



Look inside for your
GREEN SHEET
Classifieds
Greensheetclassifieds.com

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY

Novi News

Your hometown newspaper serving Novi and the Lakes area for over 48 years



Year and the best
weekly newspaper
in Michigan

Thursday, March 10, 2005

hometownlife.com

50¢

Volume 49 Number 41

Novi, Michigan

© 2005 HomeTown Communications Network™

INSIDE



Feature Teacher

Novi Meadows teacher Mandy Corvult, left, casts a wary eye at Nikhita Sarapeneni as the student argues for credit on a quiz answer.

— Page 13A

The Name Game

They've changed their name from "Mesquite Grill" to "Steak on Main," but owner Glacier Liao will still be offering delicious food at the Main Street Novi location.

— Page 12A

OBITUARY

Walter D. Toupin, 82

— Page 18A

SPORTS

Wild Card

For a half a day, the Novi-Northville Wild Stangs gymnastics team thought the season was over. Then, like many teams in the post-season, they were given a second chance.

— Page 1B

INDEX

Business	11A
Calendar	5B
Classifieds	1D
Community	7A
Education	13A
Faith	10A
Health	19A
Lifestyles	18A
Opinion	16A
Public Safety	4A
Regional Marketplace	6B
Seniors	20A
Sports	1B

CONTACT US

Novi News
104 W. Main
Northville, MI 48167

- Classifieds: 888-999-1288
- Newsroom: 248-349-1700
- Fax: 248-349-9832
- Home Delivery: 888-840-4809



6 53174 22222 0

Novi/I-96 off-ramp next up

■ Time frames debated, but work to be done by Aug. 10

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

The intersection may be completed at Novi Road and Grand River Avenue, but Novi has more road construction plans that will snarl traffic in the near future.

Transportation will close the westbound I-96 off-ramp at Novi Road for about 25 days this summer for a \$1 million widening and reconstruction project.

The project includes an additional exit lane to Novi Road and concrete repair to the existing pavement.

Will Mathies, safety engineer for the MDOT Metro Region, said that the contractor selected for the project will have quite an incentive to get the job done quickly.

"We're planning on full closure of the ramp, but in doing so, we decided to give an incentive to the

end collisions on this exit ramp. We have a safety program where we look at areas of high crashes, and this was one of the areas that we identified," Mathies said.

Mathies said MDOT staff will meet with local businesses to inform them of the project.

"Right now, we are saying the entire project will be completed by Aug. 10, 2005," he said.

Currently, MDOT is looking at two different time frames as far as the I-96 off-ramp to Novi Road:

- Construction will start after

• Construction will start after

continued on page 3

Code of conduct still under scrutiny

■ Principal and athletic director defend actions

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Secret committees, poor communication, internal investigations and retribution against students whose parents speak up about it.

These are the concerns that parent Roger Jaussi addressed to the Novi Community School District Board of Education last Thursday night.

Most of Jaussi's presentation stemmed from two recent public meetings held by Curt Ellis, athletics director, on proposed updates to the high school athletic code of conduct.

"My purpose here is not to stir up controversy, but let's get on record, in writing, a policy that everybody can live with," said Jaussi.

continued on page 2



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi High School students rehearse for their upcoming production of "Oklahoma!" last Friday afternoon.

Oh, what a beautiful high school musical

■ Novi students give their version of classic Oklahoma! next week

By Kim Kovelie
STAFF WRITER

The wind will come sweepin' down the stage next week as Novi High School students kick up their heels to present the musical Oklahoma!

Despite campus construction and an early Easter, the school's creative arts collaborative

lassoed efforts to round up a big-cast version of the Rodgers & Hammerstein classic.

"I think we have been progressing fabulously," director Kristen Pateo said. "These kids are so wonderful to work with. They take direction well."

"It is a big cast, especially compared to the last three years. There was a lot of talent."

At the school for the first time since 1989, this Oklahoma! includes 46 performers, 17 crew members and 28 in the orchestra pit.

The production, starting at 7 p.m. March 17-19, has offered students new roles, responsibility and a bit of bittersweet.

continued on page 2

OKLAHOMA!

- What: Novi High School Creative Arts Collaborative presents Oklahoma!, the classic Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein musical about cowboys, ranchers, comedy, love and territory land in early 20th century America
- When: 7 p.m., March 17-19
- Tickets: Went on sale March 1. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for seniors and children under 12 years old
- Call: (248) 449-1500

Novi Chamber gambles on new fund-raiser

■ Poker lovers invited to Novi Hold 'Em event

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Do ya feel lucky? If so, come to the Novi Chamber of Commerce's upcoming fund-raiser — Novi Hold

'Em Casino Night — from 6-10 p.m. May 14 at Lucky's in Fountain Walk Shopping Center.

The idea for the event was born during the Novi Chamber's "Program of Work" for Board of Directors in November. The entire board goes on a two-day retreat when members plan events for the following year.

Members get together to brainstorm about what the chamber should be doing and set goals for the following year.

"...we thought it was time to look for new event."

Nora Champion
Novi Chamber of Commerce president

This idea hit the agenda because the organization's charity auction was 12 years old.

"After a dozen years of the annual charity auction, we thought it was time to look for

continued on page 5

Novi Parks Foundation established to "bridge the gap"

■ Donors can leave a legacy

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

If you're looking for a tax deduction for next year, there's a new charity in town — the Novi Parks Foundation.

Population growth has placed more demands on limited resources and has increased expectations for services in cities.

This growth, along with reduc-

tions in the park millage rate and state shared revenue, means Novi's Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department can't meet residents' expectations.

The gap between the services the public expects and available funds is widening, according to Charley Staab,

a member of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission, president

and chairman of the board of the new foundation.

The Novi Parks Foundation has been created as a nonprofit organization to "bridge the gap."

Staab, a member of the commission since 1994, has worked with the Michigan Jaycees and other nonprofit organizations.

"I've seen what foundations can do in communities across the state and in other states as well," he said.

"With all of the pressures municipalities have felt with budget cuts, this allows us to bring to the table another conduit to accumulate assets and resources and offer supe-

rior services within our parks."

"The goal is for present and future generations to be able to create memories for a lifetime through the use and enjoyment of Novi parks."

The mission of the foundation is to maximize non-tax financial support for the department by developing and promoting a program for private donations and public grants.

Randy Auler, director, Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry, said the foundation provides an opportunity for every citizen to offer support.

continued on page 2

COME TO THE RECEPTION

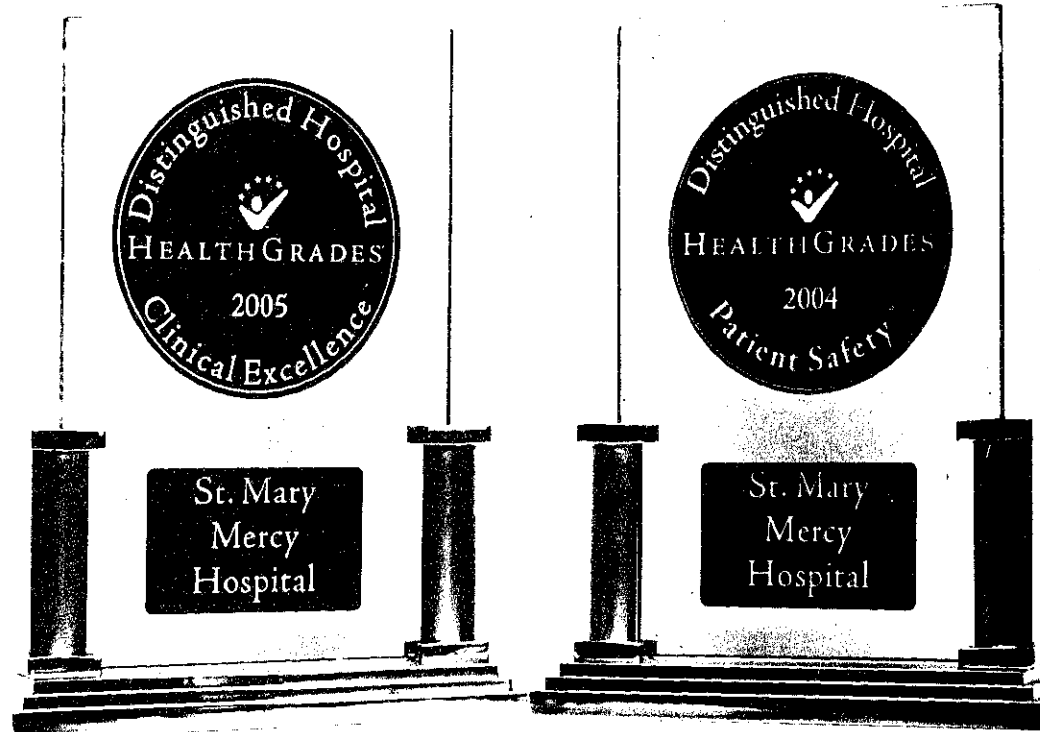
A reception announcing the new nonprofit group will take place from 7-8 p.m. on Friday, March 18, in the Novi Civic Center Atrium, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. The event is open to the public; light refreshments will be served.

continued on page 3

Don't let the cold win in the Green Sheet Classifieds

One Great Hospital. Two National Awards.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital



St. Mary Mercy Hospital is the proud recipient of the 2005 HealthGrades Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence™, ranking St. Mary Mercy among the top 5% of hospitals in the U.S. for overall clinical quality.

St. Mary Mercy is also the recipient of the HealthGrades Distinguished Hospital Award for Patient Safety™, ranking the hospital among the top 2% of hospitals nationwide for patient safety.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital is one of only 30 hospitals nationwide to receive both of these prestigious awards in the same year. One Great Hospital. Two National Awards.

For quality and convenience, ask your doctor about St. Mary Mercy Hospital's HealthGrades national ratings or call 1-888-464-WELL for more information.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia.
Great Doctors and Nurses..... in your Own Backyard.

www.stmarymercy.org



HealthGrades is a nationally recognized independent healthcare quality company.

COMMUNITY

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

Somethin' for the ladies this weekend

Solheim Cup brings Golf Show focus on women

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

There will be a little somethin' for the ladies at this year's Michigan Golf Show in Novi, set for March 11-13 at the Novi Expo Center on Novi Road at I-96.

"One thing we're focusing on this year is ladies golf. We're working with the Hamilton County (Indiana) Convention & Visitors Bureau, because they'll be hosting the Solheim Cup, the female equivalent of the Ryder Cup, this year," said Laurie McCann, event director, Novi Expo Center.

The 2005 Solheim Cup will take place at Cooks Creek Golf Club in Indianapolis.

"With that in mind, we're going to be doing some ladies clinics that we haven't done in past years."

The show will also feature Gene Bolden of Canton, owner of Golf Trends by Gene, with his booth featuring golf memorabilia and collectibles. Bolden, a la the popular PBS television program "Antiques Road Show," invites members the public to bring in golf-related items, including clubs, for free appraisals.

"He's calling it, 'What's Old Is New,'" she said. "He's a real interesting man. His theory is

"Everybody has something, and they don't know what it's worth," McCann said.

The Novi Golf Show is the largest consumer golf show in the country, covering 200,000 square feet and showcasing 450 exhibitors. More than 30,000 people attended the show in 2003.

The show draws golfers from Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Canada.

The interactive golf show offers a variety of activities as well as the usual cornucopia of retailers, representatives from golf resorts and more. Other show events include:

- Fitting Nuts & New Product Demonstration sponsored by Boyne Country Sports
- \$25,000 Chipping Challenge sponsored by Michelob Ultra (See rules in box.)
- Sand Trap Blast sponsored by Ford Senior Players
- \$10,000 Long Put Contest sponsored by Shanty Creek (See rules in box.)
- Long Drive Contest sponsored by Motor City Golf
- PGA Professional Instruction sponsored by Crystal Mountain
- Golf Clinics sponsored by Image Business Solutions

Cost to attend the show is \$8 for adults, with children under age 12 admitted free. For a \$1 off coupon and more information, visit www.michiganogfshow.com.

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

MICHIGAN GOLF SHOW DETAILS

Hours for the show are:

Friday: 4 p.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Sunday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday is Ladies Day

Treasure Chest Program: Pick up entry at the doors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, March 12. Visit special Treasure Chest exhibitors to have entry validated. Look for the pink balloons. Submit entries at the Ladies Clinic for hourly door prizes.

Ladies Clinics

Sponsored by Image Business Solutions
Saturday, March 12:
11 a.m. — Ladies Professional Instruction, Kirk Sherman, PGA
1 p.m. — Solheim Cup Overview, Karen Radcliffe, Hamilton County (Indiana) Convention & Visitors Bureau
1:30 p.m. — Tour Basics, Elaine Crosby, LPGA
2 p.m. — What's New in Ladies Apparel, Rebecca Kaplar, Parfection
3 p.m. — Techniques for the Lady Golfer, Ina Davis, LPGA, Crystal Mountain
4 p.m. — Improving Your Short Game, Kirk Sherman, PGA

LPGA Tour veteran to appear

A 20-year veteran of the LPGA Tour, two-time champion Elaine Crosby will give a golf clinic for women at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, March 12. Currently playing on the Women's Senior Tour, Crosby won the 2004 Hy-Vee classic in Des Moines, Iowa.

\$25,000 Chipping Challenge

Sponsored by Michelob Ultra. Chipping Entry Fee: 3 balls for \$5; 8 balls for \$10. Three Closest to the Pin and all Hole-in-Ones from Friday, Saturday and Sunday are eligible for playoffs.

\$10,000 Hole-in-One Putting Contest

Sponsored by Shanty Creek Resort. Putt Entry Fee: 3 balls for \$5; 8 balls for \$10; 20 balls for \$20; share with your friend! All those who sink a 20-foot putt are entered into the playoff.

Playoff times: Saturday, 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, 3:30 p.m.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Hop to it

Dakota Brown, 9, left, dances with Amber Staudt, also 9, during last Friday night's Michigan 50's Fest fund-raiser sock hop at the Novi Expo Center.

Board of Review dates change

The second session of the Board of Review will meet to hear and consider assessment appeals in Novi City Council Chambers at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road on March 14, 15 and 16.

All appearances before the Board will be by appointment only.

If you or your representative want to appear in person, the appointment must be made on or before 5 p.m., Friday, March 11. Appearances before the Board of Review are limited to five minutes, or less. Petitions are available at the Assessor's Office or online at www.ci.novi.mi.us.

No appointments will be given until a petition is received by the assessing department.

Letters of protest will be accepted on or before 5 p.m., Wednesday, March 16. Postmarks will not be considered. When submitting a letter of protest for the Board of Review consideration, you must attach a completed petition (available at the Assessing Department), along with any supporting information.

All agents protesting values on property, other than their own, must have written authorization from each property owner they are representing.

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

Board of Review Schedule

Monday, March 14 - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, March 15 - 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, March 16 - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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

THINKING ABOUT A NEW FURNACE? LENNOX

FREE ESTIMATES (734) 525-1930 Our 30th Year!

UNITED TEMPERATURE 8919 MIDDLEBELT • LIVONIA

This April 15th, think ahead.

With an Edward Jones Roth IRA, earnings on your contributions grow tax-free, and distributions can be taken free of penalties or taxes! You may even benefit from converting a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA.

To learn how an Edward Jones Roth IRA could make sense for you, call me today.

*Distributions of earnings from a Roth IRA could be subject to taxes and a 10 percent penalty if the account is less than 5 years old and the owner is under age 59 1/2.

Mark Whitefield
NOVI TOWN CENTER
45240 11 Mile Rd.
NOVI, MI 48375
BUS. 248-349-4434

www.edwardjones.com
Member SIPC



NOVI NORTHVILLE MONTESSORI

Enrolling For Fall 2005
OPEN HOUSE
Sun. March 13th, 2-4pm

Montessori Curriculum
Music • Art • French
Excellence in Education since 1984
248-348-3033
23835 Novi Rd. • Novi, MI 48375
Just South of 10 Mile

Please call to schedule appt. if you wish to see the school at any other time.

We offer the best prices and protection for you.

As an independent agency, we can tailor the best insurance protection at competitive prices. We represent only the finest insurance companies, including Auto-Owners Insurance Company, which has truly earned the reputation as the "No problem" People. Ask us about the many other advantages of doing business with an independent insurance agency.

Auto-Owners Insurance
The Nation's Best

Maynes Insurance Services, LTD.

2450 Old Novi Rd. • Novi, MI 48377
248-668-5800 • Fax: 248-668-5803

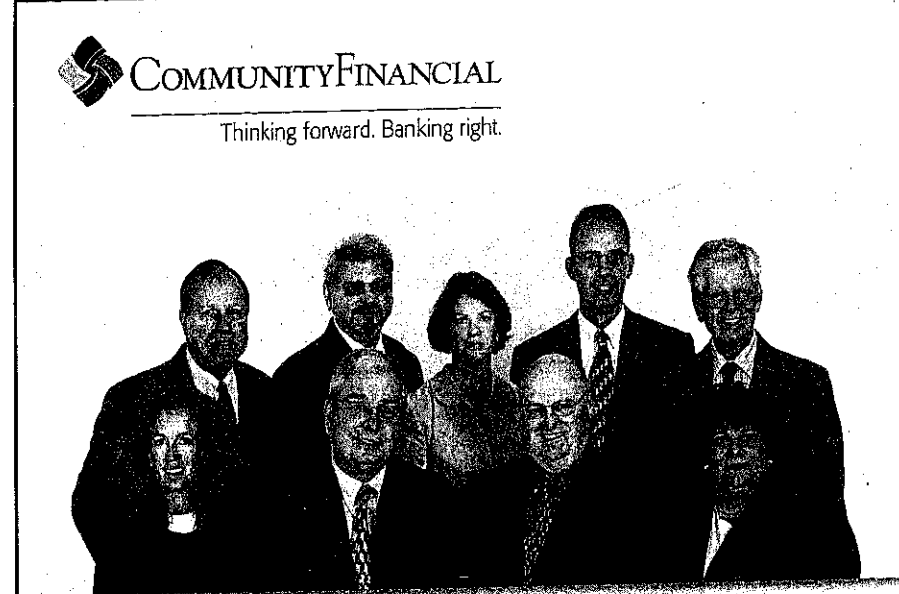
BOOK NOW!
\$118
FOR 2 NIGHTS OF ROOM & LIFF TICKETS!

SEARCHMOUNT RESORT

A Mountain Of A Deal

We're wide open - 18 amazing runs, the best terrain in the Midwest & no line-ups. It beats Michigan skiing by a long shot! Only 90 minutes north of the Mackinac Bridge.

www.searchmount.com 1.800.663.2543



COMMUNITY FINANCIAL THANKS OUR 2004 BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING DEDICATION AND SUPPORT.

- Front Row, Left to Right: Michele Kelly, Attorney, Kelly & Kelly PC; Ronald Carlson, Mathematics and Computer Science Teacher, Canton High School; Albert Berrie, Program Manager, Ford Motor Company; Teresa A. Folino, Claims Technical Consultant, AAA Auto Club Group
- Back Row, Left to Right: Sam Messina, Realtor, Keller Williams Plymouth Market Center; Hank Salla, Certified Public Accountant; Denise Varner, Volunteer Coordinator, Our Lady of Good Counsel Church; Daniel Herriman, CEO, Herriman & Associates, Inc.; Philip Curtiss, Retired Information Technology Manager

(734) 453-1200 (877) 937-2328 toll free www.cfcu.org

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Arche license granted

Jeffery and Theresa Wainwright of Secure Development Properties... The license is needed for the game room at the park currently under development on the south side of Grand River Avenue west of Taft Road.

ure facility for dogs. This type of use is not considered in the current city ordinance...

Given the high standard of review for a use variance, it was determined that another form of review would be appropriate for such unique uses.

Rezoning request nixed

Council members denied consideration of a zoning map amendment Monday night that would have rezoned property at the southwest corner of Fen Mile and Beck road from R-1 (Single-Family Residential) to OS-1 (Office Service). The property is about four acres.

Shawood Lake polluted?

Jim Korte, a Novi resident who lives near Shawood Lake, addressed city council at Monday night's meeting regarding pollution in the lake. "I strongly suggest that you get the environment correct before you put up a fancy fence," he said, in reference to city council's recent consideration of a new fence at the entrance to Lakeshore Park.

Zoning amendment reviewed

City council members discussed the first draft of a zoning ordinance text amendment Monday night that would allow the planning commission to determine in which, if any, zoning district a unique or unclassified land use belongs.

Water will not run uphill

Mayer Lou Corderas directed city administration during the meeting to address residents concerns on the two matters.

3 vacancies left on boards, commissions

Residents: Rewards of involvement abound

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

Cynthia Gronachan, a 23-year resident of Novi, has been a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for four years. She just got reappointed along with Dr. Mav Sanghvi.



"The biggest reward is helping other residents."

Cindy Gronachan Chair, Zoning Board of Appeals

that you have an opportunity to help make the community what you want it to be. Local government is where an individual can have the most impact," she said.

This question comes at a time when there are three openings -- on the Novi Historical Commission, the Novi Planning Commission, and an alternate position on the ZBA.

Water will not run uphill. Stupinski said. Mayor Lou Corderas directed city administration during the meeting to address residents concerns on the two matters.

RECENT APPOINTMENTS

The Novi City Council approved the following board and commission appointments at the Feb. 28 meeting:

- Economic Development Corporation - Sandra Camplone re-appointed. Library Board - Robert Cutler re-appointed, Laura Casey appointed. Planning Commission - no appointment. Beautification Commission - Celia Todd. Board of Review - Marjorie Nanian - re-appointed. Construction Board of Appeals - John Sheffer re-appointed. Election Commission - Pam Superfisky re-appointed. Housing & Community Development - Dan Tyrrell re-appointed. Historical Commission - no appointment. Parks, Recreation & Forestry - Karen Zyczynski appointed. Public Access Promotion Committee - Mark Adler appointed. Zoning Board of Appeals - Cynthia Gronachan, Mav Sanghvi re-appointed.

DIABETICS ON MEDICARE: CALL FOR YOUR FREE METER! GET WHAT YOU WANT! CALL TOLL FREE 800-337-4144

OPEN SUNDAYS 8:00-3:00 Allow me to consult with you on your new or pre-owned vehicle purchase. -TIMOTHY A. BOWMAN

Proud to be a part of this great community O'BRIEN * SULLIVAN FUNERALS, CREMATIONS, PREARRANGEMENTS

Wedding Planner Wedding Planter Request Form Stop by your local office and pick up a copy or mail this coupon to: HomeTown Newspapers, c/o Candy Spiegel

Council asks city to draft policy on youth involvement

Students would write essay as part of application

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

Young people in Novi can look forward to learning more about city government in the near future.

City council members, in a 6-1 vote Monday night, directed the administration to prepare a resolution on a policy allowing high school students to serve on selected city boards and commissions.

interview candidates rather than city council. Member Laura Lorenzo felt the candidates should be interviewed by city council.

"I don't always see things as a teenager anymore, although I try. It would give us a different perspective that I think we should embrace."

Lynne Paul Novi City Council

Member Bob Gatt was not in favor of youths being on boards and commissions because he feels young people are already inundated with extracurricular activities.

Board and commissions council suggested youths could serve on include: the Library Board; Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission; Beautification Commission; Historical Commission; and Housing and Community Development Commission.

Although he voted against having youths on boards and commissions, Gatt did support this idea.

"I think there is interest, and I like the idea," said Member Tom Nagy. "I think it will provide teenagers a great opportunity."

Paul Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homcom.net.

New Location Mon-Fri 9-9 Sat 9-5 NOVI 47220 W. 10 Mile Rd. (Beck & 10 Mile, Briar Pointe Plaza) 248-344-1114 Fantastic Sams WHERE FASHION SENSE MEETS COMMON SENSE

SWOCC UPDATE - "CABLE RATES"

Cable subscribers, you've probably noticed that there have been rate adjustments in your cable bill recently. The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) has reported that while rates have increased, they've increased at a slower pace than in recent years.

Table with columns: Service, 2004, 2005, Difference. Rows include Basic, Standard, Digital Silver, Digital Gold, Digital Platinum.

Table with columns: Service, 2004, 2005, Difference. Rows include Basic, Standard, Digital Silver, Digital Gold, Digital Platinum.

The report also shows the most cable subscribers are now offered advanced services. As of January 1, 2004, 97 percent of all cable subscribers were served by systems that offered digital video services, and 95 percent of all cable subscribers were offered internet access and 28-percent were offered telephone services by their cable operator.

Bright House Networks' multi-million dollar investment in a fiber-rich network, allows them to offer cutting-edge products and services.

As a result of ever-increasing programming fees, especially in sports and movie programming, and other operating costs, Bright House implemented some rate adjustments this year.

Showtime, Cinemax, and The Movie Channel) for \$5.95 a month, will now be included in the Platinum Package so Platinum customers who subscribe to Premium-On-Demand, will actually see a \$0.45 decrease in their monthly bill!

For more on Bright House Networks prices list and offerings click on www.brighthouse.com. If you would like a full copy of the 2004 FCC annual report on cable industry prices, go to www.fcc.gov/mib.

If you have questions or comments regarding cable and don't receive a satisfactory response from Bright House Networks, call SWOCC Studios, (248)-473-2800.

SWOCC is a consortium of the cities of Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi, which oversees the contract with the Cable Company pertaining to regulatory matters. SWOCC also promotes the community TV channels for public, educational and government access.

Melissa Cahn is the Community Relations Coordinator for the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission. The next SWOCC meeting is 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 27 at Novi City Hall.

Urgent news for people who took VIOXX BEXTRA, or CELEBREX. Many VIOXX, BEXTRA, and CELEBREX users have been at increased risk for serious cardiovascular injuries.

Drake's Custom Painting Interior Painting Exterior Painting Power Washing Deck Care (248) 921-9669

SPOTLIGHT ON: ORTHODONTIC NEWS by Donald M. Wayne, D.D.S., M.S. Orthodontic Specialist CHILDREN AND TMJ

Orthodontic treatment may help. Orthodontics is the branch of dentistry that specializes in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of dental and facial irregularities.

CHURCH DIRECTORY ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN MISSOURI SYNOD, BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA, FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE, OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH, CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL (Anglican), GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH, FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, HARVEST FELLOWSHIP, ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN MISSOURI SYNOD

CHURCH DIRECTORY For information regarding rates call The Northville Record or Novi News (248) 349-1700

Proud to be a part of this great community O'BRIEN * SULLIVAN FUNERALS, CREMATIONS, PREARRANGEMENTS 41555 Grand River Avenue, Novi, Michigan 48375-1822

EASTER COLORING CONTEST

Novi News Coloring Contest Open to all readers up to age 12 Family members of HomeTown employees not eligible All entries must be received by Saturday March 19th

PIZZA MARVELOUS SUBS • SALADS • CHICKEN • RIBS 43340 W. 10 Mile Rd., Novi Inside the Food & Wine Bazaar 248-348-1000

FAITH

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

Crosspointe Meadows Church of Novi presents an Alpha Course, "Exploring the Christian Faith," on Sundays at 6 p.m. There are over 28,600 Alpha courses running all over the world. Check out the Alpha Course Web site at www.alpha.com. Program includes workbook and light supper. There is no fee.
 Alpha courses are located at 8630 Grand River Ave., Ste. 101 (West of Haggerty). Phone: (484) 437-2700. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Faith Community Presbyterian Church invites you to worship at 9 and 10:30 a.m. services. Communion will be served at both services. Adult Sunday School is offered at the 9 a.m. service.
 Faith Community Presbyterian Church houses the Novi Emergency Food Bank, which accepts all canned goods and non-perishable items as donations. The food bank is available to qualified persons in Novi, Walled Lake and New Hudson. All are welcome at worship and any of the Adult Education classes.
 "The church also invites you to an Adult Education Lenten series of classes, 'The Gospel of Mark' held on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. and again at 7 p.m. This class will be led by Dr. Richard Henderson. The Men's Group will be meeting at Lucky

pediatric nurse.)
 Adult Bible Study is on Sunday at 9 a.m. Worship Center for children ages 3-7, and Sunday School is at 10 a.m. The Rev. Karen Henry is pastor and priest in charge. The Rev. John W. Henry II is assistant priest.
 • **First United Methodist Church of Northville** presents a community-wide healing service with prayers for healing of body, mind, relationship and spirit on the first Monday of each month at 4 p.m. The service is open to the Northville/Novi community and persons of all faiths who desire to ask God for healing in their life or that of someone they hold dear. It is a service of hope.
 Scripture Sunday: A Lenten Walk Through John's Gospel. Maria Konias will offer a study of John's Gospel on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and a repeat on Thursday morning at 9:45 a.m. during Lent.
 • **Lazarus - Today**
 • **Passion in John - Tuesday** and **Thursday, March 15 and 17**
 The Church of the Holy Family is located at 24505 Meadowbrook Road, between Grand River and 10 Mile.
 For more information, please contact the Holy Family Church at (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org

at (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org

• **St. John Lutheran Church** is located at 23225 Gill Rd. in Farmington Hills. Call (248) 988-0604 or (248) 474-8521 for more information.

• **The Novi United Methodist Church** is hosting some special events:
 A Festival of Diversity on Sunday, March 13 from 4-6 p.m. We welcome all to celebrate the diversity of our church, as well as our world. With a sale of arts and crafts from Ten Thousand Villages and a dinner complete with cultural and diverse entertainment.
 The church is located at 41671 W. Ten Mile Road. Sunday worship is at 9:45 a.m. with Reverend Jacqueline E. Holskworth. Call (248) 349-2652 for more information.

• **St. James Catholic Church** is located at 46325 Ten Mile Rd., Novi. Call (248) 347-7778.

• **Worship Service of Compassion** is held at 8:30 p.m. Rite 13 (ages 11-14) and Rite 2 (ages 14 and up) groups meet at 5 p.m., for their program and dinner. 7 p.m. Youth Worship Service is held the second and fourth Sunday of every month; all are welcome.

• **Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross** has moved to 40700 W. Ten Mile (between Meadowbrook and Haggerty roads) at 10 a.m. The church is located at 41400 W. Ten Mile Rd. in Novi. For more information, call (248) 349-2345.

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

dar year. All masses begin at 6:30 p.m. in the church: April 30; May 28; June 25; July 30; Aug. 27; Sept. 24; Oct. 29; Nov. 26. Lenten Opportunities: Join with others to pray every Tuesday evening we have a 7 p.m. mass and during Lent there will be adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 10 p.m. All are welcome to come and pray at any time.
 Scripture Sunday: A Lenten Walk Through John's Gospel. Maria Konias will offer a study of John's Gospel on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and a repeat on Thursday morning at 9:45 a.m. during Lent.
 • **Lazarus - Today**
 • **Passion in John - Tuesday** and **Thursday, March 15 and 17**
 The Church of the Holy Family is located at 24505 Meadowbrook Road, between Grand River and 10 Mile.
 For more information, please contact the Holy Family Church at (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org

TURNSTONE GRANITE, INC.

You Can Afford the Luxury of Granite!

CUSTOM FABRICATED KITCHEN & BATHROOM COUNTERTOPS, FIREPLACE SURROUNDINGS, NATURAL STONE PRODUCTS (GRANITE, MARBLE, LIMESTONE)

15% OFF STONE & FABRICATION
 NEW ORDERS ONLY • MINIMUM \$1,200.00 ORDER • No Other Discounts Apply
 • Must present coupon at time of purchase • Valid until 3/24/05

24580 N. INDUSTRIAL DR. • FARMINGTON HILLS, MI • 248-478-7722

Choice and Independence

Botsford Commons Community

Check out all the options!

- Condominium Living
- Independent Apartments
- Assisted Living Center
- Skilled Nursing Facility

Ask about our MOVE IN SPECIAL \$500 off your first month's rent!
Offer expires March 31, 2005

Call Laura for more details (248) 426-6903
 21450 Archwood Circle • Farmington Hills, MI 48335-4702 • www.botsfordsystem.org
 An Exceptional Living Experience for Older Adults

Nearly everyone reads the Novi News

Don't be the last to find out what's going on.

Call 1-888-840-4809 to become a subscriber.

Novi News

Happy Valentine's Day
 More homes, park land

Are you an organ & tissue donor?

Ask your family today, and let them know your decision, too. That way you'll know, they'll know, and there will be no question later. For a free brochure, call 1-800-355-SHARE.

Share your life. share your decision.
 Michigan Coalition on donation

ORGANIC & NATURAL FOOD MARKET GRAND OPENING!

BetterHealth MARKET

- Fresh Produce
- Bulk Foods
- Fresh Seafood
- Fresh Meat
- Wine & Cheese
- Natural Grocery
- Frozen Entrees
- Floral
- Organic Dairy
- Vegetarian Foods
- Bath & Beauty
- Nutrition

OPEN IN NOVI!

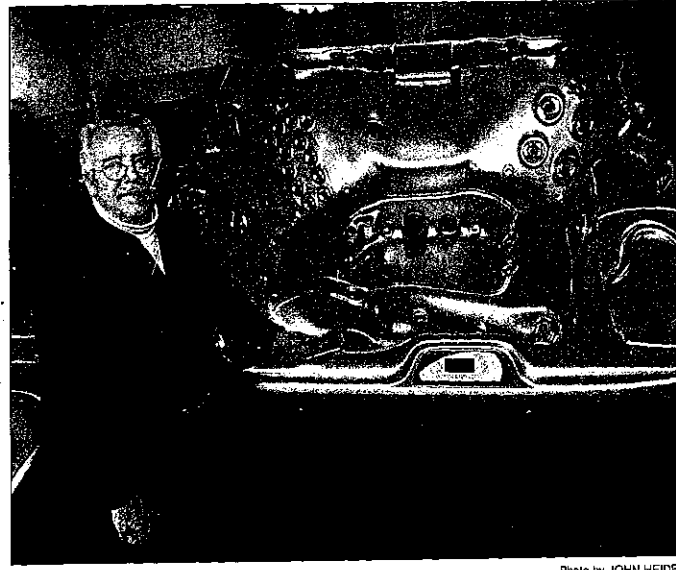
Natures Kitchen

An ever-changing variety of quick entrées, side dishes, soups, salads, rotisserie grilled items and sandwiches—all prepared without artificial sweeteners, colors, flavors, or synthetic preservatives. We use expeller pressed oils, grass-fed meats, ocean caught seafood and 100% organic produce and organic spices when available. Ingredients are clearly labeled, so you can make sure that our good food is good for you.

Grand River & Market St in the Main Street District

BUSINESS

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



Jim McDonald, owner of Novi's Portable Spas, stands next to the \$9,000 Sundance Cameo model. McDonald will soon be attending Novi's Small Business Administration Expo.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

DEM has new computer client

OEM Micro Solutions, Inc. of Novi announced last week that Michigan's Saginaw County has become its newest client for Mobile Tactical Computers.

The rugged public safety computers will be installed in 177 vehicles and used by 16 law enforcement agencies, the company said. The 12- and 15-inch LCD screens will provide access to state and local databases for dispatch, records and photo-grips, and allow mapping and field reporting. Costs will cover mounts, installation, service and training.

Other new clients included St. Clair County's Marysville Police Department, Washtenaw County's Huron Township Police Department, and police and fire in Fort Wayne, Ind. New business totaled just over \$1.5 million, the company reported.

OEM is located at 41326 Vincent Court.

Tower gets debtor financing

After recently declaring Chapter 11 Bankruptcy, Novi's Tower Automotive, Inc., announced it has received approval for \$725 million in debtor-in-possession financing.

Approved Feb. 28, the full amount of financing was approved by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. JPMorgan will provide the financing.

Tower previously received approval to immediately access \$125 million of the financing Feb. 3.

"We are pleased to have received the court's approval of this financing, which will enable Tower to continue operating normally as we work to restructure our finances," president and CEO Kathleen Ligocki said.

The company said Tower is located at 27175 Haggerty Road.

Taubman in the news

Taubman Centers, Inc., the real estate investment trust that

manages Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall, recently presented and announced stock dividends.

On March 7, the Bloomfield Hills-based company gave a general company overview and question-and-answer session at Smith Barney's 2005 REIT Conference in Naples, Fla. A replay is available for 30 days at (402) 220-0737.

The company also declared a regular quarterly dividend of \$0.285 per share of common stock, payable April 20 to shareholders as of March 31. Series A Cumulative Preferred Shares were \$0.51875 per share, while Series G was \$0.50 per share. Those are payable March 31 to shareholders as of March 21.

Wixom's Veri-Tek International Corp. announced last week that the underwriter for its initial public stock offering purchased 375,000 over-allot shares.

The company sold the extra shares to the underwriter at \$6 per share, the initial offering price. The transaction with Virginia-based Anderson & Strudwick closed March 2.

Including the over-allotment sale, Veri-Tek earned about \$15.4 million in its stock sales. Approximately \$7 million will be used to repay senior debt and general corporate purchases, the company said.

Located at 50120 Pentac Trail, Veri-Tek designs, develops and builds specialty equipment for the automotive and heavy equipment industry. For final prospectus stock results, call (800) 767-2424.

Medved coming to Borders

Nationally syndicated radio talk show personality Michael Medved tonight will appear at Novi's Borders Books at Novi Town Center.

Medved will appear from 7-9 p.m. to promote his book "Right

Small business financing 101

City of Novi to host advice at March 16 exposition

By Kim Kovelle
 STAFF WRITER

For 21 years, Jim McDonald and wife Lill have run their family business, Portable Spas Plus, in Novi.

"I started without the two nickels to work together," Jim McDonald said. "We did not pay ourselves for five, eight, 10 years. We had a strong faith and commitment in what we were doing.

"We had and still have aspirations of growth."

Focused on companies like Portable Spas, the city of Novi next Wednesday will host its first Small Business Administration Expo.

Offering finance advice to upstarts and veterans alike, the exposition is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center.

"Companies can question and get tips from four groups: the U.S. Small Business Administration, SCORE Services, Small Business and Technology Development Center Services and new Walsh Family Business Center.

"This is first of anything of the sort," said Clay Pearson, assistant city manager. "Businesses from all over the area are welcome. People can talk to these experts that are there afterwards or set up individual times for consultations."

The idea is to go and visit firms that are in Novi, in this case that are already here, and see what kind of issues they're dealing with," Pearson said.

The focus has been industrial and research firms, but issues — from finding financing to cutting costs — apply to any small business.

Among presenters is Lynda Earhart, senior business consultant at the Oakland County Development Corporation.

"Everyone is trying their best to be efficient, to deliver the highest quality product or service," she said.

One method she promotes, not yet available in Novi, is the Business Assistance Team, an outreach program launched by National City Bank in Royal Oak four years ago.

It brings county, chambers of commerce and loan institutions together to find resources.

"The advantage the small business has is they can pay very close attention to what their market is telling them. They can compete because of their agility," added Earhart.

When it comes to securing loans or expanding credit, enter the federal government.

The U.S. Small Business Administration's Assistant Director Al Cook said the programs "guarantee offers a credible push for hesitant banks."

"It helps reduce risk for the lenders," Cook said. "It can cover the whole gamut of any worthwhile business purpose."

Funds furnish needs from inventory to establishing credit, Cook said. The maximum typically is \$2 million.

From October 2003-September 2004, the administration guaranteed \$63.7 million in loans to Oakland County. Only 10 Novi companies took advantage.

"We still seem to be one of the best kept secrets out there," Cook said. Free counseling services also are available for upstarts.

For business families like the McDonalds, Walsh Community College's family business center, launched in January, offers help.

"The program is really now basically focused on providing educational resources for family businesses," spokeswoman Jan Hubbard said. "Probably one of the biggest issues we identified within our surveys is... most businesses

fail to pass on their family business from one generation to the other."

Ursula Scroggs of Troy-based business accounting firm Dardarian + Mann, Sawyerth & Salucci will offer her advice.

Though sales have been tough the past several years, Jim McDonald is among those hoping to advance with just such help.

"Getting through these last three years has probably been the most trying," he said. "People are choosing selectively what they want to spend their money on. We're optimistic about potential."

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

What's Novu is hosting a Small Business Administration Expo to address financing and loan concerns of current and aspiring businesses.

Who: Four organizations will present and answer questions: U.S. Small Business Administration, SCORE Services, Small Business and Technology Development Center Services, Walsh Family Business Center

When: 10 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, March 16

Where: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, east of Taft Road

Cost: Free

Learn more: City of Novi, (248) 735-5828

Other resources

- www.sba.gov
- www.score.org
- www.walshcollege.edu/pages/884.asp
- http://msoe.michigan.org
- www.co.oakland.mi.us/pds

Brio advertises Cosworth

Cosworth Technology, Inc., an automotive diagnostics firm in Novi, recently joined Plymouth-based auto lighting and electronics supplier Helix North America in picking Brio Advertising.

Brio will be used for brand development of both firms' special events. Cosworth previously used the advertiser to develop brand name and sales materials for Powerworks, an aftermarket product introduced at a recent trade show.

Cosworth is located at 41000 Vincent Court.

Volare creates cookie dessert

Volare Restaurant of Wixom was one of eight restaurants to compete yesterday in the Third Annual Girl Scout Cookie Gala at Detroit's Roostertail restaurant.

Proprietor and chef Dino Grossi's task was to create an

Veri-Tek over-allots stock

Wixom's Veri-Tek International Corp. announced last week that the underwriter for its initial public stock offering purchased 375,000 over-allot shares.

The company sold the extra shares to the underwriter at \$6 per share, the initial offering price. The transaction with Virginia-based Anderson & Strudwick closed March 2.

Including the over-allotment sale, Veri-Tek earned about \$15.4 million in its stock sales. Approximately \$7 million will be used to repay senior debt and general corporate purchases, the company said.

Located at 50120 Pentac Trail, Veri-Tek designs, develops and builds specialty equipment for the automotive and heavy equipment industry. For final prospectus stock results, call (800) 767-2424.

K. Ligocki

Southern District of New York. JPMorgan will provide the financing.

Tower previously received approval to immediately access \$125 million of the financing Feb. 3.

"We are pleased to have received the court's approval of this financing, which will enable Tower to continue operating normally as we work to restructure our finances," president and CEO Kathleen Ligocki said.

The company said Tower is located at 27175 Haggerty Road.

Taubman in the news

Taubman Centers, Inc., the real estate investment trust that

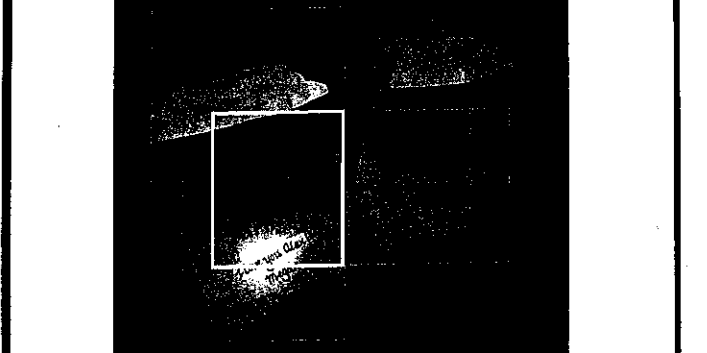
County offers business workshops

How to Write a Business Plan is a workshop for small business owners who are developing a plan to serve as their road map to success. The class is held from 9 a.m.-noon on Thursday, March 24. The fee is \$30. This seminar is presented by What Webs We Weave, LLC.

Bookkeeping Basics for Small Business — Learn the reasons to keep good records, the differences between bookkeeping and accounting, a variety of ways to keep the books, how to track a month's worth of detailed records and determine a monthly profit or loss. This workshop will be from 9 a.m.-noon on Thursday, March 31. The fee is \$45 and includes the Big E-Z Bookkeeping book. This seminar is presented by Big E-Z Bookkeeping.

All seminars will be held at the Oakland County complex, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac. For location, specifics and pre-registration, call (248) 858-0783.

Join the American Cancer Society Relay For Life!



Join the American Cancer Society Relay For Life!

Your American Cancer Society is rallying the community of Walled Lake to participate in its annual Relay For Life, the Society's signature event. The American Cancer Society Relay For Life, a team-based fundraising event, is a unique, empowering and fun way to make a difference in the fight against cancer. Join us at the kickoff to find out how you can put together a team of your own!

Walled Lake Community Education Building
 Wednesday, March 16, 2005
 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Call 248.557.5353 to learn more.

Women in the Know coming in May!

Reserve your space by April 8th
 contact your sales representative for more information

South Lyon	248-437-2011
Northville Record	248-349-1700
Novi News	248-349-1700
Milford Times	248-685-1507
Livingston County Daily Press & Argus	517-548-7060

NOVI NEWS

RELAY FOR LIFE

Chemistry students preparing for Olympiad

Competition to find top four high schoolers

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Advanced placement chemistry students at Novi High School have some really high aspirations. They know they each have a chance to be one of four high school students from the United States to represent their country in chemistry competitions all around the world.

But first they must go through a series of contests, called the Chemistry Olympiad, to prove their worthiness.

According to Novi High School chemistry teacher, Rand Helmeck, the Chemistry Olympiad is a competition designed to eventually lead to a United States chemistry team of high school students, which will compete internationally against students from other countries.

"Eventually, you end up with a four-person team from the United States that go to many other countries all over the world," he said. "You take your second year and advanced placement chemistry students to compete. Thousands of them across the country take an initial qualifying test, which occurs in March. This year it's March 17."

Next week's competition will take place at University of Michigan, Dearborn. Novi will take 15 kids there. Ten will be competing and five will be going for the experience.

"There will probably be about 250 kids there from the metro Detroit area," Helmeck said. "These kids are the best of the best from all the kids who do this. From that, they will pick the top 10 kids to come back in May and take another test, which involves lab work."

The first test is all multiple choice and takes an hour and a half to complete. It's extremely rigorous and the purpose of it is to see if the students really know their stuff. The second one in May is a three-hour test that involves a couple parts to it: Written and a laboratory work. From there, judges pick 20 students from around the country, who go to the Chemistry Camp at the Air Force Academy during the summer. From those 20, they figure out who the top four are.

Jim Hanson is another chemistry teacher at Novi High School. One year, two of his students were in the top 20 in the country. He's also had other students before, who have done the same thing and two years ago, in the metro Detroit section of the competition, seven of the top 20 kids in the whole metro Detroit area were from Novi.

"Jim Hanson has done a great job with those kids," Helmeck said. "Every year he has great kids going over there and there's a lot to be said for our kids too. We've got very talented kids to work with."

Students prepare by covering material in class and they take a lot of practice tests. They try to anticipate the kinds of questions they might face.

"It's all practice and learning by doing," Helmeck said.

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

ON CAMPUS

Karen Janik, of Novi, is performing with Valparaiso University's Chamber Concert Band for the 2004-05 academic year. The Chamber Concert Band, which especially focuses on original band compositions, is the premier auditioned symphonic band at VU. Karen is a sophomore music education major and a graduate of Novi High School. She is the daughter of Christopher and Nancy Janik of Novi.

Bianca Mielch and Adam Pritchard of Novi, were named to the Dean's List for fall 2004 semester at Adrian College.

Novi resident, Vanessa Dekocklock, was awarded Academic Honors for fall 2004 semester at Ferris State University.

Andrew Curran, of Novi, was among the graduates at Ferris State University during commencement exercises, Dec. 2004. More than 1,000 students were

placed on the fall 2004 Dean's List at Michigan Technological University, earning grade point averages of 3.5 or higher. Dr. Les Cook, vice provost and dean of student affairs, reports that 268 students (indicated by asterisks) earned straight A averages of 4.0, with 1024 attaining GPAs from 3.50 to 3.99.

The following Novi students from were honored: Scott A. Bergerson, sophomore, chemical engineering; Anna L. Cynar*, sophomore, communication and culture studies; Eric D. Joseph, freshman, mechanical engineering.



Show me those pearly whites

First graders at Novi Woods Elementary were visited recently by Drs. Larry Spillane and Jamie Reynolds, along with their staff hygienists who taught the children about good dental hygiene and braces. Here, Dana Kilponen is being taught how to floss teeth properly by Reynolds as David Ayala, Alicia Samson, Rachel Casaccia and Ayako Okuda look on.

Courtesy photo

Who's at Orchard Hills?

Dr. Seuss' 101 birthday was celebrated in many ways in the classrooms at Orchard Hills, Madison Whitaker dressed as one of the famous "Who's" from Whoville. Aaron Howe was none other than "The Cat in the Hat." The youngsters shared their own copies of Seuss books with one another and were visited by unexpected guest readers.



Courtesy photo

Hats off to reading

Sixth graders at Novi Meadows Elementary School created hats in celebration of "Hats off to Reading," the school's theme for this year's fun fest. In cooperation with the Parent Teacher Organization, Meadows is sponsoring many activities to celebrate March is reading month. Pictured here are Kimberly Powers, Kara Farley, Patricia Anthony and Matthew Lewis.



Recruitment Special

Looking For Qualified Employees?

Place your Classified Ad for 1 Week in all our **Green Sheet CLASSIFIEDS** And get a 2nd week for **1/2 OFF**

You can reach over 90,000 Livingston and Oakland County households through the Greensheet Classifieds PLUS be viewed online at hometownlife.com

To place your ad call **888-999-1288 Today!**

Some restrictions apply. No cancellations.

Piece Your Debts Together ...

With Your Home's Equity

Are you puzzled or challenged with how to pay all your bills every month? Wouldn't it be great to cut your monthly bills in half - or even more! If you are a homeowner, chances are we can help you do just that. Our most popular home equity program is our no-fee variable rate home equity line of credit (HELOC). Ready to cut your bills in half, and solve the puzzle of your bill-paying challenge? Talk to a Telcom real estate lending specialist at 800.356.7465.

1. Monthly and Save!	2. Save \$658 a month!
Rate	After
3.125%	\$1,137
3.250%	\$1,137
3.375%	\$1,137
3.500%	\$1,137
3.625%	\$1,137
3.750%	\$1,137
3.875%	\$1,137
4.000%	\$1,137
4.125%	\$1,137
4.250%	\$1,137
4.375%	\$1,137
4.500%	\$1,137
4.625%	\$1,137
4.750%	\$1,137
4.875%	\$1,137
5.000%	\$1,137
TOTAL	\$7,800

*Based on \$100,000 loan based on current Prime Rate of 5.75% Annual Percentage Rate. Interest rate may vary based on credit score and other factors. See your lender for more details. An annual quality based on the Prime Rate.

telcomcu.com
Southfield Novi Canton
21100 Northwestern Hwy. 44575 W. 12346 Rd. 44130 Wixom Rd.

South Lyon to Sri Lanka

BENEFIT CONCERT

"BLUES FOR SRI LANKA"

FRIDAY MARCH 18 9PM
THE SOUTH LYON THEATER
126 E. LAKE ST, SOUTH LYON, MI (248) 437-4545

Featuring South Lyon Area Bands

BLUES HAMMER
www.blueshammer.us

DAN WRIGHT & COYOTE BONE

The martindales
www.martindalesand.com

PROCEEDS FROM TICKET SALES BENEFIT VE ANANTA'S EFFORTS TO REBUILD THE CARE CENTER ORPHANAGE IN TRINCOMALEE, SRI LANKA, DEVASTATED BY THE DECEMBER 2004 TSUNAMI

TICKETS \$10 ALL AGES SHOW
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE SOUTH LYON THEATER
ALSO AVAILABLE AT BISTRO 127, 127 E. LAKE ST, SOUTH LYON (248) 437-9900 AND OTHER SOUTH LYON MERCHANTS

SPECIAL THANKS TO: BISTRO THE SOUTH LYON THEATER - THE SOUTH LYON HERALD

Novi winter drum line gearing up for competitions



Student Kim Weidl practices on the marimba during a recent winter drum line session at Novi High School.

Group won state titles 10 out of the last 11 years

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

With so much success in state competitions the past 11 years, Novi's winter drum line is excited to get back into the groove.

No stranger to winning, Novi has taken 10 state championships and is looking for number 11. The group practices every Monday and Wednesday in preparation for two competitions before the big one on Saturday, April 2, at Saginaw Valley State University.

"I'm pretty proud of our group," Assistant Director of Bands Matt Orsby said. "The talent level of the individual students, as well as their motivation is what I attribute our success to."

The winter drum line is a competitive team that consists of 36 Novi High School students and several eighth graders from Novi Middle School. The activity is basically a competi-

tive performance where the group does a five minute musical and visual presentation. It gets judged by three adjudicators and then scored on a scale of 100.

There are about 40 such units in the state of Michigan and Novi competes on various Saturdays between February and April, culminating in the state championships of the Michigan color guard circuit.

"We do about four or five competitions typically that lead us to qualify for the state championships," Orsby said. "It's a neat activity and the nice thing is, there seems to be a spot for just about everybody in the high school now. There are a lot of good competitive activities that students can get involved in, even if they're not necessarily athletic scholars. I think most students do take advantage of our activities that we offer. Our teachers the kids time management, responsibility and enhanced techniques on their instruments."

For competitions, the students bring their equipment on to gymnasium floors and perform shows which consist of marching while they play music. Instruments used are all percussion, including drums, xylophones, bells and cymbals.



Novi High School student Mike Webber plays a riff on his electric guitar during winter drum line practice.

"It's kind of like a marching band that's been shrunk down to just percussion instruments and presented on a gymnasium floor," Orsby said.

Competitions are weighed by three judges. One adjudicates the quality of the music; the second judges the quality of the visual elements, like the marching what's called overall general effect, which is basically crowd appeal.

The competitions cost \$5 to get into and all take place on Saturdays. Novi competition dates are: March 12 at Dakota High School in Chippewa Valley; South Lyon High School on March 19 and the state championship contest on April 2 at Saginaw Valley State University. All times are to be announced.

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.

Make Your Classified Ad STAND OUT with Photos!

Now available: you can add photos to your classified ads to show what you are selling, in addition to ad copy. Ads will appear whenever you want them to run, under the classification you choose.

GREEN SHEET
The cost for the photo will be \$10.00 for the first day and \$5.00 per day for each additional day, plus the cost of the ad copy based on the number of lines used.

For March Only!
All classified photos will be half price for the photo charge.

Call 1-888-999-1288 to place your ad today!

CLASSIFIEDS

Home & Garden

Home & Garden Everyone enjoys this special section that is filled with all kinds of gardening and improvement ideas.

Space Reservation Deadline: Monday, April 4, 2005
Copy Deadline: Tuesday, April 5, 2005
Publication Date: Thursday, April 21, 2005

HomeTown
Contact your sales representative to reserve your space!

EAST
Milford Times 248-685-1507
South Lyon Herald 248-437-2011
Northville Record 248-349-1700
Novi News 248-349-1700

WEST
Livingston County Daily Press & Argus ... 517-548-7060

Joe's WEEKLY SPECIALS!

California Blackstone Winery 2003 Value Winery of the Year
• Cabernet Sauvignon
• Chardonnay • Merlot
• Sauvignon Blanc
• Zinfandel • Syrah
\$8.99 750 ml

Yelcho Varietals New Arrival Great Value
• Cabernet Sauvignon
• Merlot • Chardonnay
• Sauvignon Blanc
• Syrah
\$7.99 750 ml

Driscolls California Strawberries \$1.99 lb.
Driscolls Blueberries 2/\$5.00

Texas Green Cabbage 29¢ lb.
Tipperary Irish Sharp Cheddar \$6.99 lb.
Idaho Baking Potatoes \$1.99 10 lb. Bag

Byrd's Choice Meat • "Pork Roast Sale"
Bone in Loin End Roast.....\$2.39 lb.
Boneless Center cut Pork Loin Roast.....\$3.98 lb.
Boneless Rib End Roast.....\$3.39 lb.
Stuffed Pork Roast w/our Homemade Stuffing.....\$3.39 lb.

Don't forget St. Patrick's Day!
We'll have Barrell Cure Corned Beef Available
Prices Good thru March 16th, 2005

Come into Joes...
for a wide selection of fresh fruits and vegetables. Joe's also offers a variety of domestic and imported wines. Come in and see our Cellared Wine Selection. Our Wine Consultant Kim will be happy to assist you.

Hours: Sunday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Mon.-Sat. 9:00 am - 7 pm for your shopping convenience
Prices Good Through Sunday, March 13, 2005

Joe's Produce
33152 W. Seven Mile • Livonia, MI 48152
www.joesproduce.com (248) 477-4333

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Everyone will be reading HomeTown's feature publication on new construction and remodeling, and you will be there! Get in on the ground floor of this important special section and build a better foundation for YOUR business!

Space Reservation Deadline: Monday, March 14, 2005
Copy Deadline: Tuesday, March 15, 2005
Publication Date: Thursday, March 31, 2005

HomeTown
Contact your sales representative to reserve your space!

EAST
Milford Times 248-685-1507
South Lyon Herald 248-437-2011
Northville Record 248-349-1700
Novi News 248-349-1700

WEST
Livingston County Daily Press & Argus ... 517-548-7060

County mourns passing of former exec Murphy

■ He helped create infrastructure for area

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Oakland County lost one of its favorite sons recently with the death of Daniel T. Murphy. Murphy, a longtime resident of Pontiac, and most recently Tuscon, Ariz., died Feb. 16 at the age of 79. He is the father of Gwen Markham of Novi, former chair of the Novi Planning Commission. Services took place Feb. 26 at the Oakland County Courthouse Commissioners Auditorium in Pontiac. Congressman Joe Knollenberg (R-Michigan) spoke at the funeral, with many dignitaries from across the area attending. Murphy is buried at White

Chapel in Troy. Markham said her father was an employee of Oakland County for 45 years. He was elected to the position of county clerk and register of deeds. "When the county executive form of government was created, he ran and won the first county executive seat in the state of Michigan," she said. Murphy maintained this position from 1974 until 1992. Murphy ran for governor in 1986, but lost in the Republican primary. "He remained very involved in Oakland County for many years," Markham said. Murphy is credited with creating the Oakland County Parks System and was one of the original members of SEMCOG (the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments). Markham said her father helped facilitate the infrastructure that made Oakland County what it is

today. She said that her sister noted this during funeral services for their father. "She said, 'He loved the Palace, the Silverdome and every piece of concrete that led there,'" Markham said. Markham said her father was very well known in Oakland County, and that he lived in Luddington, Mich., before he and her mother, Carolyn, moved to Arizona. They had only been living in Arizona about two years. "When he left office, he moved away, because he didn't want to be asked to 'second guess' the subsequent leadership. He felt that the county was in good hands, so they



Murphy

actually knew several of them personally. We have lots of family pictures with him and presidents," Markham said. Markham said her father was a humble person as well as a humanitarian. And he also loved to listen to the Detroit Tigers. "I can remember sitting with him in the back yard on a Sunday afternoon, listening to the Tigers play. He'd let me stick the little carpiene in my ear and listen from time to time," Markham recalled. Murphy was born in Pennsylvania, but the family moved to Pontiac when he was 4. "He loved Oakland County," Markham said. "He used to say, 'Thirty by 30 equals 900 square miles, plus 400 lakes equals the most beautiful place on earth.' That's the way he described Oakland County. He thought it was beautiful and unique." Markham said her parents moved to Arizona for health rea-

"He loved Oakland County. He thought it was beautiful and unique."

Gwen Markham
Daughter of Daniel T. Murphy

sons. "He had a stroke in 1990 and stayed in office. But, as his mobility declined, he appreciated the warmer climate," she said. Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or pfleming@novinews.com.net.

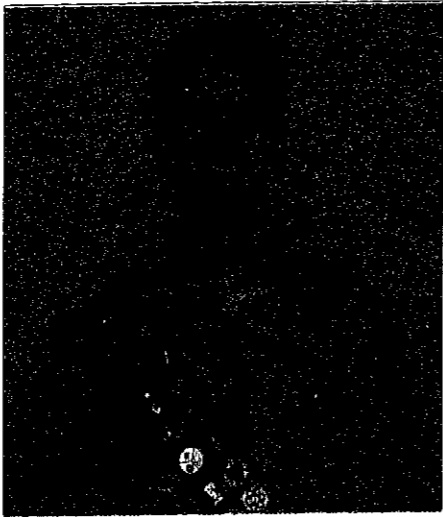
Novi student achieves Eagle Scout rank

By Bruce Anderson
SPECIAL WRITER

Kyle Anderson recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in a ceremony with Troop 179 of Farmington Hills attended by family and friends. Congressman Joe Knollenberg was in attendance and honored the four new Eagle Scouts. Anderson began his scouting adventures in 1992 as a Tiger Cub in South Bend, Ind. He continued in Cub Scouts during his family moves to Naperville, Ill., and finally to Novi, where he became a Webelos in 1996. Throughout his Cub Scouting years he received his Gold and Mic Emblem and won several first place trophies in the Pinewood Derby, Space Derby, and Rain gutter Regatta Cub Scout Pack events. He received his Arrow of Light Award with Novi Pack 240 in 1997. Anderson began his search for his Eagle project by contacting

the City of Novi and places of business. He mentioned his project to a parent at a school function who suggested he contact the State Park. After meeting with stable manager, Keith Gordon, three weeks and over 3,200 miles later, he had rebuilt 31 hay stalls in the stable in 90 plus temperatures. He became skilled with several hand tools including a framing nail gun. As a Boy Scout, Anderson held numerous positions including patrol scribe, patrol quartermaster, and senior patrol leader for the Traditional Scouts. He was nominated by his fellow scouts to receive the Order of the Arrow. He recently completed a high adventure hike at the newly-opened Double H High Adventure Ranch in New Mexico. During this week-long adventure, he was crew leader for his crew which he learned to use global positioning system orienteering

and the unforgettable sound of a coiled rattlesnake in 100-degree temperatures at 8,500 feet elevations. Anderson graduated from Novi High School in June of 2004, cum laude, and is currently attending Purdue University majoring in computer science. He plans to double major in mechanical engineering and computer science with a minor in Japanese. He will participate in the study abroad program in his junior year. Anderson was a four year member of the Novi High School Marching Band and also a member of the three-time state champion Wimer Drumline Percussion Ensemble. Anderson lives in Novi with his parents, Bruce and Karen, and his brother, Brett, along with his dog, Penny.



Kyle Anderson is happy to reach Eagle Scout rank.

OBITUARY

WALTER D. TOUPIN

Age 82, a former Upper Peninsula native of Marquette, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, February 26, 2005, at his home in Novi after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, ELIZABETH (Dorothy), a daughter, ANN OBERTS of Northville, twin sons, DR. JOHN (Ruth) TOUPIN of Farmington Hills and (Ann) TOUPIN of Marquette, Michigan. He is also survived by 8 grandchildren and 7 nephews. The Edward Koroluk Funeral Home of Royal Oak, Michigan, is in charge of funeral arrangements. Cremation will be followed by a MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL on Friday, March 11th at 11:00AM in the CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY on Meadowbrook Road (between 10 Mile & Grand River) Burial will be in Holy Cross Cemetery, Marquette, Michigan, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Christian Services, the "Homeless Fund Project" c/o Church of the Holy Family, 2450 S Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48375

OBITUARY POLICY

The first seven lines of an obituary are published free of charge. After that, there is a fee of \$3 a line. Pictures may be published for \$25.

*Deadline for obituaries is Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. for publication in Thursday's newspaper.

For more information, call 888-999-1288 or contact your funeral home. *Daily deadlines are subject to change.

IN THE SERVICE

Air Force Senior Airman Carolyn A. Space has graduated from Airman Leadership School at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colo. The five-week course is designed to train senior airmen to understand their positions in the Air Force organizational structure, leadership, communications skills, and profession of arms, which are needed for professional development to be effective noncom-

missed officers. Airmen are prepared and better equipped to serve as supervisors, managers and rating officials as they progress in their enlisted military careers. The school is the first of three levels of professional military education programs used to develop and enhance leadership and supervisory skills, and is a required course for airmen to complete prior to being promoted to the rank of staff sergeant. Space, an intelligence operations journeyman, is assigned to the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) U.S. Northern Command at

Petersen. She is the daughter of Edmond L. and Kathleen A. Bennett of Walled Lake. After graduating from Walled Lake Western High School, he received a bachelor's degree from a university in Colorado Springs. Army Pvt. Brandon J. Caminero is a 2002 graduate of Walled Lake Community Center. This is the third consecutive semester that Staab has been selected for this honor. To be selected for the Dean's List, a cadet must maintain a 3.0 average and have no failing grades. Staab graduated from Novi High School in 2001 where he served as president of the class of 2001. He will return to the Novi area this spring as part of CPKC which arranges for cadets to visit middle and high schools to talk about entering USMA. He plans to graduate in 2006 from West Point and be commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Army.

VARSITY LINCOLN MERCURY COLLISION CENTER
2 exits west of 12 Oaks Mall at Grand River and Wixom Road
1-248-449-6901

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD WINNER
"BEST COLLISION SHOP" 2003
It's your choice so choose the best!
Tell your insurance company
"I'm going to Varsity Lincoln Mercury's Collision Center"

Varsity Collision Center Special*
Save this in case of an accident for
FREE TOWING
Courtesy of Varsity Lincoln Mercury Collision Center
248-896-8888

Varsity Collision Center Special*
FREE Collision Loaner
Courtesy of Varsity Lincoln Mercury Collision Center
248-449-6901

*We Repair All Makes & Models
-Direct Repair For All Major Insurance Companies
-Guaranteed On Time Repairs
-90 Days Same As Cash On Your Collision Deductible*

OPEN HOUSE - Wed. March 23, 6:00-8:00pm
St. Paul's Lutheran School

Now Registering for 05' - 06' School Year

- Pre School to 8th Grade
- Experience the love of God in a caring, Christian environment

St. Paul's Lutheran School
201 Elm Street • Northville
248-349-3146

No one says you have to pick just one.

7-MONTH CD **3.25%** APY
18-MONTH CD **3.75%** APY
\$500 minimum & Circle Checking

Charter One
Not your typical bank®

To open a CD, call 1-877-TOP-RATE or visit us in person at any Charter One Bank branch.

Member FDIC. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of this publication date. Limited time offer may be withdrawn at any time. Minimum CD opening deposit is \$500. Penalty for early withdrawal. Fees & rates may reduce earnings on the account. Minimum opening balance for Circle Checking is \$50. See a banker for details.

HEALTH

FIT FOR LIFE — "TIME TO SHAPE UP"

The holiday decorations are put away and stored, the Super Bowl has been played and faint hints of spring are appearing little by little. For many, this time of year brings visions of warmer weather and of a smaller, slimmer more toned mid-section. But before you purchase another super abdominal creation guaranteed to flatten and tone your waistline in a few minutes a day, or purchase that super pill guaranteed to melt the fat away without changing anything else in your life, or go see that cosmetic surgeon... read on. The following are time tested, science based tips to consider in your quest for that elusive reduced and toned mid-section. While these suggestions aren't glamorous or simple they are the truth and that can be hard to find these days.

1. Don't crunch yourself to death. Crunches are a movement where you raise your body slightly off the ground, (a partial sit up) and unless you live in a cave you have been exposed to hundreds of variations of the crunch guaranteed to give you that flat, toned abdominal area. There have been gadgets to help you do a so called "better" crunch - sitting, standing or lying down and everything in between. While a proper crunch is an essential tool in your toolbox for a more toned, slimmer waist it is not the complete answer. Your abdominal muscles are like every other muscle in your body, and strengthening them is vital. While stronger abdominal muscles will help your overall posture and give you some flatter appearance and tightness, any kind of crunch with any kind of gadget or machine will have only a minimal affect on overall flattening and toning of the mid-section.

2. At least 70 percent of your results are in the food. That's right! The abdominals most

people desire are found with a lower overall body fat percentage. A client can do thousands of every kind of crunch and fancy abdominal exercise from the latest fitness magazine daily and never achieve the appearance they desire. While their abdominals may be strong and toned they are covered by a layer of body fat and food intake largely decides one's body fat percentage.

3. Cardiovascular activity is the best activity for your goal. Cardiovascular activity involves raising your heart rate in a steady rhythmic fashion for about 20-30 minutes per session. Brisk walking, swimming, running, dancing all count. This activity burns calories which will aid in lowering your body fat percentage which will give you the mid-section you desire, not to mention a whole bunch of other health benefits. Keep your abdominals engaged, (hold your stomach in, pushing your belly button to your back as much as you can throughout the activity and throughout your day, e.g. in the car, sitting at the computer, etc.) There are no shortcuts. Stop looking for the magic formula or machine, the bottom line is to include some key core (mid section) movements in your program, and lowering your body fat thru a slight, consistent calorie deficit.

I warned you - these suggestions are not popular or glamorous, but the truth seldom is. You can do it, start now and you will feel better in your swimsuit this summer.

This column was written by Chris Klebba, the owner and operator of the Water Wheel Health Club in Northville. Chris is also a Certified Fitness Trainer and public speaker. For more information, call (248) 449-7634 or check the Web at www.wheel.com.

Buying or Selling?
Residential • Commercial • Vacant Land
Building • Insurance
Ask the Experts!

RE/MAX All Stars
Karen Gill
REALTOR®
401 West Main Street
Brighton, Michigan 48116
Office: (810) 229-8900 • Direct: (810) 220-6020
Cell: (810) 397-4451 • Fax: (810) 229-0359
karengill@remax.net

James Paradise
Your Local Mortgage Specialist™
Email: JIMP@HLSinc.us
1-877-340-0400 XT. 141

Kim Champe
Multi Million Dollar Producer
Direct: (248) 417-0737
Office: (248) 437-5430
Fax: (248) 437-5408
www.michiangroup.com
Email: kim@kimchamp.com

Claudia Watson
REALTOR®
Se Habla Español
1024 E. Grand River Ave., Brighton, MI 48116
Each Office is Independently Owned And Operated

Cell: (734) 552-0134
Direct/Voice Mail: (810) 225-8107
Fax: (810) 229-5245
Email: century21claudiawatson@msn.com
www.century21brightontowns.com

Muscular Dystrophy Association
1-800-572-1717
www.mdausa.org

Jerry Lewis
National Chairman

Hey...Novi
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!

BEST FOOD OUTLETS

- Best place for coffee/donuts/bagels
- Best specialty coffee house
- Best place for breakfast
- Best Sunday brunch
- Best deli
- Best fast food restaurant
- Best family restaurant
- Best place for soup
- Best salad bar
- Best place for burgers
- Best place for hot dogs/coney
- Best place for subs
- Best place for ice cream
- Best place for desserts
- Best Italian restaurant
- Best Oriental restaurant
- Best Mexican restaurant
- Best place for pizza
- Best wine selection (store)
- Best wine selection (restaurant)
- Best beer selection (store)
- Best beer selection (restaurant)
- Best place for romantic dinner
- Best after work meeting place
- Best sports bar
- Best place for dancing

BEST SERVICE PROVIDERS & RETAIL STORES

- Best beauty salon
- Best bank
- Best consignment store
- Best eyecare
- Best funeral home
- Best nail salon
- Best tanning salon
- Best jewelry store
- Best real estate company
- Best real estate agent
- Best mortgage company
- Best accountant
- Best auto dealer
- Best auto service
- Best oil change shop
- Best collision shop
- Best tire store
- Best veterinary service
- Best travel agency
- Best video store
- Best rental business
- Best landscaping business
- Best health/fitness business
- Best car wash

All Entries Must Be Received By March 7th
For A Chance To Win A GIFT CERTIFICATE To An Award-Winning Restaurant

SENIORS

Kim Kovelle, staff writer (248) 349-1700 ext. 197 kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net

Studying up for S-U-C-C-E-S-S

By Kim Kovelle
STAFF WRITER

Someone quizzed Helen Brady while she's driving. Mary Blyth leafed through her trusty copy of 20,000 Words Less Heard.

For Marion Cowan, even everyday reading offered a chance to quiz.

"I've been paying more attention," Cowan, 79, said. And, "We've been reading these lists, '100 Most-Often Misspelled Words.'"

There's a buzz in the air at the Novi Senior Center, and it's spelling out p-r-e-p-a-r-a-t-i-o-n for four word-wise women.

Today, along with Suzanne Davis, they'll pit verbal prowess against five other local senior centers in a first Senior Spelling Bee.

With center manager Rachel Zagaroli coaching, they put their dictionary dexterity to work — and had fun, too.

"We decided that we want to go

and experience this and do something a little different and unique," Zagaroli said. "They have a ball with it."

With about 25 seniors signed up this week, the bee will occur at the Northville Senior Community Center, 303 W. Main St.

Each contestant will get a full minute to spell a word. They'll say the word before and after, and can even write it before spelling it.

The only requirement? They must be over age 50.

"It's been more than two years," quipped Blyth, 79, of her last "bee" — which she figures was in seventh grade. "We (have) never been in one like this."

Over the past month, they've diligently drilled their I's before E's, double-letters and more.

"Sometimes when somebody's talking on television, I'm imagining the word they're saying," Blyth added.

Cowan proudly announced that she got Brady involved: "I know she can spell anything."

Brady, 79, who once worked at Ford, said she recalls proofreading engineer's documents.

"I think the people in our age sometimes are better spellers than young people," she said. "That's how we learned to spell, by reading."

Blyth's secretarial duties have ranged from real estate to automotive companies.

"We had to use the dictionary," Blyth said. "I didn't have anyone to ask if it was right or not. If I had a question, I had to look it up myself."

Attending school in England at age 12, Cowan said teachers tested students' words power.

"Schools were more strict," she said. "Everything had to be spelled right. (It) was part of every class."

They admitted words like exhilarate, accidentally and embarrass were tricky at first.

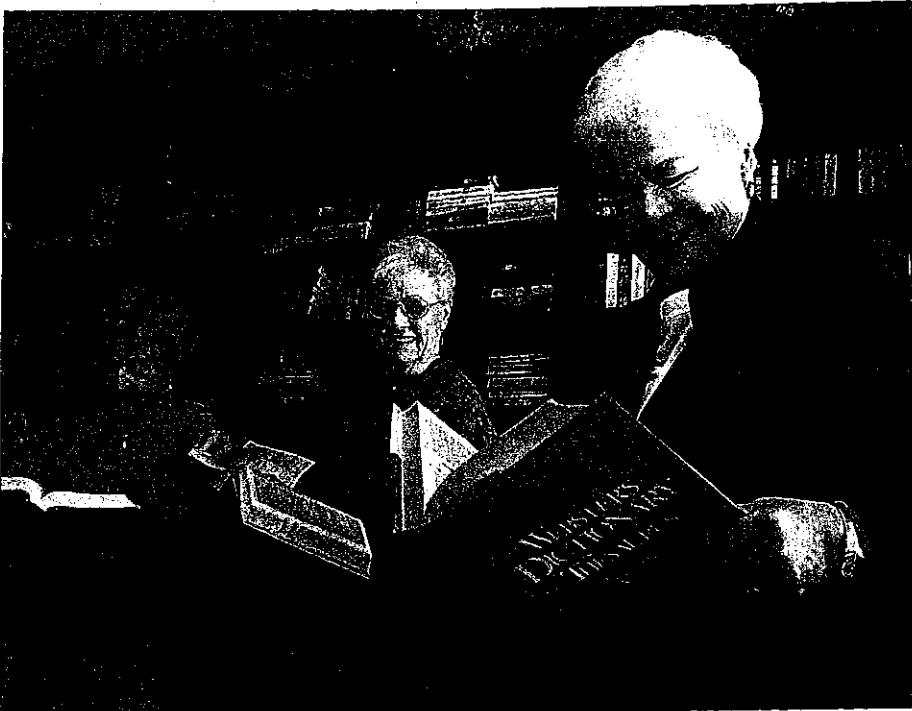


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

A few ladies at the Novi Senior Center hit the books, dictionaries that is, to study for the upcoming Senior Spelling Bee. From left: Marion Cowan, Mary Blyth, and Helen Brady.

Daiquiri was another stumper. "It might drive us to drink," joked Brady.

All the women say they've been having fun, but they're focused, too. Top three prizes include restaurant gift certificates and trophies. All get participation certificates.

"It's just studying those words that we use every single day but we're not sure when we go to write them," Zagaroli said. "I think they're doing great."

Do they think they can out-spell Northville, Wixom, South Lyon, Milford and Highland Township?

"Yes!" declared Cowan.

"I'm looking forward to doing it," said Blyth. "So far we've been ruling — We think we've been ruling."

Griming, she added, "I just hope I don't collapse up on that stage."

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

SENIORS SPELL

What: A first annual Senior Spelling Bee will include savvy spellers from Novi, Wixom, Northville, South Lyon, Milford and Highland Township

When: Thursday, March 10; registration, 11-11:30 a.m.; lunch*, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; spelling rounds begin 1-2 p.m.; coffee break 2-2:15 p.m.; spelling rounds continue from 2:15 until finished

Where: Northville Senior Community Center, 303 W. Main St.

More: Call the Novi Senior Center at (248) 347-0414. *Note: optional lunch is \$5

SENIOR CALENDAR

Friday 3/11

8:45 a.m. Panera Bread
9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
10 a.m. Body Recall
noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Clogging
12:30 p.m. Bingo held in activities room
12:30 p.m. Bridge

Monday 3/14

9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
10 a.m. Body Recall
noon Lunch and *12:30 p.m. Pinochle
1-3 p.m. Healing Touch
1 p.m. "Identity Theft" presented by Novi Police
*6:30 p.m. Clogging

Tuesday 3/15

9 a.m. Panera Bread
9 a.m. Line Dance
10 a.m. Asian Pacific
10-11:30 a.m. Computer - Beginner
10:30 a.m. Bookmobile in conference room

11 a.m. "I Will Be Well," Rea James Life Screening
noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Bingo

Wednesday 3/16

9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Massage
10 a.m. Body Recall
11 a.m. Blood Pressure and TOPS Class
noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Clogging*
2-4 p.m. Estate planning by appointment
Delta South River Barge trip

Thursday 3/17

9 a.m. Line Dance*
10-11:30 a.m. Computer - Beginner
noon St. Patrick's Day Luncheon (tickets required)
12:15 Bridge*
1-2 p.m. Line Dance CANCELLED
Activities designated with an "*" will be held at the Novi Civic Center. The Senior Center is located at 25075 Meadowbrook.

3.55%^{APY*}

You Are First Rate!

- 12 month CD term
- \$1,000 minimum new money deposit for existing Metrobank checking customers.
- \$5,000 minimum deposit with Platinum Checking account for new customers.

Metrobank

Farmington Hills (Main Office) Farmington Hills
37000 Grand River Ave. (12 Mile-Arboratum Center)
Suite 100 34391 W. 12 Mile Rd.
248.474.6400 248.522.3372

Farmington (Downtown) West Bloomfield (Maple-Haggerty)
33205 Grand River Ave. 7950 W. Maple Rd.
248.522.3353 248.522.3303

www.metrobanker.com

*APY is Annual Percentage Yield. 3.55% Interest Rate. Penalty for early withdrawal. Offer for funds not already on deposit at Metrobank. Renewals of maturing CD's qualify for rate. Rate subject to change without notice.

MEMBER FDIC

Member of Citizens First Bancorp

Medicare recipients: Good news you've been waiting for.



If you're a Medicare beneficiary with Medicare Parts A and B and live in Wayne, Oakland or Macomb county, HAP is pleased to announce that Henry Ford Medical Group (HFMG) is now accepting new Senior Plus members.

HAP Senior Plus is an alternative to Medicare supplemental insurance for a plan premium of only \$40 per month. Senior Plus is a federally qualified HMO with a Medicare contract.

* Routine inpatient hospital care is provided at Henry Ford Hospital.
** Medicare covered services. *** Coverage subject to limitations.

To get the facts about Senior Plus, call 1-800-971-7878, TTY/TTD 1-313-664-8000.

NP02A 1/1/05

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY



Season-ending loss

The Novi Wildcats volleyball team couldn't sustain their run as they fell in the regional tournament to a tough Troy Athens team.

The squad, led by coach Julie Fisette, had a record-setting year for volleyball at Novi High School. They are hoping to be able to repeat the magic again next year.

— Page 4B



Captain, my captain

The Novi Wildcats swimming and diving team had three strong leaders this year — the only three seniors on the team.

— Page 3B

Regional Marketplace

With the approaching end of winter and start of spring, 'tis the season for flooding and water damage from snow thawing, water pipes bursting or sump pumps failing. Rugg Brothers Carpet Care is dedicated to helping its customers cope with damage caused by water as well as cleaning their carpets and ductwork.

— Page 6B



SPORTS

1B NOVI NEWS

www.hometownlife.com

Thursday, March 10, 2005

MAKING THE STATE MEET AS A WILD CARD



■ Gymnasts will compete at Plymouth HS tomorrow at 4 p.m.

By Sam Eggleston
RECORD SPORTS WRITER

For a half a day, the Novi-Northville Wild Stangs gymnastics team thought the season was over.

Then, like many teams in the post-season, they were given a second chance.

The gymnastics squad didn't make a miraculous comeback or sink a last-second shot. Instead, their regional performance found them gaining a berth to the state finals as a wild card team.

"The team pretty much looked depressed," said sophomore Julie Foucher. "We knew about the wild card spot and we had just got our highest score all season. We had a really good chance at making it."

A second chance

The Wild Stangs knew going into their regional it was going to be tough. The team expected Tri-Farmington and Brighton to turn in some impressive points and they knew only the top three teams from the meet would advance.

Surprisingly, Holt came out of nowhere to snatch the last, priceless seat on the state finals bus. The team finals are scheduled to be held tomorrow at 4 p.m. at Plymouth High School on Beck Road.

"We had never heard of Holt before and there they were, competing," said senior Maggie Mills. "Never having heard about them and never seeing them compete, we were just kind of surprised to see that amount of skill."

But Novi-Northville wouldn't be denied. Their point total of 144.75 — the season-best total — was enough to



Submitted Photo

continued on 2B Brea Buffone prepares her beam routine on the beam during last week's regional meet in Hartland.

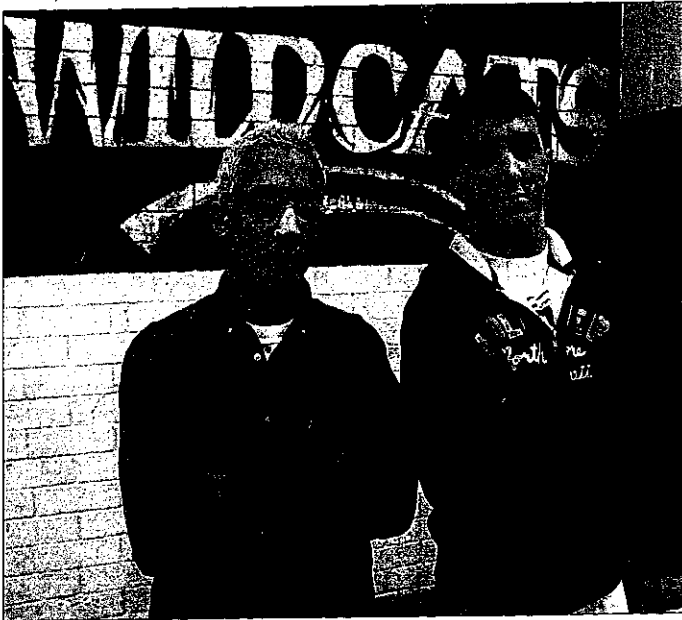


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi's Bharat Saran left, and John Favorite will be competing for the Wildcats at the state finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Bharat Saran and John Favorite headed to finals

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It was a state-finals run that almost didn't happen for one Novi wrestler.

Bharat Saran, a senior, earned a berth to the individual state finals two weeks ago along with teammate John Favorite. Saran, who wrestles at 119 pounds, was a back-up to Jason Ballantyne this year. An injury to the starter allowed Saran to step up and move on.

"Bharat wasn't in the line-up for the most part," said Novi coach Brad Huss. "We knew he had a lot of ability and the possibility to surprise a lot of people. Now people are wondering 'Where the heck did this kid come from?'"

Where indeed. The answer, oddly enough, is Northville. Saran transferred to Novi from just south of Eight Mile Road to become a Wildcat. His family

has plenty of wrestling background, with his three older brothers having won district titles too. Just two years ago, his older brother, Ravi, won it for the Mustangs.

"With Saran I think winning the district was important to him," said Huss. "It's a combination of living up to what his brothers have done and earning his own accomplishments. What he does at state, I think, will be a testament to the effort he has put in and his willingness to learn."

In fact, Saran is the first of his brothers to make it to the individual state finals. He's already surpassed the expectations set forth by older siblings. He's already out from under their shadow.

Not to mention he still has matches to wrestle. "Bharat is coming on hot right now," Huss said. "He's on at the right time."

continued on 3B

Wildcats bested by Lions

Novi bows out of district against KVC rivals

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Novi coach Pat Schluter didn't even bother trying to sugar-coat his basketball team's district tournament loss last week.

His team, the Kensington Valley Conference champs and three-time defending district title holders, fell in the second round to South Lyon, 46-41.

"It was disappointing," said Schluter. "We played three good quarters of basketball but didn't do a good job in the fourth. That cost us."

The Wildcats were leading by 11 points heading into the final stanza, but some costly turnovers ended up pinching the Wildcats as South Lyon quickly took control and earned the victory.

South Lyon then went on to earn the district title over Canton.

"It's never easy beating a team three times," Schluter said. "Beating us gave them a lot of confidence against Canton. I think they stand a chance at doing something in the regional as well."

Anthony Harbin, the KVC co-MVP this season, earned 16 points in the losing effort.

The season, however, wasn't played out in vain. Novi earned their third-straight KVC title this year, beating out Brighton for the coveted crown.

"Winning the KVC was huge," Schluter said. "I'd rather win that than a district any day. I think it's much more prestigious."

Novi did it with outstanding team chemistry. Harbin and fellow senior Mark Moore, also a KVC first-team selection, were the captains that helped put it all together.

The Wildcats ended the year 18-4 and held their opponents in the KVC to an average of 35.5 points per contest and allowed just a total average of 38.5 points scored against them through their entire schedule. Both are school records.

"This was an outstanding year," Schluter said. "No one said we were going to be as good as we were. We lost seven seniors and everyone expected us to be rebuilding."

The key? Team chemistry. It's something Schluter hopes to carry over to next year.

"We've got three starters coming back," he said. "They've got to really step up and we've got to have some of the younger guys playing well too. If they buy into it, they could be successful too."

Looking back over the season, Schluter said he was happy with how his team played. Only three losses in the regular season before being bumped out of the playoffs by a rival squad.

"It was a tough way to lose," he said. "But it was a great year."

ALL-KVC BASKETBALL

1ST TEAM

1. Rob Boss, Jr, Brighton
2. Anthony Harbin, Sr, Novi
3. Brandon Rogowski, Sr, Pinckney
4. Mark Moore, Sr, Novi
5. Onsed Firoozgan, Jr, Lakeland
6. Austin McMullan, Sr, South Lyon
7. Ryan Linhart, Sr, Brighton
8. Jeremy Miles, Sr, Hartland

2ND TEAM

1. Zack Nichols, Jr, Brighton
2. Nathan Kunst, Jr, Milford
3. Jon Teuber, Sr, Pinckney
4. Nate Spurgess, Sr, South Lyon
5. Brett Briggs, Jr, Lakeland
6. Todd Janer, Jr, Novi
7. Bryan Thomas, Sr, South Lyon
8. Mike Petrucci, Sr, Milford

Honorable Mention:

- Brighton - Trent Messer, Jr, Stan Nowaczyk, Jr, Derick Bollin
- Hartland - Dan Miller Sr, Steve Lopez Sr, Nick Bair
- Howell - Brett Walters Sr, Dave Szuran Sr
- Lakeland - Justin Paige Sr, Kevin Ward Sr
- Milford - Dana Pitcock Sr
- Novi - Steve Hart, AW Stanek Jr
- Pinckney - Rob Majors Sr, Jeremy Hunter Jr
- South Lyon - Mike Rhoad Sr



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Linking arms to bring some good luck for a fellow Wildcat shooting freethrows are Novi's Mark Moore, Anthony Harbin and Todd Janer, right.

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 6B

Thursday, March 10, 2005

MONEY MATTERS

Background check details for job hunters

Thanks to the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 (FACTA), consumers in the Midwest are now entitled to one free copy of their credit report per year from each of the three credit bureaus—Equifax, TransUnion and Experian. (Consumers may order their reports by mail from: The Annual Credit Report Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281; online at www.annualcreditreport.com; or by phone at (877) 322-8228.)

Job hunters may find this new right particularly timely since pre-employment background checks—which often include credit checks—are becoming more common. Companies are taking a closer look at the personal and financial histories of prospective employees due to post-9/11 safety and security concerns and fallout from corporate scandals such as WorldCom and Enron.

Federal and state laws require that background checks be conducted for certain jobs, such as those that involve work with children, the elderly or the disabled. Further, many state and federal jobs require a background check and, in some cases, an extensive investigation for purposes of security clearance.

Given this level of scrutiny, job hunters will do well to learn the why and how of background checks. A good way to start is by reading the "Employment Background Checks: A Jobseeker's Guide." It's a report developed by the consumer advocacy group Privacy Rights Clearinghouse. Access the report at www.privacyrights.org by clicking on the "Background Checks and Workplace" channel on the homepage.

Consumer advocates concerned Consumers are entitled to certain rights under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA).

Though the law is designed to promote accuracy and ensure the privacy of the consumer information gathered by credit bureaus and other consumer reporting agencies, some consumer advocates question whether the FCRA goes far enough to protect the privacy of consumers. They argue that in-depth background checks into individual's personal history could unearth information that's not applicable to the job or is taken out of context. A further concern is that the information could be used illegally for hiring purposes.

How background checks work

After collecting data on an individual at the request of a creditor, employer, insurer, or another business, a consumer reporting agency will assemble what's called a consumer report. Consumer reports contain information about a person's credit and personal characteristics, character, general reputation and lifestyle.

An employer must obtain written permission from the individual to obtain their consumer report. The authorization must be on a document separate from all other documents such as an employment application. The employer must also notify the individual in writing—in a document specifically for this use—that a report may be used.

The employer can hire a consumer reporting agency to gather and disseminate the data, or they can conduct the background check in-house. Whereas a background check conducted by a consumer reporting agency is covered by FCRA, in-house background checks are not. State laws, however, may place restrictions on the information that an employer can prospect for during an in-house investigation.

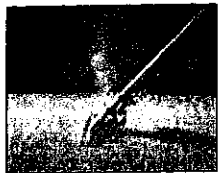
Next time, what can be included in a background check and what to do in the event of adverse action.

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL), a statewide trade association representing Michigan credit unions. Send your financial questions to "Your Money Matters" c/o the Michigan Credit Union League, P.O. Box 8054, Plymouth, MI 48170-8054, or stop by our Web site (www.mc.ul.org) to learn more about credit union management. Comments about this column may be e-mailed to mcd@mc.ul.org.

ADVERTORIAL



This photo illustrates the cleaning method used for ductwork by Rugg Brothers.



Rugg Brothers uses a steam extraction method to clean carpets.



These photos illustrate the ductwork before (above) and after (below) cleaning by Rugg Brothers.



A flooded basement or home can be dangerous and unhealthy so it requires the immediate attention of Rugg Brothers for water removal and restoration of the property.

Rugg Brothers Carpet Care

Firm handles flooding and water damage in addition to carpet and duct cleaning

By Duane Ramsey
SPECIAL WRITER

With the approaching end of winter and start of spring, 'tis the season for flooding and water damage from snow thawing, water pipes bursting or sump pumps failing. Rugg Brothers Carpet Care is dedicated to helping its customers cope with damage caused by water as well as cleaning their carpets and ductwork.

"We concentrate our efforts on safely drying, deodorizing and disinfecting the area flooded or damaged by water," said Michael Ruggiero of Rugg Brothers Carpet Care. "We are available around the clock to help minimize water damage to walls, floors and ceilings."

Proprietors Michael and Patrick Ruggiero understand that water damage restoration is an emergency business, so they are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The primary purpose of the emergency service is to "preserve, protect and secure the property from further damage," Mike said. "We'll respond

within hour of your emergency call."

Rugg Brothers were on-site within an hour to help more than a dozen homeowners in Hamburg who suffered flooding from area lakes and streams last year. When they realized they needed help, they called upon a network of other companies to work with them to be sure the property owners received timely and effective service, Mike said. The cleaning professionals at Rugg Brothers use the latest products, equipment and procedures to assure the highest level of cleaning performance and protection for your furnishings and property.

Their truck-mounted extraction units are used for water removal. High-speed air movers and dehumidification equipment are used for drying the structure. The high-tech drying equipment reduces humidity levels to dry carpets, pads and furniture while also preventing metal corrosion, swelling and warping of floors, walls and furniture.

Moisture detectors, hygrometers and other meters help them to accurately measure the extent of moisture saturation. Necessary repairs may begin when the damaged area is determined to be free of excess moisture.

"Remember that water and electricity are a dangerous mix. If you have water in your basement or house, you need to shut-off the power if possible or call the utility company to turn it off

in order to avoid serious injury," Mike said.

He also reminds homeowners that they have the right to pick what company handles their water damage and removal.

"Don't let insurance company claims people pick your flood restoration company. Just tell them you are using Rugg Brothers," Mike said.

Rugg Brothers will inspect the damage and provide an estimate for all work that is required for each job at no charge to the customer.

"We want people to get the very best service at a fair price and make sure that they are completely satisfied with our work whether it involves flooding and water damage, carpet or duct cleaning," Mike said.

Spring is also the season for spring cleaning in many households. Rugg Brothers wants to emphasize the importance of cleaning the ductwork and dryer exhaust venting in your home on a regular basis as well as cleaning your carpet.

The Environmental Protection Agency claims that indoor air has been found to be 70 times more polluted than outdoor air. Considering that most people spend much of their time indoors, it makes sense to clean the primary source of indoor air quality problems—the air ducts of your heating and cooling systems.

Rugg Brothers will clean the entire heating and air-conditioning system (HVAC) using a con-

tact or mechanical cleaning technique. An air turbine-powered vacuum agitates and removes all dust, mold and debris from the ducts with powerful truck-mounted equipment.

After the cleaning is completed, the entire HVAC system is sanitized with an anti-microbial combination of cleaner, disinfectant and deodorizer designed for hospital and industrial use. The EPA registered formulation is found to be effective in killing microbial organisms.

The Consumer Products Safety Commission estimates that 24,000 fires are caused by clothes dryers in the U.S. each year. Lack of maintenance and improper venting is the leading cause of dryer fires and lint is the leading material to ignite.

The key to effective dryer performance and safety is optimal airflow. A properly cleaned exhaust line free of lint blockages will help to ensure that airflow. When dryers have the appropriate amount of airflow, they dry clothes quicker and use less electricity or gas.

Rugg Brothers offers a free inspection of a customer's ductwork to determine if cleaning is necessary. They have the expertise, equipment and trained personnel to clean all ductwork and dryer venting in addition to cleaning your carpets, Mike said.

The business operates four vehicles with the latest truck-mounted equipment for all cleaning purposes. Their

DETAILS

Rugg Brothers Carpet Care
Carpet and Duct Cleaning Specialists
Michael & Patrick Ruggiero
Call 428-446-2008 or make appointment online at www.ruggbrothers.com

licensed, insured and bonded personnel are highly trained in the latest technological advances in cleaning and restoration.

Rugg Brothers charges a flat rate of 25 cents per square foot with a \$75 minimum charge for cleaning the carpet in one or two rooms.

The company uses a hot water extraction method with truck-mounted equipment that removes the deepest and toughest dirt gently and safely. Mike said that no other method can provide a better cleaning that will last longer.

Rugg Brothers Carpet Care serves commercial and residential customers in Oakland, Livingston, Washtenaw and western Wayne counties.

Additional information about the company's services is available on its Web site—www.ruggbrothers.com—where customers can make an appointment for carpet or duct cleaning.

Remove
Mold
Dust
Mites
Dander
Odors
Pollen
Debris

- Carpet Cleaning
- Duct Cleaning
- Scotchgard®



Rugg Brothers

Call 248-446-2008
www.ruggbrothers.com

Rugg Brothers Carpet Care

15%* OFF
ALL SERVICES
or combination

*not to be combined with any other offer • Expires May 10, 2005
Call 248-446-2008