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Thursday, March 17, 2005

/olume 49 Number 42

Klaver

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\$150k

■ Novi's COO

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- Special Section

A lifetime of hospitality

Donn Kluck has worked 65 years in the hotel business, the last 11 as a

bellman and concierge at the Hotel Baronette.

- Page 15A

SPORTS

Took the title Eric Zhao wasn't sure what to expect when he participated in the triple

jump at the Michigan Indoor Track and Field State Championships March 5.

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Park residents file suit

Old Dutch Farms residents say unsanitary conditions exist

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

Several residents of Old Dutch Farms mobile home park on the west side of the city have filed a more than \$1 million class action lawsuit against the owners of the

park, claiming unsanitary living

conditions.

The residents' attorney,
Macuga & Liddle, P.C., of
Detroit, announced March 9 that it filed the complaint in Oakland ounty Circuit Court against Uniprop.

Uniprop.
The lawsuit alleges that Birmingham-based Uniprop has failed to adequately maintain the community and caused damage to

homeowners' property.
"The living conditions at Old Dutch Farms are unsatisfactory," said Steven Liddle, lead attorney

for the plaintiffs, "The residents deserve better."

Liddle said Uniprop has 21

days to respond to the com-

plaint.
Charmaine Jones, president,
Old Dutch Farms Homeowner's
Association, said, "It's 2005, and
as a resident of Oakland County, I expect to have access to a func-tioning sewer system and a clean

water system."
Residents say the park's on-site

continued on page 3

"What's really holding this up is the weather. There's no way we can do the connection until the weather warms up."

Roger Ziotoff

plans to travel. golf and join

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

Craig Klaver, the city's chief operating officer, will retire June 30 after almost 24 years with the

city. the And

has already

not

been made

salary of

replace him, meaning

private sector



\$150,000 will be back in the continued on page 3

Preparation Novi High School students practice water rescue techniques for potential spinal cord injuries during a Monday morning lifeguard course at the school's pool. From left are Ben Vallerand, Aubree Bixman, and Robbie

HAPPY St. Patrick's Day

Show 'em the green!

■ Eateries are crowd-ready

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

St. Patrick's Day is an impor-tant day of the year for the Irish (or Irish wannabes), and Novi's estaurants are ready for the big

day.

Gus O'Connor's Public
House on Grand River Avenue
east of Novi Road in the Main Street Novi development had to make space for the huge crowd. "We moved a lot of the tables

"We moved a lot of the tables out of the restaurant, because it'll be standing room only," said Cory Godlewski, manager, Gus O'Connor's are ven from Ireland. And the ones that aren't drink like Irishmen," Godlewski

said in jest.

It will be all-hands-on-deck for their busiest day of the year.
"Every single person is required to work that day," in sick on St. Patrick's Day for his staff. Godlewski said. So, no callir

Doors open at O'Connors at 7 a.m., with a breakfast buffet served from 7-11 a.m. "People want their beer at 7 a.m. on St. Patrick's Day," Godlewski said. A limited menu will be served, which, of course includes ed beef and cabbage.

corned beef and cabbage.
From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., local radio station 89X will broadcast

At 3 p.m., the bar will have a bag piper, and from 1-5 p.m. and 7-11 p.m. the Irish band Shamrock Shore from Detroit

We ordered a ton of beer Guinness," 30 kegs of Godlewski said.

continued on page 3

School finances: Everything counts

Student fee for driver's ed program up \$56

By Ramez Khuri

The driver's education course at Novi High School will return this summer at the cost of \$335 per

That's the decision the board of that's the decision the board of education made after 100 students at Novi High said they would take advantage of the service, even if the price jumped from \$279 per student to \$335.

The increase was necessary after the state of Michigan officially cut driver's education fund-

ing to all districts, leaving Novi with only a few options. The board pondered continuing

to offer the program at an increase of \$56 per student, supplementing the program, or cutting it all together.



"At some point, if the fee exceeds the market, the market, then the dis-trict just falls out of it," Jim Koster said, assistant superintend-

J. Koster

ent of busiand finance. "The district has a good program, and I'd hate to see it go.

continued on page 3

Refinancing of debt could save \$1 million

By Ramez Khuri

Right now, the window is open The Novi Community School District is looking to refinance its existing debt in an attempt to save about \$1 million, spread over the

next 20 years.

The board of education, at its last meeting, approved a legal coucil, an underwriter, a financial consultant, and it authorized the

district to pursue the market.

"By doing this, our total debt would go down," Jim Koster said,

assistant superintendent of busi-ness and finance. "When the opportunity is there to do this, you should do it, which is what we're

doing."

Koster explained the district must have those components in place first, otherwise administra-tors would never know what the market is like. Koster explored the market on Monday and Tuesday to see whether it's feasable for the district to save the money that it thinks it can save.

thinks it can save.
"We've been through this a couple times before, where we went into the market and the savings wasn't there and so we backed away," Koster said, "We waited for the economy and the interest rates. the economy and the interest rates to change and when it came time to do it again, then we went through the process again."

Wonderland businesses riding it out

Shops hope customers return after renovations and road work

By Kim Kovelle

If there's one unsung trooper of a shopping center, it might be Novi's Wonderland Music Plaza at the northwest corner of Novi Road and Grand River Avenue.

Starting last April, tenants endured months of road construc-tion. After that, long-needed facade renovations began in November

Now, plastic tarps have been lifted, signs are back and one of Novi's oldest shopping plazas is hoping residents return

hoping residents return.
"It has obviously burt every-body in the area," said Michael Vargas, owner, Maisano's Italian Restaurant. "There's no question about it. People find different routes to drive and they find dif-ferent restaurants.
"It's going to be a building process."

process

Brought up to Novi's "town center" code, old beige wood pan-eling has been replaced with brick

columns and a decorative center area topped by a tower. Weather and mason issues

delayed the project several weeks, according to Rochester Hills builder Constructive Concepts.
"We had a bad winter with a lot

of snow," owner Darryl Rodgers said, "It's hard to get subtrades to come into work when there's snow on the ground."

The company estimates work will be done within three weeks. Painting, windows and some dry wall are still underway.

than it did before," said Jim Ankofski, owner of Pastry Palace.
"It was a much-needed update."
Like Maisano's, Ankofski said,

Pastry Palace is a destination shop.

"When the complete building was in a big bubble, people still did come and pick up their cakes," he said. "I don't know how much walk-in business we got. It's a lit-tle bit inconvenient as the process

He said a window still needs to be cut into the side of his shop. Other stores, like Ninetics Nails and Liquor Depot No. 6, reported losing about half their customers

during construction.

Huda Fredrick, manager of the party store, said tarps, scaffolding and missing signs shielded her

shop.
"The business has been terri-



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Maisano's Family Restaurant and other tenants of Novi's Wonderland Plaza have seen their exteriors undergo renovations which include new awnings and an added brick facade.

ble," Fredrick said. "People, they didn't know we were still open. They thought we were closed." She agreed that the plaza now looks much improved and, since the tarp has been lifted, shoppers have trickled back

have trickled back. Lover's Lane manager Ronda is hopeful, too. During Valentine's Day, one of the shop's

peak sale times, said the traffic count was about 700 less than last

year.
"Hopefully, the building looks different, people are going to be wondering, 'Oh, what's that over there," she said. "It's a little bit more noticeable, especially with

continued on page 3



Postal Inform

Green Sheet Classified



Thursday, March 17, 2005-NOVI NEWS 3A

Capello announces rebid for city council seat

By Pam Fleming

It's official now, After a family meeting the day before, Novi attorney Kim Capello announced March 14 that he will seek a second term on city

council.
"I told my family I needed to know one way or the other because people out there were talking." he said, "I've gotten everybody's blessing." Capello said he won't run his

campaign much different than be-

support in the neighborhoods from family and friends. That worked real well last time. I had more friend-to-friend postcards going out than any other candidate I can remember working for, and I think I'll still take that same

approach," he said.

Capello believes the major issues facing the city include creating some ordinances that deal with in-fill areas. An in-fill area is an undeveloped area of land locat-

ed within existing development.
"We've been so fortunate that everything is new development that we really aren't focusing on the in-fills, and we need to do that," he said.

Completing development in the four quadrants at Grand River Avenue and Novi Road is another important goal Capello sees for

Paying attention to Grand River Avenue between Novi Road and

Road and Beck Road is another concern of his. need to generite more tax dollars with-

out going to the taxpay-K. Capello ers," he added, "And, I think we can do that.

Capello is just finishing his first four-year term on city council. He served on planning commission for almost eight years and was a member of the Town Center Steering Committee, which was responsible for getting the Main Street project approved. A native of Royal Oak, Capello

and his family have lived in Novi for 13 years. He graduated from Bishop Foley High School in Madison Heights

ey and wrestling, and I still play hockey a couple of times a week,"

He graduated from the Oakland University in Rochester with a degree in political science and philosophy and attended Thomas Cooley Law School in Lansing,

graduating in 1976.

Capello practiced law in East
Lansing and Birmingham before
moving to Novi. He specializes in the areas of real estate, develop-ment, construction, small business representation and divorce.

Capello believes his knowledge

can benefit the citizens of Novi "We've got a changeover i coming. With my history on the planning commis-sion and being involved in local government on that level for so ong, I know stuff that the admin-stration doesn't know," he said.

"I've got the advantage of seeing where we've been and seen the mistakes we've made in the

Past."

Capello says he's excited about and is ready to start running again and is ready to start his campaign.
"I've talked to [mayoral candidate] David Landry, and I'm ready to get going," he said.

for the Novi News, She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail Pam Fleming is a staff writer 105, or by e-mail pfleming@ht.homecomm not

"My best two sports were hock-"I told my family I needed to know one way or the other

Kim Capello



because people out there were talking."

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MORE WONDERFUL

- What: Wonderland Music / Plaza, including five stores and one on-the-way anchor Where: northwest corner of
- Grand River Avenue and Novi Road What: facade renovations are nearly complete, and major intersection construc-
- tion wrapped up last November, Businesses have lost patrons during the work, but hope customers find their way back.

Visit your local 'Wonder

Lover's Lane

Liquor Depot No. 6, Inc. (248) 348-2155

last year due to lagging sales.
Alistate Billiards & Game Room Furniture now is renovating the building, preparing to move from Novi Town Center around this April, manager Lee Nouhan said

Shops hope

customers

return after

renovations

and road work

continued from front page

the peak part that's going in."
One final, less drastic change

may be center's name.

Currently, the Wonderland

Currently, the Wonderland Music Plaza sign stands, though its

freestanding anchor store closed

We're seeing if we can change it to Alistate Plaza," Nouhan said. "Obviously Wonderland's gone and it doesn't make a whole lot of

Existing businesses a expect gradual recovery.
"It's not going to happen overnight, it's not going to happen in a month," Vargas said. "It's like starting from Ground Zero again, basically."

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

sewer system leaks raw sewage under homes, creates a stench in the park and has contaminated

The MDEQ issued several notices of noncompliance in the past to the park for failure to address problems with the sewer

city's sanitary sewer system. A settlement was reached requiring [Injured to raze its treatment]

Maisano's Italian sewer system. Restaurant (248) 348-1647

(248) 662-2600 Pastry Palace (248) 380-2810 Allstate Billiards & Game

Room Furniture

26040 Ingersol Drive (248) 465-0155 *Currently located in Novi Town Center; moving to shell of It's a direct instructional com-Wonderland Music in April ent to the kids. As long as the ket is such where we can

■ Residents say unsanitary conditions exist

at trailer park continued from front page

T'm very confident that we

Last year, the city of Novi sued Uniprop, demanding that they hook Old Dutch Farms to the plant and connect to the city's

"What's really holding this up is the weather," said Roger Zlotoff, Uniprop CEO. "There's no way we can do the connection until the weather warms up. The equipment can't travel to the site. e also need one more easement we have to obtain. But there's no specific date as to when we have to have the work completed. The city of Novi understands that this is a process," he said.

have worked expeditiously and that the city of Novi is comfort-able with the pace of the project. We have received no communi cation from the city of Novi indicating that it's unhappy."

The poor water condition in the park also prompted MDEQ

action. In January, the MDEQ issued a notice of noncompliance meet standards set by the deserve to have a safe and clean Michigan Safe Drinking Water place to raise our children in an

education to local school districts

enue cutback was so dramatic

Klaver was involved in was as project manager of the Novi Civic Center, built in 1988. "That was

almost a two-year construction

Act, according to Ben McGeachy, MDEQ, supervisor, Manufactured Housing Program. "We monitor water supply, waste water, insect and redent upscale community like Oakland County. We want to be compensated for damages," Jones said. Zlotoff said Uniprop staff was upset by the residents' lawsuit. "We are sad and disappointed

control, garbarge — basically public health issues," McGeachy said. Zlotoff said Uniprop is that our customers decided to pursue litigation without prior contact with us. We had no noti-fication that they were consider-

addressing the drinking water issue.
"We've addressed it with DEQ and received their conditional certificate of compliance in retinicate of compliance in February. We're incetting with them, and we're in compliance. DEQ is not taking any regulatory action against Old Dutch Farms."

Residents are also concerned about poor road conditions, inad-equate lighting and improper foundations on the homes.

he said.

"We thought it was necessary to file this lawsuit because we deserve to have a safe and clean

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

ing this. We're very confident, however, that we can produce

evidence from independent, third

"We're doing everything we can do to expedite the project. We're not delaying it for any rea-

really without merit," he said,

that the fee calculated out to be ■ Student fee charge that amount and re-coup Last year we had 102. All my analysis are done on 100 stuour money, I think the district should continue to provide that \$279 per student. For the past two years, the district has been for driver's ed charging that price and it met all dents, and that was just a coinciprogram up \$56 Koster explained that the state when the district charges \$335 reduced its funding for driver's

a couple of years ago. As a result, the board decided to continue with Novi High's program, but to have it be self-sufficient. The rev-

even and have a self-sufficient program again.
"One hundred students said they would take our driver's edu-cation," Koster said, "That's

to 100 participants, it will break for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net

"It's one of the larger lakes in

Michigan, and only about a two-hour drive," he said. He's also an avid golfer and plays on a league

at Links of Novi.

■ Novi's COO plans to travel, golf and join private sector

continued from front page

city's budget.
"We have the ability to purchase prior time from another employer, and I worked for the city of Royal Oak for 14 years," he said. He bought 13 months so he could take advantage of the "25 years and out" retirement pol-

He began his career with Royal Oak when he was a student at Oakland University, working summers for the engineering Although he was studying to

become a schoolteacher. But, after he graduated in 1970, the market was grim for education

be a temporary job in the engineer-ing department in Royal Oak, I never looked back," Klaver said. He worked for the library in Royal Oak for about three years even driving a Bookmobile. He had a brief stint with the treasur-

position came open [in Novi], they were looking for somebody who was kind of a generalist," "So. I took what I thought would Klaver noted. One highlight of his career was

ment.

assisting Fire Chief Art Lenaghan with the establishment of the for-mer Fire Station No. 4 on Eleven er's office, then three years in the onnel department. During this

Mile, which is now a parks and recreation maintenar ce facility.

time, he was involved in a couple

of projects with the city manager, which piqued his interest in gen-eral administration work. He also

"When the assistant manager

The new Fire Station No. 4 is on Ten Mile at Wixom Road. One of the bigger projects

project manager for the more than \$18 million Meadowbrook

project," he said.

He also served for the past four years on the Novi Building Authority, independent agency with five members, including

Klaver, two residents, the finance director and building official. "This is the agency that issued the bonds that paid for the conclean it," he said. struction of the Novi Ice Arena and our senior housing project, Meadowbrook Commons,"

Klaver said. He also served as

building authority might be used to issue bonds for a new Novi Public Library.

One of Klaver's hobbies is aquariums, and he built an 85-gallon one for the Meadowbrook

Commons lobby.

"I go over on Saturdays and A native of Dewitt, Mich.,

"Those are the two projects I'm

probably the most proud of because there was such a need for both of them." He added the

in the private sector," he added. Klaver plans to spend several weeks with his mother at her home near Gatlinburg, Tenn., and then he'll be off for a vacation with friends at Gun Lake between

"I'm planning on staying in Novi," he said, where he'll be spending time with wife, Pam, and sons Nick, who has a blues/jazz band named Bloom; Jeff and Chris; daughters, Tracy and Marcy; and seven grandchildren. "I do intend to go back to work

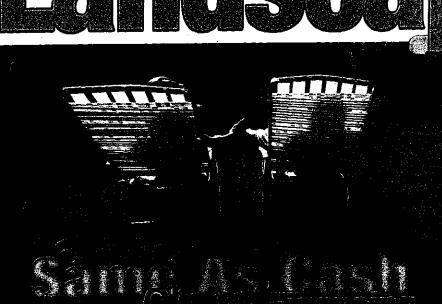
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for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at

House approves road funding

The U.S. House of Representatives last Thursday passed House Resolution 3, known as the Transportation

Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LAI). The bill provides 42 percent more than the current spending evels, with highway funding 38 percent more and transit pro-grams 51 percent more, It ear-marks \$11.1 billion for projects requested by individual Congressional members. The neasure permits states to allow low- emission and energy-effi-cient vehicles, such as hybrids.

and to use high- occupancy vehi-cle (HOV) lanes. Congressman Thad McCotter (R-Livonia) secured close to \$14 million in funds for the follow

ig projects: - **Novi = \$1**,000,000 to recon struct Grand River Ave., between Novi and Haggerty

oans.
Northville -- \$500,000 for improvements to Taft Road. from 8 mile Road north to city Wixon: - \$1,000,000 for

design, ROW, and construction of the Wixom Road Walled Lake = \$125,000 to

widen Maple Road, west of Decker to Welch. South Lyon - \$125,000 for

improvements on Second Street between Warren and Haggadorn. Commerce - \$1,500,000 for

mprovements to Haggerty Road from 14 Mile to Richardson roads. Van Buren – \$1,100,000 to widen Belleville Road between

Tyler and Ecorse roads.

Highland – \$125,000 fo improvements to Clyde Road, from Flickory Ridge to ratheona. **Wayne** – \$125,000 to recon

struct one quarter mile stretch Livonia - \$1,000,000 to

Plymouth = \$500,000 for ovements to Haggerty Road, from Plymouth to Schoolcraft roads.2 112 // // Westland \$33,750,000 for

improvements to Ann Arbor Trail, between Farmington and lerriman roads. White Lake - \$500,000 to

between Hix and Newburgh Garden City - \$1,225,000 to

reconstruct Maplewood Road, between Inkster and Merriman Canton - \$2,000,000 to pave

Canton Center and Haggerty

PUBLIC SAFETY

Explorers train for that big blaze

ears on fire last Memorial Day. Hamilton, 19, thinks that it was a good learning experience. It's all part of Explorer train-

Explorer nosts are affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America and offer career-based training programs in fire, rescue, and law enforcement fields, among oth-

choir girl and Explorer, wants to be either a firefighter or a veterinarian.
"We'll see," said her mother,

Karen Westfall, of the latter. Lisa has fire running through her blood. Her parents and her brother are firefighters. Her brother was also an Explorer. "(As a parent) you're always concerned," said Karen, "We never pushed her toward it, though. She can do whatever she

The Northville Explorer 1717 post, started in 1994, is the local post for communities like Novi, Northville and other close suburbs. Explorers train the first and third Thursdays of every month and compete with other

Northville Fire Department is very, very good about its training and making sure that everyone is taken care of," said Karen.

Tested training

On Memorial Day weekend, local Explorers attend the Monroe Event and test their attend the

said Sheri Allen, advisor to the Northville Explorer post, of the Monroe Event.

Explorers don't typically deal with "live burns." But competi-

tions and large-scale training exercises like the Monroe Event "We stacked two cars on each other and the Explorers had to

other and the Explorers had to rescue the people inside," said Hamilton, a Northville firefight. Frank Explorer. At the end of the day, we burned the cars."

Local Explorers have their sights on the National Exploring

Council's biannual national competition held in June. Only two groups of four from each post are allowed to participate in the Texas event. Post 1717 will go if they can raise the neces-

The event costs about \$1,000 per person. In past years the city has offered odd jobs to Explorers to help raise money. So far this year "nothing has

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chicken and seafood, signature salads and freshly baked rolls, meet us at the new O'Charley's.

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10:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.



Photo by DAVID AGUILAR

Representing some of Northville Explorer 1717 Post are (front to back) Lisa Westfall, 14, Richard Hamilton, 19, Jarrod Dauk, 14 and Dave Person, 18, represent some of Northville Explorer 1717 post.

Jeff Kujawa, a City of Northville paid-on-call firefight-er, went through the Explorer program and is now an advisor to new members. He said the

come up," said Northville Fire important to prospective fire-fighters. Kujawa, 22, said the Explorer

ing.

Hamilton credits his Explorer experience and training provid program provides "personal improvement," and those who complete it don't have to spend ed by Northville firefighters as reasons for his success as a fire-fighter.
"I was 15 the first time I put

as much time on the basics when

He can be reached at (248) 349

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Tragedy puts court security under scrutiny

■ Local judge says restraints not used in trials

By Pam Fleming

After the tragedy last weekend in Atlanta, when Brian Nichols, a 3-year-old suspect being retried for rape became a murder suspect altegedly overpowering a sheriff's deputy, killing a state judge, court reporter, sheriff's deputy and later a federal agent - courtroom security has been

under a magnifying glass.
Nichols was apprehended
March 12 when 26-year-old Ashley Smith, a woman he held hostage, befriended him and con-vinced him to allow her to leave to go see her 5-year-old daughter. She called 911, with Nichols surrendering to authorities at 11:24

now asking, "How do courts handle security, and do additional steps need to be taken?" Judge Robert Bondy of Novi's

metal detector. Everyone who comes into the building is

"They can't bring in any sharp objects such as pocket knives. They go through everyone's hriefcases, their purses and they have to empty their pockets. The general public, the lawyers, everybody goes through this unless you have a security clearcould prejudice a ance to come in through an employee door," Bondy said. Security for all of Oakland

the Oakland County Sheriff's Bondy said he would like to think of the shootings in Atlanta as an isolated event. The 52-1 District Court tries

County's courts is provided by

misdemeanors and handles felonies for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause Cases are then sent to Oakland County Circuit Court in Pontiac.
"On the other hand, it does make you cognizant that there's

always the potential for danger — for somebody to commit an

"If you leave a person in leg chains or handcuffs during a jury trial, this

52-1 District Court

He noted that prisoners may appear in court handcuffed or shackled for a hearing, but the theory is that in a jury trial, such restraints give the appearance of she said.

chains or handcuffs during a jury trial, this could prejudice a jury.
This is why in a jury trial, defendants don't wear their prison jumpsoit. That may affect the jurors' thinking," he said. dants don't wear their prison going to see a revisiting of secujumpsuit. That may affect the jurors' thinking," he said.
Instead, deputies are usually courts reassess what they're

ally handcuffed. This was not the

situation in the Atlanta case.

since Nichols was on trial,
Novi City Council member

Toni Nagy, a court reporter by

trade, has experienced security

with prisoners up close and per

prison in Jackson to take a depo-sition for a prisoner suing for unfit conditions. They had quite a

lot of security," she said,
"I do think they need more

security in courtrooms, however

I think that when you have a per

Bondy said that after the

Atlanta incident and the recent case in which a Chicago judge's parents were allegedly killed in

sonal.
"I've actually gone to

doing and a lot stricter adherence to the rules and procedures," Bondy said. He personally doesn't worry about repercussions from people but the procedure of though, and the deputies come rushing down the hall," he said. Bondy did discuss with his wife over the weekend the possibility of removing their address. Bondy said deputies who about repercussions from people he has sentenced. "Most judges are elected, so

we ask to do this job," he said "You can't shirk from the respon-

use to summon deputies in the courtroom and in his office. "Sometimes I hit it accidentally,

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Publication Number USPS 396290

Thaw will make gravel roads worse

Oakland County (RCOC) warns motorists who use gravel roads that these roadways could again deterio-

weeks, depending upon how quick-ly the spring thaw occurs. "In the worst-case scenario, we could end up closing the worst sible, and others could be very diffito drive," explained RCOC Highway Maintenance Director Tom Meszler. He added the worstcase scenario would be triggered by a very quick warm up, which would cause the snow to melt before the

"If the temperatures rise very quickly, the snow will melt and water will have no place to go, because it takes the ground longer to thaw. The water will not be able

to soak into the ground," the direc-tor said. "That means the surfaces of many gravel roads are likely to turn to mud. If there is three or more inches of mud on top of frozen ground, grading the road will do absolutely no good."

If that happens, the only option left to RCOC will be to spread addi-tional gravel or recycled asphalt product (RAP) on the muddy road surfaces. However, because doing so is very labor intensive, time consurning and costly, it can only be done in the worst situations.

one in the worst situations.

This grim potential comes on the heels of the worst season for gravel roads in decades in Oakland County, in which RCOC has faced the most difficult chellanges in her

lowed by more heavy snow and The best-case scenario for the

coming weeks would be if the tem-peratures slowly rose, allowing the ground to gradually thaw and absorb the water as the snow gradu-

whatever happens, we are pre-pared to do everything we can to try to make the gravel roads as passable as we can," Meszler said. "Unfortunately, though, with a

Always 25%-85% Off

sub-freezing weather, leading into more freeze/thaw and heavy rains

County, in which RCOC has faced the most difficult challenges it has seen in years as it has attempted to maintain its 800 miles of gravel roads. The unpaved roads were bat-

(3

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COMMUNITY

■ Eateries are crowd-ready

St. Party's Day celebrants might want to keep in mind, however, that the Novi Police Department is only a couple of

O'Tooles, on the west side of Novi Road just north of Ten Mile Road, opens its doors at 8 a.m. today. Its first live band, Mike Ridley, starts at noon, with Charlie Lambrick per-forming at 4 p.m. "We'll have bagpipes playing

sometime during the day, and we'll have a deejay all night long until 2 a.m.," said Stephen Wadle, manager. The bar plans to hand out giveaways, such as T-sbirts and shot-glasses-on-a-rope, glow-in-the-dark jewelry and other

The restaurant will serve its full menu plus frish specials, such as a hot corned beef sandwich. The bar will have a St Patrick's Softball Tournamen n Saturday, March 19, with

deadline for entry today The Chicago-style co-ed softball tournament features : 16-inch softball, "You pitch to your team, and there's no stealng or spotting. It's much more if a social type of softball.

Authentic Irish recipes eing served at Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro today include salmon pot pie, corned beef and cabbage, lamb stew, Irish soda scones, Guinness Chocolate Cake and more.

Irish music will be plentiful at the restaurant, with guitarist Pete Fetters performing Irish vocals from 6-10 p.m. The 4,500-square-foot restaurant seats 120 and is located at 26053 Town Center

For more information about Gus O'Conners, call (248) 465-9670; O'Tooles, (248) 349-100 (248) 3 7038; Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro, (248) 380-8460.

next to the Novi Town Center

reached 44 (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pflem-ing@ht.homecomm.net,

Proposed car wash misses mark

Commission cites safety concerns; developer may go to circuit

By Kim Kovelle

"Wow," was one Novi planning commissioner's first reac-tion to a proposed car wash off Haggerty Road, north of Eight Mile Road. me isoau. American Land developers

March 9 presented their site plan for a triangle of land just under a half-acre in size -- not far from just going to make it worse. Best Buy, fast food restaurants and Northville Township's

missioners at the Wednesday meeting refused to recommend the plan to Novi City Council, citing safety hazards near the often-jammed intersection.

would help.

Commission chair Lynn Kocan

noted that parking is needed for every employee, plus two extra spots. At a suggested two-four

workers, three proposed spots

were lacking.

"Asked my family," Kocań added. "They couldn't believe

From the onset, Gerald Odom, the developer's director of plan-ning and real estate, admitted the challenge of the project, which his group first brought to the city last May.
"We don't have woodland

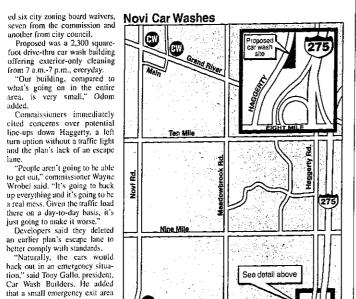
issues, we don't have wetland issues, but man, we've got ssues," Odom said, "We've got a like an arrowhead.
"When you take all of the

restrictions... at best, we only have about 19 percent of this land area available for net building. "We are definitely out of compliance with the ordinance."

Besides required setbacks, mother land-cater is a wide casement around an underground petroleum pipeline slicing through the property. All told, the developer request-

It claims good people. TREAT DEPRESSION

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another use, based on the ordi-nance requirements, that I've stepped forward to comment at the public meeting.

But commissioners were not clip autoriney David Gillam said

that...we would be allowing a left-hand turn out of there. Traffic is phenomenal."

The developer maintained a convinced a gift shop or bank, The developer maintained a laso permitted, were unworkable, ear wash was most realistic for Novi's last piece of land with a table the issue, but that failed in a "freeway service district" zon-ing, near I-275.

3-3 vote. A second motion was made to deny approval, which

we feel that it'll be a very good et for the folks traveling off the the folks traveling off the traveling of th asset for the folks traveling off the freeway," Gallo said, "There is not Lowell Sprague and Andy

The best things in life...

the developer's next step would be circuit court. Gallo said that's

• Andes Construction land About 12 acres of woods at the northwest corner of Eleven Mile and Talt roads may soon be a subdivision. Novi's planning commission March 9 approved the developer's request to rezone two lots from residential acreage to single-family residential. One argument for the switch it allows a "cluster" option. meaning homes can be built closer together to preserve

natural areas. At the public meeting, one resident argued that a subdiv sion would wipe out wildlife Novi Master Plan for Land Use to preserve natural fea-

The commission voted 5-1 to approve the move to city council. Wayne Wrobel dissented; Lowell Sprague and Andy Gutman were absent

Singh Development's

subdivision's fourth phase, or the north side of Ten Mile Road between Meadowbrook and Haggerty roads, earned city council approval Feb. 28. about nine and one-half acres

• Singh Development's Churchill Crossing. Located north of Ten Mile Road and west of Novi Road, this neighborhood's third phase also was approved by city council homes on 17 acres. The entire development spans just over

Easter bunny coming to Novi Parks and recreation event includes

By Ramez Khuri

an egg hunt

department is getting into the Easter Spirit with a program called "Breakfast with the Bunny," taking place on Saturday, March 19 at the Novi Civic Center.

The program is new to Parks

and Rec. this year, as it has partnered with the Novi Lions Club to put it on. Children in attendance may

receive free vision screening, sponsored by St. John Health System, and they will be able to witness Magician Gordon Russ' popular act. Breakfast will be served from 10-11 a.m. and will include pancakes,

fruits, sausage and a beverage.

"The Easter Bunny will be there, so parents should make sure they bring their cameras for photo opportunities, Event and Marketing Coordinator Tracie Ringle said. "Gordon Russ will be doing two min performances during the break-fast and at the same time kids coloring books and some small

A limited number of high chairs will be available at the head outside for the traditional

egg hunt, so children will need to dress warm.

The event is a fund-raiser for the Novi Lions Club as well, as the organization will receive a-dollar from each ticket sale. Ticket prices are \$8 per per

lies can enjoy movies free of charge every Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. through May 15, at the Novi Town The series is designed to allow son and sales have been exten-Each week the theater presents a ed until Monday, March 14.

Free flicks

Book browsing

this is possible as the Novi Town Center 8 presents its Free Spring Matinee series starting March 19. Local children and their fami-



The movies in this series are: ■ Superbabies II. March 19

■ Shark Tale, March 26 and Garfield, April 2 and 3

■ SpongeRob Squarepants, April 9 and 10 ■ Good Boy, April 16 and 17 ■ Fat Albert, April 23 and 24 ■ Ella Enchanted, April 30

to allow the kids and parents to

Racing Stripes, May 14

"benched" shows left in the comes show visitors and allows

Club registered purebred dogs, as well as their breeders, owners and handlers. When the dogs are and nanulers. When the dogs are not in the ring being judged, they must stay on six inch risers (benches) and are grouped according to breed. Annually, thousands of visitors attend the Alive Qi enjoys looking for a few novels to read at the Novi Public Library on a recent Wednesday afternoon. The library is open 10 a.m.- 9 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 10-5, Friday and Saturday and

two-day Detroit event.
Show hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to p.m. Sunday, Tickets are \$12 for dults and \$8 for seniors age 60 under. Family passes, which include two adults and three children, are \$35. Tickets are available at the door and at all Ticketmaster

■ Back-to-back

With names like Coffee and

Speed-Oh!, Roz Granitz of Novi's Australian shepherds obviously

Granitz plans to have Coffee

Detroit events

By Pam Fleming

have a need for speed.

Besides Agility Trials, this year's show will include events such as Search and Rescue, Iditared Demonstrations, Terrier Racing, Police K9

Demonstrations and more. Granitz has three other Australian shepherds that won't compete in this month's show. She

dogs, but likes the shepherds bet-

Novi dog competes at

They're very similar to border collies, but they don't have tails. Some of them are born without tails, but they're usually docked to set March 19-20 meet the breed's standards, Granitz said, "I like the herding group because of their intelli-gence, and they're very versatile." "Aussies," as they're called, are

Kennel Club Shows

small dogs that can do just about everything at dog shows — herd-ing, agility and obedience events. They love to play Frisbee and "They're very active dogs, and

compete in the Agility Trials at the Detroit Kennel Club Dog Shows which are back-to-back they're wonderful with kids," Granitz said. Granitz is the trial secretary for March 19 and March 20 at Cobò Conference & Exhibition Center this year's Agility Trials, a posi-tion she has held each year that the Detroit Kennel Club Dog Shows have had the Agility Trials — Now in the 88th year, the Detroit Kennel Club Dog Shows are one of only six so-called

shout seven years.

She also belongs to the Sportsmen's Dog Training Club of Detroit, the organization hosting the Agility Trials at this year's dog lovers access to more than 150 breeds of American Kennel

In Agility Trials, dogs have to run an obstacle course in a set amount of time. "Being fast and being accurate are the keys to success and blue ribbons," Granitz

said.

Three of Granitz' four shep-"My youngest dog is too young. He's in training," she said. Her Aussies Kanga, who will be 16 on March 5, and Brava, who will be 12 at the end of April, were her

"pioncers" in the agility world.

"After competing successfully
on the local level in both agility and obedience events, they are both retired now. Brava also com-

Her two younger dogs, Coffee, 7, and his son, Speed-Oh!, almost 2, are the next generation. Coffee, who has competed in several national competitions, including the Dog All-Star Event, will be the only one competing this year in the Agility Trials at the Detroit Kennel Club Shows. He won Dog

PET TOYS FOR A CAUSE

Boz Granitz of Novi. an 11 ear breast cancer survivor, is selling tug toys for dogs to raise money for the Breast Cancer Three Day, the 60-mile Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Walk planned for Michigan in July The toys, that she makes herself, are called, "Udderly Amazing" because the main body of the toy is used in milking cows. "The dogs like them because I don't wash them, and they still have that said. She will be selling them Show at Cobo, as well as at Club Pet Too and other local establishments. Granitz is asl ing for a suggested donation of \$5, with all proceeds going to the breast cancer fund-rais \$2,100 for the walk.

voted by the public in 2003 at event in Elizabeth, N.J.

Those who want to come see

Coffee and cheer him on can come to Cobo starting at 10 a.m. Granitz teaches at Club Pet Too just starting her second year. from puppy to competition," she

For prices and class times call Granitz at (248) 669-4567. For

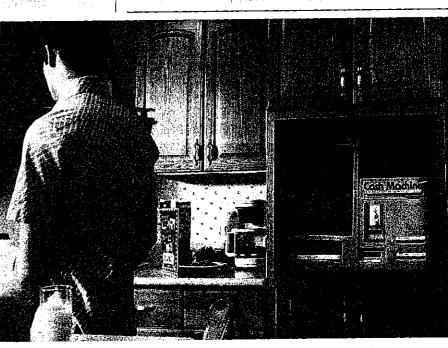
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"Being fast and being accurate are the keys to success and blue ribbons."

Roz Granitz Novi dog owner







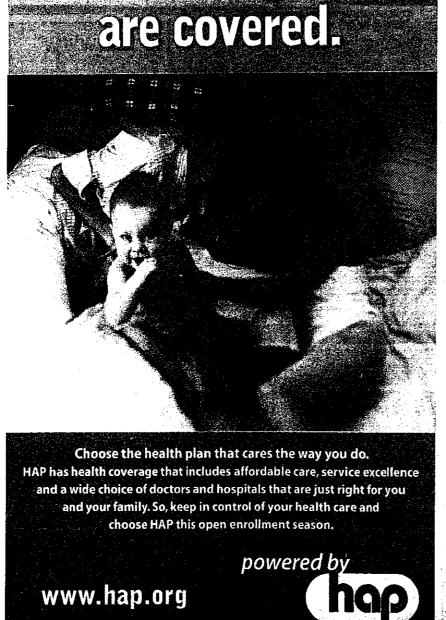
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BUSINESS

■ Move will affect 200 at Wixom plant

By Phil Foley

Wixom city officials are out ting a brave face on for the immi-nent death of the Ford Thunderbird and with it 200 jobs at Ford's Wixom Assembly

According to Assistant City Manager Tony Nowicki, Ford Motor Company officials have issure the city manager's office that 'they're still looking for a new product to go in there." Last Thursday company officials informed workers at the plant that production of the two

eat sports car would end in July After putting the nameplate or hiatus in 1997, Ford reintroduced the car in 2001 as a 2002 model at the North American International Auto Show in Although Thunderbird was named Motor Trend Magazine's Car of the Year, it never really caught on and sales steadily sagged. After selling 19,085 cars in 2001 Thunderbird sales fell to 11.998 last year and so far this year only 1.516 had left dealers lots by the

end of February. "The imminent demise of the founder and publisher of The CarConnection.com and a frequent contributor to National Public Radio, "Ford simply overpromised and under-delivered. It was a case of betting on the hype. I've seldom seen any car get more previews and press con-ferences, but in the end, what Ford rolled out had a lousy interior, a troubled powertrain and a body that wasn't much stiffer than pasta al dente. Add a price tag \$5,000 to \$10,000 more than was competitively justified, and it was a wonder they sold any at

SUNDAY, MAR. 13th

SAT., MAR. 19th, 2005

Last January Ford folded pro-

Car production line at the 5-million-square-foot plant. That move cost 36 jobs for UAW Local 36 at the plant. The latest round of expected

job cuts will bring the workforce at the 48-year-old plant down to 2,000. At its peak in the 1970s. Wixom Assembly employed between 5,800 and 5,900 people

The last new product intro-duced at the plant was the Ford GT supercar, which is assembled by a handful of people in a for-

mer glass plant on the site.

Ford spokesman Arine Marie
Gattari, said the people losing their jobs at Wixom Assembly would be offered work at other Ford plants. However, sources within the plant said there are 30 skilled tradesmen in the plant's

general pool left over from the last round of job cuts. Those workers are only guar-anteed jobs through the end of the current contract, which expires in 2007. Local 36 President Dave Berry was in local contract negotiations witl Ford at press time and unavail-

For the past year the plant has been buzzing with rumors that Ford was planning to move Town Car production to St. Thomas. Ontario, and LS production to Atlanta. It looks like the handwriting is on the wall," said one employee, who declined to give

the end of Thunderbird production Ford Division President Steve Lyons said, "We promised all along that this Thunderbird would have a limited production run, and we're being true to our word." However, when Ford first introduced the two-seater at the NAIAS in 2001, company officials said they planned on producing the car for five years

cials have been working regularwith Ford executives. However, he said so far the city's

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T-Bird dropped | Moe's on Ten collection gives wine lovers 8,000 to choose

■ Restaurant's labels hail from U.S., Tuscany

By Pam Fleming

There are wine collections, and then there are wine collections.

With about 8,000 bottles
between his Novi restaurant and storage, Moe Leon, owner of Moe's on Ten Seafood Grill, has

amassed a list to be envied.

Open two years in May, Leon transformed his former family diner on the southwest comer of Ten Mile and Haggerty roads in an upscale restaurant.

Leon, who owns severa restaurants in the area, thought the right wine list was important to go along with the Novi restaurant's new image.

Leon's wine expert is Bruce

Bruckman of Kobrand Corp. Headquartered in midtown Manhattan, the firm has regional offices in Chicago and local

offices in Farmington Hills.
"First and foremost, he has a great selection for a independent restaurant. He has about 50 reserve wines," Bruckman said. diner. It's a broad-based selection

of today's most popular varietal: request the restaurant's Reserve Wine List, Sold by the bottle only it contains many of today's premi-

um to ultra premium selections. Names like Cakebread, Shafe Phelps, Paul Hobbs, St. Francis can be found - from the Napa and Sonama valleys of California.
"He also has a nice selection of Tuscan wines — Antinori, Oreno

Tenuta, Setteponti, Nardi and others," Bruckman said,
The Reserve List is predomi-

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Moe's On Ten Seafood Grill server Miri Vukaj looks at a bottle of 2002 St. Francis

al chardonnays, "His Reserve list s among the best in the area," Bruckman said.

Leon's everyday wine list is

geared toward scafood and American cuisine. "He has wines that complement It's no surprise that Leon has an

he's been a wine aficionado for a long time.
"I've been in love with wine for 20 years," Leon said. "My joy is swordfish, mahi mahi, yellow fin

tuna and Canadian walleye," Leon Prices range from \$35 a bottle The restaurant is also known to \$170 a bottle, according to the

for its carrot cake, according to favorites, as well as Paul Hobbs, another red, Leon said, "Everybody loves the selection.

For information about other Ten include steaks that are all core we we we we will be staff with offer Anons beef and some new Pain Fleming is a staff with

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

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Business Briefs

DSW reports extensive fraud

Customers who made credit card purchases at DSW Shoc Warehouse since last October are advised by Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox to call credi

card issuers immediately.

The store, which has a Novi locale, announced March 8 that ome customers who shopped a 103 of the national chain's 175 stores were victims of credit card and purchase information theft.

Unauthorized third parties reportedly had accessed information primarily in the last three months. Potentially affected natrons can call DSW's toll-free passistance number at (800) 314-0224 for information. Novi's DSW is located at 43713 West Oaks Drive in the West Oaks II plaza. innual credit card reports, tap the

Carrabba's 'Lock-Up' returns

state attorney general's consumer

an.gov/ag or (877) 765-8388.

Carrabba's Italian Grill in Novi will again host a "Lock-Up" Apri 6 to benefit the Muscular

Dystrophy Association. For one hour between 9 a.m. 4 p.m., Novi business workers and individuals are "locked" in Carrabba's and have to raise 'bail' escape --- and help the associapaperwork, cell phones and "bread and water," Last year, more than 150 businesses were present and \$26,000 was raised.

Carrabba's is located at 43455

West Oaks Drive. The Muscular Dystrophy Association assists individuals with any of 43 neuromus-

For more information on how to get involved contact the MDA's inthonie Burke at (734) 416-7076

Bamboo offers new feast

lends restaurant favorites, including soups, appetizers and entrees ranging from Saigon chicken with asparagus to mandarin orange chicken and shrimp. The Bamboo Club is located

working and training series. Taking 65 applicants onboard, the high-profile program works to develop leadership skills, explore key regional issues and enable full potential reach.

monthly seminars on ethnic diversi Selected based on leadership

participants must attend at least 80 percent of training sessions. Tuition is normally \$2,750, and with the onlication a \$250 deposit is due I returned if not accepted).

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were expected to produce 252,101 vehicles, down 6.2 percent from the week prior, according to

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output is about 2,498,997 units lown 0,3 percent compared to this

The Bamboo Club Asian Bistro, located in Novi's Fountain Walk, is offering a limited-time "BC 3-Course Feast" now until May 2.

44375 W. Twelve Mile Road.

needed ·

Leadership Oakland recently announced that until May 27, it will accept applications for its 16th annual Cornerstone Program, a net-

Beginning with a three-day September retreat, the series runs through June 2006 and features

ability and regional commitment

For applications, visit www.lead-ershipoakland.com, call (248) 952-

Auto production update Last week, U.S. automakera

Men's Route 66 Regular or. Relaxed fit Jeans. Reg. \$16.99

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Nominees must be major decision-makers who own or are employed by automakers, suppli-

Calling young auto leaders

The Automotive Hall of Fame announced it is seeking nominee: ages 25-35 for its Young Leadership and Excellence Awards. For 25 years, the Dearbontgroup of 57 men and women who

nently on display at the hall The deadline is May 6, and nom may represent any segment of the industry. To receive a nomination form, contact Lynne Hall at (313)

as industry leaders." The honor, presented at an October annual

wards ceremony, is then perma

.And women auto standouts

Also Automotive News is looking to fill its roster for a second year with the 100 Leading Women n the North American Auto

ers, dealerships and allied business es. Work areas include: executive management, manufacturing, engineering, design, marketing, hun

> Nominations are due April 4. and winners will be honored in a special Sept. 26 issue and at a Sept 28 gala dinner and awards ceremo-

Forms are available at www.autonews.com/leadingwomen or (313) 446-0361.

Wixom dactors join Botsford

Two esteopathic doctors at joined the medical staff at Farmington Hill's Botsford General Hospital

provide resources and curriculum to help those in the industry gain skills focused on principles, con-Amy J. Embrec, a family and emergency medicine physician, focuses on women's health. She cepts, experimenting and dis completed her post-graduate train-ing at Bostford, where she served cussing, geared at going beyond conventional project management.
The Center is located at 40028
Grand River Ave., Stc. 300. as chief resident from 1999-2000. Family medicine practitioner

Economy struggles, tourism centrates on women's health, along

Lean focuses on

manufacturers

Novi's Lean Learning Center

announced it has joined Colorado-based Pelion Systems to help man-

ufacturers develop "lean" methods

offer specialized computer softwar

to help manufacturers create shop

centered on people.

The Lean Learning Center will

floor designs and processes sup-

a streamline husiness activities

Both doctors are available for scheduled appointments and walk-Cornerica Bank recently reported that while Michigan's busin in patients at the five-physician Wixom Health Center, 29600 are still struggling, tourism has fared much better.

The bank's state business activity index in February was 108, unchanged from the month before. At this time a year ago, it stood at son said winter economic activity has stabilized and the auto sector is still dragging, but employ

ment and income were up. Despite high oil costs, tourism increased 10.2 points during the final three months of 2004, according to the bank's tourism index. That's a 2.7 percent improvement

er that usual. Johnson said he expects the travel upswing to continue throughout the year, but the economy should grow moderately and still lag behind national performance.

Compiled by Kim Kovelle



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Nickelodeon Sweet Savings offers

valid March 13th through Marc

runs a Web site operation and runs four commercial printing plants. The Novi News is in a division

called HomeTown Newspapers, which also includes the South

Lyon Herald, the Northville Record, the Milford Times and the

Livingston County Daily Press &

Argus.
The corporation's largest divi-

sion consists of the Observer & Eccentric newspapers, which are suburban Detroit from Rochester

to Canton. The corporation also

includes suburban weeklies based in Royal Oak as well as divisions

Gannett, which owns the Detroit News, also owns daily newspapers in Lansing and

The nation's largest newspaper

group in terms of circulation, Gannett publishes 101 daily news-

papers with a combined circula-tion of 7.6 million. This includes

USA Today, the nation's largest

Wyndham undergoes \$2.2 million renovation

■ Novi hotel sees first major update since 1988

By Pam Fleming

The Wyndham Garden Hotel at Novi Town Center has spruced things up a bit lately. The facility, located at 42100

Crescent Blvd., recently completed a \$2.2 million renovation, with more improvements on the way. Every corridor, every stairwell and every room has received

attention.

The bedrooms have been comeither a full meal or a sandwich on pletely redone from top to bottom, including wall coverings, carpet, draperies, beds, bedding, furniture and artwork. The bathrooms received more minor refurbishing, such as the marble being

There was nothing left unturned. They even replaced the heating and cooling units in each of the rooms," said Torn Rolands, general manager for four years, who's been with the chain since

The two-story hotel had been slightly neglected, Rolands said, since its opening in 1988. But the renovation has now transfermed the facility into a more modern-

guests.
The meeting and banquet space, including a separate board room, has been redone, and more room, has been redone, and more improvements to landscaping and the courtyard are planned for this Fine food, too

spring and summer.

Weddings have already taken place in the courtyard, and a portion of the wood-chipped area will be concreted this spring so oval tables could be set up for

receptions.

The hotel also features Herman Miller ergonomic desk chairs in every hotel room and the board

iom. The Garden Cafe has a new honey mustard chicken salad and

Expecting Someone?

AT A GLANCE

Wyndham Garden Novi ■ 148 rooms 2.450 square feet of meet-

ing space 2.100-square-foot meeting room for banquets up to 150 and theater seating up to 270

Courtyard suitable for wed-

dians

Pool, whirlpool bath, sauna ■ Access to Bally's Fitness Center next door

■ Garden Cafe/Inbby Jourge

togsted soundough bread. of Chicago, helped design this menu. It's his mother's recipe They put it into bulk production and now our hotels have it, Rolands said.

Mike Haddad, food and bever age manager, started out in ban-quets and was formerly manager of Wyndham ByRequest — the chain's frequent stay program.

In this free program, guests receive room upgrades (based on availability), welcome amenities, free communication costs and Internet access at any Wyndham

eafe features county chairs and sofas, a fireplace, television and

"A lot of people come to our hotel for lunch or dinner and then go shopping in Novi," Rolands said. The hotel has been home to members of the local American Business Women's Association. who have had their meetings one Monday a month there for years.

The hotel is also a draw for outof-towners attending Novi Expo-Center events with weekend rates as low as \$69 a night. Haddad said the new monu is

features a pool large enough to swim laps in flanked by a whirlpool bath and sauna.

spring break," Rolands said.
Guests can also swim or work out at Bally's Fitness Center right Sunday buffet brunch hours are

omelet station open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Homemade Belgian waf-fles are part of the brunch menu. Reservations are required, especially on holidays. Weekdays, the cafe is open from 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m., with the

ing those hours in the lobby lounge. The staff is very flexible,"

The pool area, which is still undergoing minor renovations.



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new flooring for your home

or office can be a trying expe

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oricing is important, you

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ring usually give you the

most value for your money,

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acturers offering longer wa

anties, you'll want someon

who will be in busines tomorrow and who has a solid

roven commitment to cus-

Begin by asking your retail

r questions. Does your sales-

erson understand floor cov

ring construction and per

ormance standards? Doe

vour salesperson ask abou

nd understand your lifestyl

and flooring needs before rec

numending a product fo

our home or office? What do

you learn about installatio

Only after you feel confi

dent with a retailer's prod-

ucts, commitment to crafts

manship and customer satis

faction should you place your

nolicies?

omer satisfaction.

not just the cheapest price.

e considered 100.

Mike Haddad, food and beverage director for Novi's Wyndham Garden Hotel, tidies up one of its newly-renovated rooms. The hotel, near the Novi Town Center, spent approximately \$2.2 million to change its interior decorations, ammenities and to paint

receiving rave reviews.

"Guests have really taken a lik-ing to it. We've gotten really good feedback about it. The servers are really pumped up about the new menu, too. It's a great new start for everybody here at the hotel," to come spend the night during

from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., with an next door to the hotel at no charge. For Wyndbam Garden Hotel services in Novi, call (248) 344-8800 or visit www.wyndham.com.

for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail or Jobby lounge open from 4 p.m. 10 "We're not opposed to extend-

Haddad said.



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An 'untapped market'

and professional Cipriano said.

Township and Troy. But there are

apart. We've found that spacing works well. We had a lot of guys

from the Plymouth, Novi and Northville area driving to St. Clair

Shores to see us. So, we knew

Novi would be a very good loca-

tion," Wolfe said.

Monica Coppola said she likes

working in the new men-only salon, "Guys seem to like it here.

They're asking more questions about styles. I think they're more comfortable here," she said. She

is the Caesar - short on the sides and spiked on top.

"I think the shop's a great idea,"

"Women have their day at the spa.

Lady Jane's Barber Shop for men only

By Pam Fleming

Ever heard of a hair salon where the motto is , . , No Girls

Jane's Barber Shop opened at the Cipriano's business beginning of this month on Ten Worked with Wolfe Mile Road just east of Lakeside barber shop. Meadowbrook Road, and it is definitely for men only.

Charlie Wolfe, who developed

the concept about six years ago, said the idea sprung basically out of necessity. He says when he was transferred to the Detroit area from Minnesota in 1989. I looked all over for a good place for a men's hairout, and I couldn't find stores about five to six miles all over for a good place for a men's haircut, and I couldn't find one," he said.

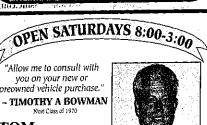
So he decided to turn a personal inconvenience into a business opportunity. His idea was to create an environment just for guys. "They can go to Lady Jane's and get away from it all," Wolfe said. "We tried to look at every angle." That meant, for the Novi loca-

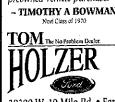
tion, the fourth Ludy Jane's, that they converted the former Salon Luna "to our men's style -- putting in new chairs, 20-inch flat-screen TVs, and men's products," said said one of the most popular cuts

Cipriano said the goal was to make his salon elegant, yet manly, The interior features brushed stainless steel accents and comfortable swivel rockers in the waiting area. Services include shampoos, haircuts, color, high-

Lady Jane's is for men only, age 18 and older. Hours are 10:30 Visit us on the Web: www.novinews.com







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Novi's Lady Jane's salon for men began welcoming customers last week. From left are Karina Jeffries, John Cipriano, Monica Coppola, and Kelly Risinger

a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday; 10
a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday,
and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.
Walk-ins are welcome, or to

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HomeTown sale to Gannett proceeds

at HomeTown cations and phone books, It also Communications Network, Inc.

— parent company of The Novi ews - expect a smooth transition with the end of a federal sale to publishing giant Gannett

"The U.S. Department of Justice has concluded that the sale may now proceed," wrote Richard Aginian, president and CEO of HomeTown, in a memo c-mailed Ohio and Kentucky.
"With that behind us, we've

now begun our discussions with Gannett about setting a closing date. We'll also begin to assist

that ring Lansing and Cincinnati.

Gannett, which owns the them with whatever plans they are developing for the transfer of operations to their ownership," wrote Aginian. No closing date has been

announced for the sale.

HomeTown and Gannett announced the sale last November, but then had to wait for a federally-required review of the transaction. Terms of the sale were not announced.

HomeTown Communications
Network publishes one daily, 62

Gannett recorded \$7.4 billion in weekly and twice-weekly news-papers as well as specialty publi-

"With that behind us, we've now

begun our discussions with Gannett

operating revenue in 2004. When the sale was announced last year, HomeTown was projecting 2004 revenues of \$86 million.

about setting a closing date." Richard Aginian HomeTown president and CEO

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CHURCH CALENDAR

 Crosspointe Meadows
Clairch of Novi is holding a
Whileyball for Teens event, spon
 Novi State of Medicales sored by XPM Student Ministries of Crosspointe Meadows Church of Nova from 1-5 p.m. on Saturday Meet at the CMC offices – 39830 Grand River, Suite B1-C, (Just west of Haggerty Road) for transmation to Whirleyball West. The event is for middle and high school students in grades sixth drough 12th A permission slip is

required. The cost is \$15.

The church is holding an Easter egg hunt at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday at Meadowbrook Elementary School (29200) Meadowbrook Road just south of 13 Mile Road). The event is for children ages 3 years through fifth grade. There cill prizes and candy and no charge to participate. Phone Jessica Holder, director of XPM Student Ministries at (248) 427-2700; Monday Thursday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

• Faith Conununit Presbyterian Church invites you to worship at 9 and 10:30 a.m. ervices, this Sunday, Palm Sanday, The Faith Community Chancel Choir and Orchestra will be presenting the Palm Sunday Cantata "The Dawn of Resurrection" at both services.
Communion will be served at both services. Adult Sunday School is offered at the 9 a.m. service, and Sunday School is offered for all children at both services.

The women of Faith Community will be touring the Novi Fire Department main build-ing at 1 p.m., as part of our ongoing fellowship outreach. The LOGOS program, our weekly children's fellowship and Bible study program, will celebrate the end of the LOGOS year, with a special skating party on Sunday from 3-6

Parth 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 Cross offers a worship serv-ice every Wednesday from 12:10-12:50 p.m. Come and share your unch hour with God at a worship

service that includes scripture and Hoty Communion. The church invites all to worship Sundays at 7:45 and 10 a.m. Nursery care is available at 10 a.m. worship serv

ice. (The nursery is coordinated by a registered pediatric nurse.) Adult Bible Study is on Sunday at 9 a.m. Worship Center for chil-dren 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. Worshin Service of Compline is held at 8:30 p.m. Rite 13 (ages 11-14) and J2A (ages 14 and up) groups meet at 5 p.m. for their program and dinner. 7 p.m. Youth Worship Service is held the second and fourth Sunday of every month; all are welcome.

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross has moved to 40700 W. Ten Mile (between Meadowbrook and Haggerty roads), Novi. Phone (248) 427-1175 or visit www.chur-

Lenten Services at 7:30 p.m. - a benten services at 1500 pm. - a weekly study of the book, "Meeting lesus Again for the First Time" by Marcus J. Borg. March 20-Palm Sunday Worship

and Church School at 10 a.m. Pancake breakfast at 11 a.m. March 24-Maundy Thursday Potluck and Worship-Potluck dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. with

Worship Service at 7:30 p.m.
Festival of Resurrection, Easter
Sunday, March 27 two worship services 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. There will be no Church School but not: ery will be available for infants and toddlers during both services.

The church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Rd., between Eight

· Oak Pointe Church service times will be at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. every Sunday For more infor mation, visit www.oakpointe.org or call (248) 912-0043.

and Nine Mile roads, Call (248) 348-7757 for more information.

• First United Methodist Church of Northville presents a community-wide healing service with prayers for healing of body,

mind, relationship and spirit on the p.m. The service is open to the Northville/Novi community first Monday of each month at 4 persons of all faiths who desire to ask God for healing in their life or that of someone they hold dear. It is a service of hope. The church is located at 777 W. Eight Mile Rd. (at Taft Road),

Northville, Phone (248) 349-1144.

· The Holy Family Church offers a Spanish speaking mass once a month. The following is the schedule for the 2005 calendar year. All masses begin at 6:30 p.m. in the church: April 30, May 28; June 25; July 30; Aug. 27; Sept. 24: Oct. 29: Nov. 26.

Lenten Opportunities: Join with others to pray every Tuesday evening we have a 7 p.m. mass and during Lent there will be adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 10 p.m. All are wel come to come and pray at any

Scripture Sunday: A Lenten Walk Through John's Gospel.

Maria Koncius will offer a study of John's Gospel on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and a repeat on Thursday morning at 9:45 a.m. ouring Lent.

• Passion in John - Today The Church of the Holy Family is located at 24505 Meadowbrook Road; between Grand River and 10 For more information, please

contact the Holy Family Church at (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org. · St. John Lutheran Church is located at 23225 Gill Rd. in Farmington Hills. Call (248) 988-0604 or (248) 474-8521 for more

 The Novi United Methodist Church is located at 41671 W. Ten Mile Road. Sunday worship is at 9:45 a.m. with Reverend Jacqueline E. Holdsworth. Call (248) 349-2652 for more informa-

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

HURRY IN FOR

SELECTION!



Division champs

The seventh and eighth grade boys basketball team from Holy Family finished The seventh and eighth grade boys basketban team from noty raining interests the season as division champs with a perfect 10-0 season. The team members are (from left to right): back row: Greg Burkhardt (assistant coach), Jacob Porter, Michael Pistolesi, Viktor Kalaj, Erik Laird, Garrett Born, Cal DePotter (coach); middle: Greg Kozma; front: Andrew Burkhardt, Drew Hepburn, Kevin Kerwan, Evan Cuslk, David Wheat and Matt Brien; not pictured: Jacob Blossfeld.



Palm Sunday, March 20 9:30 and 11:00 Worship

Maundy Thursday, March 24 7:30 PM Worship with Communion

To I-275 → Church ● 7 MI RD

200 E. Main **Downtown Northville** 248-349-0911

Good Friday, March 25 7:30 PM Community Worship First Presbyterian with combined choirs and pastors of First Presbyterian and First United

Easter, March 27 Festival Services-8, 9:30 & 11am

Methodist Churchs

Cubs climbing ranks Four Novi fifth graders recently earned Cub Scouting's highest award, the Arrow of Light, in a ceremony held by Cub Scout Pack 54 at Meadowbrook Congregational Church. The award requires earning several badges in subjects such as first aid, citizenship, health and fitness and the outdoors, as well as camping and hiking, performing community service and taking part in activities with Boy Scout troops. Pictured are Nathan Haustein, Jacob Dobras, Jack Sinkovich and Kyle Gassel. They are holding ceremonial arrows custom-made for them by their den leaders, Mark Haustein, Eric Dobras and Jeff Sinkovich. The boys plan to cross over to Boy Scout troops this month. Boys and their parents who want to find out more about Cub Scouting are invited to visit Pack 54's Web site, http://www.pack54.us. Pack 54's annual Pinewood Derby will be held Saturday at 10 a.m. at Meadowbrook Congregational Church, 21355 Meadowbrook Road, Novl.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Ballerinas perform well in Chicago

Four students from Novi's Academy of Russian Classical Ballet recently traveled to Chicago to compete in the semi-finals of the Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP), an international bal-let compelition founded in 2000 by two former dancers of the Bolshoi Ballet, Larissa and Gennadi Saveliev

The four students from the Academy of Russian Classica Ballet who competed are: Erin Welsh, Rachelle Hadley, Renee Hadley, and Juliana Santiago

* Juliana Santiago placed fire in her age category, winning the Hope Award. Juliana will travel New York City on April 14-18

to compete in the international * Rachelle Hadley, Renee

performed a group piece that nualified for ad national finals in New York

City.
All four students' instructors at the Academy of Russian Classical Ballet are Sergey Rayevskiy, Jessica Rayevskaya, and Takako Konishi. They have received additional coaching from the Academy's guest instructor, Filipp

McCotter named vicechairman of Canadian Inter-Parliamentary Group

Congressman Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia) was Canadian Inter-Parliamentary Group (IPG), by House Speaker Dennis Hastert last week

The group, which is made up f members of Congress and

members of Canada's Parliament, meets twice per year to discuss critical issues between the United

Carlson in fine arts competition

The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center will host the annual Michigan Fine Arts Competition exhibition March 18-April 15. This prestigious exhibition will show 93 pieces from the selected 86 artists. ncluding Delores Carlson of

The BBAC has proudly hosted the MFAC each spring since 1982 when the Detroit Institute of Arts turned the statewide competitio over to the BBAC. Many prize inners have gone on to national acclaim as a result of this competition. This year, 279 Michigan

artists submitted approximately 650 slides.

The award winners will be announced at the opening reception tomorrow from 6-8 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The BBAC is located at 1516 S. Cranbrook Road, Birmingham. For further information call, (248) 644-0866 or visit www.bbartcen-

Daughters pick winners

ter.org.

Each year the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) sponsors American History essa contests for fifth through eighth graders. On Feb. 26, the Louisa St. Clair Chapter of the DAR located in Grosse Pointe held at Boat Club to honor metro area students who have excelled in American History.

American History contest was "Along the Trail with Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery, May 1804-September 1806" in recognition of the 200th anniver-

Seventh grade winner Emily Kempa of Novi attends Our Lady of Victory School, Northville, She wrote from the view of the

sary of the Lewis and Clark expe

Missouri River and also placed third at the state level.

Lukas Barnes, eighth grader at Our Lady of Victory School, Northville, described the expeditime traveler.

The students read their winning

essays at the luncheon and then received bronze medals, recogni-tion certificates, and specially selected books for both themselves and their school libraries

IN THE SERVICE

Army Pvt. Steven J. Butzier has graduated from basic com-bat training at Fort Jackson,

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradi-tion and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chem-ical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice sys-tem, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises

He is the son of Cheryl L.

Hart of Walled Lake. Butzier is a 2001 graduate of Walled Lake Western High







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Entree Menu to include: Fresh Omelette Station, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon & Sausage, Deep Dish French Toast Hash Browns, Carved Ham and Roast Beef, Herb Baked Chicken, Pasta Primavera, Broiled Salmon Mashed Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Sweet Potatoes, etc.

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Traditional Baked Easter Ham Dinner Pineapple and brown sugar glaze, dauphinoise potatoes.

Lake Perch Sauté

Wilted spinach, hazelnuts, and brown butter

with shiitake mushrooms and steamed rice Gulf Shrimp and Lobster Fettuccine Lobster cream, chorizo, tomato, garlic, olive oil and herbs

Roast Duckling Natural sauce, wild rice with lentils and bacon, braised red cabbage and applesauce

Filet Mignon

mashed redskin potatoes and caramelized onion

Cognac and black peppercorn sauce, portobello mushrooms,

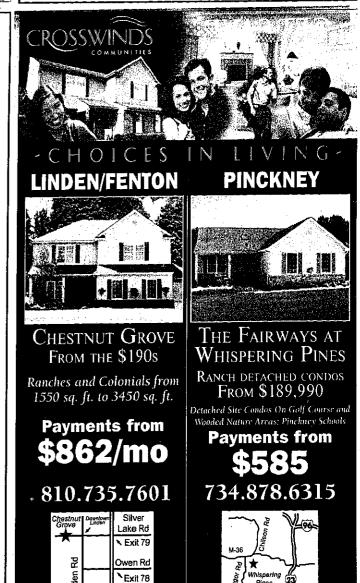
Children's menu available (Ages 10 years and younger, please.)

Dinner 12:00 - 8:00 Reservations Recommended





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www.crosswinds.com

HEALTH

Novi's newest grocer offers organic option

■ Better Health Market fills void in downtown

By Kim Kovelle

From seafood to salad dressing to espresso. Novi's new Better Health Market is geared at nutri-

focus more on organics," owner Tedd Handelsman said, "We like to buy, from local growers if possi-

Building's gap at Grand River Avenue and Market Street, once home to Vic's Market.

Handelsman's 14th store in the state, it's the largest at 23,000 square feet, Warm, earth-toned colors lend to a comfortable setting,

Storewide, products bear round. green-and-white "USDA Organic" approval stickers.

The organic standards are regu-

lated by the government. It has to be grown a certain way," Handelsman said, 'It's done most-ty by small farmers."

There are soy-based vegetarian products. Bulk food is available in eco-friendly baggies. Behind 60 refrigerated doors are frozen foods like milk, yogurt and cheese. A reverse osmosis system sprin

kles impurity-free water on pro-doce. Handelsman said. There are about 100 employees, many with culinary backgrounds

Even titles are more holistic: mar-ket managers are called team lead-Russell North tends to the meat,

harvested from free-range, grass-fed, lean livestock.
"What we offer here is meat and Hispanic and glutton- and wheat-free choices for allergies. that's hormone-free, steroid-free, mibiotic-free," North said, "The suff taste real. It tastes the way i

Even his 10-year-old triplet aughters benefit, he said:

Ann Medonis arranges bottles of fruit juice on the shelves in preparation for the March 9 opening of the Better Health Market. It's located in the Novi Main Street Development in the home of the former Vic's World Market. Isson Damell Macon heads the Handelsman said business interest

seafood selection. Fish, he said, are pulled from Caribbean to Mediterranean waters. High-grade tuna, salmon, shrimp, mussels, oysters and sushi are available. There are ethnic foods like Asian natural foods and for health," he said. 'As you learn more and you educate yourself, it's an evolution."

In a prepared foods section, pairons can learn how to make

meals with kuskus, for instance. "I can tell them how," executive thef Kimdon said, "Bring a natural foods to the consumer." store team leader Tom Bahl said. "It's like a Mercedes vs. a Chevene" notepad. It's going to invite you to

the Michigan Organic Food and Farm Affiance are often tapped. A Novi resident and himself an

Novi News

More homes, park land

Nearly everyone reads

mins, baby food and beauty prod-ucts. Fine organic wines and beers began with a family dental supply

> Zingerman's breads and cream cheese or Fair Trade Certified teas. Handelsman said, prices are rea-

The popularity of it is become so that the prices are coming down," he said. But for Handelsman and his daughter and wife, the health benefits are the

notepact. It's going in each healthy."

A computer kiosk area will allow visitors to research foods or vitamins data can help them.

11 200 health-related books and the energy and all the extra help I need to stay healthy. Handelsman said. "If you don't have your what have you got?"

HEALTH BRIEFS

Trinity Health CFO becomes

Novi-based Trinity Health announced March 9 that James

Combes, who was serving as the chief financial officer until he was moved into this position, will assume both the financial and the location. development duties until the

oly as soon as this summer.

In his new position, Combes will help refine business development trategies and oversee their implementation. He will provide guid-ance to joint venture and similar

Health since 1983, where he was planning and implementations. nergers and other strategic initia Refore that, his career

New appointments at Trinity

named a chief information officer and Catholic Health Ministries

eliminate costs.

Sister Suzanne Brennan, CSC, an outreach program in Utah.

Peppialt-Combes has been appoint-ed as the system's first chief devel-opment officer, leading business development activities throughout

appointment of a new CFO, possi-

transactions throughout the system. Combes has been CFO of Trinity

ponsibilities. Combes earned his bachelor's

Novi's Trinity Health recently

In a newly-created position, Pau systems at Trinity's network of hos operations. Previously project man ager for Trinity's information serv-ices, Browne will work to imple-ment core computer systems to

was appointed ministries director of Catholic Health Ministines on Trinity's health board. Brennan has served poor and marginalized peo-ple during a 25-year career, currently serving as executive director of Trinity Health's corporate offices are located in Novi at 27870 Cabot

seven days a week • Contact: (248) 735-8100

American Cancer Society

Market. Novi's newest grocery

store, opened yesterday. It

offers a wide variety of organ-

mins, healthcare products and

• Where: 42875 Grand River

Ave., just east of Market Street in the Novi Main Street District

Hours: 9 a.m.-9 p.m.,

Relay For Life



Your American Cancer Society is rallying the Walled Lake, Commerce Township, Novi and Northville communities to participate in the annual Relay For Life, the Society's signature event. The American Cancer Society Relay For Life, a team-based fundraising event, is a unique, empowering and fun way to make a difference in the fight against cancer.

If you would like to rally together a team of your own, contact your American Cancer Society. Teams usually consist of family members, friends, co-workers, civic groups, religious organizations or students. Youth groups are also encouraged to get involved!

Sponsor the Relay!

The American Cancer Society is always looking for companies and organizations to help sponsor the event. If you or someone you know is available to make a contribution, give an in-kind donation or help at the event, call your American Cancer Society today!

Come join us at one of the following Relay For Life events!!!

Novi - Northville Relay For Life Ford Field

Saturday. May 14 - Sunday, May 15, 2005 10 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Walled Lake - Commerce Township **Relay For Life**

Walled Lake Middle School Saturday, June 4 - Sunday, June 5, 2005 10 a.m. - 10 a.m.

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NOVI NEWS 74/m/935AL

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SENIORS

For hotel concierge, it's a matter of service

■ Hotel Baronette's Donn Kluck turns 80

At Novi's Hotel Baronette, Donn Kluck still greets guests as "sir" and "ma'am," and never has encountered lost luggage he The concierge, with the hotel

for more than 11 years, turned 80 vears old March 14. Last Friday, employees, family and a senator gathered to mark the event with German cuisine.

But for Kluck, always donned in suit and tie, the fanfare wasn't necessary.
"It's all a matter of, I enjoy being a service person," the Redford resident said. "People are

The hospitality industry marks Kluck's early and late career.
As a 13-year-old high schooler in Chambersburg, Penn., Kluck began working as a bellboy at the

haggage to four floors by stairs:
"It was interesting."

Supervising and purchasing duties at three hotels in the Grenoble Hotels Corporation chain followed.

All along, he met travelers from far and wide. "There's never been two people the same," Kluck said.

the same," Kluck said.

After serving in the U.S. Army
Air Corps, he wed wife Marjorie,
a USO hostess, in Michigan.
Making Detroit home, the Fort Shelby Hotel and Dearborn Inn were his employers for two years.
Then, for 45 years — Kluck sold furniture.

"Again, it was a matter of working with people," he explained.

A later attempt to retire proved futile. Soon, a want ad for Hotel Baronette, which Kluck's company helped furnish, caught his eye.
That was in 1993. Since then,
he's worked at the hotel 40 hours

a week — calling it "part time."

General manager Leonard
Williams said his popular
concierge leads by example.

"He wants to take care of the guest and give them the best pos-

we have three foot of snow."

"We were busy,"

Before elevators, he transported aggage to four floors by stairs: It was interesting,"

Attending to guests and services, Kluck also purchases supplies, proofreads letters, minds the front desk and even earts luggage as Supervision and purchasing

"We always say, if there's any lost luggage, Donn can find it lost luggage, Donn can Itid it before the airlines can," catering manager Gina Cairns said. "That's just his real forte, is going out of his way to help."

Again, Kluck credits people. "Over the years, I've developed relationships with certain people that can help me," Kluck said of his key to luenage locating."

his key to luggage locating. don't abuse their confidence. Also a worker at a tax-writing

filled with travel, museums, symphonies and crossword puzzles. But retiring again isn't on his

"Just keep working 'til I drop," are Kluck's plans. "As long as there are people around, this business is going to be around.
"It's just a matter of making them feel at home."

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



nigan State Senator Nancy Cassis, left, is joined by Hotel Baronette General Manager Leonard Williams, right, in recognizing the many-decades of service that Donn Kluck has given the hotel business. In 65 years of his working career, Kluck has been with the Baronette for the last 11 years as a bellman, clerk and concierge.



Home & Gar Home & Garden Everyone enjoys this special section that is filled with all kinds of gardening and improvement ideas. Space Reservation Deaulines Milford Times

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

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SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

Friday 3/18	noon Lunch
8:45 a.m. Panera Bread 9 a.m. Stretch & Strength	12:30 p.m Bingo, held in activities room 1-3 p.m Computer - Intermediate
10 a.m	Wednesday 3/23
noon	9 a.m Stretch & Strength
12:30 p.m	9 a.n1 p.m
12;30 p.m	10:30 a.m. Quilting
Monday 3/21	11 a.m
9 a.m. Stretch & Strength	noonLunch
10 a.m	12:30 p.m
11:30 a.m	Phantom of the Opera Trip
noon	Thursday 3/24
2 p.m	9 a.m. Line Dance*
Cathedrals"	9:30 a.m
*6:30 p.m	10 a.m2 p.m Income taxes by appointment

10 a.m. Asian Pacific 10-11:30 a.m. Computer - Beginner 11 a.m. Drug Interactions-What You Should

. Line Dance

12:30 p.m	
Wednesday	3/23
9 a.m1 p.m. 10 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11 a.m.	Stretch & Stret Mass Body Re Quil Blood Pressure and TOPS C Lu Cloggi
Thursday 3/2	24 Line Dan

1-2 p.m.	Line Dance Computer - Intermediate
	nated with an "*" will be held at th ter. The Senior Center is located at brook.

....Computer - Beginner

SENIOR BRIEFS

Rnow" Sharon Tomaszewski

Fox Run honors employees

Erickson's Fox Run retirement community in Novi recently hon-ored Barbara Jablonski as 2004 manager of the year and Cyndi Meili as "best of the best"

daily at Fox Run's gatehouse. She was praised for her friendliness. ship award. Jablonski delivers sional social work services helpfulness and enthusiasm.

and educational programs. The Bloomfield Hills resident was cited for helping residents "live meeting. They will travel to tite to the fullest."

Campus safety officer Meili eited for helping residents "live life to the fullest."

rects residents, staff and visitors ally at Fox Run's gatehouse. She cas praised for her friendliness. Elefulness and enthusiasm.

Both nominated by co-workers,

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Identity protection

Novi Police detective Kevin Rhea discusses how consumers can avoid identity theft last Monday at the Novi Senior Center. Rhea suggested the following: to shred all personal data instead of throwing it away, put mail in an approved mailbox, check with the post office to make sure your address hasn't been changed, and get a yearly credit report. Michigan residents can receive one free credit report a year from organizations like Experian, Equifax and Transunion.

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EDUCATION

Granholm changes her mind on MERIT Scholarship award

By Ramez Khurl

After proposing to eliminate the middle school MEAP schol-arship of \$500 starting this school year, Gov. Jenniser Granholm has had a change of

award up to \$500 in additional funds to Michigan MERIT Award recipients graduating from high school in 2005 and 2006 who also passed the middle school MERIT exams in seventh and eighth grade. Granholm made the announce-

ment after learning a contractor working on behalf of the State had sent reports to parents of stu-dents who passed the tests, the first of whom will be graduating high school this June.

"Since students were notified they qualified for this scholar-ship, they will receive the scholar-arship – period," Granholm said. "While I initially believed that no letter awarding the scholarship had been sent by the Engler Administration, I learned...that, in fact, a contractor to the State had sent certificates to families

students graduating high school in 2007 and beyond benefit from a New MERIT Scholarship that will offer more scholarship money to students who pursue

they complete two years of post secondary education, including

whose children passed the test.

IT Therefore, we will fund these ig scholarships."

Grapholm earlier proposed eliminating the additional funds based on the middle school component of the MERIT award as part of spending reductions needed to close a \$770 million defict in the 2002.

Granholm has process. Ramez Khuri is a staff writer

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

School district aims to establish adequate and equitable facilities

■ Charge is critical issue number two in district's long range plan

By Ramez Khuri

Is it an issue that Deerfield and Novi Woods Elementary Schools have separate gymnasiums from their cafeterias and all the other elementary schools in the Novi Community School District do not?

How about the fact that those two elementaries have newer

These are questions that will tiation be raised in critical issue number two of the district's new recently adopted by the sensor board. The issue addresses ade-

quate and equitable facilities.
"Should the other elementary schools have these things, or shouldn't they?." Jim Koster said, assistant superintendent of business and finance. "That's an issue and an essen-The issue's challenge statement states: "When there is a lack of equity and adequacy in the facilities, the following

opportunities are compro-nised; • Flexible scheduling for individual learning

• "Special" class times are

shortened (art, music, physical education, media)

• Small group instruction

· Common planning time for

curriculum coordination

The issue's goal statement ays: "Develop district-wide says: "Develop district-wide facilities that are adequate and

equitable including separate gyms, cafeterias, art, music, multi-purpose rooms and proj-ect rooms, as well as site

improvements."

The priority strategy is to form a citizens' committee to evaluate facility needs and make recommendations to the The Novi Community

School District's Long Range Planning Committee presented its recommendations on the whole plan to the board of edu-cation on Jan. 20. The board

· Community perception that is for administration to come all students have equal facili- up with strategies to figure out

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

Novi High School inducts 90 students into National Honor Society

During an induction ceremony held Feb, 28 at Novi High School, 90 students were inducted into the National Honor Society. These students have demonstrated excellence in scholarship, character, service and leadership both at Novi High School and within the Novi High School and

The following students were inducted: Abeer The following students were inducted: Abeer Afana, Jackie Appleman, Jessica Barndt, Michael Beard, Andrea Blome, Adam Burkhardt, Rachel Burris, Steve Cam, Tim Carn, Kristine Chaklos, Liting Chen, Cory Chin, Kelli Corless, Amanda Diacono, Emily Erickson, Steve Fannon, John Favorite, Katie Flanagan, Khristen Flennoy, Payel Gangopadhyay, Jacqueline Gazette, Amy Glubzinski, Micheel Grabow, Kaitlin Gray, Emily Grzybowski, Claire Harold, Erin Haynes, Kristin Heinowski, Adam Here, Meghan Hoen, Maggie Hoving, Todd Janer, Eric Johnson, Dan Kaminski,

Aleksa Lukasiewicz, Bobby Ma, Jason Margolis Ann McQueen, Kip Miller, Steffi Min, Robert Parkins, Ashley Parsell, Nicole Patton, Tanmay Prakash, Alex Pyden, Roshan Ramachandran, Ravi Rao, Angela Recchia, Sarah Reichel, Leah Rice, Rao, Angela Recchia, Sarah Reichel, Lean Rice, Brittany Riley, Sudeep Rohatgi, Kevin Rowe, Cory Savino, Elizabeth Schulte, Sonali Shah, Asra Shaik, Alilie Sisson, Ellen Smith, Juycoun Son, Sung Mo Son, Megan Spitz, Chad Sturgis, Rebecca Sullivan, Nishant Surapaneni, Jessica Thirmm, Julie Thompson, Alex Tollis, Eric Van Buhler, Albert Vellathottam, Margaret Volchoff, Michael Walsh, Ryan Walsh, Cortlan White, Brittany Womack, Kosenh Xu, Kahori Yumada, Susan Yang, Kanal Ryan Walsh, Cortlan White, Brittany Womack, Joseph Xu, Kahori Yamada, Susan Yang, Kamal Yechoor, Allison Yee, Kevin Yeh, Lauren Zbranchik Kimberly Zerio.



Math Club awarded

From story problems to fractions, the members of Novi Middle School's Math Club mastered them all at the recent Country Day Math Invitational, coming home with

first, second, and third place titles. With training from Advisor Lynn Serenson, seventh grade students Alex Bednarek and Jessie Hong, and eighth grade students Jesse Lee and Gotham Kondapi represented Novi. The Country Day competition is divided into three sections – individual testing, the Rapid Rabbit Relay Race and the Math Rally. This year's compe

tition theme was automobiles.

Novi Middle School tied for first place with Country Day students in the Rapid Rabbit, Relay, Flace, Kondapi placed, second in the individual testing and the group lied for third with Bloomfield Hills West Middle School In the Math Raily. The Country Day Competition is an invitational for 20 teams that the middle school has been participating in for 23 years. For 22 of those years, the group has won at least one trophy, and twice the school has won the entire competition Members of the Math Club are scheduled to participate in five competitions this

NOTICE TO BIDDERS NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NOVI, MICHIGAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Novi Community School Distric receive sealed bids for the following items;

Power Tech/Auto Shop Equipment for the Novi High School

Bids will be accepted at the Educational Services Building, 25345 Tath ad, Novi, Michigan 48374-2423 until 2:00 p.m. local time, March 29, 2005. Specifications may be picked up at the Educati Bullding during normal business hours.

CITY OF NOVI FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 05-005

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Pulte Homes is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow placement of a temporary sales trailer for Liberty Park Subdivision located at 44843 Stockton Drive. This permit is to be issued from March 23, 2005 March 23, 2006. A public hearing mealing to consider this request will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 23, 2005. The meeting is at the Now Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Written and signed approvals or objections will be accepted into the file if received prior to the scheduled meeting. Please address all communications to Gail Backus at the City of Novi TEMPORARY USE PERM

(3-17-05 NN 199514)

(3-17-05 NN 197823)

CITY OF NOVI FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 05-003

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Novi Meadowbrook, L.P. for Meadowbrook Townhomes is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow placement of one (1) construction office trailer and one (1) construction storage trailer. Both trailers will be located at 29444 Weston Drive. Trils permit would be issued for the period of March 25, 2005 until March 25,

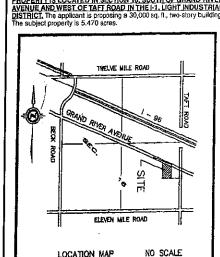
2006.
A public hearing meeting to consider this request will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 23, 2005. The meeting is at the Novi Civic Center, 45:175 W. fon Mile Road All written and signed approvals or objections will be accepted into the file for received prior to the scheduled meeting, Please address all communications to Gail Backus at the City of ovi Building Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 4837

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Michigan Coali

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 23, 2005 at 7:30 PM. in the Novi Civic Cenler, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider MIRACLE SOFTWARE. SITE PLAN NUMBER 05-08. FOR RELLMINARY SITE PLAN APPROVAL, WOODLAND PERMIT. WETLAND, PERMIT. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL AND APPROVAL OF SPECIAL LAND USE REQUEST. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 16, SOUTH OF GRAND RIVER AVENUE AND WEST OF TAFT ROAD IN THE 1-1. LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT. The applicant is proposine a 90,000 sq. ft., two-story building.



All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be ard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the anning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten P.M., Wednesday, March 23, 2005.

NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT** MINOR HOME REPAIR

The City of Novi is seeking bid proposals from qualified service providers to manage and administer a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Minor Home Repair Program for the 2005 Program for beginning July 1, 2005. The program will provide minor home repairs to qualified low and moderate-low income residents of the City of Novi. Bid packages are available at the City of Novi. Office of the Purchasing Director, 45175 W. Ten Mille Road, Novi Mil 48375. Bid proposals must include a detailed outline on how the program will be managed and administered.

Bid proposals will be funded with Community Development Block Grand (CDBG) funds and the administrator must be familiar with, and comply with, all applicable CDBG requirements. When awarded, the term length of the contract will be two (2) years.

Sealed proposals will be received until 3:00 P.M. prevailing Eastern

Sealed proposals will be received until 3:00 P.M. prevailing Easter

Time, Wednesday, April 6, 2005, at which time proposals will be op and read. Proposals shall be addressed as follows: CITY OF NOVI CAROL J. KALINOVIK, PURCHASING DIRECTOR 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd. Novi, MI 48375-3024

Novi, MI 48375-3024
All proposals must be signed by a legality authorized agent of the pro-posing firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE PLAINLY MARKED

"CDBG MINOR HOME REPAIR"

AND MUST BEARTHE NAME OF THE PROPOSER.
The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals about the contract to effort then the found by found the contract to effort then the found by found the contract to effort the other founds for superior to value and 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 detach March 14, 2005.



TIME FOR A CHANGE?

Change the batteries in your smoke detector at least once a year.

United States Fire Administration Federal Emergency Management Agency http://www.usfa.fema.gov



HOVETOWN

Sunshine laws benefit public, not just press

It's not about the media's access to government records and meetings. Who cares, frankly, whether a reporter has to work a little harder to get his or her story for the next day's newspaper? It's not about how much access to the government that "the public' has, Just who is it that makes up that group known as "the public" anyway?

Openness in government is about you. It's about your ability to get the information you need when you run into trouble with the

get the information you feed when you agency, can't get the hureaucracy to take your problem seriously, or if you just plain want to know what your lawmakers are doing.

This is Surshine Week, and media organizations and government watchdogs across the country are conducting public educa-

tion efforts to explain the importance of openness in government. In Michigan, news outlets are commemorating the 1976 adoption of the state Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act.

Editorial

Views may be mixed about how well the laws have worked, but the fundamental concept is have worked, but the fundamental concept is included in the text of the FOIA itself, which states that as a matter of policy in Michigan, "the people shall be informed so that they may fully participate in the democratic process."

Most people seem to agree that openness in government is important. A recent Ipsos-Public Affairs survey found that 70 percent of people were concerned about government screey.

Fifty-two percent felt more access to public records is needed Not all governments seem willing to follow the law. In a test conducted by Oakhard University students in 2000-2001, only 64 percent of Michigan municipalities would release expense vouch-ers for their employees and only 59 percent of police depart-ments fulfilled a request for an accident report.

One real challenge to openness is the current threat from ter-

Yes, the events of Sept, 11, 2001, showed how vulnerable the country is. We all want to be sure that our citizens are safe. The country is. We all want to be sure that our citizens are sate. The reality is that very little government information is a security risk. When it is, officials should be able to clearly explain why. So while we can appreciate the need for safety, we believe the press and public should push hard to make sure government resists the temptation to operate in a closed fashion, to function outside of the glare of public scrutiny.

As Thomas Jefferson put it, "The price of freedom is eternal violators."

'Atlanta's 'reign of terror' may lead to policy changes

It probably started out like any other day March 11 at the Fulion

County Courthouse in the heart of downtown Atlanta.

But, in what has been described by one FBI agent as a "reign of terror," 33-year-old Brian Nichols, a former UPS computer technician on his way to court to be retried on charges including rape and false imprisonment involving his expirit/riend, led police on one of the most intense manhants in history.

The next 26 hours will most likely go down as one of the most

It all started when Nichols' handouffs were removed in the courthouse's holding area, so that he could change into his civilian clothes. He then allegedly attacked and seriously injured a female sheriff's deputy, taking a key to a lockbox where her gun was stored, and shot a state judge, court reporter, sheriff's deputy and federal agent, pistol-whipped a reporter and held 26-year-old Ashley Smith hostage before surrendering March 12.

Although it's easy to play Monday morning quarterback, the critical moment in the tragic series of events was when the sheriff's deputy, Cynthia Ann Hall, a 5-feet-tall, 51-year-old grandmother, removed those handcuffs.

The question is why was a rather small woman left alone to handle a 6-feet-1-inch, 210-pound for-



ner college football player, especially when on March 9, Nichols was found with what police refer to as "shanks," or makeshift metal weapons, in his shoes? That's just not using good judgment. Why didn't she ask for assistance? Why wasn't another leputy required to provide her some backup?

She was obviously no match for Nichola is She was obviously no match for Nichols in a struggle that lasted about three minutes and was caught on a security video not yet released,

Pam Flerning

society, defendants are not handcuffed, shackled or even forced to wear corrections department clothing when on trial. The theory is that wearing an issued jumpsuit or being restrained could prejudice a jury. In other words, if you look like a criminal,

urors may assume you are a criminal. In the meantime, violent people are ushered down hallways by

Bondy noted that he knows of no incidents that have occurred at 52-1 District Court. But one way to increase security is to have a deputy present in the courtroom at all times. This is not the case at Novi's district court, however. And, such a suggestion would immediately become a budget issue, as court security services in Oakland County are contracted through the Oakland County Sheriff's Office.

are contracted intrough the Oaktano County Special's Office.
The late Judge Rowland Barnes, allegedly shot to death in his own courtroom, even told attorneys in the Nichols case on March 10 that he was requesting "beefed up" security.

Evidently, enough security wasn't provided, or poor Cynthia Ann Hall, who suffered a busined being and facial frequency wouldn't have

Hall, who suffered a bruised brain and facial fractures, wouldn't have been left alone to escon Nichols, and four people might still be alive. The dilemma, it seems, is how can we provide a fair trial to those charged yet still protect court employees, attorneys and other innocent

This high-profile case will hopefully make courthouse staffs across the nation take a long and hard look at their policies and procedures during those fateful moments between the time a suspect is moved from a holding area and into the courtroom.

Let's hope additional security initiatives, such as at least requiring uties in such transports and ones who are of similar stature

Such measures could help save the lives of the dedicated public servants who administer our criminal justice system as well as unit

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 cstone@ht.homecomm.net.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Nanogenarian Suzanne Davis, right, of the Novi Senior Center, looks like she can't believe she's just spelled "nanogenarian correctly during last week's Senior Spelling Bee held at the Northville Senior Community Center.

President needs to refocus

Anyone who has lived through depression or who has raised by parents who lived through the depression knows that if you borrow money to meet your regular living expenses, you will soon be in trouble. You will either become bankrupt, or you will lose a great deal of con-trol over your life and your property.

I am now a senior citizen collecting Social

Security. I know that for a great many of my friends and relatives, the Social Security money constitutes a significant portion of their income to meet their regular fiving expenses. George Bush with his privatization scheme would have our government borrow funds to meet our current Social Security needs. George Bush would have us become even more in debt to the Chinese and to the Saudis who are currently buying on our debt from the Iraq War at

unprecedented levels.

I, too, was pleased to receive a letter from Congressman McCotter in which he stated inequivocally that he opposed private accounts for Social Security. It is time for Congress to step up and redirect the President as to what his so called reelection mandate really meant. George Bush needs to focus on taking control of the Pentagon and finishing the Iraq War in as honorable a manner as possible, George Bush needs to focus on supporting improvements to homeland security to cover the gaps which are continually being reported in the media. George Bush needs to stop wandering the country talking to preselected audiences as though he were a TV informercial salesman trying to sell us on a stock investment scheme. We're not buying it,

John Kuenzel

A powerful event

I am responding to an article from the March 3 paper with regard to the Chambers work with "Threads of Power." I thought it was wonderful that the Chamber has made this clothing drive an annual event and recognizes that people in every city can encounter hard times.

What I thought was most worthy of mention s the Chamber not only acknowledges the

and been a part of other clothing drives geared toward women, and it is nice to see that men's clothing were part of the drive too. Giving to the community in this way will only strengthen our city because it unites us in the spirit of giving and helping others which is

lerre

so vital in building community bonds. AnneMarie Dahlen

Spring has sprung It arrived at about 1:30 Monday afternoon How do I know, you ask? Saw my first robin? Saw some crocus popping up? Saw some for-sythia budding? Nah, nothing that fickle. I saw syning quadring that item the real McCoy. I witnessed The City of Novi dumping its annual wheelbarrow of dirt into the pathole on Willowbrook Drive at the entrance

o Ten Mile Road Now when I say they dumped dirt I don't mean they threw a few shovelfulls of blacktop into it. No. I mean they dumped good old garlen vanety Michigan dirt. Most years it's washed away and gone by Easter and returns to its old teeth-chattering self. But with Easter coming so early this year, it might last a Sunday or two beyond.

Funny, when they completely rebuilt Willowbrook two years ago I figured this ritual would likely come to an end. But not to worry. They left the last six or eight feet untouched.

last silver: The informed the data the Cry hand neglected to pull a permit From Oakland County to go all the way to Ten Mile Road. No problem, I thought. I'll just call the the City Engineering Department and have them take care of this little oversight. Silly mc. The city engineer in charge of this project informed me that since this was a fairly new sub, it was the contractor's responsibility to pull all the nec-essary permits. When I told him the sub wasn't really all that new, since I had lived here over 30 years, he asked me to hang on a minute while he checked it out. He came back and told me I was right, this sub is quite old, but where I was mistaken was that Willowbrook didn't go to Ten Mile but actually emptied on to Meadowbrook Road. I thanked him, hung up

But take heart – We don't have to waste tim looking at a calender or waiting for some weather person to tell us when spring is arriv-

ing. We have the real inside dope, don't we?

Bowl-a-thon thanks

Thank you to all those bowlers, businesses, and sponsors that made the 23 annual Novi Youth Assistance Bowl-a-thon a success. I would like to thank our sponsor Providence Hospital, Brighton Hospital and St. Johns Health. Thank you to our lane sponsors: Speaker of the House Craig DeRoche, Drs. Andress, Elfring, JR. and Novak, City of Novi, Comerica, Diamond Jim Brady's, Dick's Doin's, Goodman Orthodomics, Mitchell & Sheila Holly, Larson Jewelry Design, Inc., Michigan Cat, Lindsey & Katie Nicholson, Novi Auto Parts, Novi Education Association Community Outreach, Novi Community Education, Novi Community Schools, Novi Expo Center, Inc., Novi High School, Novi Police Lts. and Sgts, Association, O'Brien Family O'Brien/Sullivan Funcral Home, Olde Orchard Pediatric Dentistry, Provident Dentistry, Progressive Dental Group, Quality Driver Testing, Inc., Spillane & Reynolds Orthodontics, Town and Country Eyecare, Twelve Oaks Mall and The Bob Steeh.

Thank you to the businesses that donated orize's: Agosta Salon, Chili's Bar & Grill, City of Novi, Diamond Jim Brady's, Doinidis Chiropractic Life Center, Gina Agosta Salon Lens Crafters, Linda Hair and More, Max Printing and Copy Center, Mervyn's, Novi Community School District, Novi Goodfellows, Novi Fire Department, Novi Life Time Fitness, Novi Parks Recreation and Forestry, Nov Police Department, Novi Sports Club, The Novi Theatres, Salon Six, 7-11 Food Stores, Sovel's Service Center, Vintage Wine Shop Walgreen Drug Store, Pretty & Sweet, Brian Burke/Tom Holzer Ford Dealer and The Little Flower Shop. Thanks to the Novi Senior's for all of then help. Thanks again to all those that help Youth Assistance in our efforts to build strong families and allow NYA to bring the Jeanne Clarke Summer Teen Center, Camp, Mentors PLUS, Youth Recognition, Alcohol & Drug Awareness and Scholarships to the families of Novi.

Novi Youth Assistance

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

HomeTown

Townships Novi

John Juntunen, supervisor

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Newsapapers have changed for the better in this nation

there could possibly ever be an

objective and accurate free press is

a quaintly old-fashioned idea. If

you believe that, then the implica-tions are clear. You can say, or

print, whatever you want to.

An earlier version of this

simply to be blatant about it. Fox

News, which advertises itself as

"fair and balanced" is making a

slogan, "We report; you decide." How

Not that repeat-

ed bungles by the

Dan Rather's

story about

And newspapers such as The New

Journal's editorial page is to the

other than as mere targets for

choices in a democracy.

We had such a system in

century, when most newspapers were either wholeheartedly

whichever newspaper fit your par-

ticular political bias and you con-

sidered assertions from the other

Of course, what was absent in

Helen Thomas truly has seen it all

emments - ought to be subject to

as much scrutiny as possible. Next week has been proclaimed "sun-shine week" by a coalition of news

organizations, a week in which we both celebrate openness in govern-ment and push for more of the

The idea is that the people's busi-

ness ought to be done in the bright sunshine of the public arena, not behind closed doors. The opposite

know better than we do and that we

The closed-doc

approach also has

for a million less

horrors on every

are better than they

used to be, Every state now has some form of open

though some have

meeting law

Thanks to the Freedom of

Information Act, or FOIA, the vast

open to public inspection, and fed-

people locate specific documents they may be looking for. Yet this still isn't good enough.

As Helen Thomas warned, govern-

ments like to promise openness -

and cut off access as soon as trouble appears.

"States have not done a very good job of adopting policies that ensure access," said Bill

Chamberlin, who studies sunshine

fessor of law at Indiana University,

who added something most jour-

nalists know:
"States have almost never com-

plied faithfully with their open records laws," Cate said. "You have

laws at the University of Florida. He is echoed by Fred Cate, a pro-

eral agencies even have to help

level of govern-

can't be trusted with the facts, was

policy, the idea that our leaders

But if there is no such thing as

manipulation by any means possi-ble? Propaganda, whether sleazy or forthright, is still propaganda. And

voters who have no way to find out what's really going on — "objective reality" is the fancy term — are unlikely to make thoughtful

badly researched and inaccurate

President Bush's

because it doesn't matter.

ons have proclaimed this to be unshine week," a time when we arch as it is) and fight to get more it. I've always believed strongly hat any government that conducts s in secret is a government

So it is with a sense of alarm hat I bring you some distressing edotes from a sunshine from hat this year is, at best, partly

poular participant in White House s conferences was a fake false name (Jef Gannon) working had no circulation

but which was guy (Robert Eberle) who also (GOPUSA.com.)

Phil Power ousted after asking such inappropriate-ly softhall questions that legitimate

as going on.

More troubling was the news that the Bush Administration over the past few years has employed as paid propagandists no less than five "journalists." Two of them wrote syndicated newspaper columns while being paid by the Department of Health and Human Services to promote the administration's "marriage initiatives, while the other three played real

newsmen on TV.
For real journalists, taking a bribe of this kind would be as methical as child molesting. Ye Armstrong Williams was paid \$240,000 by the Department of Education, and Karen Ryan and Alberto Garcia starred in fake reports about the administration's Medicare prescription drug plan, reports branded illegal "covert

propaganda" by the Government Accountability Office. Now you have to admit that the public relations "spin" mastery of his administration has been far memory. Simply dazzling. But there's a much more insidi-

ous side to all this. Some people is the White House and in right-wing dlink tanks are now arguing there can be no such thing as empirical, verifiable reality in the news which means that the idea that

For more than a nan century, Helen Thomas broke through every glass ceiling the establishment put in her way. Young women weren't supposed to take off to Washington for careers in journalism. She did

Certainly no woman could

xpect to cover the White House

Helen, who grew up in Detroit, the daughter of working-class Lebanese parents, said thank you

very much, and did it anyway. She

International was still a big deal.

She heat down

count, and the

beauty was that

main goal. She

covered every

John F. Kennedy to William I. Clintor

Jack Lessenberry

and both imitated

respect of all of

Today, she still covers the White

House in a different way; she writes

two syndicated columns a week.

She stuck with UPI through thin

and thinner until the Moonies bought it in 2000, and she drew the

line at working for the Moonies.

Last week she came to Wayne

speak to a scholarship dinner in h ionor. She told a rapt audience of

budding journalists, many of them minorities and women, just how important their profession is. "Democracy dies behind closed

Though it may be true, as the Bible says, that "where there is no vision the people perish." Helen is quick to tell you that where there

are no watchdogs, the people get screwed over. If liberals and conser

ment that does its business in secret

vernment to be feared.

and won the

this was never her

wanted simply to be the best reporter

rame White House bureau chief

entlich gewesen," that things ould be — and could be described "exactly as they were." stream news media are dominated by "liberals." From there, it isn't As it turned out, economic reali much of a logical leap to mount a wholesale challenge to the accura-cy of the media. Another device is ty undermined the propagandistic bent to American journalism. Newspaper publishers realized the the more they could charge fo

of their professional code. Some o

this thinking goes back to the turn of the century, when Theodor

Mommsen, the great German his

torian of ancient Greece and Rome

argued history should be "Wie es

advertising.

If their circulation was limited, pretty good living these days by forthrightly slantisay, only to the Republicans in ng its newscasts to favor the consertown, they couldn't maximize cir-Thus the origin of the idea that crafted marketing and balanced, at least in their new coverage, while consigning propaanda onto the editorial page as

pinion. This remains the professional standard for honest newspapers and professional reporters, one that But the world of information is

no longer defined by what's printed in the newspaper. There's radio, TV and cable. More importantly, there is the cascade of stuff oninion, blog, whatever -- delivservice in the Air Force - haven't made the going easier for the ain't-no-such-thing-as-accuracy crowd. ered through the medium of the Web. There are no "gatekcepers" on the Web, editors who make it York Times can be charged with as obvious a leftward editorial slant as their professional business to ma tain standards of accuracy and fair ness. Instead, everybody with a reporter. That's a good thing, to the extent that it democratizes the fair, accurate and objective journal-ism, where will we be as a people

But it's a bad thing if it pollutes a journalism that we have come to depend on as one that strives for accuracy and fairness. We need to know as much of the truth as we can find out about the status of Social Security, for example, not

just both parties' propaganda.

This nation, and all our communities, will be in far worse shape if we wind up back in the bad old days when people read only wha conformed to their biases. That's w it was back in the 1850s, and Republican or Democratic from the that system polarized the nation so headlines right straight through to the editorial page. You read much it ended in the bloodiest war Americans have ever fought, our

Phil Power is the chairman of all this was the notion that there is something profoundly important for fair minded people — scholars, even journalists — to try as best (734) 953-2047 or at

ingness to disobey the law."

That's another reason that jour-

nalists, those pesky creatures with

their pointed questions, are so nec

ary to a free society. Thomas

vigilance is the price of freedom.

Journalists are the ones whom

serve as the border patrol. And the

levels have used the threat of terror

public's right to know. Some states are better than others; according to

a new University of Florida study

on open government, Michigan is

one of the most open when it

comes to information.

But while the study isn't cor

to requests for public records,

What's needed is to be a nag

perhaps an annoying one, but a noisy one, Helen Thomas, a colum

seems less willing to accept ques

ricularly victous columnist in the

Joe McCarthy mode, called Helen

a security risk.

That created a stir. Actually, I

heard about that first from Helen

horrified; I think Helen thought i was sort of funny. She is in the

business of asking questions, not name-calling. Besides, when you

toe-to-toe with Richard Nixon, you

are from Detroit, and have con

don't get overly worried about a

would-be intellectual bully who

president of HomeTown Communications, He can be

reached by phone at (248) 901

poses in a slit skirt.

and I think Ann Coulter would be

n old Arab" and implied she was

That's all right; she isn't about to

nist now, but still a reporter, is still

Chamberlin noted

plete, Ohio now ranks as one of the

six worst states for openness in the

ation. "It is clear that state official

ism as an excuse to pinch off the



Grace Perry - Publishe





Lisa Tincu - Acet. Exec.









Sam Eggleston - Sports Writer





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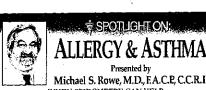
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I at a patient's initial visit with an allerCaring Allergist Who Gets Results."

have not changed, spirometry is recom-mended to assess maintenance of airway function. It also helps to evaluate a



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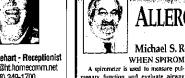
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"It's the kind of company that people can go to for worthy dona-tions," she said. Network Source One is a com-

ing, not only within their compa-

hut within multiple companie

support.
"As a Novi School District

employee myself, this makes us happy to do it," Rush said. Dhruva Athreya, a first grader at

Parkview, won the \$1,000

well. It provides software, hard-

Auditorium to receive a complete makeover

Project is one of many new construction projects slated for summer

By Ramez Khuri

When Norm Norgren tells peo-ple that everything in the Novi High School auditorium – from the seats, to the carpet, to the floors, to the sound system - is all original, the building supervisor usually gets a shocked feaction. That's because, after 29 years, if you don't count the 20 or so roped off chairs, the place is still in relatively good shape

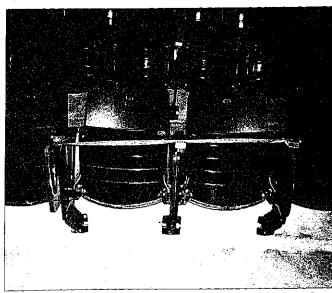
The auditorium, along with several other areas of the building however, will be the focus o some new construction project this summer, It will all be paid for by the same hond issue that paid for last year's construction proj-ects at Novi High and other build-

ings within the district.

Norgren explained that when it's all said and done, the whole auditorium will look brand new.

"It's time to replace everything," he said, "Every seat in this whole auditorium will be replaced this summer. People are always whole auditorium will be replaced this summer. People are allways 700 main red colored seats are in an azed. They say this house can't tact and are all uscable, but scatbe original and I say, yes it is.

They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B, are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B, are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B, are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B, are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B, are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B, are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B, are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B, are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B, are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B, are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B, are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B, are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B, are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B, are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B, are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B, are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B, are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B, are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B. are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B. are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B. are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B. are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B. are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Halls A and B. are about 20 They don't believe it. It's in great Lecture Hall A and B. are about 20 They don't believe



Two seats in Novi High School's Auditorium Lecture Hall A are unusable due to damage. There are about 18 other seats in the auditorium which are in the same condition

Missey, a su ment of concern

shape for being around 29 years."

According to Norgen, there are something that concerns Principal 1,024 seats in the auditorium. The John Lawrence a great deal.

safety hazzard. We wouldn't want

In an attempt to repair some of the chairs, the whole top row of seats in Lecture Hall B was stripped to

use as spare parts.
"We did that because we couldn't get a spare part to save our lives," Norgren said. "We put in new seats in B, on the top row, but that company has since gone out of business also."

The main reason that many of the chairs are being damaged is because when they were installed almost 30 years ago, they were mounted on vertical steps, instead of on the floor. Over time, pres-

mounted, rather than side-wall mounted, Norgren said. "We've known about this problem for a long time and we've had repairs planned for a number of years, but

projects, other than the auditoriim, is slated for this summer.
"We're going to strip and re-do

for the Novi News, He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. by e-mail

Novi High School's conthis summer, include:

Refurbish terrazzo floor

in the auditorium: A possible new color scheme

New seatingNew carpeting Painting of lobby/lecture area ceiling Resurface foldable parti-

 Finish all paving and flat- Finish all landscaping Tennis courts to be com-pleted in May

he completed in June completed in May Fine arts addition to be completed in June

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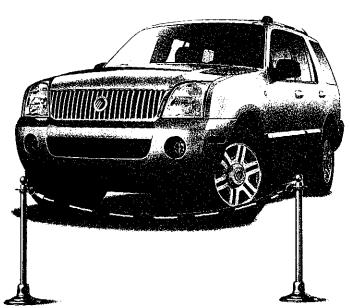
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COMMUNITY EDUCATION CORNER

 New epoxy flooring Floor lighting

In the kitchen/cafeteria: New epoxy flooring Quarry tile in prep area

Review existing lighting

sure points have given way, leaving the seats damaged.
"The new seats will be floor

we waited until many things could come together. This is the year we will be able to do it." An entire list of construction

the floors, we're going to get new cameting and a new sound system and we're going to put up new audio visual equipment," Norgren said, "A lot of work will be going

Wills, Trusts & Estates DATE: Monday, March 21 TIME: 7-9 p.m. LOCATION: Novi Middle

DETAILS: This class provide:

trusts, power of attorney, joint , properly, providing for minor children, estate and income taxes, probate, and other areas of estate planning to assist you in more informed decision making.

Nutrition 101 DATE: Monday, March 21 TIME: 6:30–8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle
School Room 504
DETAILS: Here's a nutrition

class that teaches healthy eating and weight management withou following restrictive diet plans. Simple meal planning for busy ifestyles will also be co-Instructor is a registered dietitian FEE: \$17 Seal and color coordinate

 Taking ideas from Mind On the outside of the building to the Market Place DATE: Tuesday, March 22 TIME: 7-8:30 p.m. LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 504 DETAILS: This class guides

 South sports complex to Career tech center to be

Massage Therapy

DATE: Tuesday, March 22 TIME: 7–8:30 p.m. LOCATION: Novi Meadows 5 DETAILS: Certified Massage

you through the necessary steps to take creative ideas from the mind to the market place. Topics include realizing the idea through proto-

typing or rendering, legal protec-tion, basic market research, pro-duction costs and presentation to

Therapist, June McCarthy of Massage for Health, will instruct techniques that focus on relieving stress and easing muscle tension that can cause stiffness and headaches by massaging the head, face, ears and shoulders. FEE: \$18 per person; \$29 per

 Powerful Habits for **Professional Success** DATE: Tuesday, March 22 TIME: 7-9 p.m. LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 518

DETAILS: In this seminar you will discover the most powerful and effective habits and techniques used by the great leaders of today and vesterday. Each has been care fully selected for effectiveness implicity and ease of use, FEE: \$35 (plus \$10 material

 Up North Dream Spree DATE: Wednesday, March 23

TIME: 7-9 p.m. LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 502 DETAILS: Do you dream of

living in or etiring to northern Michigan? If so, this one-of-a-kind class is for you. This course will answer your questions and will help you learn how to make your Un North Dream a reality. Some strategies you will learn from the course: Making money in northern Michigan, selecting the right piece of real estate, creat-ing vital contacts to facilitate your move, household budgeting strate-gies, creating a Family Policy statement and more. Class includes book and workbook

 Handpainted Floor Cleths DATE: Monday, April 4 TIME: 6:30-9:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Novi Meadows 5 DETAILS: Each student will complete a 21 x 32-inch floor cloth. A sample is on display in the Community Education office FEE: \$23 (plus \$20 material

Belly Dancing

DATE: Tuesday, April 5 TIME: 7–8 p.m. LOCATION: Novi Meadows 5 DETAILS: This dance encoun ages self expression, along with exercise. Learn basic positioning, posture, hip, chest and arm move ments, steps and walking, and how to use castanets and scarves. FEE: \$15

 Hot Topics in Women's Health

> DATE: Wednesday, April 6 TIME: 7-9 p.m. LOCATION: Novi Middle

PHONE: (248) 449-1206 to register for above classes

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School Room 520 DETAILS: Join us for a discus sion on the important issues facing women today. Topics include what to expect in your annual exam, menopause, breast cancer and more. Receive tips on how to keep yourself healthy as well as answer to your health related questions. FEE: \$17

Wholesale Shopping

DATE: Wednesday, April 6 TIME: 7-9 p.m. LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 102 DETAILS: Learn how to get

your license to buy authentic designer fashions, gems and jew-elry, giftware, scasonal items, and 1,001 categories of merchandise wholesale. Become able to attend the wholesale trade shows for days of shopping thrills. FEE: \$12 (plus \$10 material

 Selling Your Heme Yourself

DATE: Wednesday, April 6 TIME: 6:30–9 p.m. LOCATION; Novi Middle School Room 504 DETAILS: This course is

designed to guide homeowners through the often daunting and confusing task of selling their own home. Explore marketing tech-niques, legal issues; the closing cess, a timetable of events and outline of costs involved in selling "by owner." Materials provided will include a typical closing package, purchase offer, market-ing ideas, advertising information and organizational materials. FEE: \$23

How to Buy a Home

DATE: Wednesday, April 13 TIME: 6:30-9 p.m. LOCATION: Novi Middle

complex issues surrounding the purchase of your next home including financial programs and pitfalls, paying the right price, the purchase process, inspections, homeowner's insurance, title insurance, costs and closing issues. Course materials include an outline, buyer's guide and sam-

Local business owners donate \$1,000 to Parkview Fun Fair

By Ramez Khuri

The grand prize of Parkview Elementary School's Fun Fair raffle was a little grander this year. That's because Novi business owners Roger and Lori Rush donated \$1,000 to the school,

which was awarded to the lucky person who won the raffle. "Wow, this is very generous of them," Parkview Principal Jenifer Michos said. "It was a huge sur prise. I had no idea they would do Michos explained that the dona

tion is only one of many from dif-ferent families, who all wish to the \$1,000 Network Source One Grand Prize at the help keep a positive energy flow at Fun Fair. The event, which was held March 11 at Parkview, raised Parkview PTO Fun Fair. Jenifer Michos. money for the school in order for assemblies to happen and many other events as well.

Fun Fair is an event where many families gather for a good time. It Source One

is Parkview's largest event of each school year, where families can play many games, win prizes, eat food and try their hand at a raffle. Lori Rush is one of the coordi-

"I just asked him to donate some money," she said, "He has done some donations for other local events as well." The Rush family recently moved their business to Novi from Walled Lake and they would like intors for some of the games at to send a message to the commu-

nity that they support city and school activities.

Dhruva Athreya, winner of

Parkview, won the \$1,000 Network Source One Grand Prize.

"This is such a huge commitment and a dedication to our community, to students and to the teaching and learning process," Michos said. "They recognize the school is the heart of the community and for them to be donating nity and for them to be donating this money signifies that they real-ly support the Novi Community School District and what we're doing here for kids.

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



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Brownies feeding the troops

Brownie Troop 2287 from Deerfield Elementary School recently sent 84 packages of Girl Scott cookies to United States soldiers in Company B. Second Platoon in Iraq. The girls made many colorful, happy eards thank-ing the soldiers for their hard

The Girl Scouts were inspired to take on this project after meet-ing with Rick and Janet Guttersohn, whose son, Rob is a corporal in the 82nd Airborne and corporal file and American serving his serving his second tour of duty. His platoon is an Airborne Infantry Regiment serving in Mosul and Baghdad. The Guttersohns showed the

girls many photos of their son in lraq and a few items that he brought home, including an Iraqi flag. They also read Rob's most treasured memento - a letter he received from an Iraqi girl. In her best English, the girl told Rob how thankfut she was that he and the other soldiers were



Girls from Brownie Troop 2287 from Deerfield Elementary School display one of the eight packages they sent to U.S. Soldiers in Iraq. The packages were filled with Girl Scout cookies and handmade cards. Pictured from left to right are: Bailey Borycki, Rose Maylen, Allison McDowell, Hope Goodearl, Lindsay there to keep them safe and help Webster and Emily Frankowski.

The girls decided to adopt Rob As part of the current Girl Scott or two for the plattoon. Rob and and his plattoon as their special cookie sale, the girls asked their his plattoon should receive the soldiers and send them a surprise.

Meeting, but without a pen

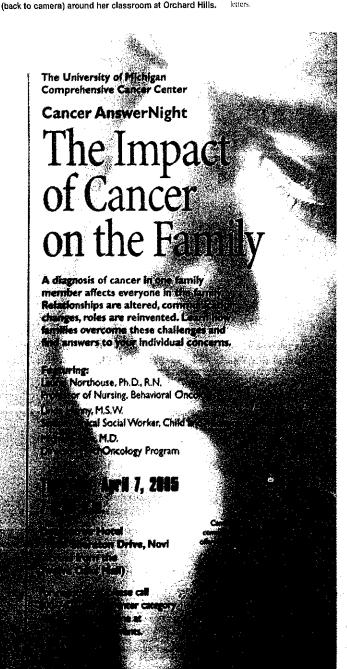


Gabriella De Oliveira show Danah Dahabi and Suha Syed

fourth grade students at Orchard Hills Elementary School started a friendship with their peers at Huda School in Franklin. In late February, they were finally able to meet their pen pals in person when the Huda students visited Orehard Hills for a cultural

exchange.
The Huda students came dressed in traditional clothing, and brought a variety of Middle Eastern and Indian dishes to share. The fourth graders spent the morning talking with each other about the similarities between their schools and their hobbies. sharing stories about Christian and Islamic holidays and culture, and touring Orchard Hills

Elementary.
Purcell met Afrin Aalavi, who teaches at Huda, when Aalavi's daughter was a student at Orchard Hills. The two decided that having their classes become pen pals would be a unique experience for the children to expand their hori-zons and learn about other cultures. Throughout the school year,





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On CAMPUS

Anisa Lari, a student at Walled Lake Western High School, has been selected as a State Finalist in the National American Miss

the National American Miss Michigan Pageant. She is the daughter of Fatos and Liliana Lari. Erin Darlington, of Novi, was studying abroad during fall 2004 semester at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. She is a jun-ior at Hope College and the daugh-ter of Tom and Kathy Darlington of Novi

Szumlinski, earned a Certificate of Merit in Equities and Remedies Ment in Equince and Remeales during her sixth term at The Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Lansing. She is the daughter of Angie and Duane Szumlinski. Maria Schimitzi, of Novi, was

among the Dec. 2004 graduates at Adrian College during commence

ment exercises.

Novi resident, Ryan Stec, was named to the dean's list for fall 2004 semester at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Fla. He is the son of David and University Stee. Novi residents, Angela Doolin

and Jennifer Najjar have been cho-sen as members of the Albion College's Symphonic Band. Angela is a trombonist and is the daughter of Leon and Geraldin Sims-Doolin. Jennifer is a flutist and is the daughter of Robert and Mary Michael Kujawa and Christina Parrish of Novi were among the Dec. 2004 graduates of Grand Valley State University during

Showing off with art

Village Oaks third graders celebrated their theme, "People Who Made a Difference," by performing a musical and exhibiting their artwork at Fuerst Auditorium in Novi High School on March 3. The musical highlighted the people who were influential in combining old styles with new ideas to create new styles in music. Music selections ranged from African music, spirituals, ragtime, swing, rhythm and blues and rap. Every student had a special part in the musical and each child had five pieces of their own artwork displayed. Their visual arts projects represented artists styles in the 20th Century from Jackson Pollack to Picasso and went further back in time to the impressionist painters of the 19th Century-People who have made a difference in how we view and appreciate art. Their final projects this year will go further back in time to study the Renaissance, Egypt and Native Americans. Pictured here are: Ali Taha. Sam Potts, and Kelsle Carter.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Kotzen published

Elaine M. Kotzen McIntyre is a first grader at Parkview Elementary School. Her work, "The Scuba Adventure," has been selected for publication in the Michigan Reading Association' 14th annual Kaleidoscope, This publication showcases students' writings from across the state. Sho will be attending the Young Authors' Luncheon at the MRA's Annual Conference in March, Elaine is the daughter of James D. McIntyre and Rhonda Kotzen.

Habitat for humanity

Novi High School students will be spending two April Saturdays to help build a Habitat for nity home in Pontiac An organizational meeting wa held in January with Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County to evaluate student interest. More

Novi High School was granted two days to help with the build due to the overwhelming number of students willing to commit to a four-hour work session on a Saturday, and to collect as many Novi High School students will

work on-site at a home on Prospect Street in Pontiac on April 9 and 16, helping with tasks rang-

Anyone interested in making a

bclift@novi.k12.mi.us.

Fuerst scholarship If you are a resident of the Novi Community School district and are attending post high school education in an undergraduate program at an accredited com nity college, college, university, technical or vocational school, scholarship is based primarily on financial need and is administered through the Novi Educational Foundation. Up to \$20,000 in annually to qualified applicants Application forms are available from the Novi High School Counseling Office, the Educational Services Building on

Middle School Career Day

Taft Road, or by calling (248) 449-1200. The deadline for appli-

Novi Middle School's 15th annual Career Day will take place on Wednesday, March 23. As in the past, the seventh graders will overview helps students learn about emerging career opportuni-ties while connecting them to post-secondary education and the vorld of work.

chance to go through "The Reality sion, find out his or her estimated salary and then visit "sta-tions" such as housing, insurance, day care, groceries, etc. The stu-dent will try to determine what ponion of the salary will be used for each of these necessities. The

Reality Store is a concept dev

oped by Canton's Business and

Professional Women's Association.
If any Novi Middle School parent would like to volunteer to assist with the Career Day, please contact the school office at (248) 449-1600.

PLANS events

Book Trivia Bonanza: Tuesday, March 22 at 7 p.m. in the Instructional Technology Center Forum, PLANS celebrates March Forum, PLAINS cereatures Marchis Reading Month with an evening of literary trivia. Categories include Harry Potter, fairy tales, Dr. Seuss, Magic Tree House, American Girl and more. For all ages from K - 8. \$3 payable at the door. Please pre-register with Lee Linton at (248) 305-9043.

PLANS Novi Student Talent Show: Monday, April 25 at 7 p.m. in the Instructional Technology in the Instructional Technology Center Forum, The evening will benefit Teens Aiding the Cancer Community (TACC). All acts are welcome and need to be three minutes or less. Audience members are asked to bring a toy or other donations to benefit TACC.

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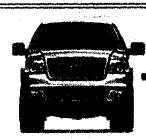
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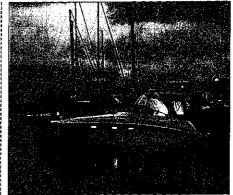
Taking a tumble

It wasn't the end of the season the Northville-Novi Wild 'Stangs gymnastics team, including Amanda Perelli, was hoping for, but in the end they showcased their talents and finished behind some extremely raiented teams --- Page 3B



Regional Marketplace

Real Estate One serves the area with offices in Novi, Milford, South Lyon and Northville (above)



The Spring Boat Show at the Novi Expo Center is just one of many events taking place locally.

hometownlife.com

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Starting from ground zero

good year to be Chris Alberty.
Others would disagree.
The Novi junior diver said his, year wasn't full of his greatest memories, but wasn't as bad as it

could have been either.

"I placed 10th at states yesterday," he said. "I'm really happy with that, especially with how the rest of the season went for

me."
With how the rest of the season went? Alberty trained for this year. He had big plans. Two div-ing records stand on the wall for all to see. For 11 dives, Mike Alberty owns the mark with 411 points. For six dives, Steve Alberty is the

record holder with 273

S. Eggleston

points.
This year Alberty planned to break them both. He trained all year with the Legacy Diving Club out of Ypsilanti, He worked at it, perfecting his rou-tines and his skills.

But there was one thing Alberty couldn't plan for. Early in the season he was involved in an altercation and injured his

back. The news at the doctor's office

wasn't good.
"The doctor said I could have no physical activity," he said. "I was out completely for about six

The result found Alberty back to where his efforts had started — at zero. A month stood between him and the biggest week of his diving season. He had to compete in the regional and then the states.

There were plenty of expectations too. Last year he finished fourth — just one point out of third. This year he came into the season ranked second in the state of Michigan

"I had a lot of work to do," he said. "After the first week I was

so sore."

To top it off, Alberty rejoined his fellow Wildcats with the flu, which hampered his return.

On the first day of practice in November he had expected to finish in the top three in the state. His return in February from a back injury found him reconsid"I lowered my expectations and I trained harder," said

Train harder, indeed. The Novi junior spent nearly six hours a day on the board and working out. He pushed himself to the point of exhaustion at times. "I worked with my coach,

Larry Teahan, who often stayed after practices with me and worked extra hours," Alberty said. "I also worked with the

Legacy Divers at Eastern Michigan." The work paid off.
Alberty not only got
through the regional last week, but finished 10th in the state finals with 337.10

But he's not finished

leston yet. The day after the state finals he was already focusing on the future.
"I'm supposed to start training today for next year," he said.
"I'm going to learn harder dives and keep training. I hope to have a log better season next year." a lot better season next year

He's got a lot to prove. Ranked second in the state and finishing 10th isn't the plan he had for himself early in the season. Even his rival, Kyle Overway from Zeeland who was ranked first at the beginning of the year after placing third in 2004, didn't do as well as expected. Overway finished sixth in the finals.

But Alberty isn't concerned with his rivals. He isn't con-cerned with the diver who took first this year or the one who might take first next year.

He's worried about himself and how well he'll do. He's wor ried about getting himself into

the best shape he can be in and keeping it that way.

"I feel I have a lot to prove," he said. "I'm definitely going to be more motivated this year."

And, of course, he's got those

And, of course, he s got unover-two pesky records to keep look-ing at for the next eight months. "My brothers don't want any-one else breaking those records but me," Alberty said. "I definite-ly plan on doing that."

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Wildcat Chris Alberty, who recently finished 10th at the state meet, performs a dive

Zhao wins indoor triple jump; ready for KVC challenge

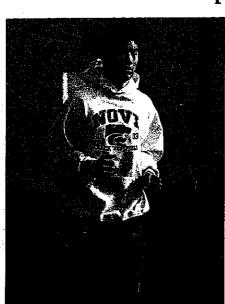


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Wildest Eric Zhao will soon be running for real on Novi's oval in distance events and the hurd

By Sam Eggleston

Frie Zhao wasn't sure what to expect when he participated in the triple jump at the Michigan Indoor Track and State Championships

The Novi junior is sure of

one thing now though: He should have jumped a few times prior to the big moment. "It was the first time I jumped," he said. "I was hoping to finish in the top three. I definitely didn't expect to

win."
Zhao leaped 40-feet-5-inches to secure the top spot in the event. Afterward he was well aware of one thing – his body wasn't thrilled with his lack of

preparation. was so sore," he said. Zhao wasn't the only Nevi Wildcats to participate in championships, but he was only one to secure a state life. The 4-by-200 relay team of Jarrell Woods, Chris Dalton, Brandon Coles and Brandon Carnegie took seventh at the meet and Chris Machisak went

ty competitive in outdoor track and field, starting early next

and field, statung worth,
"I think we're going to be very competitive," said the long jumper who went 20-feet-5 inches for a personal best last year. "We've got a really strong parint crew, great distance runsprint crew, great distance run

personally, Zhao hopes to reach his career best mark again and has even set himself up with a little wager to keep him motivated.

"I have a bet with a team-mate (Brad Sisson) that I can jump it again," he said. "I've jump it again," he said. "I've also bet him with his 400

(dash) event."

Zhao said his team, the defending Kensington Valley Conference champions, will be looking to edge out Milford again this year as well as Brighton. He also said despite his championship triple jump, he probably won't be the top long jumper on the team this

"David Carnegie is an amaz-ing jumper," said Zhao, who first started jumping with the 12-feet on the pole vault but

The performances of every-standing long jump in his one on the squad, to Zhao, grade-school days. "I haven't meant his team should be pret-been able to beat him yet. It's a nice, friendly competition that

No matter how well he jumps, Zhao said he has plenty support from his friends, teammates and family. Being an only child. Zhao has the undi-

only child, Zhao has the indi-vided attention of his father, Yang, and his mother, Linda.

His father was present when he set the top mark in the state in the triple jump, which took place at the University of Michigan. Zhao said his father is supportive. is supportive.

"He pushes me without try-

"He pushes me without trying to push me," Zhao said.
Beyond winning a title, Zhao
said his time at the indoor state
championships was used for a
more important cause – preparing for the highly-competitive
spring track and field season.
"I wanted to see if I had my
steps down before the start of
the regular season." Zhao said.

the regular season," Zhao said.
"I'm very confident now that I've found out I have them down the way I want them."

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

Dumb jocks?

The Novi Wildcats football team may not have played for the past four months, but it's still the past roll include, but it's sail busy snagging awards. "The leam earned the honor of being selected as a Michigan High School Football Coaches. Association."

Ryan Priichard, a center and defensive makle for Novi, was also named to the Academic All State Individual First Team. He vas one of just 30 players to nake the academic team.

Bearing up for spring

Springing into action

So what learns are looking for a KVG title and which ones have even bigger plans for spring? Check out the April 7 edition of the Novi News; the issue when the spring sports preview will occure out.

Complete schedules and pre-views will be available for all of the varsity teams at Novi High

ing the future

Wild card weekend

The Novi Northville Wild.

The Novi Northville Wild.

Saings gymassics team thou they were out of the running a week after taking fourth in the regional. The tap three teams make a tree to the state finals and the first gotherne.

The straid.

Infinity gymnasts show well in 2005 Arnold Classic meet

California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger spoke to many of the 3,500 gymnasis competing at the 2005 Arnold Classic in vault Columbus, Ohio during opening ceremonies.

He acknowledged that the sport

of gymnastics develops some of the strongest and most well-

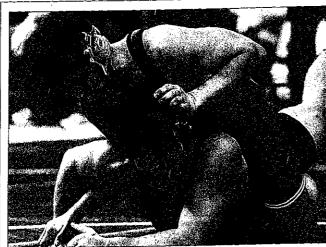
Demonstrating their strengths were the local gymnasts repre-Demonstrating their strengths an around. O artern earnest were the local gymnasts representing Infinity Gymnasts Academy. Level 6 team captured all-around in the 13-and-older second place out of 14 teams from division, Nikki Hadley tied for second place out of 14 teams from six states. Team-high score was carned by Kim Wilson, who took second piace out of 14 teams from historia, Nikki Hadary tech osis states. Team-high score was first on vault with Maureen earned by Kim Wilson, who took third all-around in the H-year-old on floor with a 9.0, took third on age division with a score of beam and fifth on bars. Murphy 35,575. Wilson carned third on vault with a 9,175, fourth on beam enth on floor and inith on bars for and fifth on bars and floor. Also earning awards were Rebecca McKevitz with a fourth on vault with a 9.1, and ninth on floor. 35.57.5. Without a 9.175, fourth on beam and fifth on bars and floor. Also seventh all-around.

Caitlin Spencer earned third on vault with 9.0, fifth on bars and seventh all-around. Michelle Steslicki and Amy O'Brien, in the 12-year-old division, finished with all-around awards. Steslicki earned lifth on floor, sixth on vault, seventh on bars, and sixth all-around. O'Brien earned sec-

Julie Davison earned sixth on vault with a 9.05 and fourth on In the eight-year-old division, bars. Jackie Young carned awards

in floor, bars and beam.
Level 5 team and Level 7 team took home third place trophies. Level 5 gymnast Kara Ludke earned second place all-around, first on bars, fifth on vault and seventh on floor. In level 7, Charlotte Jacques earned second on vault with a 9.275 and seventh on floor. Melissa Ludke earned seventh on bars. In Icvel 8, Julie Sheeran took

second on vault with a 9,125 and tied for second with teammate Erin Brown with a 9.15 on floor. Brown also took second on beam with a 9.15 and third on vault with



End of the season Novi's John Favorite (top), lost in the morning round of the state tournament at

Over 1,000 Martians expected to invade Saturday's marathon

Perhaps H.G. Wells could see a glimpse of the future when he sat down and penned "War of the Worlds," a tale of Martians invad-

ing Earth.
This Saturday, on Hines Drive and the surrounding community, the Martians will indeed be invading. These ones, however, come in peace. They just want to run in the Martian Marathon and half-

mag. These ones, nowever, come in beace. They just want to run in the Martian Marathon and half-marathon.

Last year we had about 700 half-marathon to be included in a

Martian Maruthon. Her husband, Daniel G. Mulhern, is also expected to take part in the run. The endorsement will allow all participants of the marathon and Indifferentiation to be included in a lottery of names to be one of the 300 runners chosen to run with a six Mile roads. The race will also and the marathon is set of the marathon is and six Mile roads. The race will also a training run, which costs \$12 to participate in and can be for any distance the runner chooses. The cost of the marathon is \$50 and the half marathon is Weight Watchers, Foresters Insurance, Schoolcraft Athletics, Two Dogs Running, Girls on The Run, HalfZrun.com and Country Music Marathon & Half Marathon, Admission is free and

1.200," said Randy Step, president of Running Fit and head coach for Michigan's Team in Training Program. "It will all depend on the weather."

"That has helped us get a little more attention," Step said. "The marathon was already getting to pretty popular and this has just gurifully due to the fact that Gov. Jennifer Granholm's Council on Physical Fitness, Heath and Sports recently endorsed the Martian Marathon. Her husband, Daniel G. Mullhern, is also expected to take part in the run.

Runners can also sign up the content of the marathon and sign up the capected to take part in the run.

Runners can also sign up the content of the marathon and sign up the challenge of a marathon.

Step said. "The majority of the majority of the run. "We are working with marathon was already getting to pretty popular and this has just given it a little boost."

For those interested in joining the marathon and 13.1 for the half entrance forms are available as enterested in fitness but not quite ready to take on the challenge of a marathon.

Step said. "The majority of the majority of the run. "We are working with marathon was already getting to pretty popular and this has just given it a little boost."

For those interested in joining the run. "which is 26.2 miles for the majority of the run." There will also be a fitness expo hosted at Schooleraft College tomorrow from 2.8 pm. It is free to enter and will feature vendors from team In Training, Whole Foods Market, Zoupl, Fitness Too the marathon and 13.1 for the half enteron. The majority of the run.

For those interested in joining the run. There will also be a fitness expo hosted at Schooleraft College tomorrow from 2.8 pm. It is free to enter and will feature vendors from the run. Expo hosted at Schooleraft College's worm for the majority of the run.

For those interested in private lines and popular and this has plus the run.

For those interested in private lines and popular and the run.

There will also be a fitness expo hosted at Schooleraft College to supprive leave dow

help others at the same time."

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at

Sports Shorts

NBSA annual meeting

Northville Baseball-Softball Association (NBSA) will hold its Annual Meeting on Monday, March 21 at the Northville Township Hall at 7:30 p.m. All members with a child in the pro-

Knights looking for

The Dearborn Heights Knights (12 & under) travel baseball team will be scheduling tryouts for the 2005 baseball season. The Knights are the PeeWee Reese (If year old) champions for the NorthWest Surburban League. On their schedule will be the Cooperstown Dreams Park tournament located near the Baseball Hall of Fame. For further information, contact Rich Grucz at I-(800) 949-9834.

Coaching positions

available The Walled Lake Consolidated School District is currently look-

field coach at Walled Lake Western High School. The ditrict is also looking for a head

hoys varsity soccer coach for Walled Lake Northern. 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 to David Yarbrough, Athletics Director for the school district. For more information, call the athletics office at (248) 956-

New volleyball club in Novi

Club Extreme is looking for 6th, 7th and 8th Grade girls interested in participating in a new club team. Club Extreme's mission is to provide an opportunity for the girls to participate in a challenging yet rewarding envi-ronment, Tryouts will be held in

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ANIMATED EVER MADE!"

"THRILLING!

NOW PLAYING

And Riveting in IMAX

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SHOWCASE WESTLAND 74-73-109 STAR JOHN R AT 14 100 74-58-177

All interested Parents may

Registering new golfers

The Top 50 Jr. Tour presented by the Professional Golfers' Association Michigan Section is currently registering new mem-bers 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-

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 stu-dents. The qualifying field for each qualifier is limited to 150

Among the tournament sites for the 2005 season are Oakland University Golf Club, Ann Arbor Country Club, Knollwood

Country Club, Edgewood Country Club, Prestwick Village Country Club and many other fine courses throughout southeas Michigan.

The full 2005 schedule is post-

ed at the tour's Web site www.Top50jrTour.com. Interested parents and players should contact the tour at (248) 321-9900 or visit the tour. Web site for more information and a membership application. Volunteers or individuals and companies interested in sponsor ship opportunities are welcome

to contact the tour office.

Scholarship awards for tour members are offered based on rules of golf exams, topical essays, sportsmanship and com-munity service. Scholarship awards will be increased as a student's grade point average

"PERFECT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY."



NUT COME NATION 1865; DAY CORKET TRACTATION 100 NATIONALE THAT FRANCE THE NATIONAL PROPERTY AND ARREST THAT ARE ARREST TO ARREST TO ARREST THAT ARE ARREST TO ARREST TO ARREST THAT ARE ARREST TO ARREST THAT ARE ARREST TO ARREST TO ARREST THAT ARE ARREST TO ARREST THAT ARE ARREST TO ARREST TO ARREST TO ARREST TO ARREST TO ARREST THAT ARE ARREST TO ARREST TO ARREST TO ARREST TO ARREST THAT ARE ARREST TO GENERAL AUDENCE STEEL AND AND ASSESSED AND ASSESSED AND ASSESSED AND ASSESSED
STARTS FRIDAY, MARCH 18 AMC LAUREL PARK ANC LIVONDA 20 CANTON 6 MUR SOUTHGATE 20 PHOENIX AT WEST INVEN SHOPES THEATRE SHOWCASE WESTLA STAR GRAINOT AT 15 ML. STAR GREAT LACES CHOS REPORTER HILLS STAR SCHITTHFIELD UN COMPHERCE STUDIUM 14 UPTOWN PALEAUHUM 1 HALLEN VIST (ON COMMENT WOULD SORRY NO PASSES

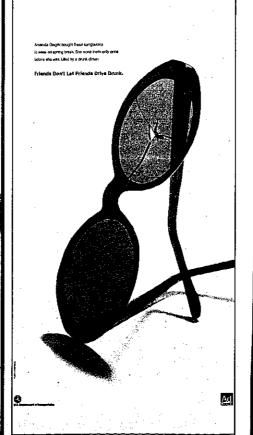
"A Fiercely Funny Human Comedy."

"One of the most absorbing, compelling family dramas since 'Terms of Endearment."



STARTS FRIDAY, MARCH 18

AMC LIVONIA 20 734-542-9909 MJR SOUTHGATE 20 STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING NO PASSES OR COUPONS ACCEPTE



TAKING A TUMBLE

Wild 'Stangs stay poised, place seventh at state competition

tics team had strong performances fifth on vault and Jacqueline from a variety of performers.

Amanda Perelli, coming off an The top 10 finishers were injury, had the best showing of the night. She put up a 9.15 on the the individual finals.

vault, a 9.125 on the beam and a 9.1 in the floor exercise for an all-around score of 35.925.

twasn't the end of the season the Northville-Novi Wild Stangs gymnastics team was hoping for, but in the end they showcased their tales.

a 9.025 with her Hoor exercise.

In the individual state finals, held last Saturday, the Wild Stangs once again found themselves well represented. Seven individuals qualified for the finals with top-eight finishes at the regional meet the week more their talents and Imished behind some extremely talented fearns.

The gymnastics team linished seventh last Friday at Plymouth regional meet the week prior. Emma Platt, who had sprained to be a seven the regional meet the week prior.

seventh last Friday at Plymouth High School in the team state finals with 144 points while Tri-Farmington, as expected, took first with 147.55 points and Livonia Unified took 145.025 for second. Third place went to Brighton with 144.75.

The Northville-Novi gymnas-tice near hot steep early water and significance with a state programmes. The state of the

Gazette was sixth on vault.

The top 10 finishers were awarded medals in their events for





ABOVE TOP: Rachel Deneau begins a run on her floor routine.

ABOVE BOTTOM: Rachel Deneau performs her floor

TOP RIGHT: Gymnast Julie Foucher performs her floor routine during last week's state finals competition at Plymouth High School.

team during their floor

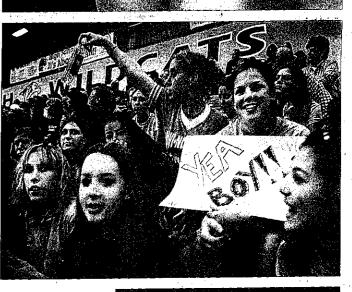
LEFT: Janna Ramsey leaps high into the air during her

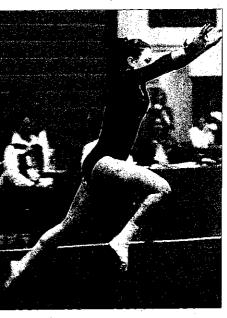
BOTTOM LEFT: Wild Stangs head coach Erin McWatt, center, and assiswatch as one of their gym floor exercise.

BOTTOM CENTER: nanda Perelli performed at Plymouth High School last Friday night.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Maggie Mills performs her floo routine.

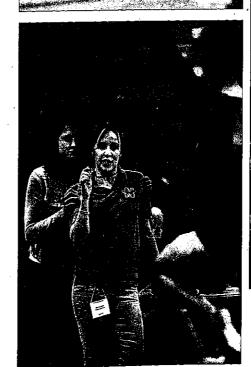






Photos by **JOHN HEIDER Novi News**





Pets & People

Baby bunnies are cute, but older ones make better pets

By Kate Phillips

With Easter coming up, baby bunnies are hopping around every comer. The tiny furry creatures are little enough to fit in your hand, and their velvety softness and tiny cars make them irresistible.

But giving or receiving one of these Easter delights may lead to problems, once Easter is over. These tiny bunnies are often taken away from their mother premature-ly, and often don't survive, said rab-bit expert, Dominique Moroz.

T've sat in veterinarian offices and watched children holding baby bun-nies, crying their eyes out," Moroz recollects, "It's the saddest thing. "When you get a rabbit from a

pet store, they are so young that their gut hasn't been developed. Breeders sell them to pet stores as early as three and a half weeks old The littler, they are, the cuter, But they just can't survive. They need to stay with their mother eight weeks."

Moroz runs Rabbit R & R in Northville, a non-profit shelter that places unwanted rabbits. She receives 10 to 15 calls a day from

ndividuals surrendering pets. Just like the old cliché, rabbits are so focused on reproduction, they can be unbearable as they reach maturity. Sexually mature rabbits may have problems with biting,

growling, lunging, marking and obsessive behaviors.
"A rabbit needs to be altered both for its health and for its personality, she said. They are often given up when they reach sexual maturity and begin to exhibit typical adolescent unrest. Unspayed females can

so they can enhance the human-rab bit relationship.

Once a rabbit is spayed or neutered, they are an ideal pet, but are still different than a cut or dog. They don't have the pack mentality of a dog or a cat, so they aren't immediately trusting — it takes patience to develop a friendship. "Rabbits are a great pet for those

who work during the day, since this is when they naturally sleep." Moroz said. "As prey animals, rabbits do not reveal their personalities as quickly as the hunting animal like dogs or cats.

"Rabbits prefer not to be picked

up, since they feel more secure knowing they can fee if threatened heing petted. "When a person calls to adopt a

I can help them choose a bunny that they'll be really happy with, in the long run."
Rabbit R & R animals are avail-

Kate Phillips is a reporter for the



Easter bunnies make cute gifts, but one gift givers may want to carefully consider.

be cage protective and become nervous diggers, or pluck huge quantities of fur.

Rabbit R & R spays and neuters all pets offered for adoption, plus can help rabbit owners find lowcost spay and neuter services. They also work to educate rabbit owners,

But they do like to sit next to their owner or in front of them while pet, I spend time talking to them, so

able for adoption at PetSmart of Northville from 4 to 8 p.m. the sec-ond Monday of every month or by calling (248) 348-8519.

Milford Times, She can be reached by phone at (248) 685-1507 ext. 21 e-mail



there are many psychological benefits to owning a pet — whether the owner be single, part of a family, young or old. Ronald A. Studer, D.V.M., a esident of South Lyon, veterinarian at Briarpointe Veterinary Clinic in Novi, and licensed counselor at Samaritan Counseling Center in Northville, said its undeniable that fiving with animals enhances our lives. Behavioral Medicine at Providence Hospital, said Providence has offered pet thera-

degree in counseling from Oakland University and practices part-time for Samaritan, said pets even help us deal with death, "Pets die much more quickly

Studer, who has a master's

growth, maturity, decline and eventual death.

eventual death.

"While they're with us, they provide a lot of benefits. For many, pets provide a sense of purpose and meaning as well as contact with another being, which we all need to feel happy and fulfilled," Studer said.

Debra Hollander, M.D., a licensed psychiatrist and chair of

even help us deal with death.

"Pets die much more quickly than we do, so they're a metaphor for our own mortality. Most of us are uncomfortable dealing with death. That's why it's so inserpy for at least four years.
"We had one incident where

"I have another patient who

Hollander noted that research

"There's an AIDS (Acquired

sure-lowering benefits

could not go to sleep without her pet. Pets are comforting and give people a reason to live — some-body to love and be loved by." Hollander said with children, pets can become a confidante someone they can share their secrets and private thoughts with Hollander said pets combat loncliness as well as provide an opportunity to give and receive love in an unconditional way. - as well as help them create a sense of responsibility, respec for living things and knowledge "For anyone who's alone, pets

about the life cycle. Studer said pets also help also give them an opportunity to touch and be touched," she said. relieve stress and reduce symp toms of depression and anxiety. "Studies show that when pet ting or holding an animal bloom shows that heart attack victims who have dogs were more likely to be alive a year after the heart attack. Another study showed pressure and heart rate drop. The key is in the touching. That's why that pet owners being treated for high blood pressure with a cer-tain type of medication also, received additional blood-presmore as visitors in hospitals,

nursing homes and retirement homes," Studer said. Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be Immune Deficiency Syndrome) study that has shown significant benefits for pet owners as far as reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105.

Veterinary doctor Ronald Studer examines a domestic shorthair cat with the assistance of Deanna Losey in his

LOCATION: Walled Lake City fire hall DETAILS; The Kiwanis Club of Wailed Lake/Lakes Area and the Wixom-Walled Lake Lions are planning an all-you-can-cat pan-cake breakfast, with proceeds benefiting the Walled Lake Library to purchase a computer for the visual-ly and physically impaired. CONTACT: Darlene Williams

DATE: Saturday, March 19

EVENTS

Experimental Art Exhibit

DATES: now through March 30

6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. LOCATION; The Meadowbrook

International Society of Experimental Artists' Edee Joppich

is being exhibited. This is a compi-lation of dreamlike, abstract col-

CONTACT: For more informa-

DATE: Saturday, March 19

LOCATION: U.S. Storage

DETAILS: There will be phote

shoots with live rabbits and many

CONTACT: For more infurma

local companies are helping to

Community Pancake

TIME: 8 a.m.-noon

Breakfast

Easter Egg Hunt

Art Center, 41200 West Ten Mile

DETAILS: The work of

(248) 624-3772

Easter Egg Hunt DATE: Sunday, March 20 TIME: 12:30 p.m. LOCATION: Gilbert Willis

Park, Wixom 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 quired; for ages 2-10 years. CONTACT: (248) 624-2850

The Chemo-Fairies Reception

DATE: Tuesday, March 22 TIME: 6-8 p.m. LOCATION: Nancy A. Fox Art Gallery, Providence Center for the Healing Aris, Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Ave.,

DETAILS: An artist's reception for "The Chemo-Fairies", a display of art that expresses the artist's emotions and feelings experienced while undergoing chemotherapy by cancer survivor Pam Campau. Open to the public; free. The show will be on display until May 1.

Lyon Oaks Bark Park

Saturdays DATES: 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 rom 10 a.m.-5 p.m.on Saturdays. CONTACT: Sue Wells, chief of recreation, at (248) 858-4634

Novi Fourth Graders Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, April 26 LOCATION: Bonaver Skating Center, Farmington Hills DETAILS: This event is intend-

ed for the fourth graders in Novi to et kids from the other schools and potentially some of the staff from Novi Meadows. There will be games and prizes as well as social-izing and making new friends (248) 449-5079

Casino Bus Trip to benefit **Breast Cancer 3-Day**

DATE: Sunday, May I TIME: 2 to 9 p.m. LOCATION: Casino Windsor DETAILS: Leave from Eddie Edgar Arena/Ford Field in Livonia located in northwest area of 1.96 and Farmington Road. Please arrive by 2 p.m. Will return at about 9 p.m. A \$20 donation includes \$15 roin and two-way transportation, iding all tolis to Casino

All passengers must have BOTH
of the following pieces of ID:
• Birth certificate or passport

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 belp fund research to find a cure for breast cancer as well as patient-related programs. Contributions

CONTACT: For additional information, call Kim (248) 444-2882 or Audrey (248) 426-6549.

SCHOOL/ GOVERNMENT

Novi City Council Meeting

DATE: Monday, March 21 TIME: 7 p.m. LOCATION: Civic Center, CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday, March 17 TIME: 7:30 p.m. 1 OCATION: Educational Services Building, 25345 Talt Rd.,

CONTACT: (248) 449-1200

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:

Novi Planning Commission

DATE: Wednesday, March 2. TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Civic Center,
45175 W. Ten Mile Road CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

Novi Woods Shopping Extravaganza

DATE: Friday, April 15 TIME: 4:30-8:30 pm LOCATION: Novi Woods Elementary school 25195 Taft Road, Nov

DETAILS: Come enjoy an evening of shopping and socializ-ing. We have 22 vendors displaying everything from unique home acco ing, jewlery and much much more. CONTACT: Dawn Kanial (248)

BUSINESS

Business Referrals

DATE: every Wednesday LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Rd. TIME: 7-8:30 a.m

DETAILS: Meeting of local professionals and business looking to increase word-of-mouth referral isiness. Various classifications open and eager to bring you qualified business leads. CONTACT: (734) 462-6460

Joint Chamber Mixer DATE: Tuesday, March 22

TIME: 5:30-7:30 p.m. LOCATION: Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia DETAILS: Speed networking event with the West Suburban Area Chamber of Commerce, members will get into groupsof 10 and talk with each member for two minute Horsd'oeuvres served; eash bar, \$10 per person. CONTACT: Novi Chamber of

NCC General Membership Luncheon

McComick was drafted to the

DATE: Tuesday, April 19 TIME: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m LOCATION: Fox Run Village. en Mile Road, Nov DETAILS: Guest speaker Tim

NBA in 1984 and is currently a ntator for ESPN. Registration begins at 11:30; lunch will be served at noon; cost is \$20. CONTACT: Novi Chamber of Commerce (248) 349-3743

CLASSES

Providence Center for the Healing Arts' "Tuesdays at Assarian" DATE: Every Tuesday night

TIME: 5-8 p.m. LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Ave., NOVI. DETAILS: Variety of activities for the adult community to come

and enjoy a
unique mix of classes sponsored
by the Providence Center for the Healing Arts. Some activities may include a supplies fee (no more CONTACT: (248) 465-5483

Line Dancing Classes

DATE: every Monday TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m., inter

Think spring. Think boats. Think Novi Expo Center this weekend.

CENTER

EXPO

The Novi Expo Center is located at 43700 Expo Center Drive (southwest corner of 1-96 and Novi Road). Call (248) 348-5600 for more information.

Spring Boating Show

DATES: March 17-20 TIMES: Thursday and Backyard Pool & Spa Friday, 2-9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-7

CALENDAR

p.m. DETAILS: Display of 2005 hoats and trailers, accessores, gifts and services. More than

LOCATION: Novi Ice Arena, 42400 Arena Dr. (activity room,

main floor)
DETAILS: No partner needed for lessons in this pay-as-you-go program. Cost is \$5 for Novi resi-dents and for those ages 55 and up; \$6 for non-residents (fees are for the entire evening). CONTACT: (248) 348-9116

Line Dancing Classes

DATE: every Friday TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd. (activity

room, main floor) DETAILS: No partner needed for lessons in this pay-as-you-go program. Cost is \$5 for Novi resi-dents and for those ages 55 and up; \$6 for non-residents (fees are for the entire evening). CONTACT: (248) 348-9116

SUPPORT

GROUPS

Moms Club of Novi

DATE: meetings first Thursday

TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: The MOMS Club

(Moms Offering Moms Support) is mothers who choose to stay at home with their children, including those who work out of their homes,

time. CONTACT: dinatallman@sbc-Kensington Valley Mothers of

DATES; second Thursdays

TIME: 7 p.m. LOCATION: Witch's Hat Depot, 300 Dorothy St., South Lyon. DETAILS: This group provides information, support and social activities for mothers of multiple birth children and their families. Mothers of multiples living in and ound the Kensington Valley school conference are all welcome.
CONTACT: For more information, call Jackie at (248) 437-5496.

Nomen's Prayer Support

DATE: every Saturday TIME: 9-10:30 a.m. LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49329 Portiac Trail, Wixom (parking is behind DETAILS: You are welcome to

come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer as you face life's Drop in for five minutes or longer CONTACT: Nancy and Susan at

100 exhibitors under one roof, DETAILS: Detroit's only show for home relaxation focusing on swimming pools, hot tub/spas, and outdoor enter taining. This is the best place ing, and cruising; personal watercraft: electronics; and accessories. Bargain prices, low interest rates and financing to turn your backyard space into your outdoor living place. Admission is \$7; \$3 for chilon the spot, Food, entertain ment and fun for the whole

dren ages 6-14; free for chil-

dren under age 6. Parking is

HEALTH

classes

Oakland Physical Therapy

May 11, The latest advances in exercise for low back pain.
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Providence Park

Medical Center, 47601 Grand

River Ave., Suite B124. CONTACT: RSVP by calling

healthier living through wholenes

that can be very beneficial to the

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

Oakland County Health

DATE: ongoing until supplies

LOCATION: Pontiac Office,

1200 N. Telegraph Rd. (north of Elizabeth Lake Rd.) in the Oakland

County complex, building 36E. HOURS: Monday, noon-8 p.m.;

Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. DETAILS: Flu shots are avail-

groups. Cost is \$7. Medicare and Medicaid insurance can be billed to cover the cost. Bring photo identifi-

cation; proof of Oakland residency

s required.

CONTACT: Flu vaccine hotline,

Novi Public Library Hours

LOCATION: 45245 W. Ten

a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, 1-5 p.m.
DETAILS: Unless noted below,

Help Match the Walker

file Road HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 10

able only to high-risk priority

Nivision Flu Shots

participants. Open to the public; \$50 per person (includes lunch and

DATES: April 6, Fit for golf; and

CONTACT: (800) 328-6550 CONTACT: (734) 261-0123 or www.showspan.com

Motor City Men's Expo

DATE: Saturday, April 2 DATES: April 1-3 TIMES: Friday, 3-10 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; DETAILS: Fourth annual

expo dedicated to men.

CONTACT: www.wrif.com

(248) 926-8332 or by e-mail at har

Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

family. Admission is \$8; free for children 12 and under.

Breast Cancer Support Group DATES: second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai 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

Oakland County Health

(248) 3880-3550. **Division Expectant Parent Boost Camp Day** DATE: ongoing series

DATE: Friday, April 8 LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple Rd., Walled Lake. TIME: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. LOCATION: Providence Medical Building, 47601 Grand TIME: 7-9 p.m. DETAILS: Classes will be River Avc. DETAILS: A day of enrichment taught by public health nurses. Topics will include childbirth and personal exploration designed to provide valuable tools, informapreparation, labor and delivery, ca of the newborn baby, breast-feedtion and a new perspec

ing, bottle-feeding, information about keeping children safe and caring for them when they are ill. Cost is \$25. CONTACT: (248) 858-4003, or

(888) 350-0900 ext. 84003

Adoption Playgroup DATE: first and third Fridays of

> LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church (on Meadowbrook Road between Ten Mile Road and Grand River Avenue.
> DETAILS: A nonprofit, nondeadoptive families together. Twice-a-month meetings provide families month meetings pro with the opportunity to share play

CONTACT: Michelle Pergeau (248) 887-4955 or Sandra Noonat

Novi Toastmasters DATE: first and third Tuesdays

the month. LOCATION: Novi Civic Center TIME: 7-8:45 p.m. DETAILS: Toastmasters will

help you improve your communi cation skills, voice your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.

CONTACT: Colleen (248) 685-9226

all programs take place at the library. CONTACT: (248) 349-0720 New Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) chapter

DATES: Wednesday mon LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons Activities Room, 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi. TIME: 11 a.m. weigh-in; 11:30

DETAILS: With "A Million Books" going up on the walls, a.m. meeting DETAILS: \$20 per annual memthere are more books than usual bership includes handbook; \$1 per meeting. New members welcome. these days at the library. By pur-chasing one of the paper signs in the shape of a book for \$1, you ca help the library match the \$1 mil-lion Walker challenge grant. The book signs may be purchased at

Story Time Notes

DETAILS: Winter 2 Story Times end March 18. Spring Story Times start April 4. Brochures listing the days and times of each drop-in Story Time session are available in

AARP Tax Preparation

Workshop DATE: Monday, March 21 TIME: 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. DETAILS: AARP volunteers will be at the library to assist tax payers 55 and over in preparing their tax returns. Please note that the volunteers help in the prepara-tion of simple tax returns only. Call

Ancestry Plus for Seniors

the library to make an appointment

DATE: Tuesday, March 22 DETAILS: Learn how to navi gate this huge genealogy database, and investigate its powerful search features. You'll learn how to find family trees, indexes, and marriage and death records, as well as how to view actual census records. This is a hands-on class, so a solid understanding of Internet searching is necessary. Call the library to reg-

Starlight Story Time

DATE: Tuesday, March 22 TIME: 7-7:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Preschoolers and their families are invited to enjoy bedtime stories. No registration

Reading Buddies

DATE: Wednesday, March 23 TIME: 4:30-5:00 p.m. DETAILS: Our drop-in Reading Buddy Program pairs older chil dren (grades 5-12) with younger their (grates) 12) wan youngd children (kindergarten-grade 4) to improve the younger child's read-ing skills and encourage a love of reading. Contact a Youth & Teen

Services Librarian for details, High School Literature Club

DATE: Wednesday, March 23 TIME: 7-8 p.m. High school writers and readers are invited to share their own writing or a favorite piece by another author, and participate in a group

Easter Holiday Hours

DATE: Friday, March 25-Sunday, March 27 DETAILS: The library will be closed on Good Friday (March 25) and Easter Sunday (March 27). The library will be open on Saturday,

Pageturners

DATE: Tuesday, March 29 TIME: 7 p.m. DETAILS: Kids in grades 5-6 are invited to chill out with a G-rated movie and popcom! Call the

library for details. The Bee Lady

DATE: Wednesday, March 30 TIME: 7-8 p.m. DETAILS: Dyanne Tracy, Ph.D., presents an interactive program about honeybees and beekeeping. Watch the bees making honey, and sample it, too.

Movie Day @ NPL

For all ages; no registration.

DATE: Thursday, March 31 TIME: 1-2:30 p.m us for a G-rated movie, Bring your own pillow or blanket, and we'll

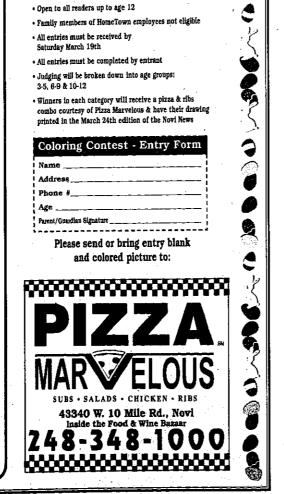
ONGOING

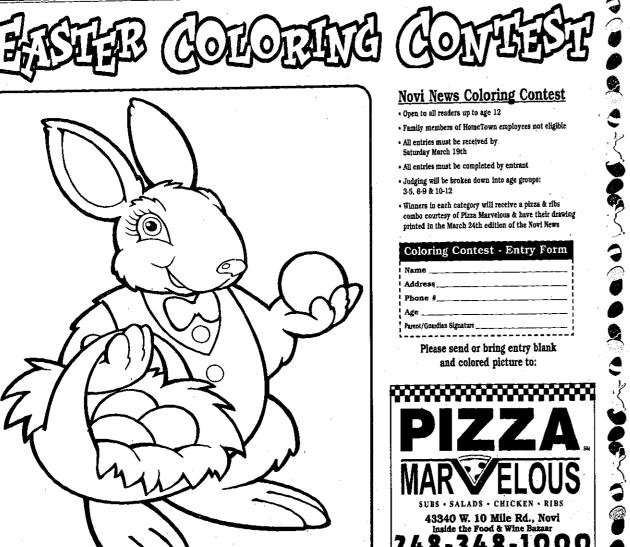
LIBRARY LINES SWOCC Studio Tours LOCATION: 33300 Nine Mile

Rd., Farmington. DETAILS: Come in for an upclose-and-personal look at the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission Studios, 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 short promo for the public access channel, INFO TV-12. CONTACT: Melissa Cohn (248) 473-2840

Send your calendar items to Cal Stone, editor, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-9832; or e-mail to







REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Background checks and what can be included

Background checks can range in depth and breadth from a veri-fication of the individual's sociasecurity number and credit check,



Mary Davis

to a more extensive inquiry into driving records, vehicle registra-tion, criminal history and credit, educaand drug test

records. For sensitive positions, according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), it's not uncommon for a company to order an investigative consumer report—a report that includes interviews with an individual's neighbors, friends and associa-

The FCRA prohibits consumer reporting agencies from including the following information in a consumer report: Bankruptcies after 10 years; civil suits, civil judgments and records of arrest, from date of entry, after seven years; paid tax liens after seven years; accounts placed for collection after seven years; and any other negative information (except criminal convictions) after seven years. In addition to these restrictions, many state labor codes and state fair employ-ment guidelines further limit the content that can be included in a background check.

In the event of an adverse action

Refore an employer turns down an individual for employment as a result of what's included in a consumer report, they must pro-vide him or her with a "pre-adverse action disclosure," according to the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse. This includes a copy of the background check report and an explanation of the individual's rights under the FCRA. After taking adverse action, the employer must then give the individual an "adverse action notice." This document must contain the following infor-

· The name, address and phone number of the consumer reporting agency that conducted the

background check; • A statement by the consumer reporting agency that it did not make the adverse decision, and cannot give specific reasons for

 A notice of the individual's right to dispute the accuracy of the completeness of any information the agency supplied

Now available to consumers

FACTA, the same law that entitles consumers to free credit reports, also gives consumers the right to view their records that are maintained by the same agencies that furnish consumer reports to businesses. ChoicePoint is one such company that maintains a series of databases on consumers. For more information, visit the consumer arm of this agency at www.choicetrust.com. (Note: ChoicePoint recently informed some 2,300 Michiganians by mail that their personal information may have been fraudulently sons. Approximately 145,000 notices were sent to consumers nationwide about the personal information breach. For more point.com.)

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL), a stitiewide trade association repre-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 site (www.mcul.org) to learn more about smart money management. Comments about this column may be e-mailed to mcd@mcul.org.

Send us your business news:

The Novi News Cal Stone, editor 104 W. Main Northville, MI 48167 fax: (248) 349-9832 cstone@ht.homecomm.net









Real Estate One's four offices include (above, I to r) Northville, Milford, South Lyon and (below) Novi.



Real Estate One

Leading the way with four local sales offices

By Duane Ramsey

Real Estate One, the largest residential real estate company in Michigan, has four locations and more than 100 agents to serve the communities of Northville, Novi, Milford and South Lyon. Each local office is the leading real estate source in the respective communities and

The four local offices are

DETAILS

Real Estate One www.realestateone.com 4 convenient locations

In Novi: 43155 Main Street Suite 2300 (248) 348-6430 In Northville: 103 Rayson Street (248) 349-6200 în Milford: 560 N. Milford Road near Main downtown (248) 684-1065 In South Lyon:

(Pontlac Trail)

(248) 437-3800

offices The four locations are full-

among 51 company-owned Real Estate One offices in Michigan. Celebrating 75 years in business, Real Estate One has more than

1,900 licensed agents who gen-erated \$3.8 billion in sales dur-

ing 2004 in Michigan.
Real Estate One has a comprehensive training program to

support the best trained agents in the business, according to the company. Agents also receive individual training at their local

The four locations are full-service offices that handle trans-actions from start to finish. Representatives of Capital Title Company and John Adams Mortgage Company are avail-able in the local offices to pro-vide their services to Real Estate One customers.

In Novi-Northville...

Novi office Northville satellite office led the marketplace with \$143 million in combined sales in 2004. The

in combined sales in 2004. The
two offices already have generated more sales during the first
two months of 2005 than the
same period last year.
There are 60 to 65 agents
working out of the Novi office
and 10 additional agents in
Northville that handle residential new construction, vacant tial, new construction, vacant land and some commercial real

land and some commercial real estate business.

"We have agents with many years of experience from 10, 15, 25, and up to 35 years in the business," said Kathy O'Neill. Northville offices, who has 21 years of experience.

The agents in the Northville and Novi offices not only sell homes in those communities but also have listings in Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Hills, and Wixon. "We've seen all markets and types of transactions over the years. We've followed the market trends and warchet the areas arow and home values increase

grow and home values increase over the years," said O'Neill. Real Estate One represents some new construction residen-

tial developments but also assists individual builders in selling their inventory. In addi-tion, agents take customers to see new and existing houses priced from the high \$100,000 range to well over \$1 million.

In Milford....

The Milford office of Real Estate One is the number one broker in its market area that includes Milford, Highland, Commerce, Waterford, White includes Milford, Highland, Commerce, Waterford, White Lake and West Bloomfield in Oakland County with parts of Livingston and Genesee coun-

Livingston and Genesee counties.

The Milford office generated close to \$70 million in sales in 2004 while doubling the office in size and number of agents. 2005 looks like another growth year as business in January and February has surpassed the same time periods in 2004.

Real Estate One has a 14.5-percent share of the Milford market based on closed listings by list or sales office with the

Kathy Solan, manager of the Real Estate One office in

"There is willingness on the part of all agents to assist their to an agents to assist that co-workers in putting together a deal and making it happen. That philosophy is unusual in a sales force environment, especially one that is commission based. The team concept is alive and well within the office comprised competitive sales agents,"

The office has 44 agents with additional agents in training to cover the growing market. Recently, the Milford office has

Recently, the Milford oftice has done substantially more business in Livingston County and increased its business in Genesee County as well.

"We are the last bastion of affordability in developing Oakland County," said Solan. The average home price is about \$226,000 in the Milford area. The average in the Milford office \$226,000 in the Milford affea.
The agents in the Milford office have listed hundreds of homes and condominiums with prices ranging from \$100,000 to \$2 million and more.

In South Lyon...

The South Lyon office of Real Estate One is the leading real estate company in that community and continues to grow with the residential growth in the sur-

selling for 98 percent of the listing price."

The agents in the South Lyon

office generated \$35 million in sales during 2004 and had a 13-percent share of the local market based on sales from January to September.

The South Lyon office has 25 agents with more than 100 years of combined service in the real estate business, ranging from new agents to

business, anging from new agents to veterans with as much as 25 years of experience. The agents market homes in South Lyon, Lyon Township, New Hudson, other areas in Oakland County, as well as in Washtenaw and Livingston counties. "Our agents make our office unique." Nicole said. "Our office's success is attributed to our exceptional agents who know their market and are committed to their customers by providing them with professional

indigent to their customers by pro-viding them with professional and quality service."

As a company, Real Estate
One is involved in supporting
the American Cancer Society and Special Olympics programs in Michigan. The four offices and individual agents are active in the local communities supporting the activities of many charities, community organiza-tions, parades and schools. For example, The South Lyon

office has entered a team to paroffice has entered a team to par-ticipate in the area's first Relay For Life for the American Cancer Society this spring. It also sponsored the holiday breakfast for the South Lyon the residential growth in the surReal Estate One has a 14.5recent share of the Milford
arket based on closed listings
(list or sales office with the
largest competitor having a 10
streent share.

"We are No. 1 in our market.
We self more homes in the South
Lyon area than any other real
largest competitor having a 10
streent share.

"Our workplace is one of Lyon office. "Our houses are

HOMETOWN SALES BY YOUR HOMETOWN LEADERS!

<u>Novi</u>

Milford

248-348-6430 Kathy O'Neill, Manager

43155 Main Street 560 N. Milford Rd. 248-684-1065 Kathy Solan, Manager

We specialize in all sales including residential, condominium, lakefront, commercial and vacant land. To view over 20,000 properties visit our website at www.realestateone.com



South Lyon

346 N. Lafayette 248-437-3800 Mary Nicole, Manager

Northville

103 Rayson 248-349-6200 Kathy O'Neill, Manager

Buying or selling, we can help you every step of the way. John Adams Mortgage Company Capital Title Insurance One

NO ONE SELLS MORE HOMES IN MICHIGAN THAN REAL ESTATE ONE. Visit one of these 4 of our 51 offices near you to help you find the "Home of Your Dreams"!