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**GREEN SHEET**  
Classifieds

Greensheetclassifieds.com

**INSIDE**

**That quack's not a duck**

The next time you hear quacking in Novi, it may not be a duck. The bird-like sound may be coming from a wood frog and is actually one of the indicators used when determining the health of a city's wetlands.

Listening and identifying frog and toad calls is exactly what Friends of the Rouge wants Novi residents to help with during its 6th Annual Rouge River Watershed Frog and Toad Survey.

— Page 4A



**And the first winner is...**

Every month from now until June, The Novi News is honoring a local teacher for his or her excellence in the classroom. Our first winner is Novi Woods fourth grade teacher Nancy Bain. Bain was nominated because of her ability to get through to her students and make a positive impact on their lives.

— Page 14A

**Full-day K gets the nod**

In a daring move, the Novi Schools Board of Education granted an optional, state aid funded, full-day kindergarten for next school year at a meeting on Jan. 6. The surprise for many stemmed from the district's financial difficulty which Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Jim Koster explained at the same meeting.

— Page 9A

**SPORTS**



**Heading to the state's!**

Under the direction of coach Jeni Hubenschmidt the Novi varsity pom team practices for its upcoming appearance in the state finals this coming Sunday.

— Page 1B

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# Just how much is really owed?

## Debts mount from Main St. developer

### County will bear monetary burden for Novi

By Victoria Sadlocha  
STAFF WRITER

The compounding lawsuits and financial failures of Novi's downtown development have attracted a large degree of attention from the business community, but do the monetary woes of James Chen affect the city?

Kathy Smith-Roy, City of Novi Finance Director and Treasurer, indicated amounts owed to the city by James Chen and companies associated with Chen for special assessment districts (SADs), property taxes and water bills are behind.

**SADs**

The city received in 1995 two different sources to fund the construction of Main Street and supplemental street scaping requirements which James Chen is

invoiced for as part of his Summer tax bill each year.

Smith-Roy said some of the parcels invoiced on his 2002 Summer tax bill for the SADs have been paid and some have not.

Delinquent summer tax payments relating to the SADs are \$332,789.

If not paid, the account will be submitted to Oakland County this spring with all delinquent taxes, Smith-Roy said.

Originally, \$1.9 million came from Michigan Transportation Bond Funds for the construction of the street and \$1.7 million was received via special assessment limited tax bonds for street scaping.

"There are two special assessment districts (SADs) - one for streetscape and one for roads," Smith-Roy said. "Both SADs provide a public purpose. The city cannot create a special assessment district for the 'development' or any other private enterprise."

The current outstanding balance of the streetscape SAD is \$849,995 after the 2002 assessment, and the balance of the paving SAD is \$1.01 million.

**Property Tax**

"Some of the taxes for 2002 have not been paid," Smith-Roy said. "The city has an agreement with Oakland County for delinquent tax collections. The outstanding taxes as of March 1 each year are submitted to the county for collection - the city is reimbursed."

According to property tax records maintained by the city, Evergreen III, Inc. owes \$594,020 in summer property taxes along with a 4 percent penalty, bringing the total outstanding bill for the corporation James Chen is a part owner and managing partner of to \$617,781.

Close to \$170,000 of Winter tax payments are due tomorrow, Feb. 14.

**Water**

Smith-Roy said about \$2,000 in delinquent water and sewer billings owed to the city are linked to James Chen.

If the past-due amounts are not paid as of July 1, they will be added to the city's tax rolls.

**Downtown Novi**



SOURCE: City of Novi

"The City has an ordinance which allows delinquent water and sewer bills to be added to the property tax bill on July 1," Smith-Roy said. "It then is considered part of the property taxes in terms of ability to lien and collect."

But despite Chen's inability to pay his Novi debts, the impact of Chen's delinquencies will not be felt by the city.

Oakland County will bear the burden.

Novi Assistant City Manager Clay Pearson said the city will not lose any of the owed money.

"The important thing is the city is protected through collections through an Oakland County program so the city would remain whole just as with any other delinquencies," Pearson said.

He explained delinquent property taxes, including post-due water and sewerage fees rolled into the city's tax rolls, are reimbursed by Oakland County and then kept on the county's books as back taxes owed.

Pearson said the county would be reimbursed by a purchaser if the property was sold in the future.

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

## Food bank fulfills area's hidden need

By Pamela A. Zinkosky  
SPECIAL WRITER

Food tops the hierarchy of human needs, but it's not always top-of-mind when considering the needs of Walled Lake residents.

For Pam Janson, the 200-plus families - over 400 people - who've benefited from Walled Lake's Hospitality House food pantry donations over the past year have confirmed the need.

Two years ago, Janson and some fellow St. Anne's Episcopal Church parishioners consulted parishioners from nearby First Baptist and United Methodist churches about community outreach efforts.

**For more information on Hospitality House drop-off sites see page 3A.**

"We found that the biggest need in the community was help with food," said Janson, noting that all three parishes regularly receive requests for food donations.

The group eventually consulted other charitable food organizations to verify the need and opened Hospitality House food pantry exactly one year and four days after the initial outreach meeting. United We Serve, a nonprofit, nondenominational organization, runs the food pantry out of the historical portion of First Baptist Church at 309 Market Street, off Pontiac Trail between 14 Mile and Maple Roads.

Staffed by about 25 volun-

please see **FOOD** page 3



## Businesswomen welcome men to annual event

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

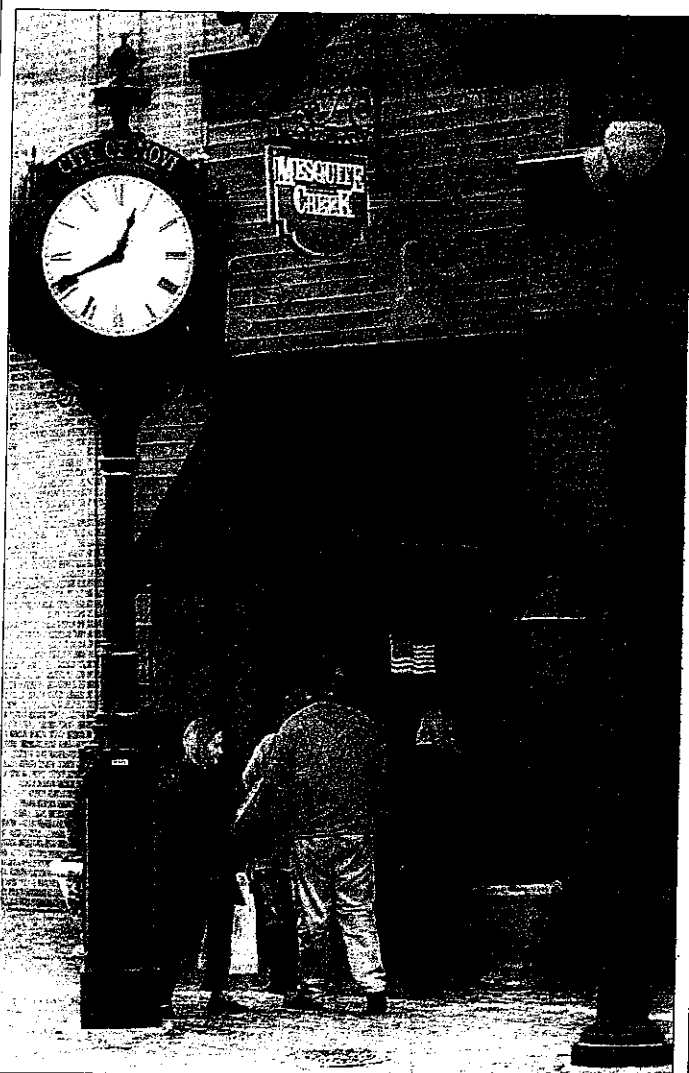
The Novi Chamber of Commerce may have to consider changing the logo and tag line for its annual Threads of Power Breakfast.

For the fourth year in a row Novi area businesswomen will be gathering to network and donate gently-used business clothing to four Oakland and Wayne County charities that help women re-enter the workforce. This year, however, there will be a slight twist - men are being invited as well.

Threads of Power Chairman Peggy Hayes said, "The Southfield Career Center [Workfirst Program] told us they have men in the same boat." So for the first time, men are being invited to bring gently-used business clothing to the breakfast.

The event's tag line is "Women making a difference," and its logo features a stylish line drawing of a businesswoman.

please see **THREADS** page 3



Patrons enter and exit Mesquite Creek restaurant last Thursday afternoon along Novi's Main Street development.  
Photo by John Heider

**THE \$\$\$ TALLY**

- James Chen and companies associated with Chen owe the City of Novi:
  - Delinquent Summer Special Assessment District payments totaling \$332,789
  - About \$2,000 in delinquent water and sewerage bills
  - About \$594,000 in delinquent Summer property taxes along with a 4 percent penalty, bringing the total outstanding bill to \$617,781.
  - Close to \$170,000 of Winter tax payments are due tomorrow, Feb. 14

source: City of Novi

## Barricades go up as CSX railroad bridge goes down; work done Nov. 1

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

The barricades are up and the sounds of jack hammers could be ringing by Monday at the old CSX Railroad bridge on Grand River Avenue between Novi and Beck Roads.

Road Commission for Oakland County spokesman Craig Bryson

said contractors expect it will take two to four weeks to remove the old cast concrete bridge that's spanned the rail line since the 1920s.

ROCC's contractor, Dan's Excavating, of Shelby Township, will remove the existing bridge and construct a new, wider bridge. Actual demolition will begin Feb. 17, with preparatory work taking place prior to Feb. 17. The \$6.1 mil-

lion project is expected to be completed by Nov. 1.

It's the first of three projects being completed by the commission and the City of Novi, totaling \$15 million, that will widen Grand River to five lanes.

Because Jacksonville, Fla.-based CSX plans to continue using the rail

**ALTERNATE ROUTES:** Grand River Avenue closed beginning Tuesday at the bridge over the CSX railroad tracks (between Taft and Novi roads). Throughout the project, Grand River will be closed at the bridge, but open on either side of the bridge to provide access to area businesses. The official detour route for traffic moving through the area is Beck Road, 12 Mile and Novi Road. Motorists may also choose to use the alternate routes of I-96 and Beck, 10 Mile and Meadowbrook (there will not be signs marking these routes as alternatives).

please see **BRIDGE** page 2







# Custom basket business expands

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

A year ago Sue Russo quit her job as an accountant for Wayne County and turned her long time hobby into a full time business.

PS Baskets & Such moved out of the Wixom home she shares with her husband, Pat, and their three sons and into a store front on North Pontiac Trail in Walled Lake Feb. 10.

When she found her self getting bored with accounting, she began researching how to turn the hobby into a business. After several years of research, Sue decided to make her move during a trip to Tennessee. "I asked my husband what he thought and he said, 'Go for it!'"

"And you're doing great at it, baby," chimed in Pat, who is the P in PS Baskets and Such.

Suzanne Costa, a neighbor who helps out at the business, joked that Pat uses his skill at tying wires as an electrician to tie the bows for PS Baskets and Such's custom gift baskets.

Sue said the business is very much a family affair. Her 15-year-old son, James, helps out after classes at Walled Lake Western High School.

Each new food item has to clear what Sue calls "the Horn of Suez" with a smile. She said the board includes herself, her husband, her sons and any friend handy.



Pat and Sue Russo recently moved their fledgling business, PS Baskets & Such, out of their Wixom home and into a commercial space in Walled Lake. Sue, an accountant, ran the numbers and decided to turn her hobby of creating custom gift baskets into a business.

Sue said she carries between 500 and 800 items in stock at any given time, but can get any special request item within two to three days. She said while the store has some ready-made baskets available, the bulk of her work is custom order. "We are one of a kind," she said. "The Russo's new space covers

400 square feet, but Pat noted that if the business takes off faster than they expect, there's plenty of small warehouse space available in the area and we could convert this to all retail."

PS Baskets & Such  
825 North Pontiac Trail  
Walled Lake, MI  
(248) 669-7886  
Tues. - Sat. Noon to 7 p.m.  
and by appointment

# Golf shows on horizon – can spring be far behind?

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**Lansing Golf Show**  
Lansing Center  
333 E. Michigan Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48933  
DATES: Feb. 28 - March 2  
TIMES: Friday 2 to 8 p.m.,  
Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.,  
Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
ADMISSION: \$7; children 14  
and younger free

**Michigan Golf Show**  
Novi Expo Center  
43700 Expo Center Drive  
Novi, MI 48375  
DATES: March 7 - 9  
TIMES: Friday 4 to 9pm,  
Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.,  
Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
ADMISSION: \$8  
PARKING: \$3

Exhibitor information  
(248) 348-6942 ext 208  
www.michigangolfsow.com

The greens may be still covered in white and the wind may slice through you like a duller's T-shot, but dreams of lime green plaid and titanium putters are already beginning to dance through Michigan's golfer's heads.

Area golfers will get their next chance get a look at the latest in everything golf when Novi promoter Todd Smith throws open the doors of the Lansing Center for the fifth annual Lansing Golf Show Feb. 28 - March 2.

A week later Smith will offer an even bigger version of the show when the 12th annual Michigan Golf Show comes to the Novi Expo Center.

While Smith chains the Michigan Golf Show, with 210,000 square feet of exhibition space and 31,700 paid admissions last year, is the nation's largest, the editors of Golf Digest said that title goes to last month's PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando, which has 560,000 square feet of exhibition space and draws between 45,000 and 50,000 people annually.

Still, Novi has a whole lot of golf going on with 6.03 million of the state's 10.05 million population either actively playing the sport or having at least tried it. According to Smith, not only does Michigan have more golf courses per capita than any other state, despite its relatively short season, a higher percentage of the state's population are golfers.

The Novi show draws golfers from as far away as Port Huron, Lansing, Iron Wayne, Ingham, and Davison. "We even have buses coming in from New York and Canada," said Smith. He said the show has grown to the point, "we turn away 50-70 exhibitors each year."

"That, however, should change a little when the Novi Expo Center moves to its new home on Grand River near Beck Road in a few years."

He said the important thing to remember is "the attendee is the most important thing."

This year attendees at both the Lansing and Novi shows will have an opportunity to win \$10,000 for a single putt. Smith said show attendees will be able to buy ball packages from \$3 to \$20 to hit a 25-foot putt on Saturday to qualify to make a 30-footer on Sunday and take home \$10,000.

"We hope somebody wins," said Smith.

dent at the Novi Expo Center, said he first organized the Michigan Golf Show a dozen years ago "because we had date wanted to fill at the center. We interviewed a lot of promoters, but we were not able find one that offer the quality we wanted."

Since then, Smith said, he's organized a custom car show, a motorcycle show and a health and fitness show for the Novi Expo Center.

"Anyone can put on RV show," he noted. "The question is who can put on the best one?" He said that's why the center has the Michigan Association of Recreational Vehicles and Campgrounds and the Michigan Boating Industries Association handle the shows for their respective industries.

He said since adding the Lansing show his company has received inquiries from two east coast locations and one in the south about putting on shows there.

Smith, who is also a vice presi-

# Area builders optimistic about 2003

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

When is a flatting growth chart considered a win?

When the economy is soft, gas prices are rising and the threat of war looms on the horizon.

Even though David Seider, chief economist of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), expects new home starts to drop nationally this year by about 59,000 compared to last year's figures, Steve Perlman, president of the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) believes "more starts in the region will be fit in 2003."

"That's still within the record highs of the last six, seven, eight years," he said. "I'm always a cautious optimist, but we're still building at record levels."

Perlman, who's a partner in West Bloomfield's Ivanhoe-Huntley Homes, said locally the number may be even better than the region's. "Novi is still very desirable place to live in because of the schools and its location," said Perlman, whose company is poised to begin work on the final 100 units at Bristol Corners off West Road.

"The first three phases of the project, 'sold quite well,' he said. Bristol Corners began five years ago and has been marketed on an alternate sales basis with SR Jacobson.

One good sign is that while at the beginning of the year BIA members were predicting that the seven-county Metro Detroit region would end 2002 with 15,037 permits for single and multi-family homes; the latest SEMCOG statistics indicate building authorities in the

Year	NEW UNITS PERMITTED		UNITS DEMOLISHED		TOTALS	
	Single Family	Multi-Family	Single Family	Multi-Family	New Units	Net
1992	456	0	481	6	0	947
1993	551	0	93	3	0	444
1994	345	0	329	4	0	674
1995	507	0	261	4	0	768
1996	460	0	219	4	0	670
1997	391	0	54	5	0	445
1998	348	0	171	4	0	519
1999	227	0	26	5	227	31
2000	218	0	410	2	0	628
2001	180	0	151	16	0	331
2002	232	0	639	21	0	871
TOTALS	3,715	0	2,809	95	0	6,524

SOURCE: SEMCOG

region issued 17,705 permits. During 2001, 20,190 units were built in the region and 6,015 were destroyed for a net of 14,175. Last year saw a slight increase of building permits to 21,329, but demolition permits were nearly halved to 3,624 leaving 17,705 new home standing at year's end.

Perlman attributed those numbers to several factors. One, he said, is "there is still a shortage of housing" in the region. Another, he added, "Southeast Michigan still offers tremendous value. When people go to other states, they're finding home prices are a lot higher. We're still providing a lot house for the dollar."

He added uncertainty in the stock market has also pushed people to invest their money in real estate, which he said remains one of the more solid investment choices.

Seider noted that while

nation's industrial sectors have been especially hard hit by the recession, home prices in Metro Detroit have continued to increase in real terms, although at a slower rate than in recent years.

"Following the terrorist attacks and ensuing recession, payroll jobs declined about 4.5 percent in Metro Detroit compared with 3 percent statewide and about 1.5 percent nationally. Yet, home prices continued to climb by 4 percent or more, compared to national average increases in the 6- to 7-percent range," said Seider.

"That's a solid increase in real house value."

Still, Seider cautioned, there are causes for concern. He noted U.S. involvement in a military conflict could damage the oil markets and damage the U.S. economy, resulting in weaker housing demand. He added smaller, or no bonuses for work-

ers at struggling automakers, could temper home buying locally.

Another cause for worry, said Perlman, is slow-growth and no-growth proposals, both regionally and nationally.

"Slow-growth and no-growth threatens one's ability to take advantage of the many economic and other benefits afforded by home ownership," said Perlman. He said the BIA, represents 2,500 home builders, developers, remodelers, light commercial builders, multi-family owners and managers and building industry suppliers in Metro Detroit, favors what he called "Smart Growth."

Perlman said, "No growth, slow growth, not in my backyard attitudes, and the resulting tight restriction on growth in some areas are reducing construction efficiencies and in other ways, adding thousands of dollars to the cost of a home, while preventing thousands from achieving the American Dream."

While concerns about fuel prices and possible war are raising caution flags, there are some reasons to be optimistic. Adriano Pizzini, president of Novi's Adco Group, said his sold 35 units in November and December. He said that was above normal for his year end sales.

Although Oakland County new housing permits decreased by 99, or 2.9 percent, to 3,336 last year, new housing permits in Novi increased 270 percent.

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



Give me your tired... Michaele Dionne, an aspiring actress from Livonia, portrays Lady Liberty during a promotional stop at Novi's Verizon store for Liberty Tax Service. The new Novi business sent Lady Liberty armed with pizza, donuts, candy or cookies to more than 350 businesses in the Novi/Northville area in an effort to draw attention to the firm.

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- BIG AIR CONTEST\*

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A Unique Evening for the Arts

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## Saturday, March 1, 2003

### Novi Campus

A strolling dinner catered by Unique Restaurants will highlight the evening, along with art from various private collections.

The evening will include wine tasting from local distributors, imported cheeses, and a variety of fruit and bread compliments of Nino Salvaggio International Marketplace.

VIP Reception will feature renowned master sommelier Madeline Triffon & sommelier Rick Rubel.

Event begins at 7:30 p.m.

For information call 248-823-1204.

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**Super Combos**

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 RIBS AND SHRIMP ..... 11.50  
 SHRIMP AND FROG LEGS ..... 11.50  
 ALEX'S SHRIMP/GRABBAR ..... 14.50  
 Includes Chicken, Shrimp, Ribs, and Frog Legs

**Sub Sandwiches**

ITALIAN SUB ..... 4.95  
 Meat, Cheese, Salami, Lettuce, Tomato, Onions, and Peppers  
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 Lettuce, Tomato, Onions, and Peppers  
 PIZZA SUB ..... 5.95  
 Pepperoni, Ham, Cheese and Sauce  
 VEGETARIAN SUB ..... 4.95  
 Mushroom, Olives, Green Peppers, Lettuce, Tomato, Onions, and Cheese  
 ALEX'S DELUXE SUB ..... 5.95  
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 FISH SUB ..... 4.95  
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 MEATBALL SUB ..... 4.95  
 Meatballs, Parmesan Cheese and Meat Sauce  
 ROAST BEEF ..... 4.95  
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 STEAK SUB ..... 4.95  
 Steak, Mushroom, Onions, Peppers, Sauce, Cheese  
 CORNED BEEF ..... 4.95  
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 TURKEY SUB ..... 4.95  
 Turkey, Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, & Peppers  
 EXTRA ITEMS ..... .75

**Side Orders**

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 HOT WINGS 10 PC ..... 4.99 20 PC ..... 8.99 30 PC ..... 13.99  
 Prices Subject to Change without Notice. Sorry, no Checks Accepted!

**Round Pizza**

	12" SMALL 8 Pcs.	14" MEDIUM 10 Pcs.	16" LARGE 12 Pcs.	18" X-LARGE 14 Pcs.
CHEESE	5.95	7.95	9.95	11.95
EXTRA ITEMS	.90	1.17	1.23	1.40
ALEX'S SPECIAL	9.95	12.95	15.45	18.45
With Cheese, Pepperoni, Ham, Mushroom, Green Peppers, Onions, Bacon (Anchovies upon Request)				
ALEX'S SUPREME	10.95	13.95	16.45	19.45
Pepperoni, Ham, Bacon, Hamburger, Green Peppers, Mushrooms, Italian Sausage, Onions, Hot Peppers (Anchovies upon Request)				

**Square Pizza**

	SMALL 8 Pcs.	MEDIUM 10 Pcs.	LARGE 12 Pcs.
CHEESE	5.95	9.99	11.99
EXTRA ITEMS	.90	1.23	1.40
ALEX'S SPECIAL	9.95	15.45	17.95
With Cheese, Pepperoni, Ham, Mushroom, Green Peppers, Onions, Bacon (Anchovies upon Request)			
ALEX'S SUPREME	10.95	16.45	19.45
Pepperoni, Ham, Bacon, Hamburger, Green Peppers, Mushrooms, Italian Sausage, Onions, Hot Peppers (Anchovies upon Request)			
U-BAKE PIZZA with CHEESE	5.50	Extra Items	1.00

**Italian Pizza**

	8"	12"
AL QUATTRO FORMAGGI	6.95	11.95
Mozzarella, Romano, Asiago, Provolone and Sanmarino Tomatoes		
BOSCAIOLA	6.95	11.95
Prosciutto, Wild Mushrooms, Parsley, Garlic, Mozzarella and Romano		
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Hotton Sausage, Onions, and Fontina Cheese (Spicy)		

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BUCKET OF FISH (12 Pcs. - Sauce Only)	11.95

**Pasta**

SPAGHETTI with MEAT SAUCE	4.95
SPAGHETTI with MEATBALLS	5.75
SPAGHETTI with MUSHROOMS	5.50
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BUCKET OF SPAGHETTI (Serves 4-6 People)	11.50
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## CLASS NOTES

### Board approves full-day kindergarten for 2003-04

**Deerfield program will stay the same**

By Ramez Khuri  
 STAFF WRITER

In a daring move, the Novi Schools Board of Education granted an optional, state aid funded, full-day kindergarten for next school year at a meeting on Jan. 6. The surprise for many stemmed from the district's financial difficulty which Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Jim Koster explained at the same meeting. "There will be an option for a

full-day kindergarten next school year, which won't be fee-based, and Deerfield will continue as it is now," Superintendent Emmett Lippe said. "I think there is an uncertainty about it because we don't know what the future holds. We know we can afford it now. We can get through this year all right with the current program and we know we can get through next year." But when talking about 2004-05, the administration doesn't know what the future holds and how much of the program may or may not be offered for 2004-05. "We can provide the best program we can until then," said Lippe. "A year from now we will take a look at what we can do for the following year, which is

2004-05." According to Lippe, there were two choices: "If you're uncertain about two years out and you get paranoid and not offer as much as you can offer, that's not good," he said. "If you can offer the best program you can now and deal with that year when it comes, that's what the board chose." The school district has offered a full-day kindergarten at Deerfield for three years now. The point came up that maybe it should be reviewed to see if there is anything that can be done with that program. Questions arose like, is it working? Is it accurate? Do parents like it? Should the district drop it? And if it's liked, maybe it should be expanded.

The district formed a committee, that Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services Rita Traynor chaired, to take a look at those questions. "When that committee came back for recommendation, they said here are the two options we should look at," Lippe said. "To go with a half-day kindergarten in all the schools or to keep Deerfield as it is and expand it as an option in all the other schools - like the board decided to do. After all this discussion in the last several months, the decision they made was to accept the committee's recommendation to expand it. That's the bottom line. Another discussion was to perhaps have a fee-based program. They decided not to do that."



"...offer the best program you can now and deal with that year when it comes..."

Emmett Lippe  
 Novi superintendent

there was interest out there."

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 926-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net.

**ON CAMPUS**

Novi residents Adam Pitcher, Laura Pitcher, and Bianca Meith, were named to the Dean's List for fall semester, 2002, at Adrian College.

Paul Wading, son of Denise Wading of Walled Lake and Paul Wading of Novi, was among the graduates of Northwood University during Dec. 2002 commencement exercises.

Jennifer Bagdady of Novi has accepted membership in Golden Key International Honour Society and was inductively honored during a campus ceremony at Michigan State University.

"It is only fitting that a high academic achiever like Jennifer be recognized by Golden Key," said Alexander D. Perovich II, Golden Key executive director. "Our members are inspired and motivated by the challenge not only to be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments but also to make a positive impact on our world through the Society's commitment to service."

The Society has more than 300 chapters in the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Australia, Canada, Malaysia, South Africa and New Zealand. Membership into the Society is invitation only to the top 15 percent of juniors and seniors in all fields of study.

More than 1,300 students were placed on the fall 2002 Dean's List at Michigan Technological University, earning grade point averages of 3.5 or higher. Dr. Martha Janners, vice provost and dean for student affairs, reports that 260 students (indicated by asterisks) earned straight A averages of 4.0, with 904 attaining GPAs from 3.50 to 3.99.

Engineering Underclassmen: Northville; Jason A. Maes, Senior, Mechanical Engineering, Wixom; Christine G. Miller, Senior, Civil Engineering, Walled Lake; Norman A. Nazarov, Junior, Computer Engineering, Novi; Stephen J. Schuyten, Senior, Chemical Engineering, Novi; Alexis M. Troshchinetz, Senior, Environmental Engineering, Northville; Kiel D. Vanderhovel, Freshman, Mechanical Engineering, Wixom.

Siena Heights University announced its Dean's and Academic Achievement lists for the first semester of the 2002-03 academic year. Full-time students (12 or more credit hours) who attained a 3.5 or better grade-point average out of a possible 4.0 gpa are named to the Dean's List. Part-time students (not less than six hours, but no more than 11 semester hours) who earn a 3.5 or better gpa out of a possible 4.0 gpa are named to the Academic Achievement List. Making the Dean's list was Colleen M. Lewis of Novi.



**Brushin' up on the basics**  
 Orchard Hills first grader Vishal Malhot practices brushing the alligator's teeth as Dr. James Ross and his assistant, Matthew Ross encourage him. Ross came in to talk to five first graders as part of their study in dental health.

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 more than 100pcs: \$ .85  
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 1/2 ROTISSERIE CHICKEN 3.24 4.57  
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## Students hands on in job shadow program

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Eighteen students from Novi High, under the direction of Business teacher Josh Foster, participated in the Feb. 5 Junior Achievement "Groundhog Job Shadow Day," as they visited the Novi DoubleTree Hotel to learn about employment and career opportunities.



Banquet Manager Sandy Finch is shadowed by Novi High students Crystal Corte and Ashley Smith at the Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan "Groundhog Job Shadow Day."

## Full-day pre-school program granted for next school year

Fee-based program another option for Novi district parents

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Something new that parents of pre-school children will have next school year is an optional, fee-based, full-day program. The idea was approved by the Novi Community School Board of Education on Jan. 9.

"What we proposed to the board of education was to offer another option for parents, and basically it came from parents who indicated that they would be interested in us offering all-day pre-school," Director of Community Education Bob Stech said. "We already offer a half-day program and have for many years in a pre-school building that's behind Novi Meadows."

The current half-day program is comprised of four classrooms: A 3-year-old program, a 4-year-old program and a young 5-year-old program. They meet for two and half hours per day either on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for 4-year-olds or Tuesday and Thursday for 3-year-olds. The young 5s meet five days a week for morning class and afternoon class.

"Parents have requested for us to consider offering a full-day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.," Stech said. "That's what our proposal was and that's what our board granted. We are going to try it since we have space available in the Instructional Technology Center (ITC)."

According to Stech, the program will cost \$32 per day and it will run on the same calendar as the kindergarten school calendar, which is even a little different than the current half-day pre-school program.

"I think there has been a lot of research that showed that a child's brain is really, at the early age, being developed. And the more you can offer it, the more it matures," Stech explained. "Our pre-school program has always been fee-based, so it's not anything different. Pre-school is not supported financially by the government. They are talking about that because of all the research that has been done, but at this point in time, in the state of Michigan, they don't fund pre-school. With the budget, the way it is currently, we don't see it in the near future either."

Stech started evaluating the idea for a full-day pre-school about a year and a half ago. Most of the evaluation revolved around if there was going to be sufficient space to accommodate it.

"It will always be depending on the availability of space and the interest," Stech said. "We don't know what the interest will be. We have a class size of 17 per class. We have centered the budget around three classes, one class of 3-year-olds, one class of 4-year-olds and one class of 5-year-olds, but that will also depend on the interest."

No registration date has been established yet, but Stech said he hopes to have a date sometime this week. Registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis and will be only open to Novi Community School District residents first.

"This is going to be a program for people who want the full-day," Stech said. "We are not going to supplement it if they want to sign up for a half-day here and a full day there. We are already offering a half-day program. It's going to be for those people who are really looking for a full-day program, five days per week, included in that is a provided lunch. It's just another option that parents will have."

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.

## Valentine's Day could mark dismal financial future for district

State aid cuts in 2002-03 and 2003-04 mean hard decisions need to be made

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Valentine's Day probably won't be such a joyous occasion for the Novi Community School District this year. That is the day that Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Jim Koster anticipates hearing from the state Department of Budget indicating that there will be an executive order to the district.

At the Novi Schools Board of Education meeting Jan. 9, Koster

explained that the state is having severe economic problems and, in his opinion, mathematically there was no way that the school could remain "sacred" in budget cuts. He mentioned that the executive order, one that the school district hasn't seen since the early 1980s, will most likely dictate that all the school districts in Michigan, including Novi, will receive less aid.

"An executive order comes out of the blue; there is no forewarning," Koster said at the district's Feb. 6 school board meeting. "It just comes to the school district in the form of a letter and then we have to react."

Koster explained that on Jan. 13, he received the first indication that perhaps there is going to be an executive order for all the school districts in the state of Michigan. It was determined at that point that there was going to

be a revenue shortfall. In the current state aid law, the Department of Treasury must notify the department of budget immediately if there is a revenue shortfall. The department of budget must then immediately notify the state legislature. Then the state legislature has 30 days to determine what to do.

The state legislature has some options. It could take money from the rainy day fund and supplement the state aid, but there is no money in Michigan's rainy day fund. It could take money from the general fund to supplement the state aid, but there is no money in the general fund.

So, it had to reduce school state aid. "On Jan. 13, we were notified of a possible state aid reduction," Koster said. "They gave me the calculation, which was \$210,000. On Jan. 16 I received the first for-

mal letter by the department of budget and their state aid reduction amounted to \$294,000. These are 2002-03 state aid reductions and our fiscal year ends June 30. They are notifying us in January that they are going to take \$294,000 from our budget which began last July 1."

On Jan. 16, Koster said the district also had the notice from the department of budget that there is a strong possibility that in the year 2003-04 the amount of the state aid reductions will be three times that which is in 2002-03. That means that what the state is projecting for the year 2003-04 is an additional \$850,000 reduction a year for this school district, according to Koster.

"On Jan. 29 we were notified that the reduction is \$295,000, one thousand greater than the \$294,000. In that same letter, there is a possibility of \$410,000

for this year as a reduction. That's what it is today. We have four numbers: \$210,000; \$294,000; \$295,000 and \$410,000 as a reduction for this year. We won't know until Feb. 14, but it looks as though 2002-03 will have a reduction and 2003-04 will have a reduction."

"There is something that we have to get in our minds very clearly - having reductions this year means that they can lower the amount of money we receive per student in all the districts in the state of Michigan," Koster added. "They do not, on July 1, automatically raise that. So if they take \$294,000 away from us this year, that is also gone next year. On top of that, there may be that \$850,000 reduction. So, over a period of two fiscal years, the year ending June 30, 2004, there is a strong possibility that we will have the sum of these three num-

bers: roughly \$300,000, another \$300,000 and \$850,000. In a round number that's roughly 1.5 million dollars that could be reduced from state aid."

Koster concluded that the financial picture for this district and all the districts in the state of Michigan is somewhat dismal. "It is a problem that not only this board has to address, but the community has to address because this is our school district and this board and this community has to make changes to the program as best as it can and still be financially stable. That's a trick. There are going to be some hard decisions made this year and next year, but we will get through it."

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"In a round number that's roughly 1.5 million dollars that could be reduced from state aid."

Jim Koster  
Novi assistant superintendent of business and finance

- Participants:**  
Brittany Barnan  
Tony Asencio  
Crystal Corte  
Ashlee Doster  
Matthew Enmenches  
Brian Fry  
Matthew Haggerty  
Steve Hamilton  
Megan Kensi  
Elizabeth Kossik  
Chris Lewis  
Brittany Neville  
Evan Olanovic  
Cassidy Saylor  
Ashley Smith  
Jeff Wallen  
Kerri Timar

During their visit, the students were given a hands-on tour of all aspects of hotel operation. Managers allowed the students to actively participate in a typical day at work. Human Resource Manager Nicole Chryczek demonstrated how she completed the payroll information for hotel employees and Executive Chef Michael Keys allowed two students to assist in the preparation of the lunch menu.

Foster, who teaches marketing, store operations and marketing advanced topics to sophomores through seniors at Novi High believes the program is very beneficial. "The kids have really enjoyed it," she said. "It's an opportunity that Junior Achievement does through store operations class, which is a second-level marketing class that's taken after you take marketing

class. It's offered to us because it's a real world job shadow in the restaurant industry. It's also related to sales and marketing, restaurant management, accounting and those types of things." This year marked Novi High's fourth in participating with DoubleTree Hotels. The students go around for an hour and a half to two hours to see what it is the management does on a daily basis. A lunch is provided and there is a wrap up session at the end of the day.

National Job Shadowing is a coordinated effort of America's Promises, Junior Achievement, the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Education. Monster is the national sponsor of the initiative and News Corporation is a primary Co-sponsor. The annual initiative, designed to give students the opportunity to "shadow" a workplace mentor, traditionally kicked-off on Groundhog Day. Since Groundhog Day fell on a weekend this year, the National Job Shadow Coalition encouraged schools and businesses to tie in with the school day and shadow began on Jan. 31.

For more information, or to host a Junior Achievement Groundhog Job Shadow event, contact Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan at (313) 962-2550 or write to Annette Kelly at akelly@jamichigan.org.

## SCHOOL BRIEFS

**Open house**  
The Northville Presbyterian Preschool will host an Open House for families on Saturday, Feb. 15 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Children's Center of First Presbyterian Church. There will be an opportunity to tour the new facility and meet the teachers. Registration will take place for fall classes for 2-, 3- and 4-year olds. One-, two- and three-day sessions are available. The church is located

at 200 E. Main Street in downtown Northville, but enter the Preschool from Lady Street. Call 349-4911.

**Pitching in**  
Valentines cards were made by Decfield students and will be sent to the 1-39 Artillery of the United States Army. This battalion is responsible for Missile Launch Rocket System. They are currently stationed overseas, in a desert loca-

tion. There are 450 persons in this battalion and they are based in Fort Stewart, Georgia. This battalion is under the command of Lt. Colonel Craig Finley, uncle of Gabriel and Abigail Glenn, two Decfield kids.

**Richard cutting**  
Orchard Hills Elementary School is holding an open house to celebrate its new media center and multi-purpose room on tonight at 7 p.m.

The evening will begin with the National Anthem in the school's gymnasium, followed by a few remarks by the PTO president and a recognition of the architect firm which put together the two areas of the school. Refreshments will be served after two groups of students will open the media center and multi-purpose room at around 7:15 or 7:20 p.m. The remainder of the evening will be an open house until 8 p.m.

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## Hey...Oakland County

It's Time to Pick Your

# PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

We Need Your Input On The Best Places To Shop...  
Best Places To Eat...Best Place For Great Service.  
This is NOT scientific! It's a fun, readers poll.  
Join in on the Balloting!

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• Best specialty coffee house	• Best place to bank	• Best place to buy books
• Best place for breakfast	• Best place to get nails done	• Best bakery/baked goods
• Best Sunday brunch	• Best real estate company	• Best floral shop
• Best deli	• Best real estate agent (agency)	• Best grocery store
• Best fast food restaurant	• Best mortgage company	• Best party store
• Best family restaurant	• Best new car sales person (dealership)	• Best music store
• Best place for soup	• Best used car sales person (dealership)	• Best auto dealer
• Best salad bar	• Best auto dealer	• Best auto service
• Best place for burgers	• Best oil change shop	• Best collision shop
• Best place for hot dogs/cones	• Best tire shop	• Best insurance agent (agency)
• Best place for subs	• Best insurance agent (agency)	• Best dry cleaner
• Best place for French fries	• Best dry cleaner	• Best lawyer
• Best place for ice cream	• Best lawyer	• Best veterinary service
• Best place for chicken	• Best veterinary service	• Best travel agency
• Best quality dining restaurant	• Best travel agency	• Best childcare service
• Best place for pizza	• Best childcare service	• Best video store
• Best place for steak	• Best video store	• Best house painter
• Best chicken dish	• Best house painter	• Best rental company
• Best place for barbecue ribs	• Best rental company	• Best landscaping company
• Best wine selection (store)	• Best landscaping company	• Best health/fitness company
• Best wine selection (restaurant)	• Best health/fitness company	• Best waitress (restaurant)
• Best beer selection (store)	• Best waitress (restaurant)	• Best car wash
• Best beer selection (restaurant)	• Best car wash	• Best tanning salon
• Best place for romantic dinner	• Best tanning salon	
• Best after work meeting place		
• Best sports bar		
• Best place for dancing		

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## Bain making a positive impact

Every month from now until June, The Novi News is honoring a local teacher for his or her excellence in the classroom. Our first winner is Novi Woods fourth grade teacher Nancy Bain. Bain was nominated because of her ability to get through to her students and make a positive impact on their lives.

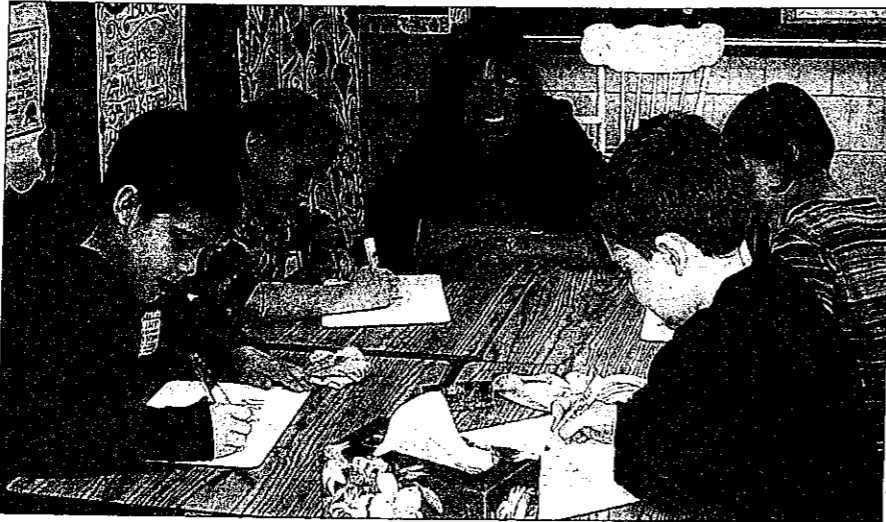
By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

A quote from her nomination was, "Nancy Bain is truly the most extraordinary teacher I have had the pleasure of knowing. Drive past Novi Woods on any given night and there's Mrs. Bain's car, all alone in the park-

ing lot. Inside will be Nancy Bain, going over the days' achievements or planning for the next. She takes the time throughout the year to call home to provide feedback on a recent test or give an encouraging word for a goal that was reached. She has brought innovative ideas to the building like student-led parent conferences and Family Folklore Night...She manages to draw out the best in every child. Things can't be explained in writing, but are felt for a lifetime."

Bain was modest in accepting her win. "I like so many things about teaching that it's kind of hard to point to one thing," she said. "I love working with the children and being able to see a sense of excitement and curiosity when they learn. I love working with the parents of my students and I find it wonderful to be able to talk to them about finding out ways to do the best things for their children. I love coming to work in a building with terrific people that I work with. They are all so talented and we exchange ideas and share and I keep learning myself."

Bain got into teaching because she found a way to combine the many things she loves to do in one job. "For me, teaching is about relationships and an interest in the various ways children learn," she said. "I feel an excitement in planning what I teach, being able to use my creative writing and being a little bit of an actress. I really enjoy the joyful feeling I have in my work and being able to feel like I am doing



Novi Woods fourth grade teacher Nancy Bain works with students Madeline Sinkovich, Michael Cauchi, Max Shanker and Courtney Kramer.

Photo by Ramez Khuri

### NANCY BAIN

School: Novi Woods  
Grade: fourth  
Subject: teaches all subjects  
Years Teaching: Taught GED classes for adults who did not have high school diplomas and ESL classes for 10 years. This is her 16th year teaching elementary students.  
Years in Novi district: five  
College: Ohio State  
Spouse: Robert Bain, professor at University of Michigan  
Children: Adam, 29; Jonathan, 27; Ilana, 23  
Interests: reading, baking, yoga and walking

something important and worthwhile. I have always wanted to be a teacher. I can still remember playing school with friends in elementary school and I was always the teacher. That has never, ever changed. Being a teacher is all I ever wanted to be."

Her most memorable moment in teaching is not any particular program or project. "It is the magic that takes place each and every day and every year in seeing the transformation of a group of kids from the beginning of the year, into a cohesive class that works and learns together," she said. "Watching the students grow in the ways they are able to think, express ideas, do math, read and write are the real spe-

cial moments of teaching."

Bain had a favorite teacher in elementary school, high school and in college. "In second grade I had a teacher that I remember because of all the exciting things we did in her room. I loved a math teacher in high school who found ways to make mathematics come alive for me and in college I had a favorite professor, who I used to go to all his classes even if I wasn't in his class all four years of college. I really learned about what kind of teacher I wanted to be from him."

The hardest part of teaching elementary students, according to Bain is, when a child struggles. "You try lots of different ways to reach the students and

until you find the right thing that makes everything click. It's hard and also exciting in a way too because you want to keep trying different ways to help that child and making sure that you are challenging those who are very able to be able to give them lots of experiences to keep growing."

Bain wants her students to think of her as someone who challenged them and got them excited about learning and to continue learning outside of the classroom. "I'm sure there are some things that I would want to change about teaching, like not grading papers ever, but I really enjoy all aspects of the job, so because you want to keep trying the more energy I put into my job, the more energy I get back from the experience. Working at Novi Woods is a very unique situation because of our interaction. We all work together and I'm just very lucky to be a part of this staff. We all share our ideas and we all help each other out."



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.

## Author, illustrator shows Parkview book-writing process

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Children's author and illustrator Wong Herbert Yee came visiting Parkview Elementary on Friday to share some of his books with the students. Different classes took turns listening to what Yee had to say and also to be entertained by his stories.

Parkview PTO President Cindy Buckley explained that Yee's books are generally geared for young students. He talked to students about how he became a writer and distributor and he then talked about what it takes to put a book together. He showed scratch notes for scratch pictures and he read one of his books. He also showed how he does his drawings.

"I think that being exposed to people who actually do the work is very beneficial for the students," Buckley said. "They are reading his books and getting to know someone who writes them and is a local person is interesting for the kids. The kids think that these people live somewhere else and they do other things, but he lives right here in Troy and he's a father of a young little girl. I think this really normalizes the process for the kids."

Yee's introduction to writing children's books came from his interest in art. He studied art at Wayne State University and graduated with a bachelor of fine arts in print making. "I have always been interested in art and drawing from very on, as far back as first grade," he said. "I really didn't pay much attention to writing or anything along those lines."

After college Yee found himself in advertising and was doing some illustration. When his daughter was born, he started thinking about children's books as another way to do artwork. "I started going to the library and checking out books," he said. "I thought that I may as well try to write one myself. I did feel pretty comfortable in the writing because I have always had ideas."

Second graders Janice Burnett and Clay King enjoyed Yee's presentation. "I learned that all his books rhyme and it takes about a year to do one book," Burnett said. "I really liked when he was reading the book." King agreed. "It was a good presentation," he said. "The books were good and they had funny pictures. I learned that sometimes it's a little hard to draw pictures in more detail. I want to draw drawings now."

Yee travels to different schools mostly in the state of Michigan. He said that he usually goes to any school that contacts him. "I usually go and visit because it's always nice to get direct feed-



Courtesy photo

Author Wong Herbert Yee reads from one of his books at Parkview Elementary.

back from the kids about your stories," he said. "They are really direct and honest. I hope that I can project a message of reading. I know there are a lot of books that the kids have to read that they don't necessarily enjoy. What I would like to provide is books that they read for sheer enjoyment because I feel that is what they will carry on as adults. When they are grown up and doing their jobs, they will still remember that books are an enjoyable thing to pass the time with."

Yee has a total of 13 books published and he averages about one book per year. A new one called "Tracks in the Snow" came out this fall, but the Fireman Small books are his most popular ones. He's currently working on one more Fireman Small book and his first book is called "Eck, There's a Mouse in the House." That one got picked up by three other publishers to be used as a first grade reader.

"My presentation to the kids was mostly about what my day is like," Yee said. "I talked about the amount of work it takes to put a book together. Most kids, when you ask them how long it takes to do a writing assignment, give responses like, 15 minutes, half hour, hour and the process is more like a year and a half for me. Part of that is artwork, part is writing and a lot is the amount of time it actually takes to print and distribute a book. I try to show them the process from idea to finished product."

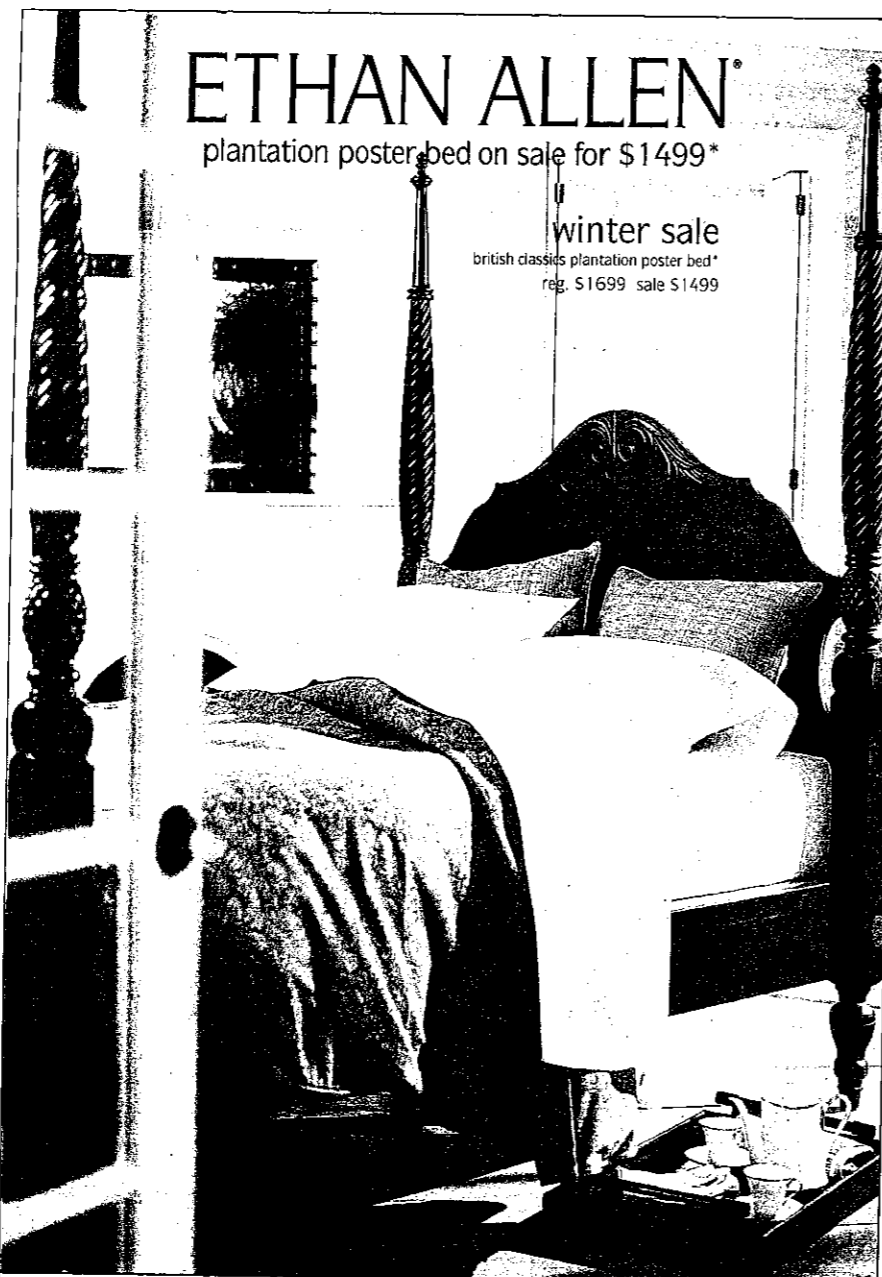
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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the home towns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

## Support these local businesses

Operating a business is one of life's greatest challenges. There's laws to deal with, employee issues, insurance, inflation, competition — the list goes on and on and on.

Those are givens, and they're issues any good business person can deal with and be successful.

It's the unexpected that can sink a business. Like roadwork that forces your customers to take detours, such as the major CSX Railroad bridge project taking place on Grand River Avenue right now.

There are over 60 businesses affected in that stretch of pavement between Novi and Beck roads, and they will be until that road reopens in the late fall.

But they're not shutting down for these nine months. Their hours are the same. Their products are the same. Their service is the same. In fact, you can still access

all of these businesses, but you might have to take a detour to get there. We encourage you to do just that.

Don't take the easy way out and try to find a similar business that's easier to get to.

If you're a customer of one of these 60-plus businesses, remain loyal and continue to patronize them.

The effect of a major road project like this can be devastating to a business. As travelers along the route, it's bad enough.

Now imagine that your livelihood hinges on it. As drivers, it's an inconvenience. As a business person, it can mean life or death financially.

The good news is that when it's all said and done, Grand River Avenue will be five lanes wide, and it'll be that much easier to get to your favorite businesses on that stretch — and they'll still be there come November if you help them out.

# OPINION

novinews.com



Photo: Nick Hurwitz

**Now that's cold!**  
With our office located in downtown Northville, it's sometimes hard for us to see everything that's happening in Novi. Luckily, readers like Nick Hurwitz and Phil Hornshaw act as our eyes and help this newspaper out when they see something interesting — like the old water tower, leaking and freezing on January 29. Thank you, gentlemen, for the fine photo — Editor.

## LETTERS

### Letters section not what it should be

The "Letters" section of a newspaper is intended as space for readers to voice their position on key community issues, allowing them to support or challenge public policy or position. Unfortunately, the Novi News has created a forum where the voices of a few have complete access to the media to say anything that they please. Any concern for taste, accuracy, or responsibility is thrown to the wind.

And instead of presenting positions, this forum provides the venue to launch personal attacks. Doesn't matter if the comments are lies, insults, or anecdotal innuendo... your paper prints it all, word for word, type for type.

Let me cite just one recent example from a February 6 letter by Mr. James Korte. This latest manifesto included a 200-word diatribe stating that I owe an apology to Mr. Joseph Toth for an insensitive comment. Korte states that "twice... you have put in print 'Did his wife ask him to take out the garbage?' and if you (meaning Ramsey) were knowledgeable you would have realized that Mrs. Toth was gone for several years now."

Um... excuse me? Did anyone review Korte's comments before printing them? Unlikely, because they would have realized

that the "garbage" comment was never made by me, but Mr. Toth himself. Toth made the statement referring to the wife of Rep. Craig DeRoche within a January 9th letter laden with personal insults towards the former Councilperson. My condolences to the Toth family for their loss; however, I never made the comment. The rest of Korte's letter is full of personal attacks and rambling opinions so ludicrous it did not merit publication, and further response from me just isn't worth the energy.

Speaking of the Toth letter, let's review some of its other comments about DeRoche: "an ugly display of stupidity," a pre-prepared hate agenda to assault each candidate, and "why this sad sack of a Republican politician was allowed to verbally thump each candidate? ... did he have a bad hair day and discovered a loss of a few more on top?"

Mr. Stone, a review of the editorial process is badly needed. No newspaper attempting to serve as the voice of its community should lower itself to print such inaccuracy and drift. These comments sound more appropriate on an 8th grade school yard, not in a newspaper. Is printing these letters an attempt to create controversy to drum up newspaper sales? I doubt if that approach is working, but what is disturbing is that you are systematically destroying any trust that Novi residents can place in this paper.

I started this process six weeks ago simply as an interviewee for an open city position,

and now I've twice been inaccurately vilified in print within this newspaper. I'm in good company, as many Novi public servants have been unfairly attacked over the years to a much greater degree in these pages, both personally and professionally. I think some apologies are long overdue.

Patrick Ramsey  
Novi

### Kudos to WL schools

I commend the Walled Lake School District for its excellent tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on January 15. The event was inspiring. It was a strong recognition of the beauty of diversity in our one human family.

Thanks to the Board of Education and Superintendent James Geisler. Thanks to the Multicultural Committee and to the many faculty, staff and students who shared their time and talents. I'm very proud of the Walled Lake School District.

James Gualdoni  
Member of Council  
Village of Woburne Lake

**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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# OTHER OPINIONS

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

## Granholtm breaks pattern of State of State speeches

As I watched Gov. Jennifer Granholtm deliver her State of the State speech last week, I realized that over the years I've heard a fair number of SOS speeches given by various Michigan governors.

G. Menen "Soup" Williams' nasal twine disguised the bluest of blood mixed with an emerging citizen-participation Democratic Party that clashed repeatedly with a highly partisan, GOP-dominated legislature.

George Romney, who rode to office on a reform movement called "Citizens for Michigan," offered a less partisan but higher key salesmanship.

Republican Bill Milliken, facing a Democratic legislature, was low-key and bipartisan, reaching out to suburban voters and "Milliken Democrats."

In more recent years, Jim Blanchard's State of the State speeches often wound up as mind-numbing catalogues of ideas, programs and initiatives, some of which were referred to them as a listing of "Jim's greatest hits."

Of course, Blanchard faced a state budget crisis situation nearly as grivous as that confronting Granholtm today. His solution — hiking the state income tax rate — made perfectly good sense as public financial policy. But it also was a political disaster that led to the recall of two Democratic senators. The State Senate has been Republican ever since, and don't you think for a second that Gov. Granholtm has forgotten that episode.

John Engler's SOS speeches tended to be pragmatic, detailed, remorselessly partisan, occasionally brutal. He was a magnificent political politician, a master of the legislative process, a tough-minded hardball player. Mixed with tax-cutting rhetoric, Engler's speeches

were full of specific legislative proposals and detailed programs.

Neither Engler's nor Blanchard's speeches were particularly inspiring and, excepting Engler's ceaseless emphasis on tax cutting, neither were particularly focused. And neither of them was particularly effective or emotional in their delivery.

Granholtm's speech was quite different. It was carefully written, warmly delivered and well received — she was interrupted more than 50 times for applause.

Granholtm and her husband, Dan, very rarely tax either governor or legislature shown the political will or the conceptual imagination to deviate from this routine. But this budget crisis is so severe — the projected deficit for the next fiscal year is nearly 20 percent of the total state general fund — that the consequence of necessity may turn out to be a radical rethinking of what state government should or should not do and how to go about doing it.

Granholtm and her husband, Dan Mulhern, are both extraordinarily smart and imaginative. It would be not beyond their capacity to have in the back of their minds creating an unusual platform for a Democratic politician: One that actually forces a fundamental and strategic rethinking of how government ought to work. By so doing, they would escape the "tax and spend" tag with which big-government Democrats have been labeled for decades and at the same time advocate for a government that carries out its important functions in a focused and cost-efficient way.

Hang on. The politics — not to mention the speeches — of the next four years might turn out to be very different than anything we have seen in Michigan so far.

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## Look inside for your role model

Do you have a role model?

Do you need one?

Do I need a woman role model who balances it all?

Do I don't think it would hurt, in fact it would help, if more people in our society created the perfect person in their mind they wished they could be.

They might actually aim higher.

I have never heard of a situation where self-reflection didn't reap personal rewards.

In fact, it is those just going along with the flow or ignoring themselves I worry about.

Meeting Denise was an excellent reminder of what holding yourself to greater expectations is all about.

In fact, I think (and I'm sure Denise would agree) everyone should take a peak at themselves and set a higher goal either by comparing themselves to an existing person or a well-rounded ideal.

Personally, I think I'll stick with my moon.

And if the time ever comes I need a little modification, I'll just make a few tweaks.

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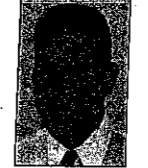
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Sunday Worship: 8:30 am, 11:30 am  
Contemporary Services at 1:00 am.  
www.stpauls.org

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Sunday 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
11 am. Sunday School & Nursery

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Rev. Jennifer Baby

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12 miles west of Novi Rd.  
Dr. Richard J. Henderson, Pastor  
Rev. Arne Scheibel, Associate Pastor  
Worship & Church School 9:30 & 10:30am Sunday  
www.faithcommunity.org

**ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
NOVI  
46355 10 Mile Rd.  
Novi, MI 48167  
Sabbathday 9:30 p.m.  
Dinnering: James F. Coon, Pastor  
Worship & Church School 9:30 & 10:30am Sunday  
www.stjamesnovi.org

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
2900 Meadowbrook Rd, Novi, MI 48167  
Worship: 9:3

# An important lesson in history

## A Novi resident's acquisition of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis memorabilia doubles as a lesson in having a role model

By Victoria Sadlocha  
STAFF WRITER

Offering more than a lesson in collecting, Novi resident Denise Jenkins sends an important message about the importance of having a role model.

Jenkins' role model was Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and a recent acquisition of the former first lady's bathing suit helped her celebrate a moment in history.

And the importance of having someone to emulate. "She was so graceful and so beautiful," Jenkins said. "What a strong woman. She was my mentor."

But it was more than beauty and graciousness which attracted Jenkins to Onassis. It was the first lady of style's ability to always remain strong for the sake of her children.

"I wanted to be that kind of mom," Jenkins said. The Novi mother, wife, former broadcaster and freelance public relations consultant talked of how Onassis would insist her children were afforded the simple pleasures of growing up, like riding their bikes in the park, despite having all eyes on them.

Jenkins also admires how Onassis pushed her children to live life and take greater steps while keeping family first and morals high.

Her fascination didn't begin as a mother though, when Jenkins was a child her parents took her to the White House during the Kennedy administration, sparking further interest.

As many growing up in the 1960s, Jenkins' interest for Onassis increased after John F. Kennedy was assassinated Nov. 22, 1963. From that point on, she started reading books and collection

mementos linked to her inspiration. "Everybody wants to be everything, and she did everything," Jenkins said. "We need more women role models like her."

So when the Novi woman learned of an opportunity to purchase some of Jackie's former belongings, she pounced. A former Kennedy press secretary was offering some of the former first lady's used clothes and other personal items via an online auction through Sloan's Auctioneers & Appraisers of New York.

"I picked about five things and just put a \$50 bid on them," Jenkins said. She then tried herself from the computer and waited. When she returned to the auction Web site a half hour before close, two items were still in her bid.

A personal note she was bidding on quickly left her range, but a piece of swim wear owned by Onassis was not only still in Jenkins' budget, but she was the lucky recipient.

"I called everyone and said guess what I just did," Jenkins said. What she did, was purchase for less than \$600 a one-piece bathing suit with matching sarong purchased by Onassis in 1956.

A price Jenkins considered a good deal considering a cracked tea cup owned by Onassis she was monitoring auctioned through Sotheby's Auction House went for \$35,000.

The 100-percent cotton black and gold swim-wear set with convertible straps was designed by Peck and Peck out of New York.

Jenkins later learned the master-crafted size 14 garment with impeccable detail was kept by Onassis until 1965. "Then I was really excited," she said. "I knew at that time it must have been a favorite because she kept it for so long."

The Novi resident said she did not cry on the bathing suit because the rear zipper was elasticated, but she did cry on the sarong, including when she called her friends and family the day the swim wear arrived.

"It is like touching a piece of history," she said. Jenkins hosted an "unveiling" party Feb. 1 at her home to share the piece of history. The swim wear was purchased in the Summer of 2001, but Jenkins waited to have the party because she wanted to make sure all of her friends and family would have the opportunity to attend.



Novi resident Denise Jenkins displays a Jackie Onassis bathing suit that she picked up at auction in New York City.

really exciting and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it." Jenkins said all of the attendees ranging in age from 18 to 84 were in the spirit, wearing pearls, pill box hats, gloves and large glasses. "Everyone got into it in their own little way," she said. The big question is though, was Jenkins' role-model choice fruitful?

She thinks so, especially in the parenting department. "I'm pretty proud of how my kids turned out," she said.

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

# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Local Color brews a first - VODA, flavored vodka



Local Color Brews a first - VODA, flavored vodka

Local Color Brewing Company, Michigan's largest brewery, has introduced the nation's first line of micro-distilled infused vodka under the brand name VODA. The first VODA offering is a custom-crafted blueberry infused vodka created specifically for the modern tastes of super premium vodka drinkers.

"The general public's taste is always changing. Today's consumer has sophisticated taste and educated about the products they select. They demand a natural product with outstanding quality. To meet those demands, we have effectively channeled Local Color's technology and expertise into an infused vodka that appeals to the same customers that drink our highest beer," said Peter Paisley, president of Local Color Brewing Company. "VODA meets the needs of today's consumers-the product is all natural from the process to the taste to the color of the berries. Modern day distilling requires capital, sophisticated processes, good distribution, and quality control."

VODA takes its place alongside powerhouse brands Grey Goose, Absolut, Ketel One, and Stol. VODA is available in restaurants, drinking establishments and in bottles on retailers' shelves. "We've been developing VODA for over three years. You can't just dump flavoring and coloring into a bottle of vodka and expect a great result. A crisp, clean, quality product requires a very complex process. We waited to release VODA until we got it right, until it was perfect," added Paisley. "From the color to the taste-VODA is a product for today's consumers."

### Gardenviews contributes

Northville business Gardenviews raised \$2,500 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan through sale of metal garden ornaments sculpted to resemble the image of an angel. The angels were crafted by Lei Hennessy, the artisan who created the 9-11 commemorative Freedom Angels as a means of paying tribute to those who died in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

### Welcome, Dr. Orr

Larry Orr, DC has joined the staff of Henry Ford's Center for Complementary and Integrative Medicine.

Orr has been providing chiropractic care for more than 12 years. He treats a variety of chronic conditions such as arthritis, low back pain, neck pain, shoulder pain and chronic headaches. His holistic approach to treating patients involves spinal manipulation and soft tissue techniques along with educating clients about how lifestyle changes help promote long-term healing.

He is currently enrolled in a program for certification in Chiropractic Sports Medicine and has a special interest in treating sports injuries in young athletes.

Prior to joining Henry Ford, Orr was in private practice. In 1990, he became the owner and director of Kingswood Chiropractic Clinic in Bloomfield Hills.

Orr earned his doctor of chiropractic from the National University of Health Sciences in Lombard, Ill. He received a bachelor of science degree in business administration, management and marketing from Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant.

Orr is affiliated with the Michigan Chiropractic Society.

## Real estate broker creates customers for life

By Elizabeth Heer

Sandra Laing is not your run-of-the-mill realtor. Not only is she one of the top selling brokers in the area, but her approach to the real estate business is warm and personal.

Laing believes in approaching each customer on an individual basis and works to make their experience with a realtor satisfying. That approach finds its roots in her deep involvement with her church.

"We've been so blessed that we want to do our very best to give back and make a difference in other's lives," she said. "It's not always about the money, but helping others. I feel this is what I was meant to do. I love working with people - it's not a job, but a pleasure."

Her long career in real estate began around 1984 in Livonia after nine years at General Motors. Consistently an exemplary agent, she earned awards and designations as a top one percent in the nation for sales as a real estate broker and was a Century 21 Golden Eagle top producer. Laing earned her broker license in 1996. The difference, she explained, between a real estate agent and a broker is experience. To achieve the designation, a broker must demonstrate three consecutive years of top sales, complete 90 hours of education, and pass a rigorous state test. Then in 1998, Laing joined with Remax 100, Inc.

She has witnessed many changes in the real estate business over the years. "In the 1980s, interest rates were at 16 percent. We used multi-list books that came out every two weeks. Houses were shown mainly by appointment, so the homeowner had to be there to let us in. Now, we enjoy 6 percent loans and get daily home updates from the multi-list on line. You can browse the Internet and take virtual tours of houses. Lock boxes allow realtors to show homes without the homeowner being there," she said. "Years ago we worked only for the seller, because they paid the commission. Now we can by law also work for the buyer and help them realize their best price."

Technology has had profound effects on the business of buying and selling real estate. For instance, Laing has purchased a program for her computer that will automatically e-mail new listings tailored to her customer's specifications daily as houses come on the market. "It's a great tool," she said.

Laing's Web site is another great tool for those looking for just the right home. "It works well for our sellers, too. We display all the houses available," Laing said.

Readers can browse the realtor.com site, click on any house that Laing has listed and be immediately taken to her Web site where a large display can be accessed. An interactive menu allows buyers to check out information on communities and school systems. Another handy feature is the mortgage calculator in which you can plug in your desired home price and down payment amount, with the current interest rates. It will figure out your monthly payment. There is also a salary calculator that will compute the cost-of-living differences among hundreds of cities. The moving calculator will analyze the cost of shipping a household to a new location. And you're just a click away from a free market analysis.

"It's something different. This technology is how we sell so many homes now, perhaps 75 percent of our business is either referral or the internet," she said.

Laing finds it increasingly important to keep up with the latest in technology and marketing techniques. This year she is hosting home buying seminars, which not only benefit first time home buyers, but also the investment property buyer. "Our program includes guest speakers such as loan officers,



Sandra Laing joined the real estate industry in 1984, and in 1998 she became part of the Remax 100 force.

tax accountants, and home improvement contractors," she said. "I have done these programs before and they are very helpful. There are not very many of them around."

For information and reservations on the next seminar, call Laing at (248) 670-1900 or (248) 348-3000.

Laing, who has been happily married to husband Gary for more than 20 years, moved with her family to Milford 12 years ago. Shortly thereafter the family became active in the South Hill Church. Her oldest son Scott, 30, sings with the church Praise Team. He has also joined Laing in the real estate business. Melissa, 15,

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Size: 14

Material: 100-percent cotton

Color: Black and gold

Designer: Peck and Peck out of New York

Owned: from 1956 to 1965

Detail: Convertible straps, delicate boning, back zipper, seam binding, hook-and-eye closures and tie at the front of both the suit and the sarong

### SENIOR CALENDAR

Thursday 2/13  
9 a.m.-12 p.m. Massage Therapy  
9 a.m.-11 a.m. Computer Class  
9:30 a.m. Line Dance  
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Income Taxes by appointment only  
noon Lunch & 12:15 Bridge  
12:30 Book Discussion at Novi Library  
1 p.m.-4 p.m. Computer Class Lab  
1 p.m. Line Dance-Beginners  
2 p.m. Line Dance-Advanced

Friday 2/14 Happy Valentine's Day  
9 a.m. Stretch & Strength  
10 a.m. Body Recall  
noon Lunch  
12 p.m. Clogging  
12:30 Duq. Bridge  
7 p.m. Valentine's Chocolate & Chorale-advanced ticket needed

Sunday 2/16  
Fisher Theatre---"CATS" trip

Monday 2/17 Management  
Office Open  
Senior Center  
Lunch Service  
Transportation  
Closed for President's Day

Tuesday 2/18  
9 a.m.-12 p.m. Massage Therapy  
9 a.m. Panera bread  
9:30 a.m. Line Dance  
10 a.m. Crafts  
11 a.m. Bookmobile  
noon Lunch

12:30 p.m. Bingo  
1 p.m.-2 p.m. Computer Class  
Cornwell's Theatre Trip

Wednesday 2/19  
9 a.m. Stretch & Strength  
10 a.m. Body Recall  
11 a.m. Blood Pressure  
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open  
11 a.m. TOPS Class  
noon Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Clogging  
2 p.m.-4 p.m. Estate Planning-appointment needed  
Winter Mystery Trip

Thursday 2/20  
9 a.m.-12 p.m. Massage Therapy  
9 a.m.-11 a.m. Computer Class  
9:30 a.m. Travel Club  
9:30 a.m. Line Dance  
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Income Taxes by appointment only  
noon Lunch & 12:15 p.m. Bridge  
1 p.m.-4 p.m. Computer Class Lab  
1 p.m. Line Dance-Beginners  
2 p.m. Line Dance-Advanced

\*Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. All other activities will take place at the Meadowbrook Commons Community Center

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Space Reservation Deadline: Friday, February 28, 2003  
Copy Deadline: Monday, March 3, 2003  
Publication Date: Thursday, March 27, 2003

**HomeTown** Newspapers

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### LIBRARY LINES - NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. We are located at 45245 W. 10 Mile Road, just east of Taft. For more information, call (248) 349-0720.

Hours  
Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. We are located at 45245 W. 10 Mile Road, just east of Taft. For more information, call (248) 349-0720.

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

Tot time  
Children ages 12-24 months are invited to join us for a half hour of stories, songs, and games on Saturday, February 15, at 11 a.m. Registration is not required, but space is limited, so toddlers and caregivers only, please.

Animals in winter  
Staff from the farm at Maybury State Park share animals' secrets for getting through Michigan winters on Tuesday, February 25, at 1 p.m. The 35-minute program is for ages four and up. No registration is necessary.

Rhythm Man  
Rhythm Man's interactive, entertaining program shows children and their families the amazing world in which we live on Wednesday, February 26, at 7 p.m. The 45-

minute program is for all ages. No registration is necessary.

Big kid story time  
Kids ages 5-8 are invited to join us for stories, special activities, and laughter on Tuesday, February 18, at 4 p.m. No registration is necessary.

Life in Colonial Detroit  
Walled Lake High School students will read "Life in 1778 Colonial Detroit" on Thursday, February 27, at 1 p.m. The 45-minute program is for ages five and up. No registration is necessary.

AARP tax workshop  
An AARP Tax Workshop will be held at the library on Thursday, February 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please register in advance in person or by calling the library. (Note: You cannot prepare small business or rental property taxes at this workshop.)

Board meeting  
The Novi Library Board of Directors meets Monday, February 17, at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room. Community members are welcome to attend.

Using the library catalog on the Web  
We'll cover audio, title, subject,

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Novi High School  
BID PACKAGE FOR ADDITIONS, REMODELING AND SITEWORK  
OWNER: NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER: Skanska USA Building Inc.  
30445 Northwestern Highway, Suite 250  
Farmington Hills, MI 48333-9601  
Telephone: 248-726-0371  
Facsimile: 248-737-5691

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

- 1A - Earthwork and Site Utilities
- 1B - Building Demolition
- 1C - Asphalt Paving
- 1D - Site Concrete
- 1E - Irrigation and Landscaping
- 1F - Fencing
- 1G - Playground and Outdoor Equipment
- 1H - Concrete Foundations
- 1I - Concrete Finishwork
- 1J - Masonry
- 1K - Structural Steel & Metal Decking
- 1L - Carpentry
- 1M - Waterproofing and Joint Sealants
- 1N - Roofing
- 1O - EIFS Systems
- 1P - Hollow Metal, Doors & Finish Hardware
- 1Q - Aluminum Doors, Windows & Curtain Wall
- 1R - Aluminum Siding/Glazing & Metal Shingles
- 1S - Overhead Ceiling Doors
- 1T - Translucent Wall & Roof Assemblies
- 1U - Metal Studs, Gypsum Board and Insulation
- 1V - Ceramics/Tile
- 1W - Terrazzo Restoration
- 1X - Acoustical Ceilings and Wall Treatments
- 1Y - Wood Flooring
- 1Z - Carpet and Resilient Flooring
- 1AA - Epoxy Flooring
- 1BB - Painting
- 1CC - Visual Display Boards
- 1DD - Toilet Accessories & Compartments
- 1EE - Signage
- 1FF - Lockers
- 1GG - Folding and Operable Partitions
- 1HH - Access Flooring
- 1I - Stage & Theater Equipment
- 1JJ - Autoshop Equipment
- 1KK - Food Service Equipment
- 1LL - Educational Casework
- 1MM - Science Casework
- 1NN - Greenhouse & Equipment
- 1OO - Swimming Pool
- 1PP - Elevators
- 1QQ - Fire Protection
- 1RR - Plumbing
- 1SS - HVAC
- 1TT - Temperature Controls
- 1UU - Electrical
- 1VV - Bleachers/Tie

ESTIMATES Bid Package Templates Rev 3  
BIDS ARE DUE AT 2:00 PM local time on Monday, February 24, 2003. On behalf of the Novi Community School District, Skanska USA Building Inc. will receive sealed proposals for the above project at the Skanska USA Building Inc. office, 30445 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 250, Farmington Hills, MI 48333. Attention: Chris Becker, until the stipulated bid opening date and time. Bids received after the stipulated date and time will not be considered and will be returned unopened. Bids will be opened at a public meeting to be convened at 6:00 AM on Tuesday, February 25, 2003 at Novi Community School District, Education Services Building, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, MI 48374. Bids must be clearly marked with the project name and bid category(ies).

All interested bidders may obtain copies of the drawings and specifications from Westside & Detroit Reprographics, 37680 Hills Tech Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48331, upon request and upon providing a bid deposit of \$100.00, checks to be payable to Novi Community School District. Westside Reprographics will return all bid deposits to contractor(s) after bid date and when bid documents are returned in good condition.

A minimum of 5% bid security, either in the form of a Bid Bond or Cashier's Check payable to Novi Community School District, must accompany each bid over \$17,000.00. In accordance with Michigan Compiled Laws Section 129.261, successful contractor(s) must obtain Performance and Payment Bonds for any Bid Category exceeding \$50,000. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be in an amount equal to the contract amount. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be solely for the protection of Novi Community School District and Skanska USA Building Inc. as dual obligees. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Michigan and be listed in the Federal Register or have an AM Best Rating of B+ or better.

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

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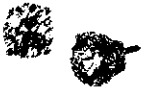


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# State-bound Wildcats

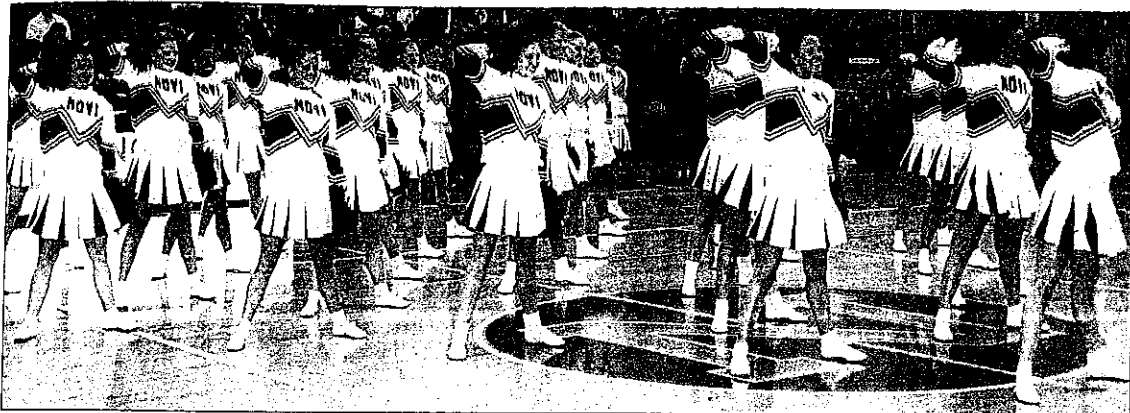


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

The Novi Wildcats varsity pom pon team struts their stuff at the halftime of the basketball game in which Novi topped the Pinckney Pirates for first place in the conference. The pom squad isn't doing too bad itself, utilizing their talent and determination to assemble a routine that will find them participating in the state championship competition.

## A new routine and a lot of fun will mark season's end

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

A season that finds your squad participating in the state finals has to be a good one — just ask the Novi Wildcats pom team.

The Wildcats, coached by Jeni Hubenschmidt, turned in a dazzling performance to qualify for the state finals after participating in the regional competition at Saginaw Heritage High School.

"We have an extremely talented team this year," Hubenschmidt said. "It's one of the better teams that I've ever coached."

The pom squad, which consists of nine very talented seniors, nine juniors, eight sophomores and two freshmen, will be heading to Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti February 16 and hitting the floor of the Convocation Center in hopes of coming away with a title.

"We've been able to watch them improve over the year and have been able to bring the talent out of them," Hubenschmidt said of her girls. "Then, we get to showcase it at the finals. That's what it's all about."

The Wildcats are going to be doing something that most teams wouldn't dare to do — they are revising their entire routine in just two weeks.

"It's scary enough," Hubenschmidt said with a laugh. "With having so much experience in the seniors, they saw (that we needed a change) as quick as I did. It's not as much of a shock as it could have been without their backing on it."

Though most teams and coaches would consider such a drastic measure to be near the brink of title-suicide, Hubenschmidt and the 'Cats are confident.

"This team thrives on pressure situations and high intensity," she said. "They really believe in doing what it takes. It that means chang-



Photo by John Heider

Under the direction of coach Jeni Hubenschmidt the Novi varsity pom pon team practices for its upcoming appearance in the state finals this coming Sunday.

ing our routine and staying later at practices or coming earlier, they will do it. They do a lot of the work on their own time and they are willing to do it."

The Wildcats are the kind of team that doesn't mind throwing a bit of a change-up into their routines. In the regional meet, they unveiled a few "new moves" in their routine, and took a high score to advance to the next level of competition.

It was easy to see that Hubenschmidt was pulling out all the stops in the process of choreographing a creative routine, as she cranked up Metallica with their song "Attitude" while the team members showed plenty of their own attitude in their performance to earn a trip to the state finals.

Host team Saginaw Heritage will also be making a trip to Ypsilanti, escaping from the regional to be one of the top competitive teams in the finals.

"This has been one of the best years we've had as far as the right dynamics and energy,"

Hubenschmidt said. "They are really coming together as a team."

Having so many young members of the team was something that definitely has worked out for Hubenschmidt and the Wildcats, but it wasn't always something that sounded like the best plan to have.

"There are usually three or four sophomores and no freshman," Hubenschmidt said. "This year, we are an extremely young team. They are only going to grow though, and though it took more work in the beginning, it has been worth it in the end."

It also helps to have such a dedicated senior class.

"I've coached these seniors from JV to varsity," Hubenschmidt said. "We've been together all four years that they have been in the program. They are really an extension of me and my beliefs as a coach. They are really helping pass that on to the younger girls."

But, no matter what the final tally is come Sunday and no matter who is taking home the state title,

the Wildcats can look back at this season and know that they had a lot of fun — which is an a focus of Hubenschmidt.

"It's mine as a coach, but definitely not the focus of every team,"

she said. "We are just built that way and we don't succeed if we are focusing on anything but ourselves."

Switching an entire routine, bringing a very young team and going up against the best teams in the state — do the Wildcats stand a chance?

"Yeah, we have the ability to compete and to contend," Hubenschmidt said. "I feel that I say this over and over again, but winning isn't what we are about. We are here to do our absolute best and to showcase the talent that the girls have. A trophy is just the icing on the cake."

But don't take that statement the wrong way.

"I'm not going to lie and say we're not competitive," Hubenschmidt said, "because we are."

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.

### GOING TO THE STAYS!

The Novi Wildcats managed to escape a very tough regional competition along with host school Saginaw Heritage during the first week of February. And what do they get for their efforts? More competition to beat at the state finals as well as a whole new routine that they will have put together in two weeks time. Coach Jeni Hubenschmidt along with her team will be looking to showcase their talents and bring the best of their abilities to the floor at Eastern Michigan University's Convocation Center February 16.

Members of the team include: Deanna Albanelli, Meredith Anan, Brittney Bixman, Keli Black, Shawn Calvin, Carrie Capanyola, Sarah Celiski, Brittany Cirka, Danielle DeBlasi, Hollie DeRocco, Ashlee Doster, Kiley Effring, Cindy Herman, Laura Hirschfield, Megan Kernski, Kristen Kern, Jessica Kim, Liz Kossik, Amanda Kowalski, Gretchen Kroll, Christina Moriant, Audrey Oh, Julie Perreca, Ashley Powell, Lauren Powell, Emily Reid, Katie Slovan and Christy Stewart.

## Getting what they deserve

Quite frankly, they are two sports that just don't get the attention they deserve.

Pom pon and competitive cheer are two sports that are overlooked by many sports writers and newspapers, as well as television and sports networks.

Maybe it's because they don't work as hard as other sports? That's very doubtful, considering these two groups work on their routines during the spring season of the previous year in which they compete.

Maybe it's because they are girls? I hope not. Girls' athletics deserve as much attention as they boys', and I like to think they get an equal share in our sports sections.

Well, maybe it's because they really aren't that well known? Wow, I guess this could be a tough one. Though there isn't a person in America that probably doesn't know what a cheerleader is, it took my wife about five times of asking to remember what pom pon was. I guess this is partially my fault, and also that of other media outlets. We haven't aimed our sights on sports like cheer and pom because we like to think that we're too busy covering "main stream" sports like basketball, volleyball, hockey and wrestling. We find excuses to not do stories on these girls and for the events in which they participated in.

This is definitely something I'd like to see changed in our paper as well as other papers. In fact, catch the paper next week and there'll be stories about both teams — though it's probably a little late to get gung-ho about it.

I really don't have much of an excuse, other than I'm out of the cheer and pom loop most of the time. Though I can't turn back the clock and do more stories at this point, I can look to the future and plan on better coverage for next year. These girls will get their time in print, even if it means that next year we see much shorter stories on the other squads and more stories on non-traditional sports.

Let's hope that I'm not the only one taking aim at improving coverage for these two sports. In fact, let's hope that a lot of papers are planning better coverage and better stories on the girls who are in the sports as well. But, of course, most of you don't read too many other papers, and so it's my pledge that I'll do what it takes to have better coverage come next year on both sports, and I'll treat them as I would any other athletic event on this planet.

Don't forget to catch the pom teams at the state finals February 16 at Eastern Michigan University. And, of course, the cheer teams will be participating in their regionals soon too, with hopes of reaching the state finals to compete against the best teams around. Let me be one of the few sports writers around that wish all the teams in pom and cheer the best of luck!

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.



Sam Eggleston

# Novi still looking strong in cheer

## Squad notches a first-place finish at Ladywood High School in Livonia

By Michael Zerkich  
SPECIAL WRITER

When you climb mountains and you can't go up you know you are at the top.

Last Saturday the Wildcats competitive cheer team found its summit at Livonia Ladywood.

Performing at its best level of the year the girls took first in their division and second overall for all Class A schools. There were eight teams in Novi's division (white) and eight in the other Class A division (blue).

In the White Team Division Troy Athens once again was their principle competition. Unlike in a previous meeting at Novi this time the Wildcats outscored them in every round. If Troy Athens is a barometer of their improvement then sunny days are all in the forecast. This time the Wildcats outscored their rival by more than 40 points with a

final tally for Troy Athens of 620.5 to Novi's 660.

Coach Amy Denys was jumping around more than her girls at the end of this one.

"We really had another stellar day," she said. "After round one, we had already pulled ahead by 12.5 points. Although our scores were down from last weekend, this was an outstanding round. The girls had awesome precision, great facial expressions and an abundance of positive energy. They wowed the crowd and the judges. Our overall score for this round was 182."

"Round two was greatly improved from last week. I felt as if our handsprings and walkovers were the best they have been all season. Similar to round one, the girls possessed a certain power that was obvious in the intensity of their performance. They were excited and it resonated throughout their performance."

**"I do not want to make any major changes before regionals. Why mess with a good thing?"**

Amy Denys  
Novi Cheerleading Coach

Denys noted that her squad has been showing a solid foundation of competition, especially with their strong performances in round three.

"Round three was just as strong as Kensington Valley Conference championship last weekend," she said. "After leaving the mat, the girls knew they had once again had been

victorious. They felt confident that they had done the best performance they possibly could. We will continue to strengthen this material and make minor adjustments to the overall cheer. It seems to be crowd pleasing and the girls have begun to execute it with great precision."

The only thing holding the coach down to earth these days is the future. As in the state tournament. All year this time has been focused on making a strong run and winning the state tournament and anything less would be a disappointment for her squad.

"I do not want to make any major changes before regionals," Denys said. "Why mess with a good thing? In the Blue Division, we were watching Allen Park, Southgate Anderson and Ladywood very closely all day. Along with Brighton, these teams are in our regional division and could be possible threats to

our chances of making it to the state meet. We used this past Saturday as an opportunity to see how these other teams in our region are looking compared to ourselves. I was glad to learn that we are just as much of a threat to them as they are to us."

What the chances of Novi can take it all. Don't bet the Wildcats out in this game.

"It seems to be a pretty level playing field and could be anyone's game," Denys said.

This Saturday will be another contest at Ida High School with a 10 a.m. start time. The February 22 showdown then begins at 2 p.m. with the location at Ladywood High School once again.

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

**GAME OF THE WEEK**

**POM PON & CHEERLEADING**

# It's getting lonely at the top, but the Wildcats don't seem to mind

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Sometimes, even when a team wins by 14 points they are counting their lucky stars.

After getting into early foul trouble, the Novi Wildcats were able to put the finishing touches on the Howell Highlanders February 7 at Howell High School, topping their Kensington Valley Conference opponents 54-40.

"We got into some foul trouble early, and we had four guys come off the bench and hit some big shots for us in the second quarter," Novi coach Pat Schliesser told the Livingston County Daily Press and Argus after the game.

Leading by only two points and deeper in foul trouble than they would like, the Wildcats shipped their bench onto the floor and watched as they transformed a close lead into a 12-point lead by

## Novi 54 Howell 40

The Wildcats held a small 14-12 edge against the Highlanders in the first quarter before they went on an impressive 8-0 run to give themselves a nice separation.

"We didn't do a good job guarding them, we took quick shots that led to long rebounds, and they were able to run the floor," Howell coach Tim Olszowski told the Press and Argus.

After taking a 19-point lead with a 46-27 advantage in the fourth quarter, Howell went on an 8-0 run of its own, but a three-point try by Highlander Adam Steele early in the fourth rimmed out of the basket and Novi was able to spread the floor and run the clock.

Though they had created a nice lead for themselves by the fourth quarter, the Cats were playing more conservative than usual, which is probably thanks to the fouls they accumulated in the first half.

"We were a little flat in the second half, but give Howell credit," Schliesser said. "This is a tough place to play, and they kept working hard."

The Wildcats were led by Matt Emmenecker and Chris Lewis as they bagged 12 points each in the winning effort. R.J. Southwell had 12 points to lead the Highlanders.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or [seggleston@lt.hometown.com](mailto:seggleston@lt.hometown.com). The Livingston County Daily Press and Argus provided quotes for this story.

Photo by John Heidner

Novi's Mike Hart goes up for two in a late-January tilt at home against the Pirates.



# Wild 'Stangs not slowing down

Gymnastics squad continues to shine as they beat Canton

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

## Wild 'Stangs 140.25 Canton 134.8

You gotta love winning, right? The Northville-Notli Wild 'Stangs gymnastics team sure doesn't mind when they perform well enough to walk away with the victory, and they've shown that more than once over the past few weeks.

Against rival Canton, the Wild 'Stangs notched a 140.25-134.8 victory. Trish Brownfield collected an 8.75 on the beam and an 8.10 on the vault. Amanda Crawford earned an 8.75 with her floor routine, while Rachel Deneau earned an impressive 9.10 on the floor. Marie-Finck had an impressive night, earning an 8.4 on the bars, and 8.65 with the floor exercise and an 8.0 on the vault.

Nika Frimenko earned an 8.15 on the bars, and an 8.2 on the floor, while Jessica Giancy earned an 8.3 on the bars, and 8.2 on the beam and an 8.35 on the vault. Sara Ilkhan-Pour notched an 8.75 on the bars, an 8.9 on the vault, and 8.8 on the floor, while Jennifer Fink collected an 8.85 in both the bars and the floor, while collecting an 8.45 for her vault. Laura Motz notched a 7.90 on the floor, while teammate Megan Wallen earned a 7.2 on the beam.

Janna Ramsey collected some nice figures, getting an 8.3 on the bars, an 8.0 on the beam, an 8.05 on the vault and a 9.05 on the floor. Amy Wild took a 7.0 on the bars and a 7.75 on the vault, while Erin Yankovich collected an 8.05 on the vault and an 8.9

on the floor routine. Sara Wilchowski notched an 8.8 on the vault, an 8.9 on the bars and a 9.40 on the beam.

Whitney Paul earned a 7.0 for her performance on the beam, while Laura Motz earned a 7.6 with the floor exercise. Mills collected an 8.7 on the vault and an 8.8 on the bars. Caitlin Miller earned a 7.5 on the beam and a 7.95 on the same event. Giancy notched an 8.4 on the bars and an 8.8 on the vault, while Ilkhan-Pour collected an 8.6 on the bars and an 8.7 on the floor.

Mehl earned nice marks with an 8.25 on the beam, an 8.4 on the bars and an 8.60 on the vault. Mills collected an 8.55 on the beam, an 8.75 on the bars, an 8.8 with the vault and a 9.10 with the floor exercise.

Ramsey collected an 8.8 with her floor routine, while Brownfield notched an 8.90 on the vault, an 8.85 on the bars and the floor and a 9.05 with the vault.

Caitlin Miller notched an 8.05 on the beam and an 8.3 on the floor, while Maggie Mills collected an 8.85 in both the bars and the floor, while collecting an 8.45 for her vault. Laura Motz notched a 7.90 on the floor, while teammate Megan Wallen earned a 7.2 on the beam.

Janna Ramsey collected some nice figures, getting an 8.3 on the bars, an 8.0 on the beam, an 8.05 on the vault and a 9.05 on the floor. Amy Wild took a 7.0 on the bars and a 7.75 on the vault, while Erin Yankovich collected an 8.05 on the vault and an 8.9

## Wild 'Stangs 135.93 John Glenn 113.15

The Novi-Notli Wild 'Stangs team had continued their winning ways January 30 when they took on and defeated the squad from John Glenn.

The squad, which is coached by Lindsay Schultz, had some impressive numbers throughout

the meet.

Lindsay Yusko collected a 7.9 on the floor, Yankovich earned a 7.35 on the bars and Wild earned a 7.35 on the bars. Wilchowski, who competed in only one event, earned a 9.05 on the bars, while Wallen collected a 7.9 on the bars and Ramsey earned an 8.25 on the vault and an 8.7 on the floor.

Whitney Paul earned a 7.0 for her performance on the beam, while Laura Motz earned a 7.6 with the floor exercise. Mills collected an 8.7 on the vault and an 8.8 on the bars. Caitlin Miller earned a 7.5 on the beam and a 7.95 on the same event. Giancy notched an 8.4 on the bars and an 8.8 on the vault, while Ilkhan-Pour collected an 8.6 on the bars and an 8.7 on the floor.

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Ramsey collected an 8.8 with her floor routine, while Brownfield notched an 8.90 on the vault, an 8.85 on the bars and the floor and a 9.05 with the vault.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or [seggleston@lt.hometown.com](mailto:seggleston@lt.hometown.com).

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Tom Holland, FOX-TV

Kate Hudson Matthew McConaughey



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# 'Cats on the prowl

By Ryan Edwards  
SPECIAL WRITER

## Novi 6 Hartland 1

Now — it's definitely nearing playoff time because the Novi Wildcats have been on the prowl their last two games.

In those two games, Novi has outscored their opponents 11-2 to climb back into the lead of .500 overall, and to be sitting pretty with a winning record in the KVC at 5-4-2.

Novi traveled to the Kensington Ice House for a conference match-up against Hartland in search of that fifth KVC win. Both teams would end up finding themselves involved in an absolute power struggle in a game that included 14 powerplays.

Three of those powerplays came in the first period with both teams capitalizing on all of the opportunities.

Novi got the first powerplay when Dan Hunter was pulled down from behind on a break to draw a penalty. The Wildcats took advantage of being a man up when John Murray, who was stationed behind the net, found Jared Perras. Perras received the puck then deked the goalie before finding the back of the net. Robert Vulaj was also credited with an assist.

Hartland picked up another penalty at 9:37. Murray gave Novi a 2-0 advantage when he scored on a second-shot opportunity while off balance and falling down. The Wildcats' second goal came at 10:08 and was assisted on by Perras and Justin Collins.

Novi was playing with fire though, and gave Hartland a power-

play opportunity of their own.

Hartland's Chris Brewer broke in from the rear side of the ice, draped beneath the green jersey of a Novi defender. Trent Sisson, in goal for the Wildcats, dropped to the ice to take away the bottom of the net, but Brewer was able to roof it and gave Hartland a goal of their own, cutting Novi's lead in half.

Vulaj added another "Cat score" as he took a pass from Murray and raced to the other end of the ice, under heavy chase, and put a shot on goal. The goalie made the initial save, but somehow the puck wandered its way into the net. The goal was assisted by Murray for a 3-1 Wildcat lead.

Novi then turned up the heat between the 9- and 12-minute marks of the second period. Novi had a flurry of scoring opportunities on a two-minute span that found Chaz Bulbak dumping multiple Hartland players onto their backs.

Novi earned a powerplay goal at the 12:00 minute mark of the second when Vulaj found Murray positioned in the slot in front of the goal. It looked like a practice situation as Murray had all day to sit there and pick apart a helpless

goaltender. The Novi shooter placed the puck perfectly into the bottom left-hand corner of the goal. The goal was assisted on by Vulaj and gave Novi a 4-1 lead.

After assisting on a goal to end the second period, Vulaj got one of his own just 1:13 into the third period. Vulaj was positioned in the middle of the ice just inside the blue line and rifled a shot in the upper right corner over the goalie to put Novi up 5-1. Assists went to Zach Flaven and Brett Jausi.

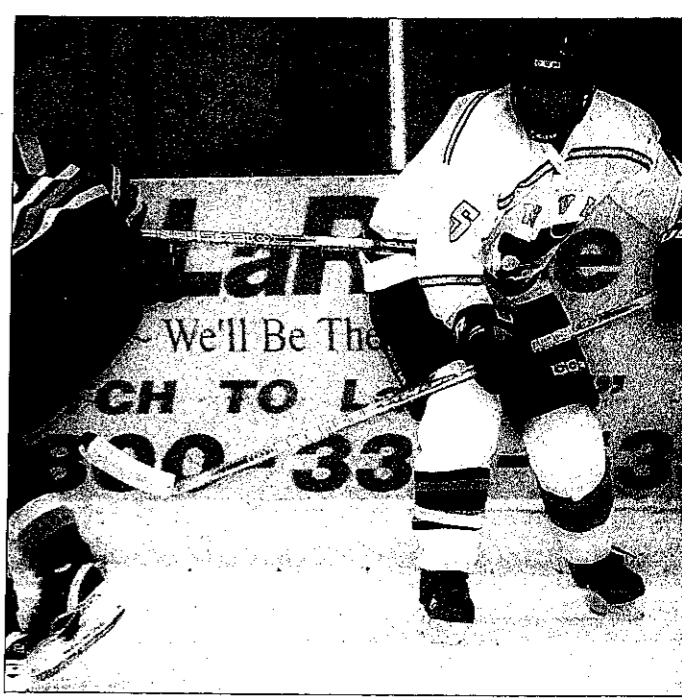
The two keys to the game for the Wildcats proved to be great goaltending and powerful powerplays. Solid in goal all night, Sisson stood on his head in the closing minutes of the third, first making an incredible leg save on which he was screened and didn't see the puck until the last possible second, and later when he made a great save on a 2-on-1, giving him 7 total saves.

Novi netted their fourth powerplay goal of the game on their 29th and final shot. The goal came at 19:27 of the third and was set up by a Jordan Collins pass to Mark Eberline who sent the puck across the ice to Mario DeGrazia. DeGrazia put the puck past an out-of-position goaltender for a 6-1 lead that would stand for the remainder of the game.

Novi 5, Howell 1

Two nights prior to handling Hartland, the Wildcats absolutely hammered Howell in the friendly confines of the Novi Ice Arena.

Novi was one of a 5-1 victory by the return of one of their captains.



Wildcat Bryan Ellis tries to slow up his Lion opponent during a January game at the Novi Ice Arena.

Justin Collins, who had been out with an injury, notched an assist in his first game back. It came as he found a fellow captain, Perras, who scored the goal while trying to kill off a two-man disadvantage in a 3-on-5 situation. Novi also got a goal from defenseman Bryan Ellis, who scored his first of

the season. Jordan Collins and Brett Jausi, both notched goals in the victory.

Novi, now standing at 8-8-5 overall, has received solid goaltending, only allowing a goal per game, and they've hit the lamp consistently as well over the past two games.

Vulaj, who has been red hot of late, notched his team-leading 15th and 16th goals of the season, while Perras has scored three in the last two games to give him 10 for the season.

Novi will resume action when it looks to close out the regular season at Pinckney February 18.

# 'Cats fall to tough Mavericks

Novi's overall record falls to 22-15 on the season

By Michael Zerkich  
SPECIAL WRITER

## Millford over Novi 13, 15-12

If you go by the score of a game you may be missing something.

The Wildcat girls volleyball team lost to a Millford squad last week by the two-set score of 15-13 and 15-12.

Over the past few weeks, Novi has taken it on the chin a few times and also won its share, too. However, the latest matches, win or lose, have seen the team more focused and determined than in the first month of matches.

Coach Julie Fisetse agrees and sees many positives in this and other matches lately.

"The girls were down in the first game 0-8 and came back to make it a real exciting finish,"

she said. "The second game we were up 5-0 and let them back in the ballgame."

"They played really real, meaning they played as a team and were really positive," she added.

Despite rallying and great defense the Wildcats tend at times to be their own worst enemy.

Coach Fisetse wants that to stop if they are going to make a run at the state championship.

"Errors killed us," Fisetse said. "In the second game we had 20 unforced errors, whether they were serving, hitting, serve receiving, digging or net

errors." Individual statistics include some standouts play. Angie Schmitt led her team with an impressive four kills and five serving aces. Tina Hildreth pitched in three kills and three solo blocks while Amanda Toffoli contributed and ace and Shannon Strader had a perfect night in the passing department.

Novi now stands at 22 wins and 15 losses for the year.

Next on the schedule is a match at home versus Lakeland tonight at 7 at Novi High School.



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## NEWS FROM THE MHSAA

Group ticket sales are now underway for two Michigan High School Athletic Association state finals — the Lower Peninsula Individual Wrestling Finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills, March 6-8; and the Girls Volleyball Finals at University Arena in Kalamazoo, March 15.

Under the group program, groups of 10 or more can obtain a substantial discount off the standard general admission ticket price for each session of the two events. Group tickets are priced at \$3.50 each.

"This is an excellent opportunity for school groups, youth teams and the like to come out and experience the excitement of high school athletics," said John R. Johnson, communications director of the MHSAA. "We hope that groups across the state will again take advantage of this opportunity to support high school sports."

In order to qualify for the group discount, all orders must be submitted in advance of Regional round of each tournament. For the Lower Peninsula Individual Wrestling Finals, orders must be postmarked no later than Feb. 14. For the girls volleyball finals, orders must be postmarked no later than March 6. No group orders postmarked after the deadline date will be accepted. All group seating at each event is general admission. For the Wrestling Finals, all general admission seating is located in the upper level of the arena, and tickets are only available for the championship session, which begins at 4:30 p.m. on March 8. For the volleyball finals, one ticket is required to watch all four championship matches on March 15.

Group Ticket Order Forms for the MHSAA Lower Peninsula individual wrestling finals, and the girls volleyball finals may be obtained exclusively from the MHSAA web site at [www.mhsaa.com](http://www.mhsaa.com).

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Whalers win, get back on track

The Plymouth Whalers stepped a three-game losing streak Saturday night with a 3-2 win over the visiting Oswego Generals...

Spirit 3, Whalers 2 The Saginaw Spirit struck the Plymouth Whalers February 5, scoring three unanswered goals...

Attack 4, Whalers 3 The Plymouth Whalers recent slump continued February 7 when the visiting Owen Sound Attack walked away with a 4-3 win...

When you are wrestling in the Kensington Valley Conference, there's always one thing that is going to be certain — whoever walks away with the win did so through hard work and fierce dedication...

A lot of bite

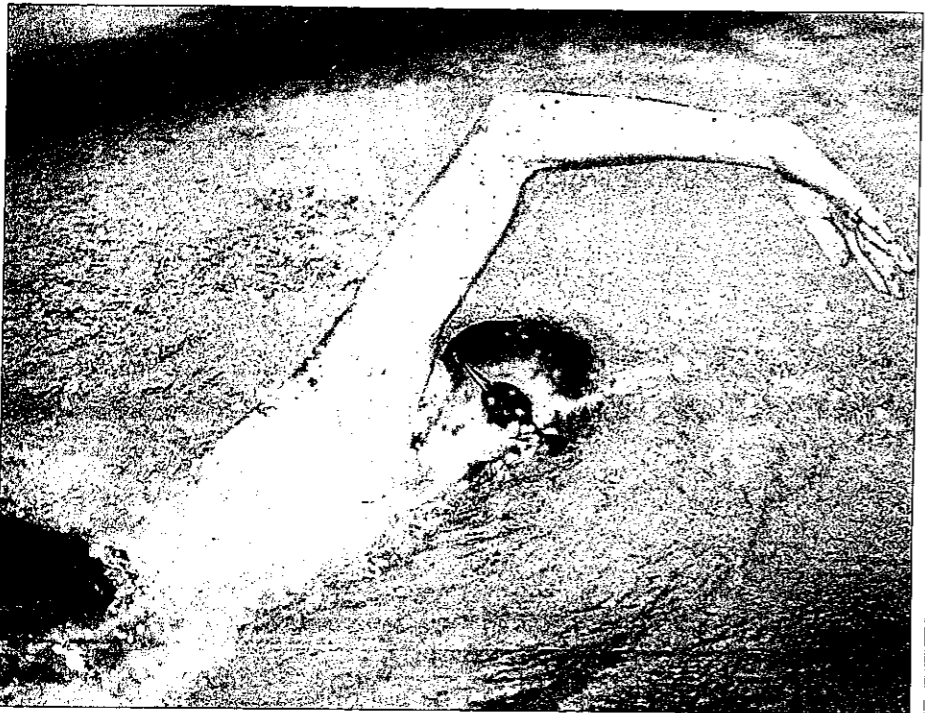
KVC proves to have plenty of spunk as Wildcats take fourth

By Sam Eggleston

THE FEW, THE PROUD

Only four wrestlers in the history of the Kensington Valley Conference have ever won the conference title for all four years of their careers...

Wrestler School Josh Churella Novi Ryan Churella Novi Dan Jilg Novi Kevin Nuerdorf Lakeland



Whildcat Jack Tyler swims at Plymouth Salem in a January 2003 meet.

Dunk Tank

Cats splash Pinckney, Fenton on way to two wins

The Novi Wildcats are well aware that being host to an 8-1 record this season makes them a mark for many of the teams out there — but it doesn't bother them any...

2-14-02 Robertson, who has been swimming stellar this season, was first in the 500 free in 5:04.18 as well as the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:06.41...

Against Fenton, the Wildcats were able to spread out their talent and give their tankers a chance to experience other events. They were successful in 10 of 12 races for ins, and earned a 52-percent PR rate for their efforts...

TALK ABOUT SUCCESS The Novi Wildcats haven't been strangers to success this season as they have earned themselves an 8-1 mark on the 2002-03 season. Through their swimming in their own pool, they have been talented enough to make everyone else's pool their own...

Valentines is about more than fancy gifts

Sometimes, I wonder how my wife does it. I see these ads that call for husbands to hit the stores and purchase a \$400 dollar ring that is marked down to \$150 to show their wife how much she means to them...

I do wish I could do more. I wish I earned the kind of bucks that I could get her a nice ring. I still haven't purchased a wedding ring yet thanks to tight times. I wish I could take her to the best steakhouse in Novi and bring her to the movies, but I can't. Yet, she stays happy and content with what I'm able to give her...

Now, so that will lead to some splashing of water as she throws this toy or that into the water so her mommy can play with it. Dinner will end up being rushed thanks to our daughter deciding she wants to pick up the car or pull down a stack of papers from the computer desk...

It's a day to turn to the one you love and tell them that, I know I will. I love you, Christie. I always will.

ENTERTAINMENT

Don't need 10 reasons Don't miss out on this new chick flick movie

By Victoria Sadlocha

IF there is one thing Andie Anderson knows, it is how to freak a guy out...

Watching Andie do everything in her power to lose Ben and Ben, who guessed it, How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days...

This is where Matthew McConaughey ("The Wedding Planner" and "A Time to Kill") playing Ben comes into the story. While out pursuing with the girls to find a man she can lose in 10 days, Andie meets Ben...



These two look so sweet as a couple — too bad one of them is doing a story on how to lose her guy in 10 days.

then never see again. The twist is, Ben himself is pursuing the same bar for a female he can stick with and make fall in love with in 10 days...

expres is not as easy as planned. The PG-13 rated movie for sex related material is a laugh-out-loud host.

And this is one "chick flick" men will actually enjoy, making it a definite feel-good date movie.

Hudson is stylish and adorable as the magazine writer with loftier dreams and the two together are a pleasure to watch.

We all need a little advice in our lives

In the movie "How to lose a guy in 10 Days," how-to writer Andie Anderson gives advice on topics ranging from fashion to beauty to of course men. And in particular, how to lose a man...



Well, doling out advice seemed like fun in the movie and was definitely carefree, so we here at the Novi News decided to give it a try in our entertainment section.

This is for entertainment purposes only (official disclaimer) and if people participate it should be interesting...

The best part is, as the only female on the staff, I get to be Abby, Andie or whatever you want to call me.

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

SPORTS SHORTS

Novi Youth Baseball Registration

The Novi Youth Baseball League Registration will be held at the Novi Civic Center two days only. Today from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, February 15, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Lacrosse Coaching Positions Open

Northville Lacrosse Program has the following opening: Northville 8th grade boys lacrosse Assistant Coach.

Mid-Winter Baseball/Softball Camp

Total Baseball's Softball/Camp will feature professional instruction from Anton Kieper (Montreal Expos) and Michigan High School Coaches Hal Farnel and Jessie Milosek (Bowling Green University Softball).

Next Level Athletes

Have an idea for a Next Level Athletes feature or for the Next Level Athletes portion of the sports section? If you do, please contact Sam Eggleston at the Novi News sports department via email at seggleson@ht.homecomm.net

Velocity Improvement Pitching Program

Total Baseball will be hosting an intense seven-week training program for baseball pitchers 13 years old and above.

Coaching positions open

Walled Lake School recently announced the following openings: Walled Lake Central Girl's Track Assistant Coach, Walled Lake Western Head Boy's Tennis Coach, Walled Lake Western Head Girl's Tennis Coach.

Softball/Baseball Private Lessons and Training

Total Baseball will help players, ages 6-18, improve their game. Instructors include Oakland University coaching staff, Big 10MAC All-Conference softball/baseball players, the Toledo students manager, former professional players and college/HS coaches.

Baseball/Softball Leagues

Total Baseball's Indoor Hitting Leagues will have four players per team aiming to hit off a batting machine in a prize awarded one-hour game. Awards will be given to the champions and the best hitter. The league runs Feb. 15-March 22.

Boys baseball for high school ages will be Sunlays from 6-9 and girls softball, ages 13-and-under will be Sunday from 9-11 am, with high school ages playing Sunday from 6-9 p.m. The cost is \$45 per individual player or \$150 per team with four players on each team. Call (248) 668-0166 for more information.

Sooner after we had opened our Southfield Diamond Jim Brady's, I received a call from the dean of Culinary Arts at Schoolcraft College asking if I'd be interested in joining the staff on a part-time basis.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I come from a family of teachers

My dad's father, Grandpa Smith, taught high school math. He was adored by his students and named Teacher of the Year many times during his career. Nearly every time we went out to eat, a three-weekly event, a happy ending to the work week.

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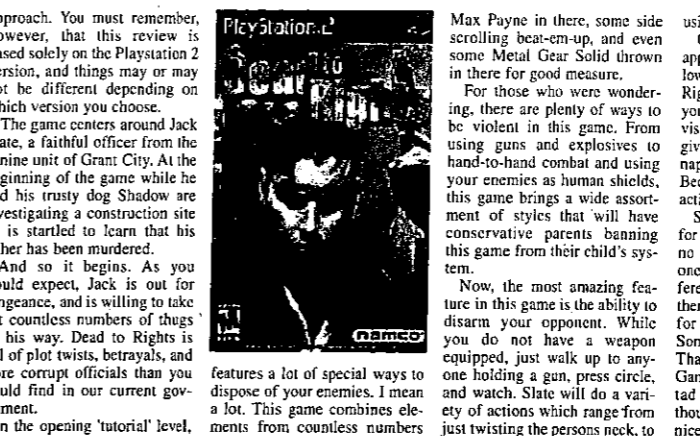
It's your right to pick up your controller and have a blast

By Sam Eggleston

I was beginning to wonder when Namco was going to release another title that didn't have anything to do with button pushing to have competitive dancing on your screen.

Coaching positions open

Walled Lake School recently announced the following openings: Walled Lake Central Girl's Track Assistant Coach, Walled Lake Western Head Boy's Tennis Coach, Walled Lake Western Head Girl's Tennis Coach.



Max Payne in there, some side scrolling beat-em-up, and even some Metal Gear Solid thrown in there for good measure.

Now, the most amazing feature in this game is the ability to disarm your opponent. While you do not have a weapon equipped, just walk up to anyone holding a gun, press circle, and watch Slate will do a variety of actions which range from twisting the persons neck to actually taking the weapon and

Using it. One thing that Namco must be applauded for is the extremely low loading times that Dead to Rights contains. Not often do you find a game that is actually visually pleasing that does not give you enough time to take a nap in between sections.

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Unlike the Xbox version, which is said to be a very hard game, the PS2 version of Dead to Rights features three difficulty modes that you may choose from. Also, the graphics have been slightly enhanced, yet at the same time toned down to make for smoother gameplay.

## It's just like being at the movies

By Sam Eggleston  
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

The truth is, Michael Crichton has a way of making you think you are experiencing a movie rather than reading a book when you thumb through one of his novels.

His knack for making a book that is perfect for the transition onto the silver screen is apparent, with blockbusters like "Jurassic Park" and "The 13th Warrior" (based on the book "Eaters of the Dead") already having made some nice cash on their releases. His newest release in the paper form is "Prey," and it's sure to be hitting a screen near you soon enough.

In some ways, Crichton manages to dance away from the word literature and skirts the edge of screenplay with every thing he writes. I don't mean that in a bad way, in fact I rather like reading the books he produces. But, how can the hero be shown around the top-secret factory, having sprinkler systems and open-eyed lifts pointed out to him, without us understanding it as a guarantee that such systems will prove crucial come the final showdown?

In the end, it's a final showdown that you can't wait to read. Though the book hits over 360 pages, it took me just over three hours to finish, and that was with my daughter tugging at it. This is a function not only of Crichton's utterly frictionless, deliberately unremarkable prose, but of your desire to see How They're Going To Get Out Of This One.

It is a great idea; it will make a great film. Our hero, Jack, was a Silicon Valley computer programmer, working on those awfully clever programs which try to teach computers to fix themselves - the kind of artificial intelligence which operates from very basic principles rather than complex ones. However, he was sacked from his job for discovering corruption high up; and now he is unemployed, so he looks after the three kids while his wife does high-profile PR for a company working in nanotechnology.

She starts coming home late. She's looking different. Better groomed, sleeker. She has a show-



er the moment she comes in rather than in the morning, like she used to. What's going on? An affair, obviously. But then the baby develops a painful rash and no one can figure out what is wrong. Just as suddenly, the rash vanishes. Meanwhile, the eight-year-old's MP3 player stops working; Jack finds the memory chip has been turned to dust. He discovers what looks like a surge suppressor in the kids' bedroom. Only it's not. His wife starts acting really weird.

Despite your scratching your head at this moment and wondering where I am going with all of this, the action that I've outlined above is paced extremely well. Jack comes to realize that he is dealing with something extremely dangerous.

Crichton basing his book on nanotechnology is inspired. Just in case you don't have a clue what nanotechnology is yet, imagine billions of flying molecule-sized particles programmed to work together, team, and evolve at great speed. Crichton has.

It's tough to say that such a group of little robots would bond together to form something straight out of the "Terminator," but the principle is scary enough.

If you're into thrillers that test your mind, but keep you flipping the pages, then — well, then you're probably already a Crichton fan. If you're not, or you haven't had the opportunity to read one of his works, then this is a good place to start or to re-evaluate your judgment on his skills. He's one of the greats, you know, and he's probably got a few more stories left up his sleeve.

### SCREEN BEAT

By Brian Renner  
THE MOVIE INSIDER

Coming to theaters this weekend is the sequel to the 1967 Disney adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's classic novel. "The Jungle Book 2," starts where the original ends. Mowgli (Haley Joel Osment) gets restless in his new village home, and decides to return to the "bare necessities" of jungle life, leaving behind his new girlfriend, Shanti, who's afraid of the dangerous wild animals Mowgli is used to romping around with. As it turns out, she's right to be afraid, as Mowgli's old nemesis, the tiger named Shere Khan (Tony Jay), is out for bloody revenge.... can old friends Baloo

(John Goodman) and crew help Mowgli avoid Khan's lethal claws? "The Jungle Book 2" is a Walt Disney Pictures release and rated G for nothing objectionable.

Based on the popular Marvel Comics character "Daredevil," this is the story of Matt Murdock (Ben Affleck), son of a boxer who gets killed by petty criminals. This drives young Matt to fight crime, despite a childhood accident that robbed him of his sight. That same accident, however, also granted him exceptionally advanced senses of hearing, touch, taste and smell, as well as providing him with a strange sort of mental radar that helps to compensate for his lack of vision. After training hard in the martial arts, as well as excelling in law school, Murdock becomes a lawyer by day and a vigilante call-

ing himself Daredevil by night. The film also stars Jennifer Garner, Michael Clarke Duncan, Colin Farrell, Joe Pantoliano and Jon Favreau. "Daredevil" is a Twentieth Century Fox release and rated PG-13 for action/violence and some sensuality.

#### Video and DVD

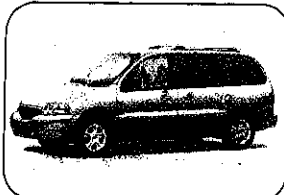
Musical "8 Women" (R), music-soaked romance "Brown Sugar" (PG-13), visually stunning, 10th-century drama "The Fast Runner (Atanarjuat)" (NR), big-name, low-budget interpersonal drama "Full Frontal" (R), immensely popular romantic comedy "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" (PG), romantic drama "Possession" (PG-13), culture-clash comedy "Swept Away" (R),

and cross-cultural crime thriller "Wasabi" (PG-13).

#### DVD

"Angel: Season One" (6-DVD Set) (NR), "As Time Goes By: The Complete Series 5" (NR), "Baby Looney Tunes: Eggs-Traordinary Adventure" (NR), "Benedict Arnold: A Question of Honor" (NR), "Dixie Chicks: An Evening with the Dixie Chicks" (NR).

Check out Brian Renner and his gang at The Movie Insider via their Web site at [www.themovieinsider.com](http://www.themovieinsider.com) for all of your up-to-date movie needs.



2003 Ford Windstar

0% APR Financing for 60 Months  
OR  
\$3000 cash back



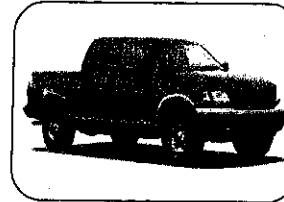
2003 Ford Ranger

0% APR Financing for 60 Months  
OR  
\$3000 cash back



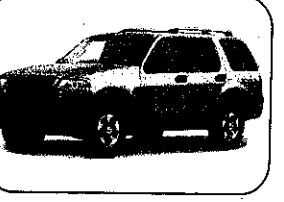
2003 Ford Taurus

0% APR Financing for 60 Months  
OR  
\$3000 cash back



2003 Ford F-150

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OR  
\$2500 cash back



2003 Ford Explorer

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HINES PARK

1-96 at Milford Rd.  
Lyon Twp.  
248-437-6700



OPEN SATURDAYS

### Novi News

NOVI TOWN CENTER 8

#### Oscar Contest!

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

#### Best Picture

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

#### Best Supporting Actor

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

#### Best Actor

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

#### Best Supporting Actress

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

#### Best Actress

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

#### Tie Breaker

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Only one entry per person. Please send to:

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

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