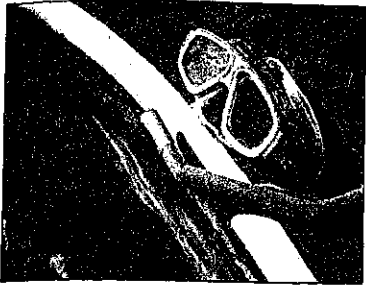


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## NOVI WEEKEND PLANNER



**• FRIDAY**  
Think spring at the Back Yard Pool and Spa Show beginning 3 p.m. today through 6 p.m. Sunday at the Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave. This is the show if you are interested in swimming pools and outdoor entertainment. Admission is \$8 for adults and parking is \$5.

**• SATURDAY**  
Hop on over and visit the East Bunny at the Twelve Oaks Mall Central Park Garden. The garden is located in the lower level, center court. Photos are available from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. for a fee.

**• SUNDAY**  
Looking to get out and enjoy the weather? A complete list of Novi parks and facilities, including a map of local trails for walking and biking, may be found by visiting [www.CityofNovi.org](http://www.CityofNovi.org).

**• My Novi Bulletin Board**  
Novi's official events calendar. Page 13A

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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER CELEBRATING ITS 51ST YEAR SERVING NOVI AND THE LAKES AREA

# Novi News



PAGE 1B

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2007

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VOLUME 51 #43 50 CENTS

# ACCUSED KILLER: TO TRIAL

## The Novi Big Seven

Confirmed construction projects coming this year

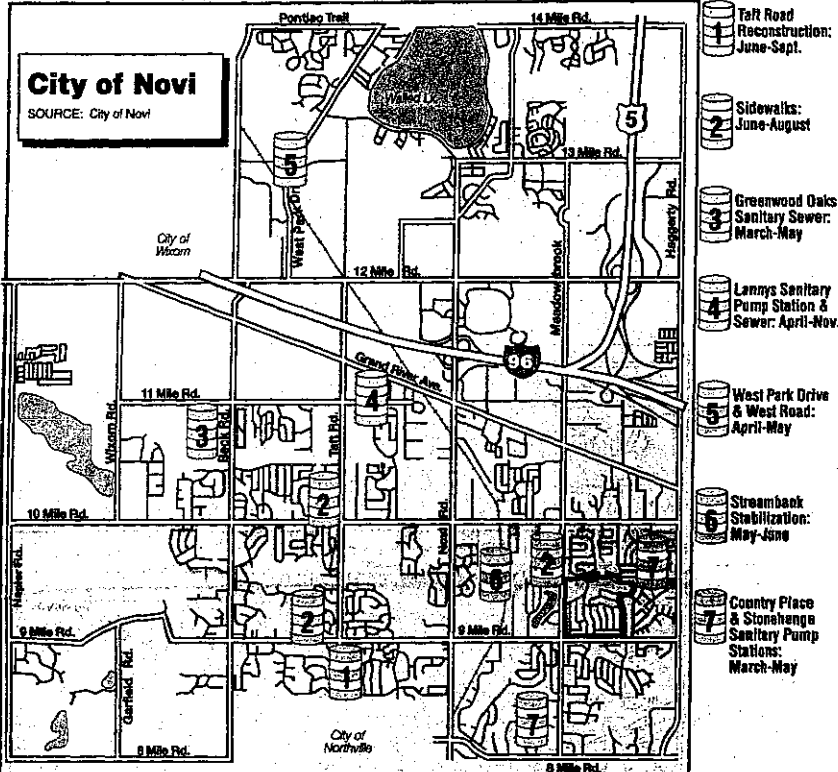


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Dan Pittao enters the courtroom of 52-1 District Court Judge Brian MacKenzie at his pre-trial exam. He's charged with murdering his wife, Tamara.

**■ Ruling comes after two days of dramatic testimony**

By Greg Migliore  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Accused killer Daniel Pittao was bound over for trial after two days of emotionally charged testimony last week that illustrated the grisly murder of his estranged wife, Tamara, and the years of abuse prosecutors said she suffered at his hands.

Proceedings could begin in three to four months in Oakland County Circuit Court. During the hearing, prosecutors laid out a more-than-20-year pattern of abusive behavior by Pittao against his first wife, son and Tamara. They argued the violent acts — which frequently

**STORY CHAT**  
What do you think? Tell us [WWW.NOVINews.COM](http://WWW.NOVINews.COM).

involved punching to the head — were consistent with the manner of her death.

Tamara was found murdered on Thanksgiving Day 1997 in her Novi apartment. She had sustained several blows to the head, her throat was slit and she was suffocated, said Dr. Kanu Virani, an Oakland County medical examiner who performed the autopsy. The Pittaos were about to divorce at the time of her death and were living separately.

Pittao, of Highland Township, was charged with open murder in January. He pleaded not guilty and is being held without bond in the Oakland County Jail. Clad in a green suit, he sat emotionless during the hearing, occasionally scribbling notes and whispering with his lawyers.

continued on page 2

## Road construction? It must be spring

**■ City braces for beginning of construction season**

By Victoria Mitchell  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Spring is in the air, or at least officially marked on the calendar this week. And along with thoughts of

picnics, bike rides and gardening comes the smell of tar and the sight of orange barrels. Yes, it is construction season again along with other road related projects.

"This year's season is on par with previous years," said Rob Hayes, City of Novi engineer.

Hayes said City Council has approved seven road construction projects totaling near \$4

continued on page 5

## BOND SECURITY: Protecting what matters most

Fourth in a series of articles addressing the specific areas of the 2007 Novi School Bond Issue

By Renee Gates  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Stacy Abraham never wants to think about what she could have done to protect her son and daughter.

She never wants to ask the question, "Why didn't we do something?" after the fact.

Abraham has two children at Novi High School.

"The security issue is really important to me," she said. "Of course violence is not going to go away, of course kids have to be pro-

protected." The Novi Community School District wants to take more preventive efforts in ensuring the safety of its 6,320 students. The remaining funds of the school bond issue will spend \$1.39 million to improve building security systems.

Bond funds will add exterior cameras to all district buildings, incorporate technology for keyless staff entry and connect all exterior doors to a network that will enable them to automatically lock and unlock from a central location.

"It's really something that is probably a little out in front, but there are many districts that are looking at it right now," said Gail Credit, director of finance for Novi

**2007 NOVI SCHOOL BOND**  
**\$26.4M**  
**VOTE MAY 8**

Community Schools.

Over half of the bond security funds will go toward equipping the district's two largest campuses: Novi Middle School with 1,040 students, and Novi High School with 1,929.

### Preventative measures

"It's just like keeping a fire extinguisher in your house," said Milan Obrenovich, Novi Middle School principal.

"You hope you never need it, hope you never have to use it, it's a preventive thing," he said.

"If something did happen in your building, if you had one incident happen in the school, you'd better believe me, all of the sudden you'd have all kinds of these security things going into place. But why wait until then?"

The middle school has no cameras but uses hall monitors to check the doors in the building, Obrenovich said. Doors are locked and checked manually.

"There's no way to know if they're unlocked during the day," he said. "We'll find them open where people have gone out and didn't check to make sure it was closed."

"But with this system it would lock the front door, lock everything automatically and you know it's locked. If it's not locked, you would probably have something in place telling you."

For having that sense of security, Obrenovich said the district wouldn't be paying an exorbitant price.

"I think if you look at the number of kids involved, staff and

continued on page 3

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### Key Players

Who's Who in the pre-trial exam of Daniel Pittao

#### Daniel Pittao

- Is accused of the 1997 murder of his estranged wife, Tamara
- Pleaded not guilty



#### Tamara Pittao

- 30-year-old cosmetic saleswoman
- Found dead in her Novi apartment in 1997 on Thanksgiving Day
- Had one daughter, who was 2 years old at the time
- Was about to divorce her estranged husband, Daniel

#### Gregory Townsend

- Oakland County assistant prosecutor
- One of the top legal minds in the county
- Has been involved in several high-profile cases

#### Gregory Rohli

- Pittao's defense attorney
- Plans to introduce a theory that the murder was committed at a different time
- Said Pittao has an alibi

#### Connie Fraser

- Pittao's first wife
- Testified of abusive acts by Pittao

#### Christopher Pittao

- 20-something son of Fraser and Pittao
- Testified of abusive acts by Pittao
- Hadn't seen his father in years until hearings last week

#### Lt. Victor Lauria

- Novi police general services division commander
- Has worked on the investigation since the beginning, along with Det. Todd Anger

#### David Jerome

- Witness
- Said he saw a man who looked like Pittao at Tamara's apartment complex around the time investigators believe she was murdered
- Flew in from Hawaii to testify

— Compiled by Novi News Staff Writer Greg Migliore

## Ruling comes after two days of dramatic testimony

continued from front

A 2006 law change that allows previous acts of domestic violence, as well as inconsistent statements made by Pittao about his wife's death when he initially tried to collect on a life insurance policy, helped authorities bring the charges.

After the proceedings, Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Gregory Townsend said he was pleased with Judge Brian MacKenzie's ruling.

"I thought it went very well," Townsend said. "We're very satisfied."

He also said prosecutors plan to unveil more evidence at the trial.

Defense attorney Gregory Rohli said he would dispute the time of Tamara's death at the trial — and said Pittao has an alibi for when he believes the murder took place. He also said there is no forensic evidence linking Pittao to the crime.

"Here's the bottom line: The key is the time of death," Rohli said.

Rohli also said he will try to exclude the prior acts of domestic violence. He did not put on any witnesses during the hearing, which is called a pre-trial exam. During these proceedings, the burden of proof is on the prosecutor to show that a crime was committed and there is a probable cause to believe the defendant is responsible, requiring a full trial.

### Dramatic hearing

The proceedings in 52-1 District Court, were joined with the family and friends of the defendant and victim. Authorities also increased security, and police officers ringed the courtroom and stood in the aisle.

More than 10 witnesses took the stand against Pittao, most initially, his first wife, Connie Fraser, and their son, Christopher Pittao, who testified of abusive acts. Fraser recounted an occasion where he punched her, knocking her down a flight of stairs, while Christopher, who is now in his 30s, told of being struck after he was slow to follow his father's order to take out the trash when he was younger. That incident resulted in a domestic abuse charge against Pittao, who was acquitted.

Both Fraser and Christopher broke down sobbing during questioning, and MacKenzie had to recess the proceedings.

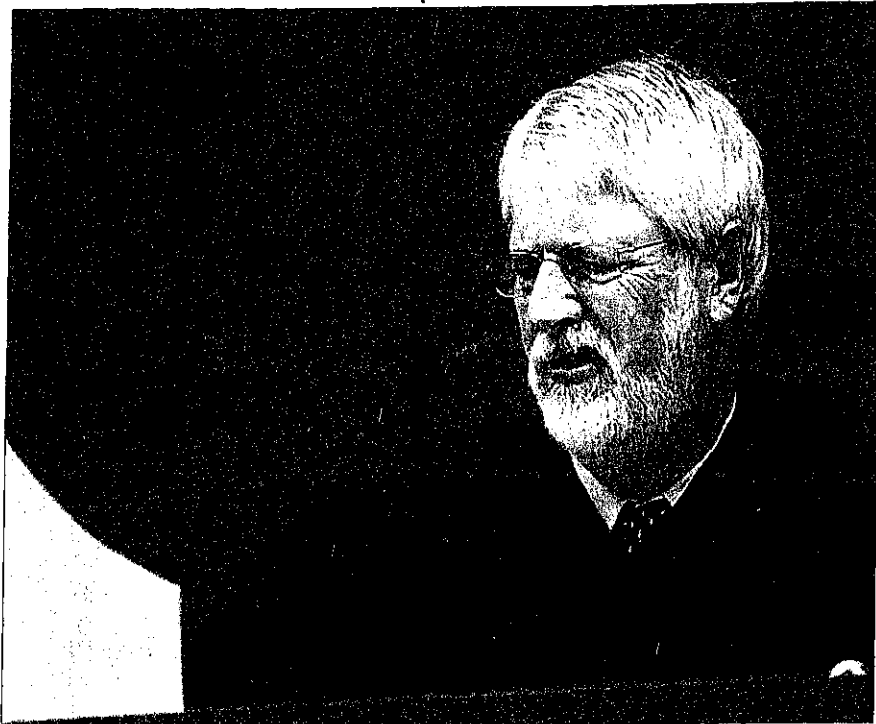
Rohli argued the acts were years ago and not relevant.

Tamara's close friend and former co-worker, Wendy Sue Smither, also testified of numerous threats Pittao made to kill Tamara.

On more than one occasion, he said, "I will kill you before I let you leave me," Smither testified.

Prosecutors also relied on statements of David Jerome, who said he saw a man who looked like Pittao around the dumpsters of Tamara's apartment complex about the time authorities believe she was killed. Jerome lived in the complex in 1997. He flew in from Hawaii to testify.

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or gmigliore@gannett.com.



52-1 District Court Judge Brian MacKenzie grimaces as he looks at an evidence photo of the cut throat of Tamara Pittao, who died violently in November of 1997. MacKenzie presided last week at the pre-trial exam of her husband, Dan Pittao, who was arrested by the Novi Police Department earlier this year.

### Recap

Daniel Pittao, of Highland Township was bound over for trial last week after a two-day preliminary exam. He is charged with the 1997 slaying of his estranged wife, Tamara.

He pleaded not guilty and is being held without bond in the Oakland County Jail.

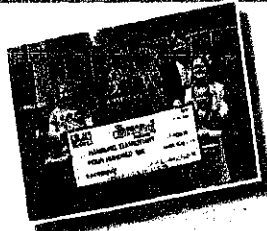
A trial could begin in three to four months.



Dr. Kanu Virani, the medical examiner who performed the autopsy on Tamara Pittao, testifies in court last Thursday in the pre-trial exam of Dan Pittao.

— By Novi News Staff Writer Greg Migliore

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT RETURNS

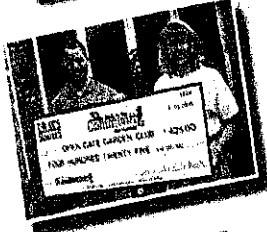


### \$775,000 donated by TSI

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Todd's Services (TSI) started out with a goal of \$1 million to be donated. With such a huge response from organizations in need, TSI quickly increased the amount to \$2 million. "We just did not realize there were so many non-profit organizations in our area and definitely did not realize so many were in real need," says Kurt LaButte, one of the owners of Todd's Services, Inc.

Since late summer of 2005, TSI has donated \$775,000 to the community. Most participating organizations have received donations in the thousands of dollars. If you are not participating in their Give Back to the Community Program, you should contact TSI. (810) 231-2778.



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Memo: Todd & Kurt LaButte

### Frequently Asked Questions:

- Q. What percent of the jobs do you pay 3% on?  
A. 100%. For every job we complete we make a donation.
- Q. Why has the GBC Program been so successful?  
A. The GBC program is successful because our price guarantee assures each customer TSI will be their best value. If they are not, TSI will give the customer 10% of their bid in cash.
- Q. What is the best way I can inform the members of my organization about the Give Back to the Community Program?  
A. Talk about the program, let others know you are participating by distributing flyers or mailers for your organization. TSI will create custom flyers or mailers for you. The flyers can be mailed, e-mailed or distributed at meetings or events.
- Q. Is there a cost to participate? What if I need to have materials printed or mailed?  
A. NO, this program is free. TSI usually covers all the costs for printing and mailing. We try to make it very easy for the organizations.
- Q. Are you asking us to promote your company?  
A. Certainly. This program is another way the public can support local, non-profit organizations. You can feel very confident referring TSI. TSI has been Voted the Best Landscaping Company 7 Years in a Row, and TSI guarantees to be a customer's best value.

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Humane Society of Livingston County	44
UoM Comprehensive Cancer Center	40
LACASA	25
Cleaners Community Food Bank	20
Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer	32

\*maximum paid out per job \$500

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## Bond security: Protecting what matters most

continued from front

everyone else and your total budget, it's not a big percentage," he said.

### Feeling secure

"Everything that we do every day and all the measures we have in place right now are aimed at providing optimum safety for our students and staff," said Novi High School Principal John Lawrence.

"Does that preclude somebody from saying something wouldn't happen? Absolutely not."

The high school's current safety features include five trail monitors, two parking lot attendants, an armed Novi Police special resource officer and the teachers and staff that patrol hallways at different times in assigned areas.

"I feel right now we're doing everything we can to ensure safety for our students and staff," Lawrence said.

"All of our doors are locked during the day. The only two doors that are open are the two doors at the main entry points, and they are monitored."

"We ensure that all the extra doors are locked at all times. It's important to us that kids feel safe in the hallways every day."

Abraham thinks the safety measures currently employed at the high school are doing a good job, but she also thinks the new security measures would improve the high school's safety features.

"I don't think they are over-the-top measures at all," she said.

Renee Gates is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or by e-mail at rgates@gannett.com.



Students stream out of one of the more than 30 exits at Novi High School at the end of the day. Novi is looking to spend about \$1.3 million to improve security at the school.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

## BOND BREAKDOWN BUILDING SECURITY

### All Schools

- Monitoring of all exterior doors via door contacts
- Monitoring of key interior doors via door contacts
- Video monitoring of exterior/fields; Portions of interior
- Access Identification Card Technology
- Access to Ethernet
- 48 Hour battery back up

### Cost Estimates by Building

High School	433,000
Middle School	303,000
Novi Meadows	150,000
Parkview	75,000
Deerfield	75,000
Novi Woods	75,000
Orchard Hill	75,000
Village Oaks	75,000
Educational Services Building	40,000
Warehouse	35,000
Transportation	25,000
Preschool Building	25,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,386,000</b>

SOURCE: Novi Community School District

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# County pegs future Novi road project

■ 12 Mile Road included on list for future construction

By Victoria Mitchell  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

The Oakland County Federal Aid Committee recently approved nearly \$52 million in road project funding beginning in 2009, including a major Novi project.

The Road Commission for Oakland County public information officer, Craig Bryson, said the project will start in the 2011 fiscal year on 12 Mile

Road in the areas of Beck and Dixon and Novi and Wixom roads.

"We're going to widen that road from two lanes to five lanes, including constructing a bridge over the CSX railroad tracks," he said.

Bryson said the \$1.3 million dollars allocated for the project is for the design phase only, and additional money will need to be generated for construction in subsequent years.

"It's a pretty major project," he said.

Other projects are slated for communities including Farmington Hills, Southfield, Royal Oak and Troy.

The Oakland County Federal Aid Committee allocates federal

road funding to projects within Oakland County. Each year, committee members identify the projects that will receive the available federal road funds three years in the future.

This year marks the first year the committee selected projects for both three and four years into the future, 2010 and 2011, and also added funding for additional projects in 2009, all totaling \$57 million.

"Nearly \$52 million seems like a lot of money," said Brent Blair, RCOC managing director. "However, when you consider how much it costs these days to widen roads, and how great the needs are in Oakland County, this is really just a drop in the bucket."

"Over the next 10 years, we anticipate more than \$2 billion worth of road needs on RCOC roads and city and village streets."

Bryson said the amount of funding the county receives is determined primarily by the amount of money the federal government designates each

year.

He said the money is divided using a formula between the states and then between regions and counties within each state.

The Oakland County Federal Aid Committee reviews projects that are submitted by the road commission and cities and villages in the county.

Bryson said the projects are ranked using a "worst first" point system, giving the most points to projects doing the most to improve motorist safety and reduce traffic congestion.

Victoria Mitchell can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 122 or [venticell@gannett.com](mailto:venticell@gannett.com).

## And the informal survey says ...

During a city sponsored Homeowners Association Leaders Breakfast held earlier this year, attendees were given an informal survey and asked to identify areas of traffic concern.

The results including city comment are listed below:

### Ten Mile/Beck roads Intersection

City officials said this intersection will be improved by the addition of dedicated right turn lanes to northbound, southbound and eastbound legs of the intersection of Ten Mile and Beck Road, the extension of an existing westbound right turn lane, extension of an existing eastbound left turn lane and signal upgrades to include right turn arrows for all legs. This is slated to be a fiscal year 2007-08 project.

### Interstate 96 and Beck Road Interchange

City officials said operational and safety reviews by MDOT and RCOC are ongoing.

### Novi Road/Grand River Avenue Intersection

City officials said traffic at this intersection will be improved once construction of the northwest quadrant ring

road project (linking Fondra Drive/Novi Road and Grand River Avenue) is completed. This project is currently in the preliminary engineering phase and will potentially be designed and constructed in fiscal year 2007-08.

### Novi Road/CSX RR Crossing

City officials said unsafe conditions at this crossing will be addressed as follows: Short-term, OCDC and CSX received an order from MDOT to improve the approaches and crossing in Spring 2007. Long-term, Novi Road Link Project, consisting of a five-lane section and grade separation (bridge) over CSX crossing is slated for construction in fiscal year 2008-09.

### Ten Mile Road/CSX RR Crossing

City officials said they are not aware of adverse safety issues at the crossing reported to MDOT. No improvements are planned for this area.

### Ten Mile Road/Meadowbrook Road Intersection

City officials said there are no planned improvements for this intersection. They said the

intersection ranks 27th out of the 50 major high-crash intersections in Novi.

### Ten Mile Road/Haggerty Road Intersection

City officials said there are no planned improvements for this intersection. They said the intersection ranks ninth out of the 50 major high-crash intersections in Novi.

### Eight Mile Road/Haggerty Road Intersection

City officials said there are no planned improvements for this intersection. However, MDOT will be adding a dedicated right turn lane to the southbound Interstate 275 off-ramp along with signal upgrades in fiscal year 2008-10, which will improve traffic flow through the Eight Mile and Haggerty Road intersection.

### Beck Road/Eight Mile Road Intersection

City officials said in the short-term, ongoing coordination with RCOC to get this signal reconfigured into SCATS mode, which is slated to be completed this year. Long-term, addition of a dedicated right turn lane to southbound Beck Road at Eight Mile Road.

Source: City of Novi

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# MY NOVI COMMUTE

Thursday, March 22, 2007  
[www.novinews.com](http://www.novinews.com)  
fax: (248) 349-9832

■ City braces for beginning of construction season

continued from front page

million for this year.

Other projects are on the radar, he said, but await city council approval and inclusion in the upcoming fiscal year budget for the new year beginning July 1.

So far now, the big seven Novi construction projects for 2007 are:

### 1. Taft Road Reconstruction.

Beginning in June and scheduled through September, \$750,000 worth of road work will take place to improve Taft Road, city officials said. According to city documents, work will take place on Taft Road south of Nine Mile Road to the city's southern limits. City officials said work includes rehabilitating the road and will be paid for through the City of Novi Major Street Fund.

### 2. Sidewalks.

City officials said work to Novi sidewalks is scheduled for June through August. Paid for through the city's Municipal Street Fund, \$280,000 worth of work will take place on the west side of Meadowbrook Road between Eight and 10 Mile roads; to gaps on the north side of 10 Mile Road between Jamestowne and Beck Road; and to gaps on the north side of Nine Mile Road between Beck and Taft roads.

### 3. Greenwood Oaks Sanitary Sewer.

City officials said this month through May, \$247,000 worth of work will take place at the Greenwood Oaks Sanitary Sewer, north of 10 Mile Road along the west side of Beck Road. The repairs are being paid for through the City's Water and Sewer Fund.

### 4. Lannys Sanitary Pump Station and Sewer.

Nearly \$2 million in improvements will be made to the Lannys Sanitary Pump Station and Sewer, on the west side of Beck Road, near Providence Hospital to east



City of Novi engineers Aaron Stoup, left, and Rob Hayes check out a blueprint plan for a sewer system pump station. As part of the crew that'll be planning road improvements for Novi, they'll have a busy upcoming season with road work for Taft Road a definite.

### 5. Walled Lake Sewer Diversion.

City officials said in April through May, \$167,000 worth of sewer work will take place at West Park Drive and West Road. The money will come from the City's Water and Sewer Fund.

### 6. Streambank Stabilization.

City officials said in May through June, \$55,000 worth of stabilization work will take place

### 7. Country Place and Stonehenge Sanitary Pump Stations.

City officials said improvements to pump stations serving the Country Place and Stonehenge developments will take place this month through May. According to city documents, the cost is \$376,000 and will be paid for through the City's Water and Sewer Fund.

### 8. Hayes said other construction projects are up for approval dur-

ing the budget process for the city's 2007-08 fiscal year.

He assures the upcoming approval will include Beck Road work.

"Council still has to approve the Beck Road project," Hayes said. "We've developed a list of short-term improvements for existing cross sections of Beck Road, and we'll be making recommendations as part of the budget process."

Beck Road repaving, rehabilitation and intersection improvements have been previously discussed by City Council and officials.

Hayes said the worst areas of Beck Road include the intersections at 10 and 11 Mile roads and near Eight Mile Road.

At a recent Homeowners Association Leaders Breakfast hosted by the city, an informal survey was conducted asking attendees to identify one area in the city posing the greatest traffic concern.

According to Novi City Manager Clay Pearson, the Ten Mile and Beck roads intersection received the most responses, coming in at 29 percent.

If approved, Beck Road work will begin in July, city officials said.

City officials said also scheduled, but awaiting Council approval, is the Neighborhood Street Reconstruction project.

Hayes said the list of streets scheduled for repair, should be released later this year.

Work will take place in July and August, he said, and will be paid for through the City's Local Street Fund.

City officials said the amount of construction work scheduled for 2007 is in line with prior years, expected to come in with a final tally of \$8 million.

City official said next year's road construction calendar is filling up with multiple state and county projects.

And looking further into the future, Hayes sees the 2008-09 construction season as another busy year.

Victoria Mitchell can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 122 or [venticell@gannett.com](mailto:venticell@gannett.com).

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# MY COMMUNITY

Thursday, March 22, 2007  
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### Spell it Out!

Novi's Agnes O'Brien passes on the microphone after spelling a word in last week's Senior Spelling Duel at the Northville Senior Community Center.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Northville Record

## City hires directors

■ They'll lead community, economic development

By Greg Migliore  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Novi added two high-level administrators this week as the city reshuffles its management team. Stephen Rumpke was hired as community development director, and Ara Topouzian was named economic development manager. Rumpke will oversee planning, building and code enforcement, which were recently combined into the city's new Community Development Department. He comes to Novi after nine years as community development director for White Lake Township, where he supervised more than 90 projects. Novi City Manager Clay Pearson said Rumpke's experience working in a rapidly growing community made him an attractive candidate.

He'll also be dealing with many of the same companies in Novi that he built relationships with in White Lake. "Steve Rumpke stood out for his variety of experience," Pearson said. Rumpke, 39, will make a salary of \$98,000 a year and receive the city's benefits package. He is expected to start work May 9.

"It's going to be a great challenge, but it's also potentially rewarding," Rumpke said. Meanwhile, the city said Topouzian, who currently is chief executive officer of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, will start as economic development manager April 16.

Topouzian, 37, will coordinate Novi's development ventures with larger companies in the area. He'll also work with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and Automation Alley. "Businesses really need to have that constant contact," he said. Topouzian will make \$62,000 annually and receive benefits. He's

### New Hires

• Stephen Rumpke was named community development director.

• Ara Topouzian was named economic development manager.

• The moves come as the city realigns its management team following the retirement of Building Official Don Saven.

been with the Farmington chamber since 2000.

"Ara's a great addition to our team," Pearson said.

Pearson made the hires on the heels of the retirement of veteran Building Official Don Saven, who is retiring after 27 years serving Novi. His last day is Friday.

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 101 or gmigliore@gannett.com.

## Novi Chamber wants business 'threads'

■ Friday event helps returning professional workers with clothing needs

By Greg Migliore  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

It can be tough to build up a professional wardrobe from scratch, particularly if you've been out of the workplace for a while and are short of cash.

Mindful of this, the Novi Chamber of Commerce is playing host to its eighth annual Threads of Power clothing drive Friday. The chamber is collecting business attire which will be donated to local charitable organizations and used to help people who are looking to get into the white collar workforce — but need help getting respectable clothing.

It runs from 9-30 a.m. at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Novi, and breakfast is served. Participants are asked to bring a set of clothing. "It's just a really powerful event, and it's brought a lot of awareness to the people that attend," said Nora Champion, chamber president.

The event usually nets "truckloads" of clothing.

"One of the most expensive things when you're going back to work is getting a new wardrobe."

Peggy Hayes  
Past chair of the Novi Chamber of Commerce

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## Expo Center officials sue Adell

By Greg Migliore  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Novi Expo Center Inc. is suing landlord Kevin Adell, alleging interference. It said late Tuesday in a press release.

Expo Center officials said Adell is blocking their ability to redevelop the facility into an automotive mall. They're seeking more than \$5 million in damages.

"We're going to follow it through and make sure they pay for it," said Blair Bowman, an executive with the Novi Expo Center. "The acts of interference are numerous."

Adell denied the allegations. "It's a frivolous lawsuit," he said. Adell said he plans to counter sue. He also said he is considering re-

developing the building into a trade center.

The parties have been involved in arbitration for about a year and have been embroiled in a dispute over rent payments.

KWIK Enterprises LLC was spearheading the auto mall plans. The firm's president, Keith Wilson, said the development is at a standstill.

"I just wanted this project to go forward... I wanted to make a difference for Novi," he said.

Wilson said he wasn't aware of details of the lawsuit.

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or gmigliore@gannett.com.

## Novi moves closer to securing park funding

■ City aims to create 269-acre park with wetlands and woodlands

By Greg Migliore  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Novi could be getting considerably more park space as early as next year.

City Council members green-lighted plans to apply for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant Monday, which would help pay for a 16.2-acre parcel of land north of Nine Mile Road and east of

Garfield Road located next to the Single Trail property. The plot would be combined with other pieces of land to form a 269-acre park.

"I think it'll be a great addition," council member Andrew Much said.

Still, Novi faces hurdles as officials attempt to secure the land. The grant process is cut-throat, and cities line up to secure cash from the Michigan Trust Fund, which dishes out \$25 million to \$35 million, and annually.

Novi applied for a grant in 2006, but didn't want to be able to obtain funds.

This year, City Manager Clay Pearson is optimistic Novi can share the cash.

"We feel very good and

strongly that we've got a proposal that the state will look at seriously for funding," he said.

The 16.2-acre chunk of land is valued at \$485,000, but by combining donations by Heritage Shoppes, LLC and grant funds, the city doesn't expect to have to pay anything for it.

If the plans come to fruition, Novi would end up with what Pearson called a "pristine" collection of woodlands and wetlands. Part of it sits at the headwaters of the Huron River, and annually. "It features nine species of mammals and 18 species of birds."

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or gmigliore@gannett.com.

"We feel very good and strongly that we've got a proposal that the state will look at seriously for funding."

Clay Pearson  
Novi City Manager



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EVENTS: Be sure to see the Church Events listing in My Bulletin Board weekly... page 14A

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FAITH & RELIGION

Thursday, March 22, 2007
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Church study group for women brings message of 'Radical Joy'

Group meets twice monthly

By Pam Fleming
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Sue Craik, left, and Karen DeBenedet...
She wants to introduce "Radical Joy" into their everyday world...

Interested in "Radical Joy"?

Any woman can attend the 6-8 p.m. non-denominational study group "Radical Joy" on the first and third Thursdays...

The book is very uplifting, positive, encouraging, hopeful and filled with faith, Craik said.

Named after the guidebook by the same name, the meetings attract 30-70 women at the 6:55 p.m. meetings...

facilitate them coming together. "I'm just pleased to be part of it," DeBenedet said.

"Our discussions are deep, but in a positive, unpretentious way," Craik said.

Join the group at any time

Each meeting stands on its own, so women can join the group any time.

"We tried to think of all the reasons why women can't do this type of thing," Craik said.

Sunday mornings don't work for them.

Community projects included

Craik said she and DeBenedet started "Radical Joy" because they wanted a community-wide group for women to be able to get together for a related Bible study.

The women also get involved in community outreach, such as the Relay for Life event that raises money each year for cancer research.

"Some have knitted prayer shawls for people who are ill or in a particular crisis where they may find that comforting," Craik said.

During the breakout sessions, women talk about how the chapter being discussed that evening relates to their individual lives.

"I never know what you're going to hear"



Sue Craik, left, and Karen DeBenedet of Northville, are members of the steering committee of "Radical Joy," a new bible study group.

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MY EDUCATION

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Novi Frog Force leaps over its competition

Robotics Team wins first-place awards, goes to nationals

By Renee Gates
NEWS STAFF WRITER

What do you get when you cross talented Novi High School students with a dedicated corporate sponsor like Inter Automotive Seating...

You get Novi High School's award-winning FIRST Robotics Team 503, Frog Force.

Since 2001 the Novi High School team has participated in FIRST Robotics competitions and taken away many top honors and awards.

But this year the team made history by becoming the first team to win both a first-place ranking in the Great Lakes Regional competition and the team's prestigious Chairman's Award at the same time.

"The Chairman's Award is FIRST Robotics' most prestigious award," said Janki Patel, a senior and Team 503 secretary.

"To win it is even higher than when you place first at a regional."

"It gave a boost of energy to our team because the Great Lakes Regional is known to be the most difficult regional in the nation. So it kinda gives extra support to say, 'yes we went there and we won it,'" she said.

Frog power

The win also marks the first time the Frog Force has won at

the Great Lakes Regional competition in Ypsilanti.

Now the team is preparing for another regional completion this weekend in Cleveland.

Afterward, it will travel to the world competition in Atlanta, April 11-13.

"It's basically the same competition all over again," said Larry Scavo, Team 503 coach and high school industrial tech teacher.

"You have to compete in two regional meets, and this will be our second meet. Since we won (at the regional) we will automatically go to Atlanta, but you still have to compete in two regionals."

Both students and faculty agree Novi High School's involvement in the FIRST Robotics competition would not be possible without the sponsorship support and mentor support from Inter Automotive Seating.

"The biggest thing is our kids do the work hand in hand with the mentors at Inter to build the robot," said Scavo.

"It may be that a lot of the knowledge base comes from the expertise of the mentor, but the

career choice they pursue.

Senior Team 503 president, Mansoor Siddiqui is planning on going into medicine.

"I can still use a lot of the stuff I got from here like leadership and teamwork and being able to diagnose a problem and know what to do with it, especially working with a crunch time," he said.

Fellow classmate Patel joined Frog Force her freshman year.

"It taught me a lot of confidence plus all the knowledge of electrical systems," she said.

Practical application

The benefit to the students participating in the competitions is outstanding said Scavo and co-coach and industrial tech teacher Rocky Roberts.

"Working with industry professionals to design, create and program a robot gives their students hands-on practical engineering experience as well as team work and problem-solving skills."

"The kids who are highly mechanical that are engineering bound have always taken a lot of the academic courses and still do, but have never had a place to put all that knowledge to use," said Scavo.

"This is a high level purpose driven club that gives direct application right to industry," Roberts agrees.

"Our FIRST programs are comparable to senior projects at the university level," he said.

"Event students not planning on pursuing an engineering career said they will apply what they learn in robotics to whatever

kids are there learning that and putting it to use, diagnosing the problems and fixing the problems."

Even more important is the corporate sponsorship Inter provides, without it the high school could not afford to compete.

"It costs \$5,000-6,000 to register for one three-day competition," Scavo said.

Most schools compete in three to four competitions a year, and the robot kits the teams purchase cost about the same amount of money as one conference. Inter covers all travel cost and conference fees.

"Inter has been ridiculously good to us," said Siddiqui. "They have made cut backs in their staff, but they still have kept us. Without them we would be nowhere. We wouldn't have a place to work or any money to do this stuff."

Renee Gates is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or by e-mail at rgates@gannett.com.

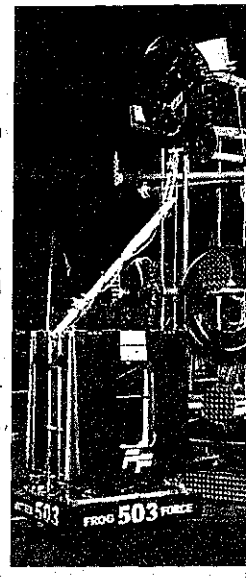
Novi Robotics Frog Facts

Who: Novi High School Robotics Team 503, began competing in 2001

What: Received first place honors along with two other schools out of 59 at the Great Lakes Regional FIRST Robotics Competition held March 8-10. The team also received the FIRST Robotics Chairman's Award.

What's Next: The team continues to compete at another regional competition this weekend in Cleveland and advances to the world competition held April 11-13 in Atlanta.

Background: Novi High School won the FIRST Robotics World Competition in 2005.



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# Students' futures await

Novi Middle Schoolers check out possible jobs at career day

By Renee Gates  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Major Kurt Schuster remembers his days at Novi Middle School. During his seventh grade year he was involved in a food fight and was called down to the office. He moved up to his part and learned from his mistakes.

His eight grade year he was elected student council president. Schuster went on to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy. He received his bachelor of science and master's degrees while in the air force.

"You can make mistakes just as long as you learn from them and apply what you learn to other things," he told a class of seventh graders.

"If you got a dream to do something... make goals to make that happen."

Now in the Air Force reserves and a pilot for Jet Blue Airways, Schuster said he wanted to be a part of Novi Middle School's 17th Annual Career Day.

"I want to give something back to them that the community gave me," he said.

"I love my job and I like to pass that opportunity to other kids."

**Career forecasting**  
Each year Novi Middle School's students have the opportunity to see into their futures by hearing from a variety of over 20 career professionals. Schuster was one of their closest career advisors by participating in a career reality show.

The PTO plans the event every year. Seventh-grade parent Christine Santore help recruit the speakers.

"The speaker schedule is just for seventh grade," she said.

The intention with the seventh graders is strictly to try to start exposing them to different career opportunities to get them thinking



Livonia Recreation Department employee Scott Spahr talks to a Novi Middle School seventh-grade class during his career day.

about what they need in preparation to get ready to go into a career," she said.

Seventh grader Karla Ayala, got to go to a career day. She was the first to ask Major Schuster to try on his pilot helmet during his question and answer time. She enjoyed most of the speakers she heard last Thursday.

"They taught me what I might want to be as my fall back if my choice isn't good," said the future photographer. "It exposes you to a lot of different stuff," she said of the day.

"That's the point to expose the kids to all these different types of opportunities and not be afraid of them," said Erik Hulverson, eighth grade parent and one of the chairs of the eighth grade program.

**Reality check**  
The eighth graders have what's called the reality show. It's a separate program for the eighth grade class, said Santore.

The "store" is a series of table stations designed with different real life scenarios where students have to make decisions on how they would live as an adult.

"They have series of tables or stations where they go and they have to buy health insurance, they have to buy auto insurance, they have to buy a car, they have to buy food and clothing," Hulverson said.

will evolve over time. A lot of these kids may have a career that we have never heard of," she said. "You didn't have computer tech people when I was going to college."

It is by design to have as many Novi Parents helping with career day, either as speakers or helping in the back ground, Santore said. She thinks it is food for the student to see.

FBI agent David Ray has served his country for over 25 years. All of his children have graduated from the Novi Community School District, but his wife still teaches for the district.

He has spoken at the middle school career day for 11 years and has seen a definite change in the student population.

"They are more sophisticated, more proactive, intelligent," he said. "They use to be shy, but now they don't shoot anybody? Now they want to know more nuts and bolts questions."

"You've got to be careful and spend wisely," he said about what he took from the exercise. "You have to be careful what you pick, you don't want to buy things that are too much."

Ericson said he's already started saving. "The kids who go through the reality show, they go through a debriefing session and we ask them questions. How did you do? Do you have any money left? One of the questions is, Do you think your grades matter? Do you think about what their future occupation might be, Hulverson said.

**Future Trends**  
An addition to the eighth-grade program this year was a general speaker.

John Keilly, of Strategic Partners, LLC has an eighth grader at the middle school and he addressed the class on the global trends of the job market.

"Everyone said it was really, really good," said Santore. "He did a Powerpoint presentation and made the kids think about how their career



A Novi Middle School graduate and former US Air Force pilot talks to a seventh-grade NMS class during his career day. Major Kurt Schuster is also a graduate of Novi High School.

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\*All in conjunction with Hutzel Women's Hospital and Wayne State University.

# LAURA STINAR: Come on down!

Local student will appear on 'Price is Right'

By Victoria Mitchell  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

When Laura Stinar registered for classes at Grand Valley State, she had one thing on her mind.

The Novi resident wanted to make sure her course schedule didn't interfere with watching the "Price is Right" television show.

Stinar, 18, is a self-confessed addict of the game show, and has a mammoth crush on the host, Bob Barker.

So when she finally had the chance to visit the California game show set, the occasion was cosmic.

"Woo, hoo, it was so much fun. Woo," Stinar said. "It was better than awesome. It was awesome times 10."

Stinar said she still watches the "Price is Right" when she is 6.

Her addiction was immediate. "Rod Roddy would wear those sequin suits and that was awesome," she said of her initial attraction.

"And Bob, he was so funny. I liked him, too."

But Stinar said, although she loved the show at such a young age, she knew you had to be 18 to visit the game show set.

In step the parents. "I remember saying to my mom, 'Let's go to the 'Price is Right,'" she said. "And especially when Bob announced he was retiring, I went all insane."

For Stinar's 18th birthday this August, her mom and dad surprised her with tickets to the show.

"My mom knew I would go insane if I didn't see Bob," she said. A match was ready to be made in game show heaven.

**Come on down**  
Despite having two tickets for the March 7 show, Stinar said she and her mother, Tanis, still waited in the overnight to make sure they made the cut.

"They raffle off tickets," she said. As the 68th person in line, Laura scored her spot inside.

"It was nuts," she said. "It was so loud and it's so much smaller than it looks on TV."

Stinar said once inside, the show's producers held brief, group interviews with audience members to see who will be chosen as game show contestants.

"You just sit there anticipating, it hurts," she said. "But then you see Bob."

But Stinar didn't wait long before those famous words were called, "Laura Stinar come on down, you're the next contestant on the Price is Right."

"I started freaking out," she said. "I crawled over my mom and started jumping."

"What is the word that can explain it," she said. "I don't know. He's older, but he's so much fun. And it was amazing... I can't believe I got to kiss him. All I've



Laura kisses Bob Barker's Hollywood star. She is scheduled to appear on the "Price is Right."

It said "I will sob if I can't kiss Bob."

"They said she kissed him," said Laura's father, James Stinar. "We never thought she would make it."

Stinar said her crush on the silver haired fox has been a long time in the making.

"What is the word that can explain it," she said. "I don't know. He's older, but he's so much fun. And it was amazing... I can't believe I got to kiss him. All I've

**Stay tuned**  
The show featuring the Novi High School Class of 2006 graduate

Check out Novi resident Laura Stinar on the Price is Right! She is scheduled to appear on Friday, April 6. The show airs 11 a.m. daily on WWJ-TV (Channel 62).

SOURCE: Stinar Family

is scheduled to air Friday, April 6. "I'm going to look so strange on TV because Bob was talking to me," Stinar said. Although she doesn't want to spoil the surprise as to whether she is a big winner, a few details may be leaked. Once guessing the closest bid on a couch, Stinar said she gets the chance to play the card game. "That's the game I'm always afraid of, but the cards were kind to me," she said.

The rest will all unfold next month, including her extreme excitement. "You watch the show for so long, and then you see Bob Barker in person," Stinar said. "Wooch." "It was like my biggest dream. I don't even know what to do anymore." "I guess I'll learn now."

*Victoria Mitchell can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 122 or vmitchell@gannett.com.*

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Presented by Michael S. Rowe, M.D., F.A.C.P., C.P.I.

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Seasonal allergy sufferers who have spent the winter blissfully indoors often forget the discomfort that spring can bring. There are several steps you can take, however, to prevent those pesky allergy symptoms. Between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m. are the worst pollen hours. If you can hold off on your outdoor activities until late morning, do so. Keep your car windows rolled up. A thorough spring cleaning with the windows open will remove any dust or mold accumulated in the house. Use a mask when raking your leaves or mowing the lawn, and keep your laundry indoors. Laundry hanging outside can collect allergens. Keep up to date on your local pollen count, too. Allergy symptoms can certainly make a person's life miserable. Call the ALLERGY AND ASTHMA CENTER OF MICHIGAN to arrange a consultation with Dr. Rowe and learn what we can do to help you maintain your regular schedule and lifestyle. We diagnose and treat patients of all ages. Same day, early morning, evening, and Saturday appointments are available. For further information, call (248) 473-6400. Our office is located at 24120 Meadowbrook Road, STE 201, Novi. New patients are welcome! The Caring Allergist Who Gets Results!

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MY COMMENTARY

Thursday, March 22, 2007
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Novi News

Richard Perlberg
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Rich Ramhoff
PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER
Grace Perez Perry
GENERAL MANAGER

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

Slow down this spring in road construction

It's an annual rite of spring: the beginning of construction season. As the weather warms and days grow longer, the orange barrels come out in full force.

Let's be blunt: Many of the roads in the area are falling apart, and the repairs are a dire necessity. Still, it's an absolute pain to have to slog along at 25 miles an hour when the speed limit is usually 45 mph or more.

And it's pretty obvious there's going to be plenty of road work in Novi this spring, as well as in the area.

But before construction ramps up in full force, let's come to a conclusion: Drive slower and obey the signs.

Seriously, your job is not any more important than anyone else's, and it's certainly not worth injuring or killing a construction worker over.

So what if you get to work at 8:33 in the morning instead of 8:15? Sure the morning commute is often a hectic, chaotic routine.

But an extra few minutes of caution can be the difference between life and death for road workers.

In 2005, 20 people were killed and 1,811 injured in work zones in the state, according to the Michigan Department of Transportation's most recent figures. There were also 6,569 work zone crashes.

If speeding doesn't cut at your conscious, it will at your pocketbook. Injuring or killing a worker is up to a \$7,500 fine and could mean 10 years in jail.

These are chilling numbers. But it doesn't have to be that way this year. Plan ahead. Give yourself some extra time, find a detour and drive carefully.

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104 W. Main, Suite 101
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PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Last fun of winter?
Novi Woods students giggle and laugh as they slide down the school's hill after last week's snowfall made sledding a good recess activity. From left: second graders Shirley Hao, Mattison Plerdon, and Megan Whittmer.

LETTERS

Sing-ing a different tune?
responsibility to protect the integrity of its Master Plan and the rights of its current residents and businesses. Our Novi City Council should not be in the business of insuring profits for land speculators or developers.

John A. Kuenzel
Novi
On Wednesday, March 14, the Novi Public Library was proud to have some of our Novi celebrities reading to our youth in honor of March is Reading Month.

No on School Bond
Vote no on the School Bond on May 8. We would all like an upgrade or replacement of our computers or to be on the Internet. I do not have all this in my home.

Eleanor Thompson
Novi
This entire proposal flies in the face of the Master Zoning Plan for Novi. It seeks to convert the residential zoning of an area committed by the city to its residents to be R-A and R-4 Single Family Residential to unnecessary and unwanted commercial use.

What do you think?
We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

Reduce administrative overhead.
And direct more of the nearly \$13 billion currently spent in our public schools into the classroom.
As an example, the highly regarded public accounting firm Plante & Moran did a study nearly a decade ago that showed how Wayne County could save nearly \$10 million annually by consolidating special education bus routes without hurting students. The recommendations were never implemented because it would affect adults and their jobs.

Consensus for reform grows
Others are reaching the same conclusion. The executive directors of the Michigan Association of School Administrators and the Michigan Association of School Boards, in a Nov. 15, 2006, joint letter to The Detroit News, appear to agree that fundamental change is needed when they wrote: "Proposal 5 -- rejected by 62 percent of Michigan voters -- should serve as a wake-up call for all of us in education."

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant. He served as state superintendent of schools from 2001-2005. Read his internationally recognized report: The New Education (R)evolution at www.nacoh.org. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.

unless changes are made, we should change the name of the Department of Education to the Department of "Health Care and Pensions" to more accurately reflect where the bulk of any future money will be spent.

We have witnessed what has happened when the auto industry ignored new realities and waited too long to address the structural problems confronting them. Michigan's citizens have historically demonstrated their willingness to invest in our children. They will do so in the future when fundamental changes in Michigan's public education system assure them that the investment will pay off for our children and our collective future.

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant. He served as state superintendent of schools from 2001-2005. Read his internationally recognized report: The New Education (R)evolution at www.nacoh.org. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.

Given the runaway health care and pension costs, we should change the name of the Department of Education to the Department of "Health Care and Pensions" to more accurately reflect where the bulk of any future money will be spent.

Leadership matters. Doing nothing is not a solution.

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HOT TICKET: Visit the Back Yard Pool and Spa Show at the Rock Financial Showplace this weekend

MY BULLETIN BOARD

Thursday, March 22, 2007
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

EVENTS

Wash College Alumni Association Speed Networking
DATE: Today
TIME: 6-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Gus O'Connor's, 42875 Grand River Ave., Novi
DETAILS: Network with other professionals one-on-one, a few minutes at a time. The cost is \$15 for Wash College students and alumni; \$20 for general public, which includes appetizers. Preregistration is required by March 16.

Novi Chamber of Commerce
The chamber is celebrating 40 years of business, representing over 500 members. Our mission is to be a responsible, proactive advocate of business interests in the greater Novi area.

Walled Lake Central's "The Man Who Came to Dinner"
DATE: Thursday, March 29; Friday, March 30; Saturday, March 31
TIME: 7-30 p.m.
LOCATION: Walled Lake Central High School, 1600 Oakley Park Road, Walled Lake
DETAILS: Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$7 for seniors and students. All seats are reserved. Tickets can be ordered by calling the number that follows after March 19, and can also be purchased at the door.

Teens Aiding the Cancer Community Fundraiser
TIME/DATE: Sunday, April 1
LOCATION: Rebecca's, downtown Northville
DETAILS: Enjoy acoustic artists, food, ice cream and raffia. TACC is a non-profit student organization raising money to fill backpacks with toys for cancer-affected kids in area hospitals.

Book Club Meeting
DATE: Friday, April 20
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Starbucks, 302 East Main St., Northville
DETAILS: The book for April is "Zora Neale Hurston" by Zora Neale Hurston. For more information, contact: northvillebookclub@gmail.com

Novi High School Reunion-Classes of 1974-1977
DATE: July 28
DETAILS: A combined class reunion is being planned for the four graduating years.

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 1987
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 1997
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 2005
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 2006
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 2007
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 2008
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 2009
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 2010
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 2011
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 2012
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 2013
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 2014
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 2015
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 2016
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 2017
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 2018
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 2019
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 2020
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 2021
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 2022
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 2023
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.



Plenty 'O' room!
With a salesman as their guide, a couple of men check out a 16-foot fishing boat at last weekend's boat expo at the Rock Financial Showplace. Everything from 10-foot kayaks to 35-foot off-shore fishing boats were available for boat lovers.

DATE: Thursday, April 19
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Orchard Hills Elementary

Faith Community Preschool
LOCATION: 44-00 West 10 Mile Rd.
CONTACT: (248) 349-7911

LIBRARY LINES
Novi Public Library
LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road
HOURS: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday

Novi City Council Meeting
DATE: Monday, April 2
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

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CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

Novi City Council Meeting
DATE: Monday, April 2
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

Like automakers, schools must change or perish

Michigan citizens value education. Yet, 62 percent of Michigan's voters rejected the November ballot Proposal 5 to "guarantee" funding increases to our local public schools. The voters understood that the money was for the adults and not the children, so more money wouldn't automatically translate into higher quality and achievement.

Now comes the hard part of making the necessary changes in our schools. Like the auto industry, our system of public education must change or perish. And it will not prepare our children to compete in a rapidly changing world without significant and fundamental change.

With technology and globalization, our children are not simply competing against the students in the school district or state next door; they are competing against the 3 billion new capitalists in Russia, China, India and other developing nations that are clamoring to take our jobs and our middle class way of life.

A time for boldness
Bold efforts need to be undertaken to redirect limited resources to the core mission of teaching and learning. Michigan citizens will not increase funding to schools until the governor and legislature, along with local school boards and superintendents, demonstrate that they have made the tough decisions to:

Address runaway health and pension costs.
Close unnecessary school buildings.
Consolidate the tiny school districts across the state.

Reduce administrative overhead.
And direct more of the nearly \$13 billion currently spent in our public schools into the classroom.

As an example, the highly regarded public accounting firm Plante & Moran did a study nearly a decade ago that showed how Wayne County could save nearly \$10 million annually by consolidating special education bus routes without hurting students. The recommendations were never implemented because it would affect adults and their jobs.

Clearly, our children will benefit from strategically targeted investments. However, the problems confronting our schools cannot and will not be addressed by simply pouring more money into the existing system.

When I was state superintendent of public instruction, I compiled a 2004 report on Michigan's structural school funding issues and warned: "A simple solution would be to join the chorus and simply ask for more tax revenue to fund our schools. However, simply finding the current system will not yield the results our children need and deserve."

Given the runaway health care and pension costs, we should change the name of the Department of Education to the Department of "Health Care and Pensions" to more accurately reflect where the bulk of any future money will be spent.

LAKES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Since 1963, the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce has proudly served as West Oakland's Regional Chamber, servicing the communities of Commerce Township, Union Lake, Walled Lake, Waterford, Wixom, Waverline Lake and White Lake.

Our purpose is to improve the quality of life for businesses and residents in the Lakes area. We act as a unified voice on behalf of the business community, provide a forum to discuss and review topics of interest, serve as a source of information and development programs that are responsive to the needs of the communities we serve.

CONTACT: (248) 628-2826
Annual Membership Luncheon and Installation of Officers
DATE: Wednesday, March 28
TIME: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Edgewood Country Club, 8399 Commerce Road, Commerce Township
DETAILS: Come to hear our community leaders speak on the business environment of West Oakland County. The cost is \$25 per person.

Novi Chamber of Commerce
The chamber is celebrating 40 years of business, representing over 500 members. Our mission is to be a responsible, proactive advocate of business interests in the greater Novi area.

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continued on 14

continued from 13

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: (248) 437-5496 for more information.

Women's Prayer Support

DATE: Saturday
TIME: 9-10:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49329 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
DETAILS: Come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer. Drop in for five minutes or longer. CONTACT: Nancy or Susan (248) 926-8332 or harvestfellowship@comcast.net

Breast Cancer Support Group

DATES: Second and fourth Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C
TIME: 10-11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: No registration needed. CONTACT: (248) 937-5017

Croh'n's & Colitis Support Group

DATES: First and third Wednesday of each month
LOCATION: Providence Park Hospital and Medical Center
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
DETAILS: Enter facility through southeast entrance. Meeting in Conference Room A. Immediately to the left. CONTACT: Al Biggs (313) 606-7605 or Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (888) 737-2322.

Novi Toastmasters

DATE: First and third Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Activities Room, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
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

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Chapter

TIME/DAYS: Wednesdays 11 a.m. weigh-in, 11:30 a.m. meeting
LOCATION: Meadowbrook

Commons, 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi

DETAILS: \$24 per annual membership includes handbook; \$1 per meeting. New members welcome. CONTACT: Rebecca Boyke (248) 305-8646

FAITH

Meadowbrook Congregational

LOCATION: 21355 Meadowbrook Road
CONTACT: Rev. Ed Willingham, Interim Minister, (248) 348-7757, or visit www.mbcc.org or gmccc@roundtablemi.biz

Alzheimer's Support Group

DATE: Saturday, April 14
TIME: 10 a.m.
DETAILS: This group will meet on the second Saturday of each month, offering support and open discussion for all those dealing with Alzheimer's. CONTACT: Lisa Molloy (248) 334-3595

Holy Family

LOCATION: 24505 Meadowbrook Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org
Mass Schedule
TIME/DAY: 7:30, 8:45, and 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., Sunday, 7 p.m., Tuesday, 9 a.m., Wednesday-Friday, 5 p.m., Saturday

Adoptive Parent Networking Meeting

DATE: Last Wednesday of each month
TIME: 10-11 a.m.
DETAILS: This free informational meeting is open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. Child care is available. Registration is required. CONTACT: Lisa Molloy (248) 334-3595

First Baptist Church of Novi

LOCATION: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-3647 or www.firstbaptistchurchofnovi.org
Sunday Schedule
Family Bible Hour: 9:45 a.m.
Family Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible Study: 6 p.m.
Family Movie Night: 5:30 p.m., fourth Sunday of every month.

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross

LOCATION: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 427-1175 or www.churchoftheholycross.com
Sunday Worship
TIME: 7:45 and 10 a.m., Sunday School

Novi United Methodist

LOCATION: 41671 W. 10 Mile
CONTACT: (248) 349-2652
Sunday Worship
TIME/DAY: 12:10-12:50 p.m., Wednesday
DETAILS: The service will include scripture and Holy Communion.

First United Methodist of Northville

LOCATION: 777 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-1144 or visit www.funmorthville.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 8, 9:15, 11 a.m., and 5 p.m.
Community Healing Service
DATE: First Monday of every month
DETAILS: This service is open to anyone asking God for healing in their life or in someone close to them.

Career Ministry Meetings

DAYS: Sunday
TIME: 1:30-3 p.m.
DETAILS: The Career Ministry program is to help meet the needs of job seekers and others in career transition. It is free of charge and is focused on providing career development resources, programs, and networking opportunities to anyone in the Northville/Novi area.

Crosspointe Meadows

LOCATION: Meadowbrook Elementary School, 29200 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 427-2700, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or visit www.crosspointemeadows.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9 and 10:30 a.m.

St. Paul Lutheran

LOCATION: 201 Elm St., Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-3140
Sunday Worship
TIME: 8:30, 11 and 11:30 a.m.
Kindergarten Registration
DETAILS: Children who turned five before Friday Oct. 1 may register for full or half-day kindergarten at St. Paul's Lutheran School.

The Baha'i Faith

CONTACT: (248) 473-0355 or visit www.bahai.org
Devotional Gathering
TIME/DAY: 11 a.m. last Saturday of every month
LOCATION: 23803 Ripple Creek St., Novi
DETAILS: This is a gathering

St. James Catholic

LOCATION: 46325 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-7778
Mass Schedule
TIME/DAY: 8, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m., Sunday, 9 a.m., Monday-Tuesday, 7 p.m., Wednesday, 5 p.m., Saturday

Focusing on prayers for peace. People of all faiths are welcome.

First Presbyterian Church of Northville

LOCATION: 200 E. Main St.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0911
Sunday Worship
TIME/DAY: 5 p.m., Sunday, March 25
DETAILS: The Chancel choir will present Mozart's "Te Deum" which will be followed by a soup potluck. All are invited.

Gracepointe Presbyterian

LOCATION: 44400 W. 10 Mile
CONTACT: (248) 349-2345 or visit www.falchcommunity-novi.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9, 10:30 a.m.
"Preview" Worship Service
TIME/DAY: 6-7 p.m., Sunday, April 1
LOCATION: Holiday Inn and Suites, 37259 Grand River, Farmington Hills
DETAILS: The public is invited for worship and to stay after for fellowship and learn more about Gracepointe. Child care will be available. For more information on Bible Study and other ministries, see above.

Blaze Recovery Workshop

DATE: Beginning Tonight
DETAILS: The course will run through May 10. The cost is \$35 and includes the book "Growing Through Divorce." Registration required.

Swing into Spring Dance

DATE: Saturday, March 24
TIME: 8-11 p.m.
DETAILS: This is for mature singles 45 and older. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. CONTACT: Jane, (248) 591-0014

Adult Education

TIME/DATES: 7-8:15 p.m., Thursdays, March 1-29
DETAILS: This session will deal with "Confronting the Controversies: Biblical Perspectives of Tough Issues." Pastor Kent Olse will discuss issues such as separation of church and state, the death penalty, euthanasia and homosexuality, and how the Christian faith relates to them. A participant book may be purchased for \$10. Call the church office to sign up.

Walking Group

TIME: 11:30 a.m.
LOCATION: First, second and fourth Saturday, Big Apple Bagel Shop, 2334 Farmington Road, Farmington, Third Saturday, Panera Bread Co., 34635 Grand River Ave., Farmington
DETAILS: This is a walking/social group. Everyone is invited.

Health Screenings at Meijer

LOCATION: 49900 Grand River Ave., Wixom
DATE: Friday, March 30
DETAILS: The pharmacy at Meijer will offer the following tests for low cost: Cholesterol, \$30; Liver Function, \$15; Diabetes Screening, \$4; Hemoglobin A1C, \$30. You will receive results within 15 minutes. All tests include consultation and explanation of results by the pharmacist, answers to questions about your medications and blood pressure check. Appointments are necessary. CONTACT: (248) 449-5733

Faith Community Presbyterian

LOCATION: 44400 W. 10 Mile
CONTACT: (248) 349-2345 or visit www.falchcommunity-novi.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9, 10:30 a.m.

Gracepointe Presbyterian

CONTACT: (248) 497-3178 or e-mail gracepointe@mac.com
"Preview" Worship Service
TIME/DAY: 6-7 p.m., Sunday, April 1
LOCATION: Holiday Inn and Suites, 37259 Grand River, Farmington Hills
DETAILS: The public is invited for worship and to stay after for fellowship and learn more about Gracepointe. Child care will be available. For more information on Bible Study and other ministries, see above.

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continued from 14

Boast Camp Day

DATE: Friday, March 23
TIME: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Providence Park Hospital, Novi
DETAILS: This day-long retreat is designed to provide participants with the tools, information and perspective toward living life in balance. The cost is \$50, including materials, and registration is required. CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

ROCK FINANCIAL SHOWPLACE

46100 Grand River Ave. Call (248) 349-5600 or visit http://rockfinancialshowplace.com/ for more information.
Back Yard Pool and Spa Show
TIME/DAY: 3-9:30 p.m., Friday, March 23; 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Saturday, March 24; 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, March 25
DETAILS: This is Detroit's only show for swimming pools, spas and outdoor entertainment. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 6-14 and children 5 and under are free. Parking is \$5.

Michigan Wine Expo

TIME/DAY: 5-10 p.m., Friday, March 23; 4-9 p.m., Saturday, March 24
DETAILS: The expo features fine wine, gourmet food, seminars and sampling from the area's premier restaurants. Over 300 wines

Schoolcraft Multicultural Fair

DATE: Wednesday, March 28
TIME: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
LOCATION: Schoolcraft Community College, Hagerty Road, Livonia, in the DiPonio Room in the VisiTech Center.

Novi Concert Band Rehearsals

TIME/DAY: 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesday
LOCATION: Novi High School,

Photo by JOHN MEDVEY

Saint Patty's fun!

Friends Anne Risto, left, and Barbara Louis don a couple of jester's hats and enjoy the St. Patrick's Day party at the Novi Senior Center last Friday. Festivities included treats, jokes, and of course corned beef and cabbage.



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Running 101 Classes for the Beginning Runner. This class is designed to give beginning runners a safe and motivating program to learn running technique. Spring 2007 classes start the week of April 1! Running 101 is proudly presented by Superior Fitness.

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 28, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider TAKEOFF UNDERGROUND CABLE, SITE PLAN NUMBER 02-08. FOR WEILAND PERMIT AND WOODLAND PERMIT APPROVAL. The SUBJECT PROPERTIES ARE LOCATED IN SECTIONS 17, 20, & 23, WEST OF BECK ROAD, EAST OF WIXOM ROAD, IN THE P.A. RESIDENTIAL ACREAGE, H-1, LIGHT INDUSTRIAL, AND B-3, GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICTS. The applicant is proposing impacts to the City regulated wetlands and woodlands to extend underground electric power cables from the Tibbels Substation near Ten Mile Road north to Grand River Avenue. LOCATION MAP (NOT TO SCALE). All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, March 28, 2007. Published March 22, 2007. NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION MARK PEHRSON, SECRETARY (3-22-07 NN 343807)

Wednesday Night FREE 8oz Sizzling Steak Dinner. Includes a crisp salad, choice of potato & our famous yeast rolls. With Purchase of the same. Regular price \$9.99. Limited time offer. Good through April 4, 2007. Not valid for carry out orders or orders for pickup. One order per person. All other restrictions apply. See actual newspaper ad for full terms, conditions and restrictions. On 6 Mile and Hagerty Road, Northville Township, MI 48188 • (734)420-3316 trams.com

Sciatica? Suburban Detroit - A new free report has recently been released that reveals an amazing new medical breakthrough that has proven 86% successful treating debilitating back pain. Even with multiple herniated discs. Find out how space travel solved astronauts back pain treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!" call 1-800-469-3618 and listen to the toll-free 24 hr. recorded message for all the details. If phone lines are busy, visit: www.midischernation.com

Physical Therapy Rehabilitation Update by Dennis Engerer, P.T. A BIT OF SOLE SEARCHING. Runners may want to check their running shoes to see if their soles are too thick for their own good. There is the general perception that the thickest, sportiest soles offer the most protection. However, according to biomechanics experts, running shoes with soles that are too thick compromise balance. It has been found that feet naturally strike harder as they struggle to maintain balance. As a result, runners with overly thick soles on their running shoes invite ankle sprains and other running injuries even if they run only a few miles weekly. Research also shows that runners who wear thick-soled shoes are twice as likely to injure themselves as runners in thin-soled shoes. www.northvillephysicalrehab.com

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## Nagi Printing: Wedding print planning a mouse click away

If there were any way to make wedding planning easier and more convenient, most couples would jump at the chance. That's what Paul Borland owner of Nagi Printing and Blueprinting of Novi, hopes the bride and groom will do — jump at the chance to order their wedding printables via Nagi's online Website (www.nagiprinting.com). He also hopes that wedding planners, be they brides or grooms, or someone else, will enjoy the opportunity to be their own creative designers, using the website tools to enter into a world that had previously only been occupied by printing professionals.

### The ease of cyber ordering

"This unique combination of 'bricks and clicks' retailing makes ordering wedding invitations, bridal stationary, matches, napkins, etc. a simple process, doable in the comfort of one's own home at whatever time is convenient.

"The old way was to go into a print shop and browse through a countless number of books," said Borland. "Now, the bride and groom can go the website at 11:00 p.m. when they have time to do their planning." He noted that brides and grooms can be as creative as they want because they control the entire design process and are "not beholden to someone's canned message." Not only are the bride and groom the "creative directors" of their own messages, they are also the editors and proofreaders, too. That can save a lot of time and mistakes as well.

The beauty of seeing their creation unfold before their eyes on the computer screen allows brides and grooms to see how certain colors will look on a variety of different papers and backgrounds. Planning wedding printables can actually become a fun and shared experience.

Once the design and message has been chosen for each item, the bride and groom simply click on the quantities needed. The next step is to pick up their order at Nagi, or have the items shipped directly to their home as quickly as within 24 hours.

Minimum quantities begin at 25 pieces and there are no maximums. Not only does website ordering through Nagi save time, it can save a lot of money, too. "I am a moderately priced printer," Paul said. "Which is good when you consider that weddings cost a lot of money."

### Great ideas for home-based businesses, too

While at the website, users can also click on a variety of different services available from Nagi, including holiday and birthday cards, logo creation, as well as the more common letterhead/envelopes, business cards, and bindery services.

All of these items have a common thread — they are used by businesses of all kinds, especially the growing number of home-based businesses. It is not unusual for a customer's personal printing needs to be integrated into their business printing needs, too.

Nagi can assemble any type of package necessary for home business owners to market or advertise their businesses. Like the many products offered for future brides and grooms, Borland said his prices are moderate and competitive.

But it isn't just prices that he believes sets his business apart from others. It is service. "We are a small, niche printer and we have to be really receptive to our customers," he said.

### Larger commercial customers very welcome

Although Borland prefers to get the word out about the ease of ordering wedding printables, there are also other services available. As the name implies, Nagi offers a full line of blueprinting. In addition business services and products include full color printing, newsletters, brochures, post cards, labels, presentation packages, booklets, promotional items, and business forms.

For people on the go with little time to create their own printed products, Nagi offers a full line of design services. Borland and his staff have many years of experience in assembling products that will deliver the ultimate communication message, regardless of whether the customer is a nervous bride or a seasoned businessperson.

Nagi has also done a lot of work for local schools, creating details, stickers, and labels for them.

Borland noted that his company "prides itself in going the extra mile" for the customer and he sees to it that every order "turns out right."

Nagi Printing and Blueprinting is located at 40500 Grand River Ave. between Haggerty and Meadowbrook Roads in Novi. Stop by between 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information visit the website or call (248)-474-9362.

- By John R. Hall

### Wedding Invitations Online

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www.nagiprinting.com  
248.474.9362

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Hop, hop, hop ...

Kayla Sexton-Carson, 1, meets the Easter Bunny at Twelve Oaks Mall last Monday.

Kayla is held by her granddad Bob Sexton.

The Easter Bunny arrived and is making his home at the Twelve Oaks Mall Central Park Garden through April 7.

The garden, decorated for spring, is located in the lower level, center court.

Photo operation hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday.

The bunny does take brief breaks during the day.

Each visitor will receive a free gift and photos with the Easter Bunny will be available for purchase.

For a complete list of photo packages and prices, visit www.shoptwelveoaks.com.

Prices vary to create custom packages.

Twelve Oaks Mall is located at Interstate 96 and Novi Road.

## Take time to dye your Easter eggs

Easter egg coloring is one of the well-known traditions associated with the holiday. Coloring eggs can be fun for children and adults alike.

Easter is a spring holiday, and spring is synonymous with fertility and new life. Eggs are thus linked to the festivities because of their connection to fertility.

What's more, according to History.com, German settlers in America are said to have brought over the tradition of a bunny named "Oschter Haws" who would visit houses on Easter eve, leaving colored eggs for children.

Easter eggs were painted different colors to represent the sunlight of spring. Christians later used eggs to symbolize the rebirth of Christ.

For those who will be incorporating the magic of colored eggs in their festivities this year, there are several ways to adorn the eggs that go above and beyond the traditional coloring kits.

Here are a few ideas to consider.

• The well-known Pass coloring

kit still remains a classic favorite, replete with dipping spoons and colored packets. Many companies have put their own spins on the coloring kit to include a brighter array of colors and even stickers and other embellishments.

• There are shrink-wrap kits that feature plastic rings that shrink into place when the eggs are boiled. The rings are imprinted with an Easter design.

• You can make your own egg dye with the following recipe: Combine 1/2 to 1 tablespoon of food coloring with 2 teaspoons white vinegar in a cup that can accommodate an egg. Add water to about the half-way point. Dip the egg with a spoon to color.

• Tie-dye eggs can be created by wrapping rubber bands around eggs before dipping them into the dye. Remove the rubber bands after the dye has dried and see the designs that have resulted.

• A similar technique can be achieved by using wax crayons and dye. Color designs onto the egg with the crayons, such as dots, lines or squiggles. When the

eggs are dipped in the dye, the crayon will repel the dye and leave the designs in place. Those who don't want to use dye with very young children can simply color in the eggs with the crayons.

• Eggstra special designs can be made by using craft supplies to adorn the eggs. Make cute egg people or animals to display. How about an Easter bunny complete with cotton ball tail? Scour the craft store for stick-on jiggle eyes, fuzzy noses and more.

• You can use regular acrylic paint to brush or sponge on designs. For safety's sake, don't cut any eggs that use a dye other than a natural food coloring.

• Food and beverages can be used to create natural dyes. Boil eggs with beets, spinach, tea, blueberries and more to create the colors desired.

• Use your imagination and rely on just about anything to make eggs dazzling. Glitter, markers, paints, stickers and so much more can help you to create one-of-a-kind eggs.

— *Gaius News Service*

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**NEXT WEEK:** Learn how residents are making a Girl Scout connection

Cal Stone  
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cstone@gannett.com

# MY SENIOR LIFE

Thursday, March 22, 2007  
www.novnews.com  
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## Bringing words to life without letters

By Tracy Mishler  
NEWS SPECIAL WRITER

Shirley Handley has spent more than two decades bringing words to life for the visually impaired. Since her first introductions to the Braille language in 1981, the 81-year-old Fox Run resident has since transcribed more than 15,500 pages.

"One page of printed words works out to two or two-and-a-half pages of Braille," Handley said. "Learning Braille is one of the hardest things I've done, but also the most rewarding."

Handley's Braille adventure began after taking a class through the Nardon Park Braille Transcribers in Farmington Hills.

After almost two years of course work, 19 chapters and a 35-page proofreading exam Handley became a certified Braille transcriber in 1983.

From textbooks to literary novels, Handley said she hopes to have helped many children and adults with the pages she's filled.

### Back to basics

The system of Braille was created in 1821 by Louis Braille to assist the visually-impaired read and write.

According to the National Braille Institute, the system was based on a method of communication first developed in response to Napoleon's demand for a code that soldiers could use to communicate silently.

Today, there are more than 15 million blind and visually-impaired people in the United States, according to Research to Prevent Blindness, and Handley is one of millions volunteering to help them communicate.

"There were many times I wanted to give up because it was really difficult," she said. "My husband (Ed) was my support and cheerleader, and he kept me going when I said I couldn't do it."

Handley said learning to read and transcribe Braille was like



Photo by Tracy Mishler

Shirley Handley, 81, first began transcribing Braille using a six-key, cast-iron Perkins Braille Writer.

learning a new language.

"I can't close my eyes and run my fingers over the Braille," she said. "I can sight read Braille, but I can't feel the words with my fingers."

### From the beginning

When Handley first began transcribing, she used an old fashion cast-iron Perkins Braille Writer.

"Braille is made up of two rows of three dots, called cells," Handley said. "All of Braille is made up of combinations of those

six dots or two cells side by side."

She said her Braille writer is a simple machine with just six keys, allowing her to create hundreds of different combinations of words, numbers and other codes to give the visually-impaired an idea of what they are reading.

"We transcribe with computers now," she said. "There are several different Braille programs, but we still only use six keys."

Handley said she uses e-mail to send her transcribed items to the Kansas Instructional Resource

Center.

"Before, the Perkins machine would emboss the pages for me. But if you made a mistake, you would have to redo the entire page," she said. "Because of e-mail, I can now Braille and send pages as attachments."

"They emboss it and send it back to me. Then I send it to a blind proofreader and then on to Kansas."

### For the enjoyment

Handley said though she doesn't

### Going blind

• A person is considered legally blind if their central vision acuity is 20/200 or less in the better eye, even with corrective lenses. Or if they have central vision acuity of more than 20/200 if the peripheral field is restricted to a diameter of 20 degrees or less.

• Twenty one percent of people age 65 and over report some form of vision impairment.

• Vision problems affect one in 20 (nearly 5 million) preschool-age children ages 3-5 and 25 percent (12.1 million) of school-age children ages 6-17.

• Every seven minutes, a person in the U.S. loses their sight, often as part of the aging process.

• Seventy percent of severely visually-impaired persons are age 65 or older. Fifty percent of them are legally blind.

Source: www.brailleinstitute.org

### Looking for Braille?

The Novi Public Library offers several forms of adaptive technology for residents with sight and hearing problems.

The Lions' Sight Adaptive Technology Computer, funded by the Oakland County Community Development Block grant, was awarded by the city of Novi, Novi Lions Club and the non-profit organization, eBlind.

The computer offers software for viewing the internet and other computer programs, known as JAWS.

The library also offers Zoomtext for magnifying the computer screen and software, known as Openbook, for scanning and reading text.

The library also offers a large keyboard with large print and Braille stickers.

For more information, contact the Novi Public Library at (248) 349-0720.

Source: Novi Public Library

transcribe textbooks any longer, she enjoys transcribing novels and will continue as long as she can.

"I'm glad that all the time I've spent learning Braille has been worthwhile," she said. "I feel I have contributed to the well-being of the blind and visually-impaired Braille readers, especially the students."

"And I'm proud to hopefully have helped some of the children in their studies."

Handley said no one in her family is blind, and it was her own

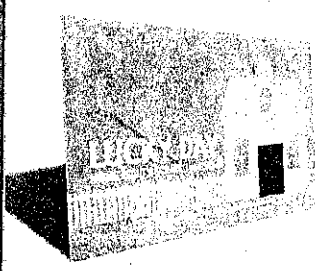
curiosity that brought her into her learning voyage.

"We think sight is so precious," she said. "But I'm in awe of the blind readers who function so well in society."

"They have learned to function without their eyes. Eyes are so vital, and those without the use of theirs have learned to function."


"It's amazing, and I'm glad I was able to help."

Tracy Mishler is a freelance writer for the Novi News.



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**INSIDE: SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULES**

PAGE 3

**My Novi Sports**

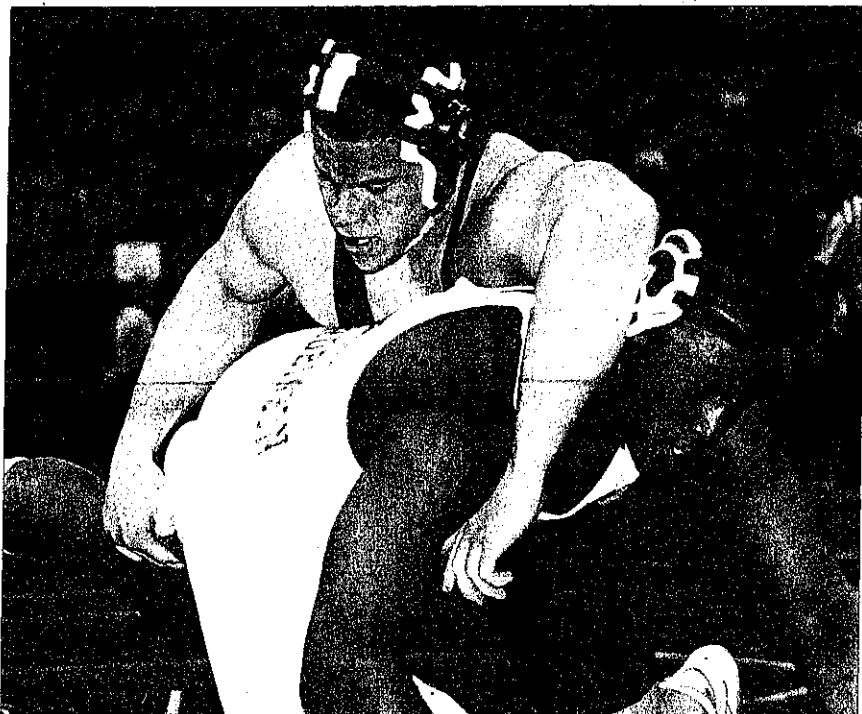
**All-Area volleyball selections** SPORTS, 4B

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**SPORTS SPOTLIGHT: ALL-AREA WRESTLING**

STORY CHAT: WHAT DO YOU THINK? TELL US AT WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM

**First-year wrestler captures state title**



Submitted by Jeff Gatt

Catholic Central junior heavyweight Mike Martin, top, works over Port Huron's Aaron Robinson during the final match at the state finals.

**Martin the baddest of the big at state meet**

By Jeff Theisen  
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Something happened that didn't occur in Catholic Central wrestling coach Mike Rodriguez's previous 50 years of coaching — a first-year wrestler garnered a state title.

Shamrock junior Mike Martin was brand new to the sport. He came out for the team after his friend, 160-pounder Stefan Gatt, begged him long enough to come out to a practice.

Martin, a 285-pounder, admitted he didn't like his first practice but stuck with it anyway. He must be a quick learner, because Martin stood atop the winner's podium at the state finals March 10 at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

"It was just outstanding," Rodriguez said. "I knew in my heart that he could do it. He had all the abilities, the skills, the quickness and, oh man, he had devastating takedowns. "He is an awesome student to work with. I'm just so happy that I had the experience to work with a young man like Mike."

Martin's win, if not already a huge story in itself, also was the final match in Rodriguez's career, as he retired at the end of the wrestling season.

Having limited tournament experience and obviously no state experience, Martin didn't

**All-Area Wrestlers**

**Athlete of the Year**  
Mike Martin, CC junior (Hwt)

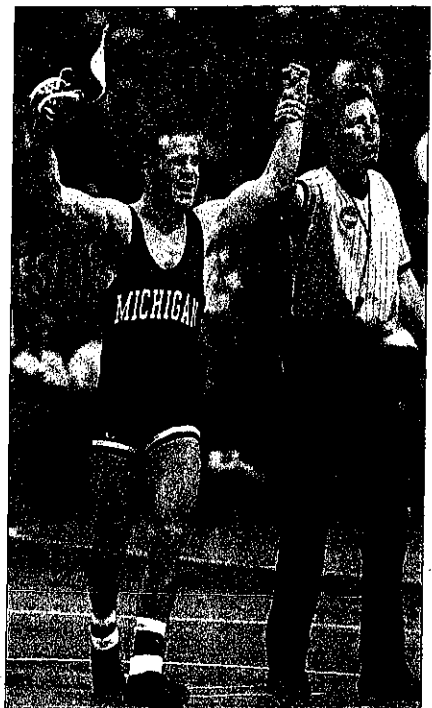
- First Team**  
Jon Lichorobiec, Novi junior (103)  
Justin Pullin, Novi senior (112)  
Jonny D'Anna, Northville junior (119)  
Robbie Yusko, Novi junior (125)  
Shea Hasenauer, CC junior (135)  
Brian Bagjan, Northville junior, (140)  
Ryan Thomas, Novi junior (145)  
Stefan Gatt, CC junior (160)  
Joe Kinvilla, CC junior (215)  
Kyle Liddell, Milford junior (130)  
Billy Curry, Milford sophomore (119)  
Geoffrey Graybeal, Milford senior (171)  
Jason Woodcox, Milford senior (152)  
Matt Thomas, Lakeland senior (152)  
Joe Snyder, South Lyon senior (135)

- Second Team**  
Niko Ianni, CC senior (119)  
Matt Aubrey, CC junior (189)  
Ryan Brown, CC senior (152)  
Trevor O'Connor, CC sophomore (135)  
John Habert, Northville junior (135)  
Brad Frey, Novi senior (130)  
Phil Acree, Milford senior (125)  
Devin Boria, Milford freshman (103)  
Nick Burt, Milford freshman (112)  
Chris Emery, South Lyon (160)  
Shae Butler, South Lyon (160)  
Jeremy Sherman, Lakeland (112)

- Honorable Mention**  
Doug Eldridge, CC freshman (103)  
Barrett Schwarzlose, CC sophomore (119)  
Mieka Lampe, South Lyon (189)  
Zack Makowski, South Lyon (103)  
Max Hill, Lakeland (145)  
Jason Rhodes, Milford junior (135)

let the atmosphere get to him. He pinned his way into the finals, winning his first three matches.

See WRESTLING, 2B



Wolverine Photo

Former Novi wrestler Josh Churella finished runner-up at the NCAA Championships this weekend at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

**Churella 2nd in country**

By Jeff Theisen  
NOVI NEWS

**STORY CHAT**  
What do you think? Tell us at WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM

Novi wrestling coach Brad Huss said he almost flew out of his chair watching his former wrestler, Josh Churella, finish runner-up at the NCAA wrestling championships.

Churella, a 2003 Wildcat graduate and current University of Michigan wrestler, fought his way into the finals at 149 pounds with four straight wins. He faced Edinboro's Gregor Gillespie in the title match Saturday night at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Both wrestlers stalemated the first period, but Churella went ahead with an escape point in the second period. He just missed a takedown late in the period but still entered the final period with a one-point lead.

Gillespie earned an escape point to equal the match, and the wrestlers again stalemated the rest of the way, sending the match into sudden-death overtime.

Churella shot in for a takedown and got a foot, but Gillespie countered and eventually worked in position for a takedown and the deciding two points.

Despite the disappointment of not reaching his ultimate goal, Churella said the weekend was an incredible weekend.

"It was a real good experience to come back here and wrestle in front of the home crowd," Churella said. "It was a really awesome environment to wrestle in. The whole weekend was great."

"I just came up a little short in the finals ... I'll just kind of use that as a motivator for next year." Next year's season contains two major goals for Churella. "You want to win the Big 10 championships. That's a big deal," he said. "It's great to win and everything, but I think the final goal is to win a national title."

"Every year I've been going to watch the NCAA finals since the sixth grade. I always wanted to be in the final match and win it. I think I can take a lot of positives things away from this and work on a lot of stuff this summer. I've got one more shot at it."

He estimated about 50 family friends that he knew about were at the meet.

Huss said it was tough to see Churella come that close, but it's not the end for his U-M wrestling career.

"Josh had a great match. It would've been great to see him win it, but he has another year left," Huss said. Hopefully he can make it happen next year."

**Wildcat career**

Churella was a three-time state champion for the Wildcats.

See CHURELLA, 2B

What is **SPORTS SPOTLIGHT**? Each week, the Novi News takes a closer look at Novi athletes. Have a suggestion? jtheisen@gannett.com

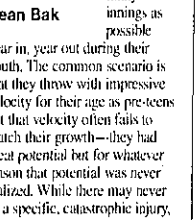
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Sports Med

A rested arm is a saved one

Spring training is upon us and our Tigers are returning from a brief but restful off-season. While many of these guys haven't touched a ball in four months, many of our teenagers haven't put their down all year. Year-round training is becoming increasingly popular for teenage athletes.



Sean Bak is a sports medicine professional.

When I was growing up, the traditional thought was the baseball players in the South had an advantage against us Northerners since they could play year-round. While this may hold true for hitting and position play, current thought is that the opposite is true for pitchers.

When I was growing up, the traditional thought was the baseball players in the South had an advantage against us Northerners since they could play year-round. While this may hold true for hitting and position play, current thought is that the opposite is true for pitchers.

Dukic soars for Eagles

7 Novi v-ball players receive All-Area honors

By Patrick Pinter and Jeff Theisen

She may not be the tallest or most physically intimidating player on the volleyball court, but for senior setter Kera Dukic, height isn't measured by height or weight. It is measured in effort, hustle and mental toughness.

This past season while leading Lakeland to back-to-back Kenyoning Valley Conference, district and regional titles, Dukic displayed all three of those qualities. For those reasons Dukic is the 2007 All-Area team Most Valuable Player.

"Kera is just a super girl and what she lacks in height she makes up for in heart," said Lakeland head coach Owen Nakamura. "She had a huge impact on our team. She was the team leader on the court."

A four year varsity member, this season Dukic was an all-around force for the Eagles in the middle of the court. This year she totaled over 1,000 set assists and was top five in six different statistical categories for the Eagles.

Along with being one of the premier setters in the area she also excelled at defense while recording over 300 digs and 30 block assists. Dukic was also named first team All-KVC and was selected to the All-Region team.

"As a coach you only get to play like this once in a lifetime," said Nakamura. "I have been with her the last four years and she has learned what is needed of her. She is a player that is able to recognize our strengths and weaknesses and able to play to them."

Novi is represented on the All-Area First Team by juniors Stephanie Cripps and Paige Jener. The juniors helped the Wildcats to a 31-8 record, a runner-up KVC finish, a district title and a run to the sweet 16.



Lakeland's Kera Dukic is the All-Area Athlete of the Year for volleyball.

All-Area Volleyball

Athlete of the Year Kera Dukic, Lakeland senior. First Team Joanna Foss, Northville senior; Krysta Cicala, Northville junior; Amanda Marquardt, Northville senior.

Honorable Mention Elise Fleishaker, Northville senior; Amanda Diacono, Novi senior; Hayley Miller, Novi junior; Rachel Falzon, Milford senior.

Second Team Kate Moran, Northville senior; Kristin Echehalt, Northville junior; Allison Holmes, Northville junior.

First Team Stephanie Cripps, Novi junior; Paige Jener, Novi junior; Kaitlyn Schultz, Milford junior; Katy Westenberg, Milford senior.

Honorable Mention Amanda Diacono, Novi senior; Hayley Miller, Novi junior; Rachel Falzon, Milford senior; Erin Nelson, Lakeland senior.

Second Team Kate Moran, Northville senior; Kristin Echehalt, Northville junior; Allison Holmes, Northville junior.

WRESTLING: All-Area picks

continued from front

Por Huron's Aaron Robinson was the only thing between Martin and a title. A 2-0 deficit in the first period was still nothing, as Martin scored the next four points and rode out all attempts for a takedown for the title.

Rodriguez said he knew Martin was the real deal when he started posting good matches against veteran wrestlers. "He was beating some and losing others by one or two points, just on simple mistakes," Rodriguez said.

Can (37-12) also placed fifth at the state meet. "A first year starter earning All-State honors... simply remarkable," Hancock said. "He is a person who strives for perfection and rarely gives up."

Novi placed four wrestlers on the first team: Jon Lachonobich (junior, 103), Justin Pullin (senior, 112), Robbie Yanko (junior, 125) and Ryan Thomas (junior, 145).

Lashorebic (44-7) was a mainstay on the podiums throughout the year at tournaments. He won titles at the following tournaments: Howell, Oakland County, Williamson and KVC.

"He had a great year," Novi head coach Brad Huss said. "He has an working very hard in the off-season, and I think, the sky is the limit next year."

"I'm in the state as a junior, coming into your senior year, that's pretty darn good to say the least," Pullin also had a strong year for the Wildcats, losing just five matches. He was steady all year and won the KVC and district titles, but lost in the blood-round at regionals and missed out on the state meet.

The All-Area Honorable Mention includes Catholic Central freshman Doug Elbridge and sophomore Brett Schwarzenes. South Lyons' Micaela Lampe and Zack Makowski, Lakeland's Max Hill and Milford junior Jason Rhodes.



Catholic Central's Mike Martin stands atop the podium at the state meet.

legue champ. "It should be proud of himself, because he really had a great senior year."

Yanko (38-13) provided consistency at 125 pounds for the Wildcats. He also collected a title at the Brighton Invitational. "Great kid who is an extremely hard worker," Huss said. "This off-season is going to make the difference for him."

"I worked really hard in the off-season. We had high hopes for him and then he breaks his ankle," Huss said. "You're thinking, 'Let's get ready for next year.' Then he comes out, catches fire and goes to the state meet. "He has so much potential that we've not even close to scratching that surface."

The rest of the First team includes Northville's Jonny D'Anna (junior, 119) and Brian Bagin (junior, 140).

3/28 Brother Rice Home (DH) 4 p.m. 3/28 Brother Rice Home (DH) 11 a.m. 3/31 Grosse Pointe S. Away 4 p.m.

3/28 Home South Lyon 4 p.m. 3/31 Away Brighton 11 a.m. 4/04 Home Walled Lake N. 4 p.m.

3/28 Home South Lyon 4 p.m. 3/31 Away Brighton 11 a.m. 4/04 Home Walled Lake N. 4 p.m.

Baseball

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 3/31 Away Livonia Stevenson, 4/02 Home Milford, 4/04 Away Pinckney, etc.

Golf

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 4/17 Away Milford, 4/18 Away Pre-KVC Tourney, 4/19 Home Pinckney Cattaits GC, etc.

Novi placed four wrestlers on the first team: Jon Lachonobich (junior, 103), Justin Pullin (senior, 112), Robbie Yanko (junior, 125) and Ryan Thomas (junior, 145).

Baseball

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 3/28 Brother Rice Home (DH) 4 p.m., 3/28 Brother Rice Home (DH) 11 a.m., 3/31 Grosse Pointe S. Away 4 p.m., etc.

Baseball

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 3/28 Home South Lyon 4 p.m., 3/31 Away Brighton 11 a.m., 4/04 Home Walled Lake N. 4 p.m., etc.

Boys Lacrosse

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 3/24 Home Harland 3 p.m., 3/29 Away Novi 6:30 p.m., 3/31 Home Powers Catholic 3 p.m., etc.

Girls Lacrosse

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 3/26 Away North Farmington 7 p.m., 3/31 Away Lakeland 1 p.m., 4/04 Home Regina 6 p.m., etc.

Baseball

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 3/30 Away Livonia Stevenson, 4/02 Home Grosse Pointe South, 4/18 Home Lakeland, etc.

Boys Lacrosse

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 3/27 Away Holt 7:30 p.m., 3/29 Home Northville 6:30 p.m., 4/04 Home Ann Arbor Pioneer 6:30 p.m., etc.

Girls Soccer

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 3/17 Away Walled Lake Central 9 a.m., 3/21 Away Northville 7 p.m., 3/23 Away Lahser 7 p.m., etc.

Baseball

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 5/1 DeLaSalle Home 7 p.m., 5/5 Cranbrook Home 3:30 p.m., 5/8 CHSL Playoffs TBA, etc.

Baseball

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 3/23 Home South Lyon 7 p.m., 3/28 Home Church Hill 7 p.m., 4/02 Home John Glenn (Westland) 7 p.m., etc.

Boys Lacrosse

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 4/18 Away W.L. Central 3:30 p.m., 4/19 Home Ladywood Tanglewood GC 3:30 p.m., 4/20 Home Church Hill 3:30 p.m., etc.

Girls Lacrosse

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 4/18 Away W.L. Central 3:30 p.m., 4/19 Home Ladywood Tanglewood GC 3:30 p.m., 4/20 Home Church Hill 3:30 p.m., etc.

Baseball

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 3/30 Away Livonia Stevenson, 4/02 Home Grosse Pointe South, 4/18 Home Lakeland, etc.

Softball

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 3/30 Home Livonia Franklin 4 p.m., 4/02 Home Milford 4 p.m., 4/04 Away Pinckney 4 p.m., etc.

Girls Soccer

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 5/1 DeLaSalle Home 7 p.m., 5/5 Cranbrook Home 3:30 p.m., 5/8 CHSL Playoffs TBA, etc.

Baseball

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 5/12 CHSL Champs Note Dame Prep 7 p.m., 5/15 Northville Home 5 p.m., 5/15 Northville Home 7 p.m., etc.

Baseball

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 3/23 Home South Lyon 7 p.m., 3/28 Home Church Hill 7 p.m., 4/02 Home John Glenn (Westland) 7 p.m., etc.

Boys Lacrosse

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 4/18 Away W.L. Central 3:30 p.m., 4/19 Home Ladywood Tanglewood GC 3:30 p.m., 4/20 Home Church Hill 3:30 p.m., etc.

Girls Lacrosse

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 4/18 Away W.L. Central 3:30 p.m., 4/19 Home Ladywood Tanglewood GC 3:30 p.m., 4/20 Home Church Hill 3:30 p.m., etc.

Baseball

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 6/01 Away Districts @ Mercy TBA, 6/08 Regional's TBA, 6/15 Home Semi-Finals TBA, etc.

Boys Tennis

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 4/02 Away Northville 4 p.m., 4/17 Away Saline 4 p.m., 4/18 Home Milford 4 p.m., etc.

Track & Field

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 3/28 Away Northville 3:30 p.m., 4/03 Away Milford 4 p.m., 4/04 Home Novi Boys relays 1:30 p.m., etc.

Baseball

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 5/12 CHSL Champs Note Dame Prep 7 p.m., 5/15 Northville Home 5 p.m., 5/15 Northville Home 7 p.m., etc.

Track

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 4/4 DeLaSalle Warren Fitzgerald 4 p.m., 4/14 Ann Arbor Pioneer/Canton/Ann Arbor Pioneer 1 p.m., 4/16 Brother Rice HOME 4 p.m., etc.

Boys Track

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 3/24 Away Ann Arbor Pioneer/Eastern Mich. 10 a.m., 3/29 Home Novi 3:30 p.m., 4/03 Away Canton 3:30 p.m., etc.

Girls Track

Table with columns for date, location, opponent, and time. Includes games like 3/21 Away Wolverine Invite U-M Indoor 6:30 p.m., 3/29 Home Novi 3:30 p.m., 3/31 Away EMU Relays TBA, etc.

CHURELLA: Former Novi wrestler finishes 2nd

continued from front

Saturday's attendance of 17,780 set a new NCAA Championship attendance record, previously set in 1997 (17,436).

Churella's All-American performance helped the Wolverines finish sixth during the tournament. Minnesota won the championship with 98 points, followed by Iowa State (88.5), Missouri (80), Northwestern (71.5), Oklahoma State (69) and Michigan (62).

Sports Shorts

Diesel tryouts The Detroit Diesels, a minor league football team is holding tryouts 2:30-5:30 p.m. March 24 at the High Velocity Sports Center, 46245 Michigan Avenue in Canton. Tryouts are \$30 and for ages 18 and up.

Advertisement for Storm Round 1 OHL Playoffs Western Conference Quarter-Final Series vs Guelph Storm. Includes game schedule and ticket information.

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# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Thursday, March 22, 2007  
[www.novinews.com](http://www.novinews.com)  
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## SOY

### Surprisingly Smart and Delicious

**S**oy ranks among a very select group of foods that provide exceptional nutrition benefits. Labeled *super foods* by author and expert Dr. Steven Pratt, research indicates that soy may help stem chronic conditions, such as cancer and osteoporosis. Additionally, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has stated that diets low in saturated fat and cholesterol that include 25 grams of soy protein a day may reduce the risk of heart disease.

In a recent survey among 14 foods that Dr. Pratt considers super foods, health professionals ranked soy sixth in importance. The survey of 1,000 adults, conducted by Silk Soy Milk, found that three-of-four say they are unfamiliar with the concept of "super foods."

To help people understand how simple it can be to incorporate super foods, Silk has joined with Dr. Pratt, concept originator and author of *Super Foods RX* and *Super Foods HealthStyle*, to develop a new top 10 list of super foods that go beyond nutrition using more relevant criteria such as taste, accessibility, ease of use and seasonality.

Products like Silk Soy Milk make it easy to get more soy into your diet. Silk is a smart choice, packed with nutrients, vitamins, minerals and health-boosting soy protein, and is fortified with calcium. It's also lactose-free, dairy-free and cholesterol-free.

"By creating a new top 10 super foods list with Silk, and providing accompanying recipes, we hope people will see how easy it is to reap the health benefits of super foods," Dr. Pratt said.

For super foods recipes, nutritional information and the latest news about soy, log onto [www.silksoy.com](http://www.silksoy.com). For more information about Dr. Pratt and *Super Foods RX*, visit [www.superfoodsrx.com](http://www.superfoodsrx.com).

In 1999 the FDA issued a health claim for soy, and its role in promoting cardiovascular health. Food and Drug Administration: Food Labeling: Health Claims: Soy protein, and coronary heart disease. Fed Reg 1999:57:1699-733.

#### Top 10 Super Foods by Dr. Pratt and Silk

- Soy milk
- Blueberries
- Oranges
- Dried fruits
- Oats
- Walnuts
- Yogurt
- Avocados
- Broccoli
- Tea — green or black



#### Blueberry-Orange-Vanilla Smoothie

*Super foods include: soy milk, blueberries, orange juice*  
Serves: 2

- 1 1/2 cups Silk Vanilla Soy Milk
- 1 banana, sliced into 1-inch pieces and frozen
- 1 cup frozen blueberries
- 1/4 cup frozen orange juice concentrate
- 1 tablespoon honey (orange blossom if available)

In blender, combine all ingredients. Blend until smooth and creamy.

#### Spinach Salad with Chicken, Avocado, Walnuts and Lemon Basil Dressing

*Super foods include: soy milk, walnuts, avocados*  
Serves: 4

- 5 ounces baby spinach (about 6 cups)
- 2 cups sliced cooked chicken (store-bought roasted chicken works well)
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh basil
- 1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 medium avocado, peeled, pitted and sliced
- 12 ripe cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/4 cup raw or toasted walnut halves
- Salt and freshly ground pepper

Place spinach and chicken in large salad bowl. Toss with dressing. Add salt and pepper to taste. Transfer salad to individual salad plates. Arrange avocado and tomato on top of spinach. Sprinkle with walnuts. Serve with additional dressing, if desired.

For dressing, combine lemon juice, soy milk, olive oil, honey, mustard, basil and Parmesan in blender. Puree until smooth and creamy. Makes 1 cup dressing.

#### Cream of Broccoli Soup

*Super foods include: soy milk, broccoli*  
Serves: 4

- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 shallots, peeled and minced
- 1 quart vegetable stock
- 1 large head broccoli or 1 1/2 pounds washed and bugged florets, coarsely chopped, stems peeled
- 3 medium zucchinis, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 1/2 cups Silk Plain Soy Milk
- Additional extra-virgin olive oil
- Shredded fresh basil leaves
- Freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- Salt and freshly ground pepper

In large, heavy stockpot over medium heat, heat olive oil. Add onion and shallots; cook until tender and aromatic, about 10 minutes. Add stock, broccoli, zucchini and dried thyme. Bring to boil, reduce heat to low and simmer 15 minutes, or until vegetables are soft. Add soy milk; puree soup in blender or food processor in batches, until smooth and creamy. Add salt and pepper to taste. Top with olive oil, basil leaves and Parmesan before serving.



# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Thursday, March 22, 2007

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## Athletes run to Total Sports

Programs cultivate necessary skills before season start

By Kate Phillips  
SPECIAL WRITER

With spring and summer sports just around the corner, kids and adults who want to get ahead of the game are coming to Total Sports to get a step up on their peers.

The huge sports complex hires experts in nearly every sport so that there's a place for everyone at Total Sports. There are leagues, drop-in clinics, day camps and one-on-one lessons in sports like soccer, lacrosse, softball, baseball, flag football, basketball and roller hockey.

"We're the place to go for sports," said Tony Moscone, general manager. "We've been known as a headquarters for sports throughout the last decade."

#### AWESOME FACILITY

Total Sports Complex in Wixom is one of the largest sports complexes in the country, and has been leading the industry since it opened in 1997.

The nearly 300,000-square-foot indoor facility includes six soccer fields, a roller-hockey rink, batting cages, and baseball/softball training rooms. The facility also includes plenty of instructional space, a sport-specific training center, private meeting/event rooms and a restaurant. The outdoor area includes softball and baseball fields, soccer field and large picnic space.

With new Progress turf installed last year, the indoor fields are covered with a softer surface that wards off injuries and problems. With a grass-like feel, it works well with all types of cleats and athletic shoes. It's very similar to the turf that covers Ford Field in Detroit.

Owners continue to invest heavily in the facility, keeping it constantly updated so that it is a safe, state-of-the-art facility. In fact, they have just updated their Web site, [www.totalsports.com](http://www.totalsports.com). There you will find a list of available sport leagues, sport camps, individual lesson programs, registration forms, event calendars, and much more sport-specific information.

#### TRAINING PROGRAM

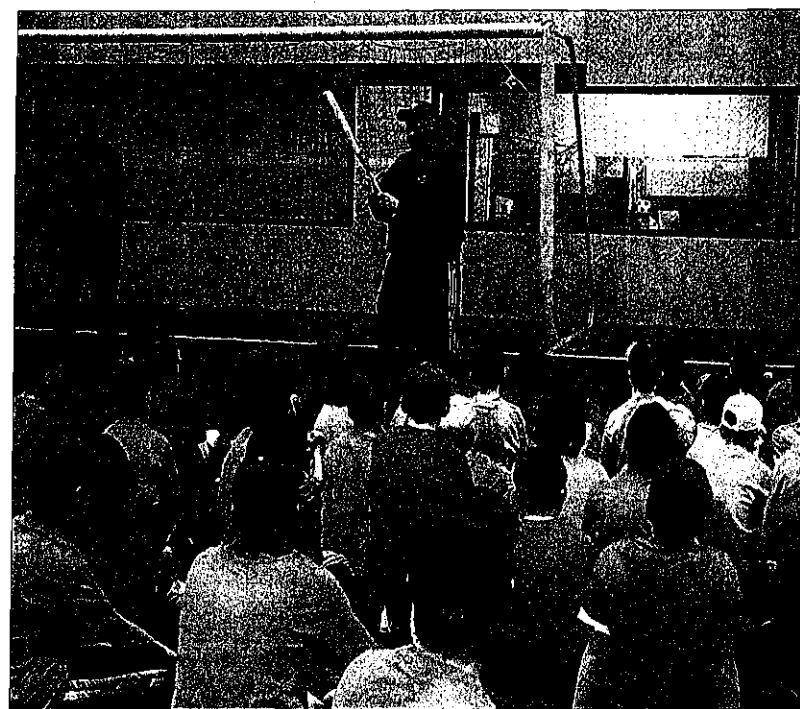
Athletes who want to get ahead of the pack workout at the Total Performance Training Center. It's the best way to prevent injuries and advance skills.

Both individuals and teams can set up training packages. It's open to both adults and children, age 8 and up. Area teams that have trained with Total Performance have gone on to win district and state championships.

Trainers use the Frappier Accelerated Sports Training programs to increase sprint speed and overall quickness, improve agility, build core strength and develop balance and body control. Sport-specific training is included, so the kick or the swing will be developed before the season even starts.

Families can try out the first Lil' Kickers class at no charge, and can start the ongoing class at any time. Kids as young as 1½ can play with help from a parent, or youngsters through age 10 can play independently. Classes are available at many times on both weekdays and weekends.

"We see that Total Performance training changes athletes in so many ways," said Anne Yoebes, assistant director. "It



Submitted photos

Both individuals and teams, from ages 8 to adult, train at the Total Performance Complex in Wixom to improve skills in baseball, softball, soccer, roller and floor hockey, flag football, lacrosse and basketball.

gets them in such good shape and up on technique that they feel really good and play with more confidence, plus they stay healthier and have endurance throughout the season."

#### PRIVATE LESSONS

Right now many baseball and softball players are coming in for private lessons, as a refresher before the season starts. Lee Bejerke, who is in the Michigan Coaches Hall of Fame, operates the entire baseball program and has developed many of its training programs. The programs he instituted can improve the skill level of a wide variety of baseball players. It can make the difference between a good player and an exceptional player, with time spent on advanced techniques, such as different pitches and hitting stances.

Entire teams can also benefit from private lessons on or off site. "Our goal is to take each person one step beyond where they're at now," said Jessie Milosek, softball coordinator. "It's a good starting point to make sure kids are on track, or to prepare for varsity and travel-team tryouts," added Scott Gardner, baseball coordinator.

#### LIL' KICKERS

Even toddlers and preschoolers can get active with Lil' Kickers classes. They're the perfect chance for little ones to get exercise while learning soccer basics in a fun, non-competitive environment. The class was actually developed by a child psychologist so that it nurtures the young children and provides skills in movement. And mascot Hoppy the Bunny gets kids really excited about playing.

"They are structured classes with constant changes to keep the kids interested. It is a wonderful program that helps build the child's self-esteem while developing happier and healthier kids," said Jen D'Annunzio, Lil' Kickers coordinator. Families can try out the first Lil' Kickers class at no charge, and can start the ongoing class at any time. Kids as young as 1½ can play with help from a parent, or youngsters through age 10 can play independently. Classes are available at many times on both weekdays and weekends.

#### TOTAL SPORTS COMPLEX

30890 Wixom Road,  
north of I-96 in Wixom  
Phone  
(248) 669-9817  
Web  
[www.totalsportscomplex.com](http://www.totalsportscomplex.com)

#### LEAGUES AND CAMPS

There is still space in spring-break camps for baseball, softball, soccer and roller hockey. The camps accommodate both beginners and advanced players, ages 7 to 13.

In addition to spring-break camp, there are plenty of regular classes and leagues at Total Sports for ages 3 to adult. From flag football to roller hockey, there are plenty of new sports to try in addition to the favorites.

Those interested in advanced roller hockey can borrow equipment at Total Sports to keep costs down. "Roller hockey is fun because it is fast paced with lots of scoring," said Jim Goracy, coordinator.

This summer there will be camps available for every sport. The camps are half-day or full-day, with lunch. Latchkey programs are available before and after school to fit the schedules of busy parents. Kids can come for a fun-packed week or can spend the entire summer learning and playing at Total Sports.

#### PARTIES

Total Sports is the perfect place for parties — for both kids and adults. Kids can choose a birthday party with a fun activity like flag football, art, science, soccer, inflatables or baseball. Everything is taken care of, and when the party is over, there's no mess to clean up. And prices are actually lower at Total Sports than other nearby venues.

Once spring arrives, picnics will abound at Total Sports. Company parties can be held in the beautiful park-like setting. Those planning a company picnic or corporate team-building event will be surprised by the possibilities at



Total Sports is a great place to hold an activity-filled birthday party, company picnic or team-building event.

Total Sports Complex. The best insurance against inclement weather is the ability to move the festivities indoor and not miss a beat.

#### SIGN UP NOW

In-house leagues in many sports are offered for every age and skill level. Also, Total Sports in Wixom has a path for improvement in a variety of sports through leagues, camps, private lessons, and/or sport skill-specific training.

Go to [www.totalsportscomplex.com](http://www.totalsportscomplex.com) or call (248) 669-9817.

What We Offer:

- Soccer
- Lil' Kickers
- Baseball
- Softball
- Batting cages
- Flag Football
- Lacrosse
- Roller Hockey
- Bar & Grill
- Birthday & Team parties
- Sports Training Center

## TOTAL SPORTS COMPLEX

Check out our Web site for our new summer programs and leagues!!

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# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Thursday, March 22, 2007

## Home Owners Do You Know How To Avoid MOLD IN THE HOME: PREVENTION AND CONTROL



Mold is a common occurrence in homes, which can potentially cause health problems as well as damage to structures and surfaces if it is not controlled. It begins growing indoors when spores come in contact with wet surfaces or substances. Once established, mold can be very difficult to remove successfully - so prevention is the key.

### MOLD PREVENTION

Mold cannot grow in the absence of moisture. Moisture can come from leaks, spills, condensation build up in basements and/or attics from poor ventilation, Bathroom exhaust fans venting into attics, or not bathroom exhaust fans in the home, and humidity setting on the furnace humidistat being set too high. Therefore controlling sources of moisture is the most important step in mold. Here are a few ways to avoid creating conditions in which mold will thrive:

- Look for signs of leaks in supply and waste lines for bathrooms, kitchens, utility sinks, and laundry areas. Have any leaks repaired immediately and dry the area thoroughly.
- Check the condition of grout and tile on shower walls and floors to prevent water penetration into walls and floors.
- Increase ventilation to the outside by using exhaust fans for kitchens, bathrooms and attic condensation build up install proper attic ventilation.
- Regularly empty and clean drain pans and hoses for air conditioning units and dehumidifiers.
- Check for roof leaks that cause water to enter attic spaces or build up under roof shingles and any flashing gaps, etc.
- If possible, lower the humidity in the home to decrease condensation and create a less mold-friendly environment.

Areas of the home that tend to stay damp, such as showers, may be more difficult to keep entirely free of mold but it can be minimized. Regular cleaning, opening a window or using a ventilation fan are often enough to keep mold in control.

### MOLD REMOVAL

Once mold has become established in the home it can be difficult to clean yourself. Depending on the location and severity of the mold problem, a homeowner may need to hire a professional certified remediation company to remove it. A qualified professional will also take preventive measures to lessen the likelihood of mold recurrences.

### CALL US TO HAVE YOUR HOME CHECKED FOR MOLD AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING SERVICES

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## Blossom with Everything Grows

Master Gardener Jodi Slankard shares passion for flowers with the community

By Kate Phillips  
SPECIAL WRITER

Many people dream about having the most beautiful garden in town, but just don't have the time or the patience to work on it. Jodi Slankard and her professional staff at Everything Grows can help make dreams of a beautiful garden a reality at last.

### MAKING GARDENS BEAUTIFUL

Advanced Master Gardener Jodi Slankard designs and plants area gardens, and also can work through the summer to maintain the garden so it looks good throughout the seasons. She also cleans up gardens in the fall so that they will be ready to blossom again in the spring.

There's nothing like a well-planned flower garden. She knows that people love sitting in them, walking through and just looking at colorful flower gardens.

But some just don't have the time to keep a garden looking good, others don't have the physical capabilities, and many realize that they don't have the expertise to plan a garden that looks spectacular.

"Just sit back, relax and let me do the work so you can enjoy the beautiful outdoor spaces filled with vibrant colors and memorable fragrances," she said.

Jodi is flexible and happy to work with any size garden or budget. She understands that some people enjoy doing some of the gardening tasks so is glad to perform the jobs the home or business owner would prefer not to do.

### PLANNING THE PERFECT GARDEN

Jodi specializes in flower gardens. She uses a combination of bulbs, perennials and annuals that will flower through the spring, summer and early fall.

"I like to see a dramatic effect throughout the seasons," said Jodi.

Jodi's experience in planning ensures that her clients will get the desired results for their dream garden. Customers may choose the services they want from planning and planting to maintenance and clean-up.

Jodi sits down with each customer to determine their likes and dislikes in colors and flowers. She considers color schemes that range from monochromatic (shades of the same color) or polychromatic (opposite sides of the color wheel).

She'll also consider the unique features of the yard, such as shade, sunny areas and trouble spots.

"The location of your garden and soil base are the most important factors," Jodi said. "Most plants need six hours of sunshine to bloom and thrive."

Shade gardens can be difficult, with fewer planting options. However shade gardens can be made incredibly beautiful, with good planning," she added.

### ONE-OF-A-KIND GARDENS

Jodi views flower gardens as constantly changing works of art with new shapes and colors as the gardens mature.

"Your garden is like a watercolor painting, with nature painting outdoors," she said.

One thing that distinguishes the work of Everything Grows is Jodi's use of annuals to accent the perennials and provide color all season long, so there's always something blooming.

It's all sorts of little details that make Jodi's gardens spectacular. For example, she often prefers to edge her gardens with sweet alyssum which effectively hides



Submitted photos

Jodi Slankard and her staff at Everything Grows understand there is nothing like a well-planned flower garden. From shade gardens to sunny pool-side blooms, rose gardens to commercial flower beds, Slankard can plan, plant and take care of anyone's flower needs.

### EVERYTHING GROWS

Jodi Slankard  
Master Gardener  
(248) 259-1363



Jodi Slankard is an advanced master gardener who owns and operates Everything Grows gardening service.

rubber tubing and produces a wonderful fragrance.

Jodi's background as a master gardener can provide invaluable input on selection of plants that will thrive in every garden location. A garden designed by a professional looks planned rather than planted haphazardly.

She also can renovate an existing bed that is overgrown and overcrowded.

### START WITH A GOOD BASE

Jodi Slankard believes that cultivating good soil is the most important part of gardening. She likes to do it right the first time instead of having to rip out dead plants after a year of struggling in poor soil.

The majority of Jodi's time in a garden is spent amending the soil, adding organic compost and fertilizer.

The good soil makes Jodi's gardens look amazing, setting them in a different class than the average garden.

"It's crucial to start with a good base," said Jodi. "It's so important that the plants get the nutrients that they need from the soil. Even if the soil starts out filled with rich nutrients, gardening over the years will deplete the soil of these nutrients." To replenish the soil, Everything Grows recommends adding fresh compost to their gardens annually.

### ROSE GARDENS

Jodi has a passion for roses. She actually comes from a family of rosarians. Her passion for the thorned beauties is inherited through the generations.

She loves to plant roses in Michigan. They are always blooming, providing continuous color from June until November.

She can provide customers with all sorts of varieties for a custom rose garden — from gorgeous fragrant hybrid tea roses in every shade, to easy-care and low maintenance roses such as Knockouts and carpet roses. There is a rose for everyone — from dark purple beauties to an entire garden filled with red roses.

The flowers bring beautiful fragrance to a home and produce enough flowers to keep a bouquet inside every single day. She also likes to add lavender and hybrid lilies in with the roses to make gorgeous fragrant bouquets.

Roses have gotten a bad rep throughout the years and are not as difficult as people think. There are many varieties that require almost no care, and they keep blooming much longer than most perennials," Jodi added.

### COMMERCIAL GARDENS

Jodi services both residential homes and commercial gardens. She keeps common areas looking good for several subdivisions

associations. She is also available to plant and maintain gardens at apartment complexes and businesses.

Jodi prides herself in being reliable and trustworthy. Commercial customers especially appreciate her attention to detail and timeliness.

"If I say I'll be there at a certain time, I will be there," Jodi said. "If I say I can do it at a certain price, I won't go over budget without your approval."

If your home is for sale, Everything Grows can spruce up the existing landscape to make your home stand out in this buyers market.

Call Jodi at Everything Grows today to create a new garden space or make your existing garden beautiful!

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**• Installation**  
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## Everything Grows

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