















# Best Farmington teacher's been around the world, back in Novi

## Award includes free year car lease

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

All good things come out of Novi, or so it seems. Earlier this month, the Farmington Public Schools named Tess Kelly, a Novi resident, the district's teacher of the year.

Included with this award is a free one-year lease of a vehicle offered by The Suburban Collection. She selected a 2005 Mazda Miata Speed.

"I felt like a queen," she said. "They were parading all these cars in front of me and they were all nice, but when I saw the Mazda Miata Speed, it had my name on it. It's fun to drive, but not in the snow."

From the Netherlands to Turkey, Kelly has seen much of the world. Her impressive credits include conducting a presentation of interdisciplinary curriculum in Den Haag in 1991 and she helped write the curriculum for a gifted school in Istanbul.

Kelly's goal is to do overseas international work as well as consulting after she retires in about five years.

"I was very fortunate because while I was presenting in Den Haag, the person who hired me was in the audience at the time," Kelly said. "I flew directly from Den Haag to Turkey and they hired me on the spot."

Through a translator, Kelly helped write that school's curriculum. She was asked to stay and was offered a two-year contract, but "I wanted to go home."

A 17-year veteran of Farmington Public Schools, Kelly has shared her passion for teaching with her second grade students at Highmeadow Common Campus Elementary School. She has been teaching second grade for six of those years. Kelly said she knew she wanted to teach ever since doing volunteer work while in high school.

"I love the second grade because

at that age they're booming and they want to learn so much," Kelly said. "I look at where kids are at and what they can do, rather than what they can't do. It's a subtle difference, but it makes a big difference."

Two third grade students at the school, who went through Kelly's class last school year, both say she is their favorite teacher. They both enjoy how Kelly changes the look of her classroom to match what it is students are learning. For instance, if the topic is Canelot, the classroom looks like castles. If it is Dinosauria, there are dinosaurs.

"She does a lot of experiments with us," third grader student Carly Tashman said. "She really makes it seem like you're in the place that you're learning about by making the class look like where you want to be."

Third grader Alanaia Chapell expanded on that a bit. "Miss Kelly wants us to learn about the world and how it changes," she said. "She really makes a lot of things realistic and fun."

Co-workers and students nominated Kelly, who has been active in diverse district activities including the School Yard Habitat-National program, for this recognition. They cited her outstanding impact on all and her innovative teaching methods that transport children into the worlds in which they are studying.

"She's a wonderful person and loves children," said Beverly Miller, principal of Highmeadow Common Campus Elementary School. "It's her personality and style that's unique. She creates a unique environment within her classroom that transforms the classroom into something that is just a wonderful learning experience for kids. It's such an adventure to be in her classroom that kids will remember the rest of their lives."

Miller said that Kelly puts a great deal of time and energy into what she does and she integrates the curriculum in such a way that stimulates students to think beyond the curriculum.

Kelly attributes much of her credit to her significant other, Roger Palmer, a Novi resident who shares all of her school materials in his home.

TESS KELLY



Courtesy photo

Tess Kelly with her prize; a Mazda Miata Speed lease from The Suburban Collection.

- Grew up in Oswego, N.Y.
- Not married, no children
- Attended Oswego Catholic High School.
- Attended State University College in Cortland, N.Y.
- Attended Central Michigan University for her master's degree.
- Second grade teacher at Highmeadow Common Campus Elementary School.
- Has taught in Farmington School District since 1988.
- Activities and Honors include: 2005: North Central Accreditation math committee member
- 2003-Present: Participating member of Friends of Rouge-water quality monitoring
- 2000-Present: Guest lecturer at Madonna University focusing on interdisciplinary curriculum for gifted students.
- 1999-Present: Assisted in the development of second grade District River Trips
- 1994-Present: Participated in

extensive professional development including Science committees, Farmington Summer and Bilingual trainings.

1991: Trained Turkish teachers to open first school for the gifted in Istanbul, Turkey and attended World conference on gifted education in Den Haag, Netherlands.

### SCHOOL BRIEFS

#### Michigan Youth Ensembles Habitat for humanity

On March 14, Northville and Novi High School students participated with the Michigan Youth Ensembles at Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor, sponsored by the University of Michigan Music School.

- Novi resident Mary-Grace Denton (Notre Dame Prep) performed with the Michigan Youth Women's Chorus (alto)
- Clara Feich (Northville High School) was in the same ensemble (Soprano II)
- Ellen Storch (Northville High School) (Soprano)
- Marie Greenman (Northville High School) (Alto)
- Mark Morrow (Northville High School) (Baritone/Bass)
- Elizabeth Hoffman (Northville High School) (Bassoon)
- James Naigus (Northville High School) (horn)
- Alison Thorpe (Northville High School) (flute)

Novi High School students will be spending two April Saturdays to help build a Habitat for Humanity home in Pontiac.

An organizational meeting was held in January with Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County to evaluate student interest. More than 70 Novi High School students, freshmen to seniors, attended.

Novi High School was granted two days to help with the build due to the overwhelming number of students willing to commit to a Saturday, and to collect as many donations from family, friends, and community members as possible.

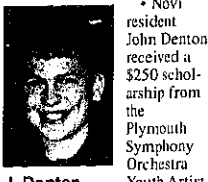
Novi High School students will work on-site at a home on Prospect Street in Pontiac on April 9 and 16, helping with tasks ranging from light construction work to painting.

Anyone interested in making a donation to this project can contact Barbara Cliff via e-mail at bhcliff@novi.k12.mi.us.

#### PLANS event

PLANS Novi Student Talent Show: Monday, April 25 at 7 p.m. 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. For more information, contact Leo Linton (248) 305-9043.

Compiled by Ramez Khuri



J. Denton

Competition: First Place Winner in the Junior Combined Division, on March 12 at the PSO concert. The competition was held on February 6 and was open to the public.

Make a Difference  
**RECYCLE**

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@n11.com.net.

**Putting Edge**

18 Holes  
Glow Merchandise  
Arcade  
Group Events  
Birthday Parties

The Ultimate Indoor Glow-in-the-Dark Mini Golf

**FRIENDS & FAMILY PASS Save \$7**

Group of Four Plays for \$27.00

Fountain Walk  
44225 Twelve Mile Rd.  
Novi, MI  
248-348-4022  
www.puttingedge.com

**Watch & Clock Service**  
27 years in Service

We specialize in Jewelry & Watch repair of all kinds

We Make House calls on Grandfather clocks  
Trade-Ins Available

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:00 - 7:00  
Sat. 10:00 - 4:00

248-668-8574

45057 Pontiac Trail, Novi  
(At West Park Road in Novi Square next to CVS)

**ATTENTION LOCAL RESIDENTS!**

Fitness Together is conducting a special 16 week Exercise and Nutritional Program consisting of the following:

**TO QUALIFY YOU MUST HAVE 15-100 LBS. OF WEIGHT TO LOSE FINAL NOTICE**

16-WEEK PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- Private one-on-one sessions with a professional fitness trainer
- Complete fitness and body composition assessment
- Complete nutrition program based on your goals
- Exercise in our state of the art private suites
- Special low impact circuit programs
- Specialized programs designed for individual health and fitness goals
- An informative report "16 tips for looking and feeling better"
- A monthly subscription to our wellness guide

PRELIMINARY QUALIFICATIONS

- Must Have 15-100 lbs. of weight to lose
- Must be able to attend at least 3 training sessions per week
- Must be able to attend a health and nutrition consultation

IF YOU QUALIFY:

You will receive a \$229 value. This includes a Free Fitness Consultation and a Free Health and Fitness Assessment report.

What are you waiting for? Summer is just around the corner. Time to Look and Feel Your Very Best!

**CALL TODAY!**

248.668.9884 Ask for Jim West Bloomfield 6279 Haggerty Rd.

248.348.9230 Ask for Bob Novi 47210 Ten Mile In Briar Pointe Plaza

**Be sure to brush your teeth!**

Local dentist, Dr. James Ross D.D.S., visited all of the first grade classes at Orchard Hills. Using magic, he taught children the importance of good dental health. He also distributed gooey bags filled with essential products to help in this pursuit. Pictured from left to right are: Alex Kroll, Ross, Aaron Howe and Matthew Ross.

**Fun at McDonald's**

Ronald McDonald shares some fun with Orchard Hills first grader Spencer Betts at the Orchard Hills McDonald's Family Fun Night recently.

### COMMUNITY EDUCATION CORNER

- **Handpainted Floor Cloths**  
DATE: Monday, April 4  
TIME: 6:30-9:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Meadows 5 Art Room  
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 fee)
- **Selling Your Home 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 techniques, legal issues, the closing process, a timetable of events and an outline of costs involved in selling "by owner." Materials provided will include a typical closing package, purchase offer, marketing ideas, advertising information and organizational materials.  
FEE: \$23
- **Hot Topics in Women's Health**  
DATE: Wednesday, April 6  
TIME: 7-9 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 520  
DETAILS: Join us for a discussion on the important issues facing women today. Topics include what to expect in your annual exam, heart disease, osteoporosis, menopause, breast cancer and more. Receive tips on how to keep yourself healthy as well as answer to your health related questions.  
FEE: \$17
- **Belly Dancing**  
DATE: Tuesday, April 5  
TIME: 7-8 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Meadows 5  
DETAILS: This dance encourages self expression, along with posture, hip, chest and arm movements, steps and walking, and how to use catanets and scarves.  
FEE: \$15

- **Now Open in Novi!**  
**Brand New Luxury Assisted Living**  
Licensed Assisted Living ♦ Memory Care Living ♦ Respite Care

Choosing the right care for your loved one can be difficult... Look to Waltonwood for comfort, care and peace of mind.

Please call (248) 735-1030 or tour our new community today!

27495 Huron Circle, Novi, MI 48377  
(Located in Novi adjacent to Twelve Oaks Mall)  
email: waltonwoodtwelveoaks@singhmail.com

www.waltonwood.com NO INFRANCE FEES

**Public Safety Career Expo 2005**

Investigate a career in Law Enforcement Fire Fighting Emergency Medical Technology Corrections

Wednesday, March 30  
4 to 7 pm

- ★ Federal and Local Law Enforcement Agencies
- ★ Police and Fire Departments
- ★ Emergency Rescue Services
- ★ Corporations that Hire Public Safety Personnel

Resumes will be accepted  
No charge for admission  
Open to the public

For more information call 734-462-4421

Schoolcraft College-Radcliff Center ♦ Room RC 115 ♦ 1751 Radcliff Street ♦ Garden City, MI

**Now Open in Novi!**  
**Brand New Luxury Assisted Living**  
Licensed Assisted Living ♦ Memory Care Living ♦ Respite Care

Choosing the right care for your loved one can be difficult... Look to Waltonwood for comfort, care and peace of mind.

Please call (248) 735-1030 or tour our new community today!

27495 Huron Circle, Novi, MI 48377  
(Located in Novi adjacent to Twelve Oaks Mall)  
email: waltonwoodtwelveoaks@singhmail.com

www.waltonwood.com NO INFRANCE FEES

**Now Open in Novi!**  
**Brand New Luxury Assisted Living**  
Licensed Assisted Living ♦ Memory Care Living ♦ Respite Care

Choosing the right care for your loved one can be difficult... Look to Waltonwood for comfort, care and peace of mind.

Please call (248) 735-1030 or tour our new community today!

27495 Huron Circle, Novi, MI 48377  
(Located in Novi adjacent to Twelve Oaks Mall)  
email: waltonwoodtwelveoaks@singhmail.com

www.waltonwood.com NO INFRANCE FEES

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

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

**HOME TOWN**  
Contact your sales representative to reserve your space!

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

**101 THINGS to do in Summer**

Space Reservation Deadline: April 25, 2005  
Copy Deadline: April 26, 2005  
Publication Date: May 26, 2005

**HOME TOWN**  
248-685-1507 . . . . . Milford Times  
248-437-2011 . . . . . South Lyon Herald  
248-349-1700 . . . . . Northville Record  
Novi News







# HEALTH

Cal Stone, editor (248) 348-1700, ext. 113 cstone@nl.homescomm.net

## Chemo-Fairies get artist through treatments

**■ Cancer survivor's work on display at Providence's Assarian Center**

Providence Center for the Healing Arts presents "The Chemo-Fairies, a journey" by local artist and cancer survivor Pamela Campau. The collection of artwork expresses the movement, art and emotion that Campau experienced while undergoing chemotherapy. This mixed media show includes the whimsical, yet thought-provoking, chemo-fairy series, as well as additional pieces.

The Nancy A. Fox Art Gallery is located in the Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue, Novi. The show will be on display through April 30. The gallery is open 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Campau is a mixed media artist who finds inspiration in mundane and everyday places. She was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and underwent extensive chemotherapy. "I never go on a trip without my sketchbook in my suitcase," she says. "Who knows what interesting things will present themselves while traveling? I drew and created art throughout the long journey back to health."

"The Chemo-Fairies were a means to express the range of feelings and emotions I experienced in a land of needles, chemicals and tubes," said Campau. "I drew a Chemo-Fairy every treatment in an effort to stay present in the moment," she added. "The first Chemo-Fairy that I drew was a complete surprise to me. However, it did not take long for me to realize that expressing whatever feelings I was experiencing in this way was much better for me than not doing so. The process of creating art was a real comfort to me. The healing played out on a landscape that I couldn't see, and my artwork helped me trust that all was going well. Life as art my continuing journey."



Chemo Fairy #8  
"Happy hearts make light work"

Cancer survivor Pamela Campau's "Chemo-Fairies" artwork will be on display at the Nancy A. Fox Art Gallery in the Assarian Cancer Center through April.

each moment is yours to be awake, to create joy and to heal." Providence Center for the Healing Arts, located in the Assarian Cancer Center, provides a variety of programs that promote emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being for cancer patients, their families, and the greater community.

## FIT FOR LIFE - "HOPPING GOOD TIME"

Easter time is an exciting time for all of us in this area as it marks many things. The beginning of spring. Forecast for warmer days. Those funny Cadbury egg commercials on TV (you know, the one with the clucking bunny). Candy baskets, chocolate bunnies, and hard boiled eggs. Don't you all wish that there was something positive you could do with all this chocolate and eat it too!



**A. Pintar**  
Don't let the holidays get you down. Stay positive and keep yourself healthy. I wish each of you happy holidays and a healthy spring!

*Aaron Pintar is a personal trainer at the Water Wheel Health Club in Northville. He can be reached at (248) 449-7634.*

**MDA**  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
Jerry Lewis, National Chairman  
1-800-572-1717  
www.mdausa.org

## Walsh Gala takes in \$33,000



Walsh College President Keith Pretty (left to right) with Gala event co-chairs Mary Bartlett and Dave Petoskey.

The Walsh College Foundation third annual Art and Wine Gala March 12 at the Hotel Barometre in Novi netted \$33,000 for student scholarships and endowments. Chairpersons were Dave Petoskey from Walsh Management Services and Mary Bartlett of the MSW Group.

Walsh College Alumni Association and Walsh Management Services; star sponsors were Imagine Entertainment, Hennessey Capital, Standard Die & Fabrication and Standard Federal Bank.

## OBITUARY

**ROBERT A. BASKINS**  
Age 91, March 18, 2005. Beloved husband of the late Beverly. Dear Father of Brian (Vicky), Jack (Donna), Linda, Mike (Tari), Jill, & Alan (Cherie). Loving grandfather of 12. Brother of Bernice Wynne. The funeral service was held at Church of Christ, 9301 Sheldon Rd., Plymouth. Donations in Robert's memory may be made to American Heart Association, Memorials 6 Tibbles Lockbox, 3816 Paystone Cir., Chicago, IL 60674. Online sympathy message at: www.obrienullivanfuneralhome.com

## IN THE SERVICE

Navy Seaman Elya L. Ziarkowski, a 2002 graduate of Walled Lake Central High School, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Along with the wine tasting, the original works of photographer Monte Nagler and ink painter Lorraine Rondeau were on display. Both artists were in attendance. Grand event sponsors were the Walsh College Alumni Association and Walsh Management Services; star sponsors were Imagine Entertainment, Hennessey Capital, Standard Die & Fabrication and Standard Federal Bank.

**OBITUARY POLICY**  
The first seven lines of an obituary are published free of charge. After that, there is a fee of \$3 a line. Payments may be published for \$25.  
\*Deadline for obituaries is Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. for publication in Thursday's newspaper.  
For more information, call 888-999-1288, or contact your funeral home.  
\*Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

During a fire you need to scoot, so plan and practice your escape route!

**PREVENT FIRE. SAVE LIVES.**  
http://www.usfa.fema.gov  
United States Fire Administration  
Federal Emergency Management Agency

## The University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center

### Cancer AnswerNight

# The Impact of Cancer on the Family

A diagnosis of cancer in a family member affects everyone in the family. Relationships are altered, communities change, roles are reinvented. But how do families overcome these challenges and find answers to your individual concerns?

**Featuring:**  
Linda Northouse, Ph.D., R.N., Professor of Nursing, Behavioral Oncology  
Linda Barry, M.S.W., Senior Clinical Social Worker, Child and Adolescent  
Michael J. M.D., Director of the Oncology Program

**Thursday, April 7, 2005**  
7:00 PM

Doubletree Hotel  
37000 Sheraton Drive, Novi  
(across from the Twelve Oaks Mall)

For registration please call 800-742-2300 and enter category 7870 or register online at [www.umccr.org/events](http://www.umccr.org/events).

**Charley's**  
GOOD FOOD AND GOOD TIMES START WITH O.

**SAY O'YES TO SUNDAY BRUNCH**

**10<sup>00</sup> am to 3<sup>00</sup> pm**

**FEATURING A LA CARTE ENTREES INCLUDES:**  
Steak and Eggs • Prime Time Prime Rib • Cajun Chicken Omelette • Luscious Omelette • Ham & Cheese Omelette • Spanish Omelette • Eggs only w/you like with bacon or sausage • Bavarian Waffles (Unfried, Strawberry, or Pecan)

Kids brunch for \$3.99 includes beverage and a treat. And of course, you can order from our regular menu.

**Now Open in Livonia**  
38703 7 Mile Road  
Between Haggerty Road and I-275  
In the Seven Mile Crossing Office Park  
(734) 838-6601

visit us in  
**Grand Rapids**  
1600 E. Beltline  
(616) 301-8171

Prime -1% today. And the next day. And the next.  
The Charter One Home Equity Line.

**4.49%** Prime -1% for the life of the line  
Lines starting at \$100,000  
HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT

With a home equity line from Charter One, the rate will stay at Prime -1% for the life of the line. So now you can get money for home improvement, tuition, even a vacation. And you can pay it off today, tomorrow, or a year from now. Other great low home equity loan rates are available, too. So open one today. Call 1-877-TOP-RATE or visit us at any branch.

**Charter One**  
Not your typical bank.®

**Are you an organ & tissue donor?**  
Ask your family today, and let them know your decision, too. That way you'll know, they'll know, and there will be no questions later.  
For a free brochure, call 1-800-555-SHARE.  
Share your life, share your decision.®  
Michigan Coalition on donation

# Easter Coloring Contest

## Winners

**Spenser Bartholomew**  
Winner for 3-5 year olds

**Claire Neville**  
Winner for 6-9 year olds

**Katie Kerbrat**  
Winner for 10-12 year olds

**PIZZA MARVELOUS**

Subs • Salads  
Chicken • Ribs

**248-348-1000**  
43340 W. 10 Mile Rd., Novi  
Inside the Food & Wine Bazaar



continued from page 23

aimed at meeting the needs of mothers who choose to stay at home with their children, including those who work out of their homes, as well as those who work part-time.  
 CONTACT: dinalalman@sbcglobal.net

**Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples**

DATES: second Thursdays  
 TIME: 7 p.m.  
 LOCATION: Wich's Hat Depot, 360 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 around the Kensington Valley school conference are all welcome.  
 CONTACT: For more information, call Jackie at (248) 437-5496.

**Women's Prayer Support**

DATE: every Saturday  
 TIME: 9:10-10:30 a.m.  
 LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49329 Pontiac Trail, Wixom (parking is behind the church).  
 DETAILS: You are welcome to come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer as you face life's problems, issues and frustrations. Drop in for five minutes or longer.  
 CONTACT: Nancy and Susan at (248) 926-8332 or by e-mail at harvestfellowship@comcast.net

**Breast Cancer Support Group**

DATES: second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.  
 LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sincil 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 Division Expectant Parent Classes**

DATE: ongoing series.  
 LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple Rd., Walled Lake.  
 TIME: 7-9 p.m.  
 DETAILS: Classes will be taught by public health nurses. Topics will include childbirth preparation, labor and delivery, care of the newborn baby, breast-feeding, 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 the month.  
 TIME: 10 a.m.

LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church (on Meadowbrook Road between Ten Mile Road and Grand River Avenue).

DETAILS: A nonprofit, non-denominational group that brings adoptive families together. Twice-a-month meetings provide families with the opportunity to share play and conversation.  
 CONTACT: Michelle Pergeau (248) 887-4955 or Sandra Noonan (248) 960-3257

**Novi Toastmasters**

DATE: first and third Tuesdays of the month.  
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Activities Room.  
 TIME: 7-8:45 p.m.  
 DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills, voice your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.  
 CONTACT: Colleen (248) 685-9226

**New Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) chapter**

DATE: Wednesday mornings  
 LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons Activities Room, 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi.  
 TIME: 11 a.m. weigh-in; 11:30 a.m. meeting  
 DETAILS: \$20 per annual membership includes handbook; \$1 per meeting. New members welcome.

**HEALTH**

**Oakland Physical Therapy classes**

DATES: April 6, Fit for golf; and 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 (248) 3880-3550.

**Oakland County Health Division Flu Shots**

DATE: ongoing until supplies are depleted.  
 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 available only to high-risk priority groups. Cost is \$7. Medicare and Medicaid insurance can be billed to cover the cost. Bring photo identification; proof of Oakland residency is required.  
 CONTACT: Flu vaccine hotline, (800) 434-3358

**Boost Camp Day**

DATE: Friday, April 8  
 TIME: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
 LOCATION: Providence Medical Building, 47601 Grand River Ave.  
 DETAILS: A day of enrichment and personal exploration designed to provide valuable tools, information and a new perspective on healthier living through wholeness that can be very beneficial to the participants. Open to the public; \$50 per person (includes lunch and materials; registration required).  
 CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

**LIBRARY LINES**

**Novi Public Library Hours**

LOCATION: 45245 W. Ten Mile Road  
 HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
 Sunday, 1-5 p.m.  
 DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.  
 CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

**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, March 26.

**Help Match the Walker Million**

DETAILS: With "A Million Books" going up on the walls, there are more books than usual these days at the library. By purchasing one of the paper signs in the shape of a book for \$1, you can help the library match the \$1 million Walker challenge grant. The book signs may be purchased at any service desk in the library.

**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 popcorn! 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. For all ages; no registration.

**Movie Day @ NPL**

DATE: Thursday, March 31  
 TIME: 1-2:30 p.m.  
 DETAILS: Take a break and join us for a G-rated movie. Bring your own pillow or blanket, and we'll supply the snacks. For kids in kindergarten and up; no registration.

**Story Times**

DETAILS: Spring Story Times start April 4. Brochures listing the days and times of each drop-in Story Time session are available in the library.

**Mini-Battle of the Books**

DATE: Wednesday, April 6  
 TIME: 4:30 p.m.  
 DETAILS: Teams of third and fourth graders will compete in answering questions about three books: "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing" by Judy Blume, "Cam Jansen and the Triceratops Pops Mystery" by David Adler, and "Summer Reading is Killing Me!" by Jon Scieszka. We'll create the teams when you arrive, and award a prize to the winning team. No registration.

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 cstone@lt.homecomm.net.

**NOVI EXPO CENTER**

The Novi Expo Backyard Pool and Spa Show makes its splash April 1-3 at the Novi Expo Center.



Twiggy, the Water Skiing Squirrel, rides into the Expo Center show next weekend.

"Families are spending more time together at home and backyards can become retreats from the busy world outside," said Mike Wilbraham, show producer of ShowSpan, Inc. The show is sponsored by the Michigan Pool and Spa Association, a member of The Association of Pool and Spa Professionals.

At the show, Twiggy, The Water Skiing Squirrel, wearing a life jacket will ride on water skis behind a remote-controlled boat in a custom-made swimming pool.

Other features at the show include the Ultimate Backyard with a deck, hot tub and pool and seminars on what homeowners need to know when buying a pool or spa to make a good decision.

Tips and advice are available from experts on purchasing, planning, maintenance, safety, exercise, health, financing and landscaping.

Exhibits are filled with pool, spa, hot tub and backyard living products and services. All the

major backyard living categories are available from inground and aboveground pools, spas, swim spas, decks, patios, fencing, patio enclosures and sunrooms. Show times are Friday, 3-10 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Admission is \$7 for adults; \$3 for children ages 6-14; and free for children under 6. Parking is \$5.

The Novi Expo Center is located at 43700 Expo Center Drive (southwest corner of I-96 and Novi Road). Call (248) 346-5600 for more information.

12-17 Month Certificate of Deposit.	12-17 Months
<b>3.50%</b> Annual Percentage Yield*	<b>3.50% APY</b>
Flagstar Bank	2.85% APY
Fifth Third Bank	2.60% APY
Bank One	2.60% APY
National City	2.60% APY
Comerica Bank	2.50% APY

APYs are effective as of 3/1/05. APY information provided by Informa Research Services. Competitors' minimum deposits and terms may vary.

**Flagstar gives you the Freedom.**

\*Certificates of Deposit: Annual Percentage Yield (APY) of 3.50% is effective as of 3/1/05 on a 12-17 month certificate of deposit. Minimum opening balance requirement is \$500 and maximum deposit is \$100,000. Deposits are allowed only on the maturity date or during the grace period. Penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. Interest compounded quarterly. Rates are effective for a limited time only and subject to change without notice. Not available for public units. \*Customer must have an active personal checking account to qualify for the Best Rate Guarantee. Flagstar will guarantee qualified customers the best rate published at any FDIC insured institution in the county when their Flagstar banking center is located. Customer must provide evidence of the best rate prior to CD account opening. Please contact your local Flagstar branch for more information. Certain restrictions may apply.

For a banking center near you and banking times, call (800) 642-0039

Member FDIC www.flagstar.com

**BRIGHTON CHRYSLER DODGE-JEEP**  
 "Home of the Real Deal"

**Spring Sales Event**  
**TENT SALE**

**6 Days to Deal**  
 March 21st - 26th  
 Extended Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9am-8pm  
 Sat. 9am-3pm

**2005 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY LX**  
 A/C, AT, adjustable pedals, SIR, 251076  
**PURCHASE \$18,995\*\***

**Save Thousands on ALL Mini Vans and Trucks In Stock!**

**2004 DODGE STRATUS COUPE**  
 Leather, chrome wheels, SIR, 42178  
**PURCHASE \$17,595\*\***

**2005 DODGE DAKOTA QUAD CAB 4x4**  
 AT, A/C, toy group  
**LEASE \$229/month**

**2005 DODGE RAM 1500 QUAD CAB 4x4**  
 AT, A/C, Hemi  
**LEASE \$279/month**

**BRIGHTON CHRYSLER DODGE-JEEP**  
 9827 E. Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
**810-229-4100**

**WE WILL MATCH OR BEAT ANY COMPETITOR'S PRICE!**

\*All leases are closed and leases 12k per year. Must qualify for lease loyalty and all other rebates that apply. Employee pricing plus tax, title & destination. \$1,999 due at signing. \*\*Purchase prices are employee purchases, plus tax, title, and destination. All rebates to dealer. Picture may not represent actual vehicles, must take delivery out of stock, prior sales void. With approved qualified credit with CFC. Pricing is based on Chrysler Employee Sponsorship. Sale ends 3-28-05.



**Earning recognition**

Sarah Celesti and Laura Hirschfeld were given Mid American Pom Scholarships recently. The sport changed both athletes and earning a scholarship was just icing on the cake for them.

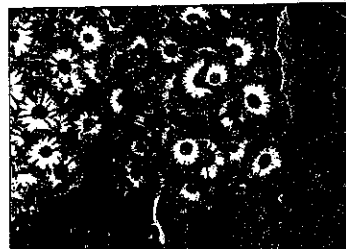
— Page 2B



**Pom ends season**

The Novi pom team finished the season with a third-place finish in the state. They had a highly successful year.

— Page 3B



**Regional Marketplace**

If winter has lingered just a little too long, a trip to Raney's Plants, Inc., should convince you that spring is on the way. Their bright sunny greenhouses are a sure sign of warmer days to come. The Raney family has been working hard all winter to bring customers hundreds of flats filled with flower and vegetable plants.

— Page 4B

**SPORTS**

**Quick Hits**

**NEXT LEVEL Athletes**

**Like father, like sons**

Anyone who follows wrestling in Novi knows about the Churella family. It's as though they were born with one purpose — to twist opponents into pretzel shapes and beat them on the wrestling mat.

The eldest Churella, Mark, was an All-American wrestler at the University of Michigan. His two sons, Ryan and Josh, aren't far behind. Just recently at the NCAA wrestling tournament, Josh took eighth place in the country for 141-pound wrestlers.

Ryan did even better, making a splash with a fourth-place finish in the country in the 161-pound weight class.

The apple, it appears, doesn't fall far from the Churella tree.

**Hometown recognition**

Who says you can never go home? At the very least, you can be written about in your hometown newspaper.

Novi volleyball coach Julie Fisette recently answered the phone and found the South Bend Tribune on the other end all the way from Indiana.



They wanted to talk about her program, what she does to motivate her kids and, of course, they wanted to reminisce about the good-old days when Fisette was a part of a team that won the state title.

Hopefully Fisette clipped a copy to hang on the refrigerator next to her children's artwork. She's not often the focus of articles these days — especially with the way her team drew in all the attention with their historical season. It was a year for the history books for her Wildcat volleyball team and a year for the scrapbook for Fisette.

**Springing into action**

So what teams are looking for a KVC 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 come out.



Complete schedules and previews will be available for all of the varsity teams at Novi High School.

**Did you know?**

Since it's March Madness and everyone is getting frustrated with their brackets and watching their championship team get knocked out in the early rounds, here's a little bit of trivia-show style information to help feed your basketball-hungry brain. Wow your friends at the next big get-together.

The fewest games that had to be played to reach 100 wins by a coach at one school in NCAA Division I history is 110.

The school was St. John's University and the coach was James Freeman.

**FROM BOY TO MAN**



Courtesy Photo

Novi graduate A.J. Rowe with a machine gun on duty in Iraq.

**Rowe forced to grow up in midst of war in Iraq**

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Novi graduate and former athletic star A.J. Rowe barely had time to knock the dust of his fatigues from his first tour in Iraq when he was told his battalion, the 2nd Battalion, First Marines, was headed back.

This time, they were going to Fallujah.

"At that point it was going through my mind that I wasn't coming home," said Rowe, who graduated in 2000 and signed up for the United States Marine Corps in April of 2001. "I figured I'd go out there and do what I can do and hopefully make it home."

The lance corporal quickly found out things were as dire as he had heard them to be. The Army's 82nd Airborne Division was pulling out of Fallujah. The Marines were going in as replacements to take over the city.

"The fighting, said Rowe, was intense. He was caught in fire-fights, defending himself and the members of his company. Not all of them were destined to come home.

"Out of our battalion, we had 27 dead when we came back," Rowe said. "Our company lost three people. I had a couple buddies that were shot in the head and survived. It was insane at times."

He said training kicked in when needed, allowing him to act on instinct to survive. He ducked and covered when bombs exploded. He fought back against those seeking to kill him and bullets whizzed

past him. Not all of it was like the drills though. Firing a rifle in training wasn't the same as a live battle. Raising his weapon against someone that was his enemy is something that still sits vividly in his mind.

"It's a lot different," he said. "It's the biggest rush of your life, or at least the biggest I'll probably ever feel. It's crazy. You're actually shooting at someone that's trying to kill you. They're going to kill you or you're going to kill them."

Rowe said he's one of the lucky ones. He came home. Despite what is said about soldiers, he said he's not a hero. "I don't look at myself as a hero," said Rowe before pointing out the men who didn't come back. "I look up to them. I feel sorry for their friends and their families that don't get to see them any more. I'm not a hero. They are. I was just doing my job, doing what I get paid to do."

**Once a Marine, always a Marine**

Rowe never expected to step into the service of the United States.

As a senior at Novi High School, he was the talk of the town. Against Brighton in a baseball game he threw 20 strikeouts, making him one of the few prep pitchers in the state to ever do it. When the season came to a close and the Major League Baseball teams started selecting in the draft, it was at his house the phone rang. "It was someone from the

(Milwaukee) Brewers who said they were sending a scout to talk to me at my house," he said. "Basically they drafted me and wanted to follow me around for a year to see what I could do."

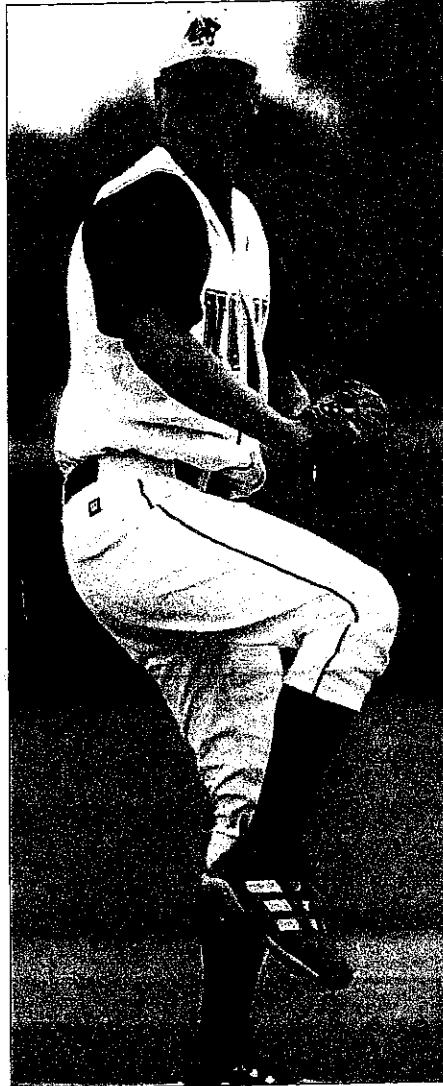
The Major League hopeful jumped at the chance to strut his stuff, joining the first college program that showed interest — Macomb Community College. There, he didn't do as well as he would have hoped.

"I went to college for half a semester and got into a bit of trouble," he said. "I decided to sign up for the Marines. Then September 11 happened."

Rowe barely had time to take in everything that was happening to the country when he found out he was being sent to boot camp at Parris Island in South Carolina earlier than he expected.

"They told us when we got there that we were pretty much all going to war," he said. "They said the buddies to the left and the right of you are going to die if you don't put out."

From a young man looking to play professional baseball to a Marine Corps recruit, Rowe suddenly found himself being forced to grow up in a hurry. "You start growing up right away when you hit the Marine Corps," he said. "But it wasn't until I was over there that I matured the most. I was sitting in Kuwait waiting for the order to go into Iraq and thinking about college. I couldn't believe what I had done and what an idiot I had been."



File Photo by JOHN HEIDER

A.J. Rowe pitches during a district game in the spring of 2000. He was later drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers.

**The realities of war**

As a Marine, Rowe found himself on the front lines of the United States' assault. He fought the enemies of his country. He did what he had to do to survive.

When he saw the newspapers and the television, the media was always saying the people that were killed in the fighting were innocent bystanders.

"The news everyone here was getting was a pretty one-sided ordeal," said Rowe. "They were saying there were civilian casualties and that we were the ones killing them. Those were the same people we were fighting. The weapons they were carrying were gone by the time the reporters came into the area because their buddies came back and got them. It made us look like the bad guys."

He did his best to ignore the news reports, as did the other members of his battalion. They knew what had went on and who they had been fighting.

"At the same time it made me mad," he said. "But with me being there, I knew what was right and what was wrong. After

a while I just let the news go in one ear and out the other."

His mother, Lynn, was in Novi hearing all of the reports on the news channels. When she got the word her son was coming home, she made a point of going right out to see him.

It was an emotional moment for Rowe.

"When you see your family, tears start coming out a bit," he said. "It's amazing how fast you get back from there into the States. It just hits you all at once. You're like 'Oh my God, I'm home.'"

The Marine, who is scheduled to get out of the service in September, said he still hasn't been able to come completely out of the state of mind he was in while serving in Iraq.

"I've still got the edge," he said. "It's not as bad as it used to be but I don't like being in large crowds still and I still get the jumps, especially with loud noises."

And then there are the nightmares, which were nightly when he returned from the war.

Continued on 2B

**"It's crazy. You're actually shooting at someone that's trying to kill you. They're going to kill you or you're going to kill them."**

**A.J. Rowe**  
Novi graduate and United States Marine



A.J. Rowe (right) stands next to an Iraqi soldier trained to fight with U.S. forces.

## Rowe hoping to play baseball again

**Continued from 1B**

Most of what wakes him up in the middle of the night are the things he still won't talk about. "There are things I still haven't told my mom about yet," he said. "Those are the things you can only talk about with the guys who were there with you. That's the only way you can really get it off your chest."

The Novi graduate isn't bitter about being sent to war. He's a supporter of President George W. Bush to this day and isn't shy about noting he voted for him in the last election.

"I support him and his decisions 100 percent," he said. "I feel we had to go to Iraq or Iraq, and the terrorists were going to come to us. Now, Iraq is going to have its freedom. We did the right thing."

**Six more months**

Rowe has big plans when he returns to Novi following his release from the Marine Corps. He's going to hurry home, take a deep breath and adjust back to civilian life.

Beyond that, his eyes are locked firmly on the game that he once excelled at as a kid in high school.

"I'd like to get back to the diamond," he said. "I'm not going to rush into anything. If I can even play baseball again I'll be happy. I don't even have to make it to the big show."

The former Wildcat said he plans on looking up his former coach, current head Novi base-

ball coach Rick Green, and getting back into playing shape. While in Iraq, he made a point of throwing the baseball every day. He still throws four solid pitches and is around his top speed of an upper-80-miles-per-hour fastball.

"I still have it," he said with a laugh. "I'm just going to work at getting back in the best shape I can be in. I'll work out and see what happens after that."

Even baseball's recent steroid scandal can't deter the life-long fan of the game. He said he's disappointed over the scandal but doesn't think it will change the way the fans see the game. He, for one, will still be cheering on his favorite squad.

"You've got to love the home team," he said. "It's the Tigers for me."

He enjoys reminiscing about the days of high school baseball. His teammates, his coaches and the year they had — making a run to the state quarterfinals — are things he'll always look back on all of it with fond memories.

"It was a great time," he said. "The only thing I regret is that we didn't win the state championship."

If Rowe has his way, he'll have plenty more championships to make a run at. Even a stint in the Marines and two deployments in Iraq couldn't keep him from trying to reach his dreams of playing professional baseball.

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

## Novi pom pon boasts two Mid American scholarship recipients

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

For Novi seniors Laura Hirshfield and Sarah Celeski, pom pon has been as much of their lives over the past four years as their families have. Their dedication to the sport — which begins in July and ends in March — is paying off.

Both Celeski and Hirshfield were recently awarded a Mid American Pom Pon 2005 scholarship worth \$500 to put toward their college educations.

"I was so excited," said Hirshfield. "I knew there were a lot of girls applying and I never expected I'd be one of the ones chosen."

Hirshfield will apply her scholarship toward the engineering school at the University of Michigan. Celeski will be a little further north, studying business at Michigan State University.

"Pom gave me a second family for four years," Celeski said. "During the season I spend more time with the team that I do with my family. You become friends with each other and you become family. It's going to be really hard to say good-bye."

But good-bye it must be. Celeski and Hirshfield, along with four other seniors, will leave a team they helped lead to a third-place finish in the state.

They leave a team they've been a part of for four strong years. Neither scholarship winner had anything but good things to say about their pom squad. Both said they'll miss the competition, the coaches and their friends.

"My best friends are on the team," said Hirshfield. Following the state finals competition, even as they were leaving the competition floor, it hit the seniors their careers were through.

"All the seniors came off the floor crying," said Celeski. "At the state competition we were all happy that we finished third but all the seniors were sad because it was the last time we'd be doing pom."

The season is over and the awards were handed out. For Hirshfield and Celeski, pom ended up paying them in the end. But, it was no where near what they had already taken away from the sport.

"It changed me as a person," said Hirshfield. "I was shy before I came to the high school. Thanks to pom I'm more outgoing. I handled situations differently because of that and I think it was better for the team and it was better for myself too."

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



Novi pom seniors Sarah Celeski (left) and Laura Hirshfield earned Mid American pom scholarships recently.

Photo by ART HIRSHFIELD

# Grand Champs! 2nd 3rd

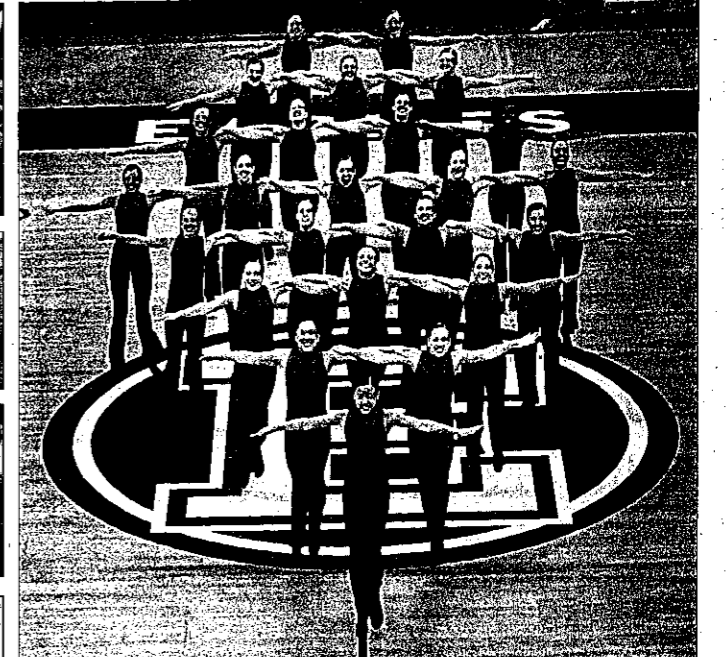
Summer Pom Pon Camp Kick Competition State Finals Competition

## Novi pom pon ends great season

Photos by ART HIRSHFIELD



ABOVE LEFT: The Novi pom coaches hug after the team took third at states; Top RIGHT AND DOWN: Novi pom seniors dance in the middle of a circle of girls prior to a competition; The seniors wave good-bye from the bus taking them to camp; The Wildcats check their scores at a competition; A pom girl takes a moment to grab a bite to eat.



ABOVE: Novi pom participates in the kick competition; BELOW: Sarah Celeski (left) and Audrey Oh try to get passerbys to stop for the team's car wash.



## Shop Sugarloaf Style



ABOVE: The pom girls are gathered at the team's annual picnic. BELOW LEFT: Two Wildcats help each other apply their make-up. BELOW RIGHT: Boys from Novi participate in the annual guy/girl routine at Novi High School.

**berniemac ashtonkutcher**

Some in-laws were made to be broken.

**guesswho**

starts friday, march 25

AMC FORUM 30 734-454-6863  
AMC LIVONIA 20 734-454-6863  
BIRMINGHAM 8 248-644-6444  
M/JR SOUTHGATE 20 734-284-3456

**"SIDE SPLITTINGLY FUNNY."**  
SANDRA BULLOCK'S MORE HILARIOUS AND LOVABLE THAN EVER!  
**Sandra Bullock miss Congeniality 2**  
Armed and Fabulous

PG-13

IN THEATRES THIS THURSDAY, MARCH 24

**"A Fiercely Funny Human Comedy."**  
"One of the most absorbing, compelling family dramas since 'Terms of Endearment'"  
**"Two Big Thumbs Up."**  
Joan Allen Kevin Costner  
**the upside of anger**

AMC FORUM 30 734-454-6863  
AMC LIVONIA 20 734-454-6863  
BIRMINGHAM 8 248-644-6444  
M/JR SOUTHGATE 20 734-284-3456

**"A DAZZLING FILM!"**  
**"CLEVER!" "THRILLING!"**  
**"A MASTERPIECE!"**  
**ICE AGE Robots**

From the Creators of ICE AGE

NOW PLAYING

**"millions"**

A FAMILY FILM OF LIMITLESS IMAGINATION AND SURPRISING JOY... ABOUT REAL IDEAS, REAL ISSUES AND REAL KIDS. LIKE ALL GREAT FAMILY MOVIES, IT PLAYS EQUALLY WELL FOR ADULTS. ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR.

Now Playing Exclusively in IMAX

**Back to Basics**

Professional Skating Instruction

**Back To Basics HOCKEY SCHOOL**  
For Mites & Squirts

Spring Session Information:  
8 week course offered at Kensington Valley Ice House. Wednesdays April 6th through May 25th, 5:30pm-6:20pm. Cost of session: \$200

For more registration information, visit us on the web: [www.basicskating.com](http://www.basicskating.com), or email us at [backtobasics@michiganhockey.net](mailto:backtobasics@michiganhockey.net)

**Sugarloaf Art Fair**

300 Craft Designers & Fine Artists  
April 15, 16, 17, 2005  
NOVI EXPO CENTER  
NOVI, MI  
Daily Adult Admission \$7.00  
Children Under 12 FREE  
Parking FREE - Compliments of Sugarloaf!  
Friday & Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-5

• Custom clothing  
• One-of-a-kind furnishings  
• Original oils & framed prints  
• Award-winning photography  
• Fine & fun jewelry  
• Pre-packaged gourmet food  
• Personal attention  
• High-quality materials  
• Unusual, original designs  
• Fine workmanship  
• Knowledgeable assistance  
• Incredible selections  
• And so much more!

FOR DISCOUNT ADMISSION COUPONS: Print them from our website at [www.SugarloafCrafts.com](http://www.SugarloafCrafts.com)  
Call 800-210-9900

# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Thursday, March 24, 2005

Page 4B

## Could somebody in Washington be listening?

There probably are few American small-business owners who could correctly identify the federal group whose primary job is to keep the president of the United States updated on the activities of government such as management, spending, interagency cooperation and work performance. But countless small-business owners, especially manufacturers, may soon be doffing their hats to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for doing its job.

Many of the greatest problems small businesses face are government-related, particularly something they call "unreasonable government regulation." The problem ranked ninth out of 75 headaches listed in the National Federation of Independent Business Research Foundation's most-recent quadrennial survey, "Small Business Problems and Priorities."

Jack Faris

Business Research Foundation's most-recent quadrennial survey, "Small Business Problems and Priorities."

Forty-four percent of small employers who responded to an NFIB poll on coping with regulation termed the problem either "very serious" or "somewhat serious." More than one-fourth said the extra paperwork deemed necessary was the primary hassle; 22 percent gave the top vote to difficulty understanding what was needed to comply. Nearly half — 49 percent — considered the federal government the main culprit of their regulatory woes.

For many years, small-business owners just took it for granted that no one in Washington, D.C. was listening to their concerns about the regulatory burden. Each year, some 150 new proposed rules fluttered down from the nation's capital. And each year, small firms collectively coughed up more than \$100 million to comply with new rules.

But last year, OMB launched an effort to do something about the regulatory burden on the manufacturing sector. In February, the office announced it would seek public nominations of rules and guidance documents that could be reformed to ease some of those regulations.

By December, the office collected and sent to major federal departments such as Treasury, Agriculture, Environmental Protection, Labor, and Health and Human Services nearly 200 regulations that were identified as candidates for reform by more than 40 industry and non-profit organizations. The Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy compiled a list of 27 rules considered small-business priorities. Of the rules submitted, some 76 were given the green light for consideration and action by the Bush Administration, which will give the federal agencies their marching orders to modernize the regulations within specific timetables.

John D. Graham, who heads the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs within OMB, said these nominations would get priority action "to ease the excessive burden for the manufacturing industry while maintaining health, safety and environmental protections for the public."

What's more, the agency has released a draft report to Congress on the costs and benefits of federal rules enacted over the past decade. While this may not be cause for immediate celebration, the report could be an eye-opener for legislators who fail to consider the negative impact on small-business growth and job creation that ill-conceived regulations cause.

At the very least, OMB's action appears to be a clear indication that somebody in Washington, D.C. is listening to the concerns of American small businesses.

Jack Faris is president of NFIB (the National Federation of Independent Business), the nation's largest small-business advocacy group. A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB represents the consensus views of its 600,000 members in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals. More information is available on-line at [www.NFIB.com](http://www.NFIB.com).

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

ADVERTORIAL



Photo by Hal Gould

Raney's Greenhouse offers a full palette of colorful flowers and plants to put a little spring into your landscaping plans.

## Raney's Plants, Inc.

By Annetto Jaworski  
SPECIAL WRITER

If winter has lingered just a little too long, a trip to Raney's Plants, Inc., should convince you that spring is on the way. Their bright sunny greenhouses are a sure sign of warmer days to come. The Raney family has been working hard all winter to bring customers hundreds of flats filled with flower and vegetable plants.

"I've rooted over 40,000 cuttings of annuals to be ready and 7,000 geraniums. We have over 8,000 baskets planted," said President Tony Raney.

Soon their greenhouses will be filled with traditional favorites like impatiens, petunias, begonias and geraniums in every vivid color of the rainbow. Look for new varieties of coleus and petilla, trailing snapdragons and callibachoa. They're also a great source for the unique, carrying the area's widest varieties of plants.

Raney says their product speaks for itself. The high quality of their merchandise is one of the main reasons people come to South Lyon from surrounding areas to fill their nursery orders.

"It's a greenhouse. We have a higher quality product because we raise it here and sell it here."

Brothers Tony and Mike Raney agree their agricultural background is the reason for their high standards. Raney's starts all of their annuals and perennials from cuttings or seeds in their own greenhouses.

"Our biggest advertisement is the customers that come in, take their plants home and their neighbors and ask, 'Where did you get those, because mine aren't growing like that?'" said Tony Raney.

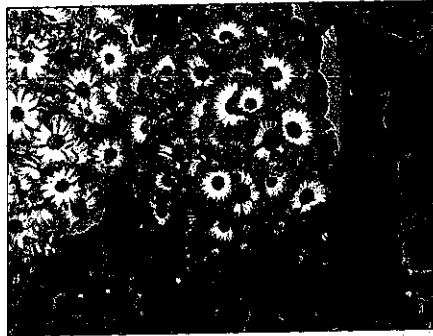


Photo by Hal Gould

Soon their greenhouses will be filled with traditional favorites like impatiens, petunias, begonias and geraniums in every vivid color of the rainbow.

The staff includes three master gardeners ready to assist customers. They're happy to share their expertise. Raney explains they are constantly exploring new varieties and plants. One of their favorite places to research includes the trial gardens at Michigan State. Here they select products they believe will grow well in this area's climate. This helps to ensure their customer's success.

"I take it home personally and see. We try all of these ourselves. If it works out well, we'll offer more next year."

In addition to plants, they carry a wide variety of other gifts. There are many unique home decor items, including life-like silks and gift certificates that allow the gardener to make their own selection.

"When they (Raney's) go to the Chicago trade shows, they get things that you don't find everywhere," said associate, Lori Vogel.

Customers will always find fun seasonal merchandise to celebrate holidays or special events like Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day or Thanksgiving. When the growing season is further along in May, Raney's will offer an even larger selection, including hanging baskets and combination pots in a wide variety of shapes and sizes for Mother's Day. They're proud of their diverse offering of combination pots.

Raney's Plants, Inc. is a family business founded by Ray Raney, who began seedlings for their vegetable gardens like tomatoes, melons and cucumbers. He is still an active part of the business today. Other family members include brothers; Mike Raney, who is vice-president, and Paul Raney, as well as sisters Ann Brown and Mary Sue Bennett. They're represented in local organizations like Metro Detroit Flower Growers Association where Tony is

### WHY GARDEN?

- Aside from the obvious beauty of flowers and enjoying fresh vegetables, many studies show the positive health benefits of gardening.
- Get in touch with nature.
- It can even be done where there's limited space. Raney's staff can guide you to varieties that are designed specially for container gardening.

### Easter

Even if the weather doesn't cooperate this Easter, you can still add a ray of sunshine to someone's day with a gift of flowers. Raney's makes certain all their florals for the holiday are special and ready for gift giving. Look for all the traditional favorites. Bulbs will be in full bloom including lilies, hydrangeas, tulips, hyacinths and daffodils adding fragrance and beauty. Of course, a bouquet of fresh cut flowers is always available. Or try colorful blooms such as cineraria and cyclamen in pots for a touch of spring indoors.

"We'll design a gift, it's a nice presentation, whether it'll be a basket with grass or maybe a bow," said Lori Vogel of Raney's. "Everything is prepared so that when you present it, it will be a gift. There will be lots to pick from."

When giving bulbs don't forget, once they're done blooming they can be planted in flowerbeds where they be enjoyed year after year, she reminds. "It's the gift that keeps on giving."

President, and Vice-President of the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council.

If you're a little behind schedule planting, don't worry, gardens and flowers planted in June do amazingly well, they assure.

"The ground is nice and warm, the sun is more intense and the days are longer. All this is conducive to growth, although any time after Mother's Day should be okay," said Tony Raney.

Once the growing season begins, stock can go quickly, so if you can't find something you're looking for, please ask; there may be more flats in the greenhouse. If not, more may be

more available in a week or so. Customers are welcome to enjoy browsing the rows of plants for inspiration, but even on busy weekends Raney's staff makes every to handle orders as quickly as possible.

For your convenience they carry all your gardening needs and potting supplies. For those who prefer natural pesticides, they carry organic insecticides and fungicides.

"We're farmers and we know about all the stuff they used years ago," he added.

Raney's is conveniently located at 57707 Ten Mile near Milford Road. Call (248) 437-2856.



Gift Certificates Available

## RANEY'S

GREENHOUSE AND GIFTS

Best Variety of Quality Blooming Easter Plants  
"It's Spring inside Raney's"

Unique home decorating ideas, which includes hard to find life-like silks. Pottery, vases and tropical plants to brighten your home.

57707 Ten Mile Rd.

Just West of Milford in South Lyon (248) 437-2856

Don't Forget Easter - March 27th

