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Thursday, March 10, 2005

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INSIDE

Feature Teacher

Novi Meadows' teacher Mandy Covault, 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 deliciou food at the Main Street Novi loca-- Page 12A

OBITUARY

Walter D. Toupin, 82

SPORTS

9

Wild Card

For a half a day, the Novi-Northville Wild Stangs gym-nastics team thought the season was over. Then, like many teams in the post-season, they were given a second chance. - Page 1B

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Novi/I-96 off-ramp next up

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

By Pam Fleming

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

The Michigan Department of

westbound I-96 off-ramp at Novi Road for about 25 days this sum-mer 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

For more information on the state's road plan, please turn to page 4A.

project," he said. "The incentive is that for each day that they can have traffic open before the scheduled completion date, we will pay them \$5,000 a day for

with pay them \$3,000 a day to each of those days up to \$50,000."
"We're doing this to encourage early completion of the ramp."
The ramp is being redone because of safety concerns.
"There have been many rear-

ed 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

continued on page 3

Code of conduct still under scrutiny

Principal and athletic director defend actions

By Ramez Khurl

Secret committees, poor com-munication, internal investiga-tions and retribution against sludents whose parents speak up

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

stemmed from meetings held by Curt Ellis, athletics director, on proposed updates to the high school athletic code of conduct

of conduct

of conduct.
"My purpose here is J. Lawrence 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

Miracle Software moving to Novi

Headquarters to be built near new expo center

By Pam Fleming

One of the ways a city can thrive and prosper is by attracting new business to the community. This increases the tax base, pro-

viding valuable income to the city's general fund.

With the next round of budget talks on the horizon, the good news for Novi is that privately-owned Miracle Software Systems, Inc., a high-tech company offering support to IBM, Microsoft and other major

to 1894, Microsoft and van indi-computer users, plans to open a facil-ity in Novi on Grand River Avenue. Miracle Software Systems is cur-rently headquartered on Ten Mile Road in Southfield, with offices scattered about, but wants to con-solidate its offices in Novi.

The city of Novi staff is targeting

continued on page 3

Novi Chamber gambles on new fund-raiser

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

Oh, what a beautiful high school musical

lassoed efforts to round up a big-cast version

of the Rodgers & Hammerstein classic.
"I think we have been progressing fabulously," director Kristen Patee said. "These kids are so wonderful to work with. They take

"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 pil.

The production, starting at 7 p.m. March
17-19, has offered students new roles, respon-

continued on page 2

sibility and a bit of bittersweet.

Poker lovers invited to Novi Hold 'Em event

Novi students give

their version of classic

Oklahoma! next week

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

By Pam Fleming

By Kim Kovelle

Do ya feet łucky? to the Novi ing fund-raiser - Novi Hold the following year,

direction well.

'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 events for the following yer members plan

Members get together to brain storm about what the chamber doing and set goals f

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

Nora Champion

OKLAHOMA!

· What: Novi High School Creative Arts

Collaborative presents Oklahomal, the classic Richard Rodgers and Oscar

classic Hichard Rouge's 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

This idea hit the agenda

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

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

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 resi-

denis' expecta-

between serv

ices the public expects and available funds

is widening,

tions. The



C. Staab 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 organi-

zation 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 superior services within our parks."

"The goal is for present and future generations to be able to create

nemories for a lifetime through the nd enjoyment of Novi parks."

to maximize non-tax financial sup-port 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

. The event is open to the public: light refreshments will the served:



Sheet Classifieds

still being scrutinized

continued from front page

He explained that the secret com- aries, he asked. the committee that put together the proposed code of conduct.

"There should be open dialogue, discourse, input, comment and so forth." Jaussi said, "To this day, the fact that that committee is still mous strikes me as just plain

atong."
Ellis gave his reasons why the

committee is anonymous.

I said at the meetings that it isn't. a committee that's writing policy." he said, "It's not a board appointed committee. It's a committee that I created that I'm just seeking leedback from. Those people are just sharing thoughts. The ultimate committee that has a voice in what actually is going to the board are the cople who were at those meetings. Quite trankity, i spent more time with Roger Daussi and the rest of have a student p ed out of class those parents at those meetings for two and a half hours each than we have spent in all of our committee have spent in all of our committee.

conduct meeting

was available for "My purpose here is not to stir However, after mation

that everybody can "It's this cloal live with." of secrecy that I'm concerned with," Jaussi said, "You can never have too cation. And with

Web site." going on is wrong."

Lawrence said he did not believe John Lawrence, high school prin-cipal, said he did not know why the information was taken off the Web site and said there was "no plan to -

he deceptive."

At the last code of conduct meeting, Ellis said he was going to place a revised copy of what he was going o recommend to his committee, as well as dates for the final committee meeting, on the Web within 10 days. That information was placed on the high school's Web site on March 7, exactly 10 days after the

meeting.
Jaussi's third, and perhaps
biggest, concern dealt with the school's policy of internal investigations. He said that under both the school code of conduct and the ath-letic code of conduct, the school is entitled to conduct internal investi-

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how are these investigations to be conducted and what are the bound-

aries, he asked.
"When you pull a student out of a class for four hours and question. that student about an allegation that that student might have seen, heard or participated in, that to me is clearly way beyond any protocol that would be appropriate in any school district," Jaussi said.

He believes this type of procedure has happened several times, where students are pulled out and interrogated by school administration officials.

Lawrence said he only knew of one incident where a student was detained for up to four hours.

The hottom line is, we want to know what the truth is," said

Lawrence, "If we get it right away, it saves everybody a lot of time."

Jaussi explained that the perception among parents is, if there is an

incident that is ser ous enough to

nave spent in an oron commune meetings. "When it does get to the point decommunication between the high school and parents. He said that information from the first code of conduct vession."

what's frustrating is that there is a fear of retribution taken out on the kids whose parents come forward up controversy, but

let's get on record, and speak out. "That, I think. in writing, a policy is a big concern to a lot of people and it's almost met with disbe-lief," he said. "Many parents know of specific

instances and

Roger Jaussi

can give names, dates and lengths of time, the modern technology that we but the fact that these things are

> that there have been any instances where that has happened.
>
> "If I had any knowledge of any retribution against a student because of a parent speaking up, that would definitely be handled." said Lawrence. "I have zero toler-ance for any of that behavior." Janssi said students are ques-

tioned regarding issues at school, but also for issues that happen over the weekend or during breaks.
"That," said Jaussi of the latter,
"is the responsibility of the parent,
not the school district."

Lawrence said that the only time that happens is when the fallout from an incident spills into the school week and has an effect on students. It will then be investigat-

"If we hear of a party at someenumed to conduct mential investi-gations.

He agrees with that, but he also

the agrees with that, but he also

business in terms of who was there He agrees with use, the debet beard board believes it's up to the school board to establish guidelines for conducting these internal investigations. is the school's business, things to be doing."

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FLAGSTAR

School code of conduct | Oh, what a beautiful high school musical

Set in early 1900s territory land, the plot of Oklahoma! traces the budding love between a cowboy named Curly and farm

girl Laurey.

Mixed in are sidekicks like Laurey's friend Ado Annie, who "cain't say no" to "fellers"; fast-talking Persian peddler man Ali Hakim; and Jud Fry, the sinister hired hand eying Laurey.
"There's a lot of student lead-

ers in the cast," Patee said. Doubling as stage manager and lighting designer, Jason Margolis

"Careful scheduling is a big thing, and then just getting the people to help me," Margolis said. "It's a first real leadership

The junior said he's looking forward to orchestrating surreal, sunset-hued lighting for a ballet

dream sequence.
"It's a long, long process," he said, "When you get to dress rehearsal, it all comes together." After years of student direct-18-year-old Karen Miller

ing, 18-year-old Karen Miller shifted to the limelight. "I decided to give it a shot," said Miller, who plays Laurey's big-hearted Aunt Eller. "This is going to be my first actual show on the stage. I'm a little nerv-

Before, Miller analyzed scripts

and gave direction. Now she's acting it out in her final show. "I'm so excited," she said, and, "I'm so scale I really just don't want to leave at all."

Donning a southern accent and big-brimmed hat, Gordon Bowdell, 18, plays Curley. In last

dance; this time, he's revved for his ambling, show-opening solo.
"Oh What a Beautiful Momin'."

The music is antazing, said Bowdell. "I' think it's a great cast." Once he graduates, he said, year's Footloose, he learned to

excitement during each show, the thrill it gives you."

To gather nerves, the entire cast and crew hosts an "energy circle" before each show. Hands are squeezed. Patee gives a pep

"There's nothing like performing with your peers," she said.
"It's something fun to be proud
of They're very well rounded."
Take Jercmy Adams, 17. He wields a toy shotgun as Ado Annie's "paw" Andrew Carnes – and is student producer and vocal director, earning him the nick-name "The Pack Mule."

"I've always loved to sing," Adams said. "That's what really started me with musical theater." n the past, an ability to hit high

in drag.
"I feel more confident about myself," said Adams of years in drama. "You have to have some (confidence) to get out on stage and dress up like a woman in front of 200 students.

Whether a student is moving huge windmill sets or do-sido'ing center stage, Patec said, there is a spot for everybody "Our kids have been very flexible," Patec said. "They're an organized group. They're a young group. They're focused on school and they're focused on

their priorities.
"They're really just moving in the right direction

Kim Kovelle is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. via e-mail at

Novi/I-96 off-ramp next up

the Memorial Day holiday and conclude before July 4, or · Construction will commence

after the July 4 holiday and con clude by Aug. 10. "We're waiting to receive feed back from local businesses to see which time frame works best for them," Mathies said.

The alternate routes to Novi Road during the I-96 off-ramp work will be the M5 Connector to Twelve Mile Road for motorists coming from 1-275 or 1-696 or the Beck Road exit.

Message signs will be placed on southbound and northbound M5 (Grand River Avenue), westbound 1-696 and northbound 1-

In city road news, Novi work-ers will reconstruct Nine Mile Road from Novi Road to Meadowbrook Road this summer.
Other projects under way include the Novi Road/Ten Mile

Road Intersection, in which the Road Commission for Oakland County has completed three new concrete lanes in each direction of this intersection. Work will Ten Mile Road in the spring. This ramp to Novi Road. project should be completed in

and the first North North Court be reached

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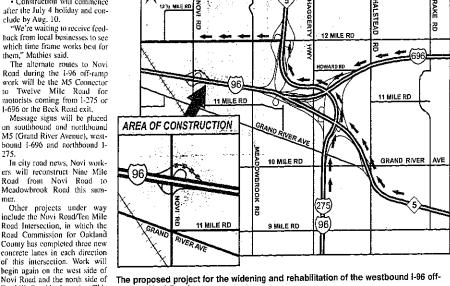
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removed this winter. The inter- Grand River Avenue to Ten Mile Pant Fleming is a staff writer On the I-96/Beck Road Interchange, MDOT will move its construction to the south side of the interchange in the Paring. The old Beck Road Bridge over the intersection should be removed this winter. The interchange is expected to be completed by November.

Grand River Avenue to Ten Mile Road: the resurfacing of for the Novi News. She can be Maddowbrook Road from Grand Other road improvements completed in 2004 include the intersection should be reconstruction of Taft Road from the November.

Grand River Avenue to Ten Mile Road: the resurfacing of for the Novi News. She can be Maddowbrook Road from Grand River Avenue to Ten Mile Road: the resurfacing of for the Novi News. She can be Maddowbrook Road from Grand River Avenue to Ten Mile Road: the resurfacing of for the Novi News. She can be Maddowbrook Road from Grand River Avenue to Ten Mile Road: the resurfacing of for the Novi News. She can be Road from Grand River Avenue to Ten Mile Road: the resurfacing of for the Novi News. She can be Road from Grand River Avenue to Ten Mile Road: the resurfacing of for the Novi News. She can be Road from Grand River Avenue to Ten Mile Road: the resurfacing of for the Novi News. She can be Road from Grand River Avenue to Ten Mile Road: the resurfacing of for the Novi News. She can be Road from Grand River Avenue to Ten Mile Road: the resurfacing of for the Novi News. She can be Road from Grand River Avenue to Ten Mile Road: the resurfacing of for the Novi News. She can be Road from Grand River Avenue to Ten Mile Road: the resurfacing of for the Novi News. She can be Road from Grand River Avenue to Ten Mile Road: the resurfacing of for the Novi News. She can be Road from Grand River Avenue to Ten Mile Road: the resurfacing of for the Novi News. She can be Road from Grand River Avenue to Ten Mile Road: the resurfacing of for the Novi News. She can be Road from Road from Grand River Avenue to Ten Mile Road: the resurfacing of for the Novi News. She can be Road from Road River Avenue to Ten Mile Road: the Road: the Road: the Road:

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a site plan consideration for the March 23 Novi Planning

Software firm relocating

Commission meeting, according o Clay Pearson, assistant city

Established in December 1994, Miracle Software Systems employed 1,217 people globally as of January 2004. The company has a 250,000-square-foot office in India and other worldwide offices. Prasad V. Lokarn, the company's president, lives in Novi. About 150 people work in

"We expect to grow to 300 in the one to two years in Southeast

Steve Lokam said that he and Prasad Lokam were cruising ound to find a new spot for the company when they saw the Grand River Avenue property for sale.

"We were actually driving by, and he said it looked like a good site. It's a good area. We checked it out, and everything seems to be falling in place. This will be our new global headquarters," he said. The offices will close in

Southfield, and the company will completely relocate to Novi. "We wanted to be in Southeast Michigan," said Steve Lokarn. "We looked at Southfield, Wixom and Farmington Hills also. We thought that Novi was a new area

continued from front page

Johnson Printing.

"They are ready for a site plan review," Pearson said. "We have been working with the company and the developer to meet their construction schedules and ensure

timely occupancy of the property."
This project represents a high-tech firm that will be a great match with the Novi community. They're excited about this location, and we're looking forward to hosting

In addition to the typical offices Novi. About 150 people work in southeast Michigan, according to Steve Lokam, vice president, who is true in Novi.

Miracle's new Novi offices snow a small gymnasium, locker rooms, a private outdoor basketball and a private outdoor basketball and a private outdoor basketball and and meeting room, the plan for The developer also plans to pre-serve both woodland and wetlands on the property, mostly located near the rear of the 5.4-acre site. Pearson said that Miracle

Software System's new location is ideal since it will be situated in an area that has seen many recent road improvements. These include the completion of

the CSX Railroad bridge on Grand River Avenue west of Novi tion.
"The business' proximity to
Main Street, Town Center and the

M5 Connector are all pluses, Pearson said. "And, they can look forward to the completion of the Beck Road/I-96 interchange and the new Novi expo center.

that would provide residential areas for our employees."

The proposal is for Miracle to build and own a new two-story, 30,000-square-foot office building on the south side of Grand River

Foundation established to "bridge the gap"

Grace Dzwonkowski (Ado Annie) and Dan Bruder (Will

Parker) rehearse a scene from Novi's production of

Parks and recreation services improve everyone's quality of life, and really that's what we're all about. The foundation provides an opportunity for citizens to leave a legacy for the community," Auler

Foundation members urge citizens to join family members, neighbors, or co-workers to donate recreation equipment, a tree, park amenities, playground equipment, a picnic shelter or even a tennis

Other members of the 2004-2005 Novi Parks Foundation Board of Directors include Lou Martin,

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Kathy Cosentino; Robert Churella, Sr.; Sue Engebrettson; and David

vice chairman and vice president; Dave Staudt, Novi Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commissioner, secretary/treasurer

December 2002 to be a parks com-missioner, Michelle Bononi asked what I brought to the commission that other people don't. I said, 'You guys need a Parks Foundation, Staudt said. He was appointed chairman of the commission's Development Committee.
The first king we did was the

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"When I interviewed in

THE NEED

or many purposes . Scholarship programs for underprivileged youth, families and seniors Park improvements Recreation enhancements

lenged

"The music is amazing," said

made it (creating a foundation) part of that plan," Staudt said.
"The private funding could also be used for artistic endeavors, such as the Novi Theatres, the Novi Choralaires and the Novi Community Band." Staab said there's less govern-ment funding, and the citizens

aren't ready for a tax increase. "This council has made a pledge that they won't increase taxes. If we're going to offer superior services, we have to look for other cources of funding," Staab said. Call (888) 288-1199 or visit ments for the physically chalwww.noviparks.org for details.

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

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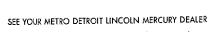
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PUBLIC SAFETY

Robber hits Standard Federal bank Tuesday morning

■ Novi reports third bank robbery of year

By Pam Fleming

Working on a tip from a television viewer, two suspects from South Lyon are in custody after a rank robbery March 8 in Novi. Novi police received a hold-up alarm at 10:09 a.m. March 8 from Standard Federal Bank at 24101

Novi Road just south of Ten Mile The suspect walked up to the teller and produced a note. The teller clused to read the note, at which

point the suspect verbally demanded the teller to hand over money. The teller then handed over an

weapons were involved or implied during the robbery. A customer at a nearby gas station may have seen the suspect leave in a dark color Pontiac Grand Am driven by a Caucasian female.

The television viewer, who pro-The television viewer, who provided the tip to police, recognized the suspect from a photo distributed to the media. Novi detectives apprehended the following suspense at the Popural Acastragus; in

from South Lyon with a criminal history, including felonious assault, felony receiving and con-cealing stolen property and mis-

bery in as many months. But, according to the FBI, Novi's not undetermined amount of curren-cy, and the suspect left. No. It's just another city covered by

"Novi's part of the mix. We're working on these robberies and are trying to resolve them as quickly and as effectively as pos-sible," said Dawn Clenney, Special Agent, Detroit Bureau

Novi police are confident that apprehended the following suspects at the Pontrail Apartments in ble for the robbery at Fifth Third Bank in Novi on March 2. The first bank robbery this year occurred at 3:11 p.m. Jan. 12, when Novi police received a hold up alarm from Comerica Bank at 27768 Novi Rd.

Novi detectives presented finddemeanor larceny.

• A 20-year-old female from South Lyon with no criminal his-Prosecutor's Office yesterday.

reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homecomm.net.



Novi Police investigate the scene of an apparent bank robbery Tue around 11 a.m. at the Standard Federal on Novi Road south of Ten Mile.

Two sexual predators caught

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox announced March 3 the arrest of two metro Detroit men who alteged by used the Internet to commit child sexual abuse, bring ing to 26 the total number of child sexual predators arrested by Cox's Child and Public Protection Unit. "Internet predators pose real risks to our children both online and off." Cox said. "Through the combined vigilance of parents and my office, we will continue to appre-

hend these dangerous predators."

Attorney General investigators arrested Sakthive Subbiah, 31, a Farmington Hills computer engineer Feb. 27 in Ferndale and Melvin Larone Beasley, 22, an Eastern Michigan University student March 1 in Novi. Both men face one count of Child Sexually Abusive Activity and one count of Using a Computer to Communicate with Another to Commit a Crime, both 20-year felonies. Subhiah received a \$50,000 cash bond at

his arraignment and will be back in court for his prelimi-nary examination March 10 in Ferndale's 43 District Beasley received a \$5,000 cash bond at his arraign-

ment. His preliminary examination was scheduled March 9 in Novi's 52-1 District Court. Attorney General Cox encourages parents to visit www.michigan.gov/ag for tips on safe Internet usage for

Citizens can also report suspected Internet child predators via the Report Internet Abbas, Against Children-link or by calling the Child and Public Protection Unit at: (734) 525-4151.

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House Transportation Committee to review state road plan

Public hearings to be held statewide

Speaker Craig DeRoche last Speaker Craig DeRoche last Thursday called on House Transportation Committee Chairman Phil LaJoy to hold statewide hearings on Michigan's road plan. The hearings will be a joint effort between the House and Senate transportation committees. Senate transportation committees.

House Transportation Committee Vice Chair David Law said it is important for committee members to interact with the communities impacted by the decisions made in Lansing.
"The committee needs to hear

first-person testimony on how trans portation issues are impacting residents' quality of life," said Law, R-Commerce Township. "Holding hearings outside of Lansing is one way to ensure the opinions of local residents are taken into considerathem. There are going to be three

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hearings in Southeast Michigan and I encourage people to attend one of them to make sure their voices are

The first joint House and Senate committee hearing was scheduled for March 7 at the Canton Township Hall. Transportation committee meetings also are being scheduled for Grand Rapids, Waterford, Cadillac, Brighton and Port Huron. The hearings will give local elect-ed officials, business leaders and families the opportunity to discuss their community infrastructure needs, and whether those needs are being met. Among the questions

legislators hope to answer are:

• What is the economic impact of delayed construction projects?

• Are our vital infrastructure needs being met by current projects?

• What kind of input are local

officials having on the process?

hadly needed construction projects across the state, said DeRoche. "Many of these delayed projects are costing local jobs at a time when Michigan is in desperate need of job

growth.

Laloy said it is important for the transportation committee to actually hear how the five-year plan is impacting various areas of the state.

These are going to be open meetings where the public can talk to their elected officials about transportation issues that directly impact their daily fives," said Laloy, R-Canton. "We are also touring regional transportation centers to find out how they operate and what they need to perform their jobs safely and effectively."

DeRoche continued: "We need to

build roads where people live, work and pay their taxes. Fixing roads where people used to live, or where we want them to live will only delay projects which will contribute to economic growth and an improved

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House Transportation

R-Canton, discusses the

Michigan's road plan, LaJoy

is joined by, from left, trans-

ber David Law, R-Commer

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Novi Chamber gambles on new fund-raiser

The event will be a night of

fun, friends, food, networking,

the most popular poker game in

In this type of poker, players

get two down eards and five community cards (which are face up in the middle of the table). Your hand is determined

by using the best five of those seven cards (in any combina-tion) with the best hand winning

There are four betting rounds

in Hold 'Em. One bet and three raises are allowed for each bet-ting round. To continue to play,

players must act on each betting

round and call all action to them

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or

clockwise rotation.

How to play

the pot.

a new event," said Nora Champion, president, Novi Chamber of Commerce.

"Because of the new-found

popularity of poker exploding onto the scene, we decided that we would have a Casino Night.

We thought about a Las Vegas

We thought about a Las Vegas Night and narrowed it down to a Novi Hold 'Em Night," she said. "Once we met with the staff from Lucky's, we decided it would be a perfect venue."

Lucky's is a new 35,000-plus-square-foot facility that just opened at Fountain Walk in last November. Fountain Walk is located at 44325 Twelve Mile Road, west of Novi Road and

Road, west of Novi Road and north of I-96.

This is one of the events the

Novi Chamber of Commerce organizes to pay for the annual operations of the chamber.

"Anything above what we need will go into the relocation

fund," Champion said.

Mayor Lou Csordns recently suggested the possibility of the chamber relocating to a house on the Fuerst Farm by the Novi

announce this new event which

will be our major fund-raiser for

the year," she said.
"I think we're one of the first

May 14, 2005, Novi Hold 'Em Casino Night at Lucky's. The definitions are from the Charitable Gaming Division of the Michigan

"All-in" means a player bets all of their chips "Betting Interval" means the period of play when each player has an opportunity to bet, check, raise, call or drop. "Big Blind" means a mandatory bet (typically twice the amount

NOVI HOLD 'EM DEFINITIONS

Here are a few definitions that might help novice players at the

of the small blind) placed by the player to the left of the small blind insition before any cards are dealt "Board Cards" means the community cards dealt face up in the middle of the table, which may be used by all players in constructing a standard five card poker hand.

'Bum" means to discard the top card from the deck face down. "Call" means a player places enough chips into the pot to make their contribution equal to the contribution of any other player, but

"Check" means a player remains in the round of play but does not wish to place a bet, provided no previous player has made a bet

during that betting interval. "Dealer Button" means an object used to designate the player in the dealer position if that player were actually dealing the cards. "Drop," also known as fold, means a player discards their hand

and no longer participates in the round of play. "Hand" means any combination of two pocket cards and/or five board cards which are used to create a standard five card poker

"Pocket Cards" means the two cards dealt face down to each player that can only be used by that player in constructing a stan-

dard five card poker hand. "Raise" means a player places enough chips in the pot to call,

plus one or more chips.

"Round of Play" means the period of play beginning with the first card dealt by the dealer and ending with the awarding of the

"Side Pot" means a new pot or pots established by the dealer after a player has gone "all-in" and additional bets have been placed "Small Blind" means a mandatory bet (typically half the amount of the big blind) placed by the player immediately to the left of the

For a complete explanation of the rules to be used (see the directive on Millionaire Party Tournament Texas Hold'em), click on the link to the Charitable Gaming Division of the Michigan Lottery on the State of Michigan Web site - www.michigan.gov.

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chambers to do something like

Royal Flush — \$5,000 Company name/logo listed as major sponsor on all promo-

poker, arcade games, a silent auction and more.

Played by such celebrities as tional materials On-site signage at the event pop singer Justin Timberlake, Texas Hold 'Em has become Prominent placement on three one of the hottest games around in recent years and is currently 96-square-foot-screen TVs throughout the event at

Lucky's • Continuous recognition in all event publicity

Recognition on Novi Chamber's Web site, Announcements during event's

program • Eight tickets to event (Each ticket includes dinner two drink tickets and arcade vouchers)

Full House -- \$2,500 · Company name/logo on invitations Logo on three 96-square-foot-

screen TVs throughout the (unless they are "all-in"). Betting always proceeds in a event at Lucky's Recognition in all Casino Night

publicity Recognition on Novi Chamber's Web site ticket includes dinner, two drink tickets and arcade

Straight - \$1.500 Logo on three 96-square-footscreen TVs throughout the

event at Lucky's Recognition on Novi Chamber's Web site Two tickets to event (each ticket to include dinner, two drink

tickets and arcade vouchers) Two Pair Game Card Sponsor - \$1,000 (Only two

Logo on game card envelopes

 Recognition on Novi Chamber's Web site

Poker Table Sponsor — \$500 (Only six available)

pany name/logo at one o six poker tables Recognition on Novi Chamber's Web site

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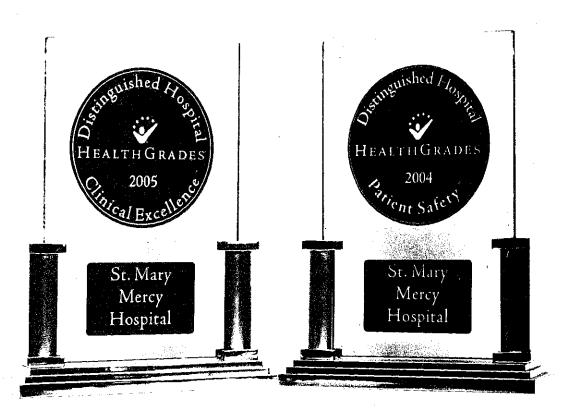
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Dakota Brown, 9, left, dances with Amber Staudt also 9, during last Friday night's Michigan 50's Fest fund-raiser sock hop at the Novi Expo Center.

Board of Review dates change

porting 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

rersons on tixed or limited income may be eligible for a reduction in property taxes due to poverty. Applications are avail-able at the Assessing Department or collections.

Board of Review Schedule Monday, March 14 - 9 a.m.to 6

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

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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

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

the Assessor's order of a www.ci.novi.mi.us.

No appointments will be given until a petition is received by the until a petition is received by the p.m.

Wednesday, March 16 - 9 a.m.

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 peti-tion (available at the Assessing

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ise call to schedule appt, if you wish to see the school at any other ti

Somethin' for the ladies this weekend

Solheim Cup brings Golf Show focus on women

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 yeur is ladies golf. We're work-ing 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 Crooked Stick 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 col-tectibles. Bolden, a lá 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 inter-

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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

uic show in 2005.

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

The interactive golf show offers a variety of definition on molt are the

variety of activities as well as the usual comucopia of retailers, representatives from golf resorts and more. Other show events include: • Hitting Nets & 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 Putt 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 b

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, www.michigangolfshow.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 105, or by e-mail 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

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.

Laties Clinics

Saturday, March 12:

11 a.m. — Ladies Professional Instruction, Kirk Sherman, PGA 1 p.m. — Solheim Cup Overview, Karen Radcliffe, Hamilton ounty (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,

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, Croby

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. Playoff times: Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 4 p.m.

\$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 friends! 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.



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Sam Messina, Realtor, Keller Williams Plymouth Market Center

Left to Right 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

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Arcade license granted

Jeffery and Theresa Wainwright of Secure Development Properties. [...L.C., of Plymouth, won approval for an areade license at Monday night's city council meeting for heir Novi Family Fun Park.

game room at the park currently nder development on the south ide of Grand River Avenue west of

The game room will have 40 machines at the location at 45799 Grand River Ave. subject to final

Rezoning request nixed

Council members denied consideration of a zoning map amend-ment Monday night that would have rezoned property at the south-west corner of Ten Mile and Beck roads from R-1 (Single-Family) sidential) to OS-L (Office ervice.) The property is about four

Members cited the fact that the Novi Planning Commission recent-ly denied the request and that the zoning change did not reflect the current master plan.

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, ning district a unique or unlisted

recent request for a kennel and day

care facility for dogs. This type of use is not considered in the curren city ordinance. The only way the applicant could receive approval for such a use was through a use vari-ance through the Zoning Board of Appeals, or through a text amend-

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.
This amendment would allow the planning commission the ability to determine where a specified unlisted use would best fit into the zoning ordinance if such a need arises, with city council having the final decision on such a matter.

Shawood Lake polluted?

Jim Korte, a Novi resident who lives near Shawood Lake, addressed city council at Monday

"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 intrance to Lakeshore Park

Stopinski, also addressed council about the numerous drainage problems that have plagued residents along South Lake Drive in recent

"Water will not run uphill," Stopinski said.

Mayor Lou Csordas directed city administration during the meeting to address residents concerns on the

Compiled by Pam Fleming

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NEWS by Donald M. Wayne, D.D.S., M.S.

Orthodontic Specialist CHILDREN AND TMJ

CHILDREN AND TMJ

Temporomandibular (TMJ) syndrome pefers to a complex set of conditions that cause that attach the lower jaw formed per to the skull, as well as to associated muscles. As a result on the syndrome may arise from any of a support of causes, TMJ related problems may be due to cross-bites or misalignment of the back teeth. The crossbite throws the lower jaw off to one side and produces an asymmetric closure of the lower jaw off to one side and produces an asymmetric closure of the lower jaw off to one side and produces an asymmetric closure of the lower jaw off to one side and produces an asymmetric closure of the lower jaw off to one side and produces an asymmetric closure of the lower jaw off to one side and produce had a cracking/popping sound, in the temporomandibular joint. If so,

3 vacancies left on boards, commissions

helping other residents.'

Residents: Rewards of involvement abound

By Pam Fleming

Cynthia Gronachan, a 23-year-resident of Novi, has been a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for four years.

small-town politics and how does of that, too, When I moved here, a city encourage people to come she was 'Miss Novi,' She had a

This question comes at a time she said. when there are three openings —
on the Novi Historical Fisher said, "For me, personally,

"It feels really good when some personal satisfaction in the you've worked on something and fact that your time is spent in a you see it actually developed. On

the other hand, you see some things that you say 'I've made a mistake,'" said City Council daily lives." Member Kim Capello.

Novi resident Gwen Markham

Eischer was an alternate on the Novi resident Gwen Markham

ZBA before becoming a voting for the Novi News. She can be supported at 1248 348 1700 exp

years.
"The big benefit to serving is

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"The biggest reward is

Cindy Gronachan

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

She just got reappointed along with Dr. May Sanghyi.
So, what's the attraction? Why, do local citizens get involved in first city clerk. "I'm very proud deep-commitment to the city,"

when there are three openings—on—on—the—Novi—Historical Fisher said, "For me, personally, it's a great way to be involved and also be informed about what's going on in the city. It's also a good way to meet other people in the community," "It feels really good when "It feels really good when some personal satisfaction in the fact that your time is spent in a

way that helps the city and other residents. Local issues are the ones that really affect people's Fischer was an alternate on the

omeone doesn't know the

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process. I got to read the packets just like being a full member, but didn't have to vote," he said. By being involved in the com-munity, Gronachan feels she's residents like former city clerk

The past year has been difficult for the city of Novi, as far as turnover and vacancies on turnover and vacancies or numerous boards. "I don't think it has anything to do with the current administra tion or council. It's just that peo

idents to get involved. "It becomes a matter of priori ties. It's an education and an enlightening process. It puts you thumb on the pulse of the city, she said, "The biggest reward

served on the planning commission twice for a total of four years.

The alternate position is a great way to start, especially if

The alternate position is a pfleming@ht.homecomm.net.

The Novi City Council approved the following board and commission appointments at the

consmic Development Corporation — Sandra Campione re-appointed re-appointed, Laura Casey Planning Commission - no

Beautification Commission -Board of Review - Marjorie John Sheffer re-appointed

Superfisky re-appointed lousing & Comm Development - Dan Tyrrell re-appointed

Parks, Recreation & Forestry Karen Zyczynski appointed Public Access Promotion Committee - Mark Adler

Zoning Board of Anneals -Cynthia Gronachan, May

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Council asks city to draft

by city council.

Students would write essay as part of

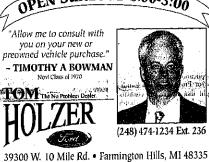
By Pam Fleming

hoards and commissions The policy must be formally

Historical Commission - no

Sanghvi re-appointed





O'BRIEN* SULLIVAN

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John P. O'Brien

policy on youth involvement

application

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

City council members, in a 6-1 vote Monday night, directed the administration to prepare a reso-lution for a policy allowing high ammistration to prepare a resolution for a policy allowing high school students to serve on select-

ed city boards and commissions. The administration will draft a Mayor Lou Csordas, who supportpolicy to allow high school sophomores, juniors and seniors to be non-voting members of certain city

"I think there is interest, and I

adopted, however, before youths can apply for the positions Boards and commissions council suggested youths could serve on include: the Library Board; Parks, Recreation and Forestry Beautification Historical

embrace," she said.

Council discussed the development of a Mayor's Youth Council, Commission and possibly the Housing and Community Development Commission. The oths would have to be Novi reswhich many communities have, idents and would serve one-year terms, with the opportunity of but postponed a decision until

being reappointed.

Member Lynne Paul did extensive research on what other area communities are doing as far as

rouths in city government prior to She looked at policies on rouths' involvement in Farmington Hills, Troy, Royal Oak and Birmingham. Paul contacted and received the blessing of Novi Community Schools District Superintendent Dr. Emmett Lippe and Novi High School Principa John Lawrence on the idea.
"They were all very excited

about it," she said. Paul even talked to school leaders in Northville, Walled Lake and South Lyon, as Novi students live in one of four school districts. She suggested that students

write an essay on why they want to be a member of the particular board or commission and be interviewed by city council as part of the application process.

Mayor Pro Tem David Landry
thought that individual commisinterview candidates rather than city council.

Member Laura Lorenzo felt the candidates should be interviewed "I don't always see things as a

"The one board I mestion is teenager anymore, HDC (Housing and Community Development)," said Member Kim although I try. It The proposal is to have one nonwould give us a voting, youth member for each of the selected boards and commisdifferent perspec-

tive that I think we Member Bob Gatt was not in favor of youths being on boards and commissions because he feels young people are already inundatshould embrace." ed with extracurricular activities. "I don't see them coming to

"It's a market-driven thing," said Although he voted against hav ing youths on boards and commis-

sions, Gatt did support this idea.

Csordas suggested youths be voted onto such a council. "I think like the idea," said Member Toni Nagy, "I think it will provide they should have a school election eenagers a great opportunity."

Paul believes the city, as well as and see what it's really like to get ence the whole enchilada," he said.
"I think Ms. Paul has been the youths, would benefit from young people being involved.

"I don't always see things as a
teenager anymore, although I ry. It
would give us a different perspective that I think we should exceeding creative in trying to involve young people," Nagy said. "Who knows? Maybe one of these

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, ar

young people could become presi-

Lynne Paul

SWOCC UPDATE - "CABLE RATES" Cable subscribers, you've probably noticed that there have been some 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. The 2004 annual report on cable industry prices shows that overall average monthly rate for cable service—including basic and expande basic services and equipment, increased by 5.4 percent over the 12-month period ending lanuary 1, 2004. This is a slower rate of the increase than the 7.8 percent increase recorded over the 12-month period ending January 1,

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 subscribers were offered internet access and 28-percent were offered telephone services

by their cable operator.

Bright House Networks' multi-million dollar estment in a fiber-rich network, allows them to offer cutting-edge products and services. Customers have the choice of high-speed Internet service providers, Vidco-on-Deman Subscription Video-on-Demand, and over 250 channels of programming. Bright House has also introduced the Digital Video Recorders (DVR) which has become immensely popular

over the past six months. As a result of ever-increasing programming fees, especially in sports and movie program-ming, and other operating costs, Bright House implemented some rate adjustments this year.

The good news is that the limited Basic Service increase in 2005 (\$11 per month) and the cost for High Speed On-Line service will also remain the same at \$44.95 per month.

Recently Bright House introduced a service called Premium-On-Demand where premium customers can watch the entire library of movies

NEW RATES

Effective March 1, 2005, the following rate

| adjustments were | djustments were implementea: | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------|--------|--|--|
| Service 2004 2005 Different | | | | | |
| Basic | \$11 | \$11 | \$0.00 | | |
| Standard | \$28.95 | \$30.95 | \$2.00 | | |
| Digital Silver | \$23.45 | \$24.95 | \$1.50 | | |
| Digital Gold | \$33.45 | \$34.95 | \$1.50 | | |
| Digital Platinum | \$38.45 | \$41.95 | \$3.50 | | |
| | | | | | |

Showtime, Cinemax, and The Movie Channel at their convenience. This product, which sells for \$5.95 a month, will now be included in the Platinum Package so Platinum customers who subscribe to Premium-On-Demand, will actually ee a \$0.45 decrease in their monthly bill!

For more on Bright House Networks prices list and offerings click on www.mybrighthouse.com If you would like a full copy of the 2004 FCC

annual report on cable industry prices, go to www.fcc/gov/mb. If you have questions or comments regarding cable and don't receive a satisfactory response

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 Cohn 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,

New Location



47220 W. I 0 Mile Rd. (Beck & 10 Mile, Briar Pointe Plaza) 248-344-1114

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Novi News Coloring Contest

Open to all readers up to age 12

· All entries must be received by

Family members of HomeTown employees not eligible

Saturday March 19th All entries must be completed by entrant Judging will be broken down into age groups:

3-5, 6-9 & 10-12 Winners in each category will receive a pizza & ribs combo courtesy of Pizza Marvelous & have their drawing printed in the March 24th edition of the Novi News

Coloring Contest - Entry Form

Please send or bring entry blank and colored picture to:

CHURCH CALENDAR

 Crosspainte Meadows
Church of Novi presents an
Alpha Course, "Exploring the
Christian Faith," on Sundays at 6 is in. There are over 28,690 Alpha courses rouning all over the world. Check out the Alpha Course Web site at owywadphaleom, Program or lodes workbook and light sunper There is no fee.

CMC offices are located at ਰਿਸ਼ਗਰ River Ave., Ste B1 C (west of Haggerty). Phone (348) 427-2700; Monday-

Thursday, 9 a.m. 2 pan. . Faith Community Preshyterian Church invites you to worship at 9 and 10:30 aan services. Communion wi he served at both services. Adult sunday. School is offered at the S

a.m. service. Earth 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 analitied persons in Novi, Valled Lake and New Hudson and any of the Adult Education

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

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Strike on Thursday at 6:30 p.in.

it for worship during this Lenter season. This Sunday, March 13, Mike Searles will be presenting "The Centurion," a depiction of Christ's final days at both the 9 and 10:30 a.m. services. On Palm Sunday, the Faith Community Choir and Orchestra will perform the Easter Cantata - The Dawn of Resurrection.

A traditional Seder Meal pre-

pared by the Worship Committee Thursday service on March 24 at 7:30 p.m. The Celebration of the Resurrection will be Easter morning with a sunrise service at 7 a.m. immediately followed by an Easter breakfast prepared and served by the Fellowship Committee and the church dea-

cons. Our Faster services will be held at 9 a.m. and at 10:30 a.m. Faith Community Presbyterian is located at 44400 W. Ten Mile Rd. in Novi. For more information, call (248) 349-2345.

. The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cruss 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 nurs-ery is coordinated by a registered

Independence

Botsford Commons Community

for fellowship.

The church invites you to join

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. Worship Service of Compline held at 8:30 p.m. Rite 13 (ages 11-14) and J2A (ages 14 and up)

> program and dinner. 7 p.m. Youth Worship Service is held the sec-ond and fourth Sunday of every month; all are welcome. Episcopal Church of the Holy Tross has moved to 40700 W. Fen Mile (between Meadowbrook and Haggert

groups meet at 5 p.m. for their

oads), Novi, Phone (248) 427-1175 or visit www.churchofthe-Meadowbrook Church

March 13, worship and Church School are at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 16, confir-

mation at 5:30 p.m. Lenten Services at 7:30 p.m. weekly study of the book. Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time" by Marcus J. Borg. The church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Rd., between Fight and Nine Mile roads. Call (248) 348-7757 for more infor-

· Oak Pointe Church Service times will be at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. every Sunday For

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

Church of Northville presents community-wide healing service with prayers for healing of body, nd, relationship and spirit or the first Monday of each month it 4 p.m. The service is open to and persons of all faiths who desire to ask God for healing in

evenings at 7:30 p.m. and a repeat on Thursday morning their life or that of someone they hold dear, It is a service of hope.
The church is located at 777
W. Eight Mile Rd. (at Taft Road), 9:45 a.m. during Lent. · Lazarus - Today · Passion in John - Tuesda and Thursday, March 15 and 17 The Church of the Holy Northville, Phone (248) 349-

offers a Spanish speaking mass once a month. The following is the schedule for the 2005 calen-

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 at (248) 349-8847 or visit

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

The Novi United Methodis

A Festival of Diversity of 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 The church is located at 41671

W Ten Mile Road, Sunday wor-Reverend Jacqueline E. Holdsworth. Call (248) 349-

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with others to pray every

p.m. All are welcome to come

Scripture Sunday: A Lenten Walk Through John's Gospel. Maria Koncius will offer a study

of John's Gospel on Tuesday

Family is located at 24505

Grand River and 10 Mile.

Meadowhrook Road; between

For more information, please contact the Holy Family Church



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BUSINESS

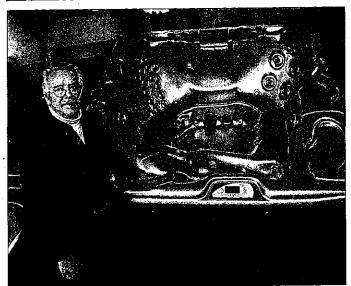


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

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.

Small business financing 101

or expanding credit, enter the feder

business purpose.

took advantage.

d government. The U.S. Small Business

Funds furnish needs from inven

From October 2003-September

"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.

nesses," spokeswoman Jan Hubbard said, "Probably one of the

biggest issues we identified within

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 17 at the Oakland County complex, 1200 N.

Telegraph Road, Pontiac. The fee is 80okkeeping Basics for Small

Bookkeeping Basics for Small

Rusiness — Learn the reasons to

Women in the Know

coming in May!

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Business — Learn the reasons to keep good records, the differences obstween bookkeeping and accounting, a variety of ways to keep the books, how to track a month's a month's a serious serious properties. All seminars will be held at the keep good records, the differences obstance of the properties of the serious properties. All seminars will be held at the keep good records, the differences obstance of the properties of th

■ City of Novi to host advice at March 16 exposition

For 21 years, Jim McDonald and wife Lill have run their family business, Portable Spas Plus, in Novi.
"I started without the two nickels "I started without the two increases 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"

tions of growth." sed on companies like Portable Spas, the city of Novi next Wednesday will host its first Small Business Ádministration Expo. Offering finance advice to pstarts and veterans alike, the

Companies can question and tant banks.

glean tips from four groups: the
U.S. Small Business lenders," C. U.S. Small Business Administration, SCORE Services, Small Business and Technology Development Center Services and new Walsh Family Business "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." Person said the idea came from

visiting local businesses over nearly two years with state and county economic development corpora-"The idea is to go and visit firms that are in Novi, in this case that are already here, and see what kind of "The program is really now basically focused on providing educational resources for family busi-

issues they're dealing with," The focus has been industrial and

ers 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 17 at the Oakland County complex, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac. The fee is

\$40, which includes all materials.

 Is your Web site not quite work ing for you? Not sure what should

be your next step into the Web? How can you wade through that

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. · What: Novi is hosting a "Everyone is trying their best to be efficient, to deliver the highest quality product or service," she Small Business Administration Expo to address financing and loan concerns of current and One method she promotes, not · Who: Four organizations yet available in Novi, is the Business Assistance Team, an out-

tions: U.S. Small Business reach program launched by National City Bank in Royal Oak Services, Small Business and four years ago.
It brings county, chambers of hnology Development commerce and loan institutions Center Services, Walsh Family usiness Center

together to find resources.

"The advantage the small busi-· When: 10 a.m.-noon, ness has is they can pay very close attention to what their market is Vednesday March 16 telling them. They can compete 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, east because of their agility," added Earthart. When it comes to securing loans

· Cost: free Learn more: city of Novi, 248) 735-5628

Administration's Assistant Director Al Cook said the programs' guaran-tee offers a credible push for hesi-Other resources www.sba.gov "It helps reduce risk for the lenders," Cook said. "It can cover the whole gamut of any worthwhile www.walshcollege. edu/pages/894.asp http://mdec.michigan.org www.co.oakland.mi.us/ped:

tory to establishing credit, Cook said. The maximum typically is \$2 fail to pass on their family busines om one generation to the other."

Ursula Scroggs of Troy-basec 2004, the administration guaranteed \$63.7 million in loans to Oakland County. Only 10 Novi companies business accounting firm Derderian, Kann, Sayferth &

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 ing selectively what they want to spend their money on, We're opti-mistic about potential."

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

All seminars will be held at the

BUSINESS BRIEFS

DEM: has now computer

OEM Micro Solutions, Inc. o 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 com-pany said. The 12- and 15-inch LCD screens will provide access to state and local databases for dispatch, records and photoraphs, and allow mapping and field reporting. Costs will cover mounts, installation, service and

Other new clients included St. Clair County's Marysville Police adment. Wayne County's Department, and police and fire in Fort Wayne, Ind. New busiicss totaled just over \$1.5 mil-ion, the company reported. OEM is located at 41326

rade show.

dessert

Vincenti Court.

compete vesterday in the Third

Proprietor and chef Dino

Grossi's task was to create an

Brio advertises Cosworth Cosworth Technology, Inc., an

automotive diagnostics firm in Novi, recently joined Plymouth-based auto lighting and electron-ics supplier Hella North America in picking Brio

K. Ligocki Court for the Southern District of New York. JPMorgan Brio will be used for brand will provide the financing.

Tower previously received approval to immediately access development of both firms' special events. Cosworth previo ised to the advertiser to develo \$125 million of the financing rand name and sales materials eb. 3. We are pleased to have product introduced at a recen-

his dessert for several weeks

Other competitors included Tribute, Morels, Seldom Blues,

Small Plates, The Hill Seafood & Chop House, Hollywood Brown Derby and Boodles.

The dessert will be available

to sample throughout the next week at Volare, located at 49115 Pontiac Trail, just east of Wixom

Tower gets debtor

After recently declaring

approval for \$725 million

Chapter 11 Bankruptcy, Novi's Tower Automotive, Inc.,

debtor-in

Approved Feb. 28, the

full-amount

approved by the U.S.

financing

received the court's approval of this financing, which will enable Cosworth is located at 4100 Tower to continue operating nor mally as we work to restructure our finances," president and CEO Kathleen Ligocki said. Volare creates cookie Normal cash flow will also help, the company said.

Tower is located at 27175 was one of eight restaurants to Haggerty Road.

ual Girl Scout Cookie Gala Taubman in the news Taubman Centers, Inc., the

nages Novi's Twelve Oaks original dessert recipe using a Girl Scout cookie — in his case, Mall, recently presented and announced stock dividends. On March 7, the Bloomfield the Do-Si-Do. Guests sampled the creations and cast their Hills-based company gave a general company overview and votes, although results weren' available by Novi News press question-and-answer session at Smith Barney's 2005 REIT CEO Grossi reportedly fine-tuned

replay is aviable for 30 days at (402) 220-0737. The company also declared a regular quarterly divided of \$0.285 per share of common stock, payable April 20 to share-holders as of March 31. Series A Cumulative Preferred Shares were \$0.51875 per share, while Those are payable March 31 to shareholders as of March 21.

Conference in Naples, Fla. A

Veri-Tek over-allots stock

Wixom's Veri-Tek International Corp. announce last week that the underwrite ing purchased 375,000 over-allotted shares.

The company sold the extra shares to the underwriter at \$6 per each, the initial offering price. The transaction wit Virginia-based Anderson &

udwick closed March 2. Including the over-allotment sale, Veri-Tek carned about \$15.4 million in its stock sales Approximately \$7 million will be used to repay senior debt and general corporate purchases, the

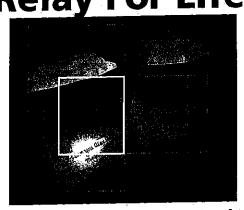
company said Located at 50120 Pontiac Trail, Veri-Tek designs, develops and builds specialty equipment for the automotive and equipment industry. For final prospectus stock results, cail (800) 767-2424.

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

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 teambased 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 Wenesday, March 16, 2005

Call 248.557.5353 to learn more.



6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

NOVI NEWS

HOXO)D) WA Better**Healt** Organic Dairy Fresh Produce - Vegetarian Foods Bulk Foods Natural Grocery - Bath & Beauty Fresh Seafood Frozen Entrees - Nutrition Fresh Meat 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. 22 Sec. Grand River & Market St



salad - a blend of mixed greens

tossed with gorgonzola cheese, dried cherries and pecans with a

New pasta dishes include

seafood angel pasta, pasta veg-etable medley with mushroon

New desserts feature

famous Eli's cheesecake and

printed to reflect the new theme

The restaurant will be in Nov

The restaurant seats 264 and i

raspherry vinaigrette dressing

sauce and shrimp scampi

They've changed their name from "Mesquite Grill" to "Steak on Main," but manager Luke Kurrle, left, and owner Glacier Liao will still be offering delicious food at their Main Street Novi location. Kurrle holds up a filet mignon and lobster tail while Liao has prime rib and one of the restaurant's signature football-sized potatoes.

Playing the name game

Mesquite Creek becomes Steak on Main

By Pam Fleming

The former Mesquite Creck Restaurant, with its landmark position at the intersection of Main and Market streets in Novi has a new name, effective last week — Steak on Main Seafood

And, believe it or not, one of the diners picked out the name.
"The hame Steak on Main was actually selected by one of our regular customers," said owner, Snow Liao. Owners Snow and her husband,

Glacier Liao, of Ann Arbor, hope to draw more business with the restaurant's new name.

Two things the Liaos are proud

of is the fact that the restaurant received a Best of Michigan for second place for their prime rib and a third place honor for their barbecue ribs in the 2004 Best of Michigan contest.

Snow said she and her husband started out in the motel and restaurant business in Louisiana and moved to Woodhaven, Mich., n the 1980s, where they ran a

pated.
The restaurant is the original famous Eli's cheesecake cocupant of the building since May 2001.

New desserts leature famous Eli's cheesecake chocodate cake from Chicago.
Managers also had a new m

Liao said. The new name reflects several

prime rib; certified Angus beef;

fajitas.

New specialty burgers all feanew specially burgers all fea-ture a 12-ounce patty of certified Angus beef. They range from the black & blue burger, coated with cracked peppercorn and smoths-ered in melted blue cheese, to the Main Street burger, with soutend

restaurant, Miki, in Ann Arbor, that they just sold last September.
"We had it for nine and half years." Snow said.
"They were in business for three years and eight months with the Mesquite Creek franchise, the Mesquite Creek franchise, and the Mesquite Creek franchise. They basically wanted to venture out on their own and create a new identity," said Patri Nelson, gener-

al manager.

Business wasn't falling off, according to Nelson, but the restaurant was just not generating the traffic the owners had antici-

"I think we've gotten some good response and good support with the name change," Snow

four years in June, and business is going well, according to Nelson. new menu selections. We have a new menu selection who have restaurant's original favorites full-service bar with some new items.

Nelson said
Original favorites include Steakhouse is located at 43155 mine rith certified Angus beef:

Main St., Suite, 208. For more

Original favorites include Steakholtse is located at \$150 prime rib; certified Angus beef; and steak, chicken or portabello fajitas.

Main St., Suite, 208, For more information or to inquire about private parties at Steak on Main,

restaurant with her family in the
Best Western Hotel.

Main Street burger, with sauteed
mushrooms, crisp bacon and

Schools of Choice Enrollment

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Comprehensive curriculum, including a variety of

Freshman, JV, and Varsity athletic opportunities

Cutting-edge technology, including wireless laptop

orchestra, choir and drama

computers

Walled Lake Central

1600 Oakley Park Rd.

to welcome you!

Turns," which chronicles his journey from the "left" to the "right" of American politics and

continued from page 11

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Sounding from 4-6 p.m. weekdays on News Talk 1400 WDTK, Detroit, The Michael Medved Show reaches 2 million listeners. Medved also is author of "Hollywood vs. America" and "What Really Happened to the Class of '65?

Novi's Borders is located at 43075 Crescent Blvd., off Novi

GSE sold to Chicago company

Systems, a tech-motive too business last week was sold by SPX Service Solutions of Charlotte, N.C., to Atlas Copco-owned Chicago Pneumatic Tool Company.

GSE manufactures and dis-

tributes specialized tightening solutions for assembly companies. Its annual revenues are about \$25 million "Despite its niche expertise,

our review process revealed that in the long term, GSE is not a match for our growth strategy," SPX President David Kowalski

said. GSE is located at 42860 W.

Eye doctor presents

Dr. Amy Crissman, optometrist at Novi's Town & Country Eyecare, recently was a guest lecturer at Oakland University's Science of Vision 400-level course.

Her second annual speaking engagement with the university,

man presented the lecture "Introduction to Physiological Opties as it Relates to the Clinic Setting." Novi's Town & Country

Eyecare is located at 22350 Novi Road.

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Business

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Walsh College

introduces the

Family Business

Center, an

education and

dedicated to

increasing the

success of family

businesses in

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Derderian Kanr

Seyferth &

Auto Alley heads to Europe Oakland County-based Automation Alley Export Center recently announced that it completed an advance trade mission rip to Europe in January.

Scheduled for Oct. 16-26, the

official trip will cover Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and the Czech call (248) 380-5400. Republic. Up to 15 local compa for the Novi News. She reached at (248) 349-1700; ext. 105, or by e-mail at

"As the only U.S. state conducting a trade mission to Central and Eastern Europe in 2005, Michigan is at the fore-front for creating long-term rela-tionships with these countries," said M. Dujon Johnson, the cen-

INCAT will supply iCHECK

Novi's INCAT Products, Inc.

iCHECK data quality assurance

tool to major aerospace, auto-

otive and defense manufactur

Combined with other recent

program integrates with produc

lifecycle management, allowing

supplier data at corporate quality

"iCHECK enhances existing

technology to advance the busi

ness objectives of organization where it is implemented," CEO

Located at 41370 Bridge

Street, INCAT is a global pro-

tion lifecycle management.

Auto production update

this week, down 3.2 percent

from last week, according to

[] S. automakers were expect

ed to produce 255,467 vehicles

fessional services company focused on product and informa-

elients to manage internal and

assurance standards.

clients creat-

than \$1 mil-lion in rev-

upwards of 2,000 users, INCAT

reported.
The com-

enue and

added

iCHECK services, the new

U. Herter

(248) 349-3223. Open enroll-ment has begun for the 2005-06 school year and limited open-ings are still available. ter's assistant director. omation Alley is Southeast Automation Alley is Southeas Michigan's regional technology consortium of business govern-The four-year-old programs are held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-11:30 a.m. or 12:30-3 p.m. The three-year-old programs are held on Tuesday and Thursday from 9-11:30 a.m. ment and education visionarie geared at bringing talent and business to the area. or 12:30-3 p.m.

PETCO hosts fundraiser

Novi Co-Op Preschool is

located in the Novi United Methodist Church at 41671 10

Mile Rd. The phone numb

Join the Novi PETCO store at 43480 W. Oak Drive for a day of prizes giveaways and pet-related family fun as the store hosts a special celebration unday to kick off its "Spring a

et" fund-raiser.

From noon-4 p.m., be a part of the PETCO festivities with pet photos with the Easter Bunny, a coloring contest, ham-ster races, a duck ring toss game and plenty of great prizes.

Compiled by Kim Kovelle

Send us your business news!

Do you have a new hire at your business? Are you gearing up for your grand opening? is Your business heading in an exciting new direction, celebrating an annivesary or moving? If sp. we want to know. Send

Rusiness News Novi News 104 W. Main Northville, MI 48167

or e-mail to:

If possible, include a photograph with your sub-mission. Briefs can come in the form of press releases or announce ments, and the Novi News reserves the right to edit for length and content. For more informatin, call (248), 349-1800, ext. 113

WardsAuto.com To date, national output for 2005 is about 2,234,150 units down 0.7 percent compared to this time last year,

Coop preschool open house Novi Cooperative Preschool is hosting an open house on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All parents, and their children,

interested in learning about co operative preschools are invited

Governance Structures

That Promote Longevity

visit the school and meet the

BEST PRACTICES FOR FAMILY FIRMS

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 8 AM, NOVI CAMPUS

Join us as Sarah Schmidt, PsyD, presents an interactive breakfast session on governance structures for the family firm.



- ✓ Boards of Directors
- Family Councils
- Owner Councils
- Shareholder Policies
- ✔ Family Meetings

Schmidt is actively involved with her family's business, U.S. Oil Company, Inc., she also works as a family business consultant, and serves as the vice chair of the Board of Directors for the Loyola University Family Business Center.

Members receive two free tickets and may call or e-mail reservations to Connie Moore at 248-679-1424 or cmoore@walshcollege.edu. Non-member tickets are \$40 and may be purchased online at www.walshcollege.edu. Select Family Business Center from the bottom menu.

WALSH COLLEGE. The Power To Succeed.

EDUCATION

First-year teacher making a name for herself

. School: Novi Meadows Elementary School

Subject: language arts and social studies

· College: Michigan State University

Years teaching: currently in her first year teaching

opportunity and spending time with friends and family,

Years in Novi Community School District: two (her first year

· Interests: Scrapbooking, reading, traveling if she has the

Mandy Coyault was an intern under the three-teacher team of

Nicole Modrzejewski, Mary Grim and Michelle Campos last school year at Novi Meadows Elementary School. All four were nominated to be feature teacher as a team, but since Covault is no longer a

part of the team, she has been awarded the honor of being feature

Grade: sixth

was an internship)

Why she was chosen:

teacher separately.

like they know about me."

into the corporate world.

Covault now on her own and loving every second of it

By Ramez Khuri

Mandy Covault still has vivid memories of being a student. It wasn't that long ago she was sit-ting in a classroom at Michigan State University, gaining the skills and knowledge she needed to be what she is today – a sixth grade teacher at Novi Mendows Elementary School.

That's why it's difficult for her o not to consider herself just one of the kids while she's in the class-

"I love everything about the students," she said. "They're so much fun and I want to be their teacher, but I want to be their friend also. They see that too because they know that I'm younger than most teachers and it's hard for me to separate that because I do have to be stern and there are rules to be

A first-year educator, Covault isn't new to Novi. Last school year she interned under the threeeacher team of Nicole drzejewski, Mary Grim and Michelle Campos on the fifth grade side of the school.

one might think that Covault would have the jitters taking on a whole classroom full of kids all by whole classroom full of kids all by the first by the further than the full by the first by the further than the full by the first by the further than the full by the first by the further than the full by the first by the further than the full by the first by the full by the ful do business, but I wouldn't have enjoyed it," she said, "I enjoyed doing my field experiences in herself, but that couldn't be further from the truth. The woman is cool

as ice.
"I absolutely love working with kids at this age," she said. "It's a very rewarding profession because it's an opportunity for me to intro-duce kids to new concepts and make things fun for them and make them interested in learning."

Covault said that she encounters something new every day while on the job. She has so much fun with her kids, that she looks forward to going to school every day to see them. She even can't wait to get back to school on Mondays because she wants to hear whal the kids did over their weckends.

it through," she said.

While in middle school,
Covault met the one teacher who
would change her life forever. "I want to see how their families are and over breaks, I want to know what they did," she said, "I just love knowing about illem, just That person was Ken Gutman, who at the time, was her social

ful thing she does

showcases students' writings

in Mrs. Zaradnick's first grade class at Parkview Elementary,

Elaine attends Temple Kol Ami

Religious school and is rehears

ing for their upcoming perform-ance of Joseph and the Amazing

Elaine is the daughter of James

D. McIntyre and Rhonda Kotzen.

Technicolor Dream Coat

Conference in March.

Growing up, Covault always had an interest in teaching. In fact, Covault said that Gutman is the reason she ended up attending Michigan State University because he was such a big Spartan she used to play "classroom" as a child. When she went away to college she weighed her options and realized she'd be happiest working fan, and so was she. She said that he made everyone in the class feel like they were someone special.

cipal in Lake Orion.

as an educator, rather than going "He always had time in school "I took a few business classes and it just wasn't my thing," she said, "I was doing very well in my education classes and I realized, if and outside of school if we needed help," Covault said. "He always made everything educational and fun at the same time. He wanted to I'm doing well in it and I'm enjoy-ing it, why not do it as a profes-sion?" make sure that we received the best of everything and he just cre ated an atmosphere where every-body was somebody. I wanted to At first, she considered followdo that in my classroom after

ing in her father's footsteps and focus on a career in the business field. But her heart wasn't as into saw what he did for us." Covault explained that she tries it as it was into teaching.

"I could have forced myself to teaching every day. She also tries to business, but I wouldn't have to let the kids know that she's a teacher, but she also has a life, a

needs of each student because

there are so many of them and

influence on their lives that they

first name and a family.

"Those are things the kids don' Lansing and I enjoyed going into the classroom. I realized that's where I needed to be."

Covault considers every Like all jobs, however, it's no moment memorable because of the hardest parts of the job a the knowledge she gains with each one. She said that she learns from every-mistake she grading and all the paperwork that goes along with it. Also, she strug-gles to find enough time in her day to work and successfully meet the makes as well as every success-

"At the end of each day, I sit down and reflect and I think it was a good day because I made class sizes would definitely make her job casier. When her first year students move on to the seventh grade, Coyault hopes she made a positive

Novi Meadows' teacher Mandy Covault, left, casts a wary eye at Nikhlta Sarapeneni as

teacher who cared about them as a person and who cared about their success," she said, "I want each one of my kids to do the best they

the student argues for credit on a quiz answer



SCHOOL BRIEFS

Kotzen published



has been selected for

publication in the Michigar Reading

E. Kotzen Association's 14th annual Kaleidoscope. This publication

> CITY OF NOV FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 05-004

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Skanska USA Building Inc. i NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Skanska USA Building Inc. is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow placement of a temporary office trailer for St. James Catholic Church located at 46325 Fen Mille Road. This permit is to be issued from March 16, 2005 to November 30, 2005. A public hearing meeting to consider this request will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2005. The meeting is at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Written and signed approvals or objections will be accepted into the file if neceived prior to the scheduled meeting. Please address all communications to Gail Backus at the City of Novi Building Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Fload, Novi, MI 46375. GAIL BACKUS

(3-10-05 NN 197822)

NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS FENCE REPLACEMENT -LAKESHORE PARK

The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for FENCE REPLACEMENT
- LAKESHORE PARK according to the specifications of the City of Novi.
Bid packages will be available at the Pre-Bid Meeting.
A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held Thursday, March 17,
2005 at 10:00 A.M. in the Activities Room in the Community Center at the
Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd., Novi, Mi 48375-3024.
Sealed bids will be received until 3:30 P.M. prevailing Eastern Time,
Tuesday, March 22, 2005, at which time proposals will be opened and e addressed as follows:

CITY OF NOVI CAROL J. KALINOVIK, PURCHASING DIRECTOR 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd. Novi, MI 48375-3024

All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE PLATINLY MARKED "FENCE REPLACEMENT" LAKESHORE PARK BID"

AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER. The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals may award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informalities or both; to rejict any or all proposals; and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion. I be in the best interest of the City of Novi. Notice dated: March 7, 2005

(3-10-05 NN 198675)

CAROL J. KALINOVIK PURCHASING DIRECTOR (248) 347-0446

from across the state. She will be attending the Young Authors' Luncheon at the MRA's Annual St. Paul's Lutheran School will be hosting an Open House on Wednesday, March 23 from 6-8 p.m. St. Paul's is currently In addition to Elaine's studies rolling for preschool through

Compiled by Ramez Khuri

ed at 201 Elm Street in down-

town Northville, behind Hiller's Market. For more information, contact the school office at (248)

GARY S. WEINSTEIN

349-3146.

A LUSTROUS APPEARANCE As far as gemistones are consetting as well as jewelry of all cerned, the term "luster" refers to types, be sure to come in to WEIN. the quantity and quality of the light STEIN JEWELERS OF NOVI. reflected from its surface. This corstellar are available to suit every

species of gernstone, as exemplined as a mount of the species of gernstone, as the species of gernstone, as the species of gernstone, as exemplined as a mount of the species of gernstone, as exemplined as a mount of the species of gernstone, as exemplined as a mount of the species of gernstone, as exemplined as a mount of the species of gernstone, as exemplined as a mount of the species of gernstone, as exemplined as a mount of the species of gernstone, as exemplined as a mount of the species of gernstone, as exemplined as a mount of the species of gernstone, as exemplined as a mount of the species of gernstone, as exemplined as a mount of the species of gernstone, as exemplined as a mount of the species of gernstone, as exemplined as a mount of the species of gernstone, as exemplined as a species of gernstone, as exemplined as a species of gernstone, as a species of gerns

mantoid garnet.

For the linest in gernstones and RS-A genture's linese is described as "dall" if lote light reflected.

NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS STUMP GRINDER

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

Sealed bids will be received until 3:00 P.M. prevailing Eastern Time, Tuesday, March 22, 2005 at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:

CITY OF NOVI CAROL J. KALINOVIK, PURCHASING DIRECTOR 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd. Novi, MI 48375-3024

All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE PLAINLY MARKED "STUMP GRINDER BID"

AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER.

The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informalities or both, to reject any or all proposals; and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the City of Novi. Notice dated: March 7, 2005

CAROL J. KALINOVII PURCHASING DIRECTOR (248) 347-044

(3-10 NN 198430)

ROBERT E. TAUB, P.C.

Attorney and Counselor

Announces the reopening of its South Western Oakland law offices in Wixom at:

28004 Center Oaks Ct. • Ste. 103 • Wixom (West of Meijer on Grand River) 248.348.5773

Mr. Taub, practicing in Oakland County for 27 years principal of the firm, practiced for 10 years in Novi and served as a Novi Planning Commissioner for over 3 The firm specializes in both construction and com-

mercial collection, as well as bankruptcy, drunk driving

and divorce law.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Heview shall convene in its first session at \$:00 a.m. EST, Tuesday, March 8th, 2005 in the Novi Assessing Department at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road for the purpose of reviewing and correcting the assessment roil.

Notice is further given that the second session of the Board of Review will meet for the purpose of hearing and considering assessment appeals in the Novi City Council Chambers at 4575 W. Ten Mile Road on March 14, 15 & 16, 2005. All appearances before the Board will be by appointment only. If you or your representative want to appear in person, the appointment must be made on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Friday, March 11, 2005. Appearances before the Board of Review are limited to tive (5) includes or less Petitions are available at the Assessor's Office or at

appointment must be made on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Friday, March 11, 2005. Appearances before the Board of Review are limited to five (5) minutes or less. Petitions are available at the Assessor's Office or at www.ci.novi.mi.us. NO APPOINTMENTS WILL BE GIVEN UNTIL A PETITION IS RECEIVED BY THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT.

Letters of protest will be accepted on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Wednesday, March 16, 2005. 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 owner they appreparesention.

senting.

Persons on fixed or limited income may be eligible for a reduction in properly taxes due to poverty. Applications are hydrother to the compariment, or at www.cl.nov.mi.us.

BOARD OF REVIEW SCHEDULE Monday, March 14, 2005 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, 2005 - 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, 2005 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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

MARYANNE CORNELIUS CITY CLERK (2-24 & 3-3/10-05 NN 195312)

We're Making Tomorrow!

Walled Lake Western

Walled Lake, MI 48390

600 Beck Rd.

Novi-based GSE Scale

Chemistry students preparing for Olympiad

high schoolers

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 stu-dents from the United States to

chemistry teacher, Rand Helmeamp, 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

Bianca Mieth and Adam Pitcher

of Novi, were named to the Dean's List for fall 2004 semester at Adrian College.

Novi resident, Vanessa Dekoekkoek, was awarded Academic Honors for fall 2004

semester at Ferris State

Andrew Curtin, of Novi, was among the graduates at Ferris

mencement exercises, Dec. 2004.

State University during com

Tompetition istry competitions all around the world.

States that go to many other countries all over the world. These kids are the best of the post of contests, called the chemistry Olympiads, to prove the world. States that go to many other countries all over the world. These kids are the best of the best of the best of the kids who do this. The world is the proventies the competent that we will pick the top 10 kids to come back in May and the world in the world. series of contests, called the Chemistry Olympiads, to prove their worthiness. According to Novi High School them across the country take an initial qualifying test, which occurs in March. This year it's March 17."

Iab work."

The first choice and the first choice and the first choice and the first choice and the first choice.

"There will probably be about

placed on the full 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

earned straight A averages of 4.0, with 1024 attaining GPAs from 3,50 to 3.99.

The following Novi students

Bergeson, sophomore, chemical

sophomore, communication and

freshman, mechanical engineering

from were honored; Scott A

engineering; Anna L Cynar *.

culture studies; Eric D Joseph.

students (indicated by asterisk

From that, they will pick the top 10 kids to come back in May and take another test, which involves

One year, two of his students were 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 only a second one in May is a 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 stuff. The second one in May is a three-hour test that involves a coumetro Detroit area were from ple parts to it: Written and a laboratory work. From there, judges pick

"lim Hanson has done a great 20 students from around the coun- job with those kids," Helmeamp

try, 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.

Students, prepare by covering material in class and they take a

they might face.
"It's all practice and learning by doing," Helmcamp 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

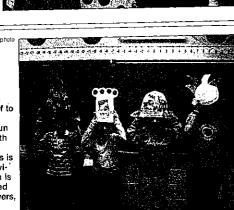
Karen Janik, of Novi, is per-forming with Valparaiso University's Chamber Concert Rand for the 2004-05 academic year. The Chamber Concert Band, which especially focuses on original hand compositions, is the pre mier auditioned symphonic band at VU. Karen is a sophomore music education major and a grad-uate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

Who's at Orchard Hills? was celebrated in

Dr. Seuss' 101 birthday many ways in the classrooms at Orchard Whittaker dressed as "Who's" from Whonone other than "The Cat In The Hat." The youngsters shared their own copies of Seuss books with on another and were visit ed by unexpected

Hat's off to

reading Sixth graders at Novi Meadows Elementary School created hats in celebration of "Hats off t Reading," the school's theme for this year's fur fest, in cooperation with the Parent Teacher Organization, Meadows sponsoring many activities to celebrate March is reading month. Pictured here are Kimberly Power Anthony and Matthew





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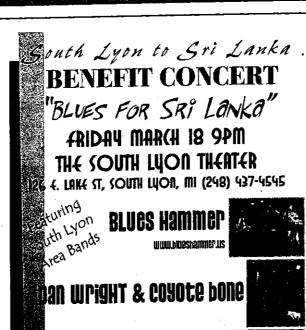
Some restrictions apply. No cancellations.



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 have been to the proposite by Roynold and Advis Africa Control. how to floss teeth properly by Reynolds as David Ayala, Alicia Samson, Rachel Casaccia and Ayako Okuda look on.





The martindales UUUULMAYY**inksi**estaandeoon

ROCEEDS FROM TICKET SALES BENEFIT VE AHAVTA'S EFFORTS TO REBUILD CARE CENTER ORPHANAGE IN TRINCOMALEE, SRI LANKA, DEVASTATED BY THE DECEMBER 2004 TSUMAMI

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Novi winter drum line gearing up for competitions



Student Kim Weidl practices on the marimba during a

\$24,9001 Call Mike at 517-000-000B.

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

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 - 5:00 pm on.-Sat. 9:00 am - 7 pm for your shopping conveni Prices Good Through Sunday, March 13, 2005 Joe's Produce 33152 W. Seven Mile · Livonia, MI 48152

www.joesproduce.com (248) 477-4333

10 out of the last 11 years

By Ramez Khuri

competitions the past 11 years. Novi's winter drum line is

has taken 10 state championships and is looking for num-ber 11. The group practices every Monday and Wednesday

teaches the kids time manage-responsibility and Bands Matt Ownby said. "The talent level of the individual students, as well as their motivation is what I attribute our

GREEN SHEET

MMM

Yelcho Varitels

New Arrival

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..\$3,39 lb. ..\$3,39 lb.

tive performance where the group does a five minute musi-cal and visual presentation. It gets judged by three adjudica-tors and then scored on a scale of 100.

enhanced techniques on their

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." Ownly said. "It's a neat activity and the nice thing is, there seems to be a sport for the state championships with the light of the properties of the state of the st No stranger to winning, Novi

just about everybody in the high school now. There are a lot of good competitive activities that students can get involved in, in preparation for two competiin preparation for two compar-tions before the big one on Saturday, April 2, at Saginaw Valley State University. "I'm pretty proud of our group," Assistant Director of even if they're not necessarily athletic scholars. I think most students do take advantage of our activities that we offer. Ours

success to."

The winter drum line is a

competitive team that consists of 36 Novi High School stufrom Novi Middle School. The

with Photos!



Novi High School student Mike Webber plays a riff on

winter drum line practice

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, xylo-phones, bells and cymbals.

band that's been shrunk down to just percussion instruments and presented on a gymnasium floor," Ownby 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 designs; and the third judges what's called overall general effect, which is basically crowd

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

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 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net.



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

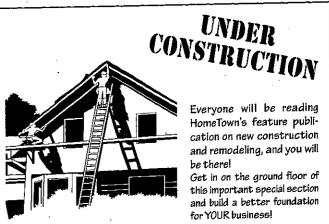
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OPINION

Novi News

Part of HomeTown Communications Network™

Jack Lessenberry VP, EDITORIAL Dick Agintan PRESIDENT EDITOR Grace Perry Richard Brady Phillip Powe

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

State Police issue has just begun

recently, our meto recognizes three this failure affices of the post in morthern Oakland County, as well as a proposal before the Oakland County Board of Commissioners asking the State Legislature to consider failuress and equal treatment for communities in allocating State

The governor's post closing proposal has certainly raised the tem-perature of this issue in Oakland County, well beyond what a mere policy recommendation from the County board would ordinarily war-

The proposed County Commission resolution does not mention o recommend the closing of police posts, Groveland or any other. It asks that the subsidy for local police services by the state police to select communities be "permanently and progressively climin Closing a perfectly good police post, because we are unable to deal ostly subsidy issue, represents a clear failure of our present

There are many alternatives, equity formulas, and other options which could be applied over time; but these would be overly detailed for a nere advisory resolution from a county board Recently, there was an article in the Detroit Free Press showing that these cost transfers are not merely incidental

Guest Column



During a time of unending state budget crises, this practice extends Oakland's 'donor status' and means even more tax dollars taking the off-ramp on the way eack from Lansing.

An even bigger problem is the effect

add-ons; they are massive

Why are these an issue for Oakland

County? Three townships in Livingston County, just to the west of the county line (Genoa, Brighton, and Osceola) with

combined taxable value of about \$2

BILLION, pay zero mills for police serv-ices; per-capita property values are also

Why are "free" state police services to

y with a mix of property values - equate to a millage equivalent of 5.4 When once considers attracting 'new' development this taxation

on outward development patterns. For example, police costs in the city of South Lyon – as an older commun

'penalty' equals over \$750 per year on a \$300,000 home, based on police costs alone. This, in turn, would translate into a price bonus of around \$12,000;

This, in turn, would translate into a price bouns of around \$12,000; this is how much "extra a prospective buyer could pay with the same mouthly payment in Brighton Township.

This effect is redoubled when it comes to jobs and tax base. Last year a major supplier plant with over 300 jobs and a planned build-out of \$30 million bolted from the table at Lyon Township, in west Oakland.

to pick a site in Livingston, leaving Oakland economic development officials with a stranded project.

The reasons were complex, but the initial reason offered was that

Lyon Township officials would not immediately agree on tax abate ments. Lyon Township pays over \$1 million for local police costs;

Brighton Township gets "free" services from the state police.

As a result, new industry is marooned out in high-income areas, beyond the range of Oakland and Metro Detroit commuters. Communities have a perfect right to compete for development based on rits. But residents should not have to pay state taxes to have their jobs wooed away by neighbors proffering incentives.

Finally, Groveland-area folks claim that having a lot of state land

somehow carns them an exemption from responsibility for police cost In truth, every community in Michigan has some special circumstance thich could be converted into a claim for conscientious objector status. Some have major universities, freeway junctions, tax-free their budg-top the property of the pro ets. Living in a tremendously attractive community near state land, which raises property values and brings in a large-lot low-service population, is a cross which many communities would be only too happy to bear.

Please stay tuned for an interesting debate on public policy in Michigan. Thanks again for your attention to this important debate.

Jeff Potter (R-South Lyon) is an Oakland County Commissioner from District 8, past South Lyon mayor, and co-author of a resolution on

TTERS

Questions DeRoche's representation

Yes, in 2002, the voters of the 38th State House District elected Craig DeRoche; and yes in 2004 he was reelected. Both times by wide nargins. But recent activities by our State Representative have give me pause, does Craig DeRoche really represent the citizens of our

First Ren. DeRoche is leading the charge against increasing the minimum wage in Michigan from its current level of \$5.15 per hour to \$7.15 per hour. A recent analysis show: that 450,000 Michigan workers earn fess than \$7.15 per hout = 150,000 of them being the pri-mary wage corners for their families. For a family of three, a full time wage of \$5.15 per hour is 40 percent below the federal poverty level. Does Rep. DeRoche really want to see 150,000 wage earners and their dependants live at subsistence levels? I know that that the many generous people that I meet every day in the communities of the 38th District do not beleieve in forced poverty for hard-working people. Now, we also learn that a Political Action

Committee (PAC) controlled by Rep. DeRoche is a large in-state contributor to the California-based initiative to ban the use of race and gen-der preferences in Michigan. Why has Rep. DeRoche given \$10,000 to a group whose so purpose for existence is to deprive women and minorities of needed opportunities? In this quest, Rep. DeRoche has put himself in opposition to major manufacturing (Ford, GM, Daimler Chrysler, etc.), the leadership of most of our religious denominations (including the Michigan Catholic Conference), university leadership and others that are committed to the Common Good? Do we forget that the larges group of beneficiaries from current affirmative action programs are caucasian women, the daughters, wives and mothers of the 38th

Every day I am witness to the earing and generosity of the citizens of Novi, Wixom, Walled Lake, South Lyon and the other com-munities of the 38th District. I see this in our schools, churches and service clubs. I see the strong women in leadership roles that serve in our communities, as pastors, school teachers and administrators, and as leaders within our business communities. When I look around ne. I absolutely cannot understand how Rep. DeRoche represents us on these two very criti-cal legislative issues of 2005.

Mark T. Robinson

Governing behavior?

A few weeks ago, about 100 people gathered to discuss athletic code of conduct revisions and to participate in an opportunity for change. When I think of the phrase "code of conduct," ules to govern behavior" comes to mind. Children need rules to grow and participate in the adult world. As children merge into teenagers and young adults, it is imperative their ability to assess situations, weigh pros and consequences, make decisions, be accountable and accept responsibility for their decisions

grows along with them. I appreciated the opportunity for input, in the form of an initial writing committee and two evening parent information meetings. However, I found some of the crowd's behavior disturbing because so many people were talking among themselves during the presentation. On a posi-tive note, I hope this intensity can be channeled

Our goal is to help kids choose to be drug and alcohol free. Let's incorporate as many kids as possible by including students in extracurric-ular activities and those with parking passes. and meaningful consequences. Do not condone

and meaningful consequences. To not consequences drug and alcohol use by minors, any time or any where, because it is against the law.

Current and former sudent athletes have shared knowledge of alcohol and drugs use by their peers. I would like to believe that, as a parameter. ent, I know everything the kids are doing, but that would be delusional. Jim Faye's Love and Logic stresses the importance of significant ne opportunities. We as a district, comm nity and parents can work together to provide meaningful consequences while the price is small. I'd rather have a teen miss a few events and receive help, than hear about tragic out-

comes as an older teen or adult.

Mrs. Simmons, current president of MSU, recently remarked that alcohol use among students is not an MSU problem, but a societal problem. I ask the students to continue to help each other make wise choices and I hope you see adults following the law and providing opportunities for your growth. I encourage other parents to review the Coalition that Cares research, participate in future educational pro-grams and share your support with the school district. Responsibility and accountability are life-long lessons and kids need as many occa sions as possible to solidify these attributes before they leave home.

Say no to Social Security changes

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Social Security Program as part of the New Deal has resulted in, 70 years later, a stronger and more nomically secure nation. Roosevelt, a Democrat, did not have an easy time enacting the program, though; 99 percent of Republican in Congress voted to kill the bill in committee.

When Republicans ran on overturning Social Security in 1936, they lost big time. Roosevelt racked up the then-largest vote margin, and Democrats overwhelmingly swept Congress. The crusade didn't stop there, When the Democratic plan to extend benefits to dependents and survivors of retired workers came up years later, two-thirds of Congressional publicans voted no.

After that, 89 percent of Republicans in Congress voted against the Democratic plan to extend benefits to the disabled in 1950; those penefits couldn't get passed until the voters ooted the GOP out and the Democrats in, in no small part due to their opposition to Social Security strength. Even still, unsuccessful Republican presidential candidates in following ars still raited against the amazingly success

ful program and called for its dismantlin Funny how history repeats itself like that Given the historical perspective of Republican opposition to Social Security be it on ideological grounds or otherwise, I view the latest Republican plan for privatization with great apprehension. The details of the great apprenension. The details of the scheme have intentionally yet to be unwilled. I along with the overwhelming majority of my fellow citizens, oppose any plan that would harm Social Security and privatization would certainly also that they have been certainly do just that.

Our Congressman, Republican Thaddeus McCotter, has come out in opposition to privati-zation. I am writing this letter in large part so that my fellow constituents and I can be sure to hold him to his word. McCotter and other Michigan Republicans, the brave few who aren't towing the party line on this one, are quite right to oppose the Republican scheme to privatize Social Security. For the sake of our re well-being, I call on my fellow area resi-

> Michael McGuinness South Lvon

Social Security changes won't happen

It seems that since Social Security became a reality in this country, Republicans (who were not its founder) have been looking for an opporrunity to weaken it.

tunity to weaken if.

I consider any changes in Social Security to be a threat. Not a threat to me, since I am above the age that will be affected, but a threat to younger people who would be affected by the proposed changes. The market is unpredictable. proposed enanges. The market is improceedated it is not a secure place for social security funds. Who will benefit by the proposed changes in Social Security? President Bush's friends on

Wall Street. Once people realize that Social

Security is not in crisis, and once they realize who will benefit from the proposed changes, the proposed changes will not be enacted. Doreen Lawton

Thanks for support

I am writing this letter to publicly thank the nair writing this setter to putiety trains the Novi fans who have been such huge support of the Novi varsity girls volleyhall team this sea-son. Not only did these fans come to games and show their school spirit, but they became truly deficient to observice and home hand training. dedicated to cheering on these hard working athletes. There were times during games that the team could easily have given up, but the fans didn't let them. They pulled them through

many tough matches.

Girls volleyball has not been much of a spectator sport in the past. I think these fans have come to love the game as much as those that play. They have given others a reason to go and

see what it is all about. Thank you, not only for your support this season, but for getting others in the state of Michigan to realize that girls' volleyball is an exciting, fun sport to watch. I look forward to next year's season and I know our girls do too!

Cindy Kuhn

Memories rekindled

Just wanted to thank you for your article on Gene Fenby. It brought back a lot of fond mem-

I was one of Gene's students at Redford High between 1968 and 1972. Although our music department was fantastic, and the teachers (including Louis Sikes and Dr. White) were superb, the class just wasn't a class until Mr. Fenby took his turn leading us. He made the music talk to us, and showed us how to under stand just what it was saying. The finales of our spring and winter concerts, with Gene directing,

During. I believe it was my junior year at Redford, I tried out for a position playing piano for the orchestra. Naturally, playing for Gene I was scared to death, and I know those keys moved of their own accord under my shaking fingers. I was so embarrassed that I'd made a complete fool of myself by making (what I felt were) so many mistakes! But Gene Fenby was very kind, and gave me suggestions on how to y in front of an audience and keep my cool he actually thought I'd done well! What a con-fidence builder! I didn't get to play for the orchestra, but a couple of years later I started nying my church choir, which I still do

Thanks, Gene, for all you gave to your stu dents; thanks, Belinda, for sharing him with us; and thanks, Kim, for sharing his story! Carolynn Mallia

Share your opinions: We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Generally, no more than one letter per month by the same author will be published. Letters must be received by noon

Tuesday to be printed in the Thursday edition. Mail: Letters to the Editor, Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167. E-mail: cstone@ht.homecomm.net. Fax to: (248) 349-9832.

LANSING CONNECTION

Michigan now has some of the strongest ID theft legislation now in effect protections against identity theft in the On March 1, several landmark laws took effect to protect Michigan residents from identity theft, the fastest growing erime in our country. The law I sponored creates the Social Security

Senate Bill 795,

companies, govern-

Number Privacy Act, a crucial tool in helping to protect against the misuse and abuse of a person's Social Security prohibits individuals.

Nancy Cassis such as schools and

universities, and other legal entities from using more than four digits of a Social Security number displayed publicly, used as a primary account number, or displayed on mem bership and ID cards. It also prohibits ual's Social Security number could be from outside the envelope

explosion of identity theft in Michigan assist people in keeping their conf victims get their good credit back. nation, and we can ensure that those who seek to misuse personal informatio are held accountable for the harm they

Town Hall Meetings

My first Town Hall meeting was a success, thanks to more than 50 people who braved the cold and snow to attent and share their ideas on what the priori-

cial for everyone involved.

I want to offer a special thank you to Reps. Chris Ward and John Stakoe, who joined me for the evening.

There are two additional meeting scheduled for later this month:

Monday, March 28 Novi City Building 45175 W. Ten Mile Road Novi. MI 48375

Thursday, March 31 1485 Oakley Park Drive

Each meeting will take place from 6:30-8 p.m. The meetings are designed for me to gain your input regarding the priorities of state government. I want to hear from you what specific programs you would rate as top priorities for the

I hope you take this opportunity to attend and share your thoughts and ideas so that I can be an effective voice in

Education legislation to be

unveiled Soon, I will make an important announcement unveiling legislation I am introducing aimed at early childhood (K, 1-2) intervention and prevention of later earning problems.
Education ation is crucial to the success of

our kids, in fact, it is the key to their Look for more information regarding my proposals in the coming weeks.

Michigan economy continues to lag

The CATO Institute recently issued policy briefing entitled, "Fiscal Policy Report Card on America's Governor 2004." Based on the CATO Institute's analysis showing that states that keep tax rates low and restrain spending growth have the best economic performance and thus the best long-term fiscal health, the most high grades and those who raise taxes and spending the most, lower grade povemor received a "D." In addition, the Small Business

the state a failing grade for entrep ial dynamism, the measure of husiness growth and the climate for new busiaverage in three other categories, it ing: business costs, government efficiency and regulatory environment, and small business activity.

A separate study, released by the National Federation of Independent Businesses ranked Michigan last among 26 states surveyed on business condi-tions. NFIB's research showed that only 15 percent of its members in Michigan ht business conditions were good n their market area

encing economic growth and job creation, Michigan's unemployment rate ent rate is still hovering above 7 percent and our economy is stalled.

nomic powerhouse, a leader among the Our goal must be to bring back Michigan's economic strength. To that, as we go through the budget ns so that we live within our means. Additionally to ensure that any plan will bring about economic growth, competitiveness with other states, job creation, and business

tment. Above all, it must be fair get Michigan back on track, growing the conomy and putting people back to work. As always, your comments are welcome and appreciated. You may reach me by e-mail at: senncassis@senate.michigan.gov, or toll

free at (888) 38-NANCY.

State Sen. Nancy Cassis, a Novi Republican, represents the 15th Senate District, which includes the townships of Commerce, Highland, Holly, Lyon, Milford, Novi, Rose, West Blo and White Lake; as well as the Villages of Holly, Milford and Wolverine Lake; and the cities of Novi, Northville (the portion in Oakland County), Orchard Lake, South Lyon, Walled Lake and

OTHER OPINIONS

Gov's lack of response puzzling

Suppose you are Michigan's governor. Your state has nearly the highest unemployment rate the nation. Your historic econom ie base of good paying, low-skilled manufacturing jobs is evaporating before your eyes. You are having trouble balancing your state's budget, in part because people who aren't work-'t paying taxes

ing aren't paying taxes.

Further suppose you had right in front of you - an econie development project that jobs in a couple of years. And sup-pose the chief

elected officer of your largest coun-ty has asked your help in pushing forward a much larger proposal that could proover the next decade.

Wouldn't you jump at it? You ber you would. In Phil Power

a heartbeat. Which is why I'm puzzled at requests for help for the Pinnacl Aeropark project near Detroit Metropolitan Airport and for the far larger "aerotropolis" scheme.

Pinnacle, a mixed use office and technology development slat-ed for 1,250 acres of wetlands owned by Wayne County southeast of the airport, is the first step ioward a new airport city that could arise on land between Detroit Metro and Willow Run Airport to the west. Similar airport city projects around the globe — Hong Kong, Los Angeles, Amsterdam — have

They've been coming to this elegant little building for a century now, bringing their children to their with their

children to stare with wonde

The Belle Isle Aquarium

was one of the first in the

nation when it opened in

dent in a land-slide. Detroit

every decade

then, and thou

sands flocked to

this island park

Kahn building,

with its faintly

art nouveau

entrance and

Yet for many

Whites deserted the city, and

the black middle class fol-

increasingly afraid to visit

ly safe in daylight) after a

bridge to her death a few

years ago.

voman was thrown off the

The city's budget is now in free-fall. The zoo has had its funding cut by millions, and

the aquarium is an enormous

money loser. A month from

Relle Isle Aquarium will shut

"This is entirely due to city

hudget issues," said a regretfu

Ron Kagan, the director of the Detroit Zoo, which runs the

aquarium. "That, and a failure

to generate regional coopera-

What has happened to the

aquarium, which once attract-ed visitors from around the

ned, it was a state-of-the

art facility in the heart of the

area's top recreation destina-

Today, it is tiny (10,000

square feet) by industry stan

most successful aquariums. It

dards less than a tenth the

world, is nearly a perfect metaphor for what has hap-

pened to Detroit. When it

tion and funding."

now, barring a miracle,

elle Isle (though it is perfect

endid Albert

Jack Lessenberry

to visit the

was doubling its

Roosevelt was elected presi-

at the giant electric eel and the tiny, glowing virtually eyeless fish from the far depths of the

experts think that the combina in the world for such a develop-

million will be

director, he was enthusiastic

"I'm confident this project will go forward. It will produce 3,000

up support for this project. He's had meetings with officials from the city of Romulus and Huron

Township — "they're on board." he says — and he has talks scheduled with Washtenaw

County, And he's pulling together

well. He has \$300,000 in

approved Wayne County funds

and expects to obtain another \$1 million in community economic development bloc grant money.

And he's applied for \$2.5 million

is off the beaten path, and not

near nice restaurant facilities.

Worse, though the floors are

tained, it doesn't even have a

That's a deal-breaker for

families with small children,

the aquarium's biggest poten-tial customers. The facility

ing. There is plenty of money

show most of

those who still

visit the aquari-um live. But too

many want to

enefits, but not

o get regional

cultural institu

ions have been

turned down by

County voters,

ago, the aquarium had 113,000 visitors. The zoo

launched an aggressive mar-

keting campaign, including a

major promotion last year in

printed on two million cans of

It had no effect. Attendance

rovided \$104,000 in revenue.

Meanwhile, running the place,

has declined steadily. Last

year, the aquarium attracted only 56,000 visitors. They

the zoo director said, costs

some other expenses

"about \$700,000 without fac

toring in the support staff or

Additionally, the aquarium

adly needs a new roof. So

last month, the zoo announced

close. There has been an out-

that the aquarium would

pouring of protest, mainly

coming to the aquarium as

from suburbanites, many of

whom have fond memories of

City council voted to keep it

open three more months. But

the mayor's office said the resolution would have no

impact. Last week, Kagan's

fish, many from endangered

announced, the place has been

packed on weekends. Last .

species. Since the closing was

staff was already working on finding new zoos for the 1,500

which ticket disco

unding for our

the wealth.

desperately needs moderniz

from the federal Economic

An or winch makes the floor-response from Lansing to Wayne County's requests for help so puzzling. In a letter from Ficano to his fellow Democrat, Gov. Jennifer Granholm dated Nov. 23, 2004, Ficano wrote, "It is my belief that the 1-94 corridor with So, too, does Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano. In his "State of the County" speech last month, he said, "For years there both Detroit Metro and Willow Run airports at the center offers as been talk about this land that significant development opportu nity for southeastern Michigan. the county owns near Metro ai port called Pinnacle. Time for county owns 1,250 acres, talk is over. Construction crews acres of land owned by the priwill be at work this year opening Pinnacle Park." "More than \$7 vate sector between the two air ports. We are now in discussion with private owners to master plan the entire site to develop the

wested in new airport city or aerotropolis con r... Ficuno closed his letter: "This as we prepare the is a development I want to pur-sue, and I am hoping you would first 150 acres for bless it and direct your staff to work with my staff, and make a long-term funding commitment, but probably look for a new first of many new - and it's about development designation to develop a world-class airport When I talked with Mulugetta

Any response? "Not yet," says Birru, the newly

When I asked one Lansing insider about what's going on with the airport city project, he sniffed, "Too many working parts." And, of course, there's always the state's budget prob-lems to blame for inaction.

Maybe so, but if you were governor nervous about high and rising unemployment and could see the potential of 100,000 jobs or more in a new airport city development, wouldn't you jump

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

But at noon one day last

woman in a full-length fur

coat urged patrons to fight to save the aquarium, and to make a donation at

www.belleisleaguarium.com.

She was getting sympathy, but not much money. After several weeks, they

There seems to be little hope,

support a modern aquarium

"What you need is something

right on the water (the Detroit

River) not near the water, and

aquarium's size," said Kagan,

who has had a distinguished career in zoos from Dallas to

"That would cost \$100 mil-

lion. But studies have shown there is no doubt that it would

income for the local economy

That may well be the case

Monterey and Baltimore and

immensely valuable to their

And for half a century, local

politicions have resisted coop

erating on major projects that could benefit the region. So

Detroit's aquarium will close.

end in April, and three years

after an auxiliary zoo on the

Ironically, the Detroit Zoo's

main campus is doing far bet-ter, perhaps because it is not

in the city at all, but in rela-

tively affluent Royal Oak and

tiny fraction of its patrons are

city, which pays many of the bills. We live in odd times.

Jack Lessenberry is editori

al vice president of Hometown

901-2561 or by e-mail at

tington Woods, and only

bably after the first week-

cities. But to build such a

cooperation and shared

Chicago have proven

generate \$100 million in

ves Detroit could easily

had raised only \$14,213.

though the zoo director

at least 10 times the old

week, there were only a dozen

Lack of funding forces Detroit to tank century-old aquarium

Saturday, Nora Rhein, not quite 4, pressed her face up against the glass, fascinated (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 by her first and perhaps last



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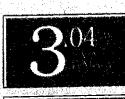
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Michigan Coalition on donation

County mourns passing of former exec Murphy

■ He helped create infrastructure for area

By Pam Fleming

Oakland County lost one favorite sons recently with the death of Daniel T. Murphy. Murphy, a longtime resident of Pontiae, and most recently Tueson, Ariz., died Feb. 16 at the age of 81. He is the father of Gwen Markham of Novi, former chair of

Services took place Feb. 26 at the Oakland County Courthouse ussioners Auditorium in

Chapel in Troy.

Markhum said her father was une employee of Oakland County for 45 years. He was elected to the position of county clerk and registrate of dauke.

"She said that her sister noted this father.

"She said. "He loved the Palace, the Silverdome and every piece of ter 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 ained this position from 1974

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 mem-bers of SEMCOG (the Southeast Michigan Council

She said that her sister noted this

concrete that led there,

said her father was very well known Oakland

S he and her

been living in Arizona about two

Amortemong (rs-Micrigan) spoke at the funeral, with many dignitaries from across the area attending. Murphy is buried at White made Oakland County what it is

of the limelight," Markham said.
She added that Murphy even shunned the limelight when he was in office. "He didn't toot his own horn," she said. Markham said her father liked to

golf and play tennis in his spare time and was a championship tennis player in high school. He even won the state doubles championship in 1941; "He was very much an athlete all his life, and he was a World War

II veteran, which he was very proud of. He served in the U.S. Army in China, Bunna and India," Markham said. Murphy's survivors include hi wife, Carolyn, of Tucson; five chil-dren: Gwen Markham of Novi; Jerry Murphy of Rochester; Tom Murphy of Austin, Texas; Kevin Murphy of Lisle, Ill.; and Lori Ferrara of Tucson; II grandchil-

sonally. We have lots of family pic "He loved ures with him and presidents, Oakland County. Markham said her father was a humble person as well as a human-He thought it was And he also loved to listen to the beautiful and

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 earpiece in my ear and listen from time to time," Markham recalled.

Murphy was born in Pennsylvania, but the family

moved to Pontiae 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

Gwen Markham Daughter of Daniel T. Murphy

"He had a stroke in 1990 and stayed in office. But, as his mobil ity declined, he appreciated the warmer climate," she said.

Pron Flemine is a staff writer for Oakland County. He thought it was beautiful and unique."

the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or at

Novi student achieves Eagle Scout rank

Kyle Anderson recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in a ceremony with Troop 179 of Farmington Hills attended by aily and friends. Congressman lue Knollenberg was in atten-dance and honored the four new n the stable in 90 plus temperatures. He became skilled with sev-Eagle Scouts.

Anderson began his sconting advenure in 1992 as a Tiger Cub in South Bend, Ind. He continued in Cub Scouts during his family ees to Naperville, Ill. and finally to Novi, where he became a Webelo in 1996. Throughout his Cub Seouting years he received his God and Me Emblem and won ns contain we faintent and work recently completed a high adven-genced Derby. Space Derby, and Rain gutter Regalta Cub Double II High Adventure Rauch Scoon Pack events. He received

his Eagle project by contacting positioning system orienteering

N THE SERVICE

Carolyn A. Space has graduated from Airman Leadership School at Pelerson Air Force Base, Colorado

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designed to train senior airmen to

and profession of arms, which are oded for professional develop-

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derstand their positions in the

husiness. He mentioned his project to a parent at a school function who suggested he contact the horse stable manager at Maybury State Park. After meeting with stable manager, Keith Gordon, three weeks and over 3,200 nails later, he had rebuilt 31 hay stalls

eral hand tools including a framing nail gun.
As a Boy Scout, Anderson held numerous positions including patrol scribe, patrol quarterniaster, and senior patrol leader for the Traditional Scouts, He was nominated by his fellow scouts to receive the Order of the Arrow. He ture hike at the newly-opened Doable II High Adventure Ranch in New Mexico. During this

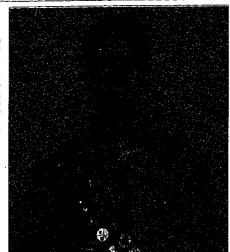
his Arrow of Light Award with Novi Pack 240 in 1997. was patrol leader for his Crew avi Pack 240 in 1997. Was patrol leader for his Crew where he learned to use global

coiled rattlesnake in 100-degree temperatures at 8,500 feet eleva-

High School in June of 2004, cum lande and is currently attending Purdue University majoring in computer science. He plans to double major in mechanical engi neering and computer science with a minor in Japanese. He will participate in the study program in his junior year.

Anderson was a four year mem of the Novi High School ber of the three-time state champi on Winter Drumline Percussion Anderson lives in Novi with his

brother, Brett, along with his dog,



Kyle Anderson is happy to reach Eagle Scout rank.

ioned officers. Airmen are prepared and better equipped to serve supervisors, managers and rat-Walled Lake. ng officials as they progress in After graduating from Walled their enlisted military careers.

The school is the first of three Lake Western High School, he received a bachelor's degree from

education programs used to develop and cultivate leadership and supervisory skills, and is a complete prior to being promoted Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

to the rank of staff sergeant. Space, an intelligence opera-Defense Command (NORAD) -U.S. Northern Command at

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levels of professional military

She is the daughter of Edmond and Kathleen A. Bennett of

Army Pvt. Brandon J. Caminero has graduated from basic combat training at Fort

values, physical fitness, and

Regis University Colorado field training exercises.

Caminero is a 2002 graduate of

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core

received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremo-ny, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military, justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and

Walled Lake Community Center. Cadet Charles A. Staab II. son of Charles and Becky Staab of Novi, was selected for the Dean's States Military

Academy. This is the third conseccadet 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 Nov 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 sec-

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 (Derocher), a daughter ANN OBERTS of Northville, twin sons, DR. JOHN (Ruth) TOUPIN of Novi, DR. JOEL (Ann) TOUPIN of Farmington Hills and a sister MARILYN SOETAERT of Marquette, Michigan. He is also survived by 8 grandchildren and 7 nephews. The Edward Korkolan Funeral Home of Royal Oak, Michigan, is in charge of funeral owed by a MASS OF CHRISTIAN 1:00AM in the CHURCH OF TH HOLY FAMILY on Meadowbrook Road (between 10 Mile & Grand River) Burial will be in Holy Cross lieu of flowers- donations may be

OBITUARY POLICY

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HEALTH

Fit for Life — "Time to Shape up"

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 small er, slimmer more toned mid-

But before you purchase another super abdominal cre-ation guaranteed to flatten and tone your waistline in a few minutes a day, or purchase that super pill guaranteed to melt

changing or go see that cosmetic sur

Chris Klebba

science based tips to consider in your quest for that clusive reduced and ioned mid-section. While these suggestions aren't glamorous or

lowing are

time tested,

Don't crunch yourself to death. Crunches are a move-ment 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 o give you that flat, toned

bdominal 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 too box for a more toned, slimmer aist it is not the complete

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 flatappearance and tightness, kind of crunch with any kind of gadget or machine have only a minimal affect on verall flattening and toning of

right! The abdominals most

ver overall body fat percent-

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.

Creating a slight calorie deficit (burning slightly mo the body to use that stored body fat for energy, eventually revealing a flatter, more toned mid-section. 3. Cardiovascular activity is

the best activity for your goal. Cardinvascular activity involves raising your heart rate in a about 20-30 minutes per session. Brisk walking, swimming, running, dancing all count. This activity burns calo-ries which will aid in lowering you body fat percentage which will give you the mid-section whole bunch of other health

Keep your abdominals our back as much as you can oughout the activity and oughout your day, e.g. in the

car, sitting at the computer, etc.) 4. There are no shortcuts, Stop looking for the magic for-mula or machine, the bottom (mid section) movements in your program, and lowering your body fat thru a slight, con-

I warned you - these suggestions are not popular or glamus, but the truth seldom is. You can do it, start now and swimsuit this summer

This column was written by

Chris Klebba, the owner and operator of the Water Wheel Health Club in abville. Chris is also a Certified Fitness Trainer and public speaker. For more infor-mation, call (248) 449-7634 or 'clieck the Web at www.wir

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

· Best health/fitness business

Studying up for S-U-C-C-e-S-S

By Kim Kovelle STAFF WRITER

Someone quizzed Holen Brady

while she's driving.
Mary Blyth leafed through her
trusty copy of 20,000 Words Less

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 bazz in the air at the

There's a buzz in the air at the

Novi Senior Center, and it's spelling out p-re-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 Bec.

ters in a first Senior Spelling Bec.
With center manager Rachel Zagaroli coaching, they put their dictionary dexterity to work — and had fun, too.

"We decided that we want to go

SENIORS SPELL

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

· 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. Matri St. • More: Call the Novi Senior Center at (248) 347-

0414 de policial lunch is \$5.

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

With about 25 seniors signed up this week, the bee will occur at the Northville Senior Community

the Northville Sentor 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

The only requirement? They

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 F's double-letters and more.

dispetitly drifted that it'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 proofread-

Ford, said she recalls proofread-ing 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 read-

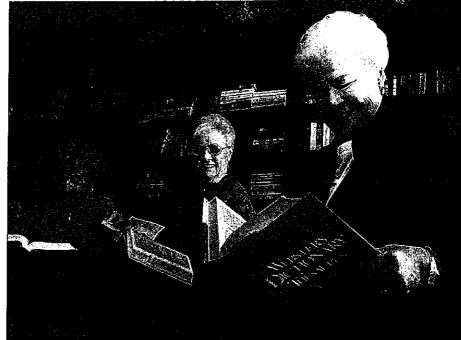
Blyth's secretarial duties have

Bryth's secretarian unites have ranged from real estate to automo-tive 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

age 1.2, Cowan said teachers lested 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 exhil-arate," accidentally and embarrass were tricky at first.



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

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

cates.
"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,

Nothville, Wixon, Souin 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 "

ing."

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

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

SENIOR CALENDAR

| Friday 3/11 | į |
|---|-----|
| 8:45 a.m | J |
| 9 a.m, Stretch & Strength | 1 |
| 10 a.m | |
| ngon Lunch | |
| noon | ç |
| 12:30 p.m Bingo held in activities room | 9 |
| 12:30 p.m | - 1 |
| Monday 3/14 | 1 |
| inviirat 3/1~ | |

| MUNDAY 3/14 |
|--|
| 9 a.m Stretch & Strength |
| 10 a.m Body Recall |
| noon Lunch and *12:30 p.m. Pinochle |
| 1-3 p.m |
| I p.m"Identity Theft" presented by Novi Police |
| *6:30 p.m |
| |

| uesday | 3/15 | | |
|--------|------|--|--|
|--------|------|--|--|

| | Tuesday 3/15 |
|---|--|
| | 9 a.m |
| | 9 a.m Line Dance |
| ĺ | 10 a.m. Asian Pacific |
| | 10 a.m. Asian Pacific 10-11:30 a.m. Computer - Beginner 10:30 a.m. Bookmobile in conference room |
| | 10:30 a.m. Bookmobile in conference room |

| Trainit |
|--|
| Screening |
| noon Lunch |
| 12:30 p.m Bingo |
| Wednesday 3/16 |
| 9 a.m Stretch & Strength |
| 9 a.m1 p.m |
| 10 a.mBody Recall |
| 11 a.m Blood Pressure and TOPS Class |
| noon Lunch |
| 12:30 p.m |
| 2-4 p.m Estate planning by appointment |
| Delta South River Barge trip |

"I Will Be Well" Rea James Life

2-4 p.m. Estate plant Delta South River Barge trip Thursday 3/17

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

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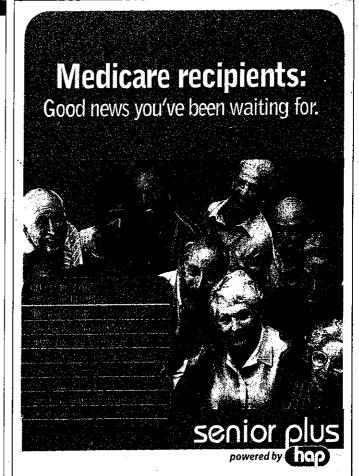
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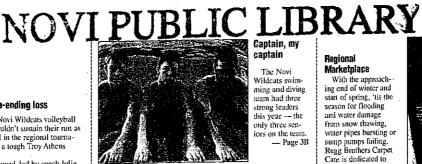
NP02A 1/11/05



Season-ending loss

The Novi Wildcats volleyball n couldn't sustain their run as they fell in the regional tourna-ment to a tough Troy Athens

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



Wildcats swimming and diving team had three strong leaders this year - the only three sen-

SPORTS

With the approach-ing 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 cope with damage caused by water as well as cleaning their



Thursday, March 10, 2005

MAKING THE STATE MEET AS A

Gvmnasts will compete at Plymouth HS tomorrow at 4 p.m.

By Sam Eggleston

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

Then, the many teams in the post-sessin, 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."

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.

would advance.

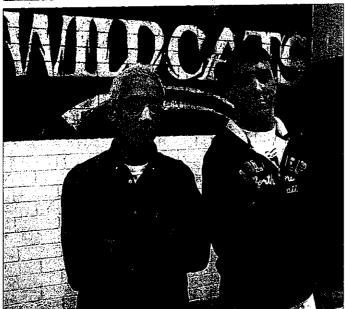
Surprisingly, Holt came out of nowhere to snatch the last, priceless seat on the state finals bus. The team finals are scheduled to be held to tomorrow at 4 p.m. at Plymouth High School on Beck Road.

"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 schill."

But Novi-Northville wouldn't be denied Their point total of 144,75 — the season-best total — was enough to

STANGS

continued on 28 Brea Buffone prepares her beam routine on the beam during last week's regional meet in Hartland.



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

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

Bharat Saran, a senior, earned a benth to the individual state finals two weeks ago along with team-mate 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. Sarun transferred to Novi from just south

Northville. Sarun transferred to Novi from just south of Eight Mile Road to become a Wildeat. 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

think, will be a testament to the ellort 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

Novi coach Pat Schluter didn't even bother trying to sugar-coat his basketball team's district tourna-

His team, the Kensi Conference champs and three-time defending district title holders, fell in the content of the co in the second round to South Lyon,

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

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

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

"It's never easy beating a team ree times," Schluter said. fidence against Canton. I think they stand a chance at doing something

in the regional as well."

Anthony Harbin, the KVC coMVP this season, carned 16 points MVP this season, carned 16 points in the losing effort.

The season, however, wasn't played out in vain. Novi earned their third-straight KVC title this 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 t

Schiller said. "Id filmer 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 cap-tains that helped put it all together. The Wildeats 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 rebuild-

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 sten 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."

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."



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

ALL-KVC BASKETBALL

1ST TEAM

Lakeland

1. Rob Boss, Jr. Brighton 2. Anthony Harbin, Sr,

3. Brandon Rogowski, Sr,

Рілскпеч 4. Mark Moore, Sr, Novi Omeed Firoozgan, Jr,

6. Austin McMullen, Sr, South Lyon

7. Ryan Linhart, Sr. Brighton

8. Jeremy Miles, Sr, Hartland

2ND TEAM

1. Zack Nichols, Jr,

Ž. Nathan Kunst, Jr. Milford

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 So,

Honorable Mention Brighton - Trent Messer

Hartland - Dan Miller St 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



The Wild Stang gymnastic seniors were more than happy to find out their season would be extended to the finals. Their bears were happy too. From left to right: Cortney Paul, Erin Yankovick, Marcie Fink (captain), Jessica Glancy

Wild 'Stangs earn trip to finals

propel them into the finals. One vild card team is selected from the fourth place teams from all of the regions. Based on their point total at the regional, the Wild Stangs would have won one of the other regions and finished second in two

thers.
"I was very happy with how we did," said Rachel Deneau, a junior who will compete on the beam and with her floor routine. She is the defending division II floor champi-on from last year's individual competition, "When my dad found out were the wild card team by

Individual accomplishment There's more than one way to make the state finals though. As an

individual, anyone who places it the top eight in an event will make the trek to compete in the individ-ual finals, stated for Saturday. "I didn't want to just make it a an individual though," said Mills.

"I wanted to go as a team for my Seven gymnasts from the combined Novi-Northville team earned an individual berth to the finals. In

division I competition, Emma Platt tied for eighth on the vault to Platt all took home sprained ankles secure her spot.
Division II found Foucher tak-

ing third all around with 35.65 points while taking fourth in the floor exercise with 9.15 points and sixth on the bars with 9.95 points. Mills carned a spot too, notching fourth all around with a 35,475 as well as fourth on the bars and the beam with scores of 9 and 9.05.

espectively.

Janua Ramsey took fifth in the bars with an 8.975 while carning an 8.925 for sixth with her floor routine and a 9.05 for an eighthplace finish on the vault. Dencau collected second on the beam with an impressive 9.325 while taking lifth on the floor with a 9.05, Sarah Ill-bani-Pour took third with a 9.05

time," said Foucher, "Last year 1 disfocated my shoulder at the regional and was back in time for "I love the beam because you the finals. Hopefully all of us can have to be crazy to do some of the

Novi-Northville gymnast Ann McQueen struts her stuff on the balance beam last week

at the regional meet. Her teammates cheer her on in the background.

There are trade-offs in any vic-

tory. For the Wild Stangs the cost

ended up coming in injuries. Foucher, Amanda Perelli and

Mills knows what it takes to

struggle back from an injury. Three weeks ago, while doing her bars routine, Mills' shoulder dislo-

cated. She fell, slamming onto the

"When I hit the floor it popped my shoulder back into place," she said, "I missed the rest of that

meet, the next dual meet and the

comeback in time for the region

She is expecting to compete at the

Mills did, however, make the

high-octane fun!"

"It's James Bond meets

fun for the whole family!"

"Yin Diesel's best movie

ever! A funny, warm-

bearted surprise."

entertaining:

"Hugely

STAR SOUTHERELD

STAR FAIRLANE 11330-638

STAR ROCKE

CANTON 5 734461-1900

STAR TAYLOR

Mary Poppins...DUTE

can come back.

matted floor.

A worthwhile endeavor

The Wild 'Stangs gymnasts are tooking past the cost right now. First focus is on the finals. Last year, the team finished "Hopefully we'll all be able to looking past the cost right now. Their focus is on the finals. connete," said Foucher, "We have quite a few injuries actually, so it should be interesting to see who sixth. This year they hope to do

better.
"I definitely think we can do better than sixth place," said Mills. "I think there's no reason we can't come in third or fourth if we have our best meet. We have to over-come our injuries and put it all

together,"
And enjoy it, of course.

nasts are just hoping the pain melts away with a top-five finish tomor-row. Deneau stressed the importance of a gymnast loving her event. For gleston@ht.homecomm.net.

Sam Eggleston can be reached at

SHOWCASE WESTLAND 194-795-1960

things you do up there," she said, "But I love the floor because you

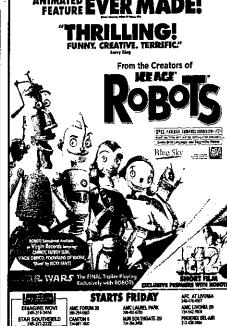
can say so much about yourself while your out there without say-

shoulders? It's a painful relation

ship for these gymnasts to be in but its obvious they love what they

Sometimes love hurts. The gym-

EWAN HALLE GREG MEL AMANDA DREW ROBIN THE MOST DAZZLING



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vînDIESEL.

Wildcats bowl a strong state final

Experience, in any sport, is priceless. The Novi Wildcats

boys bowling team is hoping to verify that come next year. The squad, coached by John Osborne, earned a berth to the state finals and competed last week, bowing out in the first round after a very strong showing against Flint Carmen Ainsworth, 1,113-1,104.

"We bowled really, really well."

and had a good lead," said to put some pressure on these Osborne. "They bowled a little guys." better in the end and we got

and collected a 277 in one of the team's baker games — where all which is a record for the it doesn't mean the

nitely gave them everything they wanted."

And, more importantly, the Wildcats learned some valuable

The Wild lessons about what kind of cometition they'll face if they make the trek again next year. If num-bers are any indication, the Novi he rick again next year. If num-bers are any indication, the Novi bewlers should be looking at a bewlers should be looking at a pretty good season in the 2005-potential and I'm hoping we can pretty good season in the 2005-06 schedule.

"We only graduate one senior that was a starter," said Osborne.
"The other kids saw what it at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at that was a starter," said Osborne. takes. Those things are priceless seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

in terms of experience. Going there and not doing well is one thing, but doing well is a great lesson for these kids."

But even the four returning starters won't have guaranteed positions next year. Osborne said

guys."
But that doesn't mean the

neat."

The team shot 1,104 overall

The team shot 1,104 overall improve on their games over the off season. And just because five participants bowl two frames there are four returning starters, it doesn't mean the Wildeats chool. Osborne said he believed won't miss their lone starting

school. Osborne said he beheved the total team score was also a team record.

"We got beat by a very good team that got beat by the eventual state champion in the next round," Osborne said. "We defined as the measurable measurable

"I believe that's a school record," Osborne said. The Wildcats have the experience and the talent, now they just

have to put it all to good use live up to it next year."

Cheer takes third

Though the Novi Wildcats the regional tournament last week, the team gained valuable experience to apply to next year's hunt.

place finish came down to just a edged Novi with 681.5 points to Anderson, as expected, finished first with a convincing 706.5 points with a convincing 700.5
points while Temperance
Bedford was a close fourth
place with 660 points.
Rounding out the top five was
Wyandotte-Roosevelt with

to the entire team for a hard-fought competition and for a fought competition and for a strong season," said Novi coach Emily Parker.

The Wildcats were well rep-

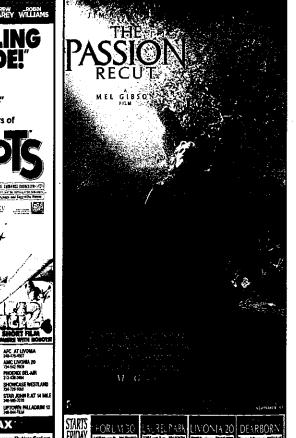
year's hunt.
As predicted, the second place finish came down to just a handful of points as Allen Park the All-Region team. The meet was close heading

into round three as the Wildcats trailed Anderson, Bedford and Allen Park. Novi performed a well-executed stunt round and won round three with a seasonhigh score of 305 points. It was enough to overcome Bedford but fell just shy of topping

Underclassman scores

The junior varsity Wildcats bas-ketball team finished the season on impatient shots, as Novi went into the half trailing, 17-14. As the third quarter developed, the Wildcats

started to gain momentum as Adam Chandler and Brian Smith both hit threes to pull the Wildcats into a tie heading into the final stanza. Smith herball team finished the season on heading into the final sizinzi. Simular strong note as they came back to defeat the Millord Mavericks, 3937. The Mavericks controlled the game from the start with a ballcontrol offense and a zone that forced the Wildeats into some concluded the Wildeats into some concluded, but Mike Longo hit a





Novi High School Wildcat varsity swim team captains Bryan Hornacek, Matt Swift, and Will Deighton are getting in extra practice to ready themselves and their team for season-ending competitions and state finals.

Ending the season in style

It was a year of great moments for he Novi Wildcats boys swimming and diving team.

home and host meets again with their own pool. They were able to compete in the first-ever Kensington Valley Conference championships. But the Wildcats saved the best for last. They finished second in the highly-competitive River Rat

They were able to come back

Invitational last week - the school's best-ever finish "I was very happy with this year," said Matt Swift, a senior captain." "We ended up doing the best we've ever done in certain meets and beat

the years."

Swift is one of only three seniors on the team this year. Fellow cap-tains Will Deighton and Bryan Hornacek join him as the only

"It's been fun being able to share this with the other two seniors," Hornacck said. "I was really happy being one of the three seniors with our new pool and I was very happy

The current Novi seniors set the

sting of last Friday's regional vol-leyball tournament loss to Troy Athens. But, unlike many players,

we're going to be ready for any-thing," she said of being either the underdogs in the Kensington Valley Conference again or the

favorites, "We've played bot

roles. We know we can win either

way.

Miller is a refreshing breath in a

nswers. She's honest and, some-

times, brutally so. Not that other athletes don't

give "edgy" enough answers, but Miller isn't looking to make any-one mad or shock anyone. She just wants everyone to know

just wants everyone to know where she stands on certain

win KVC when we first started," she said. "We were so diverse as a

team. I wasn't sure we'd be able

Though Miller may be a straight-forward as they come, she's also capable of admitting when she was wrong about things.

"We were expected to finish seventh in the KVC," she said. "I

didn't think we'd be able to win it

and I was wrong. Everyone who

year she was a sophomore who helped contribute to the team's

ught we'd finish that low were

has become a bit of a

"I never thought we'd be able to

she shook it

off and looked

middle block-

world

expectations coming from this squad in the next few years.
"Next year they're definitely that he was able to be a part of it.
"I'm really glad I was able to experience all of this," he said. "Not

Wildcat Matt Swift swims freestyle in Novi High's pool during a practice during the

er him any.
"The learn did real well this year," he said. "I'm a lot more happier about that than I could have been if going to be more competitive," Homacek said, "There are a lot of stage for next-year's captains. They led by example both in and out of bother me at all. This was just a great year to be a pan of this program."

Both Swift and Hornacek said they believe the Wildeats will be a believe the the said they believe the wildeats will be a said they believe the wildeats will be a said to be said

school's Winter vacation

Junior Megan Miller felt the and another district champing of last Friday's regional voleyball tournament loss to Troy

Next year, quite possibly, she'll we'll do a fine job leading this

be taking the role of captain. Two of the most likely choices are her-self and her friend, Jenna Kuhn.

"Jenna and I made JV together

and both made varsity as sopho-mores," she said. "We started out as just the little underclassmen

to prove we can lead,"

In fact, Kuhn and Miller fit in so well this year that it was

from the seniors without looking

at a roster.
"I think we did a good job this year hanging with the seniors,"

More importantly, they taught their team the importance of putting the squad above individual accomplishments.

Swift was just a few 10ths of a second away from qualifying for the state meet in the 50 freestyle event.

team next year."

mores," she said, "We started out as just the little underclassmen and next year will be our chance "They've become one of our motivations on the court," she

In fact, Kuhn and Miller fit in so well this year that it was impossible to distinguish them serve, they get you back into it."

Miller said the fans and the vol-

tive again next year.

She also hopes a part of that

said. "No matter what kind of sit-

leyball players developed a spe-cial relationship this year. Despite the way other team's spoke out

many people are part of the swim team. Me. Matt and Will are just a juniors that are real good swimmers who will be leading the tearn next few seniors who've had a good time as a part of this program. "It's definitely been worth it."

Miller also said she thinks the
Wildcats will be plenty competiMiller is said to have seen this

year come to an end, but the clos

ing of this season means a dawn

ing of a new one for the juniors and other underclassmen. "We've got to prove ourselves," she said. "I think if we can play

together as a team and can stay motivated we'll be just fine." Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at

seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

Homacek said he's just happy

Miller ready to lead Wildcats volleyball

she hopes they don't change a bit.
"They were always behind us
100 percent," she said. "It was

Bharat Saran, John Favorite going to finals

Saran isn't the only Wildcat who has made a name for him-self this year. Favorite, a junior wrestling at 160, will also make the trek to the finals.

really have any goals at this point other than going in and trying to

do my best."

Favorite is the kind of athlete any coach loves to have under his wing. He's aggressive, he's tal-

ented and he learns fast. "Johnny is probably the best selves. athlete I've ever coached," said Huss. "I think if you talk to (coaches) Corey (Grant) and (Tom) Fritz, they'd say the same

thing about him."

Being such an outstanding athlete — a starter in football and lacrosse along with wrestling has made him a dangerous oppo-

way. He just sees himself as a competitor. He doesn't care who's on the list of opponents or n't care that his first match-up is

e trek to the finals.
"I'm excited," he said, "I don't ally have any goals at this point her than going in and trying to step for Novi. Last year the team failed to have a final competitor for the first time in 15 years. The Wildcats are coming into their own again. They've found them-

don't have a particular style or a set plan. I just look for the next move while trying to predict what he's going to do." Having two players make the state finals, and one that was settingful close before breaking.

extremely close before breaking

"The team needed to find its identity," Huss said. "I think we've done that, I think we have two outstanding wrestlers com peting in the state finals this year and we have quite a few who could make it next year." There's no pressure for the two

current state finalists to perform either—just hopes.

"In the perfect world they would both place," said Huss. "That's what we hope they can do. Beyond that, we don't make any predictions.

against an undefeated wrestler.
"I'm just going in to wrestle," at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

Wildcats roar

Friday, March 18 at 7 p.m.

against Royal Oak at Lakeland High School. The

Wildcats will then take on

Saginaw at 11 a.m. the fol-

lowing day at Lakeland before taking the trek to

Walled Lake Northern to

play Merian at 2:30 p.m.

Novi to open soccer season in tourney

son opens March 18-19 with the prestigious Carrie Saxton-Woods the state's top high school and college girls soccer programs in a round-robin, winner take all

tournament.
Aside from the outstanding competition and unique combination of high school and college soccer talent, this year's invita-tional will be formally dedicated to the memory of one of this state's pioneers for women's soc-cer. Organizers from Walled Lake Northern, Lakeland and Walled Lake Central High

Schools will commemorate this gathering of Michigan's finest women's soccer talent to Carrie Saxton-Woods. Woods passed away last January after a courageous battle with cancer.
"Commemorating this
Invitational in Ms. Woods name is only fitting since she worked

tirelessly as a champion for womens soccer for girls in Southeast Michigan and around the state in high school and col lege programs," said Nick Unsworth, President of the Walled Lake Northern Girls Soccer Booster Club. "Her diligent efforts made it possible for young women to not just play but flourish in Michigan's soccer community."
Aside from the high school

state championships in June, fans of soccer won't find a better opportunity to watch a stellar collection of outstanding players. College teams competing in an exhibition format include Michigan State, Eastern Michigan, Saginaw Valley University and Grand Valley State. The 2005 invitational will

also feature eight teams rated in the top 10 in last year's Division I and II rankings.

Top high school soccer programs from hosts Walled Lake Sentral, Walled Lake Northern

and Lakeland will be joined by Traverse City Central, Royal Oak Kimball, Plymouth Salem, Hartland, West Bloomfield, Brighton, Bloomfield Lasher, Farmington Mercy, Novi, Saginaw Heritage, Birmingham Marion, Grand Blanc, Livonia Ladywood and defending state champion Northville for two days of intense competition.

Games will again be played a the magnificent facilities of Lakeland and Walled Lake Northern athletic stadiums. Spectators can enjoy viewing both college and high school each other in Commerce Township.

This spectacular weekend of ladies soccer, will kick-off on Friday evening, March 18 under the bright lights at both fields followed by a full day of competition brackets throughout day on Saturday, March 19.

SPORTS SHORTS

Registering new golfers The Top 50 Jr. Tour present-

Association Michigan Section is currently registering new members for the 2005 season for boys and girls age 12-18. Competition is among four divisions, Boy's and Girl's Divisions age 12-15, Boy's & Girl's Divisions age 16-18.
Ten qualifiers and 10 tourna

ments comprise the 2005 season schedule, with play beginning Saturday, June 11 at Mystic Creek Golf Club, Each week 50 students play free tournament golf, totaling 500 free rounds of tournament golf for local students. The qualifying field for each qualifier is limited to 150 students. Among the tournament sites

for the 2005 season are Oakland University Golf Club, Knollwood Country Club, Edgewood Country Club, Prestwick Village Country Club and many other fine courses throughout southea Michigan. The full 2005 schedule is

should contact the tour a (248) 321-9900 or visit the mation and a membership **Coaching positions**

Interested parents and players

www.Top50jrTour.com

The Walled Lake Consolidated School District is currently looking for a head Walled Lake Western High looking for a head boys varsity soccer coach for Walled Lake The school district also

announced a head coaching vacancy for the Walled Lake Central football team. Those interested in the position should have a coaching resume and letter of intent for review.

Inquiries should be directed athletics office at (248) 956-

first-ever district title. This year Megan Miller (11) lets out a yell as her team prepares to take on Walled Lake Central nent, Amanda Toffoli, a senior, is left.

Library Board Meeting

TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: City Council
Chambers at the Novi Civic

DATE: Wednesday, March 16

DETAILS: Community mem-

bers are welcome to attend.

Meetings are also broadcast live

What's Your Interview IQ?

DATE: Thursday, March 17

TIME: 7 p.m.†

DETAILS: Test your knowledge of the answers to the most

frequently asked interview ques-tions. Outplacement consultant

Walt Tarrow discusses how to

preliminary research, practice,

and presentation. He will present

research sources, suggested answers to tough questions, and winning ways to get the job offer,

view. Call the library to register.

DATE: Monday, March 21

TIME: 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. DETAILS: AARP volunteer

will be at the library to assist taxpayers 55 and over in preparing their tax returns. Please note that

ration of simple tax returns only

Ancestry Plus for Seniors

DATE: Tuesday, March 22

TIME: 1-3 p.m. DETAILS: Learn how to navi-

gate this huge genealogy data-base, and investigate its powerful search features. You'll learn how

marriage and death records, as

Internet searching is necessary.

Call the library to register.

Starlight Story Time

well as how to view actual census

Call the library to make an

AARP Tax Preparation

Workshop

on cable channel 13.

for details

Story by SAM **EGGLESTON**

DAR

Photos by JOHN HEIDER





LEFT: A trio of Wildcats has a similar reaction to their teammates losing a point during Friday night's game against Troy Athens. From left are Liz Clark, Kaelyn McAboy, and Jessica Barndt; RIGHT: Senior Amanda Toffoli is consoled after Novi's regional tourney loss to Troy Athens last Friday night which ended the Wildcats' season.

Wildcats volleyball can't get first regional victory

Novi Wildcats volleyball team to keep their season alive. Unfortunately, it didn't work out in their favor.

The Wildcats, coached by Julie Fisette, fell to Troy Athens in five games during the first round of regional competition, 25-19, 15-25, 21-25, 25-19 and 10-15. The loss knocked Novi out of the postseason and brought their year to an abrupt end.

"It was a great season and I'm' very happy with it," said Fisette. "I'm still a little depressed because it's over, but I'm pretty excited with all that they accomplished."

The Wildeats were a team to contend with this season. Not only did they gain a berth to the regional tournament by winning just their second-ever district title, they also made history by winning the school's first ever KVC volleyball

"If you would have asked any one of these girls in November if they really, truly thought this would work. I don't think any of them would say they were 100-percent sure it was going to be dynamic," said Fisette. "I think that says

Indeed it does. It says a lot about Novi's ability to come together as a team and overcome the odds. The Wildcats were picked by many volleyball pundits to finish near the bottom of the pile in their conference. They proved them

Novi was picked to lose in the first along with a slew of other experienced round of the district tournament. The players, 'Cats proved those predictions wrong as

"This was a great season," said junior takes to win. It's going to take a lot of middle blocker Megan Miller. "It's sad hard work, but everyone has to watch out

It was a hard fought attempt for the takes and we got down on ourselves." Miller said she and her teammate and close friend. Jenna Kuhn, watched the tape of the game last Sunday.

"It was hard to watch," she said. "We decided to count how many mistakes were in the fifth game. Out of their 15 points, 14 were directly from little mistakes we made."

The regional loss marked only Novi's second loss when a match was taken to the fifth game. The Wildcats have nothing to hang

their heads about though, said Fisette. "This has been the best season Novi has ever had," she said. "They're great

friends and they worked together for a great season. This has been just wonder-Novi will lose six seniors to graduation

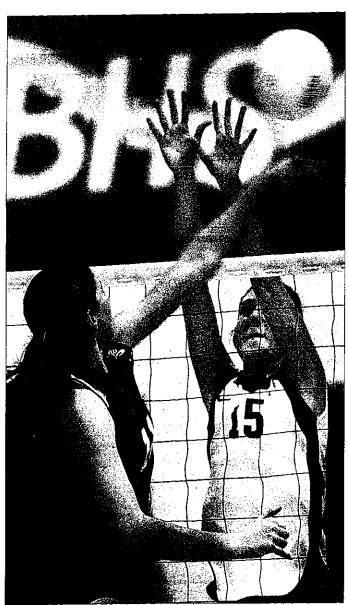
and will be looking ahead to next year. Sara Schmitt, Sara Bielski, Nicole Barndt, Amanda Toffoli, Becky Reichel and Liz Clark will not be back next sea-

Reload or rebuild? Fisette said she'll take the former.

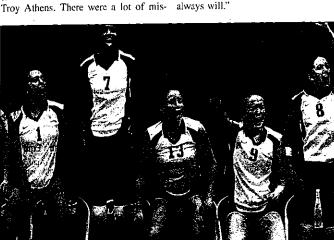
"You know me," she said. "We've got such a great program built in at Novi. If you look down our food chain we've got athletes at every level that will be major competitors for years to come."

Not to mention the players returning. Kuhn was one of the top players in the KVC this year and Miller has been a constant force in the middle. Freshman Stephanie Cripps will return as well

"I think we're going to be competi-



to see it end like this. We could have beat for Novi. It's always been like that and it Novi freshman Stephanie Cripps goes up for a block against Troy Athens' Sarah Aliah during Friday night's action.





LEFT: Novi's bench reacts with a Joyous shout to a point won by their teammates. RIGHT: Novi's Courtney Ratkowiak, left, and Megan Miller try to make a block

EVENTS

Experimental Art Exhibit

DATE: March 11-13

girl and make her presentable in high society. Featuring such hit songs as "The Rain In Spain," puldn't It Be Lovely?" and "I Could Have Danced All Night LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

Roses West Meeting

Wine Tasting

DATE: Friday, March 11 LOCATION: Community enter, 49015 Pontiac Trail DETAILS: Merchants Find Wine will bring delightful wines & cheeses from Spain and the Mediterranean, complimented by a wonderful selection of breads, assorted crackers and fruits. Must pre-register by March 9. Cost is CONTACT: (248) 624-2850

Lyon Oaks Bark Park Saturdays

DATES: March 12 and April 9 TIME: 9-11 a.m. DETAILS: Caribou staff will treat park guests to free coffee while exercising your dog. The Nature Center will be also be open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.on Saturdays. CONTACT: Sue Wells, chief of recreation, at (248) 858-4634

Gardeners of Northville &

DATE; Monday, March 14 TIME: 7 p.m. LOCATION: Northville Library, 212 W. Cady St., DETAILS: Ine Messing of

gram; public welcome CONTACT: (248) 348-1946

Democrats of West Oakland County Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, March 15 TIME: 6 p.m. LOCATION: Novi Souvlaki Coney Island Restaurant, 31150 Novi Road (corner of Fourteen

DETAILS: Nancy Skinner, hos of the morning show on WDTV 1310 AM radio, will speak on Talking Back to the Radical Royal Oak and graduated from the University of Michigan Business School, brings a lively, the 6-9 a.m. talk show. and social hour precedes the 7 CONTACT: (248) 624-7228

Community Pancake Breakfast

DATE: Saturday, March 19 TIME: 8 a.m.-noon LOCATION: Wailed Lake City

DETAILS: The Kiwanis Club of Walled Lake/Lakes Area and the Wixon-Walled Lake Lion: enefiting the Walled Lake Library to purchase a compute for the visually and physically mpaired.
CONTACT: Darlene Williams

Easter Egg Hunt

DATE: Sunday, March 20 TIME: 12:30 p.m. LOCATION: Gilbert Willis DETAILS: Bring your kids out

to find their eggs in the park and a chance to meet the Easter Bunny. Cost is \$3; no pre-registration required; for ages 2-10 years. CONTACT: (248) 624-2850

Novi Fourth Graders Meeting DATE: Tuesday, April 26 LOCATION: Bonavo Skating Center, Farmington Hills DETAILS: This event is intended for the fourth graders in

> There will be games and prizes as well as socializing and making new friends before they start fifth grade.
> CONTACT: Karen Kotcher

Casino Bus Trip to benefit

DATE: Sunday, May 1 TIME: 2 to 9 p.m. LOCATION: Cusino Windsor DETAILS: Leave from Eddic Edgar Arena/Ford Field in Livonia located in northwest a of I-96 and Farmington Road. Please arrive by 2 p.m. Will return at about 9 n.m. A \$20 donation includes \$15 in coin and two-way transportation, including all tolls to Casino Windsor. All passengers must have BOTH of the following pieces of

 Photo ID Donations will help two Novi residents raise money to walk 60 miles in three days, July 15-17,2005, in support of the Breast Cancer 3-Day and National Philanthropic Trust, Donations will help fund research to find a cure for breast cancer as well as

appreciated. CONTACT: For additional

SCHOOL/

Novi City Council Meeting

45175 W. Ten Mile Road

Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday, March 17 TIME: 7:30 p.m. LOCATION: Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Rd., CONTACT: (248) 449-1200

> 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate LOCATION: Novi Ice Arena, 42400 Arena Dr. (activity room,

lessons in this pay-as-you-go pro-gram. Cost is \$5 for Novi residents and for those ages 55 and up; \$6 for non-residents (fees are for the entire

DATE: Wednesday, March 23 TIME: 7:30 p.m. LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

Center, 45175 Ten Mile Rd. TIME: 7-8:30 a.m. business. Various classifications open and eager to bring you quali

LACC Morning Connection

other local business owners; bring CONTACT: Lakes Are Chamber of Commerce (248) 624-

NCC New Member Reception

TIME: 8-9:30 a.m.

DETAILS: Networking oppor-

Joint Chamber Mixer

event with the West Suburban Novi to meet kids from the othe Area Chamber of Commerce schools and potentially some of the staff from Novi Meadows. two minutes. Horsd oeuvres

Breast Cancer 3-Day ierce (248) 349-3743

Birth certificate or passport

patient-related programs.
Contributions will be greatly

information, call Kim (248) 444 2882 or Audrey (248) 426-6549.

GOVERNMENT

DATE: Every Tuesday night TIME: 5-8 p.m. LOCATION: Assarian Cancer CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

enjoy a include a supplies fee (no more than

Wixom City Council

DATE: Tuesdays, March 22; April 12, 26; May 10, 24; June 14 28; July 12, 26; August 9, 23; Sept. 13, 27; Oct. 11, 25; Nov. (Wed.) 9, 22; Dec. 13 and (Tues.)

20
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Wixom City Hall,
49045 Pontiac Trail
CONTACT:

BUSINESS

Business Referrals

DATE: every Wednesda LOCATION: Novi Civio DETAILS: Meeting of local professionals and business looking to increase word-of-mouth referra CONTACT: (734) 462-6460

DATE: Wednesday, March 16 TIME: 8:30-9:30 a.m. LOCATION: Oakland Dental Center, 2900 Union Lake Road, ommerce Twp. DETAILS: Stop by on your way

work to mix and mingle with reflection during the meeting by clergy from the area. As a service program is provided by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home COnTACT: (248) 348-1800.

tunity, meet new chamber members; free. CONTACT: Novi Chamber of

DATe: Tuesday, March 22 TIME: 5:30-7:30 p.m. LOCATION: Burton Manor, 17777 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia DETAILS: Speed networking

served; eash bar; \$10 per person CONTACT: Novi Chamber of

NCC General Membership

DATE: Tuesday, April 19 TIME: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. I OCATION: Fox Run Village, 41000 Thirteen Mile Road, Nov DETAILS: Guest speaker Tim McCormick was drafted to the NBA in 1984 and is currently a commentator for ESPN.
Registration begins at 11:30; ch will be served at noon; cost CONTACT: Novi Chamber of

CLASSES

Successful Retirement Pianning

DATE: Monday, March 14 TIME: 7:30-9:30 p.m. LOCATION: Novi Middle School, Room 208 (Eleven Mile

and Wixom roads)
DETAILS: Novi Community Education Center will sponsor a seminar on Planning for a Successful Retirement featuring Jeff Land, of Bloom Asset Management. The seminar is open to the public. There is a \$17 fee and reservations are

CONTACT: Joyce Robb at vidence Center for the

Healing Arts' "Tuesdays at Assarian'

by public health nurses. Topics will include childbirth preparation, labor and delivery, care of the newborn Center, 47601 Grand River Ave., DETAILS: Variety of activities for

the adult community to come and ique mix of classes sponsored

(888) 350-0900, ext. 84003 by the Providence Center for the Healing Arts, Some activities may

DATE: first and third Fridays of CONTACT: (248) 465-5483 the month. TIME: 10 a.m. Line Dancing Classes

LOCATION: Holy Family
Catholic Church (on Meadowbrook
Road between Ten Mile Road and DATE: every Monday TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; Grand River Avenue. DETAILS: A nonprofit, nonde-nominational group that brings adop-

tive families together. Twice meetings provide families with the opportunity to share play and conver-DETAILS: No partner needed for CONTACT: Michelle Pergeau (248) 887-4955 or Sandra Noonan

(248) 960-3257 evening). CONTACT: (248) 348-9116

Novi Toastmasters DATE: first and third Tuesdays of Line Dancing Classes LOCATION; Novi Civic Center DATE: every Friday TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; Activities Room. TIME: 7-8:45 p.m.

7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, DETAILS: No narmer needed for presentations and practice lead CONTACT: Colleen (248) 685n. Cost is \$5 for and for those ages 55 and up; \$6 for non-residents (fees are for the entire

SUPPORT

GROUPS

Bereavement Support Group

DATE: Tuesday, March 15 TIME: 7:30-9 p.m.

Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road DETAILS: The topic of the

monthly meeting facilitated by Dr. Michael M. Meyer will be

"Easter joy in the midst of grief." There will be a brief prayerful

community, this aftercare

LOCATION: Novi Civio

New Take Off Pounds Sensibly evening). CONTACT: (248) 348-9116 (TOPS) chapter

LOCATION: Meadowl Commons Activities Room, 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi TIME: 11 a.m. weigh-in; 11:30 a.m. meeting DETAILS: \$20 per annual mem-

bership includes handbook; \$1 per

meeting. New members welcome

DETAILS: Toastmasters will help

HEALTH

Boost Camp Day DATE: Friday, April 8 TIME: 9 a m -3:30 n m

LOCATION: Provid

DETAILS: A day of enrichtools, information and a new spective on healthier living through wholeness that can through wholeness that can be very beneficial to the participant Open to the public; \$50 per per-

son (includes lunch and materi

ls; registration required). CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

Pilates at the Park

DATE/TIME: Mondays 7-8 a.m., now through March 14 (Conference Room C); Mondays 4:15-5:15 p.m., now through March 14 (Conferent Room B); Wednesdays 4:15-5:15 m. now through March 15

Grand River Avenue), Novi DETAILS: Rehabilitation Services classes, an effective form of exer to strengthen, stretch and streamline

one's body with minimum stress or

joints. The cost for the program is \$120. Due to limited class size, it's recommended to register early. CONTACT; (248) 465-4416

TIME: 7 p.m. LOCATION: Providence Park Ave., Suite B 124. CONTACT: RSVP by calling

Cakland County Health Division Flu Shots

complex, building 36E.
HOURS: Monday, noon-8 p.m.;
Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
DETAILS: Flu shots are available insurance can be billed to cover the cost. Bring photo identification: proc

Oakland County Health Division

SWOCC Studio Tours

DATE: Tuesday, March 22 TIME: 7-7;30 p.m. DETAILS: Preschoolers and their families are invited to enjoy bedtime stories. No registration, **EXPO CENTER** The Novi Expo Center is local

DATES: March 11-13

occupy over seven acres. Admission is \$8; parking is \$5. CONTACT; (248) 348-6942 or

Spring Boating Show

DATES: April 1-3 TIMES: Friday, 3-10 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; DETAILS: Detroit's only show

vww.showspan.com

DATE: Saturday, April 2 DETAILS: Fourth annual expo

CALENDAR

DATES: now through March 30 TIME: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. LOCATION: The Meadowbro Art Center, 41200 West Ten Mile

DETAILS: The work of International Society of Experimental Artists' Edec Joppich s being exhibited. This is a compi-ation of dreamlike, abstract col-

"My Fair Lady"

TIME: Friday and Saturday, 7:30 duction. Directed by Linda Wickert. Music direction by Sheri Sansom netics professor agrees to a wager that he can take a low class flower

DATE: Thursday, March 10 TIME: 7:30-9:30 p.m. LOCAtION: Novi Community DETAILS: Jerry Carney speaking on fabulous floribundas; louts and social hour: every-

DATE: Monday, March 21 TIME: 7 p.m. LOCATION: Civic Center,

Novi Planning Commission Meeting

Moms Club of Novi DATE: Tuesday, March 15 DATE: meetings first Thursday of LOCATION: Town & Country TIME: 10 am.

LOCATION: Novi Civic Center DETAILS: The MOMS Club (Moms Offering Moms Support) is a non-profit support group, specifically aimed at meeting the needs of mothers who choose to stay at home with

their children, including those who those who work part-time. CONTACT: dinatallman@sbc

Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples

TIME: 7 p.m. LOCATION: Witch's Hat Depot,

DATES: second Thursdays

300 Dorothy St., South Lyon.

nies for momers of multiple birth children and their families. Mothers

of multiples living in and around the

Kensington Valley school conference

tion, call Jackie at (248) 437-5496.

LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49329 Pontiac Trail,

DETAILS: You are welcome to

come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer as you face life's prob-

lems, issues and frustrations. Drop in

for five minutes or longer. CONTACT: Nancy and Susan at

(248) 926-8332 or by e-mail at har-

Breast Cancer Support Group

DATES: second and fourth

Tuesdays of the month.

estfellowshin@comeast.net

Women's Prayer Support

DATE: every Saturday

Wixom (parking is behind the

TIME: 9-10:30 a.m.

church)

Conference Room C)
LOCATION: Providence Park (southwest comer of Beck Road and DETAILS: This group provides information, support and social activities for mothers of multiple birth

Oakland Physical Therapy

DATES: April 6. Fit for golf; and cise for low back pain.

(248) 3880-3550.

DATE: ongoing until supplies are epleted. LOCATION: Pontiac Office, 1200 N. Telegraph Rd. (north of Elizabeth Lake Rd.) in the Oakland County

Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C on the ground floor of the hospital. TIME: 10-11:30 a.m. DETAILS: There is no need to register. CONTACT: (248) 937-5017

Health Division, 1010 East West

TIME: 7-9 p.m. DETAILS: Classes will be taught

information about keeping children

safe and caring for them when they

are ill. Cost is \$25. CONTACT: (248) 858-4003, or

Adoption Playgroup

Maple Rd., Walled Lake.

I OCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai

Expectant Parent Classes **ONGOING** DATE; ongoing series. LOCATION: Oakland County

LOCATION: 33300 Nine Mile Rd., Farmington. DETAILS: Come in for an up-Southwest Oakland Cable Commission Studies, your local community television studio. SWOCC offers tours to many organizations, such as Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and service clubs. The groups also have an opportunity to make a

Novi Public Library Hours

LOCATION: 45245 W. Ten

Mile Road HOURS: Monday-Thursday,

all programs take place at the

Help Match the Walker

CONTACT; (248) 349-0720

DETAILS: With iA Million

Booksi going up on the walls, there are more books than usual

these days at the library. By pur-

the shape of a book for \$1, you

million Walker challenge grant.

The book signs may be purchased at any service desk in the library.

DETAILS: Winter 2 Story

Brochures listing the days and

times of each drop-in Story Time

Times are now underway.

Teens Read (& More!)

Reading Buddies

DATE: Saturday, March 12 TIME: 11-11:45 a.m.

DETAILS: Join us as we dis-

cuss iHomecomingi by Cynthia Voigt. For grades 7-9. No regis-

DATE: Wednesday, March 16 TIME: 4:30-5:00 p.m.

grade 4) to improve the younger child's reading skills and encour-

DETAILS: Our drop-in Reading Buddy Program pairs older children (grades 5-12) with younger children (kindergarten-

Story Times

library.

ed at 43700 Expo Center Drive (southwest corner of I-96 and Navi Road). Call (248) 348-5600 short promo for the public access channel, INFO TV-12. CONTACT: Melissa Cohn (248) 473-2840

The Michigan Golf Show LIBRARY LINES

Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. DETAILS: Over 500 local, national and world wide resorts

10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, 1-5 p.m. DETAILS: Unless noted below,

DATES: March 17-20 TIMES: Thursday and Friday, 2-9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 n.m.: Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. DETAILS: Display of 2005 \$8; free for children 12 and under, Parking is \$5. CONTACT: (734) 261-0123 or

Backyard Pool & Spa Show

Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. for home relaxation swimming pools, hot tub/spas and outdoor entertaining. This is the best place to turn your backchildren ages 6-14; free for chil dren under age 6. Parking is \$5. CONTACT: (800) 328-6550 or

Motor City Men's Expo

CONTACT: www.wrif.com

Stone, editor, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-9832; or e-mail to

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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 year from each of the three credit bureaus—Foultee free copy of their credit report per 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.annualereditreport.com; or by phone at (877) 322-8228.)

fob hunters may find this new right particularly timely since pre employment background checkswhich often include credit checks—are becoming more com mon. 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 chil-dren, 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 Jobsecker's Guide," It's a report developed by the consumer advo-cacy group Privacy Rights Clearinghouse. Access the report at www.privacyrights.org by click-ing on the "Background Checks and Workplace" channel on the

homepage.

Consumer advocates concerned Consumers are entitled to cer-tain 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

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

An employer must obtain writ ten 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

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 co reporting agency is covered by FCRA, in-house background checks are not. State laws, however, may place restrictions on the prospect for during an in-house investigation.

Next time, what can be included in a background check and what to no in the event of adverse action

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL), a senting 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

he e-mailed to mcd@mcul.org



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

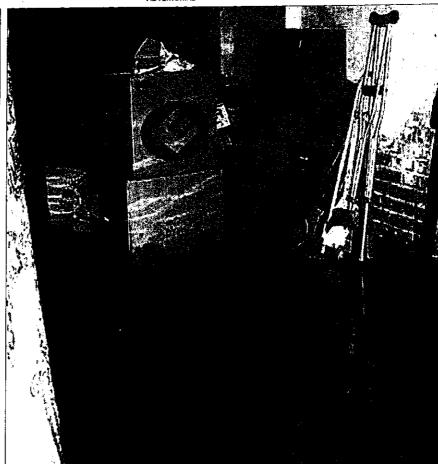


Rugg Brothers uses a steam extraction method to clean carpets.



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





A flooded basement or home can be dangerous and unhealthy so it requires the immediate attention of Rugg

Rugg Brothers Carpet Care

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

By Duane Ramsey

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 "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

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 pur-pose 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

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 proce-dures to assure the highest level of cleaning performance and protection for your furnishings

Their truck-mounted extrac-tion 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 mois-

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 the also reminds nomeowhers that they have the right to pick what company handles their water darrage and removal.

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

Pure Berthers will inspect the

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

"We want people to get the very best service at a fair price and make sure that they are com-pletely 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 house-holds. 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 clean-

ing your carpet.
The Environmental Protection Agency claims that indoor air has been found to be 70 times more polluted than outdoor and 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 sys-

tact or mechanical cleaning technique. An air turbine-pow-ered vacuum agitates and removes all dust, mold and debris from the ducts with pow-

erful truck-mounted equipment. After the cleaning is completed, the entire HVAC system is sanitized with an anti-microbial combination of cleaner, disin-

fectant and deodorizer designed for hospital and industrial use. The EPA registered formulation is found to be effective in killing

is found to be effective in Killing microbial organisms.

The Consumer Products Salety 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 invite. the leading material to ignite.

The key to effective dryer per-formance and safety is optimal airflow. A properly cleaned exhaust line free of lint blockages will help to ensure that air-flow. 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 duct-work to determine if cleaning is work to declaring is necessary. They have the exper-ise, equipment and trained per-sonnel to clean all ductwork and dryer venting in addition to cleaning your carpets, Mike

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

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 mounted equipment that removes the deepest and tough-est 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.rugtomers can make an appointment for carpet or duct cleaning.



- Carpet Cleaning
- **Duct Cleaning**
- Scotchgard®



Rugg Brothers Carpet Care

or combination *not to be combined with any other offer • Expires May 10, 2005

Call 248-446-2008