no-closure clauses in their contracts.

For more information on the Ford plant's recent EPA fine, please see page 6A.

Robinet noted that Ford has yet to complete negotiations with the UAW over plant closings announced a year ago Christmas. Still, he said, Ford is focusing on the luxury car market which means "Wixom has to become a more flexible facility." However, he added, "It's a zero sum game. You can't turn every facility into a flexible facility without closing others."

Currently the only new product

announced for the Wixom plant is the craft-built Ford GT, which is expected to account for no more than 1,000 units annually.

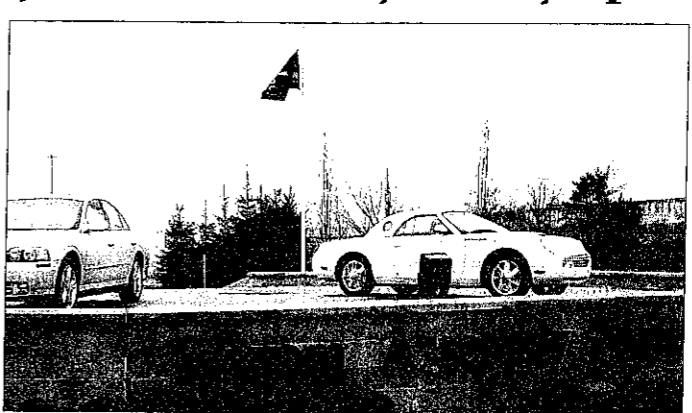
If there's a Ford plant closing in the future, Dorman doesn't seem concerned that it will be Wixom's. Noting that Ford has made a "\$250 million investment in the plant in the last 10 years," Dorman said the time to become concerned is "when they stop investing and asking for tax abatements."

Dorman said he had lunch with a pair of senior Ford executives late last week and they gave no indications there are any major changes in the wind for the Wixom plant.

Hines said the company did announce the closing for five North American plants last year. The first stated to close is the Valmet Forge plant in Dearborn this spring, and the last closure is slated for sometime mid- to late-December, said Hines, depending on product cycles.

In addition to the forging plant here, Ford's plans call for closing assembly plants in Edison, N.J., and St. Louis, Mo., as well as a truck plant in Ontario and an aluminum casting facility outside Cleveland, said Hines.

She added as new product is brought on line, Ford is updating



The Ford Wixom Assembly Plant currently makes the Lincoln Continental, left, and the Ford Thunderbird.

its remaining production facilities with more flexible equipment.

According to Dorman, Ford has sunk \$1.8 billion into the 4.7 million square foot plant since last June alone.

Although Wixom was created in 1956 as the plant was being built and as late as 1990 represented roughly half the city's tax

revenues, it's not quite the 900-pound gorilla it once was. Since 1990, said Dorman, the city's economy has grown and diversified to the point where the plant today represents just 17 percent of the city's tax revenues.

He said this week that water-cooler chatter around city hall has been more focused on Gov. Granholm's budget proposals and how they will affect the city's budget.

"At least Ford is a known commodity," he said.

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

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ROADS: Neighborhood street work to begin soon

continued from front

to it and the rest of the subdivision is eagerly looking forward to it too," Cornie said of the upcoming road improvements.

Gabask said the subdivision is about 15 years old and the street conditions have been on a decline, especially the past six years.

The 2003 neighborhood streets targeted were identified during the city's Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PSE/R) system assessment of the surface condition of Novi's concrete and asphalt roadways conducted the Summer of 2001.

The four remaining roads in the "2" category, Penton Rise Court, Manor Park Drive, Glyme Court and Bayview will be completed this year.

"In this year's program we are finishing the '2's and continuing grouping '3's and '4's to maximize the construction for the limited

budget," McClain said. "We will be continuing to group '3's, '4's and '5's ratings over the next few years to complete the program."

McClain added prudence is also a consideration for program inclusion.

For example, although Clark and Lundy roads received a "3" rating during the evaluation, including the roadways in this year's program would not make good construction sense.

"With all the construction taking place on Grand River this year, it would be impractical to include these roads this year," McClain said. "They are set for next year, so we don't have construction traffic from

game show. The fun will begin at 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 8. Tickets are required and may be purchased for \$5 at the center.

Meadowbrook Commons is located at 25075 Meadowbrook road, between 10 Mile and Grand River Avenue. For more information, call (248) 347-0414.

DeRoche Breakfast Club

State Rep. Craig DeRoche's next breakfast meeting will take place March 14 at the Novi Expo Center. The topic of discussion will be "Oakland County's Economic Vision" and will feature guest speaker L. Brooks Paterson. A legislative update will also be provided by DeRoche. The intent of the "DeRoche Breakfast Club" is for the former councilman to meet with leaders in the community to have a dialog on timely, important topics. The one-hour 7:30 a.m. breakfast program is free to the public. However, a breakfast buffet is available for \$15. A coffee-

and-conversation session will take place before the program at 7 a.m. The event will take place in the McKenzie Room inside the center at 43700 Expo Center Drive. For reservations, please call Shanna Wycoff at (517) 373-0827.

Man of La Mancha

Novi Theatre is proud to present its upcoming production of "Man of La Mancha." All area residents are invited to attend performances held Friday, March 14 through Sunday, March 16 and Friday, March 21 through Sunday, March 23. Friday and Saturday performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday performances will begin at 2 p.m. All performances will be held in the auditorium at Novi Middle School on 11 Mile Road, west of Taft Road. Tickets are on sale now at the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department for \$17. For more information, call (248) 347-0400.

Price is Right

The Novi Senior Center invites all interested parties to come on down and enjoy an afternoon of pizza and the "Price is Right" game show. The Senior Activities Center inside Meadowbrook Commons will be the place for pizza, salad, bread, dessert and the city's version of the popular

game show. The fun will begin at 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 8. Tickets are required and may be purchased for \$5 at the center.

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Presenting the women behind the man

■ Friends of the Novi Public Library program titled "The Six Wives of Henry VIII," looks into the lives of these extraordinary women through live performances

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

There is no one who knows a man like his wives and Henry the VIII was no different.

The Frank of the Novi Public Library invite all area residents to examine the monarch's life through the eyes of his former partners with its March 4 unique program titled "The Six Wives of Henry VIII."

The 7 p.m. Tuesday event will feature actress Susan Berg performing as Catherine of Aragon. Anne

Boleyn, Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves, Catherine Howard and Catherine Parr.

The performing artist and motivational speaker will add life to these historic women while unraveling truths from myths surrounding Henry VIII during his 38-year reign over England.

With her performances, Berg will answer questions like, was the ruler a loving husband, a church reformer, a deranged monarch or all of the above? "She is very good," Young said. "She is a very nice lady."

husband to each of the women he well," said Evelyn Young representing Friends of the Novi Public Library.

Young is looking forward to the two-hour program and the return of Berg to the Novi Public Library. In 2001, Berg performed her arduous role as the principal in "My Life as First Lady," depicting Francis Cleveland, Grace Coolidge and Jackie Kennedy.

"She is very good," Young said. "She is a very nice lady."

DETAILS
Event: "The Six Wives of Henry VIII"
When: Tuesday, March 4
Time: 7 p.m.
Where: Novi Public Library
45245 W. Ten Mile Road
Host: Friends of the Novi Public Library

The meeting regarding the Maybury fire has been changed. Below is the correct information.

HOW TO HELP
Meeting
Who: Friends of Maybury
What: Emergency meeting
Where: Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady St.
When: Saturday, March 8
Time: 10 a.m. to noon
Purpose: Everyone is invited to discuss options for the future of the park including if rebuilding is possible.
Contact: Art & Susan Greenles, members, (248) 380-5924

Donations
Donations may also be made to the Maybury Fund, c/o Hidden Spring Veterinary Clinic, 48525 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville, MI 48167. For more information, call (248) 349-2588.

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library

Hours
The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. We are located at 45245 W. 10 Mile Road, just east of Fall. For more information, call (248) 349-4720.

Story Time notes
Registration for Spring Story Times runs through March 1. Spring Story Times start March 17.

Adult book discussion group
Our March selection is "Year of Wonders" by Geraldine Brooks. The group meets Monday, March 3, at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room. All are welcome.

The six wives of Henry VIII
The women behind the throne tell their stories of Henry VIII as actress Susan Berg portrays each of the legendary monarch's wives on Tuesday, March 4, at 7 p.m. Please call the library to register for this free program, which is sponsored by the Friends of Novi Public Library.

Chapter Club
The Chapter Club, our book discussion group for grades 4-6, meets Saturday, March 8, from 11 a.m.-noon. We'll be discussing "Jason's Gold" by Will Hobbs, snacking on goodies, and playing games. Drop-ins are welcome.

Board meeting
The Novi Public Library Board of Directors meets Monday, March 10, at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room. Community members are welcome to attend.

Big kids story time
Kids ages 5-8 are invited to join us for stories, special activities, and laughter on Tuesday, March 11, at 4 p.m. No registration is necessary.

Senior book discussion
Senior booklovers are reading books about the Islamic religion for their March meeting. The group meets in the library meeting room on Thursday, March 13, at noon.

Mastering the mouse for seniors
A hands-on class designed to introduce seniors to using the computer mouse will be held Thursday, March 6, from 10-11 a.m. We will complete a self-guided online tutorial, learning and

practicing all of the basic functions of the mouse. If you've never used a mouse, this class is definitely for you! Please register in advance for all Internet classes in person or by calling the library.

Introduction to the Internet for seniors
Learn the basics of the Internet in a relaxed, supportive environment on Wednesday, March 12, from 1-3 p.m. You will discover how the Internet works, practice using a web browser, and learn about using search engines to find information.

Evaluating info on the Internet
Learn how to evaluate the content you find on the Internet on Wednesday, March 12, from 7-9 p.m. We will identify important characteristics in a high-quality Web page that distinguish it from other Web pages on similar topics. Hands-on practice is included.

Ancestors on-line
Learn how to begin searching the Internet for information on your ancestors on Thursday, March 13, from 7-9 p.m. In addition to providing a general background on genealogy, the class covers key genealogy web sites and effective search techniques for locating genealogy information.

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BUSINESS

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

Condo developers bet on new urbanism

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Southfield developers Mike and Pierre Nona are betting that the catch phrase "the urbanism" has not lost its luster in Novi.

The brothers' Triangle

Development Inc. held a ribbon cutting Feb. 20 for Gateway Village, a 184-unit brownstone-style condominium project with 25,900 square feet of retail space spread over three buildings.

At the ribbon cutting, Mike said one of the two sold units was

already occupied and deposits had been taken on four others. Pierre said he and his brother expect to complete Gateway Village at a rate of 50 to 60 units a year over the next three to four years.

While Novi's Main Street, developed by James Chen's Evergreen III, has been mixed in lawsuits and foreclosures, the Nona point to successful projects in areas as diverse as Troy, Birmingham, Canton and Dearborn as reasons to be upbeat about the new urbanism.

The new urbanism, the brothers said, is a mix of retail and high-density residential units aimed at up-and-coming singles and wheel-heeled empty nesters who are looking to downsize their living space, but not their creature comforts.

Pointing to "an aging population"

and a "surplus of four-bedroom homes" as well as rising young professionals dissatisfied with apartment life, Pierre predicted Gateway Village will appeal to would-be homeowners looking for "city hip and suburban comfort."

Mike noted there a more than a dozen restaurants within walking distance of Gateway Village. Also, 12 Oaks Mall, Novi Towne Center, West Oaks and the Fountain Walk shopping centers are all less than a 10-minute drive away.

The Nona's Triangle Development Inc. is offering a 1,612 square foot ranch unit starting at \$219,900 and a 1,974 square foot townhouse unit starting at \$239,000.

"It's been a long road getting to where we are today," said Pierre.

"We're extremely excited about being part of the Novi community."

When the brothers bought the 15-acre site in 1999, it came with a consent judgment allowing the construction of an 115,000 square foot big box retail store. However, the Nona brothers, who are primarily residential developers, said they would have walked away from the deal if they'd been stuck with a retail building they didn't think could be marketed.

Novi City Manager Rich Helwig called the result of negotiations between Triangle and the city, "a long awaited addition to the community." He said Gateway Village brings the mix of quality housing and open space city officials were looking for on its eastern approaches.

Pierre, who grew up in Oak Park, said a growing number of people are trying to recreate the sense of community they found in places like his hometown. He said he believes that 75 percent of what buyers at Gateway Village will find.

While Novi's school system has made it a hot ticket with single-family residential developers, Helwig noted that Novi's cache as a "preferred address" has spilled over into other demographics. He noted that sales have been brisk at Erickson's 2,000-unit Fox Run Village, which is aimed at seniors.

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.



Bothers Pierre (left) and Mike Nona and their planner Phillip McKenna, president of McKenna Associates in Northville, show off their latest project, Gateway Village a 15-acre mixed-use development on Grand River near Meadowbrook Road.

GATEWAY VILLAGE

- Gateway Village
- Brownstone styled urban condominium
- 184 units on 15 acres
- Five acres of common space
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Lakes Area chamber holds breakfast meet

The Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce is holding its Morning Connection Business networking breakfast at Lakeshore of Waterford on 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 4.

The event is free for chamber members. To make a reservation, call the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce at 248-331-2826. Lakeshore of Waterford is located at 1447 Skipped Drive off Centex Lake Road between Pontiac Lake Road and M-59 in Waterford.

Salon relocates

After nine years in Novi, Linda's Hair and More has moved, but not very far.

The five-chair salon opened Tuesday in the Parkway Plaza at 38495 West 191 Mile Road in Farmington Hills.

For the past five years, Linda's Hair and More had been at 24079 Meadowood Road in Novi's Peachtree Plaza. Manager Jenn Vick said the move was the result of the desire for better visibility. "We're kinda tucked away back here," she said of the old location at West Ten Mile and Meadowood Road.

The new location is a mile-and-a-half east of the old location. Vick said that won't be much of a problem since "we have customers come in from all over." Ann Arbor, Ferndale, Harper Woods. "She said the staff spent the weekend moving their five chairs and

Walled Lake welcomes CVS

CVS is holding a grand opening and ribbon cutting this Saturday at 9 a.m. at their new state-of-the-art building at 100 E. West Maple Rd. The building was designed to be compatible with the surrounding architecture and it boasts a pocket park complete with a fountain.

CVS worked hand in hand with the City of Walled Lake's Planning Department to ensure that the \$3.2 million project met the City and Downtown Development Authority needs as they relate to revitalization and development goals because of Walled Lake's Main Street Community status. The result of all of the hard work and compromise is a one-of-a-kind structure that enhances the main intersection in Walled Lake.

"CVS has been operating drug stores all over the country for the past 40 years. The company originated on the East Coast," said Jesus R. Silva, CVS's district manager. When asked why CVS decided to build a new building in Walled Lake, Silva noted that "CVS had been renting a storefront in Walled Lake for three and a half years and because the store was doing so well CVS decided to make a long term commitment to

Site focuses on Northville businesses

Northville-based Information Technology has launched new Employee Northville.com. The site is designed to help spur interest in Northville business and was created in cooperation with the Northville Chamber of Commerce. The site was created with MediaCenter.

For more information on the site or Information Technology, call (248) 921-8398.

Rockwell reports 54% fourth quarter increase

Rockwell Medical Technologies, Inc. (NASDAQ:RMTI), a Wisconsin-based manufacturer of hemodialysis concentrate for the healthcare industry, reported Feb. 25 that its fourth quarter 2002 sales were \$3,605,000, an increase of 54.4% over the fourth quarter of 2001.

A company spokesman said fourth quarter revenue was the highest in Rockwell's history. Fourth quarter loss per share was \$5.01 on a loss of \$73,000, which was an improvement of \$405,000 the previous year. Sales for 2002 were \$11,495,700, an increase of 27.5% over 2001, due to substantial growth from its Dis-Safe(R) Dry Acid Concentrate product line, an overall increase in its dialysis concentrate product sales and the expansion of its ancillary product line sales.

Ford fined on hazardous waste complaint

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

The EPA's Region Five office in Chicago announced Feb. 19 that Ford Motor company has agreed to pay a \$244,000 penalty for alleged hazardous waste violations at 14 U.S. auto assembly plants, including Wixom, and the company will be bringing all of its plants into compliance with EPA requirements.

"It's in everybody's best interest to pay fine and move on," said Ford environmental spokesman Carolyn Brown, adding "We really view this as an industry issue, not a Ford issue, noting that 'Toyota and Daimler Chrysler settled earlier this year.'"

According to Brown, "the crux of the matter is what the EPA calls waste we don't."

There has been an ongoing dispute between the auto industry and EPA enforcement officers since the early 1990s when regulations governing the handling of paints were changed.

EPA cited the automaker for not monitoring for leaks from the equipment used to paint vehicles and for not keeping records of monitoring practices. Ford was also cited for not assessing and inspecting the integrity of equipment and secondary containment systems.

"When paint and other fluids move through pipes we call it in process material," said Brown. "We consider the paint shop a sealed, contained unit. We don't think anything gets out into the atmosphere."

Canon said her agency expects Ford to maintain "tighter monitoring and reporting" on its painting and paint waste storage systems here in Michigan as well as in Illinois, Minnesota, Georgia, New Jersey, Missouri, Kentucky and Virginia.

She said that while EPA doesn't foresee any new equipment being installed at those plants, EPA does expect Ford "to hire professional engineers to make sure the buildings meet secondary containment standards."

The EPA averages out to \$17,428.57 per plant. No claim was made that paint materials were released outside any of the Ford plants.

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.

Changing Walled Lake traffic patterns may change local business' fortunes

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

What was once a family-owned lumberyard in Walled Lake now looks to be the city's golden acre.

Walled Lake's director of planning and development, Leslie Meyers, told members of the city council and Downtown Development Authority Feb. 18 that a lot for sale sign had gone up on the former site of Maple Video on West Maple Road for the third time in less than a year.

Last spring Dr. Leo Westinger sold the land that his family had held since the 1930s for \$325,000. In November Orchard Lake's MJM Group closed on the property for \$450,000 and pulled a demolition permit for the site.

According to Meyers, the property, which has been vacant since 2000, was Westinger's Lumberyard from the 1950s through the late 1970s. The building was then converted to a fruit market and then remodel again in the mid-1980s as Maple Video.

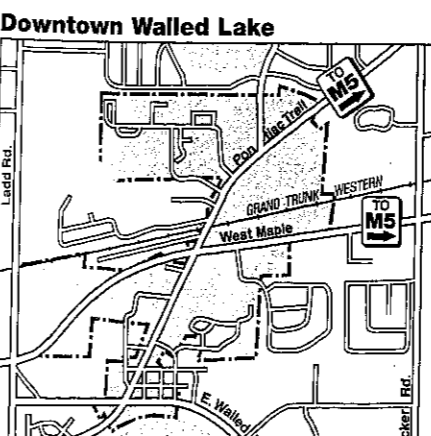
Matthew Jenna, who along with his father, Edward, owns 20 properties in Oakland, Wayne, Washtenaw and Genesee counties, bought the property on West Maple Road about 1,000 feet west of city hall with an eye to building a new home for Walled Lake's Blockbuster Video.

However, when the entertainment giant pulled out of the project at the last minute, MJM Group put the property back on the market at \$600,000.

Still, Jenna said he's not overly concerned. He said the site would make a good location for a fast food franchise or a bank.

"We are long-term players," he said, adding his company sees a lot of potential for redevelopment in Walled Lake.

Meyers agreed, noting, "there are a lot of under-utilized properties," in the city and precious



SOURCE: Downtown Development Authority

increased traffic flows. Michigan Department of Transportation spokesman Rob Morosi said that while the agency won't have any new traffic counts until spring, there's no reason to not believe the prediction that completion of the M-5 would divert 50,000 vehicles a day from the Orchard Lake and Novi roads exits on I-96 and the Welch Road exit on M-5 to M-5's Maple Road and Pontiac Trail exits.

Walled Lake's irregular shaped DDA starts with the city's historic lakefront and includes virtually all of its commercially zoned property.

"Everybody wants to be here," said Meyers, and the reason is the completion of the M-5 expressway from I-96 north to Pontiac Trail in October.

"We don't have any new [traffic] counts," said Long, "but the word is, businesses on West Maple are happy." She said there are more than 30 businesses along West Maple between Decker Road and Pontiac Trail that are likely to benefit from

increased traffic flows. Michigan Department of Transportation spokesman Rob Morosi said that while the agency won't have any new traffic counts until spring, there's no reason to not believe the prediction that completion of the M-5 would divert 50,000 vehicles a day from the Orchard Lake and Novi roads exits on I-96 and the Welch Road exit on M-5 to M-5's Maple Road and Pontiac Trail exits.

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

Plan Review Center all caught up

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

After months of hard work and team efforts, members of Novi's Plan Review Center report the department is caught up.

According to a report issued by Novi Assistant City Manager Clay Pearson, the department, once criticized for being behind, shows site plan reviews are current and within set target dates.

The most recent report dated Jan. 15 shows:

- 25 residential and 34 non-residential site plan reviews are in active-recently completed status;
- zero residential and seven non-residential site plan reviews are within target date;
- 24 residential and 27 non-residential site plan reviews are completed and awaiting final site plan approval; and
- zero site plan reviews are beyond target date.

In September 2002, a similar report generated by the center showed eight residential and seven non-residential site plan reviews beyond the set target date.

The center's site plan manual states documents will be turned



C. Pearson

around in 25 days. Pearson said consultant and woodlands staff disciplines including planning, engineering, landscaping and fire reviews are also current.

"The results have financial savings for the city as well," Pearson said. "The second quarter performance report described \$106,558 in savings in the first six months of the fiscal year."

Pearson said the savings comes from \$301,213 in cash provided including \$77,863 in review fees and \$223,350 in consultant savings.

Expenditures for staff salaries and hourly consultant billings totaled \$194,655.

Originated by Novi City Manager Richard Melvig, the Plan Review Center was created with the intention of placing the responsibility of reviewing developers' site plans with city employees instead of city-retained contractors.

Another goal is to provide developers with reliable input in a timely manner. The center received criticism in early fall for being behind. As of November, the department had caught up on all reviews with the exception of landscape and woodlands reviews. The city still actively recruits for the open landscape architect position, but Mike McGinnis and Elaine Greif have been filling in, helping the city stay caught up. "Reconciling and staying current with the target review dates, even with the volume of diverse projects, is a combination of having the people to do the work, developing a routine and a process that works for the Planning Commission, applicant and staff, and improving toward having the number of submittal rounds decreased so the best effort is put forward by the applicant and the staff the first time," Pearson said.

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.

McCauley's third best "roller"

The El Credito Cigar Company hosted eight finalists including Bruce McCauley of Novi in the first-ever La Gloria Cubana Super Roll cigar-rolling championships, held Jan. 16-19 at the El Credito Cigar Factory in Miami's famous Little Havana district. McCauley captured the third place title.



B. McCauley

McCauley competed against thousands of other first-time cigar rollers at La Gloria Cubana Super Roll competitions held at Cigar Aficionado magazine Big Smoke events held in 2002. Only eight finalists from across the U.S. were selected to compete in the Super Roll cigar-rolling championships.

As a Super Roll finalist, McCauley was given individual cigar-rolling instructions by authentic La Gloria Cubana cigar

rollers before competing in the action-packed playoffs. Renowned La Gloria Cubana Cigar Master Ernesto Perez-Carrillo judged the competition and marveled at how quickly the Super Rollers learned the art of hand-rolling cigars.

"I cannot believe how well these guys rolled cigars after one day's worth of training. It takes years to learn how to roll cigars this well. Since La Gloria Cubana cigars are even more difficult to roll than the average cigar, it's evident to me that these guys real-

ly became pros in one weekend," Perez-Carrillo said of all of the contestants. While in Miami, McCauley and his wife Julia were given the star treatment with deluxe accommodations and dining in trendy South Beach, and enjoying a private tour of the Little Havana district. Like the other finalists, McCauley walked away with a box of La Gloria Cubana Charlemagne Natural cigars with a personalized name band, in addition to an array of cigars and cigar accessories courtesy of La Gloria Cubana cigars.

As the third place winner, McCauley was also awarded with a box of La Gloria Cubana Serie R cigars and a box of El Rico Habano cigars.

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"Everybody wants to be here." Leslie Meyers, Walled Lake's director of planning and development

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New GM takes over Twelve Oaks Mall

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

There's been a changing of the guard at Twelve Oaks Mall. After nearly seven years at the helm of Novi's largest retail complex, Catherine O'Malley has left to take over as general manager at Dearborn's Fairlane Town Center, another Taubman Center's Inc. property.

In her place in Novi is Daniel Jones, who comes to Twelve Oaks Mall from Tempe, Ariz., where he was general manager of Arizona Mills and secretary/treasurer of the Tempe Convention and Visitors Bureau.

For Jones the move to Michigan is something of a step closer to home. The Cincinnati native is now only a five-hour drive from his parents' and in-law homes.

For O'Malley the move to

Dearborn is also a step closer to home. Her daily round-trip from Grosse Pointe Farms has been trimmed from 88 to 50 miles.

O'Malley said she's been riding hard on both facilities since the end of January when Fairlane's general manager decided to "move on to new ventures."

She said that although she's had a "wonderful experience at Twelve Oaks," not long after arriving in Dearborn she decided she was "ready for a new venture and a new challenge."

O'Malley came to Twelve Oaks in 1996 from Northland Shopping Center, where she had been general manager for nine years. While at Twelve Oaks O'Malley oversaw major renovations including the creation of the mall's new food court. It was her second stop in Novi. Earlier in her career while working in the real estate division of Dayton Hudson, O'Malley served as the mall's marketing director/assistant manager when it first opened.

Jones learned about the Taubman organization while working for the Mills Corporation as general manager of Arizona Mills, a joint venture with Taubman. He came to Tempe from Cincinnati, where he had been general manager of another Mills property, the Kenwood Towne Center.

"It was a great place and a great experience," he said, "but we always felt we'd come back to the Midwest." Jones said his wife and son, who is in first grade, will be staying in Arizona until the end of the school year while he juggles settling into the new job with house hunting and period trips to be with family.

O'Malley is also juggling her time between Fairlane and Twelve Oaks as she helps Jones make the transition.

Noting that Arizona Mills and Twelve Oaks are about the same size, Jones said he'll pretty much be trading one set of challenges for another. Michigan may have snow and freezing temperatures, but Jones noted that Arizona has four months of temperatures topping 100.

However, he added, Twelve Oaks is a "very different type of center." He said while Arizona Mills is a value retail/entertainment shopping center featuring outlet stores, Twelve Oaks is a major regional mall with four major retailers and 180 shops.

Mall "spokesman" Peggy Hayes said Twelve Oaks has an occupancy rate close to 97 percent. According to the trade publication Shopping Center World, Twelve Oaks' 180-shop, parent company ended the third quarter of 2002 with an overall occupancy rate of 89.1 percent.

"This is a wonderful center



Photo by Phil Foley

"Warm and welcoming," is how Daniel Jones described his first week at Twelve Oaks Mall as general manager. Jones comes to Novi from Tempe, Ariz., where he was general manager of Arizona Mills and secretary/treasurer of the visitors and convention bureau.

and there's a lot of positive momentum," noted Jones. He observed that Sibley Shoes recently moved into larger quarters in the mall and that space is being remodeled for J. Jill, a women's clothing store; Salsita, a singlas shop; and Fossil. He added the nearby Johnson & Murphy store is also expanding.

Hayes noted there will also be changes at Sears, March 1 when it adds the Lands End line to its offerings.

Jones noted that while he's still feeling his way around and getting acclimated, "I've been

overwhelmed by how friendly everyone has been. Everybody I've met has been very welcoming."

O'Malley said Jones is inheriting a pretty good staff. "It was always fun, no matter what the project was or what the challenges were, the attitude was always 'let's have some fun with this.'"

Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 449-1700 ext. 108 or by e-mail at pfoley@ht.homcomm.net.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

New Providence director

Michael J. Kraut, MD, has been named medical director of the Providence Cancer Institute. Kraut comes to Providence from Harper University Hospital, where he had been a staff member since 1986.

Not every Novi commuter drives into the sun on their way to work. Carolyn Snider will find the sun at her back each morning as she heads for East Lansing and Publicion, Inc., where she was recently named a senior public relations counselor.

Prior to joining Publicion, Snider had been vice president at Royal Oaks National Editorial Services.

Earlier in her career she held a number of public relations and marketing positions with the Coca Cola Company in Atlanta and Playboy Enterprises in Los Angeles.

Snider holds a bachelor of arts degree in journalism from Georgia State University in Atlanta. She and her husband Greg, a sales manager for Sick, Inc., plan on staying Novi. "We love Novi," she said, noting they recently moved into a new home here.

Sick, explained Snider, is a German manufacturer of safety products, sensors and the like for the automotive and other industries with U.S. headquarters in Bloomington, Minn. She said her husband is responsible for all Sick distributors in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky.

For more than 20 years Publicion has provided strategic communication counsel and services, including advertising, public relations, marketing research and media planning for a variety of firms involved in health care, finance, construction, insurance and education.

Novi woman joins East Lansing public relations firm

Prior to joining Publicion, Snider had been vice president at Royal Oaks National Editorial Services.

Earlier in her career she held a number of public relations and marketing positions with the Coca Cola Company in Atlanta and Playboy Enterprises in Los Angeles.

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Popular pasta place reopens

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

It was a long nine days for pasta lovers craving a large order of Santino's Explosion.

Santino's Place for Pasta's signature dish, consisting of seasoned angel hair noodles topped with grilled chicken breast, has patented ingredients and brought celebrity athletes to the city including Barry Sanders, Johnnie Morton and Thomas Holstrom along with other Red Wings players.

"That is how we've met a lot of celebrities," said owner Scott Longas, speaking of the favorite dish. "Even if you're not a pasta lover you'll enjoy it."

The garlic-parmesan flavored meal was created by Longas in 1996 and now represents 72 percent of sales.

The to-die-for meal left people waiting and craving as the Nine Mile and Novi roads carry-out restaurant was being remodeled after a small kitchen fire.

The Feb. 12 prece fire closed the doors to Santino's, keeping patrons away from the popular place until it reopened for business 11 a.m. Feb. 21.

"I had people calling me at my home," Longas said on reopening day. "We just had to open. Today was like a zoo."

Longas said he planned on taking a little bit more time for remodeling, but quickly learned that wasn't an option.

The 10-year owner and sole cook said he has many customers coming in everyday for their meals and making them wait wouldn't be an option.

"It is all because of the food," Longas said.

Renovations to the Oakpointe Plaza pasta place included new paint, fixtures, ceiling and floor tiles and full fumigation of the premises.

Unfortunately, many of the celebrity photos and news clippings adorning the walls before the fire may not be hung again because of the smoke damage.

But the fire damage won't keep Longas down because for him it is all about the food.

He loves cooking so much, he even cooks for free 12 times a year. Every month, Longas holds a drawing where the winner receives a meal for six cooked in their home by himself.

"I'll cook whatever they want," he said. "At the end, I even clean-up the dishes."

The Novi resident has been doing this for about four years. He also donates his culinary services to Angela Hospice in remembrance of his father-in-law who died of cancer and used Hospice's services.



Photo by John Heider

Santino's owner Scott Longas is once again cooking up his renowned pasta dishes and garlic bread after a recent kitchen fire knocked his Novi eatery offline for awhile.

Santino's Place for Pasta's reasonably-priced menu offers many choices of pasta, subs and salads.

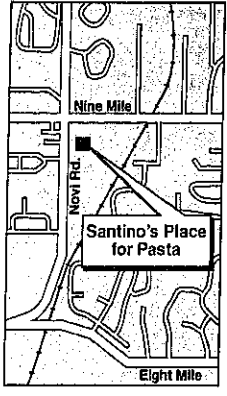
For those looking for a house special, menu items include Cajun Pasta & Chicken, The "Gujo," Chicken Marsala, Eggplant Parmesan, Garlic Lovers, Meat or Veggie Lasagna, "Red Wings" Lovers Meal and the Proud American.

Patrons may also create their own meal by selecting a pasta, sauce and toppings including chicken, sausage, meatballs, shrimp, broccoli, mushrooms, artichokes, tomatoes and onions.

Sauce choices include marinara, meat, Alfredo, garlic and oil and pesto.

Longas said his menu will soon find its place on his menu. Orders range in size from small to family and price

Restaurant Reopens



from \$6.29 to about \$30 for a family-of-four meal. Eight-inch submarine sandwiches and pita sandwiches are less than \$5 and salads range from \$4 to \$8.

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TWELVE OAKS FACTS

- Opening Date: August 2, 1977
- Location: Novi Road and Twelve Mile Road, north of I-96, in Novi
- Total Development Land Area: 228 acres
- Parking Spaces: Approximately 7,500
- Retail Development Size: 1,240,000 square feet
- Architectural Design: Multi-level, climate-controlled, enclosed regional retail development
- Major Stores: Marshall Field's 240,000 sq. ft., Lord & Taylor 182,000 sq. ft., JCPenney 148,000 sq. ft., Sears 235,000 sq. ft.
- Number of Shops & Services: Approximately 180, plus 22 Retail Merchandising Units (kiosks)
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NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 03-003

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Tony Angelo Cement Construction Company is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow a temporary concrete batch plant at 5022-16-151-006 & 007 (on Grand River between Tall & Deck Roads) from June 1, 2003 until October 1, 2003. A public hearing can be requested by any property owner of a structure located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for temporary use permit.

This request will be considered at 3:00 p.m. on March 5, 2003 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. All written comments should be directed to the City of Novi Building Department and must be received prior to March 5, 2003.

SARAH MARCHIONI
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY
(248) 347-0415

BID ADVERTISEMENT

Now Community Schools will receive sealed bids proposals until 3:00 p.m. bid opening, on Thursday, March 20, 2003, for the following bid package: "Asbestos Abatement at Orchard Hills Elementary & Village Oaks Elementary Schools". Bidding Documents may be obtained on March 11, 2003, from Nova Environmental, Inc., 5340 Plymouth Rd., Suite 210 Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105 Tel. 734-830-0995 and at the mandatory pre-bid examination. A mandatory pre-bid examination of the buildings will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2003, (Meet at the Orchard Hills Elementary School - Media Center). Bids shall remain firm for acceptance for a period of 45 days. Novi Community Schools reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

(2-27 & 3-6-03 NN 40539)

NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS SOFTBALLS

The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for Softballs according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Bid packages are available at the Office of the Purchasing Director.

Sealed bids will be received until 3:00 P.M. prevailing Eastern Time, Tuesday, March 4, 2003, at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:

CITY OF NOVI
CAROL J. KALINOVIK, PURCHASING DIRECTOR
45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48375-3022

All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE PLAINLY MARKED "SOFTBALLS" BID AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER.

The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informality or to reject any or all proposals, and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the City of Novi.

CAROL J. KALINOVIK
PURCHASING DIRECTOR
(248) 347-0448

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Review shall convene in its first session at 9:00 a.m. EST, Tuesday, March 4th, 2003 in the Novi Assessing Department at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road for the purpose of reviewing and correcting the assessment roll.

Notice is further given that the second session of the Board of Review will meet for the purpose of hearing and considering assessment protests in the Novi City Council Chambers at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road on March 10, 11 & 12, 2003. All appearances before the Board will be by appointment only. If you or your representative want to appear in person, the appointment must be made on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Friday, March 7, 2003. Appearance before the Board of Review are limited to five (5) minutes or less. Petitions are available at the Assessor's Office or at www.ci.novi.mi.us. NO APPOINTMENTS WILL BE GIVEN UNTIL A PETITION IS RECEIVED BY THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT.

Letters of protest will be accepted on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Wednesday, March 12, 2003. Postmarks will not be considered. When submitting a letter of protest for the Board of Review consideration, you must attach a completed petition (available at the Assessing Department), along with any supporting information.

All agents professing values on property, other than their own, MUST HAVE written authorization from each property owner they are representing.

Persons on fixed or limited income may be eligible for a reduction in property taxes due to poverty. Applications are available at the Assessing Department, or at www.ci.novi.mi.us.

BOARD OF REVIEW SCHEDULE
Monday, March 10, 2003 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 11, 2003 - 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 12, 2003 - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Any questions should be directed to the Assessing Department at (248) 347-0485.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS
CITY CLERK
(2-13/20-27-03 NN 36860)

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SANTINO'S

Santino's Place for Pasta is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and again from 4 to 8 p.m.; Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and again from 4 to 9 p.m.; Saturday from 4 to 9 p.m.; and closed on Sunday. Santino's Place for Pasta is located at 22200 Novi Road in the Oakpointe Shopping Plaza at the corner of Nine Mile and Novi roads. The restaurant focusing mainly on carry-outs and catering may be reached at (248) 380-2932 or by visiting www.santinosplace.com.

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- Best place for breakfast
- Best Sunday brunch
- Best deli
- Best fast food restaurant
- Best family restaurant
- Best place for soup
- Best salad bar
- Best place for burgers
- Best place for hot dogs/cones
- Best place for subs
- Best place for French fries
- Best place for ice cream
- Best place for chicken
- Best quality dining restaurant
- Best place for desserts
- Best Italian restaurant
- Best place for seafood
- Best oriental restaurant
- Best Tex-Mex restaurant
- Best place for pizza
- Best place for steak
- Best chicken dish
- Best place for barbecue ribs
- Best wine selection (store)
- Best wine selection (restaurant)
- Best beer selection (store)
- Best beer selection (restaurant)
- Best place for romantic dinner
- Best after work meeting place
- Best sports bar
- Best place for dancing

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- Best place to bank
- Best place to get nails done
- Best real estate company
- Best real estate agent (agency)
- Best mortgage company
- Best new car sales person (dealership)
- Best used car sales person (dealership)
- Best auto dealer
- Best auto service
- Best oil change shop
- Best collision shop
- Best tire shop
- Best insurance agent (agency)
- Best dry cleaner
- Best lawyer
- Best veterinary service
- Best travel agency
- Best childcare service
- Best video store
- Best house painter
- Best rental company
- Best landscaping company
- Best health/fitness company
- Best waitress (restaurant)
- Best car wash
- Best tanning salon
- Best Accountant

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- Best appliance store
- Best place to buy books
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- Best floral shop
- Best grocery store
- Best party store
- Best music store
- Best specialty shop
- Best jewelry store
- Best pet supplies
- Best children's wear
- Best men's wear
- Best women's wear
- Best shoe store
- Best sporting goods
- Best antique store
- Best hardware store
- Best home improvement store
- Best place for carpet/flooring
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CLASS NOTES

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

T.A.C.C. collects cash to help cancer patients

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

T.A.C.C. collects a total of \$1000 to help cancer patients at Deerfield.

Art teacher Cindy Riley, DoubleTree Hotels and Deerfield students contribute to T.A.C.C.'s cause.

Members of Teens Aiding the Cancer Community (T.A.C.C.) came back to Deerfield on Friday morning to collect money, which the elementary students raised for their cause. The group of students from Novi High first visited

Deerfield on Feb. 7, asking the children to help out. They returned on Friday to find out that the students raised \$827.86. DoubleTree Hotels contributed \$46.10 and in an unexpected turn of events, Deerfield Art Teacher Cindy Riley, who's 24-year-old son died of a brain aneurysm in December, gave \$126.04 in his memory to make the total an even \$1000.

"Today I'm really excited," Junior Li Sun said. "Not only because teens are aiding the cancer community, but because the community is helping the teens to

help the cancer community. Not just teachers and families, but students. Little kids are taking the coins out of their pockets and donating them to cancer. We're just very grateful for that."

T.A.C.C. is a student led, non-profit organization that puts together toy-filled backpacks to give to kids who either have cancer or who are affected by cancer in some way. The group currently has liaisons with 13 Metro Detroit and Western Michigan hospitals. It also makes home deliveries and organizes volunteers.

"Like Li said, it's very exciting and it's emotional and it means a lot to us as board members," President of T.A.C.C. and Junior Andrew Krupansky said. "Kids donating this money is great. I didn't have a lot of money when I was there and for them to take money out of their own pockets and to think of others before themselves is outstanding. They could have done whatever they wanted with it, so it means a lot and it shows a lot about them. Mrs. Riley contributing her money was very touching as well. We weren't expecting this kind of response at all. This is a special group of people here."

Junior Ashlea Surles and senior Swati Shah agreed. "It's just really awesome to see kids thinking outside of themselves when they are so young," Surles said. "We deliver backpacks, but we also raise awareness to kids and other people. It's nice to know that these kids probably don't understand cancer totally yet, but to take money out of their pockets to give to charity is great."

Shah said, "It's amazing how well they understand what's going on, even though they are that young." Other T.A.C.C. members in attendance were seniors Jenny Thomson, Valdis Lenss and Matt Haugen.

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.homescomm.net.



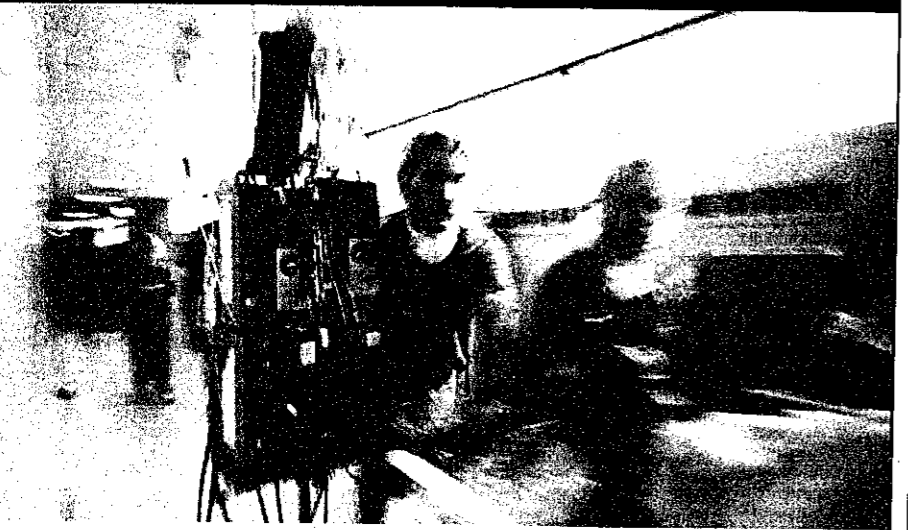
Courtesy photo

Deerfield Principal Richard Njus poses with T.A.C.C. members Swati Shah, Andrew Krupansky, Jenny Thomson, Li Sun, Ashlea Surles, Valdis Lenss and Matt Haugen while they hold up a large check and gifts that Deerfield students donated.



At 7:30 he was racing to the office.

At 7:45 he was being rushed into surgery.



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Dentist's visit to Deerfield gets the message across

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

As part of dental health month, Dr. James Ross, a Novi dentist who visited Orchard Hills a few weeks back, took his act to Deerfield last Wednesday to perform his dental magic show and put forth the message that taking care of your teeth is something that everyone should be doing.

According to Ross, himself and members of his staff enjoy visiting the elementary schools around Novi and Northville every February. His daughter used to assist him during his magic show, but since she has grown older, his son Matthew has taken over that role.

"I found out that after I spoke with the kindergarten when my daughter was five that even though dental health was important to me, it didn't keep the kids' attention at a young age," Ross said. "I found that if I could incorporate some magic and try to teach them some of the ways to take care of their teeth, it would be fun. They seemed to be more attentive and listened better. Each year I have added a couple new magic tricks just to try and keep their attention."

As part of his presentation, Ross showed a video on brushing teeth with monkeys as actors. He then brought out "Alexander, the Alligator puppet," who can squirt water from its mouth. Ross also interacted with his audience and let them participate in the show.

"I have two hygienists and two of my assistants actually go around to some of the schools and present too," Ross said. "It's hard because we did 11 classes last Wednesday and we try to do that all through the month. It's time consuming, but it's something that I enjoy. I have kids myself and it's something that is important to talk to them about and I try to give back to the community a little bit."

Ross first got the idea to do a magic show when he saw an advertisement in a dental journal that read, "Dental Magic."

Ross doesn't perform every magic trick he knows to elementary students, however. "You have to be age appropriate with some of the magic," he said.

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.homescomm.net.

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LET'S TALK WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN
Jewelry

ALL THAT GLITTERS
Not only do gold alloys come in varying shades of yellow, but they may also be green, pink, or white. The pinker the alloy, the more copper it contains. The greater the difference in color, the more silver is present. There are various white gold alloys, with the most common ones containing gold, nickel, and zinc. Most of these gold alloys were developed after the second World War as substitutes for platinum. Before then, platinum was preferred for diamond rings in this country, but the government's declaration of platinum as a strategic metal curtailed its use. By the early 1960s, yellow gold had become the preferred metal for diamond rings. Now, the trend is reversing and platinum is becoming increasingly popular.

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Teens need bowlers' assistance

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

March Madness doesn't have to be reserved for just college basketball any more. Bowling fans have a chance to participate in a fun Saturday afternoon at Novi Bowl to help the Novi Youth Assistance Center finance the summer youth center, camp, recreational and educational scholarships as well as drug/alcohol awareness programs in order to continue preventative programming for families and youth.

Novi School's Director of Community Education Bob Stech is the vice president of the Novi Youth Assistance. "This is our 21st Bowl-A-Thon," he said. "It's going to be held March 8, which is a Saturday and it runs from 1 p.m. until around 3 or 3:30 p.m. We solicit people who are interested in being part of a team. There are five member teams and they're bowling and all their proceeds go to help Youth Assistance operate its programs."

Most of the money raised from the Bowl-A-Thon goes to help support the NYA's Teen Center, which is a summer time program. Stech is a volunteer who oversees the Teen Center. "The district has always been very supportive of the Teen Center and allows us to use the high school in the summer time," he said. "It runs for six weeks and we are not only supported by the school, but also by the United Way, who gives us financial assistance as well."

Kids come to the Teen Center from noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday during the summer. They do a lot of activities at the school itself, and they also take field trips at least once a week.

"The bowling is free," Stech said. "All participants have to do is get pledges. Novi Bowl has been very great. They allow us to use their facility."

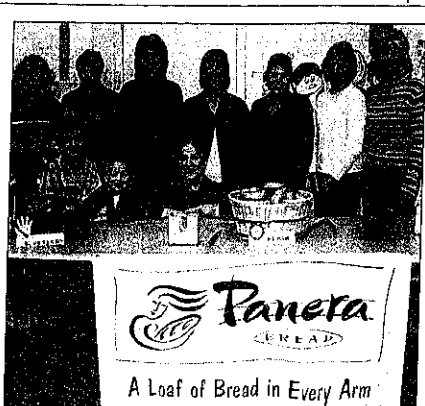
Novi Bowl is on Novi Road between Eight and Nine Mile roads. Participation in the Bowl-A-Thon will include recruiting 15 or more sponsors (friends, neighbors, fellow workers, etc.) who will pledge money for every pin you knock down. The games will go according to the nine-pin format, which means nine pins down on the first ball is a strike. The goal is that each bowler will raise \$100 and for those who ask for per-pin pledges, every pin they knock down is worth money.

For the per-pin option, it is two cents per pin pledged, which means if a bowler scores a total of 300 for three games bowled, the amount due is \$6. Three games will be bowled, ideally with five members per team. Pledge checks should be made out to the Novi Youth Assistance and should be turned in by Friday, March 28.

Bowlers receive free bowling and shoe rental, free refreshments (food and beverage), a chance to help Novi youngsters and an opportunity to win a prize. All pledge sheets must be turned in on March 8 at the Novi Bowl.

Anyone interested should call the Youth Assistance office at (248) 347-0410.

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



Bagels with a Buddy
Orchard Hills Elementary students and parent volunteers mug for a shot before the doors open for the day's "Bagels with a Buddy." It is an event where over three morning periods (before school begins) Orchard Hills students invite a "buddy" to join them for a breakfast of bagels, juice and coffee.

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Deerfield's center makes math exciting

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Kindergarten through fourth grade students at Deerfield worked together on Friday to learn math skills. The kids participated in the school's math center program, where all three grade levels were able to roam the classrooms and play math games. Older children got the chance to teach the younger ones.

"In kindergarten through fourth grade in the whole district, we are all doing everyday mathematics," Deerfield first and second grade teacher Beverly Hatcher said. "We set today up as a day where the children can go into any class area that they want to, so there may be a second grader and a fourth grader working together. They are just all mixed up and playing the games and teaching one another math games that they play in the classroom. All of our math games support our everyday math program."

The students worked on everything from adding problems with egg cartons to making baskets with geometric patterns to a memory game and telling time. "The whole idea of doing this is to have the children be able to have some extension for the kindergartners," Hatcher said. "We want children to have the opportunity to play a second grade math game. It gives them the opportunity to have an extension and you never learn something as well as when you teach it. So they are teaching a game to others too. If you can teach it you really know it."

Most of the time parents are involved in math centers. According to Hatcher, having the children do math centers is something the school tries to do once a month, but if it has a chance, it will do it twice a month. The everyday math program has learning games as part of it. "The kids just aren't learning addition by worksheets, they play card games to teach the adding skills."



Kindergarten through fourth grade students work together in Deerfield math centers on Friday.

"What we are doing is unique here," Hatcher said. "We mix kindergarten through fourth graders and that is very unique to Deerfield. I think the kids are more engaged in what they are doing with this program than a traditional math class. With a lot of the games, the kids see a purpose in what they are learning and when you can see a purpose, you are much more invested in it. As far as working kindergarten through fourth grade, it offers the children to have enrichment. They wouldn't have that opportunity otherwise. It's very successful and in fact, I'm finding that the children are very excited about math."

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

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Schrier wins Wixom title

Bridget Schrier has been named Miss Junior America Wixom City. This is a cash scholarship for teens. She is the daughter of Thomas and Nancy Schrier of Wixom. Bridget is active in her church and also the school choir. She is an honor roll student at Walker Lake Western High School. Her sponsors were Hershey's Ice Cream of Novi and Little Bit of Heaven Gift Baskets.

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2003 Novi Community Guide

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PUBLICATION DATE - Thursday, April 24

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OBITUARIES

Harold F. Schneider

Harold Schneider of San Mateo, Florida (formerly of Novi) died Feb. 18, 2003. He was 89.

Mr. Schneider was born Oct. 13, 1913 to Gregor Schneider and Mary Schrenk in Long Prairie, Minnesota.

He married Alvina Hengenuechle, and raised a family in and around the suburbs of Detroit. She died in 1967.

He later married Rose Thompson and they lived in Novi for 10 years. Mr. Schneider retired to Alaska after Rose's death. He returned to Minnesota where he married Erna Rakittke and they resided in Rochester, Minnesota. After Erna's death, he moved to Florida where he fished, grew flowers and citrus fruit, and took an active role in establishing the Edgar Johnson Senior Center in Palatka, Florida.

Mr. Schneider was a multi-talented and highly skilled builder and craftsman and an avid outdoorsman and gardener.

Survivors include his dearest friend, Belva Bragg; three sons, Robert, Richard and Lynn; three daughters, Karen Brown, Gretchen Goodson and Kathleen Carter; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and many other family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his three wives; Alvina, Rose and Erna; one grand-daughter; three daughters-in-law; and two sisters; Apollonia Bektoski and Florence Quintan.

A private family memorial service will be held in San Mateo, Florida. Interment will be in Southfield, Michigan. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Edgar Johnson Senior Center Building Fund, 3218 Crill Avenue, Palatka, Florida 32177.

Sapphire Katherine Langkil
Sapphire Langkil died February 22, 2003. She was 103. She was born on January 29, 1903 in Ann Arbor to George and Amy (Hudson) Langkil of New Hudson (formerly of Novi). She attended Kent Lake Elementary School.

Sapphire loved camping, riding her bike, playing with her sisters, going to the park and swimming.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by two sisters, Samantha and Rebecca Langkil; and her granddaughters, Beverly Weeks and George Langkil, Bob and Mary Drew. She is also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins and loving friends.

Funeral services were held Feb. 26 at Phillips Funeral Home, South Lyon.

Arrangements were made by Phillips Funeral Home.

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Date: March 11, 2003 • Time: 7:00 p.m.
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• Leader: Kenny Walkup, APR
• Cost: \$10
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SENIOR CALENDAR

Thursday 2/27	9 a.m.-12 p.m. Massage Therapy	Tuesday 3/4	9 a.m.-12 p.m. Massage Therapy
9 a.m.-11 a.m. Computer Class	9:30 a.m. Line Dance*	9 a.m. Panera bread	9:30 a.m. Line Dance*
9:30 a.m. Line Dance*	noon Lunch & 12:15 Bridge*	10 a.m. Crafts	10 a.m. Asian Pacific
noon Computer Class Lab	1 p.m.-4 p.m. Line Dance-Beginners	11:15 a.m. Senior Health Line	noon Lunch
1 p.m. Bingo	2 p.m. Line Dance-Advanced	12:30 p.m. Bingo	
Friday 2/28	9 a.m. Stretch & Strength	Wednesday 3/5	9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
10 a.m. Body Recall	10 a.m. Body Recall	10 a.m. Body Recall	10 a.m. Blood Pressure
12 p.m. Clogging*	11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open	11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open	11 a.m. TOPS Class
12:30 Dupl. Bridge*	1 p.m.-2 p.m. Computer Class	12:30 p.m. Clogging*	noon Lunch
Monday 3/3	9 a.m. Stretch & Strength	The Foreigner Trip	
9 a.m.-11 a.m. Body Recall	11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundry Shop Open		
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Lunch & *12:30 p.m. Pinochle	1 p.m.-3 p.m. Healing Touch		
6:30 p.m. Clogging*			

*Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. All other activities will take place at the Meadowbrook Commons Community Center. Note: ALL TRIPS will depart from the Novi Civic Center on Ten Mile Rd. The City of Novi Senior Center is in the Meadowbrook Commons senior residential community at 25075 Meadowbrook Road (between 10 Mile Rd. and Grand River). (248) 347-0414

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Novi News

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the home towns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Turnaround earns applause

Four months ago, this newspaper's lead story told of the dissatisfaction with the City of Novi's Plan Review Center.

Things were so bad that pulling the plug on the department was seriously considered.

We're now very happy to report that a 180 has been performed (see story on page 7).

The brainchild of city manager Richard Helwig, the center was founded early in 2002 to place the responsibility of reviewing developers' site plans on city employees rather than city-retained contractors.

Initially, the center was shooting for maximum 25-day turnaround on documents.

By October, some projects were behind by 30 days.

Things were looking grim for the infant department, which was experiencing growing pains and dealing with staffing woes.

Thankfully, the city council gave Helwig's idea time, and the results show that it was the right thing to do for all concerned.

The latest report, dated Jan. 15, is impressive — zero site plan reviews are beyond target date.

That's compared to 15 that were overdue last September.

That's good news for developers who need reviews done in a timely manner, but it's also good news for taxpayers.

"The second quarter performance report described 110,538 sq ft savings in the first six months of the fiscal year," noted Clay Pearson, assistant city manager.

The city saved nearly a quarter-million dollars in consultant fees and brought in over \$77,000 in review fees, but only spent \$194,000.

One of Helwig's goals when he came on board at the city was to bring services back in-house.

Congratulations to him and his staff for turning the Plan Review Center around.

OPINION

novinews.com

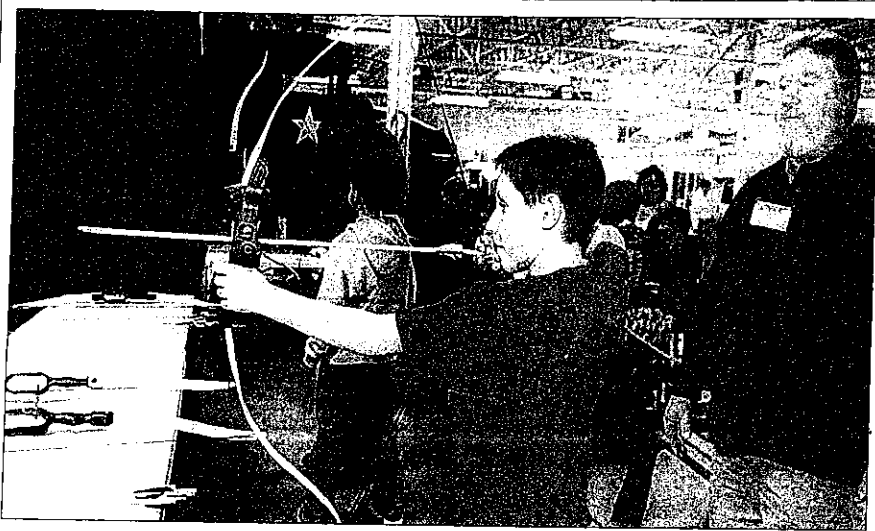


Photo by John Heider

Taking aim

Lenawee Co. Conservation League volunteer Albert Schell, right, gives pointers to archer Aaron Blaszkiewicz at last Friday's MUCC Out-Door-rama at the Novi Expo Center. Visitors could try their hand at bow and arrow skills at the league's booth among many other activities at the show which runs through this weekend at the Expo Center.

Education slashes can really hurt in long run

Much of last week's news had to do with the budget mess Michigan is in.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm took a second whack at the state's budget deficit for this fiscal year, announcing an executive order cutting nearly \$160 million in spending this fiscal year.

A 1.4 percent cut in spending for state departments, mostly by not replacing employees who have left.

A 12.5 percent reduction in grants going to the Life Sciences Corridor, a program funded by the tobacco settlement that's supposed to fund biotech research at universities and hospitals.

Cuts in the budget for the governor's office (including a 10 percent cut in Granholm's \$177,000 salary), the Legislature (\$2.1 million) and the Judiciary (\$1.1 million).

Granholm's cuts were promptly approved by the Legislature. In response to Granholm's suggestions for cutting legislative salaries, several lawmakers countered by proposing sale of the governor's mansion on Mackinac Island.

No doubt they're reckoning the estimated \$1.5 million sale price would take a big chunk out of the \$160 million deficit.

Gov. Granholm has also been going around the state delivering a PowerPoint tutorial to explain how the state's deficit for the coming fiscal year grew to \$1.8 billion, 20 percent of the \$8.9 billion general fund. By all accounts, her performance has been impressive. At the Detroit Women's Economic Club last Wednesday, she used an interactive voting system to let the audience choose which programs should bear the brunt of the cuts. The majority chose to preserve spending for K-12 schools, prisons and health care, while community colleges and universities would get cut.

Higher education leaders were dismayed. Already reeling from two rounds of budget cuts — Gov. John Engler's \$42 million reduction last year and Granholm's recent \$30 million reduction — universities were hardly happy at Granholm's offhand comments to the effect that "there is fat in colleges and universities."

Certainly, Michigan colleges and universities should be expected to shoulder their fair share of whatever budget cuts are required. But the fact of the matter is that Michigan universities get about \$1,000 less per student in state funds than competing states. The issue here is how much of a cut to higher education can be made without causing serious, long-term damage and unendurable tuition increases.

To her credit, Granholm also hinted that the \$30 million or so (so far unannounced) public money that now goes to private schools should go on the chopping block as well.

Mainly the risk here is that things can go too far, too fast in the urge to slash. A good indication comes from a legislative leader, Rep. Marc Shulman, R-West Bloomfield, who is chair of the House Appropriations Committee. Over the years, I've had several interesting talks with Shulman, a thoughtful guy who wisely passed up a chance to run for the state senate in order to try to bring common sense to an appropriations process that will need every bit of it.

"If you can find a silver lining in all this chaos," Shuman said, "it's that it gives us a chance to look closely at what the state budget should really be composed of. In the past, it was easy to just cut 3-4 percent across the board, but this is not necessarily the most effective thing to do or the best in the long run."

"There are some areas where cuts are appropriate and others where we should be careful. Education, for example, is an investment in our stock of human capital and skills that drive our economic growth and keeps our best people here in Michigan. Some states have cut education across the board, and they're going to discover that can really hurt in the long run."

Shulman has introduced legislation calling for creation of a Government Efficiency Task Force that would review the relationship between state government spending and the efficiency of programs receiving state funds.

"Now is the time to scrutinize carefully a lot of programs in detail. There are grants and contracts that don't require federal matching that come to \$640 million. That's a lot of money, and we need to look carefully at whether we are really getting full value for money from these."

Shulman's approach — thoughtful, careful — is just what I would hope would be the legislative response to Granholm's budget proposals, which are bound to be radical once she starts looking at the estimated \$1.8 billion deficit for the fiscal year that starts this October.

Phil Power is the Chairman of the Board of the company that owns this newspaper. He would be pleased to get your reactions to this column either at (734) 953-2047 or at ppower@homecomm.net.



Phil Power

Plainly the risk here is that things can go too far, too fast in the urge to slash. A good indication comes from a legislative leader, Rep. Marc Shulman, R-West Bloomfield, who is chair of the House Appropriations Committee. Shulman has introduced legislation calling for creation of a Government Efficiency Task Force that would review the relationship between state government spending and the efficiency of programs receiving state funds.

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LETTERS

Here's a thought

I wish to write a few lines about Councilman Lou Csondas's suggestion of having a Novi public safety committee.

It will be a great idea for our city to form a committee to advise the Chief of Police and fire dept. This committee should be an advisory committee and should include the diverse citizen of Novi. This city has many citizens from different religion and culture and many students are from diverse community. I suggest that the committee should have one or two women and one or two members from the different culture/religion.

Ramesh Verma
Novi

Dems oppose war

We strongly oppose the impending war against Iraq.

Bombing Iraq will not stop terrorism. We believe the war will intensify hatred, thus leading new generations to terrorist extremes. We believe there are no clear, compelling reasons that justify attacking Iraq at this time. We say NO WAR. Rather let us solve problems with diplomacy, creativity and intelligence.

For the membership:

Jack Schneider, Chairman,
Democrats of West Oakland County, Millford

Share your opinions: We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

Mail: Letters to the Editor, Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167

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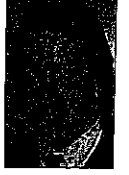
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OTHER OPINIONS

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Novi Chamber sitting at the crossroads

If Warren were any place else on the peninsula than where it is, slap up against the behemoth that is Detroit, it would be a big deal.

If the state's third largest city were plopped down in the middle of Shiawassee County or Hillsdale County or just about anywhere besides the southern edge of Macomb County, it would likely have its own daily newspaper, its own television station and more importantly respect.

It's 60 percent larger than the largest community in Oakland County. If every man, woman and child in Livingston County were to leave tomorrow, Warren's population could replace them leaving only Powerville and the Genoa Township still vacant.

Warren is bigger than Flint. Warren is bigger than the state capitol. Warren is bigger than all but 16 of the state's 83 counties.

And yet, Warren, aside from being home to the GM Tech Center, is pretty much a big joke. The city is the Rodney Dangerfield of Michigan municipalities.

So why should Novi care? They both started out as town-

ships. Sterling Heights to the north of Warren and Troy to the west also started out as townships and they both get more respect on their worst days.

So what about Novi? With 50,000 residents, regional shopping venues and more than a handful of corporate headquarters, it's no longer the dark spot on the map from Farmington to Brighton that it once was.

The city's school board, more than any other single factor, has made Novi the hot ticket item it is. But there has to be more to a community than simply good schools.

City government can keep the snow plow; the potholes filled; and the bad guys at bay, but there has to be more.

There has to be, as county administrator L. Brooks Patterson is so fond of saying, "quality of life."

This is where the chamber of commerce can be a determining factor in deciding if the city fashions itself as an urban Pierce Brosnan or the next Warren.

The Novi Chamber of Commerce is at a pivotal point in its history. With more than 600 members, the chamber has more members than a lot of Michigan communities have businesses.

A group that large should have a certain amount of clout. But then how much clout can you have when an average chamber event draws around 60 people. If each chamber member business had only two people at a chamber luncheon, there'd likely only one place in town big enough to handle chamber business.

Power is as much about perception as reality. If people believe you are a big deal, then you are.

The chamber has a few cards in its hand that properly played could put it in the chips. Among them its annual Threads of Power breakfast, which was held recently and its annual charity auction, which is just around the corner.

Novi needs more events that say that Novi is more than lots of mail and easy parking.

I think the answer is yes.

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

Threads of Power

Peggy Hayes, chairman of the Novi Chamber of Commerce's Threads of Power breakfast, is joined by PATH's Liz McLachlan, HAVEN's Jeanne Colburn, Southfield Career Center's Mildred Pivoz and the Womens' Resource Center's Nancy Swanberg at the Hotel Baronette Feb. 20. Nearly 100 people attended the event.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital Seminar on Heart Disease
DATE: Thursday, February 27
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Mich.

Practical Gardener's Garden Design
DATE: Tuesday, March 4
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road

Food Care Seminar
DATE: Tuesday, March 4
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Mich.

Practical Gardener's Garden Design
DATE: Tuesday, March 4
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.

Blood drive
DATE: Wednesday, March 5
TIME: 2-8 p.m.
LOCATION: Walsh College, Novi campus

Practical Gardener's Garden Design
DATE: Tuesday, March 11
TIME: 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook, Novi

Pruning roses for today's garden
DATE: Friday, March 7

hold members, verification of household income and photo I.D.
PHONE: For income eligibility requirements or additional information, call GELISSA Community and Family Services Department in Pontiac at 248-209-2686 or 1-800-482-9250.

Sexual harassment reform
DATE: Tuesday, March 11
TIME: 7 p.m., light refreshments, 7:30 p.m. speaker
LOCATION: Northville Senior Center, 215 Cady Street

Practical Gardener's Garden Design
DATE: Tuesday, March 11
TIME: 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook, Novi

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DATE: Tuesday, March 11
TIME: 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook, Novi

LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.
TIME: 7-8:30 a.m.
DETAILS: Meeting of local professionals and business looking to increase word-of-mouth referral business.

Oakland County Health Division Expectant Parent Classes
DATE: ongoing series
LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple, Walled Lake

New TDPS chapter in Novi
DATES: Wednesdays
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons Activities Room, 25075 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi

Paintings on Display-Novi resident artist
DATE: March 1-11
TIME: M-F 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
LOCATION: Picasso's Cafe, 39915 Grand River, Novi, W. of Haggerty

DETAILS: Information covered includes pumping, solving common problems associated with breastfeeding, taking care of moon growth and development of the breastfeeding infant including growth spurts, starting solids, and weaning.

Novi Toastmasters
DATE: First and third Tuesdays of the month
LOCATION: First Nazarene Church, Haggerty near Eight Mile Road

Breast Cancer Support Group
DATES: Second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, starting January 28
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C at the ground floor of the hospital

'Novi Homeless' Building Group
DATE: Second and fourth Wednesdays of the month
LOCATION: Novi Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook, Novi

Rescuing ex-racing greyhounds is in style
The house lights dim, the curtains go up and the music begins. Sleek, long-legged supermodels hit the runway.

Novi Toastmasters
DATE: First and third Tuesdays of the month
LOCATION: First Nazarene Church, Haggerty near Eight Mile Road

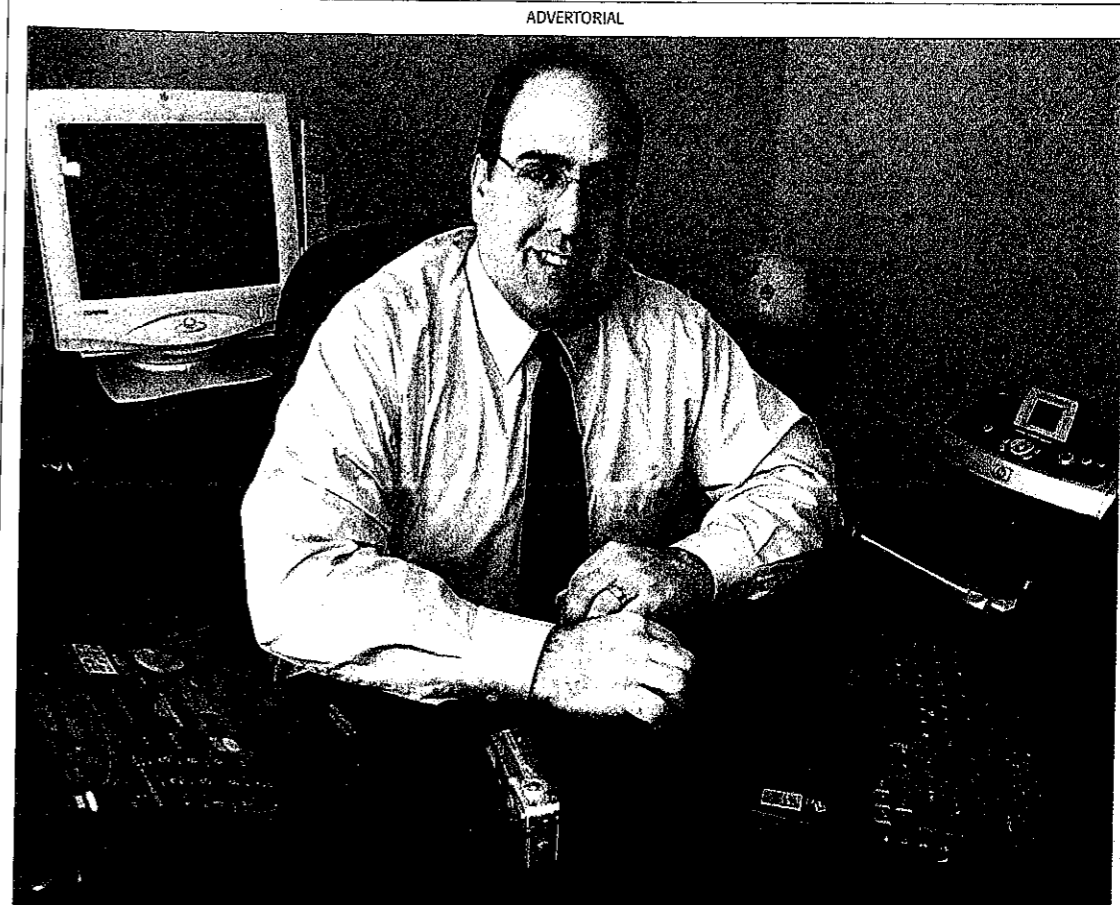
Breast Cancer Support Group
DATES: Second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, starting January 28
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C at the ground floor of the hospital

'Novi Homeless' Building Group
DATE: Second and fourth Wednesdays of the month
LOCATION: Novi Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook, Novi

JACK FARIS

A Little Help from Our Friends

Judging from the latest economic survey of NFIB members, one might think that American small-business owners are an unhappy lot these days. Undiminished by reduced earnings in December, their optimism dropped to its lowest reading of 2002.



Abe Ayoub's got all the technology and tools necessary to make the difference when it comes to being your real estate agent.

Technology fuels Realtor who goes the extra mile

By Elizabeth Heer SPECIAL WRITER

In this information age, people want a real estate agent who will go the extra mile for them. Abe Ayoub of Mayfair Realty says that technology and hard work can make all the difference.

If someone calls me, I'm right there. If they want a picture of a property, I take it and can print it or e-mail it immediately. But as easy as technology can make it, you still have to have the work ethic. Technology tools added with hard work equal success," he said.

Fill out a simple form at the Web site, and Abe will send listings of every home available according to your specifications. Want a three-bedroom ranch with two baths and a basement in your price range?

Other handy tools include an online loan prequalification process, a monthly payment calculator, and an e-mail application to request a comparative market analysis. For those thinking of moving to a new town, the relocation tool offers timely information. Get a side-by-side comparison of cost of living between two cities as well as demographic, climate, and other information. Or find neighborhoods in other communities across the country with similar lifestyles as you enjoy now. Also useful are the salary calculator and the moving calculator.

Whether you are buying or selling a home or relocating, Abe Ayoub, associate broker with Mayfair Realty, can take care of all your realty needs - from start to finish. Call Abe anytime at (248) 486-9227 or e-mail to soldabe@comcast.net. View listings and get immediate access to all the essential links, including Realtor.com, at his Web site, www.sold-abe.com.

"If you want someone out there who is working, he's on the road. I am mobile, and in this business that's how you have to work these days. You have to do what the other guy is not doing."

Other handy tools include an online loan prequalification process, a monthly payment calculator, and an e-mail application to request a comparative market analysis.

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Walsh celebrates the arts this Saturday

Walsh College will host the Walsh Gala - A Unique Evening for the Arts at the Novi Campus on Saturday. All proceeds from this event will benefit a newly created Novi scholarship and an endowment for the arts.

Salvaggio International Marketplace, 94.7 WCSX, and the Leclercq Vanities Association. The event will stimulate the senses with fine art, fine wine, and fine cuisine.

Restaurants, and decadent desserts to sweeten the palate. General admission tickets are priced at \$75 per person. Walsh College alumni and students can purchase tickets at the special rate of \$65 per person.

Restaurants, and decadent desserts to sweeten the palate. General admission tickets are priced at \$75 per person. Walsh College alumni and students can purchase tickets at the special rate of \$65 per person.

Irish Rovers performing foundation benefit

Begin celebrating St. Patrick's Day almost a week early when the Irish Rovers return to the area for another rambunctious and rollicking performance at 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, in the Milford High School Center for the Performing Arts.

Foundation (HVEF). The group weaves together an enchanting combination of music, storytelling, and Irish humor that replicates the conviviality and camaraderie of an Irish pub.

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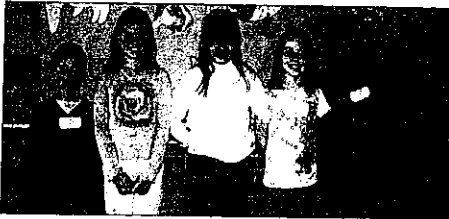
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Courtesy photo

What we think of Novi

After discussing characteristics of cities, students in Rebecca Purcell's fourth grade class at Orchard Hills used paragraph writing skills to express how they felt about their city. Their goal was to convince people to consider Novi when thinking about a nice place to live. Pictured from left to right are Tom Dixon, Katie Smak, Neelima Goyal, Amanda Downs and Jordan Gates. Below are their efforts.

Novi
Do you live in Novi? Well, it is a wonderful city to live in. You can do a lot of things here. You can bowl and skate and a lot of other things. One thing that's bad though is that we only have some patches of green land here. But we get all the seasons here. So, if you're thinking about living in Novi, it is a wonderful place to live.
By: Katie Smak

Novi
Have you heard of the suburb of Novi? Well if you haven't, it's a great place to live. One way it's great is the school, another way is the nice people. The other way it's great is the safety of the police and firemen. I've only told a few of the things that make Novi a great place to live. There are many more that make Novi great.
By: Tom Dixon

City, Novi
Have you ever been to Novi, MI? Well if you haven't I'll tell you about some fun things in the area. If you ever come to Novi, or even just for a visit, you can go to many places. You could go to, the ice rink, Lifetime Fitness, Bonaventure, or even the library. Now if you want to come to Novi MI, you had better come. See you there.
By: Amanda Downs

Novi
Do you know about the city of Novi? Novi is a suburb type place. Here there are parks, homes, malls, restaurants, and many more fun places. Novi also has a lot of woods here and there. Novi has schools and sport club. Novi is a charming place where friends and

families make it the best place. But Novi does have a problem. The Novi fire department does not get there in time. I know this because a car was on fire in my sub, and it took the fire department at least 7 minutes to get there. But overall Novi is a warm, welcoming place.
By: Angela Anusbigian

Novi
Do you live in Novi? I do. I think Novi is a great place to live. Novi has great schools, homes and markets. There are many fun places like Lifetime Fitness, ice arena and soccer zones. One good thing is that Novi isn't too populated. Otherwise there wouldn't be any room for animals. I highly recommend moving to Novi or visiting if you haven't. Like I said Novi is a great place to live.
By: Jordan Gates

Novi
Have you ever been to Novi? If not you should because it is a very terrific place to be. In Novi there are many things to do. I live in Novi that's why I know how fun it is. Novi's main colors are green and white, and the schools are just fantastic. Now, if you want to know more about Novi, listen to this paragraph. In Novi you can go fishing, go to fun malls, and do lots and millions of shopping! Novi is a place where nobody wants to leave because you can't have fun anywhere else. Their houses and schools are super. People are now thinking that they should have settled in this city from before. So no that I told you "some" fun things about Novi, you should roam a little here and there in Novi.
By: Neelima Goyal



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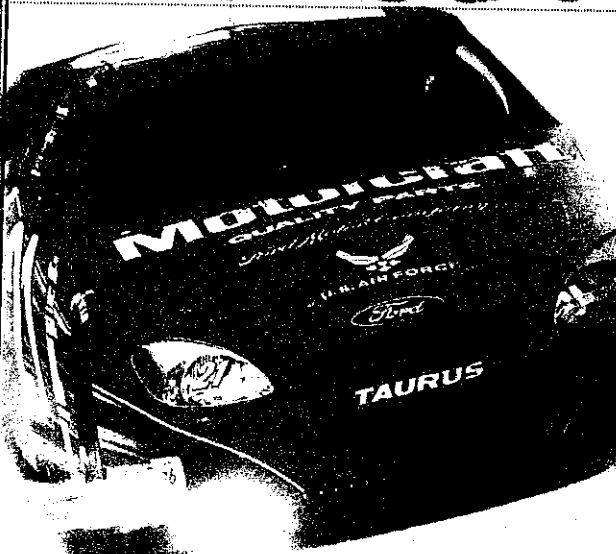


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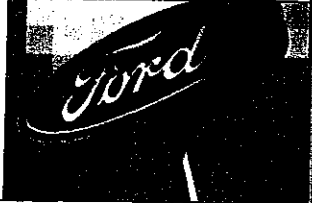


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"even though we are not going to be performing next weekend, I know my team felt they had given their best possible effort."

Read the whole story on B-2

Sam Eggleston, sports writer, (248) 349-1700, 104 seggles@ht.homecomm.net

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B-1

SPORTS

novinews.com Thursday, February 27, 2003

The true meaning of leader

Oh, to be a senior again. I'm not sure what many of you would do with that chance.

Maybe you'd want to ask that crush of yours out on a date, or maybe you'll study a little harder for those SATs.



Sam Eggleston

Well, I'd never give up. I guess that will always be the thing that I remember when I look back at my entire athletic career. Did I always play as though that particular down mattered? Did I always shoot the highest percentage shot? No, but I wish I did. Instead, there were more than a few games that I finally bowed down and took the punishment of a brutal loss with. In football, I've lost by as much as 75 points. In basketball, as much as 33. It's not pretty, but when I think back on it, I should never have quit or given up.

That's why it makes me proud to cover these seniors. I look at them and I know they wouldn't do that. They wouldn't give up. Sure, there are a few of them that have given up when the going got tough, but they aren't the ones who shine, are they?

I can't name all of the seniors here, but there are a few from Novi I'd like to single out. Yeah, a lot of them have been named in the past for their accomplishments, while others may not get the mention so often. As a sports writer, I try to focus my efforts on the senior class. They only have this year left at this level.

From Novi, Josh Churella is the first to get his mention. Of course, you've all heard of this 135-pound wrestler who is going to be grappling for his third straight state title. Churella's given every aspiring wrestler and every aspiring high school athlete someone to look to for an example of greatness. He never toots his own horn, or asks for recognition. Instead, he lets his actions speak louder than any words.

Tina Hildreth was the first volleyball player that I ever took down statistics about and there's a reason for that. She's everywhere when she needs to be, and she's a solid player. When she's out on the floor, you can bet that she's not going to give up, and she'll play until the final point is up on the board.

You may have heard of Chris Lewis too. This senior basketball player worked on his game all summer, building his arsenal of personal weapons as he became a lethal shot from everywhere on the court. If Lewis' determination to be the best he could be is any determination of how he'll succeed in life, I'm considering him to be the next Bill Gates.

Jack Tyler and Jan Robertson are two senior tankers that I just couldn't pick between. Both have qualified for the state finals and both are amazing athletes. They've taken a year that could have been a very tough one for Novi and helped turn it into an impressive run without the joy of a home pool.

And, in hockey, I'm going with Trenton Sisson. He can make saves standing on his head if the situation found himself in that position. A very aware player between the posts, Sisson isn't going to be overlooked when it comes to his abilities or his dedication to the sport. Quite simply, he never gives up.

If only all seniors could be like these ones, then we'd never have to worry about starters, because they would all be in 12th grade.

KINGS OF THE KVC

For the first time since 1991, Novi has the crown

DISTRICT TIME!

Are you ready for some district tournament basketball action? These teams sure are, and it's anyone's game when it comes to post-season play.

Monday, March 3

- Novi (17-1) v. Livonia Churchill (1-17), 5:30 p.m.
- South Lyon (4-13) v. Plymouth Salem (12-6), 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 5

- Winner of Novi/Churchill v. Plymouth Canton (6-13), 5:30 p.m.
- Winner of S. Lyon/Salem v. Northville (12-7), 7 p.m.

Friday, March 7

- District Finals, 7 p.m.

Editor's note: All games are held at South Lyon High School, located on 10 Mile Road and Pontiac Trail.

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It must be tough coming up with season goals with a talented group of players like the Novi Wildcats basketball team — yet, they still keep them coming.

The Novi cagers completed their first goal of the season as they simply dominated the Kensington Valley Conference and clinched the title with an 82-60 victory over the Hartland Eagles February 21 after slapping the South Lyon Lions with a close 44-32 loss just two days earlier.

With that goal behind them, the Wildcats have now turned to setting the school record in victories for a single season — a record set when Bob Shoemaker was still coaching and they earned 17 wins. At 17-1 overall on the year, the 'Cats have already tied that mark and will now be looking to break it.

"The next two games won't mean anything, but we're looking to break the school record,"

Novi coach Pat Schluter said. "I've been coach when we've won 16 twice before. All we need is one more and we got it."

This is a year of big achievements for the Novi cagers. Not only have they tied the best-ever season in basketball in Novi High School history, but they've also won the conference title for the first time since 1991. Then again, Schluter had an inkling this was going to be a special season.

"We had a really good summer," the coach said. "You usually tell how good you are going to be by how you play in the summer."

The Wildcats have shown that they are serious about reaching their goals this season, topping every opponent this season with the exception of Lakeland when the two teams squared off at Lakeland. They showed it once again February 21 when they slapped the Hartland Eagles with an 82-60 loss.

Against Hartland, the Wildcats followed the lead of senior Matt Emmenecker as he

poured in 21 points on the night. The Wildcats took an early lead when they outscored the Eagles by seven points in the first quarter before they increased their lead to 38-21 at the half. It was enough of a lead to give many of the Wildcats a chance to play.

"We played a lot of people Friday night," Schluter said, and added that though his squad already has the conference title, they aren't going to be letting anyone walk on them. "It's one of those things where you just don't want to lose. We're still going to prepare like we always do. We'll have the scouting reports and I'm still going to be watching film."

Frankly, the Wildcats are leery of losing their edge.

"We've got to keep the momentum going," Schluter said. "Right now the KVC is over, but we're still going to win. Our goal right now is to go for the school record, and we're going to try and do that now."

Even though they captured the title and find themselves in a

situation where many teams would relax slightly, the Wildcats just aren't going to do that.

"They were excited at Hartland," Schluter said of the win. "They know the season's not over. That's their approach, and that's how the seniors are. They know they have a lot more to do."

Though they had a bit of a tougher time against the South Lyon Lions, a team that will be in their District and playing on their home court, the Wildcats were able to earn a 44-32 victory February 18.

It was a very close, one point game in the first half with the 'Cats leading 20-19 before heading into the locker room. Intense game play and an 18 point night from senior Chris Lewis helped Novi to the victory.

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

Trent Sisson: A wall before the goal

Wildcats blasts Northville to stay alive in Regional Tournament

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It definitely wasn't the game the Northville Mustangs were hoping to come out and play — but it was the game the Novi Wildcats wanted.

The 'Cats, led by coach Dan Phelps, and the 'Stungs, led by interim coach Chris Kozlowski, squared off at center ice in the first game of the Regional tournament and listened as the crowd cheered and the buzzer sounded to mark the end of the game and a 4-0 Novi win.

"Northville's a good team," Phelps said. "We knew we were going to have to play at the top of our game if we wanted to win this one."

Neither side played the best of their games this season, with the Mustangs struggling on the offensive end of things, even though they out shot the eventual victors 26-22 in the contest.

"Our plan was to play physical and to not get down on ourselves if we fell behind by a goal or two," Kozlowski said. "We just couldn't get a goal tonight. Their defense was standing us up, and their goalie was doing his job."

Indeed he was. Senior Trenton Sisson was spectacular between the posts, earning a post-season shutout with some incredible saves throughout the night. If the puck headed in his direction, he was stopping it cold. Truth be told, Phelps wasn't concerned with which goalie was going to be playing their Regional opener.

"We have the best goalie tandem in the state," he said. "When it comes to picking who starts, we might as well flip a coin. They are both solid players and they know what it takes to win. If we didn't go with Trent tonight, we would have been 100-percent comfortable with Danny (Morrison)."

The night started off fairly even between the two squads. Northville's goalie David Ely-Bond was busy stopping shots with some incredible saves of his own, but the Wildcats' persistence and determination finally found Justin Collins making his way through a crowd and scooping the puck past Ely-Bond's right pad for the score at 8:06 in the first period.

Northville came right back, taking two solid shots at the Novi net at 6:31 in the period and again at 5:20 when they were on the powerplay. Sisson was solid though, stopping both shots with a well-place glove.

"We were very happy with our defense," Phelps said. "They out shot us, but six or seven of the shots were from the outside."

With less than a minute left, and following an incredible sliding save



Wildcat goalie Dan Morrison keeps an eye on the puck as South Lyon forwards bear down on his net. Coach Dan Phelps noted that "We have the best goalie tandem in the state," and that it always seems like they have to flip a coin to see if Morrison or Trenton Sisson will get the start.

by Ely-Bond, Novi's lightning struck again. At 1:46 in the period, Robert Vulaj took the puck into the zone, made a deke to his left, and placed the puck on the top shelf and over Ely-Bond's right shoulder for the score and the 2-0 lead.

Though the Mustangs found themselves on the powerplay a lot more than Phelps and the Novi bench would have liked, it was the Wildcats who looked like they had the man-advantage on the ice. When Novi senior Jordan Collins found himself in the penalty box for tripping at 7:25 in the second, the Wildcats went on the offensive. Vulaj took a hard shot that rebounded nicely to Jared Perras, who found the back of the net with

a wrist-shot at 5:41 for the short-handed goal.

"They took advantage of a couple of our missed opportunities," Kozlowski said.

The third period found the Mustangs and the Wildcats sharing quite a bit of time in the penalty box, and emotions rising on the ice as well as in the stands.

At 8:50 in the final period, the Wildcats iced the scoring and the game. Jordan Collins made his way down the ice on a break-away before his shot bounded off the chest of Ely-Bond. Collins grabbed his own rebound and found Chaz Bulbuk as he skated into position in front of the net. The one-timer snagged the back of the net, giving

the Wildcats a 4-0 lead and the victory.

"I still have to believe that Northville is just as good as, if not better than, Novi," Kozlowski said. "We had some chances out there that we didn't capitalize on. We have strong goaltending and, when things are working right for us, a scoring offense. These last six games have been great with this team, and it has to do a lot with having someone in here that this team respects."

The Wildcats, who have won this particular Regional for three years straight, will have played the Ypsilanti Lincoln Rail Splitters Wednesday evening in their continued hunt for the title (after the

paper went to print). Though Lincoln isn't known for its hockey prowess, the team is still a threat.

"We have to play each game like it's our last," Phelps said. "Though Ypsilanti isn't known for being a hockey hot-bed, they are still a tough hockey team. We can't let our guard down any and have to go out there and keep doing what we are doing."

If the Wildcats were victorious in their Wednesday game, they will be in the Regional finals, slated to start at 7 p.m. at Novi Ice Arena tomorrow.

"We've managed a three-peat here," Phelps noted. "It's nice to win here, in front of the fans and the parents."

GAME OF THE WEEK

**Novi
Wildcats**

REMARKABLE SENIORS

Wildcats to compete in state finals

Jeziro, Churella will represent Novi High

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Though it wasn't the dominating season the Novi Wildcats had hoped they would have this year, they still managed to come away with a couple of victories competing in the state tournament.

After losing in the team district finals to Kensington Valley Conference rival Howell 39-33, the Wildcats looked to their four individual district qualifiers to do what they could in hopes of making it to the regionals.

The meet, which was held Feb. 15 at South Lyon High School, found senior Josh Churella staying undefeated yet again as he earned a bid to defend his two-time state champion moniker. Churella, who wrestles in the 135-pound weight class, beat Reec Cox from Westland John Glenn 16-1 in the finals.

Senior Craig Hearn took second place in the finals, losing to Matt Steintz from Catholic Central in the finals of the 112-pound division.

Senior Matt Jeziro also took

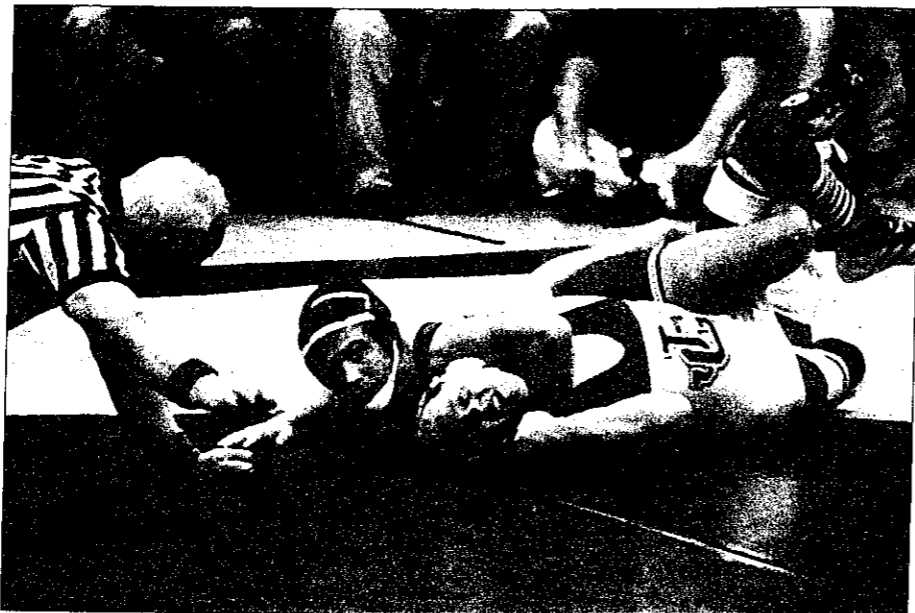
second place. Jeziro started the day out seeded fourth and managed to knock off the number one seed in the semi-finals. In the end, he lost to Jake Fairchild from Westland John Glenn in the 189-pound finals, 14-6.

Junior A.J. Morris was fourth in the 152-pound division. He won three matches on the day, but lost to Kian O'Donoue of Detroit Catholic Central in the consolation finals, 15-11.

In the team districts, the Wildcats found themselves losing 39-33 against the Howell Highlanders in the finals. It was the second year in a row the Highlanders have been the dark horse for the Novi grapplers and ended their season.

Churella won in the 140-pound division, while Morris earned a victory in the 152s. Jeziro was a winner in the 189-pound division, while heavy-weight Chad Thurman earned a victory of his own. Jason Sierra, wrestling at 103, 112-pound Hearn and Eric Hansen, at 130, all earned wins.

To advance to the finals, Novi beat Brighton 39-27, while Howell ousted South Lyon.



Novi's Josh Churella, wrestling in the 135-pound division, makes short work of his opponent from John Glen High School. Churella will be in the hunt for his third state title March 6-7 when he competes in the Individual State finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

HEADED TO INDIVIDUAL STATE FINALS

Novi has to be proud of their state-qualifying wrestlers this season. Senior Matt Jeziro will be looking to take on Grandville's stellar sophomore Eric Gritter in the 189-pound weight class while Josh Churella will have his task of facing Jeff Ogletree from Battle Creek Central in the first round of the state finals at 135.

Wrestler	School	Weight	Record
Josh Churella	Novi	135	44-0
Jeff Ogletree	BCC	135	41-15
Matt Jeziro	Novi	189	27-14
Eric Gritter	Grandville	189	35-7

This is the schedule of events for the state wrestling tournament, which is to be held at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Day	Round	Time
Thursday, March 6	Grand March	2:30 p.m.
	Round 1 Championship 1st round	2:45 p.m.
Friday, March 7	Round 2 Consolation 1st round	8:30 a.m.
	Round 3 Chmp. Quarterfinals	11 a.m.
	Round 4 Consolation 2nd round	2 p.m.
	Round 5 Championship Semifinals	7 p.m.
Saturday, March 8	Round 6 Consolation 3rd round	8:30 a.m.
	Round 7 Consolation Semifinals	10:10 a.m.
	Round 8 Consolation Finals	noon
	Grand March	4:30 p.m.
	Round 9 Finals	4:45 p.m.

Win streak stops cold

Whalers take loss after five straight victories

The Plymouth Whalers ran into a hot goaltender February 22 as they fell to the visiting Owen Sound Attack 2-1.

Attack goalie John Ceci turned away 31 of 32 shots including many spectacular saves down the stretch to preserve the win.

The Whalers now fall to 36-13-8-2 while Owen Sound improves to 25-26-5-3.

Owen Sound took it to the Whalers early and it paid off when Mark Giordano scored on the power play at 4:40 of the first to give the Attack a 1-0 lead. But Plymouth battled back with a number of top scoring chances, but Attack goalie John Ceci was equal to the task. The Whalers finally broke through with 33 seconds left in the first when John Mitchell roared a back hand to tie the game at 1-1. John Vigilante and David Lilfion assisted on the goal.

Both teams threatened in the second, but it was the Attack who took a 2-1 lead going into the third. Jeff MacDermid snuck one past Whalers goalie Paul Drew at 6:21 to give his team the lead. Andre Devaux picked up the lone assist.

Plymouth came on strong in the third, outscoring Owen Sound 18-9, but Ceci was equal to the task.



The Whalers then shut the door in the third with two more power play goals. This time it was LaRose scoring his league leading 53rd and 54th goals of the year to put the game away. Wisniewski assisted on both goals along with Thorburn and Ramsay.

Sam's Colin Baker added a late power play goal, but the Whalers held on for the win.



Under the watchful eye of coach Lindsay Schultz, right, gymnast Caitlin Miller performs a backflip on the balance beam during a home meet in early February.

Second place in the conference

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Though second place is still just short of many teams' goals for the season, it's nothing to thumb one's nose at.

The Northville-Novis gymnastics team, coached by Lindsey Schultz, aren't complaining about their second-place finish in their conference after collecting 141.025 points while Brighton took the title with a very close 142.925. Hartland was a close third with 139.875, and Livonia was fourth with 139.35.

The Wild 'Stangs were able to pull some nice finishes from a slew of athletes. Sara Wilchowski and Sarah Ilkhani-Pour had the best places of the day as they took seconds for the

squad. Wilchowski notched a second-place finish on the beam with a score of 9.25, while Ilkhani-Pour was second on the bars with an 8.95.

Third-place finishes went to Trish Brownfield on the beam with an 8.90 and Maggie Mills on the floor with a 9.05.

Brownfield also earned a fifth on the floor with an 8.65, while Amanda Crawford earned a fifth with an 8.80 in the same routine. Rachel Deneau was seventh on the floor routine with an 8.75 and Janna Ramsey and Ilkhani-Pour tied for 10th with an 8.55.

On the bars, Mills was fourth with an 8.80, while taking sixth on the vault with an 8.60.

Overall, Wilchowski finished third with 35.80 points on the day, while Mills was fourth with

34.65 total points.

Livonia Co-Op Meet

The Northville Mustangs ended their regular season in style, earning a 142.44-139.05 victory over their conference rivals February 17.

In the meet, Brownfield earned an 8.85 on the beam and an 8.6 on the floor, while Crawford notched an 8.65 on the floor. Deneau had a nice showing on the floor, earning an 8.95 for her routine, while Nika Frimkeno earned a 7.65 on the floor and a 7.75 on the vault.

Jessica Quincy collected an 8.9 on the vault, as well as an 8.20 on the bars, while Ilkhani-Pour was impressive across the board with an 8.15 on the vault, and 8.5 on the beam and 8.85 on both the bars and the floor.

Jenn Mehl collected an 8.35 on the bars and Caitlin Miller earned an 8.05 with her floor routine.

Mills had an impressive evening, scoring an 8.65 on the vault, an 8.90 on the bars and a 9.20 for her performance on the beam.

Cortney Paul was solid, scoring an 8.5 on the beam, while Ramsey collected an 8.0 on the bars and an 8.25 on the vault. Megan Wallen scored a nice 8.1 on the bars and an 8.4 on the vault.

Wilchowski was strong all night, scoring an 8.85 on the vault, a 9.3 with her floor routine, a 9.35 on the bars and a 9.45 on the beam. Amy Wild earned a 6.25 on the beam and Erin Yankovich had a good day with an 8.0 on the vault and an 8.45 on the floor exercise.

WILDCAT CALENDAR

HOME AWAY	THURSDAY 27	FRIDAY 28	SATURDAY 1	SUNDAY 2	MONDAY 3	TUESDAY 4	WEDNESDAY 5
⚾		Pickney 7:00			Districts at S. Lyon 5:30		Districts if w/r 5:30
🏐		River-Rat Invitational noon			Diving Regionals TBA		
🏎			MHSAA Regional TBA				
🏊		REGIONAL FINALS 7:00				MHSAA FINALS TBA	MHSAA FINALS TBA
NO EVENTS THIS WEEK							
🏈	MILFORD 6:00						DISTRICT TOURNEY 10 a.m.
NO EVENTS THIS WEEK							

Information provided by HomeTown Newspapers.

'Cats have good time, but won't be at states

By Sam Eggleston
and Michael Zerkich
HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

It's never easy to fall short of a team goal — especially when things looked to be so promising this season.

The Novi Wildcats cheerleading squad ended up just short of their season goal of going to the state finals when they took fourth place at the regional competition.

"Although the girls had three great performances, it just wasn't enough to end up on top," Novi coach Amy Denys said. "We had a tough region. Allen Park, Brighton, Novi and Southgate Anderson are all good teams, and any of the four were deserving of a chance to compete at the MHSAA State Meet next weekend."

The final results and tallies from the judges found Southgate Anderson finishing on top of the regional competition, collecting a total of 690.5 points, while Allen Park took second with 683.5 and Brighton finished in third with 678. Novi was fourth in the all-star pack, collecting 669.5 points while Bedford was behind them with 588.5.

The Wildcats had made changes in their program — specifically in round two — in hopes of having more of a competitive edge against the opponents.

"This past week we had lessened the number of athletes in our round two," Denys said. "This was the round where we had traditionally been behind other good teams this season."

Competing with only 10 girls in the round forced the Wildcats to limit the number of athletes in the first round to 12.

"We had been competing for many weeks with 14 and this had to make some major choreography alterations," Denys said. "The girls were receptive to the changes and worked very hard to make the transition smooth for everyone."

In round one, the Wildcats collected 186.5 points from the judges — a score Denys believed was less than they deserved.

"Even though I thought our round one was a phenomenal performance, the scores we received from the officials disappointed me," she said. "Of the top four teams, we performed first. In an arbitrary judging system, this can be a disadvantage because the officials tend to leave room for the teams they think may deserve higher scores. I believe my team was deserving of a little more in this round."

And that ended up being the case in round three as well, when Novi was awarded 284 points for their efforts.

CHEER EARNS HONORS

Even though they won't be at Lake Orion High School Saturday to compete in the state finals meet, the Novi High School cheer squad still earned some nice honors in their regional meet.

Lisa Matthey and Ashley Lazarus were named to the All-Regional Team for Region 3. It is an honor given to outstanding athletes in competitive cheer and is based on ability in gymnastics, stunting and jumps as well as leadership.

Coach Amy Denys was selected as the Regional Coach of the Year. It is an award given by the Competitive Cheer Coaches Association of Michigan and now qualifies Denys for the 2003 Michigan Competitive Coach of the Year award.

could as Allen Park won the division title with Novi following them.

Denys has kept an eye on the state title from the beginning of the year. She wanted to win the 10th event to keep their vision alive. Although they didn't win the event, Novi's chances remain very real to the team, their coach, and other top rival teams across the state.

Denys summed up her day finding more work to be done with her squad.

"I was hoping that we would have a close finish with AP (Allen Park)," she said. "They are a strong team but I thought we could give them a run for their money. It just wasn't our day."

"We began round one 7.5 points behind Allen Park. We scored 184.5 and they obtained 192. Needless to say, I was disappointed to see such a gap in the scores. My team had great floor presence and a lot of strength behind their performance. Although Allen Park lacked crowd pleasing facially and eye catching choreography, they definitely had very clean precise jumps. Unfortunately for us, this is how they took the lead early on in the day."

Though they had a strong round-two performance, the Wildcats didn't gain any ground on their rivals.

"Much to my dismay, round two did not bring us any closer to Allen Park," Denys said. "We received a 14 point penalty for an incorrectly executed skill. Several weeks ago, we had changed an element of our performance knowing that it may be seen as controversial. It had not gotten any feedback on the alteration; therefore, I assumed that it was an acceptable change. Obviously, it was not."

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MIR SOUTHGATE 20	SHOWCASE FERRISBURG	SHOWCASE ZEVANSVILLE
SHOWCASE MERRILLVILLE	SHOWCASE WESTLAND	STAR FAIRLANE 21
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STAR ROCHESTER	STAR SOUTHFIELD	UA COMMERCIAL STEADMAN

FOR MORE INFORMATION, AVOID THIS MOVIE
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Parent's and Seniors' Night in grand fashion.

The Pirates (34-5-1), 10-0 Kensington Valley Conference) posted a near-perfect 15-0, 15-3 KVC victory over South Lyon Thursday.

Pickney clinched a share of the KVC title Thursday. If the Pirates win Monday at Novi, they clinch their first KVC championship.



Matt Emmenecker

Emmenecker looking ahead to the future

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

With some student-athletes, a single question can lead to their entire life story being told. That is definitely not the case with Novi senior basketball player Matt Emmenecker.

"That'd be great," he said about playing basketball in college. "I don't want to have to drop it."

Though not sure of where he wants to attend for his next level of education, Emmenecker did note that he wouldn't mind playing basketball if given the chance. He said that he'd enjoy playing at a Division II school such as Saginaw Valley State University — the same college that is his current coach, Pat Schluter, played.

Emmenecker noted that this philosophy and program Schluter brings to the team is one of the reasons they are 17-1 on the season and the Kensington Valley Conference champions.

"He really preaches defense and we practice defense every day," he said. "It works out for us."

Though undecided what his future is going to hold, as he hasn't decided what he plans to study in college, he is looking forward to the remainder of this season.

"To go as far as we could would be great," he said, but added that the Wildcats have to be reasonable in their hunt for titles. "We have to take it one step at a time. If we get past the district, then we'll try to win a regional game."

The key is for the Wildcats to keep focused for the rest of the season and not to get too far ahead of themselves.

"We just have to keep doing what we're doing," he said. "We can't fall apart and we can't lose our motivation. We just can't stop putting out the effort that we've been putting out all year."

When he isn't busy shooting hoops or earning a 3.3 grade-point average, Emmenecker can be found hanging out with his friends and maybe playing some "HALO" on the Microsoft Xbox.

"And when he's not thumbing his way through video games, he's spending time with his girlfriend, snacking some eats at a Mongolian Barbeque or watching sports on television. Now and

KVC ROUND-UP

Brighton 58, Lakeland 40

Since it was Senior Night, as well as the Brighton varsity basketball team's last home game of the season, there was more hoopla than usual in Brighton's gymnasium Friday night.

The Bulldogs looked a bit disoriented in the first half, but got down to business in the second, scoring 18 points in each of the last two stanzas to claim a 58-40 win over Lakeland to improve their Kensington Valley Conference record to 8-4 and their overall record to 13-6.

The Bulldogs knocked Lakeland out of a three-way tie for second with the victory. Brighton now shares second place with Pinckney.

Basketball

Forest Hills Central 5, Howell 4 (OT)

The Highlanders couldn't hold onto a 4-1 lead and lost midway through overtime in their regular-season finale.

Howell (9-11-3) outshot Forest Hills Central 40-24, but the host Rangers won the game on their only shot in overtime.

Hockey

Howell goalie Chris Parrott on a shot from a bad angle.

Howell got out to a 4-1 lead early in the third period on goals by Justin Palm, Jim Mueller, Lee Kapanowski and Greg Pellegrin. Jon Madden added two assists.

Wrestling

Hartland Wins Regional

A big wave of momentum carried the Hartland wrestling team to another Division 1 regional championship Wednesday.

The Eagles (23-9) used a Kevin Dorezo pin to spark a 39-27 win over Kensington Valley Conference rival Howell (22-3) in the semifinals. In the final match, Hartland took control in the middle.

Pinckney over South Lyon

Before a strong contingent of family, friends and Pinckney volleyball team celebrating Parents' and Seniors' Night in grand fashion.

The Pirates (34-5-1), 10-0 Kensington Valley Conference) posted a near-perfect 15-0, 15-3 KVC victory over South Lyon Thursday.

Pickney clinched a share of the KVC title Thursday. If the Pirates win Monday at Novi, they clinch their first KVC championship.

Milford Sends Four To States

For the first time in school-history, Milford will be sending four wrestlers to the state championship tournament.

Levi Desjarlais (160), Nick Ochaduez (135), Phil Rashid (135) and Matt Thome (119) all qualified for the event by finishing in the top-four of their respective weight class at the regional tournament.

Just Give Me The Rock!

With March Madness upon us, this game is a must for fans

By Sam Eggleston
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

It's back — March Madness, that is. The crew over at 989 Studio's knows it too, so they've been kind enough to put the action right in the palm of your hand with the newest installment of NCAA Final Four.

This year, there are plenty of ways to quench your hoops fever with plenty of game modes to really get into such as Dynasty, Season and Career.

Season takes gamers through an entire season of college basketball — that's twenty-eight

games including a conference championship tournament for those who are counting. Meanwhile Career mode is a multi-season deal as gamers begin their careers as a Graduate Assistant and work your way to Head Coach. In Dynasty mode, a mode that will surely be a favorite, are for those gamers looking for a longer mode with much to do. Here you take your favorite college team through many seasons and you can even build up their skills by putting your players through rigorous workouts to improve their free-throws or other skills each player needs work with.

The other modes such as Exhibition, Quick Start, Tournament and Arcade have been seen before but are still welcome additions to the game. You can lead your favorite team or school (there are 303 division teams from Jacksonville to Kent State) in an Exhibition match or Quick Start game that puts you directly into the game. If you want to play a fast paced intense game then try Arcade mode. There is enough here to satisfy any bas-

ketball fan. The controls are pretty fluid with a bunch of new offensive and defensive moves for my nephew to master and dominate me with. The right analog stick is now used to make neat spin moves, behind-the-back dribbles and a few other moves with great ease. There are also rating icons below the feet of star players and icons indicating which player is the fastest or a great shooter. The icons work both ways so you know who the star of the other team is so you can have one of your players keep an eye out on him. The game looks and flows

smoothly, with the overhead stadium lights casting a reflection on the glossy hardwood floor or a player's body. Each college stadium looks nice enough with bleachers filled with enthusiastic sports fans. The fans also play a big part in the sound as well. Slam the rock down on a dunk and they are going to blow the roof off with cheering. The only problem I had with this game is the obviously not-passing-college members of the team that you don't control when they don't have the ball. They have a problem with not looking to see where they are on the court

and if you try a lob-pass it's probably going to end up with them out of bounds. You learn fast though, picking up on the fact that you can use icon-passing to get out of that little rut in a hurry. NCAA Final Four 2003 is enough for any fan to get their fill of college basketball. It's fast, it's furious and it has everything from intentional fouling to thundering jams. What more can you ask for out of a college basketball game? The only thing missing is the illegal office pool that is run by that shady character in accounting.

Playstation 2 video game review

SCREEN BEAT

By Brian Renner
THE MOVIE INSIDER

Coming to theaters this weekend is the action-thriller "Cradle 2 The Grave." When his daughter is kidnapped and held in exchange for priceless diamonds, the leader of a crew of highly skilled urban thieves (DMX) forges an unlikely alliance with a Taiwanese intelligence officer (Jet Li) to rescue her. Their race against the clock to find the precious stones ultimately unravels a plot to distribute a deadly new weapon of war. The film combines the power and beauty of Eastern martial arts, the grittiness of Western street fighting and some of the most

intricate, spectacular stunt sequences ever filmed. "The fights in this film are fresh and unique," promises producer Joel Silver, who uses the phrase "hip-hop kung fu" to describe the film genre he and director Andrzej Barkowski have pioneered with a handful of other hip urban action pictures. "Cradle 2 The Grave" is a Warner Bros. Pictures release and is rated R for violence, language and some sexual content.

Tense psychological drama "Spider" follows Dennis Clegg (Ralph Fiennes), a London mental patient, newly released from the hospital. Dennis, nicknamed "Spider" by his mother has been institutionalized with acute schizo-

phrenia for some 20 years. He has never truly recovered, however, and as the story progresses we experience his increasingly fragile grip on reality. Shaun Sages, resident New York journalist for The Movie Insider, caught an advance screening of "Spider," and his review was positive with three and half out of four stars. As he states, "Venturing through the memories of mumbling schizophrenic Dennis Clegg is no simple task, but under the direction of David Cronenberg, character psychology is translated into exciting visuals that keep the audience interested even when it isn't clear where the story is headed." "Spider" is a Sony Pictures Classics release and

rated R for sexuality, brief violence and language.

Southern-set independent romance "All the Real Girls" follows Paul (Paul Schneider), who is linked romantically with every girl in town, falls in love with his best friend's younger sister. Paul must try to prove to everyone that this time he is actually in love. Kyle Smith, resident Chicago journalist for The Movie Insider, caught an advance screening of "All the Real Girls," and his review was positive with three and half out of four stars. As he states, "With a wave of flashy up-and-coming directors garnering attention by moving to Hollywood and sporting big budgets/stars, it's refreshing to see

writer-director, David Gordon Green making personal movies with his buddies down home. "All the Real Girls" is a Sony Pictures Classics release and rated R for language and some sexuality.

Next week

Internet dating comedy "Bringing Down the House" (PG-13), African jungle flavored "Tears of the Sun" (R), and supernatural romance "Till Human Voices Wake Us" (R).

Video and DVD

Ensemble drama "Knockaround Guys" (R), crime drama "Road to Perdition" (R), Victorian-era magi-

cal romance "Tuck Everlasting" (PG) and action/comedy "The Tuxedo" (PG-13).

DVD

"30 Odd Foot of Grunts: Texas" (NR), "Beauty and the Beast: Belle's Magical World" (Special Edition) (DTS), "Dark Shadows: DVD Collection 4" (NR), "Farscape: Season 2, Vol. 5" (2-DVD Set) (NR), "Fireball XLS: The Complete Series" (5-DVD Set) (NR).

For more information, please log on to The Movie Insider at www.themovieinsider.com. Please direct any questions, comments, and/or feedback to brian@themovieinsider.com.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Ginger is "in" even though it never really went out. Gingerbread and ginger-snaps are old-fashioned deserts as American as apple pie. Their tanginess is due to dried versus fresh ginger, which has always been readily available. Then there is candied ginger



Mary Brady

that lends itself well to baking. Or picked ginger served as an accompaniment with oriental food, is refreshing and tart.

The "new wave" ginger of today's innovative cooks is fresh. Ginger has been essential in Asian cooking for centuries, but it is a comparative newcomer to our western culture. Tourists returning from Hawaii and soldiers coming home from the war brought home a taste for the real thing.

Ginger paired with fish, poultry and meats is becoming

commonplace.

As with any other ancient herbs and spices, ginger was originally used as a medication and preservative. Bronchial maladies, bad kidneys, aching joints and skin infections are a few of the recuperative properties accredited to ginger.

Ginger is a hot spice plant with thick branching rhizomes or stems. It is native to the East Indies, Malaya, and New Guinea and was cultivated by the Chinese and Hindus thousands of years before Christ.

Ancient Romans knew of ginger, the French used it in medieval times, the Spanish brought the plants out of the West Indies in the early 1500s and the plants flourished. Jamaica was exporting great quantities to Europe as early as 1547. The British have made ginger an essential ingredient in hundreds of dishes including chutney, cakes and candies.

It is rumored that Queen Elizabeth I, a ginger lover, invented gingerbread men when she had her cook make gingerbread portraits of each guest for a feast.

An endless list of interesting figures were ginger fanatics including Mark Twain and Winston Churchill.

To prepare fresh ginger, cut the skin away with a sharp knife. Crush the peeled ginger with the flat blade of a French knife. The crushed ginger will be easier to chop now as its fibers are separated. It is also possible to grate peeled ginger for use in marinades and dressings.

A nice Julianne strewn over

Looking to try some of Chef Mary Brady's cooking? Her expertise is put to good use at Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro.

food is a zesty garnish.

For baking, dried, ground ginger is the most desirable. Preserved ginger is most commonly used as a flavoring for ice cream.

Ginger in syrup cannot be used interchangeably with the candied ginger as their textures differ greatly.

When purchasing ginger, look for firm, fresh tubers. Any wrinkling indicates age. The shelf life of ginger is two weeks to a month under refrigeration.

For longer storage, simply freeze. Wrap well in plastic to prevent freezer burn. It is significant to note that ginger should be used conservatively as its peppery, spicy essence can overpower easily. Say "yes" to ginger!

Mary Brady is a certified executive chef and co-owner of Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro in the Novi Town Center. If you have culinary questions or comments for chef Mary Brady, you can contact her via e-mail at djbistro@aol.com.

VIRTUAL VIC

My boyfriend has hinted that he finds belly piercings attractive. I'm considering getting one to surprise him on his birthday, but I'm wondering how much it hurts for the initial piercing, as well as the dangers associated with it?

Non-Pierced in Novi

Dear Non-Pierced in Novi,

A belly piercing huh? Well, you wouldn't be the first and will definitely not be the last as navel piercings have become very popular.

The body adornment received a huge popularity burst since celebrities such as Britney Spears started showing them off and seem to go well with midriff baring T-shirts and low-waisted pants.

It is good to hear you are considering the health risks associated with body piercings.

Most piercings are safe when performed by a professional.

The first thing you need to know is the piercing studio you choose must have a working autoclave.

An autoclave is used for the sterilization of all reusable equipment.

In fact, your piercer should remove the forceps, needle, jewelry and any other metal equipment from an autoclave bag in your presence. An autoclave bag is a long, skinny pouch used to hold the equipment during sterilization.

Second, make sure your piercing artist wears medical gloves at all times.

Experts at www.tattoos.about.com say ungloved hands should never come in contact with your skin or any of the piercing equipment or jewelry.

Another important piece of information is under no circumstance should you be pierced anywhere on your body with a piercing gun. A clean, sterile body piercing approved needle should always be used.

Also, experts say the first piece of jewelry going into your belly should be a captive bead ring or barbell.

Experts say for maximum protection against infection even the pen a piercer uses to mark the piercing spot before inserting the needle should be brand new and thrown away after each use.

And do not be embarrassed or afraid to walk out of the studio if you do not feel it is a safe environment, even if you are set and ready to be pierced.

The overall goal is to have an infectionless piercing.

Experts do say some crusting of the piercing area will happen and that is part of the normal healing period, so don't be alarmed. Crusting around the piercing area is just the result of your body trying to heal itself.

After a couple weeks, you will see less or possibly even no crusting.

Now, about the pain.

According to piercing artists, it does hurt.

Experts say some people are more sensitive to pain than others so it is hard to say how much the piercing will hurt you.

The main point to remember is most piercings last less than 30 seconds, so if you can handle pain for about 30 seconds than you will be fine.

According to seasoned piercers, it is over so fast, most patrons don't even have time to think about the pain.

After the piercing is done, you will be given a list of instructions on how to care for your piercing.

As long as you follow the care list, you shouldn't have any problems.

Now this is just an overview of information, so I recommend you discuss your decision further with a piercing professional and your parents if you are younger than 18.

I also encourage you to make sure your decision is based on what you want for yourself.

Anything involving putting a hole in your body should be done for the right reasons. Although I'm sure your boyfriend would love the surprise, make sure your decision to have your navel pierced is based on what you want to do to with your body and not want someone else wants to see on your body.

If you make your own decisions, you will not be let down in the future. Respecting your body, tastes and the ability to make your own decisions is just as important as the actual safety issues surrounding a body piercing.

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

Novi News

NOVI TOWN CENTER 8

Oscar Contest!

First Place - 52 pairs of passes
Second Place - 52 single passes
Third Place - 26 single passes
Random drawing held for other pairs of passes

Best Picture

- Chicago
- Gangs of New York
- The Hours
- Lord of the Rings-Two Towers
- The Pianist

Best Supporting Actor

- Chris Cooper
- Ed Harris
- Paul Newman
- John C. Reilly
- Christopher Walken

Best Actor

- Adrien Brody
- Nicolas Cage
- Michael Caine
- Daniel Day-Lewis
- Jack Nicholson

Best Supporting Actress

- Kathy Bates
- Julianne Moore
- Queen Latifah
- Meryl Streep
- Catherine Zeta-Jones

Best Actress

- Salma Hayek
- Nicole Kidman
- Diane Lane
- Julianne Moore
- Renee Zellweger

Tie Breaker Best Foreign Film

- El Crimen Del Padre Amaro
- The Man Without a Past
- Nowhere in Africa
- Zus & Zo
- Hero

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Only one entry per person. Please send to:

Mail
Novi Town Center 8
26085 Town Center Drive
Novi, Mich. 48375
Fax
(248) 380-2870

All forms must be received by
Saturday, March 22, 2003.

GINGER BEEF SALAD

Salad

- 2 pounds Julienne beef
- 3 cups cooked wild rice
- 1 cup green peas
- 3/4 cup each: chopped green onions, celery, sweet red pepper, and toasted almonds
- 1 head washed lettuce of your choice

Dressing

- 3/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 2 T. red wine vinegar
- 2 teaspoons grated fresh ginger
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- Add salt, and pepper to taste

Shake and chill several hours. Toss lettuce and a small amount of dressing and arrange on plates. Mix beef, rice and vegetables. Shake dressing and pour over mixture. Toss. Serve at room temperature. Serves four as a main course. Chicken may be substituted for beef.

Recipe provided by chef Mary Brady of Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro.

Plus

HomeTown

Thursday, February 27, 2003

A supplement to
Milford Times • Northville Record • Novi News • South Lyon Herald

Study animals, author says, but don't imitate them

By Louise Knott Ahern
THE (RIVERSIDE) PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Mariene Zuk's lab at the University of California, Riverside, sings like a summer night.

On tables and in the refrigerator are boxes full of crickets humming in unison. But Zuk, a biology professor, quickly points out that their soothing songs actually present a dangerous dilemma.

The species of Australian cricket that Zuk studies has an unfortunate problem. In addition to possible mates, its song also attracts a predator fly. Drawn by the cricket's call, the fly lands on its back, burrows inside and deposits larva. Eventually, the cricket dies.

So, to reproduce, the cricket must risk its life.

Zuk can sum up her research with one question: "What happens when sex and the rest of your life oppose each other?"

In her book, "Sexual Selection: What We Can and Can't Learn About Sex From Animals," Zuk, 46, explores the tendency by some humans to use animal behavior to justify their own actions.

It's not that she discounts the idea that humans can learn from animals — that is, after all, her life's work. But from monogamy to motherhood, homosexuality to male aggression, Zuk challenges how some people use animal behavior to promote their own agendas.

"Birds cheat on their mates, so does that mean philandery in marriage is natural?" she asked. "You're using animal behavior to further your own agenda without seeing what the animals actually do. You see what you want to see." Example: bonobos.

These peace-loving cousins to the chimpanzee, discovered in the early 20th century, are gaining pop-culture attention for their free-loving ways. Bonobos have a lot of sex, but they don't display a lot of violence. So some scientists, according to Zuk's book, have jumped on the bonobo craze to promote a "make love, not war" model of society.

The problem with this, Zuk argues, is that humans tend to seek out specific behaviors that fit their own biases and agendas. She argues that if bonobos had been discovered in a different time, humans might have viewed their society through a different lens given the "paradigm of the day."

Her point? Study animals for the sake of studying animals and to find ideas for new ways of doing things, but don't take it too far.

"Look at snow geese," Zuk said. "Snow geese are monogamous for life. You don't see them wandering around, looking at hamsters and saying, 'Gee, maybe we should be more like them.'"

HEALTH BRIEFS

It can't hurt to get a second opinion

When it comes to serious medical conditions, getting a "second opinion" is often not only a good idea, it can be a requirement.

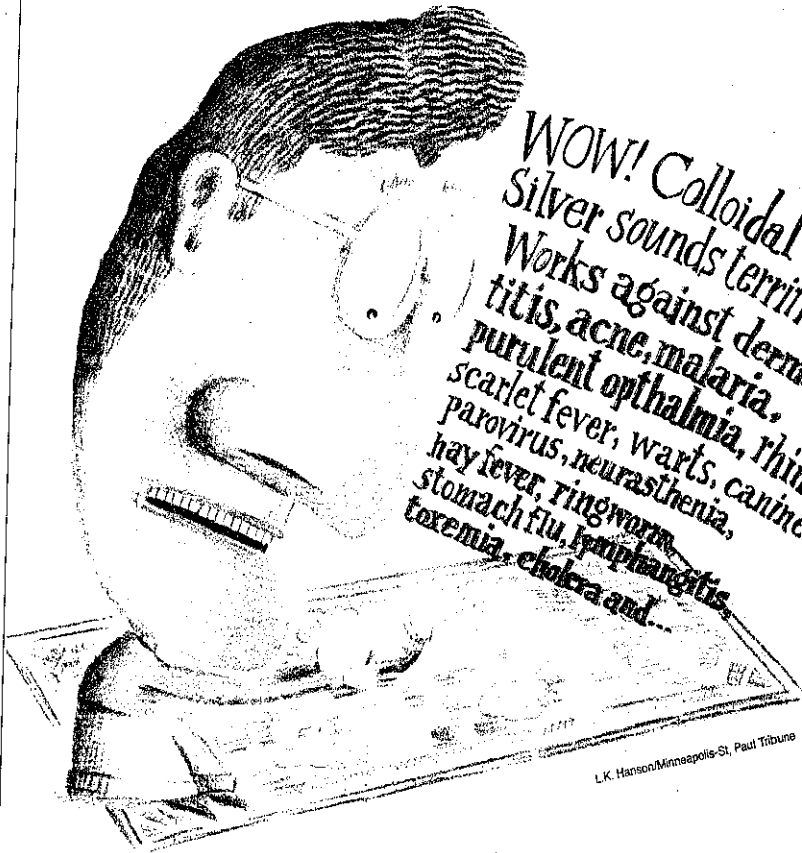
Health insurers will, in some cases, insist on a second opinion before they'll agree to pay for an unusual or particularly expensive medical procedure.

Typically, consumers may demand a second opinion because their doctor - or their health plan - is not willing to approve an operation on the grounds it is "medically unnecessary."

The American Heart Association advises patients to seek a second opinion in many circumstances:

- If the treatment your doctor recommends has "significant risk."
 - If you feel rushed to make a decision and want more information.
 - If the treatment will greatly affect your lifestyle, work or family.
 - If you don't have full confidence in the treatment or the doctor.
- "Don't worry about hurting the doctor's feelings when you ask for one," the Heart Association advises on its Web site, www.americanheart.org.

— SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE



L.K. Hanson/Minneapolis-St. Paul Tribune

WWW.CURES

Wacky wonder cures can be found in abundance on the Internet. Doctors recommend a healthy dose of skepticism.

By Jill Burcum
MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL STAR TRIBUNE

Feling run down? Have headaches? Plagued by pimples? Can't sleep? Worried about West Nile virus and other exotic diseases?

The Internet has health remedies for you — ones that often promise cures, sometimes with a single miracle product.

Although this virtual medicine cabinet offers some legitimate health products, it's also filled with dozens that range from wacky to dangerous.

Traditional and alternative medical experts were asked to weigh in on four common but unusual remedies hawked on the Web. The verdict? Avoid them. One widely promoted product can turn the skin blue permanently. Another can set fire to the eardrum.

The Web may be a new way to find medical treatments, experts said, but some old advice still applies. Be skeptical about any product whose claims sound too good to be true. Use common sense. If something seems silly or harmful, don't try it.

EAR CANDLING

Promoted on dozens of Web sites, ear candling involves using a hollowed-out lit candle to suck wax, fungus and other bugs that cause disease out of the ear canal.

Enthusiasts claim it improves hearing, cures allergies and headaches, restores brain function, clears sinus infections, stops vertigo and tinnitus (ringing of the ears) and activates the immune system. Another supposed benefit: spiritual and emotional balance.

Dr. Sam Levine, a University of Minnesota ear, nose and throat specialist, has a different opinion. About the only thing ear candling does, he said, is provide an opportunity to set yourself on fire.

"This is dangerous," said Levine, who has seen patients with burned ears, eardrums or heads. "All kinds of horrible things can happen."

During ear candling, the candle flame is pointed away from the head. The candle's base is inserted into the ear canal (promoters recommend a snug fit). Lighting the candle is said to create a vacuum effect, sucking air, wax and other things up through the candle and out.

Levine said this doesn't happen. Actually, ear candling leaves a wax residue inside the ear, he said, potentially causing obstruction. He worries that people with serious ear medical conditions won't see a doctor if they turn to ear candling.

"If you have excessive drainage, ear wax or tinnitus or hearing loss, you need to find out why," Levine said. "If you think you have something wrong with your ear, see a physician."

"Bleach is a very effective germicide. But you wouldn't tell someone with an infection that they should go out and drink it."

Richard Kingston
PROSAR International Poison Center, St. Paul, Minn.

COLLOIDAL SILVER

As a physician specializing in alternative medicine at the Midwest Wellness Center in Bloomington, Minn., Dr. Kevin Wand is open to using herbal products and other supplements to help patients stay healthy.

A product he does not recommend is colloidal silver, one of the most widely promoted supplements on the Internet. Among the claims: It wards off West Nile virus and other infectious diseases, and may protect against smallpox and other bioterrorism agents.

"I try to talk patients out of it," said Wand, noting that he doesn't always succeed because the Internet claims are so persuasive. The major concern is that silver is a heavy metal. "There can be toxic reactions," he said.

Another problem: Too much silver in the diet can turn the skin permanently blue-gray — a condition known as argyria, said Richard Kingston, a dietary supplement expert who is vice president and senior toxicologist at the PROSAR International Poison Center in St. Paul, Minn.

Colloidal silver products are sold as liquid supplements. The term "colloidal" means the silver droplets are suspended and distributed equally throughout a liquid.

Silver does have antibacterial properties, Kingston said. That's why it once was used as a disinfectant for the skin and eyes, he said. Mercury, another heavy metal, also can kill disease-causing bugs and was once used similarly.

But just because something may kill bugs on surfaces doesn't mean it's a good idea to add it to the diet.

"Bleach is a very effective germicide," Kingston said. "But you wouldn't tell someone with an infection that they should go out and drink it."

Other potential effects of too much silver include reduced brain function and kidney damage, Kingston said. Pregnant

women who ingest too much silver risk fetal abnormalities.

Silver stays in the body a long time, Kingston said. That means it's relatively easy to build up potentially dangerous levels in tissue.

COLONICS

Mayo Clinic gastroenterologist Dr. G. Richard Locke has a standard response for patients who ask about colonics — a technique that floods the lower intestine with water to clean it out.

While colonics probably aren't harmful, Locke doesn't recommend them. And there's no evidence that waste remaining in the colon causes build-up of toxic chemicals in the body. Wand tells patients the same thing.

Locke said he is intrigued by continued interest in colonics, a "treatment" that's been advertised since the late 1800s by various self-proclaimed practitioners. Locke attributes the interest to a common complaint: constipation. A lot of people have it, he said, and it leads to bloating and fullness.

For those who are constipated, Locke recommends trying self-care approaches first. The colon works best in the morning and after meals, he said. It's also stimulated by exercise. A hearty morning breakfast followed by a good walk will help most people.

If that's not effective, fiber laxatives are a good next step, he said. For those who seek medical care for the problem, prescription laxatives are available.

Those over 50 should also seek out a doctor for constipation instead of a colonic practitioner, Locke said. Chronic constipation could be a sign of cancer.

VINEGAR

According to Internet ads, drinking a lot of vinegar cures arthritis, depression, strengthens heart and blood vessels, normalizes blood pressure, cleans out the digestive tract and aids weight loss.

Mayo Clinic nutrition specialist Dr. Donald Hensrud said there's no proof that vinegar does anything beyond adding a little tang to salads and other foods.

"This is just another food — like the grapefruit diet or the cabbage soup diet — that people have latched onto," Hensrud said.

While supplementing the diet with extra vinegar is unlikely to do much harm, Hensrud cautioned that in extreme amounts it could affect the body's pH level, making the blood and tissues more acidic. Among other things, this could lead to increased loss of calcium in urine.

For arthritis, weight loss and other problems, Hensrud said, traditional treatments are a better bet.



Photo courtesy of AcuBead

Reducing pain by pinching ear just a little

'AcuBead' strips use principals of acupuncture in unconventional way

By Nolan Zavoral
MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL STAR TRIBUNE

Tom and Lorraine Sendecky of Minneapolis celebrated their 50th anniversary this month, the second milestone that Tom recently reached.

"I went 38 days without taking a pill for my headaches," said Sendecky, a migraine sufferer for more than half of his 77 years. "For me, that's unbelievable."

So may be path that he took: titanium beads arranged on hypoallergenic adhesive strips. Developed by two Twin Cities physicians and sold over the counter in pharmacies and some supermarkets, AcuBead strips — positioned on the ear depending on the desired result — are touted as possible remedies for migraine and tension headaches, neck and shoulder pain or lower back and pelvic pain.

The strips cost \$20 to \$25 for about a month's supply. One version of the product, called SlenderBeads, is marketed as a way to lose weight by suppressing appetite.

The beads work on acupuncture principles, in which the ear is viewed as a map, with certain locations corresponding to parts of the body. By pressing on the targeted place on the ear, pain control or hunger impulses may be managed elsewhere in the body, proponents say.

The ears have many nerves — more than any other part of the head, said Dr. George Kramer, who did the early work on the product before Dr. Frederick Strobl joined him.

"You've got four cranial nerves and two cervical nerves on the ear," said Kramer, a consulting skeletal-muscular specialist with the alternative medicine clinic at Hennepin Faculty Associates. "Those nerves stimulate reflexes in the brain stem, to block pain and release endorphins, the natural painkillers."

Six years ago, Kramer began using tape to place beads on patients' ears for pain relief. When they felt pain, they were told to squeeze the beads, producing acupuncture, a practice similar to acupuncture without the needlelike insertions.

The beads worked for many patients, Kramer said, in the same way that centuries ago pain sufferers in China benefited from pressure at certain points on their ears. But there was one problem with Kramer's early effort: The beads fell off easily.

A friend suggested that Kramer hook up with Strobl, a neurologist and director of the Minneapolis Clinic of Neurology. Strobl initially got into medicine to design products (he was co-founder of the company that produces Breathe Right nasal strips) and ended up treating about 3,000 pain patients a year.

Acupuncture and acupuncture remain controversial in the medical establishment.

Nevertheless, in a 1998 study reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association, a panel concluded that acupuncture "may be useful as an adjunct treatment or an acceptable alternative or be included in a comprehensive management program."

Strobl said he welcomed skepticism. "Some of our best advocates of the product are skeptics," he said. "We say try it, or try it on a relative. Then they become advocates."

Plus HomeTown FOOD

p.o.m.e.g.r.a.n.a.t.e.s

By Lee Svitak Dean
MINNEAPOLIST-ST. PAUL STAR TRIBUNE

Never mind the familiar story: Eve didn't use an apple to tempt Adam. Scholars now think the object of interest was a pomegranate, which means "apple with many seeds."

Once wild throughout the Mediterranean region and Far East, the fruit was one of the early domesticated crops, along with olives, grapes, figs and dates — planted first in Persia.

The pomegranate serves as a recurring theme in art, architecture, myth and legend. In a variety of cultures, its abundance of seeds serves as a symbol of fertility, hope, prosperity and everlasting life. And no wonder. Those seeds are as lush and plentiful as caviar mounded in a bowl.

Among the ancient stories of pomegranates:

■ In medieval art, the fruit appears with unicorns, which are often tethered to a pomegranate tree that represents eternal life.

■ In Greek myth, pomegranates were said to be the favorite food of the gods. (And who could argue with that?)

■ In Buddhist legend, a demoness who devoured children was cured of her evil habit by eating a pomegranate given to her by Buddha.

■ And there's much more: The pomegranate decorated the pillars of King Solomon's Temple. As a symbol of Christian resurrection, it appeared on statues and in paintings of Mary and child.

■ And, perhaps most important for cooks, the first sherbet was pomegranate juice mixed with snow.

As Eve said to Adam: "Tempting?"

Pomegranates may be one of the most labor-intensive fruits to prepare. Which isn't to say it's a difficult task; it just takes a while to separate the seeds, especially when the process is new. (It's a little bit like removing the seeds from watermelon in order to juice the fruit — not something you'd choose to do everyday, but it's doable.)

Of course, you can buy bottled pomegranate juice in some supermarkets and at Mediterranean specialty stores. But that ease removes the very tactile pleasure — and challenge — of plucking the seeds from the fruit.

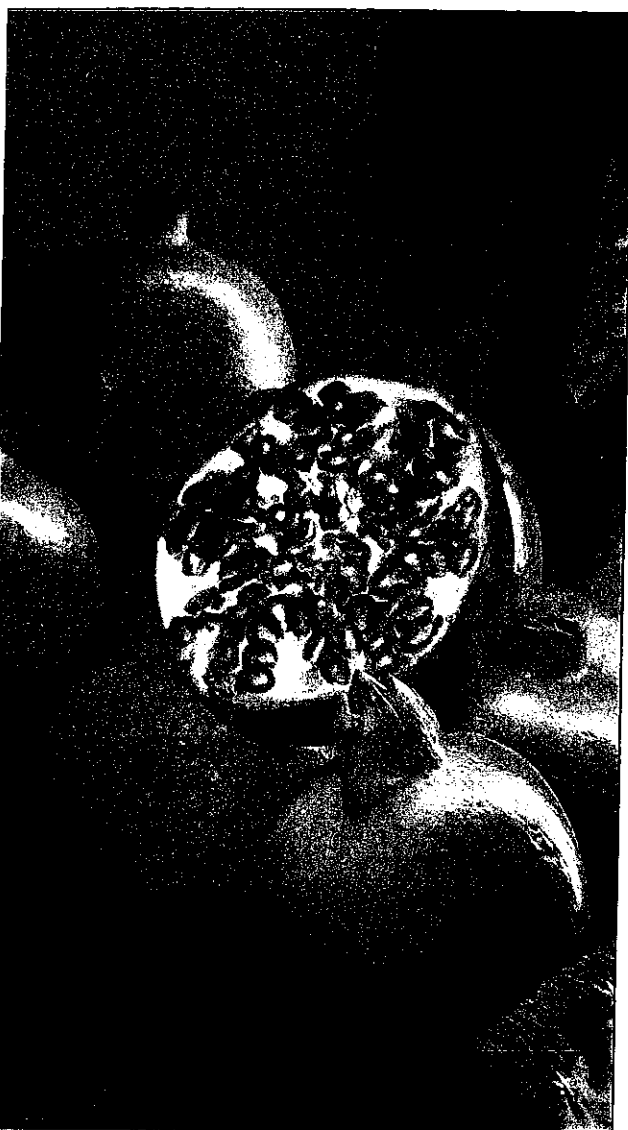


Photo illustration by Tom Wallace / Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune

POMEGRANATE CHEESECAKE

(Serves 10)

1-1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
1/4 cup melted butter
1/2 cup water
1 (1/4-ounce) package unflavored gelatin
3 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, at room temperature
3/4 cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 pomegranates
1 cup heavy cream

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Combine cracker crumbs thoroughly with melted butter, and press into the bottom and up 1 inch on the sides of a 9-inch springform pan. Bake for 10 minutes. Cool completely.

Place the water in a small saucepan and sprinkle the gelatin over the water. Let set for 5 minutes, then heat, stirring until gelatin has dissolved fully. Set aside to cool.

Mix the cream cheese, sugar and vanilla until fluffy. Mix in gelatin. Set aside.

Remove seeds from pomegranates. Whip the cream until stiff. Gently but completely mix cream cheese and 1/2 cup pomegranate seeds into the whipped cream. Spoon into prepared, cooled crust. Smooth out the top. Refrigerate for 2 hours or until set. Store remaining pomegranate seeds, covered, in the refrigerator.

To serve, remove cheesecake from pan. Top with remaining pomegranate seeds.

— Source: Pom Wonderful, growers of the Wonderful pomegranate in California

least 6 hours.

Prepare grill to medium heat or preheat oven to broil. Remove meat from marinade, reserving marinade. Thread meat onto six skewers (preferably metal). Cook, turning often and basting once with marinade, until meat is well-browned outside but pink in the center (about 10 to 15 minutes on grill; less time if broiled). Serve with rice pilaf.

— Source: Pom Wonderful

ARUGULA SALAD WITH POMEGRANATES AND TOASTED HAZELNUTS

(Serves 6)

1/3 cup hazelnuts
1 pomegranate
6 generous handfuls of arugula or mixed greens, washed and dried
1/2 tablespoon red wine vinegar
1-1/2 tablespoons aged balsamic vinegar
6 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
Salt and pepper

To toast hazelnuts, spread the shelled nuts in a shallow pan and roast in a 275-degree oven for 20 to 30 minutes or until the skins crack. To remove skins, rub the hazelnuts while warm with a rough cloth. Chop coarsely. Remove the seeds from the pomegranate.

Put the greens in a large salad bowl and add the vinegars, olive oil and salt and pepper to taste. Toss, making sure all the leaves are evenly coated. Taste and adjust the seasoning as necessary. Add the toasted hazelnuts and pomegranate seeds, toss again and serve.

— Source: From "Chez Panisse Fruit," by Alice Waters

LAMB KEBABS WITH POMEGRANATE MARINADE

(Serves 6)

(Note: Baste the kebabs early in the cooking process so that the marinade has at least 5 minutes to cook through.)

1/2 cup pomegranate juice
1/4 cup salad oil
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1-1/2 teaspoons salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
2 cloves garlic, minced or pressed
2 lb. boneless lamb shoulder or leg, cut into 1-1/2-inch cubes

In a large bowl, stir together pomegranate juice, oil, lemon juice, salt, pepper and garlic. Add lamb and stir to coat. Cover and refrigerate at

PINK JADE

(Serves 1)

You can mix the juices and the optional vodka up to a day ahead, and store, covered, in the refrigerator. Add the sparkling water just before serving.

1/3 cup pomegranate juice
1/4 cup orange juice
1/4 cup sparkling water
3 tablespoons vodka, optional

In a large glass, mix pomegranate juice with orange juice, sparkling water and vodka, if desired. Add ice cubes.

— Source: the Pomegranate Council

Shepherd's Pie receives touch of the Caribbean

By Marie Oser
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Shepherd's Pie was originally created as an economical way to use leftovers. This honey dish is built on a filling that's generally made with ground or diced meat, mixed with gravy and sometimes vegetables. The filling is then topped with mashed potatoes, and baked until hot and the topping is browned.

Caribbean Shepherd's Pie is an interesting fusion and a delicious variation on this traditional English dish.

In Caribbean Shepherd's Pie, two high-fat and heart-heavy dishes are recreated and combined into one tasty entree. Whereas the traditional filling for Shepherd's Pie is minced lamb, our delicious filling is based on the popular Caribbean dish, Picadillo.

A favorite stand-alone dish in many Spanish countries, Picadillo is usually made with chopped beef, pork or veal, and tomatoes, with spices and presentation that reflect a particular region. In Cuba Picadillo is served as an entree with rice and beans, while in Mexico it is often used as a stuffing in various dishes.

Our rendition uses a soy-based ground beef alternative to create the Picadillo filling, and fresh lime juice, golden raisins and Mexican stewed tomatoes combine to replicate the tropical penchant for a balance of warm spice and citrus flavors.

Wholesome and widely available, Barbara's Instant Mashed Potatoes make quick work of the topping that forms the crust. Soy milk is used in cooking much the same way as cow's milk, and may be "clabbered" in the same manner by adding either lemon juice or cider vinegar and set aside to sour. When making the potato topping, lemon juice is combined with soy milk to produce "soy buttermilk."

This easy dish is started in the microwave and finished in the oven in under an hour. Caribbean Shepherd's Pie is delicious and satisfying accompanied by a colorful rice pilaf and toasted pita pockets.

CARIBBEAN SHEPHERD'S PIE

(Serves 6)

Picadillo Filling
1-1/2 teaspoons olive oil
1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper
1/2 medium onion, chopped
1/4 cup green bell pepper
1 (12 ounce package) ground beef alternative
1 (14-1/2 ounce) can Mexican stewed tomatoes
2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
1/2 cup golden raisins
1/3 cup chopped fresh cilantro

Mashed Potato Crust
3/4 cup enriched soy milk (2 percent fat)

1 tablespoon lemon juice
1-1/2 cups water
1 tablespoon olive oil
1-3/4 cups Barbara's Mashed Potato Flakes
1/4 teaspoon sea salt
Paprika for garnish

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a 2-quart ovenproof glass casserole, heat oil 1 minute in the microwave on full power. Add onions and green peppers, cover and cook 2 minutes. Add ground beef alternative and cook 4 minutes. Add tomatoes, lime juice, raisins and cilantro, stir to mix thoroughly and cook 3 minutes, stir and cook for 2 minutes. Set aside.

Combine soy milk and lemon juice in a non-reactive bowl and set aside. Place water and oil in a medium saucepan and bring to a boil over medium heat on the stove. Remove from heat and add the soy milk mixture, mashed potato flakes and salt. Stir until smooth and mixture has thickened.

Spread mashed potatoes evenly over the Picadillo filling and sprinkle with paprika. Place uncovered casserole in preheated oven. Bake for 25 minutes or until golden brown.

Master chefs need not apply to cooking clubs

By Jennifer Jones
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

It's 6 p.m. Do you know where your dinner is?

For many, the answer lies buried in the kitchen "junk" drawer on a local restaurant's take-out menu. Who needs to know the skills of dicing and sautéing when you've got at least one working finger and a phone? Thirty minutes to an hour later, voila. Dinner is served — right to your front door.

The above situation was the norm for six New York City professional women until they got the bright idea to combine their rudimentary cooking skills and watch them divide and multiply. Years later, their cooking club is still cooking and inspiring others across the country to do the same.

"We started out the same way with two or three of our usual recipes and we expanded our cooking repertoire," says Cooking Club member Cynthia Harris. "What's good is it's low pressure. A lot of people are afraid of cooking for 10 people, but when it's a cooking club, everybody cooks. It's meant to be experimental. If one dish flops (which they inevitably do now and then), there are other things to eat."

You don't have to be Julia Childs to start a cooking club. On the other hand, it isn't just the blind leading the blind, either. With so many cookbooks on the market and access to the Internet, finding easy recipes to try among friends is a cinch. If your friends are still breathing after sampling your Broccoli-Spinach Surprise, move on to something a little more challenging next month.

"I think the most important thing is attitude. Attitude is everything. It really is all in being around people who are fun and low-key. It can't be competitive. We did this so it wouldn't be. You're not out to be the best cook in cooking club," Harris says.

"You're cooking things for the first time. Inevitably, you're going to foul something up, but you're around friends so that's OK. If that happened around other people, it would've been devastating."

Edmee Reel of Clemson, S.C., has had experience in a similar cooking club and agreed that a willingness to learn together is an important ingredient.

"You want a good mix. People who have cooked all their lives and have their own ways of doing things aren't always receptive to new ways of doing things," Reel says. "You need to be open to the suggestions and

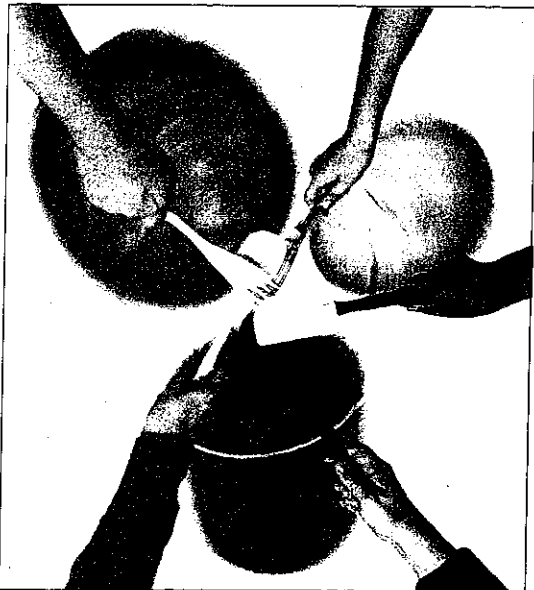


Illustration by Ken Reinard / Scripps Howard News Service

not have a know-it-all attitude. That will ruin a cooking class pretty quickly."

Also, don't go overboard when getting a club together in terms of how many cooks you'll allow in the kitchen. Consider how many people can comfortably squeeze into your house or apartment, as well as how many different dishes you can sample without exploding.

"If you have 20 to 30 people, you can't do it in someone's home. Six or eight people is a good size and that makes it easy on the hostess," Reel says. "Get a group that enjoys being together."

A common gripe about cooking from scratch is cost. True, building an arsenal of herbs and spices might cost a bit up front, but once you get 'em, you've got 'em for a good while. Besides, you don't have to cook the most expensive item you can wrestle into your wok to impress your fellow chefs.

"Everyone just cooks according to what her current pocketbook allows. If you have a

little more money at the time, maybe you'll make sea bass. If things are a little tight, you might stick to a dish with just vegetables," Harris says. "The more you cook, the more you stock up, and those spices last you forever."

"However, fresh herbs are worth splurging on. Plus, if you're making a meal for six people, you can actually use more than one basil leaf and make it worth your while. And there's always plenty to take home."

To mix things up and get out of the kitchen, organize an outing to a local cooking class to observe a pro creating a special dish. Incorporate these new skills into your own dishes.

"Meet every month no matter what, even if it's just two people. Make sure you keep it up," Harris says. "That's why we came up with Wine Duty. It's your get-out-of-jail-free card when things are busy and you just haven't had time to make something. You can still come and bring wine."