



NOVI News

Your hometown newspaper serving Novi and the Lakes area for 47 years

Thursday, December 19, 2002

novinews.com

50¢

Volume 47 Number 30

Novi, Michigan

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Look inside for your
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Greensheetclassifieds.com

INSIDE



Novi gets curvy

Like many females, Plymouth business woman Teresa Harris is concerned about fitness and for years has gone from health club to health club, looking for one with just the right fit.

Last year she found one that fit so well that she got a franchise and opened two Curves for Women in Wayne County. Harris cut the ribbon on her third Curves recently Friday in Novi.

— Page 11A

Wishes can come true

Christmas for Mike Urmetz is going to be almost anti-climatic. The Montrose 17-year-old has already received two hard to beat gifts from his brother a car and a life-saving kidney.

The men and woman of the Wixom Ford Plant made the first gift even better by restoring Mike's 1987 Thunderbird to nearly the same condition it was when it rolled off the assembly line in Lorraine, Ohio 15 years ago.

— Page 12A

Teens to the rescue

A group of Novi High students are taking time out of their busy school schedules to help out cancer victims. The kids are involved in T.A.C.C., which stands for Teens Aiding the Cancer Community. As a non-profit organization, the group is entirely student led. It puts together toy-filled backpacks to give to people who either have cancer or are affected by cancer.

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New law paves way for Novi hospital

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

A year and a half ago St. Johns Health System and the Detroit Medical Center (DMC) were nose to nose over who would get to build a hospital in Novi. This week the two medical giants were shoulder to shoulder, along with Henry Ford System, in support of changes to the state certificate of need (CON) law allowing hospital beds to be moved within a hospital district.

The new law, which still needs to be signed by Gov. John Engler, would allow the three non-profit health systems to move up to 35

percent of the beds they have within the Metro Detroit Area.

"This change in the CON process is nothing short of historic," declared St. Rep. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi). "Residents will have the convenience of being admitted closer to where they live, instead of facing hospital transfers and time spent farther away from family members. Health systems that operate in specific regions in Michigan know best where to locate beds to best serve patients. The current CON process is out-



R. Casalou

dated, and fails areas with growing populations like Oakland County."

St. Johns, the parent company of Providence Hospital and Medical Centers, currently operates 2,424 beds at seven hospitals in the region.

When Providence filed an application to open 200 beds at its 300,000 square foot medical facility at the corner of Grand River and Beck Road in June 2001, officials at the state Department of Community Health said the region had too many beds. Hospital officials countered the region's beds were

in the wrong location.

Providence's president, Robert Casalou, noted recently that the state's CON statute has remained unchanged since it was written in 1988, "and you know what's happened out here since 1988."

At the same time Providence filed its application, Detroit Medical Center and Trinity Health filed competing applications. DMC operates six hospitals in Detroit and Commerce Township's Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital. Trinity Health is a Novibased Catholic health ministry with operations in six states but no hospital in Novi.

Casalou, credited Cassis with

bringing St. Johns, DMC and Henry Ford to support Senate Bill 1436.

The Henry Ford Health System has a facility at 15 Mile and Drake roads in West Bloomfield, similar to Providence's Novi, and DMC officials reportedly would like to expand their Commerce Township facility. Between the three of them, up to 1,400 hospital beds could be moved within the region, although none of them have plans even close to that.

Casalou said that one of the keys to Cassis' success was being able to convince Detroit legisla-

Continued on 5

That's the holiday spirit!

Falsetti win Novi's house lighting contest

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Move over Griswolds, the Falsettis are in town and they have proven they know how to light up the skies with Christmas spirit.

The Novi family living at 25687 Cody Lane in the Walden Woods II Subdivision was awarded first place in the 2002 Holiday Lighting Contest.

"I was actually surprised," said Rodney Falsetti after learning his home won the contest. "I love doing the house every year, but I guess I didn't realize we could win."

Falsetti said he just assumed a lot of people did more.

The more the Novi resident is referring to is more actual decorations, but definitely not lights.

The quantity and use of lights gave the Cody Lane home the first place award.

"All of my shrubs are lit up," Falsetti said.

The Novi resident lives on the corner so he made sure he decorated the side of the house and the back of the house with five to six thousand lights including a large pine tree on the property.

"That tree alone has 1,000 lights," Falsetti said. "I think it (the house) looks good. It looks tasteful."

Falsetti said it took a couple of weeks to put all the light up, but he made sure the task was completed for Thanksgiving.

After the Falsetti family had Thanksgiving dinner, Mr. Falsetti went outside and turned the lights on for his family members.

But what the Novi resident said was his main drive in decorating the house was his two small children.

"We have two little girls and they love to drive around and see the other houses lit up, so they really enjoy seeing our home," Falsetti said.

Judging the entries was not an easy task.

"It was hard trying to pick the best," said Ron Boron, president of the City of Novi Homeowners Association and head judge.

"What I was really looking for was originality." Boron said as he drove by the qualifying homes, he was looking for homeowners going the extra mile by doing things like decorating the sides of their homes, bushes, trees, and all the little extras.

"That all makes for a very interesting pick," he said.

Second place in the annual competition went to the Meyers family living at 41565 Fawn Trail in the Deerbrook Subdivision and third place was awarded to the Cole family located at 48253 Andover Drive.

Boron said this year the association-sponsored event ran a little bit differently from previous years.

"We had all the associations judge their own homes and submit a first place winner and three runners up," he said.

continued on 3



Photo by John Heider

Spirit of the season

Megan Leon, left, helps to bring some toys to Santa Claus last Wednesday afternoon at Leon's Family Restaurant in Novi. Moe Leon and his employee's collected toy donations at their annual free Thanksgiving Day dinner and then donated them to the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots drive.

Novi group aiding seniors needs help

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

With literally only days left in the current year campaign drive, Novi Cares For Senior Citizens needs help.

"We are accepting anything people can give," said Diane MacGregor, co-founding member of Novi Cares For Senior Citizens. "Our donations are really down this year."

MacGregor said she realizes everyone is feeling the pinch this year, including many businesses the group received large donations from in prior years.

But what many area residents may not understand is some needs of the city's seniors are very basic.

For example, one senior put in a request for Polygrip.

Other requests include socks, blankets, underwear and a clock radio for one senior who just

wants to have some music to listen to in her room.

MacGregor said the seniors the organization serves are those who do not have anyone else to pay them a visit, help them with their everyday needs or wish them a happy holiday.

"These are people quite honestly others have forgotten," MacGregor said.

Along with providing the seniors a Christmas party along with Santa and gifts, group members also spend the remainder of the year making sure all of the city's forgotten seniors have a celebration on their birthday and get out of their environments throughout the year.

"A lot of it is just getting out and about," MacGregor said.

Some of the outings taking place this year included riding in a horse drawn carriage in Novi's Memorial Day Parade, a Detroit Tigers baseball game, The Novi

Senior's variety show, a trip to the cider mill and attending Novi Theatres' production of "The Nutcracker."

In January, Novi area seniors will be making a trip to Compuware Arena to watch a Plymouth Whalers game compliments of the arena owner.

None of this would be possible without generous donations by members of the community.

Christine Valley, director of activities at Whitehall of Novi, wants to impress upon everyone how important the group's efforts are.

"There are so many lonely people that have no visitors," Valley said. "We have some that are looking at nothing for Christmas."

Valley said another very important aspect of the group is the members bring companionship to the lonely residents at Whitehall all year long.

Anyone interested in making a donation to Novi Cares for Senior Citizens or to make an inquiry, contact Officer Diane MacGregor at the Novi Police Department by phone at (248) 348-7100 or feel free to send a donation or request for information to the group's post office box.

Novi Cares for Seniors
P.O. Box 822
Novi, MI 48376

Although Valley said she is very appreciative for all the donations and goodwill received during Christmas, really no one else brings the lonely seniors gifts for their birthdays.

"People are lonely in January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September,

continued on 3

To place a classified ad, call toll free 1-866-886-SOLD Newsroom: 248-349-1700 Home Delivery: 1-888-840-4809

CITY OF NOVI HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION HOLIDAY LIGHTING CONTEST FINALISTS

ABBEY HILLS
Hogle Family
25760 Abbey Drive

Cook Family
25800 Abbey Drive

Hogan Family
25471 Abbey Drive

Plotrowski Family
25571 Abbey Drive

ANDOVER POINTE I
Sam & Jan Cole
48253 Andover Drive

Bruce & Alice Bergeson
48299 Burnwood Ct

Greg & Chris Sweda
47639 Edinborough Lane

AUTUMN PARK
David & Bonnie Showerman
47323 Somerset Ct

Doug & Janie Savage
46925 Sunnyside Lane

George & Margaret Surdu
47225 Autumn Park Ct

John & Monica Cahill
47320 Autumn Park Ct

COUNTRY PLACE CONDOMINIUMS
Bernard & Betty Burkacki
21132 E. Glen Haven Circle

DEARBORN
Mr. & Mrs. Suran Peiris
21108 E. Glen Haven Circle

Theakston & McFal Residence
21110 E. Glen Haven Circle

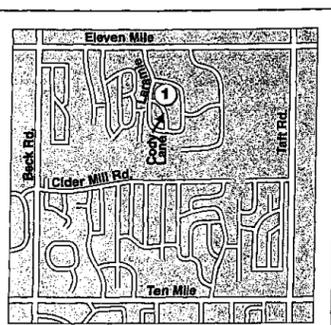
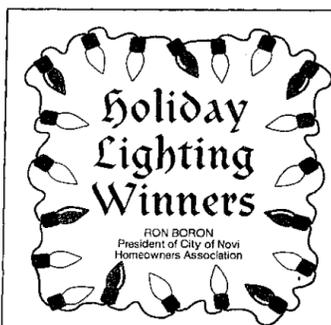
Pai & Anna Mele
21366 E. Glen Haven Circle

CREEK CROSSING
Mr. & Mrs. Rice
25816 Trestle

Mr. & Mrs. Van Oast
25887 Junction

DEARBROOK
Bill & Aggie Meyers
41565 Fawn Trail

Rick & Marcelle Barlage
41564 Fawn Trail



MEADOWBROOK GLENS
Ray Juszkis
24328 Pincrest

Rita Avocadi
24501 Park Ridge Ct

Brian Bayley
42487 Park Ridge

Michael Natzel
24636 Highland

NOVI HEIGHTS
Dorothy Zilenski
25915 Clark St.

Dick & Irene Faulkner
25890 Clark St.

Kim & Karen Bondar
43999 Durson

Marty & Michelle Kotowicz

ORCHARD RIDGE ESTATES
Phil & Karen Cirka
23941 Harvest Drive

Joseph & Christine Heffernan
23468 Duchess Ct

Dan & Julie Tardella
23474 Windthrop Ct

Thomas & Shari Minke
23780 Greening Drive

SETTLERS CREEK
Jim & Chris Staschke
44830 Settlers Creek Ct

Kevin & Cheryl Kurkowski
43955 Settlers Creek Ct

Steve & Steph Ernster
43925 Settlers Creek Ct

John & Katherine Mikkelson
44150 Settlers Creek Ct

WALDEN WOODS II
Rodney Falsetti
25687 Cody Lane

Rob Laney
25743 Laramie

Pat Figurski
40160 Ladene

Thomas & Julie Netter
21768 Sunrise

Rick & Sharon Neal
22044 Clover

WHISPERING MEADOWS
Gregory & Judith Morris
40518 Mill Court East

Nancy Kozak
40160 Ladene

Thomas & Julie Netter
21768 Sunrise

Rick & Sharon Neal
22044 Clover

ROYAL CROWN
Kevin & Kelly Wysocki
22438 Mooregate

John & Patricia Conarik
45494 White Pines

Ray & Tina Phillips
45455 Irvine Ct.

Greg & Ann Berry
45652 White Pines

GLEN HAVEN CONDOMINIUMS
Jim & Lisa Chasse
21227 E. Glen Haven Circle

Michelle Bain
21347 E. Glen Haven Circle

HONORABLE MENTIONS
The Families residing at:
45750 Willingham Drive
41414 Broquet
41488 Broquet
22227 Hazelton

Tim & Carol May
41474 Reinder

Dave & Diane Adamu
22215 Antler Drive

DUNBAR PINES
Gene Bigli
44407 Midway

Ken & Paula Crawford
22679 Wayeroff

Chris & Cindy Wilkerson
45001 Proctor CT

Steve & Karen Liotas
45063 Dunbar Drive

GREENWOOD OAKS III & IV
Rick & Mary Miller
47595 Greenwch Drive

Gerry & Julie Wilk
24374 Salem Ct

John & Vickie McLeod
47519 Greenwch Drive

Pan & Donna DeGrazia
47489 Greenwch Drive

HAVERTHILL FARMS
Karen & Mike Cortis
31120 Kingswood

Bill & Heidi Mann
31132 Kingswood

Linda Wash...
40499 Paisley Circle

Jeff & Jill Anger
31216 Kingswood

Falsetti's win contest

continued from front

Boron then drove the streets of Novi the night of Sunday, Dec. 15 and judged each recommended home before choosing the ultimate winner.

About 25 homes were evaluated before the first, second and third place winners were chosen along with honorable mentions.

Boron said it took close to three hours to take all the sights in. "We went through 16 subdivisions," he said.

The group's president said participation was about the same from prior years, although he did notice less homes were decorated this year.

"I think overall the economy must be having some effect," Boron said. "A lot of houses didn't have lights this year and also last year a lot had to do with patriotism. Last year, most houses had a lighted flag, which wasn't seen as prominently this year."

All participants in the homeowners association contest were honored at a special 7 p.m. ceremony held on Tuesday, Dec. 17 at the Novi Civic Center.

Mayor Richard J. Clark attended the ceremony congratulating all the participating homeowners for making the city a more joyous place to live and visit this time of year.

Victoria Sadocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 949-1700, ext. 105 or at vsadocha@homecomm.net.

Novi City Briefs

City of Novi meetings

The following meetings will take place tonight:
• Novi Parks & Recreation, 7:30 p.m.
• Novi Historical Commission, 7:30 p.m.
• Novi City Council Vacancy Interviews, 7 p.m.

Auditions

Auditions for the Novi Theatre's Performance Plus & Children's Annex production of "Annie" will take place during the month of February. The tryouts will be held from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on February 4 and 6. Registration begins at 4 p.m. Call backs will take place 1:30 to 4 p.m. Feb. 8. Actors ages 7 through college are encouraged to attend. Please bring a head shot or school picture to the audition or pay \$1 for a photo taken at the event. Audition packets will be available beginning Jan. 7 at the Novi Parks & Recreation and Forestry desk

City of Novi offices closed for holidays

Novi city offices, the recycling center and the Novi Public Library will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday. All city offices and buildings will reopen Thursday, Dec. 26.

Novi city offices, the recycling center and the Novi Public Library will close once again Tuesday, Dec. 31 and Thursday, Jan. 1 in observance of the New Year holiday. All city offices and buildings will be reopened Thursday, Jan. 2.

in the Novi Civic Center. The Civic Center is located at 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, just east of Tall Road. For more information, call (248) 347-0400.

Winter property taxes

City of Novi 2002 winter property tax bills have been mailed. All payments are due without penalty on or before Feb. 14, 2003. If payments are not received in the Treasury Department by the due date, a 4-percent penalty will be added.

For residents looking for a deduction on their 2002 income tax returns, winter tax payments must be received by the city no later than the end of the business day on Dec. 30.

Postmarks are not accepted. A drop box is available behind the Civic Center at the curbs. Late payments will be accepted at the Treasurer's office through Feb. 28 with a 4-percent penalty, but begin-

ning March 1 payments must be sent to the Oakland County Treasurer's Office.

For more information call the 24-hour property tax information hotline at (888) 609-3773.

Dog licenses

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

license. For more information, call (248) 347-0440.

Homeowner association breakfast

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

Compiled by Victoria Sadocha

Help needed

continued from front

October and November too," she said. "It truly is the organization that gives all year long."

Valley said, "all of the residents have gotten attached to Novi Cares for Seniors and if they weren't anymore, the residents would be devastated."

Members of the group pinarily aid seniors living at White Hall of Novi and Charter House of Novi, but MacGregor said she recently received the names of some Novi seniors and the group plans on branching out to those seniors and others next year.

Novi Cares for Seniors Citizens is a non-profit organization comprised of Novi police officers and other members of the community.

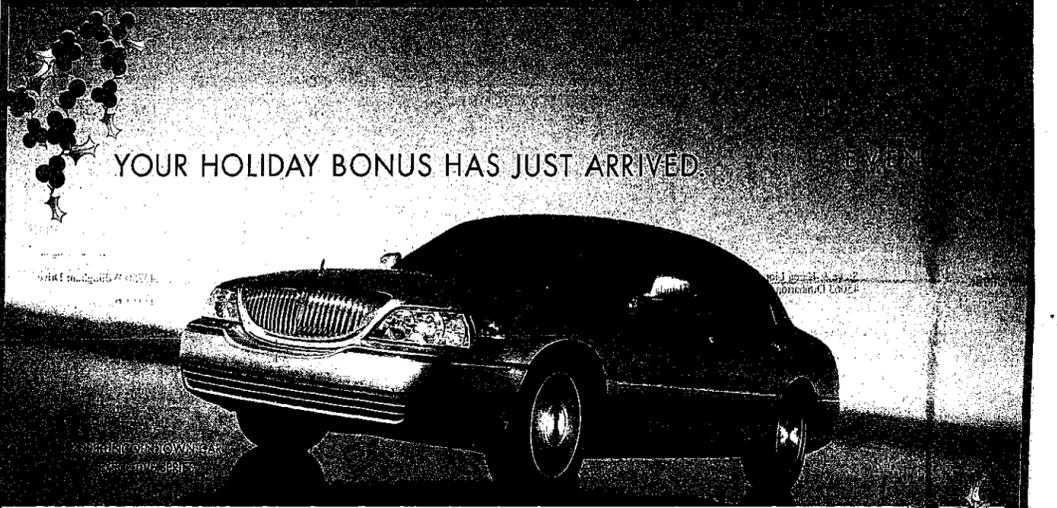
The original goal of the organization created by Novi officers Joyce Nelson, Diane MacGregor, Louis Bigliardi and Randy Mirco was to bring companionship and material wants and needs to residents living in Whitehall and Charter House.

Nelson first thought of the idea November of 2000 to carry out the Novi Police Department's mission of "partners in our community striving for excellence."

Nelson and MacGregor of her idea and the group was formed. Shortly after, officers Bigliardi and Mirco joined on along with Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2269 in Wixom representatives Anthony and Carolyn Mallia.

Anyone willing to help may leave a voice mail for MacGregor's at The Novi Police Department or send a note to the group's post office box.

Victoria Sadocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 949-1700, ext. 105 or at vsadocha@homecomm.net.



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DEARBORN Jack Demmer 21531 Michigan Ave. between Southfield & Telegraph (313) 274-8800 demmer.com

DETROIT Bob Maxey 16901 Mack Ave. at Cadieux (313) 885-4000 park@lincoln.com

DETROIT Park Anchor 18100 Woodward Ave. (313) 869-5000 park@lincoln.com

GARDEN CITY Su Evans Garden City 32000 Ford Rd. 1/2 mi. West of I-75 (734) 425-4300 swevans@lincoln.com

NOVI 49231 Grand River 1/2 mi. West of I-75 (248) 305-5300 nov@lincoln.com

PLYMOUTH Hines Park 40601 Ann Arbor Rd. at I-75 (734) 453-2424 hinespark.com

ROCHESTER HILLS Crissmon 1185 South Rochester Rd. between I-75 & I-496 (248) 652-4200 crissmon.com

ROSELAND Bob Maxey 29000 Grand at I-75 (586) 552-6000 bobmaxey.com

SOUTHFIELD Star 24350 West 12 Mile Rd. at Telegraph (248) 354-4900 star.com

SOUTHGATE 16800 Fern Street at Freeway (734) 285-8800 southgate@lincoln.com

STERLING HEIGHTS Crest 36200 Van Dyke at I-75 (586) 939-6000 crest@lincoln.com

TROY Bob Borst 1920 West Maple Freeway Blvd. (248) 643-6600 borst.com

YPSILANTI Sesi 950 East Michigan 248 West of I-75 (734) 482-7133 ses.com

J.D. Power and Associates' 2002 Automotive Performance, Execution and Layout (APEAL) Study. Study based on 11,788 consumer responses. www.jdpower.com. **Call 1-888-56-LEASE for details on leases for A/Z/D plan employees and eligible family members. Customers eligible for the \$1,000 lease renewal incentive on LS and Navigator must terminate their new or used Lincoln or Mercury vehicle lease by 1/2/2003. **Not all buyers will qualify for lowest Ford Credit APR. Terms, take delivery from dealer stock by 1/2/2003. Ford Credit will waive the first month's payment up to \$750 on 2002 Lincoln LS 24-month-36-month contracts purchased through 1/2/2003.

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3050 Jackson Rd. • Ann Arbor, MI 48103
194 at Exit 12 • (800) 443-3050 • (734) 769-2500
DEC. 31, 2002 • WEBERSINN.COM

The Lazy J. Ranch is having a
New Year Celebration

AT 625 S. HICKORY RIDGE ROAD, MILFORD
8:30 P.M. - 1:00 A.M.
NEW YEAR'S EVE 2002
\$40/PERSON INCLUDES DINNER
Promenade your way into the year 2003!!!
Enjoy plenty of country music, square dancing & country line dancing.
To reserve your table of 6 or 8 people (individuals welcome too!), please call 248-887-1551.

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New Year
at Lake Pointe Manor

Join us for Fun, Food, Cocktails, Dancing, Live Entertainment!
\$60 Per Person
Add \$110.00 (Single or Double) for Local Hotel Packages

Package includes appetizers • 4 Drink Tickets Per Person
• Carved to Order Grand Scale Buffet • Plated Dessert
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• Local Hotel Packages Available

Family Celebrations
'Skate-in' this New Year at the Kensington Valley Ice House
12/31/02 from 7pm-1am

Celebration includes dinner buffet, draft beer, pop, champagne toast at midnight, open skating and sticks & pucks

Advance: \$100/family of five (\$15 additional) or \$30 per Adult \$15 per Child
At-the-door \$40 per Adult \$25 per Child

Call NOW for reservations:
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Dance in the 2003 New Year!

Enjoy the Great Sounds of 7 & 7

Please Call for Reservations
(517) 545-1000

Join us for our
2002-2003
Bridal Shows
February 23rd
5768 E. Grand River, Howell

Calendar of Events

Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency "Adopt-A-Family (Senior)" project

DATE: Through December 20
 DETAILS: This project is to provide dinner and possibly a Christmas present for low-income seniors who would not have a happy holiday without your support. Items needed are small turkeys, steaming chickens, small turkeys, canned goods, toys, clothing or gift certificates. Non-perishable items are preferred. However, any contributions would be greatly appreciated.
 PHONE: For more information about where to deliver food items, please contact Joyce Allen at (248) 209-2644 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday thru Friday. If not there, please leave a voice message.

Seniors Plus Training/Orientation

DATE: Saturdays, December 14, January 18 and February 15.
 TIMES: 9 a.m.
 LOCATION: Oakland County Courthouse, 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac.
 DETAILS: As a Seniors Plus volunteer, only a few hours of your time each month will help a young person in our community. Be a positive adult role model for someone 5 to 16 years old.
 PHONE: Oakland County Youth Assistance, (248) 858-0041.

Senior Book Club

DATE: December 12
 TIME: 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Novi Public Library
 DETAILS: Keep your mind active book discussion.
 PHONE: (248) 347-0421.

Plymouth Community Chorus 25th Annual Christmas Concert "Sing Gloria"

DATE: Friday, December 13; Saturday, December 14; and Sunday, December 15.
 TIMES: Friday/Saturday-8 p.m., Sunday-4 p.m.
 LOCATION: Northville High School, 457 Six Mile, Northville.
 DETAILS: Tickets are \$12 and available at Sideways, 305 Forest Ave., Plymouth, Eboia Music Center, 7170 Haggerty Rd., Canton, Edwards' Caterer, 116 Dunlop, Northville, or by calling (734) 455-4080.

City of Novi Holiday Happenings

DATE: Saturday, December 14
 TIME: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 10 Mile Rd.
 DETAILS: Ages 4-8 years, \$32/resident, \$38/40 non-resident.

Santa's helpers will assist your youngsters at various age-appropriate stations where they will make crafts, play games and make yummy treats. Kids should bring a bag lunch and wear tennis shoes.
 PHONE: Please call to see if there are openings, Novi Parks and Recreation (248) 347-0400.

Novi Concert Band Holiday Concert

DATE: Sunday, December 15
 TIME: 7:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 10 Mile (between Novi Rd. and Tall Rd.)
 DETAILS: Free concert, refreshments served.

Daughters of the American Revolution Christmas Tea

DATE: Monday, December 16
 TIME: 1 p.m.
 LOCATION: Greenmead, Hill House, Livonia.
 DETAILS: All DAR members & potential members are welcome. Program will be Michigan One Room School.
 PHONE: For more information, call Sue Petres (248) 344-4635.

Afternoon Tea

DATE: Monday, December 16
 TIME: 2:30-3:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Novi Senior Center
 DETAILS: Join us for tea, cookies, polite conversation and dignified music.
 PHONE: (248) 347-0414.

Novi Library Bookmobile

DATE: Dec. 17
 TIME: 11:30 a.m.-noon
 LOCATION: Novi Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook, Novi
 PHONE: (248) 347-0421, Mon.-Fri. 9-4 p.m.

Northville-Novl Optimist Club Open House

DATE: Thursday, Dec. 19
 TIME: 7:30 a.m.
 LOCATION: MacKinnon's, 126 E. Main, Northville
 DETAILS: Bring your friends and find out what the club is all about. Enjoy hors d'oeuvre and meet the boards of the Northville and Novi chapters of commerce.
 PHONE: Rochelle (313) 624-2419

Women of the Northville Moose-Chapter #226 Christmas Activity

DATE: Thursday, December 19
 TIME: 6:30 p.m.
 DETAILS: All eighty residents of the Whitehall Nursing Home in Novi will be receiving a personalized gift donated by the Women of

the Moose.

Candlelight Carols

DATE: Sunday, Dec. 22
 TIME: 6 p.m.
 LOCATION: Lakes Baptist Church, 309 Decker Rd., Walled Lake
 DETAILS: Come and sing along some old familiar carols and hear a reading of "The Christmas Story." There is no fee.
 PHONE: Cindy Hammond, (248) 624-2900

Toy & Hobby Expo

DATE: Dec. 27-29
 TIME: 9 a.m.-9 p.m., 9-7 p.m., and 10 a.m.-3 p.m., respectively
 LOCATION: Novi Expo Center, 1-96 and Novi Rd.
 DETAILS: This show features operating model railroad displays, vendors and collectors selling vintage toys and hobby items from the '50s to today's hottest collectibles. Cost is \$6, \$3 for children; \$5 for parking.
 PHONE: (734) 455-2110

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce membership luncheon

DATE: Tuesday, January 21, 2003
 LOCATION: El Dorado Country Club, 2869 N. Pontiac Trail, Commerce Twp.
 TIME: 11:30 a.m.-reception, noon-lunch.
 DETAILS: This is the annual membership luncheon, installation of officers and awards presentation.
 PHONE: Chamber office (248) 624-2826.

Quick Date

DATE: Tuesday, Jan. 21
 TIME: 7:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: 5th Avenue Ballroom, 25750 Novi Road, Novi
 DETAILS: Meet 10-15 new people for five minutes each. It's fast-paced, fun and exciting! Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$40.
 PHONE: Call (517) 552-0673 or www.quickdateinfo.com.

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce "Heart of the Lakes Mystery Gala"

DATE: Saturday, February 1, 2003
 LOCATION: El Dorado Country Club, 2869 N. Pontiac Trail, Commerce Twp.
 TIME: 7 p.m.
 DETAILS: Tickets are \$35 per person. Buffet dinner, cash bar, dancing, live and silent auctions. Benefit to Cardiac Care Program at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital and Lakes Area Chamber of

Commerce's community and business services.
 PHONE: Chamber office (248) 624-2826.

ON-GOING

Motorsports Hall of Fame "Art of Racing" Exhibit

DATE: thru Dec. 31
 LOCATION: Motorsports Hall of Fame, inside Novi Expo Center at I-96 and Novi Road.
 TIME: open 10 a.m.-5 p.m., seven days a week, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday thru Sundays after Labor Day.
 DETAILS: \$4/adults, \$2.00/seniors, \$2/children. Special exhibit of original paintings by noted motor racing artist, D.R. Shaw. Limited edition prints of many of the paintings are available for purchase in the Hall of Fame gift shop.
 PHONE: (248) 349-7223

Oakland County Health Division Expectant Parent Classes

DATE: ongoing series
 LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple, Walled Lake
 TIME: 7-9 p.m.
 DETAILS: Classes will be taught by Public Health Nurses. Topics will include childbirth preparation, labor and delivery, care of the newborn baby, breastfeeding, bottle-feeding, information about keeping children safe, and caring for them when they are ill. Cost is \$25.00.
 PHONE: (248) 858-4003, or (888) 350-0900 ext. 84003

Oakland County Health Division breast-feeding support sessions

DATE: ongoing series
 LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple, Walled Lake.
 DETAILS: Information covered includes naming, solving common problems associated with breastfeeding, taking care of mom, growth and development of the breastfeeding infant including: breast-feeding, starting solids, and weaning.
 PHONE: (248) 858-4003 or (888) 350-0900, ext. 84003.

Novi Toastmasters

DATE: First and third Tuesdays of the month
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile, Novi
 TIME: 7-8:30 p.m.
 DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills, voice your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.
 PHONE: For more information, call Colleen at (248) 685-9226.

January brings training options for businesspeople

The staff at the Oakland County Business Center will be offering a series of seminars for business owners and entrepreneurs throughout January.

Would-be businesspeople will get a chance to examine their entrepreneurial skills, learn how to implement their ideas and receive a list of pitfalls to avoid when starting a business during the How to Start a Business seminar Jan. 9, at the Oakland County Executive Office Building, 1200 N. Telegraph, in Pontiac. The seminar will run from 9 a.m. to noon and cost \$30, which includes the Starting a Business in Oakland County book published by the Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services. Jan. 16 Small Business Solutions, P.C. will present a seminar on choosing the best legal entity for a sole proprietorship. Seminar attendees will have an opportunity to examine the differences between Limited Liability Companies (LLC), partnerships and corporations. Each entity offers unique advantages and disadvantages. The seminar will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at the Oakland County Executive Office Building and will explore the key considerations for each and the effects on the business operation. The seminar will cost \$30 per person.

A Southfield Public Library research expert will introduce

Madonna University course "The Magic of Maslow for the Stage"
 DATE: Thursdays, beginning January 9
 TIME: noon-2 p.m.
 LOCATION: Madonna University, 3600 Schoolcraft, Livonia, Kresge Hall.
 DETAILS: Course will be taught by mezzo-soprano Barbara Wilkie, Associate professor, voice. Opportunities for solo, duet and ensemble performances will be semi-staged at Kresge hall on campus. Non-credit fee is \$270.
 PHONE: Contact Linette Popoff-Parks, music department chair at (734) 432-5709 for more information.

New TOPS chapter in Novi

DATES: Every Wednesday (no meeting Dec. 25 and Jan. 1)
 LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons Activities Room, 25075 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi.
 TIME: 1 p.m. weight in, 1:30 p.m. meeting.
 DETAILS: \$20/yearly membership registration, includes hand-

book, \$1/meeting. New members welcome.

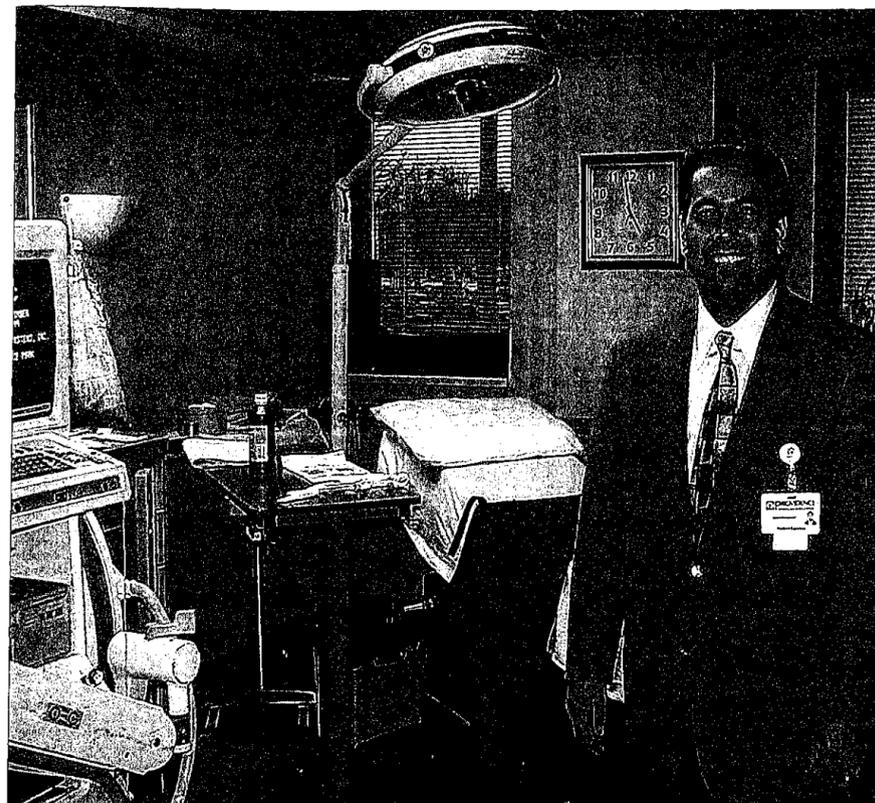
Send calendar items to Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48168 or e-mail to cstone@ht.homecomm.net.

participants to sources of competitive and demographic information important to any business owner in a seminar called Market Research: What It Is & How to Do It Jan. 23. Both print and electronic data will be discussed as well as research methods and strategies during workshop which will be held from 9 a.m. to noon in the Marquette Room of the Southfield Public Library, 26000 Evergreen Rd., Southfield. There is \$30 per person fee for the seminar, which includes materials.

Oakland County Business Center staff will be back at the Oakland County Executive Office Building from 9 a.m. to noon Jan. 30 for a seminar called How to Write a Business Plan. People planning to become small business owners will have an opportunity to develop a plan to serve as their road map to success. The fee is \$40, which includes all materials.

Space for each of the center's programs is limited, so pre-registration is required. Call (248) 858-0783 for directions and registration for any of January business seminars.

For more information about programs and services available through the Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services office, visit its Web site at www.co.oakland.mi.us/peds.



"Unless we're able to balance our portfolios, our mission in Detroit is at risk."

Robert Casalou
 Providence Hospital & Medical Centers president

Photo by Phil Foley
 Robert Casalou, president of Providence Hospital and Medical Centers has good reason to smile these days. After struggling nearly two decades to bring a hospital to Novi, recent changes in the state's certificate of need law could make those plans a reality by 2005.

New law paves way for Novi hospital

continued from

ctors that moving hospital beds out of the city did not spell abandonment. He said shifting hospital beds—actually—means the opposite.

Two years ago two of St. John's hospitals in Detroit reported losses of more than \$6 million. "Unless we're able to balance our portfolios,"

observed Casalou, "our mission in Detroit is at risk."

He noted that Trinity Health closed its hospital in Detroit and now only operates a clinic there.

Providence Hospital spokesman Lou Martin noted that St. Johns could move more than 800 active hospital beds in the region. It could come close to the 200 mark for Novi with just beds that are licensed but

unused. Casalou noted that 30 to 40 percent of the patient load for Providence's Southfield facility comes from the Novi area.

For Novi residents, opening a full-service hospital should mean improved health care, Casalou noted that Providence's Novi facility isn't a hospital; it's an emergency room operates more like a M.A.S.H. unit. He said while Novi's ER physicians

have all the equipment they need to treat a trauma patient, once the patient is stabilized, they have to be transported to another facility in Providence's mobile intensive care unit, which increases both cost and risk.

Casalou said it would become law April 1, 2003 and Providence would file an appli-

cation to move 200 beds to Novi shortly after. He noted that since the Novi facility was planned originally as a hospital, much of the infrastructure is already in place, which means the hospital could be open as early as 2005.

However, Casalou said it's too soon to start celebrating. The governor has until Dec. 30 to sign the bill. And with less than

14 days to the end of the legislative year, if he chooses to do nothing, the bill would die. Still, Casalou said he's hopeful since the governor had a lot of input into the bill.

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

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- Everyone welcome
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Northville scientist/businessman seeks cure for osteoporosis

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

"Dear Bones, don't bones dem dey bones?" goes the folk song and while everyone knows the hip bone is connected to the thigh bone, it's surprising how little is known beyond that.

A Northville man, however, has learned a lot more about bones than that and that knowledge may one day lead to ways to cure and even prevent osteoporosis. It may also form the University of Michigan professor into a multi-millionaire.

Michael W. Long, with the help of several researchers from Novi, is growing human bone cells in an industrial park on the south side of Ann Arbor. The idea, he said, is not to create replacement bones, but rather tissue cultures that his company and others can use to test drugs to treat things like osteoporosis and bone cancer, as well as speed the healing of broken bones.

Long, who has been doing research and teaching at the U-M for more than 20 years, formed his company, Velcura Therapeutics, last year after winning the grand prize in the first Great Lakes Entrepreneur's Quest Business Plan Competition — \$60,000.

Today Long has seven employees and a \$3.3 million grant from the state to explore better ways to treat bone diseases and heart fractures.

Within five years Long and his partners expect to have 150 employees and annual revenues in excess of \$45 million. Long said the company Velcura to have a positive cash flow within 18 months. "I'd like to see our revenues double every year," said Long.

Long, an academic, teamed with Mary Ann Alger to form Velcura. Alger is the company's chief financial officer.

"The Holy Grail for Velcura is a pill that could prevent, stop or reverse osteoporosis."

According to Long, "more than 100 million people worldwide have osteoporosis." He noted that while more men have heart attacks in their 50s and 60s and more women show signs of osteoporosis in that age group, by the time people hit their mid-70s, osteoporosis becomes an equal opportunity killer.

Long noted that when "elderly people break a hip, there's a 25 percent chance of dying and 50 percent never return to a normal life." Osteoporosis is an illness of the elderly and as health care and nutrition improves globally it increases the pool of potential patients.

Earlier this year the technology magazine 4-Street named Velcura as one of the Midwest's top emerging technology companies. Dec. 9 the Michigan Economic Development Corp. (MEDC) recognized the company at its annual Michigan Investment and Commercialization Success Celebration in Lansing.



Photo by Phil Foley

Northville resident Michael Long has taken the first steps to commercializing his research into the growth of bone cells. He recently opened Velcura in Ann Arbor with a staff of seven and within five years he hopes to employ around 150 people with revenues of \$45 million.

"Velcura has been extremely successful at commercializing important medical technology that will improve the quality of life for many in the years to come," declared Doug Rothwell, the MEDC's outgoing president and CEO.

Although Velcura plans to market bone cell cultures to pharmaceutical companies and other researchers in the very near future, don't look for a cure for Doug Rothwell, osteoporosis in the near term. According to Long, bringing a new drug to market typically takes 12 to 15 years of research and testing at a cost of around \$800 million.

He noted that one recently released drug that promotes the growth of red blood cells is expected

to earn its manufacturer close to \$600 million annually.

While the pharmaceutical Eli Lilly announced earlier this month the release of a new drug called FORTEO that promotes bone growth, Long said there is still a huge field of research available. He said that's because FORTEO is a protein compound that needs to be injected in a hospital setting.

Long said what he and his colleagues are looking for is a compound that people can take in pill form at home.

"What we're selling now," said Long, "is information on to manipulate genes and proteins." Long holds two patents for growing human bone outside the body and he said he just make sense for researchers to do business with

Velcura rather than trying to reinvent the wheel.

Long, who describes himself as "Michigan born and bred, fifth generation in this state," said he chose Ann Arbor as the home for Velcura "because it is 'centrally' located to the mass of biotech companies in Michigan. He added he also has some graduate students at the UoM that he could not leave

the award. "Velcura is another great example of the benefits of matching extremely promising UM technology with the resources of the private sector," he added.

"The University of Michigan community is behind the Velcura Therapeutics," means in their efforts and wishes them at the best," said Ken Nisbet, executive director of U-M's Tech Transfer Office that nominated the biotech company for

the award. "Velcura is another great example of the benefits of matching extremely promising UM technology with the resources of the private sector," he added.

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

Future Grand River Ave. construction projects on track

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Novi City officials announced earlier this week the Grand River Avenue bridge over the CSX railroad tracks reconstruction project is moving ahead nicely.

Officials from the Road Commission for Oakland County announced the Michigan Department of Transportation opened bids for the replacement and widening of the aging bridge last week.

According to documents received by a representative from the commission, Bill Conklin, about 10 bids have been received.

So far, the lowest bid on the project was submitted by Dan's Excavating in the amount of \$6.145 million.

The formal award is expected to take place in January.

"The replacement of the Grand River Avenue bridge is an improvement long in coming and

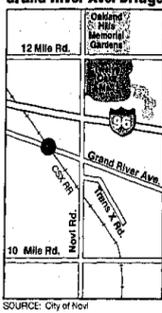
a priority of the mayor and city council, so we are pleased we are able to advance this much-needed work," said Clay Pearson, Novi assistant city manager.

Pearson said a timetable has not been established yet because the contract has not been formally awarded nor has a schedule been developed, but he anticipates the bridge will be completely closed from March to November 2003.

Other bids for the contract were received by C.A. Hill Co., Inc., E.C. Kornetel Co., J. Slagter & Son Construction Co., Midwest Bridge Company, John Carlo, Inc., Angelo Lafate Construction Company, Dan's Excavating, Inc., Posen Construction, Inc., Walter Toebe Construction Co. and Price Bridge & Marine, LTD.

MDOT will also be opening bids on January 10 for the widening and reconstruction of 1.6 miles of Grand River Avenue from Beck Road to the CSX

Grand River Ave. Bridge



SOURCE: City of Novi

Pearson said traffic counts from four-and-a-half years ago showed 21,000 cars traveled on Grand River Avenue near Taft Road each day.

"Once completed, these thoroughfares will function better and take pressure off residential streets and other through streets such as 11 Mile Road and 10 Mile Road," Pearson said.

Pearson also said the estimated \$7.687 million project shows the city's commitment to improve roadways generally and Grand River Avenue in this particular case.

Another improvement happening as part of the 2003 project will be the reconstruction of the intersection of Novi Road and Grand River Avenue.

Work to the intersection is expected to begin in June 2003 and last about four months. Pearson said the plan is to begin and complete the intersection improvement within the same time frame the Grand River

Avenue Bridge over the CSX railroad tracks area will be closed to traffic.

"Like our other intersection improvements, traffic safety has been a concern at this intersection and the accident rate should be reduced at this high volume intersection," Pearson said.

The assistant city manager said while intersection construction occurs, access to businesses will be maintained and traffic open in each direction, recognizing lane reductions will be a part of the process.

"On all of these projects, we are committed to signage and public notices which the city used successfully during the Twelve Mile and Novi roads closure," 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@h.homecomm.net.

'Cindy's Law' on way to governor

■ Measure by Cassis reforms process for homestead tax exemptions

Michigan homeowners will have an easier time receiving homestead exemption refunds under legislation on its way to the governor's desk for his consideration.

The Legislature on Thursday approved House Bill 5743, introduced by state Rep. Nancy Cassis, which allows Michigan taxpayers to appeal to their local board of review for a homestead exemption refund for up to three previous years.

Under current law, taxpayers can appeal to a review board for only a current year exemption and the previous year. The state, on the other hand, can collect money owed by the taxpayer as a result of an improperly claimed exemption for up to three previous years. The legislation puts the state and the taxpayer on equal footing.

Cassis introduced HB 5743 after Milford Township Treasurer Cynthia Dagenhardt came to her with the issue. Dagenhardt testified in committee on the need for the bill. Cassis said the legislation should be known as "Cindy's Law" in honor of Dagenhardt.

Treasury currently can go back three years to collect from taxpayers, so Michigan residents should be able to reciprocate," said Cassis, chair of the House Tax Policy Committee. "It's a fairness issue. Michigan residents deserve equal treatment under the law, especially when it comes to taxes."

Cassis, R-Nowi, said taxpayers may inadvertently pay too much in taxes if they are not aware of the requirement to file a homestead exemption. The lawmaker said if people are due a refund from the last three years, they should have the convenience of appealing locally.

"Once completed, these thoroughfares will function better and take pressure off residential streets and other through streets such as 11 Mile Road and 10 Mile Road."

Clay Pearson
Novi assistant city manager

Novi one of six sites to Host 'Barn Again!' for 2004 Tour

A colorful tapestry of agricultural heritage and celebrations is in store for Novi when the "Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon" exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution's Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) visits this area in 2004.

Other locations selected as "Barn Again!" sites for the January, 2004 tour are:

- Morenci in Lenawee County on the Ohio border, where the

exhibit will be hosted by Stair Public Library;

- Standish in Arenac County, hosted by the Northeast Michigan Arts Council;

- Sidney in Montcalm County, where it will be hosted by Montcalm Community College;

- Manistig in the central Upper Peninsula, where the Alger County Historical Society will host the exhibit, and

- the Port Odetta Rural Historic District of Leelanau County within Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, hosted by the Glen Lake Schools.

The schedule of six-week stops on the 10-month tour will be announced in spring, but applications from these six community hosts promise a variety of approaches to public programs that interpret their area's distinct agricultural traditions and character, highlight local barns and farms and reflect on the diversity of rural life in Michigan.

Interested in supporting and supplementing the tour with programs, exhibits and events of your own as part of a broader statewide celebration of local agriculture, barns and rural life during 2004? Contact Nancy Mathews, director of Community Programs who is coordinating a year-long calendar of "Barn Again!" related activities in Michigan - call her at (906) 789-9471 or e-mail amathews@umhigan.humanities.org

"Barn Again!" first visited

Michigan in 1999-2000 and proved a popular way for rural areas to celebrate their agricultural roots and explore past, present and future roles of agriculture using the image of the barn as a focal point. It was the second of three SITES exhibits that have come to the state since 1997 under a partnership between SITES, the state humanities council and the Federation of State Humanities Councils.

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Obituaries

Edwin F. Trombley

Edwin F. Trombley died December 16, 2002 in St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. He was 91. Mr. Trombley was born on August 5, 1911 in Buffalo, New York to the late George Trombley and Rose Becker Trombley. He was a 59-year resident of the area. He retired in 1976 from Michigan Bell Telephone after 41 years of service. He was a PBX installer at the time of his retirement. He was also a Telephone Company Pioneer. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy of Salem Township; three children: Robert (Sandra) Trombley of Milford, Maureen Trombley of Plymouth, and Barbara (Hoy) Ulrich of Clinton Township; three grandchildren: Kurt (Angelina) Trombley of Loveland, Ohio; Julie (Roband) Weber of Walled Lake; and Elise Ulrich of Clinton Township; one great granddaughter, Olivia Trombley; and a sister, Rosemary (Starline) Whitmore of Lehigh Acres, Fla.

Memorial services for Mr. Trombley will be on Friday, December 20, 2002 at noon in the First Presbyterian Church of Northville, 200 East Main Street, Northville with Rev. W. Kent Clise and Rev. James P. Russell officiating. Memorial contributions to the Washenaw County Hospice, Juvenile Diabetes or the First Presbyterian Church of Northville would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements were made by the Northrop-Sassaman Funeral Home.

Dennis L. Novak

Dennis L. Novak died December 14, 2002 in Providence Hospital in Southfield. He was 49. Mr. Novak was born on December 17, 1952 in Detroit.

Richard (Dick) C. Miller

Richard C. Miller of Novi, died December 14, 2002. He was 74. Mr. Miller was a retired manager of General Motors Company for 34 years and a founding member of St. James Church. Survivors include his wife, Marie; one son, Richard J. (Lisa); one daughter, Janet (Cliff) Wasson; four grandchildren, Nicole, Kevin, Laura, and Matthew and one sister, Renee (Bill) Henderson. A funeral service was held December 18 at St. James Church, 46325 W. 10 Mile Rd., Novi. Interment will be at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Contributions may be made to the Condition of Temporary Shelter (C.O.T.S.) c/o St. James Church. Arrangements were made by O'Brien-Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi.

Commerce DARE program uncertain

By Erin Johnson
STAFF WRITER

Fifth grade students in Commerce Township will get to experience the program Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) for a few more months, but the program's future still remains in the air. At their meeting Dec. 10, the Commerce Township Board of Trustees agreed to continue the program through the end of the school year in June while also looking for alternative means of funding. DARE is in jeopardy due to the failure of a millage proposal in November that would have provided more officers for the township. Township Supervisor Tom Zoner explained that to keep the DARE program permanently, the township will have to find approximately \$102,000 to cover the cost of a new officer. He said the overtime solution is a more achievable goal for the present but is not a long-term fix. "We've got a little Band-Aid here," Zoner said. He said everyone is under a

money crunch but several township departments offered to make sacrifices in order to try to keep the program. Zoner also asked that parents and schools do what they can to help with the costs.

Other items addressed by the Board of Trustees at the Dec. 10 meeting include:

- Held a public hearing regarding the Ladd Road Special Assessment District.
- Approved initial cable franchise agreement and introduction of cable communication ordinance.
- Honored Oakley Park Elementary School for raising more than \$10,000 for UNICEF.

Erin Johnson is a reporter for the *Millford Times*. She can be reached at (248) 685-1507, ext. 21 or by e-mail erjohnson@thhomecomm.net.

Biz Brief



M. Connolly

Michael Connolly has been named Manager of the Property Condition Assessment (PCA) Group for ATC Associates, Inc. (ATC) to support the Novi, Connolly has over eight years experience in the environmental industry, including more than three years performing building engineering surveys. He worked with ATC for six years in Michigan and Indiana, prior to establishing Structure & Site Inspection Services, a residential and commercial building inspection business. He has two B.S. degrees from Central Michigan University; one in earth science and the other in hydrogeology/environmental geology.

In the Service

Michelle L. Pross



M. Pross

Michelle L. Pross has been deployed to a forward operating location to support the mission of Operation Enduring Freedom. She is the daughter of Sandra L. Hylio of Redford and Daniel Pross of Walled Lake. Forces have been deployed and reserve components activated to support the war against global terrorism, combating the international terrorist network or regime forces outside of the United States. The specialist is an operator/maintainer regularly assigned to the 300th Military Police Battalion in Inksler, Mich. She is the daughter of Sandra L. Hylio of Redford and Daniel Pross of Walled Lake.

Ian G. Mogg

Army National Guard Pvt. Ian G. Mogg has graduated from basic combat military training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. During the eight weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission and received instruction in drill and core-motives, rifle marksmanship, weapons, map reading, tactics, armed and unarmed combat, military justice, military history, physical fitness, first aid, Army history, core values and traditions, and special training in human relations. Mogg is the son of Suelien Mogg of Commerce. The private is a 2002 graduate of Walled Lake Western High School.

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Novi gets Curves for Women

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Like many females, Plymouth business woman Teresa Harris is concerned about fitness and for years has gone from health club to health club, looking for one with just the right fit. Last year she found one that fit so well that she got a franchise and opened two Curves for Women in Wayne County, Harris cut the ribbon on her third Curves recently Friday in Novi. Harris' newest club is located at 24281 Novi Road in the Pine Ridge Center. The 1,800 square foot club has four employees and is open 8 a.m. to noon and 4 to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Harris said club hours will expand as membership grows. Harris said she first learned about Curves for Women when she and her husband bought a cottage near Alpena. She recalled the Realtor looked much better in per-

son than the picture on her business card. When Harris finally worked up the courage to ask the Realtor about the difference, the woman raved about Curves and took her to the local one. Harris said she found that while the franchise is common all over northern Michigan, it just recently began appearing in the Metro Detroit area. "It's kind of a small town idea," explained Harris. She said the club began in Texas seven years ago, wrapped around the concept of providing women a simple workout program with nutritional advice. Harris said a lot of women, herself included, find themselves intimidated by the complicated equipment found in many large health clubs. She said many women will skip at first one machine and then another that they're having difficulty adjusting to rather than ask questions and will eventually drop out of a health club altogether. She said these are the women who are attracted to Curves. "We mill a complete workout," said Harris. "The basic concept is simplicity. We have a 30-minute workout that doesn't leave you feeling intimidated." Harris confessed, "My husband has a set of Gold's Gym-type equipment at home and I find it too complicated." She said she was sold on getting her own franchise after joining the Curves for Women near her home in Plymouth. She opened one in Westland in April and a second in Livonia in May. The Livonia club already has 700 members, she said. For more information about Curves for Women, call (248) 912-0077. Phil Foley is a staff writer for the *Novi News*. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext.108 or at pfoley@thhomecomm.net.



Right, Teresa Harris (center) cuts the ribbon to open her newest Curves for Women center in Novi with the help of Novi Chamber of Commerce President Nora Champion and Novi Mayor Dick Clark.



Left, Kristina Knoeri, manager of Novi's new Curves for Women and owner Teresa Harris (right) demonstrate some of the equipment at the new health club.

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Wishes come true, courtesy of Ford plant

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Christmas for Mike Urmetz is going to be almost anti-climatic. The 17-year-old has already received two hard to beat gifts from his brother: a car and a life-saving kidney.

The men and women of the Wisconsin Ford Plant made the first gift even better by restoring Mike's 1987 Thunderbird to nearly the same condition it was when it rolled off the assembly line in Lorraine, Illinois 15 years ago.

According to Susan Leach, president of the Livonia-based Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan, Mike is representative of the 350 "wish kids" helped so far this year by the foundation. Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan eradicates the lives of children with life-threatening illnesses by granting a special wish.

Since 1984 the Michigan chapter has helped make the wishes of more than 3,300 children come true. In Mike's case, his wish was to have the 1987 Thunderbird that his older brother, Bryan, gave him restored.

Make-A-Wish Foundation turned to the people at the Wisconsin Ford Plant, where the current generation of 7,000 are assembled.

"It was a complete disaster when we got it," recalled Tom Righard, a hourly employee from Fowlerville, he said the short list for the car were the parts they didn't have to work on.

He said that while about 30 people had their hands on the vehicle during the restoration, it effected nearly everyone in the plant. "We got a lot of support from everyone, even if they just stopped by to see how things were going," said Righard.

Righard said the best part of the project, for him, was the chance to spend extra time with his own son, Andy, who also works in the plant. He said he and Andy were one of

two father-son teams who volunteered for the project, the other was Emmanuel and David Sant of Wisconsin.

Larry Fisher, the plant's dealer liaison, said one of the best things about the project was the way it pulled all of the employees together as a family.

He said the other one was the look on Mike's face as he saw the car for the first time after completing a tour of the plant, which is the largest assembly facility for cars in the world. Wisconsin was home to Thunderbird production from 1958 to 1976, when Ford moved production of the car to plants in Ohio and Illinois to make room for production of the Lincoln Mark series.

"Awesome," was Mike's reaction to the car. And, while he's looking forward to getting his drivers license next month, the Thunderbird said he doesn't think the car will see much road time until spring.

Two years ago things were looking a lot less cheery for Mike. His mother, Debbie, said they discovered his kidneys had failed when they sent him in for a check up because a school injury didn't seem to be healing properly.

Debbie, her husband, Bob, couldn't be a kidney donor because of health problems and she wasn't a match. That's when Mike's older brother stepped up to volunteer one of his kidneys. "I asked him, are you sure this is what you want to do and he said, 'Yes, that's my brother,'" recalled Debbie. She also recalled that at the time, her youngest son "was in really rough shape."

Now Mike and his dream car are in running order. "Is this great or what," declared Fisher.

Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110 or by e-mail at foley@nlh.comcon.net.

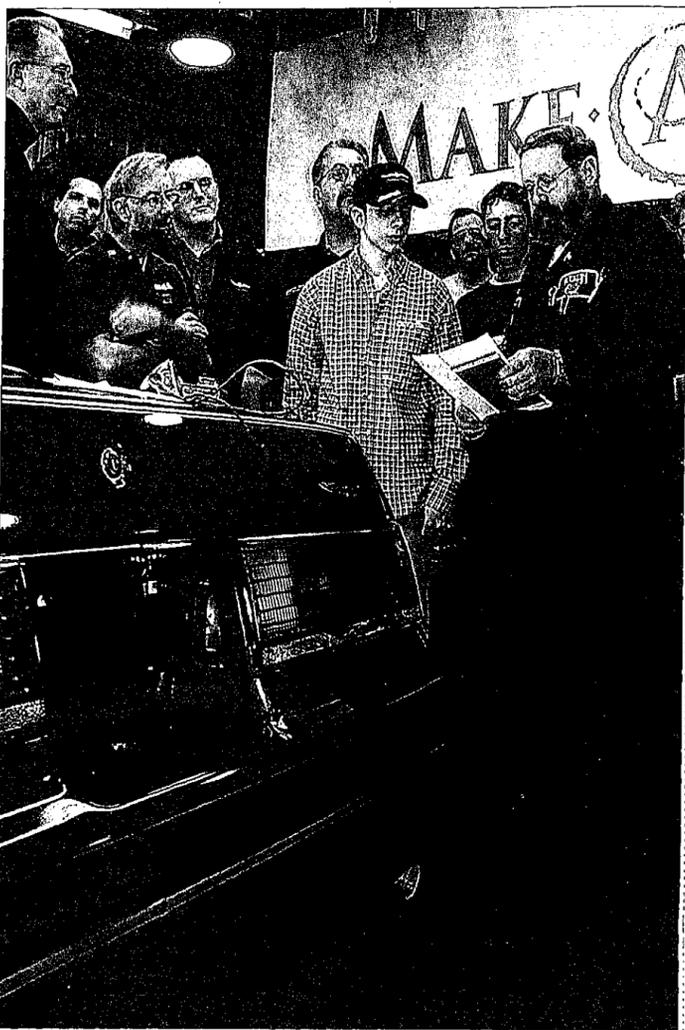
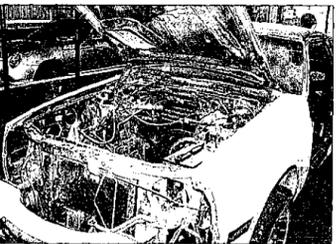


photo by PHIL FOLEY

Tom Righard (right) tells Mike Urmetz a little about the effort that went in to restoring his 1987 Ford Thunderbird to near showroom condition. Mike is just one of hundreds of youths across the state with life-threatening conditions who've been helped by the Make-A-Wish Foundation.



Courtesy photo - Chuck Green/Ford Motor Company

To say that Mike Urmetz's 1987 Thunderbird was rough when it rolled into the Wisconsin Ford Plant 15 months ago is a first order understatement. Ford employees, working on their own time, replaced the car's engine and transmission; refashioned near every body panel and replaced the car's interior.

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WOVI radio marathon helps Toys For Tots

Novi High students perform various stunts for gift certificates

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Students from Novi High School's radio station, WOVI, did their part to spread holiday cheer last week as they put on an 18-hour radio marathon to benefit Toys For Tots on Dec. 6. It started at 6 a.m. and went until midnight.

According to program director and on air personality Kelly McMartin, the radio station was trying to get the whole community to come together as one and donate a lot of toys. "We went out into the community and got gift certificates to stores from everywhere," she said. "What we tried to do is get the listeners to come in and donate toys for us. If they drop off a toy, we will give them a gift certificate. It's a lot of fun."

The students managed to get much of the school involved as well, as the marathon was broadcast on televisions throughout the school. Students called up and won prizes for doing crazy stunts, like going outside and rolling in the snow.

"It promotes the businesses, so that's why it works both ways," said music director and on air personality James Carson. "Around 1:30

p.m., we went on the air and we said the first kid who can run down here and jump in the snow will win a gift certificate and we got so many kids all around the hallway. We were walking outside and all these kids were walking down the hallway."

Another way students won gift certificates was by entering an eating contest. Three hundred chicken wings were ordered and delivered from Buffalo Wild Wings, which equaled out to seven chicken wings to four students. "We put a bunch of hot sauce on them and they had to eat them all in one sitting," Carson said. "That was a lot of fun and whoever won the contest got a banner and a bunch of gift certificates."

Other stunts students were willing to do included handstands and writing WOVI on their cheeks with lipstick.

"We had some drop boxes around the community where people could drop toys off just in case they didn't want to come here," McMartin said. "We put them in different locations, one in Northville and one in Novi. It's good for us because it publicizes us and it publicizes Toys For Tots. We got phone calls every two seconds."

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 khuri@nlh.comcon.net.



Courtesy photo - Chuck Green/Ford Motor Company

Operation Good Cheer

Fran Herbert (left), Wanda McKay, Pamela Frank, Dave Wilyard, Diane Smith, Erica Hill and Gerry "Hollywood" Welch were just a few of the volunteers at the Wixom Ford Assembly Plant who helped raise more than \$70,000 this year to make sure 500 foster children have a merry Christmas

On Campus

The following Novi residents were among the graduates of Michigan State University during fall 2002 commencement exercises: Kaitlyn Bailey, Loma Camp, Katie Copp, Stephanie Gordon, Ryan Schram, Jason Scott, Jennifer Simich, Alisa Williams, Corey Welowicz.

School Briefs

Last year, Novi Woods PTO began awarding an annual scholarship to a graduating senior from Novi High School who attended Novi Woods. A committee of teachers and parents is now being formed. Anyone who would be interested in serving on this committee and helping select this year's recipient, or would like more information, should contact Janet at (248) 344-2950.

The lost and found boxes in Novi Woods lobby are filling up fast. If any students in that school are missing anything, they should check those boxes soon, because all items left unclaimed will be disposed of or donated to charity at the end of the school day on Friday, Dec. 20.

Compiled by Ramez Khuri

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Concern arises as students find new ways to get a high

■ Parents need to be aware of possible drug problem in Novi

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

A recent incident in which a Novi High School student took some loose tranquilizers to get high has sparked some new concerns in the hearts of school administrators. High school students may be looking for new ways to get high, even if that means putting substances meant for animals into their systems and possibly endangering their lives in the process.

This is something that school social worker Kristin Corrian is following very closely. "My concern would be, when the horse tranquilizer issue came up, is where are we going?" she said. "Are kids getting loose with traditional drugs and are they looking for things that aren't the typical marijuana?"

Corrian went on to say that she was told about kids using an over-the-counter cold medicine called ephedrine to get high. "Kids were taking 10 or 12 tablets at a time and it makes you violently sick at first, but then you get some sort of buzz or high off of it after you get violently ill," she said. "Are kids looking for different ways to catch a high? I'm not sure and that's what's scaring me."

In an effort to stop this behavior, many phone calls were made to all the local pharmacies in the area.

"We just told the pharmacies to look out for teenagers coming in and buying ephedrine, who don't look like they're sick or ill," Corrian said.

"We all need to be aware of this. I do know that there were some awareness programs as well. These types of things are done because it's not just a high school problem; it's a community problem."

Corrian believes that there is a drug problem in the school system.

but it's also outside the school walls as well, which is why she believes that the whole community should know about it.

"I think that if any kid is using drugs, there is a problem, whether it's one or two kids or 500 kids," she said. "This is something that the nation is talking about, so it's a problem and I don't think Novi is immune by it at all. For us to turn a blind eye and say, 'It's not happening in our community because it's a nice place to live,' would be unrealistic for us. If we are not going to do something to address the problem, the only thing we are doing is making it worse."

A way for parents to combat this problem at home, according to Corrian, is to be aware of basic signs and symptoms that their children may be experiencing.

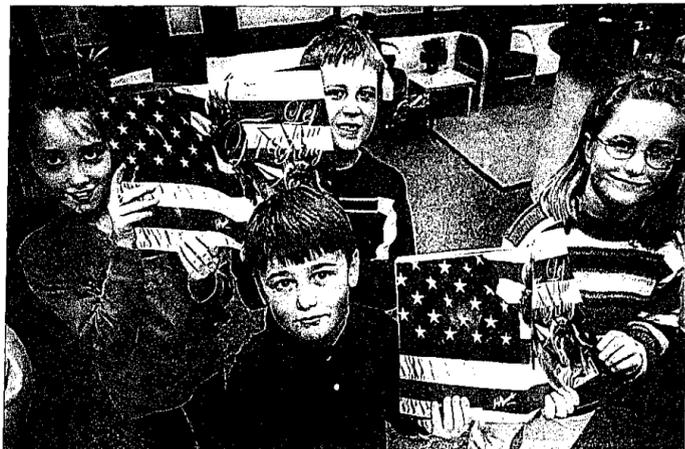
- changes in sleep patterns
- sleeping a lot more or less
- changes in school performance

from coming high grades to coming low grades all of a sudden

- changes in their personality, losing game from a happy person to a sad and depressed person or vice versa
- changes in appearance from dressing cleanly to sloppily

"These are pretty textbook symptoms," Corrian said. "The bottom line is, any changes in a normal child's personality that parents can't relate to just age issues are something to be looked at. Parents should ask questions. What are they doing? Where are they going? And who are they going with? Getting to know their friends and getting involved in their lives is key. Studies show that drug use drops dramatically in children when their parents are involved in their kids' lives. Kids they are going to fight you and yes, they are going to say that's not what they want you to do, but they actually do. Kids want goals and direction and they want to know that their parents care about them."

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.



These Deerfield Elementary School students were part of the team that worked on their yearbook in 2001 earning it an Honorable Mention for Best All Around Yearbook. From left are Chantal Christie, Beau Bloomfield, Andrew Ward, and Elise Carter.

Deerfield's yearbook earns award

■ Alphabet theme and student involvement made book special

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Deerfield Elementary School earned Honorable Mention in the seventh annual "Best of the Best" national yearbook contest in the Best All-Around Yearbook category for its 2001-02 version of the book. The yearbook serves as a historical and memorable time capsule to preserve the school's year for their students, faculty, parents and community members.

According to Linda Boran, a parent volunteer on the yearbook committee last year and this year, the reason why the school won Honorable Mention was in part

because of the book's unique alphabet theme. The other reason was because students at the school were involved in its production.

"We asked the kids to come up with school related words from A-Z," Boran said. "For instance, on the J page we had a jock of lantern and all through the book we had pictures that all related back to the alphabet, which were also school related."

Boran went on to say that the book also boasts some "real nice graphics."

"You can look at the words that border the page and then look at the pictures and graphics that match them," she said. "The pictures, the layout

and the theme made our book exceptional. It is very cute and the kids were involved in it too."

"The students also voted for the cover of the book on election day last year. They each had ballots and the cover that won reflected the Statue of Liberty with red, white and blue stripes behind it."

"There was a lot of patriotism on the children's minds at the time because it was right after Sept. 11," Boran said. "In fact, they voted on this year's book cover as well and the one that won was another patriotic theme, the American flag with the words to the Pledge of Allegiance behind it. It's amazing how much kids are aware of what's going on with adult world."

Deerfield entered the contest because the school's Lifetouch Yearbook Representative, Anne McKeatney, encouraged it.

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.

"We were pretty proud of the book and we knew we had a pretty good chance, so we took that as a good sign," Boran said. "The recognition is very good. I think they judge the contest on creativity, which we had a lot of."

This year's book is continuing with the theme idea, which will be "The time of our lives." It will center around different "times" and students and parents can also expect the same types of graphics as well.

"The credit should go to Kim Giroux and Karen Kotcher," Boran said. "We have a great parent volunteer group."

Jessica Garon, also in fourth grade, enjoyed herself as well. "I thought this was pretty cool," she said. "I learned that when some of the animals sting a person it doesn't hurt because your skin is too thick and the sea anemone won't sting a clown fish because it knows that the clown fish is actually helping it."

Deerfield Elementary School teacher Heather Stewart joins in with students Emily Soong and Ian Dunbar in touching a sea-anemone during last week's visit by the Living Science tide pool.

Oceans live in classes at Deerfield

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Live sea creatures were created into Deerfield Elementary on Dec. 12, as the Living Science organization came visiting. It is a non-profit group that travels to different schools all over Michigan and northern Ohio to teach students about animals.

"We have animals from Africa and Australia," interpreter David Vrtachnik said. "We bring in a wallaby, macaws and what we try to do is to make it a hands-on approach where the kids get a chance to actually work with the animals. We don't do a big presentation, but we do let each classroom come at a time. We teach kids where they live and why they look the way they do."

The organization has many animals from around the world, but it brought only sea animals to Deerfield. Students first viewed a slide show where they learned about the animals they were going to see and touch, then they went to the stage area of the school where the tide pools were set up.

"You can't take the kids to the ocean, so the slide show just gives the kids a little background about where the animals live," Interpreter

Robbin Ward said. "We use that in a way to explain tide pools, how it affects animal life and the animals that live there. It's just something that reinforces the visual part of it so, hopefully, they can remember things. The whole purpose of this is to get the kids interested in science."

At the tide pool, children learned about what affects the tides, what animals look like, how they behave and where they come from. They also learn why the water is cold. Students got to see and touch a Pacific lobster, sea anemones, zebra mussels, barnacles and sea stars.

"The Pacific lobster is a scavenger," Vrtachnik said. "He doesn't have any claws. The sea anemones are actually poisonous, but our skin protects us, and we are trying to educate the kids to say sea stars. They call them star fish, but they don't look like fish."

Other things in the pools were feather duster worms, an egg sack from a shark, a monkey-faced prickle back fish (which looks like an eel) and an Atlantic lobster, which is a predator and has claws.

"We hope that the kids can have appreciation and respect for the animals," Vrtachnik said. "I think there are a lot of kids who are really excited about it. I think the smaller kids get that fear right at the beginning, but after a couple minutes they see their friends doing it and they get comfortable with the animals."

Fourth-grader Joe Schutring enjoyed the tide pool. "I learned that star fish can turn their stomach inside out and then they get their mouth and pull the food that they're eating in and turn their stomach back inside and that's how they eat. It's really cool," he said.

David Vrtachnik is interpreter for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net.

Deerfield Elementary School teacher Heather Stewart joins in with students Emily Soong and Ian Dunbar in touching a sea-anemone during last week's visit by the Living Science tide pool.



Deerfield Elementary School teacher Heather Stewart joins in with students Emily Soong and Ian Dunbar in touching a sea-anemone during last week's visit by the Living Science tide pool.

Glengary Fall Fair breaks records

The annual PTA Fall Fair at Glengary Elementary was a success by all measures. The Walled Lake Consolidated elementary school saw a record number of ticket sales, business donations and student volunteers.

The PTA Fall Fair was held in mid October at the school which is located at 3070 Woodbury Ave. in Commerce Township. According to Glengary Principal Dr. George Culbert, "This was our most successful Fall Fair to date."

Record attendance and ticket sales were reported. More than 191 parents, 28 high/middle school students, 32 fifth grade students and 15 local businesses helped to run the annual school activity.

The Fall Fair is held annually at Glengary Elementary to give students and their families a fun start to the school year. Carnival-type games are offered with various prizes, as well as a complete line of food and drinks for families to enjoy.

New to the fair was Chrysler's Drive For Kids program, which allowed parents to test-drive new Chrysler vehicles (i.e., PT Cruiser, Sebring Convertible, Grand Jeep Cherokee and loaded minivan). Chrysler gave Glengary \$5 for each test drive with local dealership Shuman Motors in Walled Lake, matching the donation. This resulted in a very generous donation of \$760 to Glengary Elementary.

Cathy Warren, PTA Chairman of the event, said, "Glengary Elementary staff, students and parents would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone involved. It was a team effort."

The school also extends a note of thanks to the following businesses for their donations and volunteer efforts:

Businesses: Chrysler, Shuman Motors, Vans Skate Park, Entertainment Tonie, Wal-Mart, Curves for Women.

continued on 16

Steppin' for seniors
On Dec. 14 the Novi Civic Ballet Company and the Decanter Companies performed a holiday dance performance for seniors at Novi's Meadowbrook Commons. Approximately 50 dancers ranging in ages from 6 to 16 years from The Sports Club of Novi participated. The newly-formed Novi Civic Ballet Company performed "Waltz of the Flowers" from the Nutcracker and the DanCentre Company sang and performed tap, jazz, lyrical and ballet routines. After the performance dancers and seniors enjoyed punch and cookies.



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The best Christmas gift didn't come from a store. It came from God. Join us Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. Church of the Holy Cross, Novi (Episcopal Church - Part of the worldwide Anglican Communion) 46200 W. Ten Mile Road (between Taft & Beck) Novi, Michigan Tele: 248-349-1175 www.churchoftheholycross.com

"Winter Wonderland" in Walled Lake school
Loon Lake Elementary, located at 2151 Loon Lake in Wixom, will showcase its "Winter Wonderland" performance today from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. "I feel this will be a wonderful learning experience for both the general education students and the special needs students to come together in a cooperative activity," said Susan Winder, principal. Karen Burrill's third-grade class chose to participate in the project in lieu of a holiday party. "They wanted to give an enjoyable afternoon to their families rather than receive," she said. "This project has been so beneficial to all students."

CITY OF NOVI
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Parks, Recreation and Forestry meeting regularly scheduled for Thursday, January 9, 2003 has been changed to Thursday, January 16, 2003. (12-19-02 NN HT00030313)

Please join Us At These Special Christmas Services

Sunday Dec. 22 10 am Children's Christmas Service	Tues. Dec. 24 7 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	Wed. Dec. 25 10 am Christmas Festival Service
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Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
41415 Nine Mile Rd. at Meadowbrook
248-349-0565

A Christmas Invitation
Faith Community Presbyterian Church of Novi
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
Invites December 24, 2002

5:00 p.m. - Family Traditions Worship Service
8:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service
11:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service, Communion

For information on Double Cash Back call 1-800-991-7777 or visit the Players Prestige booth.

Faith Community Presbyterian Church
44400 West Ten Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48150
248-349-2345

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- Fire Technology
- Correctional Science
- Health Information Technology
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CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 4

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CALL 734-462-4426
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Schoolcraft College
Garden City Online



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Novi Middle School Honor Roll 2002-2003

7th Grade, 2nd Card Marking

Abbond, Nina
 Albandi, Wajid
 Albandi, Alberto
 Anieto, Katherine
 Anieto, Kevin
 Anjichak, Ashley
 Bagdas, Christina
 Banaza, Vidi
 Barbour, Michael
 Baroon, Marianne
 Bardaca, Lia
 Bartlett, Lindsey
 Barton, Sarah
 Boteman, Craig
 Belanger, Ryan
 Bereguet, Allyson
 Berner, Mark
 Black, Hottan
 Blawuka, Matthew
 Bourque, Samantha
 Bosman, Nicholas
 Boyle, Shannon
 Bradford, Kelly
 Brandenbri, Bryan
 Brandenbri, Kelsey
 Bray, Kristina
 Breaugh, Alyssa
 Brey, Alexander
 Britten, Adam
 Brunner, James
 Buangner, Steven
 Burns, Daniel
 Burt, Kerrie
 Byraes, Jennifer
 Calderon, Nicholas
 Carlson, Jema
 Carter, Christian
 Cash, Matthew
 Celski, Phillip
 Chaklos, Kaitlin
 Chandrasekaran, Balachandran
 Chiang, Amy
 Chitt, Amanda
 Chang, Soyoung
 Cigna, Brittany
 Cirka, Alexi
 Clarkson, Jonathan
 Clay, Melissa
 Cloward, Matthew
 Ches, Stephanie
 Cody, Shannon
 Collins, Kara
 Cooper, Aimee
 Costello, Amanda
 Craerah, Abigail
 Crandell, Colin
 Crandell, Jordan
 Crawford, Ashley
 Cripps, Stephanie
 Crst, Julie
 Cread, Aaron
 Cross, Elizabeth
 Cymet, Paula
 Czekaj, Dana
 D'Crux, Stephanie
 Dastmalchi, Yalda

Davis, Scott
 DeBono, Steve
 DeCello, Vanessa
 DeNova, Joseph
 Demeyer, Casey
 DeTrini, James
 Diaz, Elizabeth
 Dietler, Andrea
 Djez, Paula
 Dimov, Alexandra
 Drecko, Thomas
 Domini, Alessandro
 Doss, Kathryn
 Determush, Matthias
 Dnan, Christy
 Dzwetsky, Sarah
 Engja, Kristina
 Fargitt, Daniel
 Ericson, Matthew
 Esser, Dana
 Evans, Matthew
 Farhad, Abories
 Farley, Lauren
 Ferguson, Matthew
 Ferris, Arthur
 Fitzpatrick, John
 Fitzpatrick, Megan
 Foerg, Benjamin
 Franchi, Alyssa
 Fraser, Alyssa
 Fritsch, Paul
 Furse, Miyako
 Gaffney, Kaitlin
 Gardner, Madelyn
 Gasiurak, Melissa
 Gaudreault, Jonathan
 Lawrence, Curt
 Ledesma, Nathan
 Lee, Patrick
 Letziser, Aaron
 Levyska, Melissa
 Lichorobiec, Jonathan
 Little, Barbara
 George, Mikhal
 Glancy, Andrew
 Good, Allison
 Goodman, Ryan
 Goyal, Ashina
 Gregoire, Jonathan
 Grimes, Nicole
 Groner, Bailey
 Guertin, Kelsey
 Gutowski, Elizabeth
 Guttman, Eric
 Ha, Lung An
 Habintzi, Amy
 Hadley, Rachelle
 Haggerty, Andrew
 Hamelin, Marcia
 Hanson, Kristen
 Harben, Amanda
 Harrington, Andrew
 Hauglit, Aaron
 Hay, Kendra
 Henry, Kristen
 Hemminger, Prago, Lorraine
 Hildebrg, Kathryn
 Hirman, Collin
 Hlavaty, Kathleen
 Hoen, Becky
 Hong, Christine
 Hooman, Lauren
 Hu, Jason
 Islam, Nazifa
 Islam, Tausif
 Janer, Paige

Jeng, Connie
 Jennes, Andrea
 Jok, Laura
 Jones, Christopher
 Jones, Eric
 Kelber, Scott
 Kerroski, David
 Kenney, Alexandra
 Kern, Danielle
 Khan, Sami
 Kiefer, Daniel
 King, Molly
 Kirby, Cara
 Kirin, Michael
 Kingawa, Yuta
 Knurek, Robert
 Koski, Caitlin
 Kozak, Vikas
 Kuehls, Lindsay
 Kong, Qingdi
 Koric, Lyndsey
 Koszewska, Emily
 Kozak, Caitlin
 Kuczejda, Charles
 LaDuke, Andrew
 Lakshmanan, Saravanasudaram
 Langenhors, John
 Laticiana, Nicholas
 Laux, Kelsey
 Lawrence, Curt
 Ledesma, Nathan
 Lee, Patrick
 Letziser, Aaron
 Levyska, Melissa
 Lichorobiec, Jonathan
 Little, Barbara
 George, Mikhal
 Glancy, Andrew
 Good, Allison
 Goodman, Ryan
 Goyal, Ashina
 Gregoire, Jonathan
 Grimes, Nicole
 Groner, Bailey
 Guertin, Kelsey
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 Hamelin, Marcia
 Hanson, Kristen
 Harben, Amanda
 Harrington, Andrew
 Hauglit, Aaron
 Hay, Kendra
 Henry, Kristen
 Hemminger, Prago, Lorraine
 Hildebrg, Kathryn
 Hirman, Collin
 Hlavaty, Kathleen
 Hoen, Becky
 Hong, Christine
 Hooman, Lauren
 Hu, Jason
 Islam, Nazifa
 Islam, Tausif
 Janer, Paige

Minhas, Sehar
 Miyatake, Natsuki
 Morabito, Joseph
 Morisset, Brian
 Morrill, Andrew
 Morrison, Katherine
 Moss, Melissa
 Nabaty, Sarah
 Nadjarian, John
 Natzel, Sarah
 Nemoso, Sean
 Nobeji, Toru
 Nowak, Thomas
 Nuculaj, Valentina
 Odun, Jocelyn
 Ogradowski, Michael
 Ornes, Bryant
 Oppicke, David
 Paquette, Lauren
 Park, Jonathan
 Park, Michelle
 Peranski, Brian
 Pierce, Jennifer
 Place, Michael
 Popp, Whitney
 Portues, Amanda
 Postema, Jessica
 Press, Camille
 Pritchard, Joseph
 Rabhan, Alexandra
 Racoon, Elissa
 Reddy, Snigdha
 Reilly, Jordan
 Reizian, Paulina
 Renkiewicz, Michael
 Reyes, Laura
 Reynolds, Chelsea
 Ridenour, Ryan
 Riegel, George
 Rigdon, Matthew
 Rogg, Eric
 Rozak, Chelsea
 Salers, Veronika
 Saley, Jessica
 Samalson, Emily
 Santore, Dana
 Sasaki, Mako
 Sathi, Aditya
 Schaffer, Matthew
 Schlenke, Patrick
 Schlessman, Jonathan
 Schmidt, Melissa
 Schmittman, Rebecca
 Schulhoff, Katherine
 Scudl, Jennifer
 Setter, Stephanie
 Shuda, Joey
 Shadwell, Erica
 Shawver, Ashlyn
 Sheeran, Joseph
 Sheeran, Sara
 Shelt, Lauren
 Shen, Christopher
 Sherman, Sarah
 7th, 2nd marking cont.
 Shrivastha, Sushma
 Shively, Marybeth
 Singh, Vritika
 Skuberdis, James
 Smith, Brittany

Smith, Graham
 Sophia, Logan
 Sparrow, Shannon
 Spears, Raynard
 Sprys, Rebecca
 Strider, Arthi
 Stancik, Amanda
 Steinfeld, Kaitlyn
 Steinbock, Kathleen
 Stieckler, Amanda
 Sontka, Megan
 Syntanski, Michael
 Szajner, Adam
 Tabbot, Baily
 Teyrens, Lindsey
 Yehzansia, Andrew
 Terashi, Natsuki
 Thirnes, Kevin
 Thomas, Alison
 Thomas, Marissa
 Torossian, Gabrielle
 Toth, Stephanie
 Traylor, Andrew
 Turek, Kelly
 VanDerStuyf, Alex
 VanDerStuyf, Timothy
 Varady, Matthew
 Varshey, Nayya
 Vermillion, Brooke
 Vernon, Catherine
 Voeiker, Samon
 Vujcic, Nikola
 Wagner, Colleen
 Wagner, Kay
 Walker, Sarah
 Wall, Suzanne
 Wallen, Kellie
 Wang, Jackie
 Warnowicz, Rachel
 Wickert, Corey
 Wilke, Christie
 Wiley, Bradley
 Willey, Alexander
 Willet, Kaitlin
 Will, Joshua
 Wingard, Rachel
 Winkel, Bryon
 Wood, Gracee
 Woods, Colin
 Woods, Dashonda
 Wu, Joshua
 Xiao, Tingling
 Yanguechi, Karin
 Yanke, Emily
 Yeganehdaryeh, Sarah
 Yonemura, Kento
 Yoon, Clara
 Young, Megan
 Young, Christopher
 Yusk, Robert
 Zbrancik, Rachael
 Zhang, Shan
 Ziegler, Valerie
 Zuo, Ruixiao

Abraham, Claire
 Abrego, Dustin
 Adams, Elizabeth
 Afana, Abcer
 Akamitsu, Asako
 Alexander, Brittany
 Alota, Marie
 Alvarez, Anna
 Anderson, Chelsea
 Antoma, Danielle
 Arrington, Casey
 Aschwendt, Amber
 Ballantyne, Adam
 Banam, Amanda
 Barbera, Trisha
 Barbons, Amanda
 Barden, Kristen
 Berger, Chelsea
 Bart, Jaclyn
 Baxter, Shawn
 Beard, Michael
 Belle, Michael
 Benham, Catherine
 Berger, Chelsea
 Bhatt, Geet
 Bhatnagar, Ankit
 Bixman, Aubree
 Blanchard, Evan
 Blaszcak, James
 Blome, Andrew
 Bolin, Derek
 Bowser, Joel
 Bradshaw, Jamie
 Broadwell, Charles
 Buchbinder, Charles
 Buckley, Lauren
 Burski, Corey
 Brubaker, Adam
 Burris, Rachel
 Burich, Nicholas
 Capello, Daniel
 Carr, Steven
 Carney, Brandon
 Carroll, Courtney
 Carter, Ryan
 Caske, Adam
 Cernie, Ryan
 Cesarz, Kaylynn
 Church, Jeremy
 Cocks, Kelsey
 Conas, Morgan
 Corless, Kelli
 Cossaboom, Gregory
 Crawford, Stephanie
 Crocker, Shannon
 Czekaj, Scott

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Honor Roll

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Daglet, Jorgen
 Damrath, Amanda
 Danielson, Evan
 DeLillo, Brendan
 DePoter, Claire
 Diaccon, Amanda
 Donato, Danielle
 Donohue, Jeffrey
 Dozier, Adam
 Determush, Stephan
 Duan, Wen
 Duda, Lauren
 Dwyer, Michelle
 Dye, Matt
 Elnod, Katherine
 Erickson, Nicholas
 Estrook, Emily
 Favre, Mark
 Flennoy, Kristen
 Fontaine, Lauren
 Fouts, Taylor
 Fraser, Colleen
 Fraser, Jonathan
 Frisk, Natalia
 Frey, Bradley
 Fryatt, Bradley
 Gagne, Kaitlyn
 Gazette, Jacqueline
 Gaudy, Dustin
 Giacobe, Adam
 Glabinski, Amy
 Goldsmith, Meghan
 Gomes, Andrew
 Good, Steven
 Grabow, Michele
 Graz, Ann
 Graf, Daniel
 Graham, Caitlin
 Gray, Kaitlin
 Graybiel, Taylor
 Grunski, Danielle
 Guera, Nicholas
 Haffey, Patrick
 Hagen, Kaitlyn
 Hall, Andrew
 Hamer, Kimberley
 Hamilton, Gabrielle
 Harbick, John
 Harris, Katherine
 Harrison, Eric
 Hawley, Daniel
 Healthfield, Jennifer
 Hebd, Lisa
 Henowski, Kristin
 Hendrick, John
 Hepler, Eric
 Here, Adam
 Hillard, Jeremy
 Hiyama, Yuka
 Hoen, Megan
 Hogan, Kelly
 Holden, Christopher
 Hoving, Marguerite
 Ikawa, Aya
 Jafri, Talha
 Jain, Tim
 Janssen, Stephanie
 Jaussi, Stephanie
 Jeng, Winnie
 Jodoin, Jessica
 Johnson, Eric
 Johnston, Rebecca
 Jones, Kyle
 Juzvick, Brent
 Kaindl, Jeffrey
 Kalz, Emily
 Kaminski, Daniel
 Katsamiris, Alexis
 Kelsey, Victoria
 Kepes, Jeffrey
 Kim, Stephen
 Kim, Yoo-Jin
 Knedgen, Tanya
 Kochyan, Patrick
 Kohl, Rachael
 Kollis, Michael
 Konkus, Kevin
 Kopeika, Matthew
 Kovacinski, Rachel
 Kozma, Jodi
 Kramer, Andrea
 Kristofik, Andrea
 Krok, Marisha
 Lai, Jeffrey
 Lai, Kevin
 Landry, Max
 Lee, Gerica
 Lee, Matthew
 Lee, Steven
 Lepak, Jenna
 Less, Rachel
 Lewis, Chelsea
 Lewis, Robert
 Loiselle, Jessica
 Longo, Michael
 Lozen, Jennifer
 Lukasiewicz, Aleksa
 Lyall, Carly
 Ma, Xiaoyi
 MacDonough, Kenneth
 Maize, Sally
 Mannoski, Megan
 Manza, Richard
 Martin, Michael
 McCarthy, Catherine
 McCarty, Jenna
 McCusker, James
 McGuire, Kelsey
 8th, 2nd marking cont.
 McNeil, Kelly
 McQueen, Ann
 Meyer, Kirsten
 Michaels, Marc
 Miller, Elizabeth
 Morris, Natalie
 Mosalam, Abeda
 Mucha, Laura
 Mugianis, Katina
 Muller, Eric
 Munteanu, Milrena
 Muradieh, Umar
 Murphy, Lindsay
 Murray, Rachel
 Nagle, Andrew
 Nakashima, Ami
 Napier, Robert

Nicklaus, Reid
 Niendorf, Emma
 Niflin, Nicole
 Nuculaj, Suzanna
 Oikarinen, Robert
 Olkowski, Kelsi
 Ong, Amy
 Opperman, Katherine
 Orlando, Nathan
 Otis, Rachael
 Park, Nicholas
 Pagano, Nicholas
 Park, Justine
 Parkins, Robert
 Parsell, Elizabeth
 Pasquorelli, Christina
 Passanite, Matthew
 Patel, Janki
 Patton, Nicole
 Pawlicki, Kolby
 Perelli, Amanda
 Peters, Ryan
 Peterson, Lindsey
 Pfeiffer, Karyl
 Phillips, Matthew
 Pilgrian, Daniel

Pires, Jacqueline
 Place, Allison
 Placina, Christine
 Pomer, Sarah
 Prakash, Timmy
 Prasad, Alexander
 Preston, Lirie
 Puccio, Jacqueline
 Pundy, Lauren
 Pyatt, Alexander
 Quinn, Karen
 Rabhan, Theodore
 Ramachandran, Roshan
 Rao, Abhishek
 Rao, Megan
 Rao, Kavi
 Rau, Stephanie
 Recchia, Angela
 Reichel, Sarah
 Rice, Leah
 Richardson, Ryan
 Reuter, Rachel
 Riley, Ryan
 Robertson, Hunter
 Rowy, Matthew
 Rowe, Kevin

Rubel, Lev
 Rucolo, Nicholas
 Rudzinski, Mary
 Rydzicki, Sarah
 Sanchez, Cesar
 Sanctorum, Megan
 Sankovic, Kimberly
 Sanson, Anna
 Sarja, Ashley
 Savino, Cory
 Savino, Justin
 Sakana, Shrimant
 Sayre, Jonathan
 Schneider, Joseph
 Schoenbach, Marce
 Schoenfeld, Laura
 Schramm, Julia
 Schulte, Elizabeth
 Sen, Emily
 Sewicki, Nikki
 Shah, Nikki
 Shaik, Asa
 Siddiqui, Mansoor
 Simon, Michelle
 8th, 2nd marking cont.
 Sisson, Alexandra

Skaglin, Matthew
 Smith, Brian
 Smith, Ellen
 Sobradz, Babak
 Sopha, Joseph
 Spears, Kylie
 Spitz, Megan
 Steerian, Kulyan
 Stark, Alexander
 Stee, Megan
 Styles, Danielle
 Styles, Gannon
 Sullivan, Rebecca
 Surapaneni, Nishant
 Tang, Daming
 Tarran, Megan
 Taylor, Stephanie
 Thimm, Jessica
 Thomson, Julie
 Thwait, Alan
 Tollis, Alexander
 Tankowich, Kristin
 Toyoda, Josh
 Uchida, Kosuke
 Vallean, Aubrey
 Van Buhler, Eric

Vanden Belt, Jonathan
 VanWiemersbach, Christopher
 Vazquez, Albert
 Vellanton, Albert
 Vokhlof, Margaret
 Wagner, Scott
 Walsh, Michael
 White, Ryan
 Webber, John
 Weinert, Michael
 Wenston, Benjamin
 Westdale, Collette
 Westman, Victoria
 White, Michael
 White, Corhan
 Wisnack, Brittany
 Woolford, Pamela
 Wuertli, Sandra
 Yasutake, Shiori
 Yechoor, Kamal
 Yee, Allison
 Yeh, Kevin
 Zbrancik, Lauren
 Zeris, Kimberly
 Zoraya, Nicholas

BONUS

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19 AND 20

SET OF THREE SNOWFLAKE BEARS
 10.00 WITH 50.00 PURCHASE

Get this set of three adorable bears with matching sweaters, a 25.00 value, now just 10.00 with 50.00 purchase.

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19 AND 20 ONLY

SUPER SPECIALS

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST



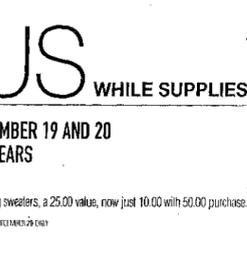
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THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19 AND 20

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MUST PRESENT PASS FOR SAVINGS

PARISIAN TWO DAY SHOPPING PASS

8:00 AM TO 7:00 PM
 VALID THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19 AND 20

7:01 PM TO CLOSE
 VALID THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19 AND 20

EXTRA 20% OFF

EXTRA 30% OFF

(20% OFF FINE JEWELRY)

all sale and clearance purchases

APPAREL FOR MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN; ACCESSORIES; AND HOME ITEMS

*TAKE 10% OFF ALL SALE AND CLEARANCE PURCHASES OF SHOES, ALL LEATHER COATS, LADIES' SUITS, DRESSES AND OUTERWEAR, MEN'S SUITS AND SPORT COATS AND SMALL ELECTRICS. INCLUDES ALL SPECIALS THROUGHOUT THE STORE. EXCLUDES ALL SPECIALS THROUGHOUT THE STORE.

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AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE STORE FOR 5.00 AND UP. IT'S A GREAT LAST-MINUTE GIFT THAT SUITS EVERYONE'S TASTE AND IS FLEXIBLE TO ANY BUDGET.

PARISIAN \$1,000-A-DAY SWEEPSTAKES!

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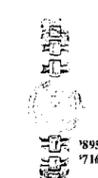
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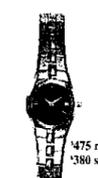
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OPINION

Thursday, December 19, 2002

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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.

Hospital bill's time has come

Gov. Engler has until Dec. 30 to make a huge impact on this region's hospital situation, and we implore him to do the right thing and sign Senate Bill 1436.

By request of State Rep. Nancy Cassis, three competing health care giants - St. Johns Health System, Detroit Medical Center and Henry Ford System - have joined forces in support of changes to the state certificate of need (CON) law.

The much-needed changes would allow hospital beds to be moved within a hospital district.

This could be a win-win situation that would allow the health systems to survive financially while providing convenience for patients.

For example, a pair of St. John's Detroit facilities lost more than \$6 million two years ago. Moving beds to where they're needed would help turn their financial woes around.

Likewise, Providence's Southfield facility reports that between 30 and 40 percent of its patient load comes from the Novi area. How much easier would it be for those patients if they could be provided the same services at Providence's Grand River and Beck facilities?

The problem with the current CON statute, according to

Providence President Robert Casolou, is that it's remained the same since 1988.

Does anybody believe this region hasn't changed in the past 14 years? The changes would let Providence to move over 800 of its 2,424 beds from its seven active hospital beds in this region, including nearly 200 in Novi.

Let's face it - the health systems know where their beds should be to meet their patients' needs. The state (i.e. Gov. Engler) needs to realize this. It's simple business logic - go where the customers are located.

Between Providence, DMC and Henry Ford, nearly 1,400 beds COULD be moved within the region, although that number is much higher than what will actually be.

If the governor sees the light and signs this bill, it would become effective April 1, 2003.

Providence already has infrastructure in place to accommodate an additional 200 beds, and they're expected to apply for that immediately.

Let's hope Mr. Engler is just as eager.

GUEST COLUMN

Breaking the silence about prostate cancer

Each year, an estimated 189,000 men in the United States are diagnosed with prostate cancer, including 8,700 in Michigan. This amounts to one new case every three minutes. In addition, 30,200 men previously diagnosed with prostate cancer will likely die in the United States in 2002. But prostate cancer need not be viewed as a death sentence any longer. With early diagnosis and treatment, more and more American men are surviving the disease. I should know - I am one of them.

It was September 1992 when I learned I had prostate cancer at a free prostate screening during National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. I was unemployed at the time, but because I am a veteran I was able to receive treatment at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Ann Arbor. At that time, my treatment options were limited to a radical prostatectomy, which was performed in December 1992. As with all treatments for prostate cancer, this one was not without side effects.

But, thanks to an effective treatment, I have had my life back for more than 10 years, and I look forward to a long and healthy future.

Prostate cancer screenings absolutely must be part of every man's routine medical check-ups. Prostate cancer can strike any adult male at any age, but those with the following characteristics should be particularly careful:

- African-American men are 50 percent more likely to develop prostate cancer than any other ethnic group (and twice as likely to die from it);
- Men with a family history of prostate cancer are at an increased risk;
- Men 65 years of age and older.

These guidelines are far from a hard and fast rule - fully one quarter of men diagnosed with prostate cancer are under the age of 65 - but the American Cancer Society and other national organizations recommend that those who fall into these categories should begin regular screenings by age 40. In my case, prostate screening along with quick treatment made all the difference. Because we detected the cancer early, I was able to receive treatment before it spread beyond the prostate. Prostate cancer often presents no symptoms, and men - especially in the African-American community - are



Sheldon Schwartz is a prostate and skin cancer survivor who has devoted his life to helping men understand the importance of early detection in effectively treating the disease. He works with a variety of local, statewide, national and international advocacy organizations, and helps organize prostate cancer screenings. Schwartz lives in Novi. If you would like more information about the Michigan Prostate Cancer Coalition, please do not hesitate to contact Sheldon at (248) 706-4636.

often reluctant to have annual physical exams. These are the facts that make this disease so deadly. In the 10 years since my surgery, I have devoted myself to helping both men and women learn more about prostate cancer. As an author, patient advocate, volunteer, and public speaker, I am on a mission to educate men and break the stigma and silence surrounding prostate cancer. In doing so, we can learn a powerful lesson from breast cancer survivors. Women all over the world have overcome the silence surrounding this disease and made great strides in spreading their own message of early detection.

Prostate cancer screening saved my life. I urge all men not only to have themselves screened early and often, but

also to encourage their friends and relatives to undergo screening.

To help spread the message of screening and early detection - and provide support to men dealing with this disease - a number of prostate cancer survivors, state agencies, universities and urologists are forming a statewide coalition. While the founding members met in Ann Arbor just this month, the Michigan Prostate Cancer Coalition has a clearinghouse for information about prostate cancer and work to promote prostate health and the importance of early detection in Michigan.

Andrew Mulch
Novi

OTHER OPINIONS

Page 21A

Thursday, December 19, 2002

A state deficit this big is no time for business as usual

How Gov.-elect Jennifer Granholm handles Michigan's enormous looming deficit will go a long way to determine her success or failure over the next four years.

The numbers are truly daunting. Even after the cuts put through by incumbent Gov. John Engler to get this fiscal year's budget balanced, the best estimate is that the budget for the fiscal year beginning next October is as much as \$1.8 billion. That's 20 percent of the \$9 billion in total state discretionary spending.

Granholm is talking tough, emphasizing cutting the budget rather than increasing taxes. "There's fat in any organization; there's fat in government," she told the Detroit Free Press in an interview last week. "I think of Leo Jaconca, who used to say if he can't find 5 percent to cut in any budget in a given year, then they should move him out."

In last week's column, I argued the terrible budget situation provided the Granholm Administration with a great opportunity to conduct a fundamental and sweeping review of the operations and costs of state government. For instance:

• Fix out-of-control health care costs. Medicaid, a rigid and rule-driven federal defined benefit plan, now consumes another quarter of the state budget. Long-term fixes will have to come from Washington. But in the short run, Michigan could curb costs by promoting home- and community-based care

instead of expensive hospitals and eliminating coverage for optional services. Granholm is already talking about getting Midwestern states together to save money by buying prescription drugs in large quantities to sell through Medicare.

• Sell unneeded capital assets. The state already plans on closing the Northville Psychiatric Hospital and selling off the buildings and land. A thorough inventory of state-owned buildings and property would turn up all kinds of unneeded and overbooked capital assets that could be turned into cash. For example, the state owns literally hundreds of thousands of acres of forest land. Some of this land could be sold, subject to conservation easements requiring public access, for controlled timbering.

• Use technology to cut costs. The private sector is already experiencing remarkable productivity increases and cost savings by use of information technology. It's time to use these tools in government. State attempts to utilize computers and IT have been hampering for years by out-of-date and inflexible purchasing rules; a far-reaching review is in order.

• Fund outcomes: cut poorly performing programs. For many years, the bane of budget cutting has been that various programs are

started and funded but never killed when they don't pan out. How come? But by the time people start looking carefully at the actual outcomes and their costs, the various interests that benefit from the expenditure rally round and lobby against cuts. I've always thought that a simple solution would be to sunset - a nice word meaning "kill" - any government program after it runs for 20 years, regardless of outcome or constituency cries. If a program is really worthwhile, a majority can always be found to re-introduce it with contemporary improvements.

• Streamline education. In some states, only half of every dollar appropriated for education ever makes it into the classroom. Why? There are lots of reasons, but one is the very high per pupil costs run up by small school districts to provide their own bus services, IT, food and security programs and financial record keeping. Frankly, I doubt if the political will exists to consolidate some of Michigan's small and inefficient school districts. But significant economies of scale could be achieved by consolidating these support functions into regional service centers serving a number of districts.

Some will shrink from this list as too radical. But when you're facing a budget deficit as serious as this, it's no time for business as usual.

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

An early but perfect Christmas gift

I don't really feel 43 years old, and many of you probably think I don't act it either. I don't consider myself "old" by any stretch of the imagination, but there are events that happen in your life that make you stop and think about how much time you have on earth.

This past October, my doctor wanted to do a complete physical. "Well, I haven't had a physical since... well, I can't even remember the last one."

He scheduled it for later in that month, and he wanted me to have blood work done prior to "went in on Oct. 6 and did my usual panic attack when I saw the needle, but that's pretty standard."

What wasn't standard was the results of the test, which were mailed to both my doctor and myself. My numbers were nearly perfect in every one of the categories but the last - the PSA count.

PSA? What's that, I wondered. One of our receptionists here at the paper, Karen Whitehurst, is a former nurse, and she said it has to do with

"prostate cancer detection and that stuff."

Prostate cancer? Yikes! My physical wasn't for another week. I called the doctor's office and they said not to panic - if the doctor was worried about my PSA number (6.5), he'd let me know.

Well, my physician for the following week got postponed because the doctor's brother died. Then the rescheduled appointment got bumped to Nov. 18 - a good month and a half of anxiety.

During the physical, my doctor says there's good news and bad news. The good news is I have no muscle either. The bad news is I've got chronic, very spectacular "musician's physique" and start exercising (my least favorite hobby).

He also wants me to go to an urologist at MSU, which ends up turning into an ultrasound and biopsy. That makes exercising look downright inviting.

So, if I really have a heart attack when I see a

needle, you can imagine what happens at the urologist's session. Yup - I pass out.

Two hours later, I'm leaving the clinic and developing a new relationship with God - you know, making deals: "I promise I won't do such and such anymore if..."

That was a Friday, and the doctor said to call me Tuesday for the results. I did. They weren't in yet. More waiting.

Finally, last Wednesday, the doctor's office calls me at work and says my biopsy results came up "negative" - no cancer was detected, just come back in six months for a checkup.

The doctor felt my high PSA was due to an infection I'd been battling for a while and an unusual amount of stress. That stress is a lot lower right now. I made it to church a few minutes early this past Sunday. I've picked up the guitar again. And I see my kids in a different light.

A second chance will do those types of things to you. My Christmas present came early this year, and I thank God for it.

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



Cal Stone

Holidays? Hey, I'm just telling it like it is

For those expecting a cute, cuddly holiday column, like everyone else seems to be writing at this time of year, you're out of luck. I'm not here to give you my version of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" or any other warm and fuzzy Christmas rhyme. I'm not here to tell you what I want for Christmas (Red Wings tickets) or to ask you what you want (probably Red Wings tickets). Nope, this column is about all the nasty stuff that people encounter every year. Stuff that everybody knows is out there but nobody brings up for the simple fact that it's Christmas time and everybody is supposed to be all happy and jolly.

Fie on this: It's the Saturday before Christmas and you still have some shopping to do. You wake up around 8:30 or 9 a.m. but you're already bumming because all the good parking spaces at the mall are taken by the folks who got up at the crack of dawn. You drive down I-96, fighting off all the wackos who are doing the same thing you're doing, nearly getting into at least two accidents on the way. You get distracted when you hear a crazy Christmas song parody on the radio which made you laugh so hard that your eyes start to tear up.

Once at the mall, you circle all the parking lots, encountering very slow people who don't seem to care that they are walking right in front of your car. While your blood pressure is steadily rising and you start to develop a nervous tick in your face, you are temporarily relieved when you see an open parking spot at least five miles away from the entrance to the mall. You drive very fast towards it, nearly running over someone's blue-haired grandmother, only to be turned away by a lady in a mini-van who snatched the spot just before you got there.

In a huff, you drive down the aisle a little and see a car with its reverse lights on in a parking spot. You think to yourself, "Finally! You stop your car and flip your turn signal, but the car doesn't seem to be moving. After two minutes the car starts to pull out and just when you think you can start to edge forward, it goes right back into the spot and an

old man comes out, flips you the bird and says, "Keep moving, this is my spot."

By now every four-letter word known to man is being uttered from your mouth as you desperately search for a stinkin' parking spot. You think to yourself, "This is worse than downtown Northville during a craft show." You don't give up, however, because you know that you have a list of gifts in your pocket that you must purchase for those special family members who you love so much.

Fast forward about an hour. You have finally found a parking spot, albeit an illegal one, and are now making that long hike towards the mall. You hear a car behind you and you look back to see some guy in a Detroit Lions cap, driving an old rusty car from the 1980s who seems to be moose angry than you are. He looks his best to let you know he's here, but you're already so close to the side of the aisle way that if you move any farther in you will be scraping your coat against all the parked cars and getting it dirty. You motion to the motorist to pass, and he does, but not before he gives you the dirtiest look you have ever seen.

After about 10 minutes of walking, you finally get to the entrance of the mall, only to be met by a guy in a fluorescent coat with a bell and a bucket. He walks over to ask for money for the poor, but then stops short when he sees your face. The nervous tick that you started to develop earlier has now taken over and this guy is thinking that you're winking at him, so he backs off. Good thing, too, because you know what you would have said to him.

Once inside, you're met with a million different sights and smells at once. Your nose catches whiffs of some kind of perfume mixed with Chinese food, mixed with pizza. The place is so crammed with people that it's hard to even move, let alone do some shopping when the same old tired Christmas tunes that you hear every single year are blaring from the speakers located all over the mall.

You reach into your pocket and pull out that list of gifts and start to make your way to the electronics store for some video games, only to find out that all the titles on your list are gone.

You think, "There is no way I went through all that for nothing! Little Billy will just have to live with the latest version of PAC-Man and like it."

When you leave the store, you're greeted by some know-it-all guy who has noticed your anxiety and stress. Here's how the conversation goes:

Guy: "Can't find what you're lookin' for, eh?"
You: NO
Guy: Well, you should do what I do.
You: And what's that?
Guy: I do all my Christmas shopping online! He has been me a ton of hassle and I don't have to fight my way through these crowds at the mall.
You: So, what are you doing here then? You do know you're in a mall, right?
Guy: My wife wanted to do some last-minute Christmas shopping.
After hearing that, you probably could be considered legally insane. You start to think, "If I only had a gun, I would severely wound myself right now just so they can take me away from this moon."

You then walk towards the middle of the mall where there are tons of screaming kids lined up for miles to meet Santa Claus. The noise is so intense that you start to feel a headache coming on. You make your way through the masses to all the stores you have to go to and, to make a long story short, some gifts you find and some you don't, but you still manage to max out all your credit cards doing it. You know you will receive some slack from the family for the stuff on the list that you couldn't get, but you're satisfied with your progress anyway.

You then take that long trek back to your illegally parked car, take the parking ticket off of your windshield and go home to your loving family. You see their smiling faces and it's at that point you realize that the whole day and all you went through was worth every second to see them happy.

I was wrong. I guess this column did turn out to be all cute and cuddly. Happy Holidays!

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.



Ramez Khuri

GOVERNMENT

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

United States Senate

Carl Levin (D-Detroit)
459 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. (202)-224-6221
senator2@levin.senate.gov

Local office:
1810 Michigan National Tower
124 W. Allegan
Lansing, MI 48933
(517)-377-1507

Michigan Senate

Bill Bullard Jr. (R-Highland)
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
(888)-736-2655
senbullard@senate.state.mi.us

Michigan House of Representatives

Nancy Cassis (R-Nowi)
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI
(888)-38-NANCY
ncassis@house.state.mi.us

County Commission

Hugh Crawford (R-Nowi)
1200 North Telegraph
Pontiac, MI 48341
(248)-349-5079
hughcrawford@msn.com

United States Congress

Joe Knollenberg (R-Bloomfield)
2349 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington D.C. (202) 225-5802
Local office:
30833 Northwestern Hwy.
#100
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248)-851-1366

LETTERS

Master Plan ignored

Late on Monday, December 16th, the Novi City Council ignored the City's Master Plan, a unanimous recommendation from the Planning Commission and common sense to approve a rezoning that will allow more high density, high-rise, multiple family units east of Twelve Oaks Mall. This decision will add hundreds of high-rise units to the thousands of multiple family units approved by the City Council over the past two years. In granting the developer's demand for a rezoning, the Council also sacrificed an area that was planned for future high-tech Office Service Technology (OST) developments intended to balance the City's future tax base.

Who, besides the Novi City Council, thinks we need yet another high-rise multiple family development in the City? The proposed rezoning was contrary to the City's Master Plan. The Planning Commission had unanimously recommended against the rezoning change. Northern Novi already suffers from the effects of too much development. But despite all the reasons to vote against the rezoning, the Council decided to play

"Let's Make a Deal" with the developer.

While most Novi residents slept, the City Council bargained away the City's Master Plan and zoning ordinance. Instead of denying the request, the Council allowed the developer's attorney, Mr. Robert Carson of Sandstone fame, to fill their cars with a siren song that promised more tax revenue while downplaying the impact of more high density development. Even worse, the Council approved the rezoning while leaving the details of a development agreement to be crafted by Mr. Carson and the City Attorney. Since when was the City's zoning ordinance for sale to the developer who makes the most promises?

When I was on the Planning Commission, I supported a Master Plan change that would have allowed a multiple-family development in the proposed location. At the time, I was concerned that the OST zoning didn't provide enough protection for the unique environmental features of the site. However, the majority of the Commission voted against changing the Master Plan. They felt that the plan for OST development was the best fit for the area. I respected the Commission's decision, which is why I voted with the Commission in opposing the rezoning

request that accompanied the Master Plan request. My vote against changing the zoning reflected one of the first lessons I learned as a Planning Commissioner. If the Planning Commission fails to respect and protect the City's Master Plan, it leaves the City open to litigation. It's too bad that the City Council hasn't learned the same lesson.

The greatest threat to a City's zoning ordinance does not come from lawsuits by developers. It comes from City Councils who ignore the City's Master Plan so that Council members can make sweetheart deals with sweet-talking developers. It's from the City Attorney who promotes proposals based on development agreements that don't have a basis in our zoning ordinances. It's from deals made late at night when most of the public isn't awake to see how the Council votes. So if you are wondering why Novi's roads have become so congested, why Novi's landscape is so overdeveloped and why the City's Master Plan is ignored at every turn, take a second look at the late-night decisions by your City Council.

Andrew Mulch
Novi

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.



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ADVANCE TAX TIPS: This time around, don't wait until it's too late

AVOID HEADACHES, PREPARE TAXES EARLY

Earlier is better when it comes to working on your taxes. The IRS encourages everyone to get a head start on tax preparation. Not only do you avoid the last-minute rush, early filers also get a faster refund. There are seven easy ways to get a good jump on your taxes long before the April 15 deadline rolls around.

• Gather your records in advance. Make sure you have all the records you need, including W-2s and 1099s. Don't forget to save a copy for your files.

• Get the right forms. They're available around the clock on the IRS Web site, www.irs.gov, under "Forms and Publications."

• Take your time. Don't forget to leave room for a coffee break when filling out your tax return. Rushing can mean making a mistake — and that can be expensive!

• Double-check your math and Social Security number. These are among the most common errors on tax returns. Taking care on these reduces your chances of hearing from the IRS.

• Get the fastest refund. When you file early, you get your refund faster. Using e-filing with direct deposit might get you a refund in as little as 10 to 15 days.

• Filing is easy. E-filing catches most problems, provides confirmation your return has been received and gives you a faster refund.

• Don't panic. If you have a problem or a question, remember the IRS is there to help around the clock. Try our Web site at www.irs.gov. Or call our toll-free customer service number at 1-800-829-1040.

WHAT IS YOUR FILING STATUS?

Your filing status on your federal tax return is a category that identifies you based on your marital and family situation, according to the IRS. It is an important factor in determining whether you must file a return, the amount of your standard deduction and your correct amount of tax. If more than one filing status applies to you, you may choose the one that gives you the lowest tax obligation.

There are five possible filing statuses: Single, Married Filing Jointly, Married Filing Separately, Head of Household and Qualifying Widow(er) with Dependent Child. Your marital status on the last day of the year determines your status for the entire year.

Generally, if you are unmarried, divorced or legally separated according to your state law, your filing status is Single.

If you are married, you and your spouse may file either a joint return (Married Filing Jointly) or separate returns (Married Filing Separately). If your spouse died during the year and you have not remarried, you may still file a joint return with that spouse for the year of death.

Generally, to qualify for Head of Household status, you must be

unmarried and have provided more than half the cost of keeping up a home that was the main home for yourself and a qualifying relative for more than half the year. You may also qualify if you are married but did not live with your spouse at any time during the last six months of the tax year and you provided more than half the cost of keeping up a home for you and your dependent child for more than half the year.

If your spouse died during 2000 or 2001, you may be able to file as a Qualifying Widow or Widower. To do this you must meet all four of the following tests:

You were entitled to file a joint return with your spouse in the year of death.

You did not remarry before the end of 2002.

You have a child, stepchild, adopted child or foster child who qualifies as your dependent for the year and.

You paid more than half the cost of keeping up your home, which was the main home of that child, for the whole year.

You can find more detailed information on each filing status in Publication 501, "Exemptions, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information" the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov. You may download forms and publications from this site or order them by calling toll free 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

SHOULD I ITEMIZE?

Whether to itemize deductions on your tax return depends on how much you spent on certain expenses last year. According to the IRS, money paid for medical care, mortgage interest, taxes, contributions, casualty losses, and miscellaneous deductions can reduce your taxes. If the total amount spent on those categories is more than the standard deduction, you can usually benefit by itemizing.

The standard deduction amounts are based on your filing status and are subject to inflation adjustments each year. For 2002, they are:

Single \$4,700
Married Filing Jointly \$7,850
Head of Household \$6,900
Married Filing Separately \$3,925

The standard deduction amount is more for taxpayers age 65 or older and for those who are blind. Your itemized deductions may be limited if your adjusted gross income is more than \$17,300, or \$8,650 for those Married Filing Separately. This limit applies to all itemized deductions except medical and dental expenses, casualty and theft losses, gambling losses, and investment interest.

When a married couple files separate returns and one spouse itemizes deductions, the other spouse must also itemize and cannot claim the standard deduction.

There are some taxpayers who are not eligible for the standard deduction. They include nonresident aliens, dual-status aliens, and individuals who file returns for periods of less than 12 months. For additional information, see Publication 501, "Exemptions, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information."

For more details on itemized deductions, see the instructions for Schedule A, Form 1040, or Publication 17, "Your Federal Income Tax." You may download publications and forms from the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov or you may order them by calling toll free 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

kept for three years, but some documents — records relating to a home purchase or sale, stock transactions, IRA and business or rental property — should be kept longer.

In most cases, the IRS does not require you to keep records in any special manner. Generally speaking, however, you should keep any and all documents that may have an impact on your federal tax return. Such items would include bills, receipts, invoices, mileage logs, canceled checks, or any other proof of payment, and any other records to support any deductions or credits you claim on your return.

Good record keeping throughout the year saves you time and effort at tax time when organizing and completing your return. If you hire a paid professional to complete your return, the records you have kept will assist the preparer in quickly and accurately completing your return.

For more information on what kinds of records to keep, see Publication 552, "Recordkeeping for Individuals," and Publication 17, "Your Federal Income Tax For Individuals." Both are available on the IRS Web site (www.irs.gov), at any local IRS office, or by calling toll-free 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

Records help you document the deductions you've claimed on your return. You'll need this documentation should the IRS select your return for examination. Normally, tax records should be

continued on back page

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Hitch House offers broad range of products and service

HITCH HOUSE

The Hitch House has two locations: 54000 Grand River Ave., New Hudson (248) 486-9355 and 9102 Telegraph Road, Redford (313) 533-5555. Also check out its Web site at www.HitchHouseUSA.com. Contractors can take advantage of a 5 percent discount on all truck accessories and towing products along with special price incentives on open and enclosed trailers by joining the Hitch House Contractors Club. Contact the store nearest you for more details.

Linda Neff
SPECIAL WRITER

If hauling is your game, then you'll want to remember the name Hitch House for truck accessories and trailer sales. The experts there can fit your vehicle with any size hitch for hauling the family's bikes to Kensington Metropark, or towing a six-horse trailer to the fair. And if it's a trailer you need, the Hitch House deals with the biggest names in the industry like Big Tex Trailers and Southwest Expressline.

But, hitches and trailers aren't all you'll find at the Hitch House. The store offers pretty much any accessory item you might ever want or need for your pick-up or sport utility vehicle.

The Hitch House got its start in Redford. Owner Glenn Plagens and partner Ken MacDonald opened the second location in New Hudson nearly six years ago. They're excited to be celebrating their six-year anniversary and are looking forward to a planned expansion in 2003. The expansion will add an additional 4,500 square feet to the already 5,500-square-foot facility.

"We're really excited about it," Plagens said.

The extra square footage will allow the Hitch House to greatly expand its showroom offering customers a more hands-on approach to shopping for accessories.

"We've found people like to touch and feel," Plagens added. "The stock will be right in the showroom, which will be very large and have high ceilings."

The pair is also excited about the new Web site for the Hitch House that will be up and running in January. Customers will find the site to be beneficial when searching for products and accessories for their vehicles or trailers.

For example, if a customer came to the store to purchase a Downey camouflage tonneau cover for their truck, they could also view additional matching accessories from Downey on the Hitch House Web site. The large amount of different products available at the

Hitch House makes it impossible to display it all in the store, so now customers will be able to see additional products online.

"It will be a total change. It's not going to be just an information Web site," MacDonald said. "It will be one where you can connect right to our suppliers to see what they have to offer."

Links to the Hitch House suppliers will enable customers to surf the suppliers' catalogs online and at their convenience. Once deciding on an item, they need only to place a call to the Hitch House to order.

"It makes their buying process a little easier," MacDonald said. "We can have everything ready for them when they come down instead of having to come down to order it and then come back

with a different demand. Instead of driving a Taurus or Sable, he now drives a pick-up truck."

Trailer hitches are what give the Hitch House its start and it continues to specialize in towing products — everything from Draw-tite, Hidden Hitch and Reese hitches to Big Tex Trailers, the number one open trailer line in the country, and Southwest Expressline enclosed trailers, which has one of the best warranties on the market.

But, truck accessories are a big part of what the Hitch House is about today. Soft and hard ton-



Ken MacDonald and Glenn Plagens are waiting for your business at the South Lyon-based Hitch House.

neau covers, step bars and grill guards, truck caps, tool boxes, floor mats, mud flaps, bike racks and much much more made from some of the best names in the business — Westin, Leer, Truxedo, K&N Filters, Husky, and Toucan to name a few.

With the Hitch House offering major brand names, good location and plenty of experience, why go anywhere else? Plagens has worked in the industry since he was about 14 years old. He purchased the Hitch House in Redford with his father in 1991. Before that he spent many summers helping out with another business his father owned.

"It was pretty much mandatory in the summertime to go in with dad to work because they needed the help," he said. "It was some-

thing I grew up with and got away from for a little while but then came back to and was happy to come back to it. It's been a really good business; it's been a good experience."

He said population growth played a role in his decision to expand from Redford. That's when MacDonald entered the picture.

"I needed someone I could rely on and had the same interests as I did to build a business," he said. "We ended up purchasing this spot, building it from the ground up, which is quite an experience to say the least. We learned a lot doing that and we've been here for six years. It was a good decision; it's turning into a great decision now with the expansion."

Community members and parents are invited to nominate an HVS employee. Future nominations can be made through the Human Resources Department. Nomination forms are available at each building.

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How Business gets done
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The Huron Valley Schools' employee recognition program, RAISE (Recognize An Individual School Employee) honored park educators, school age care, playground/lunchroom aides, parking lot attendants and Title I preschool teacher employees in the month of November. The individuals were

nominated by their peers and will receive a congratulatory letter from the superintendent, Huron Valley Chamber Bucks and the finalist will be entered into the appropriate county and/or state staff recognition award program.

The program recognized the hard work, dedication and commitment to children demonstrated by HVS staff. The semi-finalists were Cynthia Lee, Para at White Lake Middle School, Belinda Lightfoot, Parking Lot Attendant at Lakeland High School and Liz Mud, Para at Heritage Elementary. Doris Finley, Playground Supervisor at Highland Elementary was November's finalist. Finley, who has been with the district for almost 40 years, is well known for her cheerful atti-

Business in brief

Water buffalo donated by RE/MAX
RE/MAX Elite, across from Prospect Hill Plaza in Milford, has donated a water buffalo to a family in Asia. Different from donations of actual food or grain, the gift of a water buffalo can sustain a family for many years, and can help whole villages rise from poverty. Water buffalos produce two gallons of milk a day, and provide draft power for rice planting and production. The offspring they produce can be sold or passed along to other families to help combat world hunger. An Asian farmer said it best: "If I die, my family will weep for me. If my buffalo dies, my family will starve."

County business workshops offered
Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to attend seminars in January, 2003 offered by the Oakland County Business Center.

How to Start a Business is a seminar for anyone thinking about going into the business operation. Participants examine their entrepreneurial skills, learn how to implement their ideas and receive a list of pit-

falls to avoid when starting a business. The class runs from 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Jan. 9 at the Oakland County Executive Office Building, 1200 N. Telegraph, in Pontiac. The fee is \$30 and includes the Starting a Business in Oakland County book published by the Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services.

Choosing the Best Legal Entity: Sole proprietorship? Limited Liability Company (LLC)? Partnership? Corporation? Each entity offers unique advantages and disadvantages. Learn the key considerations for each and the effects on the business operation. The workshop, presented by Small Business Solutions, P.C., will be held Thursday, Jan. 16,

2003 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Oakland County Executive Office Building, 1200 N. Telegraph, 34 East, in Pontiac. Fee is \$30 and includes materials.

Due to space limitations, pre-registration is required. Call 248-858-0783 for directions and registration.

Huron Valley Schools honors employees
The Huron Valley Schools' employee recognition program, RAISE (Recognize An Individual School Employee) honored park educators, school age care, playground/lunchroom aides, parking lot attendants and Title I preschool teacher employees in the month of November. The individuals were

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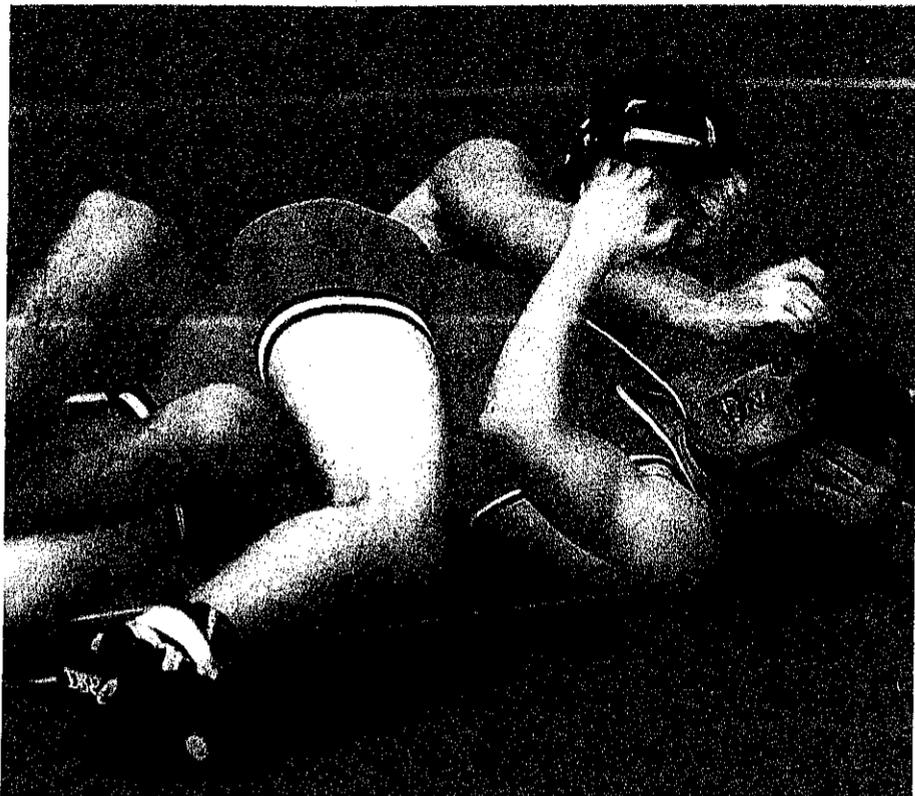


Photo by John Halder

Novi's Josh Churella has his Northville Mustang opponent Stefano Giammarco right where he wants him in last week's matchup at Novi High.

By Kita Mason and Ramez Khuri
HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

The Novi Wildcats made short work of their Northville opponents Dec. 12 as they crushed their way to a convincing 41-28 victory.

The Wildcats, who are coached by Brad Huss, helped their records as they pounded past the Mustangs with ease. Jason Sierra (103) climbed to 7-2 on the year while senior captain Craig Hearn went to 8-1 in the 112 pound weight class.

"This match with Northville is big because they are a rival," Hearn said before the match. "We need to have a bunch of kids step it up. We have a lot of young kids and we need people to get some confidence. We need to stay focused, get it together, get a lot of pins, a lot of not getting pinned. It's pin to win today."

Alex Baum (130) climbed to 3-2 with a win while unstoppable grappler Josh Churella is at 9-0 and still undefeated in his career. "Basically, right now, we started off the season a little slow," Churella said. "We had some

decent competition down in Adrian and our kids are really young still. We have a lot of sophomores and juniors, but I think we will progress towards the end and I think that our goals are to win KVC, districts, regionals and go to the state meet and see what we can do there. Since my freshman year we haven't lost to Northville. The last time we lost was five years ago when they used to win the majority of the matches. We just have to keep the winning streak alive now."

Also climbing in the ranks is AJ Morris at 5-4 in the 152, while Corey Simone is 3-2 (160) and Matt Jezior is 4-2 (189).

Mike Carter scored the first five points for Northville with a technical win. Carter was in control from the handshake. Josh D'Anna added four more points, outlasting his opponent for the victory.

"We have a young team this year and we have a little bit of a rough start," D'Anna said. "We went through a team tournament where we went 1-4, but it's just the beginning."

It looked like Novi was going to run away with the match, scoring 18 points on pins at 130, 135, and 140 lbs, until Brad Ashby and Rick Riegner slowed down the Novi scoring machine with determined matches limiting the Wildcats to the minimum 3 points each.

"We expect to get better," D'Anna noted. "We hope we don't give up any pins and we need to wrestle smart."

Scott Hammerie gained six points for Northville with a void at 140 lbs. Steve Minier was robbed at 171 lbs with last second points awarded at the buzzer turning a 7-5 victory into an 8-7, 3 point loss.

"We expect a lot of progress and a lot of hard work," captain Rick Riegner said. "We have to work on our technique. We have to match up with the right guys, we need to wrestle hard and stay off our backs. This has always been a real close rivalry with

Novi, except for last year. It has always been within a couple points. It has been a pretty good rivalry."

Dave Quick grabbed 6 points for the Mustangs with an Northville's only pin at 189 lbs. Quick's pin came in the third period after 5 minutes which had the whole gym sitting on the edge of their bleacher seats. Steve Cain added 4 more points with a 10-1 win. Cain only allowed one point against, in an allowed escape. Adam Blunk got the last points for the Mustangs in an exciting, high energy match to end the evening.

Novi has a slew of wrestlers who qualified for States last year, Northville has none. This was an outstanding effort from a Northville squad who are proving they can keep up with the best.

Kita Mason is a special writer for the Northville Record. Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. Comments can be directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

'Cats notch two big victories

Senior leadership is strong as Emmenecker, Chandler and Lewis put on scoring clinics

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi basketball team understands what it means to be defending District champions, and they plan on letting everyone else know it too.

The Wildcats, led by coach Pat Schluter, blasted their way to two victories as they made a simple statement — last year was no fluke.

Even without the aide of the injured Shaun Dicken, the Wildcats followed their senior leadership to a 59-47 spanking of the Howell Highlanders in their home opener December 13 after shelling Walled Lake Western 58-44 just two days prior.

"In our first game we were led by our seniors," Schluter said of Matt Emmenecker, Chase Chandler and Chris Lewis. "They are our three go-to guys right now. Our seniors are playing big roles, and the juniors are filling in."

Against the Warriors, the Wildcats found themselves

"We didn't play great, but we played well enough to win."

Pat Schluter
Novi Head Coach

ahead just 27-25 at the half, but they managed to really pour on the pressure in the second half of the contest. Emmenecker led the squad with an amazing 22-point game as the 'Cats came back to outscore the Western eagles 31-19 in the last two quarters of play. Lewis added 17 points in the start while Chandler tacked on 13 in the victory.

"We didn't play great, but we played well enough to win," Schluter said, possibly foreshadowing things to come. "I thought it was a good win to get

us started."

Against the Highlanders of Howell, the Wildcats put on a clinic, nailing 25 field goals as they shot 64-percent from the floor — but they just couldn't seem to put the pesky players from Howell away.

"Every time we'd go up by 10, they'd hit a three," Schluter said. "They had eight threes on the night, but only five field goals."

Even their three point shooting wasn't enough to shut down a very potent Wildcat offense. The Novi cagers followed Lewis to the hoop nearly every time as he poured in 20 points on the night in the winning effort. Emmenecker continued his excellence, notching another 12 for his season totals as well as seven rebounds, while Chandler added only seven points, but also nine rebounds and seven assists.

Junior Brad Simpson, utilizing his speed, collected eight points on the night as well as seven rebounds.

"Once we got up by 12, we

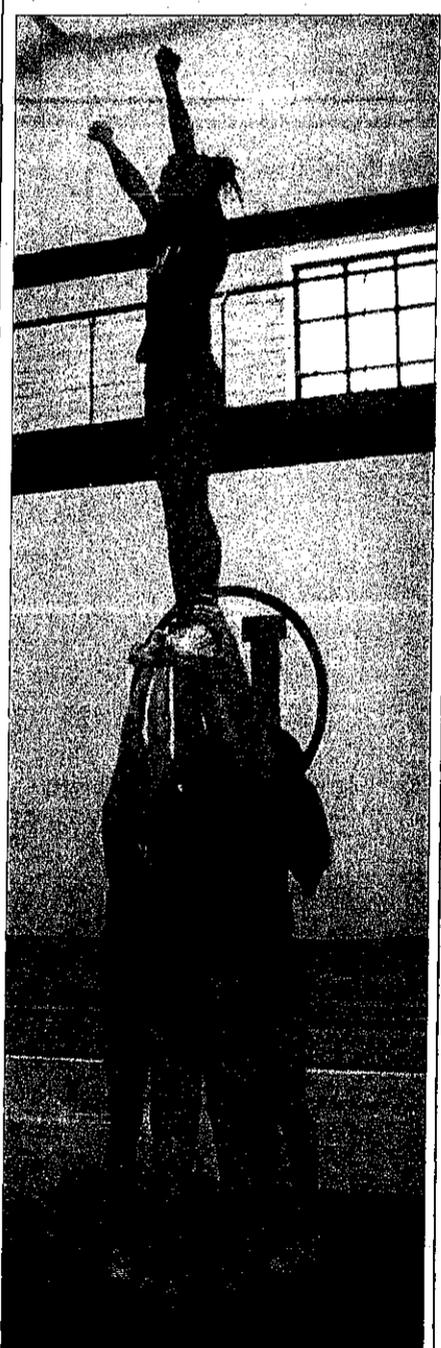
just spread them out," Schluter said. "It was unusual for us because we didn't hit any threes. We had a lot of high-percentage shots with lay-ups."

The Wildcats will host the Walled Lake Central Vikings (0-2) tomorrow at 7 p.m. The Vikings are under the coaching abilities of Bob Shoemaker and are looking to turn their season around by coming on strong against a team like the Wildcats.

"We have to play our game," Schluter said. "They aren't going to be an easy team to beat no matter what their record is. We have to come out and play the game we want to play."

As long as their seniors stay healthy, it looks that more than a couple games this year will end up being the Lewis-Chandler-Emmenecker show.

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



Submitted Photo

Go team go! Goooo Wildcats!

Think cheerleading isn't a sport? Flip to page B4 and find out why we, and others, disagree.

Wild 'Stangs looking strong

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Northville-Novl Wild 'Stangs gymnastics team knew that they were going to have to see what their team had to offer before taking on any of their scheduled competition this season... they did just that via the Orange and Green Inter-squad scrimmage December 12.

The Wild 'Stangs, coached by Lindsay Schultz, got the chance to analyze their performances and figure out just where it is they will need to improve this season.

"That's the point of this meet," Schultz said. "We now know what we need to work on and what we need to correct."

Lucky for Schultz and her squad, there is plenty of potential with this squad and with their abilities.

"This is a very talented group of girls," Schultz said. "We have a lot of potential and a lot of enthusiasm."

The majority of the Wild 'Stang squad is underclassmen, which bodes well for the future of the sport as well as this season. Coming back from last season are middle names such as Whitney and Courtney Paul, Sara Wildchowski, Marcie Fiak, Nika Frimenko, Amanda Crawford, Caitlin Miller, Amy Wild, Nika Frimenko, Marcie Fiak, Nika Frimenko, Amanda Crawford, Caitlin Miller, Amy Wild, Jennifer Mehl, Erin Yankovich and Janna Ramsey. The Wild 'Stangs also have Lindsay Yasko, Megan Wallen, Tricia Brownfield, Lauren Metz, Rachel Deneau, Adrienne McHenry and Sarah Tikhon-Pear on the team.

Though some names stand out above the rest, don't tell that to any of the girls on this team.

"It's a team effort," Wilchowski noted, rather adamantly. "If it weren't for the entire team, we wouldn't be able to do anything. We compete as a team and we win and lose as a team."

The Wild 'Stangs will have plenty of competition this season, but it's all a learning experience for this group.

"We are going to be competitive," Schultz said. "We have a solid core of girls here and the rest are learning quickly. There are a lot of tough teams on our schedule this year, but we'll take them one at a time like we always do."

The gymnasts also bring a closeness with each other to the floor, cheering each other on through each event as they look to earn victory.

"This is a close group," Wilchowski said. "You have to be if you want to win. Though we compete in an event as individuals, we are a team. This is a great group, and I'm glad to be a part of it."



Jennifer Mehl flips gracefully on the balance beam at the Northville-Novl Wild 'Stangs inter-squad scrimmage Dec. 12 while coach Lindsay Schultz watches in the background.

Whalers skate to 2-2 decision Ryan Ramsay scores tying goal in third period

Photo by SAM EGGLESTON

In a game between two Ontario Hockey League powerhouses, the Ottawa 67's and Plymouth Whalers played it close right to the end, with their Friday game ending in a no-decision.



Ramsay scored midway through the third period for the Whalers, tying the game at 2-2... and that's the way it ended.

Combined with their 4-4 draw at Peterborough the night before, the Whalers were 20-6-5-1 (46 points), first in the OHL's West Division and unbeaten in their last 10 games.

Matthew Albanis scored both goals for the 67's, the first coming at 12:11 of the opening period (from Matt Foy and Kyle Wharton). Plymouth tied it with a score from Chad LaRose at 6:34 of the second period (from Taylor Raska and Jimmy Gagnon), but Ottawa went back in front with a power-play goal by Albani (from Karol Sladka and Russ Meyer) 57 seconds later.

Ramsay's unassisted tying goal came at 10:18 of the third period. Paul Drew was in goal for Plymouth; he made 39 saves. Lukas Mensator had 24 stops for Ottawa.

On Thursday, a wide-open first period was followed by a more controlled second and third as the Whalers and Petes played to a 4-4 tie.

Peterborough (11-13-7-2, fourth in the East Division) drew first blood when Greg Chambers got his first of two goals on the power play at 6:13 of the first period.

The Whalers then scored three straight, with John Mitchell getting the first at 8:00 of the opening period (from Jonas Fislser and John Vigilante). LaRose (from Karl Stewart and Ramsay) made it 2-1 with a power-play goal at 11:07, and Stewart gave Plymouth a two-goal lead in the second period at 11:07, and that's the way it ended.

However, it didn't last. Evgeny Kadatskiy pulled the Petes to within one at 13:57 of the first, and Lukas Krajcick knotted it at 3:41 at 14:46.

The Whalers regained the lead at 2:10 of the second period on LaRose's second goal of the game. Chambers got the tying goal for the 67's, the first coming at 12:11 of the opening period (from Matt Foy and Kyle Wharton). Plymouth tied it with a score from Chad LaRose at 6:34 of the second period (from Taylor Raska and Jimmy Gagnon), but Ottawa went back in front with a power-play goal by Albani (from Karol Sladka and Russ Meyer) 57 seconds later.

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The Whalers are idle until a game at Saginaw Dec. 27.

'Cats start out looking strong

By Michael Zerkich
SPECIAL WRITER

Novi Girls Volleyball Coach, Julie Fisetle, must think she stepped into a new episode of the Twilight Zone.

Competing in the South Lyon Invitational her squad came up second best to the same Chelsea team that beat them in the same invitational last year.

"Our team played very well the entire day," Fisetle said. "To play all day and get to the finals is a great way to start the season. It's just tough to find Chelsea in the end waiting for us the same way it happened last year."

The day started poorly for the Wildcats as they lost to Hartland in two straight games. The 'Cats could have gotten down with these losses but cameback strong with two games wins against Warren Cusino and then Birmingham Groves.

Novi moved on to the second round bracket and won in three games to Howell. From there it was the trip to the semi-finals against Dearborn who they lost 15-12 and 15-4.

Although the Wildcats lost in the finals 7-15 and 12-15, the second game gave pause to the Chelsea team in a thriller.

Novi players had a great day statistically. For kills, Schmitt



The Novi Wildcats huddle before topping Northville Dec. 16.

led with 21, Hildreth 14, and Cotte 10. Aces were scored by Prosk with 6, and Schmitt and Toffoli with 2 each. Hildreth had 8 solo blocks and Schmitt had 6. Finally, digs were recorded for Hildreth at 10, Striker with 6, and Toffoli with 5.

Volleyball Clinic

There will be a December 21, 2002 Volleyball Clinic at Novi High School open to any 7th and 8th grader. Its from 9:00am to noon and it costs \$35.00 which includes three hours of volleyball training and a T-shirt. Parents should note court shoes and gym clothes. Knee pads are optional.

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

"One of the year's best. It's Oscar time and this one is a contender."

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Best Supporting Actor - Screenwriter Of The Year
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PHOENIX 21/21	SHOWCASE EASTLAND	SHOWCASE HIGHLAND	SHOWCASE WESTLAND
SHOWCASE WESTLAND	STAR FAIRLANE	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 WALK	STAR SOUTHFIELD
STAR JOHN R 4	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER	STAR SOUTHFIELD
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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MOVIE
America Online Keyword: Adaptation

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STAR JOHN R 4	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER	STAR SOUTHFIELD
STAR TAYLOR	UA COMMERCE CENTER	UA WEST RIVER	UPON PALM LANE 13

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MOVIE
America Online Keyword: Maid in Manhattan

Sports Shorts

AAU Basketball tryouts

The Western Wayne Wildcats 2003 Northville AAU Girls Basketball team will be holding tryouts for the upcoming season. The dates and ages are as follows:

11-year-olds: January 14, 4:30-6 p.m. at Hillside Middle School; Jan. 17, 6:30-8 p.m. at Northville Community Center.

12-13 year olds: Jan. 13, 6:30-8 p.m. at Hillside Middle School; Jan. 15, 6:30-8 p.m. at Hillside Middle School.

14-16 year olds: Jan. 7, 7:30-9 p.m. at Northville High School; Jan. 8, 7:30-9 p.m. at Hillside Middle School.

If you have any questions regarding the Western Wayne Wildcats AAU Basketball team, call Kim Ficus at (248) 380-9496 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Next Level Athletes

The Northville Record sports department is looking for submissions for the new section, Next Level Athletes.

Eligible athletes include collegiate, semi-pro, professional and minor league players please email first if other levels.

Please email submissions to seggleston@hi.home.com.net or mail them to The Northville Record, 104 W. Main Street, Northville, MI 48167. Please

include name, year and college as well as the sport and position.

For more information, call (248) 688-0166 or e-mail: totalbaseball@novi.com, or check out the Web site at www.eteamz.com/totalbaseball.

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Total Baseball will help players, ages 6-18, improve their game. Instructors include Oakland University Coaching Staff, Big 10/MAC - All Conference softball/baseball players, the Toledo Midwestern players and college/HS coaches.

Pitching, hitting and fielding are the lessons available and are by appointment only. The fees for the lessons start at \$35 per 1/2 hour or five private lessons for \$160.

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Rec Basketball Registrations

The Northville Parks and Recreation department is accepting final registrations for its Winter Youth Basketball Season. Several openings remain in the 6th-8th grade girls, 8th-9th grade boys and 10th-12th grade boys leagues.

A waiting list has been initiated for the 9th-12th grade girls league. If enough girls register for the league waiting list, an additional team will be formed.

All leagues will play a 10 game schedule, primarily on Saturdays beginning January 18 and ending March 2, 2003. Teams will practice one or two times per week beginning Jan. 6 through March 17.

The cost of the league is \$35 per individual/\$120 per team with four players on a team. Games will be held at Total Baseball, located at 30990 Wixom Road in Wixom. The cost of the camp is \$130 per player with a \$10 discount for a second child and is open to players ages seven to 17. Space is limited, so register now.

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Total Baseball Holiday Baseball Camp

Total Baseball's Holiday Baseball Camp

Think cheerleading isn't a sport? Think again

Special section dedicated to the girls who keep the cheers alive •



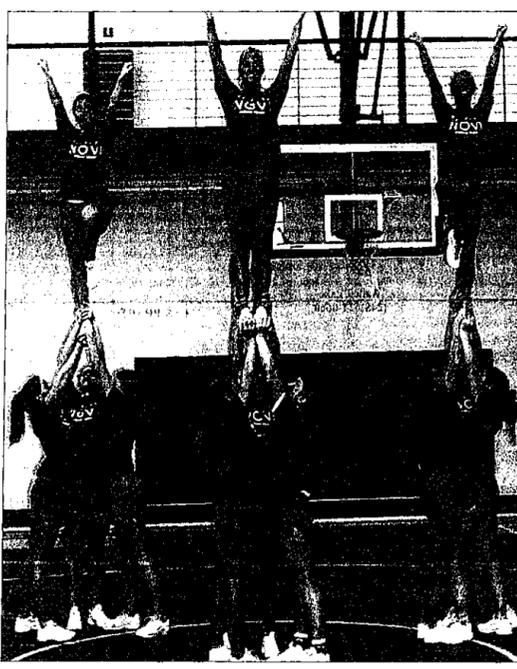
Submittal Photos

Novi cheerleading varsity squad goes airborne during one of their practices at Novi High School. It's safe to say that the stunts that these girls pull off on a nightly basis are compliment to their athletic abilities. Don't think so? Why don't you give them a shot? Below, the cheerleaders build spirit with their impressive balancing abilities.

More than meets the eye

By Michael Zerlich

When you attend a competitive cheerleading meet it's best that you know something about the sport. It's not just a matter of watching the girls perform, it's about understanding the rules of the game. The girls who compete in this sport are not just cheerleaders, they are athletes. They are the girls who keep the cheers alive.



At the end of the competition the points are totaled and the results are announced. One thing about cheerleaders, you will notice, even the team that doesn't win applause and cheers for the victors. So, you may not understand all the technical parts to the competition, but any spectator will find that the word "class" and "sportsmanship" are still alive and well in competitive cheerleading. Its worth watching even for the casual observer.

Even old jocks can learn new appreciation

Let's play word association for a minute. The word is cheerleading — what are your thoughts? Odds are, if you are like me, your visions of this "competitive sport" belongs more in a museum than in a sports article.

A VIEW FROM THE STANDS



These girls are in great physical condition. They have to be to compete multiple times in the same day. Stamina is a must and strength (both upper and lower body) is not an option. Flexibility is essential as there is almost no time without moving multiple body parts into different positions. Cheerleaders have to be exceptional dancers, too, with great timing, sharp defined movements, and snappy coordination with your teammates. Dancers, I mean, you can lift someone nearly your own weight and hold them there for tens of seconds. Try being at the bottom of a standing pyramid to find out what strong shoulders mean.

More to competition than just winning

By Michael Zerlich

Each year, the Novi Varsity Cheerleaders compete in a competition. The girls who compete in this sport are not just cheerleaders, they are athletes. They are the girls who keep the cheers alive. The competition is not just about winning, it's about the girls who keep the cheers alive.

At the end of the competition the points are totaled and the results are announced. One thing about cheerleaders, you will notice, even the team that doesn't win applause and cheers for the victors. So, you may not understand all the technical parts to the competition, but any spectator will find that the word "class" and "sportsmanship" are still alive and well in competitive cheerleading. Its worth watching even for the casual observer.

- DID YOU KNOW?**
- We asked some of the Novi Varsity Cheerleaders what they thought the average person should know about cheerleading. Their responses are as follows:
 - Molly Ruble: "Did you know that the Novi Competitive Cheer Team spends their Friday nights doing gymnastics for two and a half hours and cheering at basketball games?"
 - Emily Michel: "Did you know that cheerleading was officially considered a sport in Michigan in 1994?"
 - Jessica Harbin: "The cheer team practices more than the basketball team."
 - Katie Pyett: "Did you know that our team not only cheers at games but has competition every Saturday and rigorous practices six out of seven days of the week?"
 - Natalie Lajunen: "Did you know that we compete every Saturday for two months straight, but we also cheer at home basketball games?"
 - Amanda Smith: "Cheerleading is both mentally and physically demanding."
 - Katie McDowell: "We work just as hard and put in just as much heart into our sport as any other (athlete) we are athletes."
 - Ashley Laraine: "In order to make the varsity cheerleading team, you have to have a back waller, back handspike, a lot of flexibility and high jumps."
 - Courtney Pivolski: "We compete almost every Saturday from December to March against teams from across the state."
 - Amanda Olando: "Did you know that cheerleaders not only practice with their team, they also go to other places for gymnastics and stunting on their own?"
 - Lisa Howell: "Cheerleading is only considered a sport in Michigan and West Virginia."
 - Lisa Matheny: "We practice up to 16 hours per week and compete every Saturday."
 - Ashley Hartshorne: "We do more than just yell. We tumble and lift actual people!"
 - Chelsea Hall: "Did you know that we practice six days a week and compete every Saturday?"

Drinking and driving can destroy more than your holiday.



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For a Nemesis, this one is weak

The crew of the Enterprise finds yet another lacking enemy

By Sam Eggleston
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

What is it with bad guys in movies about the crew of Star Trek: The Next Generation?

I mean, first there was that psycho scientist in Generations and then eventually the gross-looking skin-replacement fellas in Insurrection. Yeah, the Borg were cool in First Contact, but they didn't even do half the damage they were capable of — I just find the evil villains in this generation of movies to be, well, lacking.

This time around, we get the chore of sitting through Captain Jean-Luc Picard's alter-ego in the form of Romulan-cloneed Shinzon. Not only is he Picard's clone, but his horrible years in the dilithium mines on Remus with the apparently newly discovered Remens (as I've never heard them mentioned in the past, though I could be wrong) has found him to be a dark, dark version of the Enterprise captain.

If this weren't amazing enough, considering the Romulans apparently knew Picard would be great 20 years into the past, Shinzon manages to rise to the top of the Remen social ladder and discover technology that no one could build in the past to create the largest, most deadly warship ever seen in the Romulan fleet — it's handily called the Scimitar. Oddly enough, the newly discovered technology is very, very deadly and can be used to kill just about anything, including the current rulers of the Romulan senate — thus putting Shinzon in charge.

The Enterprise crew, just having celebrated long-time

Enterprise officers William Riker and Deanna Troi's wedding, are called to Romulus and Remus (the two habitable worlds in the main Romulan system) on a plea for peace under their new ruler. But, as though you didn't guess it, peace is the last thing they want. Truth be told, Shinzon has more than a few problems that can only be corrected by one person — his genetic match in the form of Captain Picard.

A kidnapping ensues, followed by a dramatic rescue and escape by Picard and the android Data, that leads to the Enterprise making a run for Federation space and the gatherings of a small fleet of Starfleet ships in hopes of stopping Shinzon — who is still in need of Picard's "assistance." As luck would have it, the Scimitar and the Enterprise square off in a communication-killing area of space that finds the Romulans, who are afraid of having so much blood on their hands, coming to the aid of the Enterprise in their nifty new warbirds.

When all is said and done, Shinzon croaks, the Scimitar is destroyed, the Enterprise is in dry-dock getting repairs (yet again) and the voyages of a generation come to an end — or do they? I can safely tell you that two officer won't be making a return trip to the Enterprise (though Worf used to be assigned elsewhere too and managed a comeback) as now-Captain Riker disembarks to take control of his new ship, the U.S.S. Titan, and one character is nothing more than space dust when the credits roll.

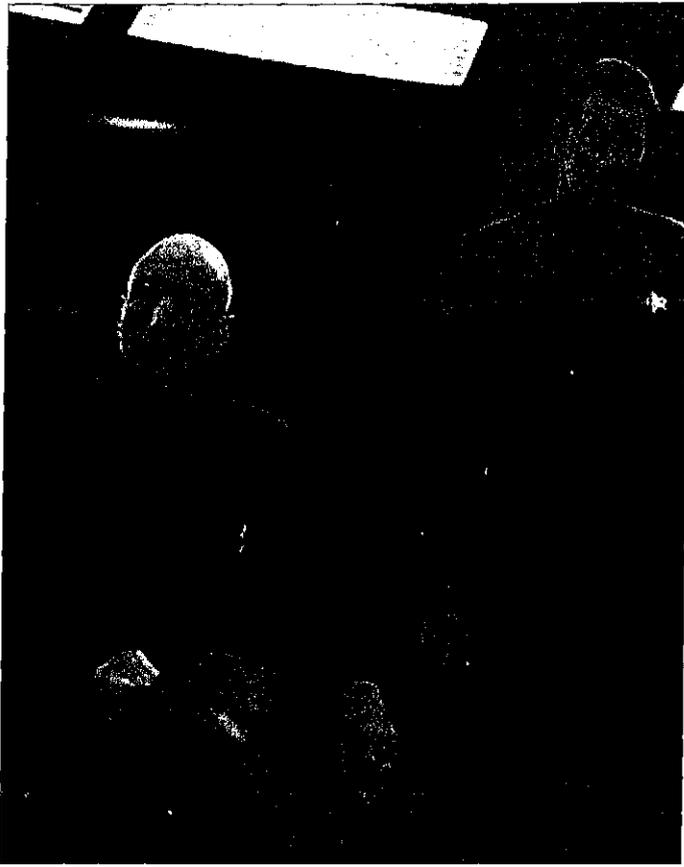
Now, there are reasons for such things, right? Rumor has it

Riker and the Titan will be the stars of a new series of Trek adventures that finds the Federation on the brink of falling to a strange, new enemy and an old-fan-favorite-enemy coming to their aide. And the death of a crew member? Well, everyone knows you can never die in the Star Trek Universe.

There were more than just a few odd moments in the film, and some funny ones as well. The scenes that will irk Trekkies are the ones that find Wesley Crusher wearing a Starfleet uniform and pips on his collar as well as the one that finds former U.S.S. Voyager captain Kathryn Janeway sitting in an admirals chair and holding that very same title. Other moments, like the discovery of yet another pasatronic android built by Data's own creator, will have many shaking their heads in disbelief. As with much in the Trek universe, the writers found an easy way out of the difficulties in the storyline.

All in all, this is the kind of movie that may end up disappointing more than a few Trek fans and leave many wondering about unanswered questions, as it did me. Others will love it, some will hate it and people who watch the movie with their friends and family that have no knowledge of Star Trek's history or the multiple series that have come and gone should find themselves enjoying a fast-paced, well-written sci-fi movie.

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



Courtesy Photo

The crew of the U.S.S. Enterprise-E faces yet another "deadly" enemy in the form of Captain Picard's alter-ego and clone.

Screen Beat

By Brian Renner
THE MOVIE INSIDER

Coming to theaters this weekend is the second installment in the "Rings" trilogy "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" (12/13) which follows the continuing quest of Frodo Baggins (Elijah Wood) and the Fellowship that has joined together to destroy the One Ring and stand against the leader of the dark lords. "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" is a New Line Cinema release and rated PG-13 for epic battle sequences and scary images.

Comic drama "About Schmidt" stars Jack Nicholson as Warren Schmidt, a man who has arrived at several of life's crossroads all at the same time. He is retiring from a lifetime of service to an insurance company; his only daughter, Jeannie (Hope Davis), is about to get married to a waterbed salesman; and his wife Helen (June Squibb) dies suddenly after 42 years of marriage. Desperate to find something meaningful in his thoroughly unimpressive life, Warren sets out on a journey of self-discovery, exploring his roots across Nebraska in the 35-foot motor home. "About Schmidt" is a New Line Cinema release and rated R for some language and brief nudity.

Showbiz satire "Adaptation" follows the film's real-life screenwriter Charlie Kaufman (Nicolas Cage) and his frustrating attempts to adapt "The Orchid Thief," a best-selling novel by Susan Orlean. Kyle Smith, Midwest journalist for The Movie Insider, caught an advance screening of "Adaptation," and absolutely praised the film, with three and half out of four stars. As he states, "Adaptation" doesn't just unfold like an entertaining novel, it replicates the entire experience of writing a good book. "Adaptation" captures that excitement of creation with a wicked sense of humor and surprising compassion. "Adaptation" is a Sony Pictures and rated R for language, sexuality, some drug use and violent images.

Crime drama "Gangs of New York," spans from 1846 to the murderous Draft Riots of 1863. This sprawling epic looks at life in Five Points, an immigrant-overrun, violence-plagued section of New York City which was then regarded as the worst slum on the planet. Specifically, the film follows the story of a young Irish hoodlum Amsterdam Vallon (Leonardo DiCaprio) plotting revenge against a local crime lord for the murder of his father. "Gangs of New York" is a Miramax Films release and rated

R for intense strong violence, sexuality/nudity and language.

Romantic comedy "Two Weeks Notice," stars Sandra Bullock as a brilliant but detail-obsessed attorney opposite Hugh Grant as her charming, irresponsible and wealthy boss in a film that explores whether or not it's too late to say "I Love You." "Two Weeks Notice" is a Warner Bros. release and rated PG-13 for some sex-related humor.

Animated kids' adventure "The Wild Thornberrys Movie," based on the Nickelodeon series, tugs along with young Eliza Thornberry (voiced by Lacey Chabert) and her parents to Africa, where they try to help protect the local wildlife from poachers. "The Wild Thornberrys Movie" is a Paramount Pictures release and rated PG for some adventure peril.

Next week

Denzel Washington directorial debut "Antwone Fisher" (PG-13), crime-nidden "Catch Me If You Can" (R), wooden puppet fairytale "Pinocchio" (G), revival of classic musical "Chicago" (PG-13), literary drama "The Hours" and Disney musical/drama "The Lion King/IMAX" (G).

Video/dvd

Sports comedy "Bleacher Bums" (R), musical kids' comedy "The Country Bears" (PG), outback crocodile-comedy "The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course" (PG), romantic comedy "Happy Accidents" (R), highly acclaimed sci-fi thriller "Minority Report" (PG-13) and romance-thriller "Unfaithful" (R).

Dvd

"Back to the Future Trilogy" (Full Frame) (Widescreen) (3-DVD Set) (PG), "Big Shot: Confessions of a Campus Bookie" (R), "Bob the Builder: Bob Saves the Day" (NR), "I Spit on Your Grave" (Millennium Edition) (R), "Kurogane Communication: Memories of Earth" (3-DVD Set) (NR), "National Geographic: The Search for Kennedy's PT-109" (NR) and "A Visual Guide to J.R.R. Tolkien's The Two Towers" (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.

9 Miles 2 Go set to play for Tots

Novi band ready to rock the house for fans of all ages

Want to hear some punk music that will knock your socks off? Better yet, want to hear some punk music that is being blasted out by a local band that will knock your socks off?

If you do, and you know you want to, heat on over to The Summit Building at 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton to catch the Toys for Tots Holiday Show Dec. 22 from 1-7 p.m.

Want to know the headliner

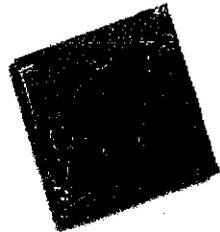
band? No doubt you've heard of them because they hail from right in Novi — 9 Miles 2 Go will be bringing on the best punk music in Metro Detroit as they play for their fans and for their future fans along with bands like Half the Battle, The Same Fate, One Too Many, Farewell, Paint (me) Black, PBLB and Blank Face.

9 Miles 2 Go features vocalist/bass-player Bryan Beller, guitar/back-up vocals Mark

Bonaventura and drummer Ben Grieshaber as they pound out their blasting punk music that is sure to please.

The cost to get into the rocking event is a minimum of \$5 or a new toy to be donated. All toys and all earnings go to Toys for Tots as they look to make less-fortunate children's Christmas a joyful one.

Thanks to bands like 9 Miles 2 Go, that joyful Christmas is looking to be a sure thing.



Get 9 Miles 2 Go's album, When I Grow Up... at www.9miles2go.com!

Food For Thought

No course or meal offers a cook more exciting variety than appetizers. They range from spreads and mousses to country pates, dainty stuffed goods, cold "finger foods" and hot savories. Virtually every cooking method known to man, and any ingredient, can be used to make these delightful dishes meant to "whet the appetite" for the meal to follow. Hors d'oeuvres offer a tremendous opportunity to be creative. The variations are endless.

Appetizers originated in Western Europe when wealthy Russians moved in — mainly to Paris, but also to Rome, Madrid and London. In Paris, at the demand of the Russian émigrés, appetizers became a meal in themselves. A whole trade developed to cater to this first course meal. It was Russian custom to taste several small dishes before the main meal ... with vodka.

French chefs refused to cook this type of food on demand so hotel owners added a new category to their menus — hors d'oeuvres or "brought in from the outside." Hotels literally served food prepared outside their kitchens.

Hors d'oeuvres are beautiful to look at. They must be made from the freshest ingredients and artistically prepared and presented. Done correctly, each should be as uniform as all the others of its kind. Arrange only one type of

hors d'oeuvre per platter or serving piece, avoiding choices. The visual effect of a tray filled with perfect, bite-sized morsels of the same variety is stunning. Any garnishes must be just as beautiful as the appetizer and chosen for the enhancement of the main item. The display should be simple and beautiful. Flowers, ribbon, fresh herbs, herbs and lace are wonderful for decorations. A tray not garnished looks bare next to one with sprig of herbs or dotted with edible flowers.

A well-equipped kitchen makes a preparation much simpler. Expensive tools are not required and can be found in kitchen supply stores or through mail-order catalogs. I have found many items in garage sales and I am always on the lookout for unusual molds, serving dishes and utensils. One of life's true pleasures is finding a unique piece of equipment when least expected.

Some tools I find very useful are: a food processor; blender; hand and counter mixer; sharp, high-quality knives (chef's, paring, boning, slicing); an assortment of miniature quiche and tartlet pans; pastry bags; assorted trays; baskets; and "odd" serving dishes. As you become more proficient, so will your equipment.

Probably the most versatile form of entertaining is the cocktail party. It is one of the easiest ways to entertain at home, whether formal or casual. Light hors d'oeuvres are passed or set on a buffet table (or tables) and served with beverages for two or three hours. Replenish as needed. The number of pieces per person varies with the type of occasion. If dinner is to be served, light selections should be made. If appetizers are all the food to be served they must be more substantial.

HORS D'OUVRES ANYONE?

Stuffed Shiitake Mushrooms

1 pound large shiitake mushrooms
butter or margarine
1 white onion finely chopped
1 tbsp. lemon juice
4 oz. chopped cooked ham
1 cup fresh breadcrumbs
3 tsp. grated Parmesan cheese
2 tsp. fresh chopped parsley
Salt and pepper to taste

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Remove stems and discard. Chop 4 mushrooms. Melt butter and sauté onion until soft. Stir in chopped mushrooms and lemon juice. Cook until moisture has evaporated. Remove from heat. Add parsley, ham, breadcrumbs, and cheese. Fill mushroom caps and bake until tender, 10 to 15 minutes.

Mini Reuben's

1 loaf party rye or pumpernickel
1 pound thinly sliced corned beef
1 pound sliced or grated Swiss
1 can sauerkraut
Russian Dressing

Place bread on jelly roll pan. Spread with Russian dressing. Divide corned beef, sauerkraut and Swiss over bread. Bake until bubbly.

Hors d'oeuvre recipes provided from Chef Mary Brady of Diamond Jim Brady's Bistrot

When selecting an appetizer always bear in mind the rest of the menu. It is important not to repeat ingredients and domain flavors. Consider the occasion, season and your imagination when making your choices. Remember to give some time and attention to beverages and glassware. For large parties, it is preferable to rent while smaller intimate gatherings can provide a chance to show off a special glass or dish collection. Situate the food and drink throughout your home to avoid large groups lingering in one of

two spots. Force your guests to mingle. When making up guest lists include people that will complement each other, not all of the same background. My favorite parties included people of all ages and walks of life in attendance.

Mary Brady is a certified executive chef and co-owner of Diamond Jim Brady's Bistrot 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

Plus

HomeTown

Thursday, December 19, 2002

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

funous RISING

Western medicine is catching on to the health benefits of the mushroom

By Sandi Doughton
TACOMA (WASH.) NEWS TRIBUNE

A growing body of Western research is beginning to validate what Asian herbalists have believed for 2,000 years: Mushrooms can be good for your health.

Recent studies suggest that compounds in mushrooms can boost the immune system and kill cancer cells. Scientists are investigating mushrooms for treatment of diabetes, AIDS, chronic fatigue syndrome, high blood pressure, depression, hepatitis — a list that rivals the prescribing guidelines of ancient Chinese medicines.

"There is now increasing evidence that medicinal mushrooms offer a remarkable array of medicinally important compounds," wrote professor John Smith, a British microbiologist who published a comprehensive review of mushroom studies last summer for Cancer Research UK.

Most of the mainstream research is very preliminary, but that hasn't slowed a boom in worldwide sales of mushroom-derived nutritional supplements, which Smith estimates at \$6 billion a year.

And that has some experts worried that expectations are outstripping evidence of health benefits.

"There is so much hope and hype, rather than critical thinking and science," said Dr. Denis Benjamin, author of "Mushrooms: Poisons and Panaceas." Benjamin chairs the North American Mycological Association's Toxicology Committee — and travels to Italy every year to go mushroom hunting.

Even though he loves to eat them, he's highly skeptical of the health claims for mushrooms.

Few of the Western studies have progressed beyond the point of showing benefits in a test tube or in experimental animals such as mice, said Benjamin. And none has yet held up in the type of experiment considered the scientific gold standard: the double-blind, placebo-controlled trial.

"I think fungi are clearly worth continuing to study and that at some point we may come up with some interesting compounds, but we aren't there yet," said Benjamin, chief of pathology for Cook Children's Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas.

In Japan and China, where much of the contemporary mushroom research is centered, mushroom extracts are the basis for several drugs commonly prescribed to cancer patients to supplement chemotherapy and blunt its harmful side effects.

But Benjamin cautions that many of the studies conducted in Asia don't meet the more rigorous standards of Western medicine and many have not been reproduced. The field is also rife with financial conflicts.

Even Benjamin doesn't deny that collectively, studies are yielding many intriguing results. Dozens of researchers have reported that compounds extracted from "gourmet" varieties like shiitake, maitake, and oyster mushrooms shrink tumors in laboratory animals. Others report a bolstering of the immune cells that fight infection. And still others are discovering mushroom compounds with powerful antibiotic, antiviral and cholesterol-lowering properties.

Generally, even if the mushroom products don't live up to their hype, they won't hurt people, Benjamin said. Many studies have demonstrated that the extracts, powders and dried fungi have very low toxicity and side effects.

But the supplement industry is relatively unregulated, so it can be difficult for consumers to know what they're getting. In Benjamin's opinion, it's best to approach mushrooms more as food than medicine until the evidence is better.

Some medicinal mushrooms and their purported health benefits

SHIITAKE

also called black forest mushroom

Reported effects: The most popular and best studied medicinal mushroom, reported to have anti-cancer, immune boosting and antiviral properties.

How taken: Cooked, dried, capsules and extracts.

MAITAKE

also called hen-of-the-woods

Reported effects: Anti-cancer; supplement to chemotherapy; being studied as an HIV and diabetes treatment.

How taken: Cooked, dried, capsules or extracts.

LION'S MANE

also called monkey's head

Reported effects: Used in Chinese medicine for stomach ailments and cancer prevention. Shown to have anti-tumor, anti-microbial and immune-stimulating properties in some studies; also may stimulate nerve growth.

How used: Cooked, dried, capsules and extracts.

REISHI

also called varnished conk or ling zhi

Reported effects: Considered one of the most potent medicinal mushrooms, some research has shown immune-enhancing, anticancer and cholesterol-reducing properties. May also provide liver protection and reduce cell-damaging free radicals.

How taken: Dried, capsules, extracts.

CORDYCEPS SINENSIS

also called summer grass, winter worm

Reported effects: This odd mushroom is a parasite that actually sprouts from living caterpillars. Popular with athletes, cordyceps is believed to reduce blood pressure and cholesterol and boost respiratory activity. Other studies suggest the fungus may have anti-cancer, immune-stimulating and anti-viral properties.

How taken: Dried, capsules, extracts.

Authors say planet needs 'New Diet'

By Debra Melani
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Three decades ago, a Berkeley graduate student wrote a book advising society to shun meat and ignore government propaganda claiming that a population explosion would lead to spiraling world hunger. Animals bred for the dinner plate — not people — were devouring the food supply, she said.

Today, the animals are still eating. But more than 3 million people bought Frances Moore Lappé's "A Diet for a Small Planet," and scores have embraced its message, turning to a vegetarian diet.

"I think the reason people feel so emotional about this book is that it allowed them to see how their everyday, most mundane choice — what we put into our mouths — connects them with the most far-reaching places on our planet," said Lappé.

Now Lappé, 58, and her daughter, Anna Lappé, 28, have co-written a sequel, "Hope's Edge: The New Diet for a Small Planet," and they say the importance of their message has intensified.

"Last month, we had a huge turkey recall from Pilgrim's Pride, and before that it was ConAgra," Anna Lappé said, referring to the two largest meat recalls in

U.S. history. A Pennsylvania-based corporation recalled turkey meat infected with listeria, and the ConAgra Beef Co. (now Swift & Co.) recalled ground beef tainted with E. coli. Both bacteria are deadly.

"The question has gone from not just 'Should we eat meat?' but to 'What kind of meat are we eating?'" Anna Lappé said.

Animal meat and byproducts might be good breeding grounds for many bacteria, said Bonnie Jortberg, a dietitian with the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. But other foods can cause the same food-borne illnesses, she said.

While the personal health aspect is secondary to the ecological benefits to stave off world hunger, Frances Lappé said her philosophy does advocate a more healthful diet. If more people followed that diet, it would chip away at the weight problem in this country and the rise in related chronic diseases, she said.

"The evidence supports my saying that there would be significantly lower rates of deaths from cancer and heart disease if people ate plant-centered diets."

Jortberg agreed that vegetarian diets high in fruits, vegetables and whole grains can be healthy, as long as people compensate for a potential lack of iron, vitamin B12 and zinc.

Ancient pick-me-ups

More people are finding balance with Chinese medicine

By Jackie Ripley
ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Desperation drove Michael Mills to Chinese medicine a year ago. But improved health keeps him coming back.

"I was thinking, 'Who the heck wants a bunch of needles in them?'" Mills said. "But you can get your health to the point that it's so bad, who cares?"

Dr. Yali Fan, a doctor of traditional Chinese medicine, said ambivalence is not uncommon among patients who visit her clinic in Town 'N Country, Fla., for the first time. But once people experience Chinese medicine, many become converts.

Fan, author of six books, has practiced traditional Chinese medicine for 18 years. She was a professor at Shandong University of Traditional Chinese Medicine and a Chinese medical doctor at the University Hospital in China before moving to the United States six years ago to work at the Florida Institute of Traditional Medicine in St. Petersburg. She started her own practice in 2001.

Traditional Chinese medicine works on the theory that all living beings have Chi, or life force, and that good health is maintained by the balanced flow of that life force. When Chi becomes blocked, through such things as stress, injury or pathogens, ill health occurs.

Fan uses a combination of therapies, including herbs, acupuncture, acupressure, Tui Na massage and Qigong.

Fan said she also uses Qigong to help her sense where energy is blocked in a patient's body. "It takes several years of practice," Fan said, but "I scan the body with my hands and can feel where there is unbalance."

Conventional medicine sometimes has side effects that often can be relieved through Eastern medicine such as acupuncture and Qigong.

"I had lost a lot of weight, couldn't sleep and figured Eastern medicine had been around for 4,000 years, maybe there was something to it," said Mills, a computer consultant. "The whole thing is about the simplicity of it all. Dr. Fan will say to you, 'Relax,' but it takes a few months to understand what that really all means."

Acupuncture has been practiced in China for more than 5,000 years. Fine needles are inserted at specific points on the body called acupoints. Stimulating the points with the needles (sometimes with

an electrical stimulus or burning of specific herbs, called Moxibustion) is believed to influence and regulate physiological functions.

Acupressure is acupuncture without needles. Fingers or an instrument with a hard ball-shaped head stimulate the acupuncture points.

Tui Na Massage is Chinese therapeutic massage involving pushing and grasping and requires special training at Chinese medical universities. It manipulates acupoints, channels, muscle groups and joints. It combines all massage styles: relaxation, deep tissue, acupressure, joint and bone manipulation.

Tui Na methods include the use of hands to massage soft tissue that is believed to affect the flow of Qi (life force), and manipulation to realign the musculoskeletal and ligament relationships. External herbal poultices, compresses, liniments and salves enhance the other therapeutic methods.

Qigong (pronounced chi gong) is an ancient Chinese energy healing art. Qi (or chi) means life force, and Gong means work, self-discipline, achievement or mastery. This art combines physical exercises, breathing exercises and meditation. Qigong, advocates believe, allows us to gain control over the life force that courses through our bodies.

Photos/Corbis Images

Plus

Finding a new job is now a long-term job

By Julie N. Lynem
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

During the economic boom of the late '90s, job applicants rarely waited for employers by the phone like jilted lovers. Now the relationship has changed, and waiting is the norm. The length of time it takes for unemployed managers and executives to land jobs grew 26 percent in the past year, a 16-year high, according to a recent report. Today, job-challenged managers can expect to search for nearly four months.

And that's the good news. "The more technology-oriented the job is, the more time it's taking," said Mike Curran, director of the North Valley Job Training Consortium, a federally funded employment and training agency in Sunnyvale, Calif. "If you looked at dislocated workers from the tech field about three years ago, it took about five to six weeks. Now it's about four to five months."

The slow economy is mostly to blame, Curran said. With so many people out of work, there's much more competition for fewer jobs. The more specialized the job, the tougher it gets.

Pam McAllister, general manager and senior vice president for the outplacement consulting firm Lee Hecht Harrison in San Francisco, said candidates should expect to interview with roughly 20 hiring managers while finding their next position.

That old rule of thumb — about one month of job searching for every \$10,000 salary earned — no longer applies, she said. The job process is more rigorous now, Curran said. Companies scrutinize employees to make sure it's the best fit.

"Before it was 'Gee, if I do that (check out an employee), the person will be hired by someone else, so I'd better act.' Now, if I don't offer you a job today, I know you're going to be knocking on my door tomorrow anyway."

Nationally, a survey conducted by executive placement firm Challenger, Gray and Christmas found that discharged managers and executives had an average job search time of 3.83 months during the third quarter of this year. That's the longest average length for job searches since the firm began its survey in 1986.

John A. Challenger, chief executive officer of the Chicago firm that bears his name, said the economy isn't the only force at work. The spate of corporate scandals has caused businesses to check the backgrounds of those they hire, double-checking references and even hiring third-party investigation firms.

That's slowing up the hiring process, he said. "Companies are taking more time to do every level, even at the rank and file, to do background checks," Challenger said.

Background checks aren't the only job step, said Kim Banks, a senior career development specialist at job placement center Opportunities Industrialization Center West in Menlo Park, Calif. Banks said companies are looking for the best candidate at the cheapest price.

"Now they'll do four or five interviews before making a decision," Banks said. "I get a lot of doors closed. They say they're in a hiring freeze or 'Come see us again next year.'"

Credit report errors can hurt

By Loretta Kalb
SACRAMENTO BEE

Evaluated your credit report lately? Experts say it's not a bad idea to pull the report yearly, since it sometimes contains mistakes and can influence such costs as car insurance rates and interest rates on new loans.

"Just about every credit report I've seen in the past three years contains some sort of mistake," said Steve Rhode, president and co-founder of Myvesta counseling center in Rockville, Md.

The three major credit reporting bureaus are Equifax, Experian and Trans Union. Along with the credit reports, these agencies also can provide credit scores, which are viewed by lenders as a measure of a borrower's ability and willingness to repay loans.

Scores typically range from 300 to 900. Generally, the higher the number, the more favorable the cost of borrowing.

That single number often dictates terms for consumers who borrow money, finance major purchases or receive credit cards. Costs of credit reports vary. Consumers can pay Experian, for example, around \$15 for both a credit report and score.

Myvesta provides what it calls a "consolidated" report for about \$30 via the Web site, www.myvesta.org.

Readers can credit reporting agencies individually or visit them on the Web.

• Equifax: (800) 685-1111; www.equifax.com
• TransUnion: (800) 888-4213; www.transunion.com
• Experian: (888) 397-3742; www.experian.com

MONEY



Artist L. Diane Johnson lays out her paintings in the family dining room while husband Doug Johnson listens to her instructions for getting her paintings to an art gallery. Doug Johnson, who was laid off in May 2001, is still searching for a decent job while helping his wife market her paintings.

EMPLOYING OPTIMISM

By Amy Martinez
RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER

When you've been out of work as long as Doug Johnson, it's good to:

A) Wait until the economy improves before starting your job search. Why set yourself up for failure?

B) Tell everyone you were laid off, after five years, by e-mail and now you have to sell your house. They might feel sorry enough to hire you. They might feel sorry enough to hire you.

C) Avoid awkward social situations where you're likely to be asked, "What do you do for a living?"

D) Insist on a "don't ask, don't tell" policy with family and friends. No need to talk about your job search until it is successfully completed.

For Johnson, and tens of thousands of people out of work a year or longer, the challenge is this: How do you stay motivated when the bills are piling up, family and friends are growing impatient, and employers still are reluctant to hire?

Johnson, 52, also has done independent consulting work and started an art-marketing business with his wife, Diane. It's Johnson's way of coping with a job search he never thought would last so long and does not expect will end anytime soon.

Others out of work since last year are going back to school, volunteering at local charities and trying harder than ever to find a job. Some are giving up on the local job market and moving away, or taking part-time jobs at lower pay just to make ends meet. For them, being out of work is simply not an option.

Still, the "jobless recovery" means many workers are unemployed not two or three months, but a year or more. The longer people go without jobs, the more likely they are to give up, grow isolated and feel helpless, job counselors say.

At the same time, finan-

Stay motivated

Staying motivated when you have been out of work six months or longer is easier said than done.

But it's the single most important thing you can do to get your job search back on track.

■ **Be futuristic.** Don't get discouraged by problems. Do something with a reward.

■ **Set daily goals.** Make phone calls, check job boards, write letters.

■ **Celebrate small victories.** Every job search is a series of milestones. Recognize them with a reward.

■ **Get out of the house.** Resolve to meet five new people a week.

■ **Be a volunteer.** Use this time to do good. You will meet new people and feel better about yourself.

■ **Research prospective employers.** Make a list of companies whose job skills would be relevant. Follow them in the news.

■ **Do not rely on the Internet.** The Web is a great place to do research, but it's no substitute for meeting people face to face.

■ **Attend your networking event.** Keep an open mind. Consider moving away, changing industries or starting a business.

cial pressures build and can lead to sleepless nights worrying about the house and children, to strained personal relations and to problems finding affordable health-care coverage.

It's more important than ever for the longtime unemployed to get out, meet people, be open with family and redouble job search efforts, counselors say.

"Even if it's gotten long and discouraging, you still don't have time to feel sorry for yourself. That will not get you your next job," says Howard McCain, managing principal for Right Management Consultants in Raleigh, N.C., offers these tips for staying motivated in a tough job market:

■ **Be futuristic.** Don't get discouraged by problems. Do something with a reward.

■ **Set daily goals.** Make phone calls, check job boards, write letters.

■ **Celebrate small victories.** Every job search is a series of milestones. Recognize them with a reward.

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■ **Attend your networking event.** Keep an open mind. Consider moving away, changing industries or starting a business.

Johnson has reason to feel down. A work force reduction at a telecommunications company cost him a six-figure salary, an impressive job title — director of business development — nearly \$50,000 in savings, and possibly his \$350,000 home.

What's more, he has put it, "I've submitted resumes everywhere including the moon and Mars and not landed anything."

He doubts he'll ever see the salaries he did during the late 1990s. He says small- and medium-sized employers are reluctant to offer him a job with lower pay, fearing he'll leave as soon as something better comes along. Still, he remains upbeat.

"I'm interested in landing a full-time position with the right company," he says. "But I'm not waiting around for the phone to ring. I'm working diligently to reinvent myself."



Using the stars as your guide to better business

By Julie N. Lynem
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

An Aries wants a firm handshake and the bottom line. The Aquarius steers clear of confrontation. Scorpios, like Ted Turner and Bill Gates, are fierce, stealthy competitors who hate flattery.

So say Tom Mitchell and Bruce Cady, former telecommunications executives and founders of Jupiter Returns, a San Francisco company that merges business and, yes, astrology.

No, Mitchell said, it's not a joke. "We want to create a brand name," said Mitchell, a longtime astrology buff. "When you want a chart done for yourself or your family, you'll call Jupiter Returns. It will be a company like Starbucks or Microsoft."

The goal of the company, launched in May, is to help people create successful business relationships through an understanding of astrology, an age-old practice based on the belief that the positions of celestial bodies — sun, moon, planets and stars — can influence human behavior.

Of course, many skeptics view it as an ancient superstition that has no place in business or personal matters. A National Science Foundation biennial report on the state of scientific understanding found that 56 percent of Americans rejected the scientific validity of astrology, even though 30 percent said they read astrology charts occasionally in the newspaper.

Nevertheless, Mitchell, a proud but creative Los Angeles lawyer, analytical Virgo, decided to look to the heavens for answers after the technology sector tanked. They used their investments to fund the company. It was Mitchell's dream, albeit one that hasn't always elicited the most positive response.

Colleagues laughed, said Mitchell, a Boston-educated attorney who has held vice president management positions at Nortel Networks and Ruby Networks. One person he tried to bring on board said he couldn't be associated with any business that even hinted at astrology.

"Mainstream people with houses in the suburbs — they blow me off," said Mitchell, noting that women are his best customers.

For the past six months, the business partners and former Marines have hosted astrology seminars for salespeople at \$35 to \$40 per person in San Francisco and New York City. They also held a weekend astrology retreat in Rhode Island.

Mitchell also has been busy hawking his book, "Star Salesperson: Using Astrology to Get to Yes," which tells readers how to use a client's sun sign to size up his or her character and style.

For years, astrologers have helped companies and executives figure out the best timing for business planning, marketing and relocation, said Georgia Stathi, a member of the International Society of Business Astrologers and a faculty member at Kepler College in Washington state, which offers degrees in astrological studies.

Business astrology, Stathi says, works with company attitudes and the way companies should handle employee or cash-flow issues, for example. Financial astrology purports to be the study of market cycles, commodities and stock options.

The Jupiter Returns partners say they're in business to foster better human understanding, not predict the future. They contend that there is evidence to back up the validity of astrology, although Mitchell admits in his book that the question of why astrology works is still up for debate.

"What we (astrologers) have been dealing with is a bad marketing problem," Mitchell said. "We've had bad marketing for thousands of years. It around."

The animated character of Tinker Bell in Disney's 1953 "Peter Pan" was modeled after Marilyn Monroe — true or false?

These are a handful of more than 1,600 urban legends, tall tales, hoaxes and other items of lore whose veracity is proved or debunked in the reference pages of www.Snopes.com. (The answers to the above questions are true, true and false.)

Snopes is almost entirely the work of one Los Angeles-area couple, Barbara and David Mikkelson, who spend their time uncovering, researching and cross-checking the world's persistent urban legends, as well as the new ones that spring up constantly.

"We get into word origins, oddball misconceptions, pretty much anything that would fall under the heading of contemporary lore," said Barbara Mikkelson.

The couple have maintained the

Plus

SPACESOUNDS

XM, or satellite radio, may some day soon be the standard in automobile purchases

By Frank A. Kukofer
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

It's name is XM, and it is in the vanguard of what may be a revolution in radio, especially in motor vehicles.

It is housed in a one-time printing plant in Washington, a few miles north of the U.S. Capitol, that has been transformed into a sparkling, state-of-the-art facility that contains no fewer than 80 radio studios.

Their output is beamed to two satellites in stationary orbits over the United States. They are named, appropriately, Rock and Roll. Rock covers the west; Roll takes care of the eastern half of the country. A backup satellite also is in orbit, just in case.

It's called satellite radio, and it means that if you have a receiver in your car, you can tune to a single station and drive all over the continental United States without losing the signal.

But you probably wouldn't want to concentrate on just one spot because XM Radio sends 101 channels of music and talk radio through its satellites to a small but growing number of subscribers.

There are more than 200,000 subscribers so far, but that is expected to ratchet up rapidly in the coming months because of the decision by giant General Motors Corp. to offer XM radios as factory-installed options in 25 of its 2003 car and truck models, including Saturn, Chevrolet, Pontiac, Oldsmobile, Buick, Cadillac, GMC and Saab.

In addition, the radios will be available on the Acura MDX, the Honda Accord and Pilot, all Infiniti models, the Nissan Pathfinder and new Murano, the Isuzu Axiom and Rodeo, as well as some Volkswagen and Audi models yet to be announced.

But you don't have to buy a new car to get XM Radio. The company recently announced the development of a new, portable unit called the Delphi XM SKYFI Radio that, with accessory packages, can be plugged into a car, a home stereo system and even a boom box.

The basic radio costs \$130. Accessory packages for the home and car, including the antenna and wiring, each cost \$70, and the boom box unit is \$100.

There's a connection fee that ranges from \$9.99 to \$14.99, depending on how you sign up. Once connected, the XM satellite radio service costs \$9.99 a month, billed to your credit card every three or six months. XM doesn't plan to get into paper billing.

The XM radio selection, mostly commercial free, covers the gamut of audio entertainment — from uncut hip-hop to opera, from public affairs to sports talk. It is crafted to satisfy all but the tiniest minority of listeners. The signals are all digital, so sound rivals that of a CD player or a glitch-free FM station.

Among the more popular offerings are the decades channels, which feature music from the '40s, '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s.

That's no surprise. Lee Abrams, a veteran radio broadcast attorney who is XM's chief programming officer, says that the lifelong musical tastes of most people are formed between the ages of 16 and 20. With the six decades channels, XM has something to appeal to virtually every age group in the country.

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XM Radio was incorporated as American Mobile Radio Corp. in 1992. It received its license from the Federal Communications Commission in 1997.

So far, it has invested \$1.8 billion, according to Chancellor Patterson, XM's vice president of corporate affairs. Among the investors have been General Motors and Honda.

Much of the money went into the three Boeing satellites, along with 800 repeater systems in urban areas that maintain and boost the satellite signals. In some cases, the repeaters work so well that the XM car radio signal doesn't get lost even in a tunnel. Part of that also is because of a 4.5-second memory buffer



Illustration by Charlotte Hill / Scripps Howard News Service

When program producers sit down to put together their scripts for the day, they can select from nearly two million musical recordings in XM Radio's database. Computers also keep track of what is played so that XM can send royalty payments to performing artists and organizations for distribution to the artists and writers.

According to Abrams, every channel has a point of view. "We want fans, not listeners," he said.

The XM staff totals 475, including marketing and other support people. About 425 of them work in the Washington headquarters building, with the remainder mostly research and technical support staff in other locations.

XM is not alone in the business. A competitor is New York-based Sirius, which has affiliations with DaimlerChrysler and Ford Motor Co. Sirius promises commercial-free satellite radio for a monthly fee of \$12.99.

A great deal of satellite radio's appeal, of course, is its mobility. People who cover long distances and spend a great deal of time in their cars and trucks are likely to be most susceptible to XM's blandishments.

"We're turning people into car potatoes," Patterson said.

Web site dedicated to proving, debunking urban legends

By Justin Hoeger
SACRAMENTO BEE

Thieving birds have been known to make off with thousands of quarters from self-serve car-wash machines — true or false?

Graham crackers were originally marketed as a way to suppress sexual urges — true or false?

The animated character of Tinker Bell in Disney's 1953 "Peter Pan" was modeled after Marilyn Monroe — true or false?

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TECHNOLOGY

Games & Toys



Ratchet & Clank
Genre: Platformer
Platform: PlayStation 2
Publisher: Sony
ESRB Rating: Teen

★★★★★

Last year it was Jak and Daxter. This year, Ratchet and Clank is the platformer to have. Although both these games feature a main character with a sidekick, the only other trait they share is that both are great games.

Ratchet is a batlike creature who with his sidekick, a tiny robot named Clank, sets off to stop an evil politician from stealing the resources of other planets to build a new world for himself and his people.

As the game starts, it looks to be a typical platformer, with lots of enemies to shoot and crates to smash. But its massive depth becomes slowly apparent as the game progresses. In fact, R&C becomes less of a platformer and more of a role-playing game as Ratchet goes about his tasks. Each of the game's puzzles becomes increasingly more challenging and Ratchet's expanding arsenal of weaponry adds new twists, opening up new levels and secrets.

Also, the game's presentation is absolutely stellar, particularly in the enormous and highly-detailed worlds this duo travels through. To say this game is ambitious is an understatement, but it's no understatement to say that Ratchet and Clank is this year's first must-buy platformer.

ATV: Offroad Fury 2
Genre: Racing
Platform: PlayStation 2
Publisher: Sony
ESRB Rating: Everyone

★★★★★

The first ATV: Offroad Fury was a smash. It's realistic physics, challenging levels and spot-on controls made the game an instant hit on the young PS2.

And the sequel is everything the original was: only deeper and better. Nearly everything received an overhaul. Offroad Fury 2, except for the controls, which were excellent to begin with.

Immediately noticeable are the game's improved graphics and computer A.I. The game's pace is faster and the camera is tighter on the action in third-person view, letting you appreciate the added detail to the game's 40 tracks and 20-plus bikes.

Offroad Fury 2 also features more modes of play, including five different racing events, a single-race mode, championship mode and a dual mode, which lets you go one-on-one against the computer or another opponent. With online playability, that opponent need not even be in the room with you. Add to that an incredible soundtrack and it's hard to match this racer for either depth and fun.

— JONATHAN BOCH
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Detective uses computer to bring suspects to life

By Jonathan D. Silver
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

While most police officers try to rid the world of criminal monsters so people can sleep better, Detective Blaise Kraeer spends his days bringing nightmares to life.

As a latter-day sketch artist for the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, Kraeer uses a computer program instead of pencils and paper to put faces on criminals, most recently the suspect in five attacks on women in the city's East End.

Skilled in coaxing information, Kraeer transmits each detail to the computer — noses, eyebrows, jawlines, hairlines — until he creates an image so lifelike it's like seeing victims and witnesses face to face with an assailant all over again.

Sometimes, people break down crying. "It's sad," Kraeer said, "but it tells me we're where we want to be."

The dihard old-school police sketch artists remain leery about entrusting composites to computers. It's easy to see the advantages of technology by flipping through the white binder Kraeer keeps of his subjects.

When criminals are caught, he inserts a copy of their mug shots to measure against his picture. Often, Kraeer's abilities to interpret verbal descriptions and transmit them to a computer border on the uncanny.

A 10-year veteran cop, Kraeer is no stranger to big cases. Although several officers are trained to use the special software, which was developed by psychologists and police artists at Scotland Yard, Kraeer does about 90 percent of the composites — at least 100 a year.

Kraeer considers the witness interview

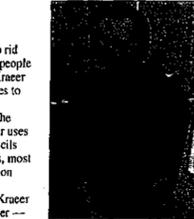


PHOTO BY DARRIEL SAPP / PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

half the battle in creating a good picture to hand to detectives. He uses a technique taught by the software company that is designed to put victims and witnesses in a zone of clarity.

Kraeer might begin by asking what people ate for breakfast. If the answer is eggs, he'll ask how they were cooked, and so on. That way, he warms up their memories. Sometimes victims think they won't be able to contribute at all and end up giving Kraeer a composite that is dead-on.

Known as EFFT — short for Electronic Facial Identification Technique — the software was developed by Aspley Ltd. in London and is one of about five composite programs in the world, Chapman said.

It's in use in 24 countries and roughly 200 police departments in the United States, as well as the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the CIA.

Kraeer makes his black-and-white composites on a surprisingly small monitor. The main screen has a white space on

Pittsburgh police detective Blaise Kraeer talks about the computer program he uses for making computer-generated composite sketches. The software was developed by Scotland Yard in the 1980s.

Kraeer consults long lists for each part of the anatomy that categorize facial features and accessories in every conceivable way. Incrementally, he molds the face.

When he has about 20 images saved, he does a process of elimination, finding the two against each other to find the better fit.

When Kraeer hits on the final product, he asks the victim for a critique. He re-ups the image, then draws on scars, lines or tattoos.

"Usually, for almost every victim there's something that sticks out. He had evil eyes or a mean mouth," Kraeer said. "If their resolve is good, they come out with it."



Denver couple Ellen and John Lee's warehouse loft in an industrial area is filled with quirky decor and a brick island that houses a stove.

Photos by Ellen Jasko/Scraps Howard News Service

Do it herself

Home improvement stores cater to women with classes, advice and decor displays

By Brady Dennis
ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Don't be fooled by the aprons. These women aren't baking cookies. They know how to wield a hammer, slice through wood with a miter saw, apply grout, handle concrete, make fountains — and how to have fun doing it.

They're the Monday Night Widows. They aren't really widows, mind you, but rather married women who escape from their husbands every other Monday to learn new tricks at a Home Depot in Tampa, Fla.

One recent lesson: mosaic tile. The head teacher, Debbie Presley, wearing a black dress with a flower pattern, her long fingernails filed to perfection, hands covered in tile dust and grout.

"My husband's at home watching the children," said Stephanie Mercer, attending the class with her mother-in-law, Cookie Mercer. "He just got back from hunting for deer in Georgia. So this is my outlet."

Home improvement warehouses aren't just for the guys anymore. In fact, they haven't been for a long time. A Harvard University study in 2001 showed that home ownership rates for female-headed households rose to 53 percent in 2000, up 5 percent from the early 1980s.

And single women are the second largest group of home buyers after couples, according to a report from the National Association of Realtors. They accounted for 15 percent of home buys in 2001, compared with 7 percent by single men, the report said.

Such figures have chains like Home Depot, Lowe's Home Improvement and Ace Hardware scurrying to court women.

In recent years, Lowe's has added lines of stock from Laura Ashley, Alexander Julian and Waverly. Ace Hardware recently added a section to its Web site devoted to answering home improvement questions, with about 65 percent of the questions so far coming from women.

Home Depot has uncluttered its aisles, added decor displays dubbed "the Design Place" and supported do-it-yourself clinics for women.

"Eighty percent of our decisions are based on (the influence) of women," said Fred Skinner, an assistant manager at the store who helped start the "Widows" clinics. "For a long time, Home Depot was a boys' club. Now we try to make sure the customers who are making the decisions have something to do here."

Anyone is welcome to join. Just bring some creativity and a penchant for power tools, and you'll fit in fine.

Oh, and it's probably a good idea to leave the old man at home.

"This lets him have some time alone," said Kathryn Bodnar. "He can do his woodworking, or he can just veg out if he wants to — after he has the dishes done."

HOMETRENDS

Windows of opportunity in decor

Top 10 decorating trends, as seen by design experts at Hunter Douglas, the window-covering manufacturer:

- Say goodbye to glitz. Conspicuous consumption is over.
- A little glitter and glamour is still in. Near your windows it reflects light. Hunter Douglas offers honeycomb shades in a semi-opaque fabric that contains mica, a naturally iridescent material.
- Sheer fabrics are back.
- Retro style rules. Even the ranch houses of yesteryear are enjoying renewed popularity.
- Bring on the light, for health and psychological reasons as well as room illumination.
- Mix those styles. A room that's all one style is boring. Mix old and new, antique and contemporary.
- Choose comfort. A first-rate mattress, comfortable pillows, window treatments that filter harsh sun and provide privacy are necessities.
- Tropical is topical. The tropical look, palm trees, sisal carpets, white fabrics, green plants, can fit with any furniture style.
- Color transforms. Think about hiring a color consultant if you're uncertain about which color to choose.
- Money counts. Value-conscious shoppers are looking for less expensive ways to get the looks they want.

—ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

Ingenuity turns an old warehouse into a dream loft for a Denver couple

By Betsy Lehdorff
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

In 1997, a set of railroad tracks came through the front door and out the back of a hollow, 95-year-old warehouse near downtown Denver. Built in 1907, the building held only a dingy kitchenette tucked into one corner and a rest-room near a garage door. Overhead, a crane dangled from dusty steel tracks.

Other than grit and cobwebs, the place was empty. No elegant master bedroom. No spectacular living room. No designer anything.

It was exactly the kind of fixer-

inside the warehouse's 2,700-square-foot interior, the couple envisioned a home centered around a large open kitchen.

"John and I just generally treat life creatively," says Ellen, who owns an advertising agency. "If there is a different way to do something, we like to find it."

"I bring the reality to the creative elements Ellen thinks of," John adds.

The Lees not only designed a second-story living area but built many of the loft's accessories, including ceiling lights, a TV cart, a bathroom sink and a room divider.

Their quest for the perfect home began in 1997. When Ellen spotted the old warehouse for sale, she fell in love with its humble exterior and interior.

"I don't like houses with too many small rooms," John says. "And obviously the kitchen was going to be the center. So we designed the kitchen first and made everything else work around it."

The two began envisioning a 700-square-foot second floor built on supporting posts and beams. Under the new level, they would tuck in a private guest room, bath and sauna. Above, they'd parcel out room for a hot tub, laundry room and master bedroom and bath.

They hired a contractor, and after six months of construction they moved in to oversee the finishing touches.

Today, the kitchen stands slightly off-center on the first floor, wrapped in a mantel of brick walls. Concealed behind the rustic wall are a storage area and shelves. Front niches contain a restaurant-grade refrigerator and a commercial stove and ovens. Against the window is a stainless steel sink with a trio of basins and a commercial-grade sprayer.

A fabrication company built a stainless steel stove hood that climbs more than a story before penetrating the warehouse roof.



The loft's exterior still retains many features of the 1907 warehouse it once was. An old railroad track still leads to the back door.



A bathroom in the loft features this sink from a steel mixing bowl.

Workers also created a rambling stainless countertop clad in rough plywood board and painted copper.

To create pools of illumination in the kitchen, John hand-built several halogen lights out of tin funnels and coiled tubing and suspended them from one of the crane's steel beams.

At the back of the home, the couple reserved a small section of track for a dining area. Then they installed radiant-heat tubing over the rest of the floor and covered it with 4 inches of diamond-patterned concrete. Also playing up the industrial look are lots of metal surfaces in unpainted steel, copper, chrome and stainless.

An industrial steel stairway leads up to a mezzanine floor, where the couple has installed a huge hot tub. The stairs provide access to a laundry room and, one level higher, the master bedroom and bath.

Walled-in privacy is not a part of loft living. The master bedroom seems to be cantilevered over the first floor, bounded only by half-walls. In other places, walls of transparent glass-block allow daylight to reach the darkest nooks.

In the bathroom, a circular glass block wall conceals the shower. Just under a round, apex window, the Lees have placed a claw-foot tub on top of rippling blue-white tiles. The fixture has been stripped of its original white porcelain, coated chocolate brown and covered with a glossy sealant.

"I really value the interior space of my home, rather than having a private yard and a fence and swing set," Ellen says.

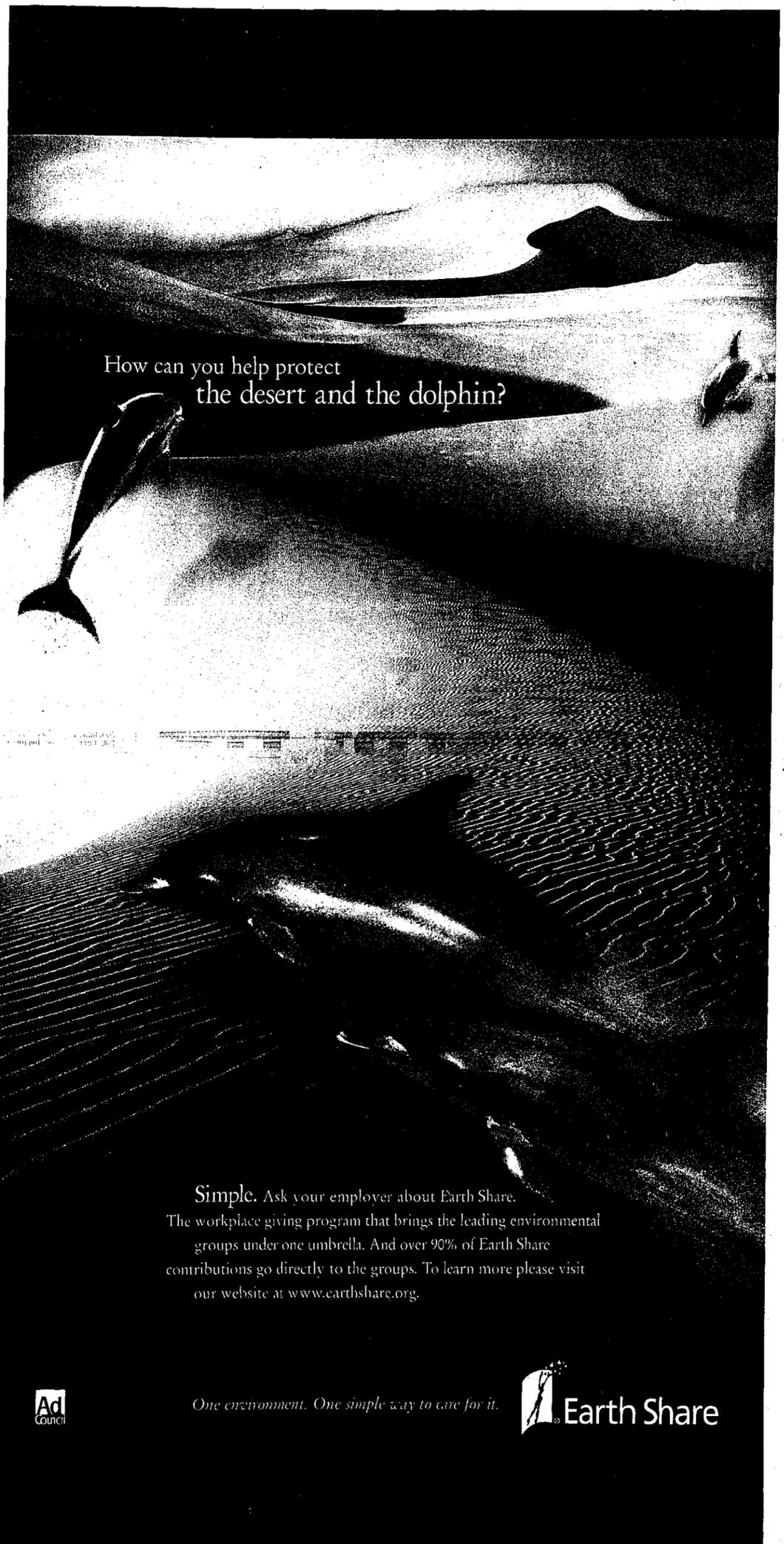


The living room, done in brown leather and brick.

upper John and Ellen Lee were looking for.

"We'd been looking for a loft... an empty shell, but nothing fit with what we wanted," says John, an electrical engineer.

They found it at the Silver Square Lofts, surrounded by thriving factories, busy warehouses and the rumble and squeal of freight cars.



How can you help protect the desert and the dolphin?

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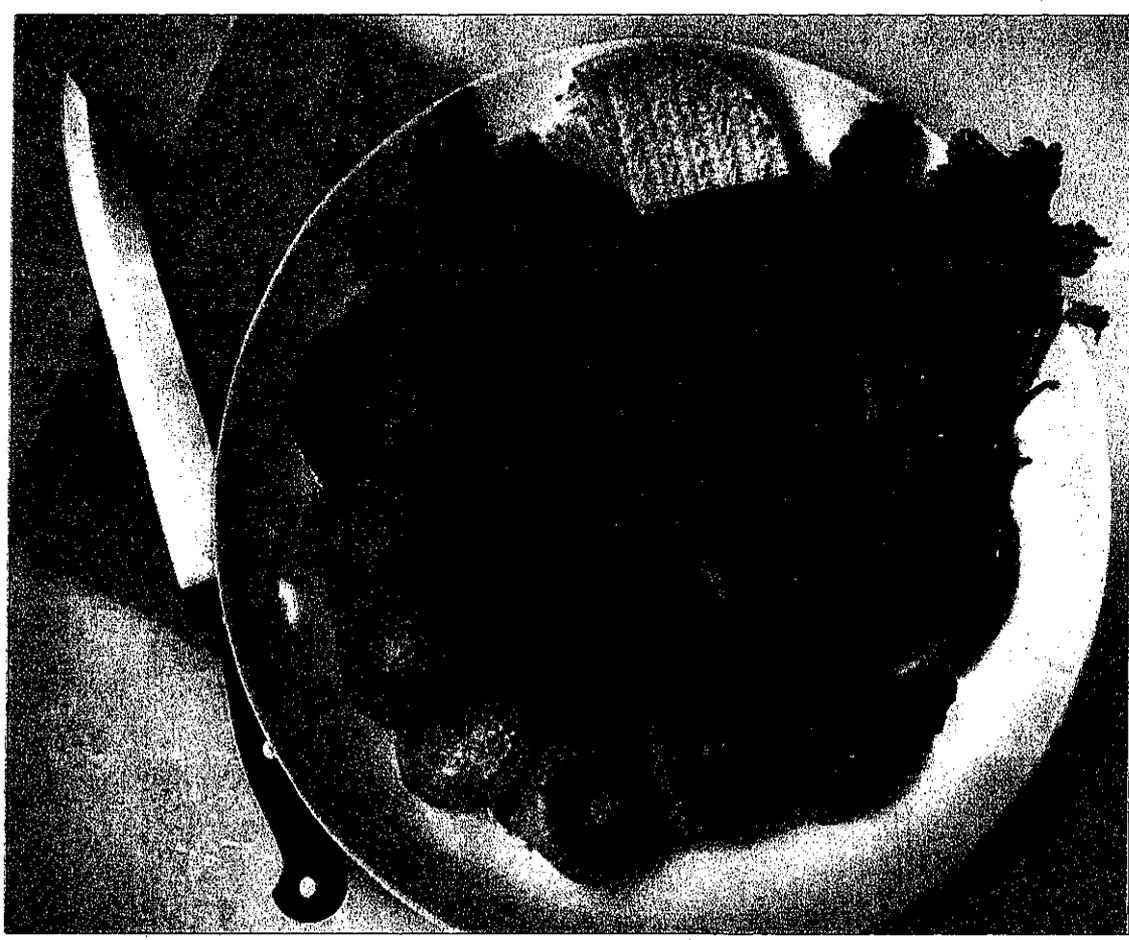
Earth Share

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FOOD

Let your imagination fuel your own sauce



Photos by Ron Medvescek / The (Riverside, Calif.) Press-Enterprise

Salsa verde de tomatillo, from Cafe Poca Cosa, is just one of the "hundreds of different salsas that I use," says Suzana Davila, the restaurant's chef/owner.

A-bomb of chiles

A Murrieta, Calif., couple gains raves for their fiery habaneros

By Mark Kendall
THE (RIVERSIDE, CALIF.)
PRESS-ENTERPRISE

In the battle of hot peppers, the jalapeno is a child's cap gun. The habanero is an A-bomb. Just ask the tough-guy Marine who ate a whole habanero on a bet. His head got wet with sweat. His ears rang. His vision turned blurry. "And his mouth was sore for a week," says Neal Bratton.

This is one of the reports that Neal and Carol Bratton have gotten from customers as they sell the powerful peppers at farmers markets. But "a lot of times we don't know what happens when somebody buys them," says Neal.

Habaneros are about the size and shape of a keychain rabbit's foot and look harmless enough. Visit the Brattons' eucalyptus-shaded farm in Murrieta, Calif., and you'll be left wondering how such a peaceful place can produce such a powerful pepper.

Neal, who is retired, moved to this rural nook in 1993. He started growing peppers to feed his love for salsa. His passion for peppers only grew as he kept ordering different seeds to experiment with.

The Brattons, who call themselves the Backyard Dirt Farmers, grow about 35 kinds of peppers, both hot and sweet, on their 2-1/2-acre spread. Neal is particularly proud of his dried, ground mix of sweet and hot red peppers, plus other peppers, called his Special Blend. It's good for seasoning pizzas and pasta.

The Brattons also grow everything from oranges to okra to onions.

Still, their habaneros are the attention getters, particularly since Gourmet magazine editor-in-chief Ruth Reichl mentioned them in the July issue. She learned about the Brattons' dried habanero flakes from one of her writers, and now she brings them with her to spice up dishes when she travels as well as using them for cooking at home.

She notes that habaneros "have a really distinctive flavor." "It doesn't taste like anything else," she says. "Just smelling them makes me happy."

The Brattons grow both the Caribbean red habanero and the orange habanero, which is hotter and the most popular.

The Brattons do warn people of the peppers' power, sometimes displaying a fire extinguisher next to them to drive the point home.

Used in small doses, the habaneros can add a manageable level of heat to just about any dish. Much of the Brattons' crop goes to make their dried, ground habanero. That seasoning is particularly good for Asian, Indian and Mexican dishes, according to Carol.

Their habanero jelly is also popular, with the sweetness helping to temper the powerful peppers. "We don't try to blow people away," says Neal.

Carol mixes the habanero jelly with peanut butter to create a chicken satay sauce or combines it with light sour cream to create a dip for fruit. The jelly also works well on grilled meats or can simply be spread over cream cheese and served with crackers and chips.

At the Brattons' farm, the habaneros begin innocently enough as little seedlings nurtured along under fluorescent lights in their shed. When they grow to about 5 or 6 inches high, Neal plants them outside in late spring for a fall harvest.

The habaneros take up a large portion of his crop, but Neal's favorite peppers are the much more mild poblanos. He savors a pepper's flavor more than its fire.

"In my opinion, salsa should be made (so) you can just eat it by the spoonful," he says. "Not trying to blow anybody away."

Try Salsa for kicks

By Kristen Cook ■ Arizona Daily Star

Salsa. Just saying the word makes the tongue tingle — which happens when you eat it, too. Spanish for "sauce," salsa can be as hot as a sidewalk in July or as cool as a whispery fall breeze.

People dunk tortilla chips into it, slather it on top of grilled beef, or ... "I've seen people eat salsa with cantaloupe," says Stephan Waid, sous chef at Barrio Food & Drink in Tucson, Ariz.

Interesting choice. "I think it's very versatile," says Waid, who has actually whipped up a cantaloupe salsa with jicama, red onion, cilantro and a touch of citrus. "It can be an addition to anything — pasta, appetizers or just plain with Mexican food."

A shot of salsa punches up any food. You can find it on supermarket shelves in every guise — hot, mild, sweetened with mango or raspberry. But, Tucson-area chefs say, salsa is so simple to make at home that you shouldn't even bother with the bottled stuff.

What goes into salsa is limited only by your imagination. And if you're Suzana Davila, that's a pretty big imagination. "I have hundreds of different salsas that I use," says Davila, chef/owner of Cafe Poca Cosa in Tucson.

She can rattle off several types in the dash of a sentence. "There's salsa ranchera, salsa picante, salsa brava, salsa fresca," she says. "I like 'em all."

While people commonly think of salsa as tomato-based with onions and chiles, the recipe can vary widely. Especially when Davila's involved. A couple of times a year, she treks to Mexico to pick up an assortment of dried chiles to use in her salsas.

"You go deeper into Mexico, you're finding chiles that you've never heard of," she says. "Some of them have sweetness to them; they taste like a plum."

But if you can't stand the heat, it doesn't mean you have to skip the salsa. Davila loves to pair fruit with chiles to tame their fire. Raspberries marry habaneros in a salsa she uses to top salmon. She also likes to pair strawberries with either ancho or pasilla chiles.

"It's just wonderful," she says. Jeff Glomski, Barrio's chef and co-owner, also serves innovative fruit salsa combos at his restaurant. Grilled pineapple salsa — a blend of the tangy fruit with mild Anaheim chiles, tomatoes, garlic, a shot of lime and sprinkling of salt — adds kicky sweetness to Barrio's fish tacos and blackened fish salad.

No matter what kind of salsa tickles your fancy, make sure everything going in it is fresh, says Glomski, who loves hot salsa himself. "The freshest ingredients are going to help in anything — love most of all,"

HABANERO SALSA

- Serves 4-6
5 habanero chiles, roasted
4 amarillo chiles
3 scallions, finely chopped
1 grapefruit, juiced
1 lime, zested and juiced
1 bunch cilantro, leaves picked and chopped
Salt and pepper

Soak the habanero and amarillo chiles in hot water for approximately 10 minutes. Remove the chiles from the water and scrape and deseed them. Place the chiles into a food processor and add enough of the soaking liquid to cover a quarter of the way. Purée into a fine paste. Place the purée into a bowl and add the chopped scallions, fruit juices, lime zest, and chopped cilantro. Mix well, season with salt and pepper, and serve warm.

Recipe courtesy Peter Mantel, Lucwms Miami Beach Hotel in Florida. From www.foodtv.com

GRILLED PINEAPPLE SALSA

- Serves 8
1 medium pineapple, grilled and diced
2 fresh, medium Anaheim chile peppers, diced
2 large beefsteak tomatoes, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 lime, juiced
Salt

Peel the pineapple and cut into 1/4-inch discs. Grill and cool. Dice pineapple and add diced tomatoes, chiles, garlic, lime juice and a pinch of salt. Mix well and taste, adjust seasonings. (Jeff Glomski of Barrio Food & Drink)

SALSA VERDE DE TOMATILLO

- Serves 6-8, if using as a sauce
About 2 pounds of tomatillos, fresh or roasted
4 large poblano chiles, fresh or roasted
2 bunches of fresh cilantro
2 dried bay leaves
1/2 roasted onion
2 or 3 scallions, chopped finely
Pinch of salt

Squeeze of lemon (optional)
In a blender or food processor, blend together the tomatillos, poblanos, cilantro and onion. Season with salt to taste. Sprinkle bay leaves and scallions on top of salsa for decoration.

(Note: Suzana Davila suggests you play with combos — mix poblanos and habaneros or toss in roasted tomatoes, for example. She suggests a squirt of lemon if you're serving this on top of fish. She also says that roasting the tomatillos takes away the bitterness. Garnish with roasted tomatoes, roasted onion, roasted chile and cilantro sprigs.)

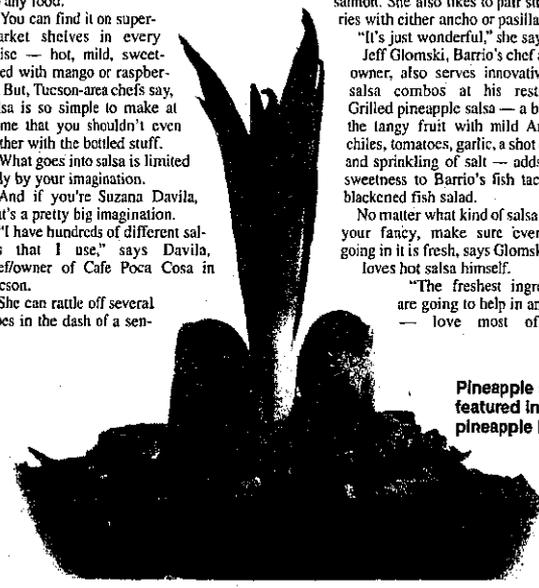
Spicy suggestions

Anything goes. "It's really up to the individual and their tastes," says Jeff Glomski, chef and co-owner of Barrio Food & Drink in Tucson, Ariz. "Who would have thought pineapple would be a good salsa?"

Use a sharp knife. It'll make all that dicing sooooo much easier.

Don't puree fruit. Fruit salsas are better chunky, because fruit tends to turn mushy when pureed, Glomski says.

Blend well. "When you're doing a mixture, you want to make sure you get a little bit of everything in each bite," Glomski says.



Pineapple salsa, featured in a pineapple boat.