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**The high notes**

Novi High School choir members tuned up their vocal chords for an honor choir performance in Ann Arbor last week.  
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**Women of the Years**  
 Grand Court resident Helen Lama was just one of two residents at Grand Court to celebrate a birthday in triple digits this month. Read about her experience. — Page 4A

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Lyle Tyler was selected as the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year. Read about the man who was named as western Oakland County's top dog for the community.  
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The Wildcats' hockey team fared well against KVC rival Brighton, but came up short against teams from the Upper Peninsula. — Page 1B



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# More trouble on Main Street

## Bernard lawsuit alleges Chen withheld owed income

By Victoria Sadlocha  
 STAFF WRITER

Real estate broker John Bernard has filed a lawsuit against James Chen stating Chen is withholding two years of income owed to him and that he "duped" a bank teller into cashing a check that wasn't his.  
 He also alleges Chen, principal owner and managing partner of Evergreen III, is refusing to provide him with a complete accounting of

income, expenses and amounts he should be paid.  
 According to the complaint filed in Oakland County Circuit Court on Jan. 16, "Chen has controlled the books of Evergreen, but has repeatedly refused and/or failed to provide Bernard with complete accountings or information as to income, expenses and amounts owed to Bernard. Further, despite Bernard's repeated requests, Chen has failed and/or refused to pay Bernard his portion of Evergreen's

net profits, or even provide the information necessary for Bernard to calculate the amounts that are due him."  
 Bernard alleges that a service contract was negotiated in 1998 between he and Chen before reaching two agreements.  
 The first agreement was that Bernard would provide Chen with real estate broker services and the other agreement was for consulting services. Bernard also stated in the complaint he worked on the Main

Street project for more than one year, without receiving any compensation.  
 According to documents prepared by Bernard's attorney, E. Michael Morris, profits from Evergreen were to be split, with 45 percent of net profits going to Bernard.  
 The documents stated "during the years 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001, Bernard performed enormous services for Chen and "as of the date of this complaint, Bernard

has not been paid 45 percent of Evergreen's net profits for the years 2000 or 2001, even though Chen has acknowledged that Bernard is owed 45 percent of the net profits."  
 Morris is also arguing Chen and Evergreen III have failed to pay Bernard one or more real estate commissions owed to him as to the leases and that Chen has also failed to pay Bernard amounts owed pursuant to the consulting agreement.

Continued on 4

## Cassis to seek senate seat

By Victoria Sadlocha  
 STAFF WRITER

With her vast experience as a legislator and educator, State Representative Nancy Cassis announced she is seeking a seat in Michigan's Senate.  
 The Jan. 21 official announcement did not come as a surprise, as many speculated the Novi republican would seek election to Oakland County's redistricted 15th State Senate District.  
 "It feels almost as exciting as when I announced I was running for state representative," Cassis said after making the announcement.  
 The House Tax Policy Chair said she's gained the experience necessary to do the job after representing a growing area of Oakland County since elected to the house in 1996.  
 "I think running further for the

Continued on 4

## Smooch...



photo by JOHN HEIDER

Amy Marshall, of Oak Creek, Wisc., gets a kiss-lick from her English Springer Spaniel Hanna Friday evening at the Livingston County Kennel Club Dog Show at the Novi Expo Center.

## Improvement funds OK'd

### County to provide home improvement funding for Novi homeowners.

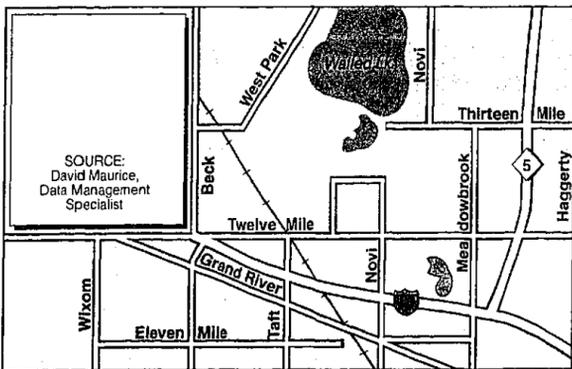
By Victoria Sadlocha  
 STAFF WRITER

Residents in need of city supplied home improvement assistance have more options now as Oakland County officials provide additional funding for participants of Novi's Home Improvement Plan.

In prior years, residents who met qualification

criteria were eligible to receive up to \$5,000 provided by the city for improvements and repairs.  
 Now, those in need of upgrades may apply for an additional \$18,000 of Oakland County loans.  
 Novi city controller Marina Neumaler, said the Oakland County funds are loans, but depending on the applicant's annual income may carry a very low interest rate or payments may be deferred until the home owner no longer resides in the house or it is sold.  
 The \$5,000 maximum provided by the city however does not have to be paid back as the money is provided through the city's Community Improvement Plan.

Continued on 4



## Planners cite need for additional park land

By Angelo Parlove  
 STAFF WRITER

Two Novi planning commissioners don't see this month's decision to amend the city master plan — which eliminated nearly 95 acres of park land — as the end of the road for the highly-contested issue in Novi, but hope to see an expansion of recreation area for the city's residents.

"I want to encourage the city (of Novi) to pursue the purchase of additional park land," Novi planning commission member Tim Shroyer said. "We shouldn't give up on other avenues."

At the Jan. 9 planning commission meeting, Shroyer recommended looking into purchasing more suitable park land, even if it meant going outside Novi and exploring options in such areas as Lyon Township.

"I hope to see the city seek out

**"I hope to see the city out possible land in Novi or seek out vacant land outside the city on its' borders."**

Tim Shroyer  
 Novi planning commissioner

possible land in Novi or seek out vacant land outside the city on its borders," Shroyer said. "It is then possible to have that land annexed into city property."

Furthermore, Novi planning

Continued on 4

## Students enjoy living science tour

By Angelo Parlove  
 STAFF WRITER

Creatures of the rainforest visited Novi Woods Elementary students right in their own classroom last week.

The Living Science Foundation of Plymouth presented the eager Novi kids with a wide array of animals from the heart and soul of Earth's jungles, including a macaw, a boa constrictor and tarantulas, as well as "Ripley" — a 7-month-old binturong, which is also known as an Asian bearcat.

"We try to increase awareness of animals and their environment," said Curt Street of the Living Science Foundation. "We also want to expose kids to animals they wouldn't necessarily see."

On Jan. 10-11, the tour stopped by each classroom, allowing every student a face-to-face encounter with some of nature's most intriguing and rare elements.

"When the Living Science Foundation comes here, they are always wonderful," said Novi Woods Elementary PTO assembly coordinator Kathy Forche. A crowd favorite was "Kirby," a 22-year-old blue and yellow macaw which can be found in the South

Continued on 4



photo by JOHN HEIDER

Living Science instructor Tracy Lambert feeds a carrot to a binturong, or "bearcat", during last Thursday's assembly at Novi Woods.



# Election 2002: Cassis announces bid for state senate

**Continued from 1**  
 Cassis as an experienced legislator will allow some continuity," Cassis said. "I can hit the ground running."  
 Cassis said she would continue her dedication to issues she has fought for as a representative of the people and pay special attention to Michigan's economy.  
 Attracting new jobs and keeping existing ones is something she feels will help the state's economy grow.  
 Cassis said she was proud of her record which showed she accomplished what she promised to do. Some of the promises she has

carried out include tax relief for businesses and individuals through the elimination of the single business tax and lowering the personal income tax rate, guaranteeing more than \$80 million for Oakland County and her district to improve roads; and sponsoring educational initiatives for early childhood reading grants, creating a Blue Ribbon Special Education task force and authorizing the public art restoring Internet photography to libraries at



Nancy Cassis

public libraries.  
 "I have focused diligently on assuring that our communities are safe, our schools are strong and our government is sensible," she stated.  
 As a former educator and child psychologist, Cassis said her passion has always been children.  
 "I've been dedicated to early child development," she said.  
 As part of her dedication she sponsored early reading programs to get the basics down.  
 After spending time talking with her constituents, the soon-to-be 58-year-old said it was clear residents' quality of life centered on improving roads, ensuring educa-

tional success, reducing their tax burden and protecting the environment and natural resources -- she said she would continue to focus on, if she's elected.  
 During her legislative career, Cassis has been recognized as the 1999 National Republican Legislator of the Year, 1999 Inside Business Journal's Best Politician of the Year on Business Issues, 1999 Michigan Credit Union League Legislator of the Year, received the 1999 Michigan Soft Drink Association Leadership Award, recognized as the 2000 Inside Business Journal's Who's Who Business Leader, 2001 Michigan Association for Computer

Users in Learning Dedicated Public Service Award, 2001 Michigan Manufacturers Association House Advocate of the Year and 2001 Michigan Chamber of Commerce Champion of Commerce Award.  
 Elected, Cassis would be representing her entire current House district, consisting of part of the city of Novi, Walled Lake, Wixom, South Lyon, Lyon Township, the village of Milford and Milford Township. She would be adding Orchard Lake, Wolverine Lake and the townships of West Bloomfield, Cantonville, White Lake, Highland Rose and Holly to her representation territory.

Cassis was unable to seek another term as state representative due to term-limit restrictions, but said it had been a tremendous honor and privilege to serve a mosaic of communities from Novi to Milford to the growing areas of Wixom.  
 "It has been the most gratifying experience of my life," Cassis said. "I'd elected to the Senate I will continue all of my energy and dedication."  
 She currently resides in Novi with her husband Victor.  
 Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or at vsadlocha@ltl.homecomm.net.

# Funds: Homeowners may get assistance

**Continued from 1**  
 Developed Block Grant Fund.  
 This year, the city has allocated more than \$51,000 of funds received by the federal government for minor home repairs for the new season which will begin disbursement around June.  
 "By confining with Oakland County, we can provide a greater level of service," Neumaier said.  
 The program is nice because it generates a lot of community support. Novi was chosen by Oakland County officials as a test case to see how the partnering program will work.  
 The city began a campaign near the end of last year to build awareness of the new combined program's existence.  
 "We've averaged only about a half a dozen in the last five years," said Novi chief operating officer Craig Klaver about how the program had done in the past.  
 Novi mayor Richard J. Clark mailed a letter detailing the program and its requirements to residents in the program's target area. Neumaier explained the target area, consisting primarily of residents living north of Twelve Mile Road and near Walled Lake, was defined using prior census data.  
 "There are a lot of people in the target area who really need our help," Klaver said.  
 He explained many of the Novi homes near the lake were actually cottages and therefore in need of improvements.  
 Although there is an area targeted to build awareness, any Novi

homeowner who meets the requirements is eligible.  
 Recently, the city's program funded the construction of a handicapped ramp for a resident who is confined to a wheelchair and had no accessible way to enter and exit her home without assistance.  
 Other examples of improvements include furnace and chimney maintenance, replacement of water heaters, toilets, defective light fixtures, entrance doors, defective windows, garbage disposals or dry wall, repair of porches, stairs, roofs, downspouts, gutters or siding, smoke detector installation, and one-time insect examination.  
 Klaver said the response of Novi residents who have received help has been tremendous. He also pointed out that all homeowners who participate in the program are given complete anonymity.  
 Keeping the project of all involved was adapted to encourage more people to apply for the program, he said.  
 Neumaier stressed all residents need to do is fill out an application provided by the city. After the application is received, city officials take it from three screening contractors, filling permits and making sure the project complies with government regulations.  
 To determine eligibility, applicants will need to provide a copy of last year's tax return.  
 "In many cases, these improvements change the homeowner's day-to-day life," Klaver said.  
 For more information about the program or to receive an application, call Klaver at (248) 347-0445.

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 For more information about the program or to receive an application, call Klaver at (248) 347-0445.

# Main Street: Chen faces new lawsuit

**Continued from 1**  
 The complaint states Chen acknowledged the real estate broker agreement, but denies the agreement for consulting services exists.  
 According to documents prepared by Morris, Bernard was supposed to receive real estate commissions from Evergreen III in the amount of 50 percent of tenants secured and 45 percent of Evergreen's - a separate entity from Evergreen III - net profits.  
 Evergreen's net profits were to be calculated as 50 percent of Evergreen III's real estate commissions less certain expenses.  
 Morris also states Bernard's consulting fee was supposed to equal up to 4 percent of the aggregate lease amounts for a period of ten years for all tenants secured at the Main Street location.  
 In addition to the lack of payment for services claim, the complaint states Chen received a check in the approximate amount of \$380,386 which was written to Bernard Real Estate Development Corp. and John Bernard individually.  
 The complaint continues that without Bernard's permission or knowledge, Chen improperly nego-

tiated the check and then failed to pay Bernard the amount he was due.  
 "Upon information and belief, Chen duped or misled the bank teller into negotiating the check without Bernard's signature and/or director of Evergreen III," the court document read.  
 Bernard alleges when Chen asked for assistance, the Main Street project was stalled and on the verge of total financial collapse.  
 He states at the time of request, many subcontractors had not been paid and had filed attorneys to litigate the project and seek funding.  
 The Novi developer is seeking whatever amount in excess of \$25,000 to which the court determines, attorney's fees, damages and whatever other relief the court determines he is entitled.  
 Chen is currently involved in a 52-1 District Court battle against nine Main Street tenants.  
 He served the lessors eviction notices after they allegedly refused to pay him suspiciously high and unsubstantiated common area maintenance fees.  
 Chen and Bernard were unavailable for comment. Morris is on vacation and will return Jan. 28.

# Animals visit classroom

**Continued from 1**  
 American rainforests. The students touched the bird's long tail, while the darning allowed it to perch on their arm.  
 "I wouldn't suggest keeping a bird like this, though, unless you have a college degree in training one," Living Science Foundation instructor Kristin Butler told the fourth-grade students on Thursday.  
 Furthermore, "Midnight," a 6-foot boa constrictor also from the South American rainforests,

thrilled the wide-eyed elementary kids who stroked the backside of one of Earth's most notorious snakes.  
 "They are not slimy; they are very soft and gentle," Butler told the students, dismissing the beast's bad connotations.  
 The Living Science Foundation is an organization dedicated to providing positive science experiences for children by bringing the animal kingdom into the personal learning space of students, creating a one-on-one learning environment.



Helen Lama, 103, left, and Marguerite Knight, 100, both talked about passing a hundred years in age last week at Novi's Grand Court retirement community.

# A century's worth of memories

Special birthday party celebrates 203 years of life for two Novi women

**By Victoria Sadlocha**  
 STAFF WRITER  
 Two Novi women share one sought-after secret.  
 The secret to longevity.  
 Helen Lama and Marguerite Knight collectively celebrated 203 years of life at Grand Court Independent and Assisted Retirement Home in Novi last week.  
 A special party was held in honor of 103-year-old Lama and 100-year-old Knight Jan. 17 for residents, friends and family members of both special ladies.  
 Executive director Angela Guskowit said Grand Court usually holds one party a month to celebrate all residents' birthdays, but since the duo was turning 103 and 100 it was a special occasion so they held a separate party.  
 Lama has been a resident of Grand Court for nearly two years and said until some recent health problems enjoyed playing Euchre on a regular basis with the other residents.  
 "I've won my share," Lama said.  
 Guskowit said although Lama hasn't been

playing cards like she used to, she still really gets around.  
 Knight, who has lived at Grand Court for about 14 years, is also an avid card player. "I play pinbelle three times a week," Knight said. Both birthday girls additionally enjoy spending time reading mysteries.  
 Before coming to Grand Court, Lama and Knight experienced prosperous and hard times. The Great Depression was a time both women experienced differently. For Lama times were hard. The Illinois native struggled trying to raise her two children.  
 "We just got by," Lama said.  
 She said her husband of 68 years was a salesman, which was a difficult profession to hold during such a hard time.  
 She said she has always taken her daily life for granted.  
 "I must have been content to a certain degree," Lama said.  
 For Knight, the Depression was not as hard. Her husband of 57 years was a police officer, so he was not out of work.  
 Both women worked throughout their lives.

Knight worked in a television office and for a Lansing attorney and Lama worked in the payroll department of General Motors Corporation.  
 Lama said she enjoyed accounting work because it involved "a lot of figures and a lot of pressure."  
 Knight experienced a tremendous loss early in life as her mother died when she was born. She also lost one of her four children to cancer.  
 She said she did have a good childhood though, being raised by her grandparents on a farm four miles from the town.  
 "Everybody has been good to me," Knight said.  
 As for the question of the secret to a long life, Lama and Knight suggested living in the present and hoping one comes from good genes.  
 Also, a glass of red wine now and then never hurts.  
 Lama's 103rd birthday was Jan. 17 and Knight turned 100 on Jan. 19.

Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or at vsadlocha@ltl.homecomm.net.

# Lawmakers propose a hike in unemployment benefits

**By Mike Mallott**  
 KNOXTEOWN NEWS SERVICE  
 MMALLOTT@HOMECOMM.NET  
 Laid off workers would receive a substantial improvement in unemployment benefits, including a 36 percent hike in the weekly payment, under a package of bills being proposed by Michigan Republicans in the state House.  
 The bills, expected to be introduced shortly in Lansing by a coalition of GOP lawmakers led by House Speaker Rick Johnson (R-

LeRoy), would increase weekly payments from \$300 to \$415.  
 Weekly unemployment benefits in Michigan, which have not been adjusted since 1996, would then be well over the national average of \$234.  
 "Unfortunately, layoffs are happening all around the state, and we need to help workers and families when they need it most," said Rep. Laura Troy (R-Livonia). "Increasing weekly benefit payments, providing opportunities for finding work and innovative ways to deal with temporary hardships — our package is based on these important principles."  
 But the proposal is not universally supported. Rep. Robert Gosselin (R-Troy) attended the press conference at which the proposal was announced but said he is "not on board totally."  
 Gosselin said he believed the increase is warranted and is not excessive, considering how low it has been since it was last adjusted, but he said requirements should be increased for those who file for

benefits.  
 "People have to know that government is not the answer to all their problems," Gosselin explained. "There is always going to be a need for career changes. There will always be jobs that drop off. People are going to have to get retrained, and get reeducated, reeducated... I just don't want this to be a freebie on the backs of businesses or a freebie on the backs of the taxpayers."  
 In negotiations for passage of the benefit increase, Gosselin said he

would push for the initiation of a "waiting week" before workers can collect benefits or for a state override of local living wage ordinances, items not currently in the package.  
 The package, as it is proposed, includes creation of a "Worker Financial Security Account," that would allow employees to pay into a savings plan similar to a 401(k) and to make tax-free withdrawals during periods of unemployment.  
 Also proposed is an income tax deduction for unemployed parents who are paying college tuition for

their children. Penalties and interest may also be waived on delinquent income tax payments owed by unemployed workers for up to six months, under the package of bills.  
 The package would also promote availability of free vocational training, career counseling and job search and placement assistance.  
 Also working on the package will be Reps. Gary Warochak (R-Dearborn), Randy Richardville (R-Monroe), Scott Hummel (R-DeWitt) and Larry Julian (R-Lennon).

THE NOVI NEWS  
 Published Each Thursday  
 By The Novi News  
 104 W. Main Street  
 Northville, Michigan, 48167  
 Periodical  
 At Northville, Michigan

Subscription Rates:  
 Inside Counties \$28 one year home delivery, \$35 one year mail delivery.  
 Outside Counties (in Michigan) are \$40 per year, prepaid. Out of state, \$50 per year.

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LET'S TALK *Jewelry* WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN GEMOLOGIST

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### Dell wins computer bid from Novi School District

By Angelo Parlove  
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Board of Education set the wheels in motion for a technology overhaul at the Novi Community School District, which will begin in February.

Despite discrepancies raised by IBM, the school board unanimously approved - with trustee Ann Newton abstaining - the Dell Computer Company technology bid that would bring 3,000 computer workstations and 500 laptop tops to the district over the next four years.

Dell's bid amount of \$4,115,828 topped IBM, Compaq and Gateway, who bid \$4,645,680, \$4,775,042 and \$4,808,072, respectively. Overall, the award contract will exceed the budget estimate of \$4,150,750 for the project.

"Dell was the best value," said Jim "Tex" Thiroux, director of technology for Novi Schools. "They will give the community the most for their dollar."

Furthermore, the technology upgrade will include an estimated 12 new servers and the integra-

### Habitat for Humanity host special dinner

By Erin Johnson  
STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 2 Huron Valley residents have the opportunity to have a little fun while raising money for a good cause.

The West Oakland chapter of Habitat for Humanity is having a fundraising silent auction and dinner dance at the El Dorado Country Club located at 2869 N. Pontiac Trail in Commerce.

Executive chair Randy Wilcox said this is the first fundraiser of this type the chapter has done. He said the idea came from a similar event he attended.

"It just looked like people really enjoyed it," he said.

He said the chapter members started planning the event about a year ago and if it is successful Wilcox said they will hold the event again.

"At this point, we're thankful for what we get," he said.

The chapter had a hard time finding land to build their first home on, but Wilcox said they already have the land and building permits ready at the Holy site. Wilcox said Holy may not be the only area getting a Habitat home this year.

"I do anticipate we'll begin another build in 2002," he said.

He also said the chapter will be holding other fundraisers throughout the year including a rummage sale and more golf outings like the ones they help last year.

"These have turned out really well," Wilcox said.

The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 2 with the silent auction. Wilcox said some of the prizes to be bid on include dinner for 30 delivered, a ride in an amphibious vehicle that can function on both roads and water, a week long vacation at a resort condo and a ceramic Habitat for Humanity display. The evening will continue with dinner and dancing.

Erin Johnson is a reporter for the *Novi News*. She can be reached at (248) 665-1507 or by e-mail at [erjohnson@homecomm.net](mailto:erjohnson@homecomm.net).

### Novi High School plays host to state honors choir tryouts

By Angelo Parlove  
STAFF WRITER

Some of the top women singers from Michigan high schools came together in Novi last week to prepare their vocal chords for a big evening in Ann Arbor.

The Novi High School hosted the Michigan School Vocal Music Association State Honors Choir - the all women's division - as more than 100 soprano and alto singers practiced for the Midwest Music Conference on Jan. 19 at Hill Auditorium.

"Everyone is really talented, and it's an honor to work with such talented people," said Novi High School student and honors choir singer Marie Gouta.

The lady singers featured such pieces as "Ode to Music" by Malcolm Williamson and "I Will Be Earth" by Guyonh Walker at the Saturday evening concert, which was the final performance of the year for the

Midwestern Music Conference.

The performance was directed by guest conductor, Dr. Sandra Snow, an assistant professor in the School of Music at the University of Michigan. Snow also conducts the Michigan Youth Women's Chorus and the Summer Arts Institute in Ann Arbor for middle school kids.

"It is nice to work with students that are really motivated and working towards the same goal," said Ashvini Hardikar, a Novi High School student and honors choir singer.

Furthermore, the visiting students from across Michigan, including the Upper Peninsula, stayed with Novi choir and band host families on Jan. 17-19 as they fine-tuned the concert music.

"This is a great opportunity for our community to host this event," said Novi High School choir director Don Daniels. "It reflects well on Novi and its community outreach."

The concert was divided into three state honors divisions: the SSAA, composed of women soprano and alto singers, the TTBB, composed of men tenor and bass singers, and the SATB, a mixed men and women's division. In all, the show boasted more than 300 students, representing over 200 Michigan high schools.

In addition to Gouta and Hardikar, Novi High School singers Erin Chupinsky, Nancy Zhao, Matt Britten, Allison Barsamian and Tim Kava performed in the state honors choirs.

"This is a very prestigious event. There is nothing else like it in the state," said MSVMA honors choir supervisor Dee Ann Galbreath. "This looks very good on a resume if you want to continue your music career at a university music department."

Angelo Parlove is a staff writer for the *Novi News*. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or at [aparlove@hlt.homecomm.net](mailto:aparlove@hlt.homecomm.net).



Singers Cindy Moore, Kim Gnagey, and Gina Tirpak from Marshall, Plymouth Canton and Lake Orion high schools respectively, try out for the State Honors Choir last Friday afternoon at Novi High School.

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A Letter to the Community:

The response to our recent Job Fair on January 12 was outstanding with over 300 people seeking employment at St. Mary Mercy Hospital. I would like to personally thank those who took the time to stop by and visit the hospital.

While health care facilities nationwide are experiencing a workforce shortage, we at St. Mary Mercy want to assure the community that we are committed to meeting our mission of providing exceptional care and service to each and every one of our patients.

Through our recruitment efforts, we continue to attract the most qualified healthcare personnel in the area. The hospital provides:

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- an award winning Child Care Center.

In addition, our location in Livonia makes us part of a community recognized as one of the safest in the nation and one of the most desirable for raising a family.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital is one of the fastest growing hospitals in Michigan. Some of our recent accomplishments include being named a Top Tier Hospital by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan and becoming the only community hospital in Wayne County whose cancer program is accredited by the American College of Surgeons (ACOS). We've also experienced growth in many services such as Wound Care, Diagnostic Services, Surgery, Cardiovascular Care and the Emergency Center.

We're proud of these accomplishments, but they would not have occurred without the strong commitment of our employees, physicians and volunteer staff. On their behalf, I extend my appreciation for your support as we continue to care for the community into the New Year and beyond.

Sincerely,  
David A. Spivey  
President and CEO

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For employment information at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, call the Job Hot Line at 734.655.2933 or email [pullivan@trinity-health.org](mailto:pullivan@trinity-health.org). We are currently accepting applications, and available positions can be accessed on our website at [www.stmarymercy.org](http://www.stmarymercy.org)

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### Deerfield Elementary hosts Kindergarten meeting

Mark your calendar, folks. The Novi kindergarten information meetings have been scheduled for parents who will be enrolling their children for the 2002-2003 school year.

At Deerfield Elementary, Novi Community School District's school of choice, an information meeting will be held for parents on March 12, 2002, at 7 p.m. The meeting will discuss the kindergarten program for parents only. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. with the kindergarten preliminary application deadline on Feb. 22.

If needed, Deerfield Elementary will hold a kindergarten lottery drawing on Feb. 27 at 4:15 p.m. All children of current Deerfield students will fill the first 100 spaces, with the remaining openings filled by the lottery. Any extra lottery cards will be pulled to form a waiting list.

For more information about this program call the Deerfield Elementary office at (248) 449-1700.

Novi Woods Elementary will host its information meeting for parents only about the half-day kindergarten program on March 11 at 7:30 p.m.

### Novi school district receives business grant

By Angelo Parlove  
STAFF WRITER

In December, the Novi Community School District received a \$5,800 grant from the Japanese Business Society of Detroit Foundation, making it the sixth year to receive funds from this organization.

Each year, the grant supports the district's English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) program, which improves language skills for all students - not just Japanese - who enter school with limited English abilities.

For more information, parents should contact the Parkview Elementary office at (248) 449-1220.

On March 12, Village Oaks Elementary will hold its information meeting for parents only regarding its half-day kindergarten program at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, parents should contact the Village Oaks office at (248) 449-1200.

To be eligible to attend kindergarten at any one of these schools, children must be five years old on or before Dec. 1, 2002 and reside within the Novi Community School District boundaries.

"This program accelerates the children's ability to acquire English," said Orchard Hills Elementary teacher Janis Burkhardt.

ESL centers on survival English first, teaching students to communicate their names, addresses and phone numbers, as well as understanding simple directions, such as locating a bathroom. Then, it seeks to bolster their classroom skills.

"We try to give them the skills to excel," Burkhardt said.

Also, a portion of the grant is used to purchase classroom materials to assist the ESL children's learning, such as picture dictionaries.

"The books are a good beginning point sometimes when the students are bombarded with so much vocabulary," Burkhardt said.

Furthermore, the money is used to provide interpreters for Japanese parents at some schools, such as Orchard Hills Elementary, during the fall and spring parent-teacher conferences.

"If parents don't understand the system, it's helpful to have people who can speak Japanese," said Rita Traynor, assistant superintendent of instruction.

Nearly 10 percent of the student body at Orchard Hills is Japanese. Therefore, providing an outside professional interpreter enhances the school's communication with parents while reducing the privacy issues associated with using other school parents as translators.

The Japanese Business Society of Detroit Foundation awards grant money to school districts, philanthropic organizations, museums and the arts.

Angelo Parlove is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or at aparlove@nlh.com.com.net.

### Students: what do Americans do well?

#### Novi Meadows sixth graders ponder social studies question

By Angelo Parlove  
STAFF WRITER

What do Americans do well at? That's the question Georgia Bingham's sixth-grade class at Novi Meadows tried to answer for last week's social studies assignment.

"One thing I think Americans do well is that we are always trying to be better," wrote sixth-grader Babu Chandrasekaran. "Our country is trying to get a better economy even though ours is one of the best economies in the world. We are trying to go further even though we've reached the moon."

The sixth graders explored a variety of subjects for the home-work assignment, especially those at the heart of America: democracy and freedom.

"Another thing we do well is use our freedoms. America has many freedoms and we take advantage of them," wrote Chandrasekaran. "In America, we practice many religions. We also use our right to assemble peacefully. Most importantly, we always try to pursue what makes us happy."

Furthermore, the students delved into the nation's character and flavor, writing about sports and cooking.

"We can cook foods from all over the world and the food tastes really good," sixth-grader Erica Shadwell said.

However, it took on a more personal meaning for the students. It was an opportunity to share and discuss the world as seen through the eyes of an 11-year-old.

"I am so impressed by the fact that they do see the value of living," Bingham said. "We need to give them more credit than we do. If you give them an opportunity, they will surprise you with their world."

Sixth grader Amy Hablitzel offered her 11-year-old perspective.

"One thing I think Americans do well is that we are brave," Hablitzel wrote. "When something bad happens, we stand up for ourselves."

Angelo Parlove is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or at aparlove@nlh.com.com.net.

### Library Lines

#### Library Hours

The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. We are located at 45245 W. Ten Mile Road, just east of Taft. For more information, call 349-0720.

Adult Book Discussion Group  
Our February selection is "White I Was Gone" by Sue Miller. The group meets Monday, February 4 at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room. All are welcome.

Introduction to Reference USA  
The Reference USA database contains data on 12 million U.S. businesses, from "mom and pop" stores to huge conglomerates. Learn how to use this unique data group on Tuesday, Feb. 5 from 7-8:30 p.m. We'll discuss how to locate basic information on a spe-

cial company or generate multi-company reports for marketing, sales, and other purposes. Includes hands-on practice. Please register in advance for all Internet classes in person or by calling the library.

More Internet  
An advanced Internet class will be held Wednesday, Feb. 6 from 7-8:30 p.m. The class will build on concepts presented in the "Introduction to the Internet" class. Topics include Internet Service Providers, viruses, security, online shopping, and search techniques on various Web sites. Includes hands-on practice.

Mastering the Mouse for Seniors  
A hands-on class designed to introduce seniors to using the computer mouse will be held Thursday, Feb. 7 from 10-11 a.m.

### Gasior property nixed from Sandstone deal

By Victoria Sadlocha  
STAFF WRITER

A portion of North Novi Park will not be included in the settlement agreement offered to Sandstone Associates to end the city's costly lawsuit.

The Twelve Mile Road Gasior property was removed from the area of land originally offered to the partnership in preliminary documents.

The acreage of land which will stay as city property was purchased with federal community development block grant funds which city attorney Gerald Fisher said had the potential to be too costly to sell to Sandstone. Fisher said it was withheld because of costs associated with selling the property to Sandstone Associates as part of the settlement package.

The decision to remove the property from the settlement package offered to Sandstone was not done because it was illegal, as members of Friend of Novi Parks had contended, he said.

During court proceedings between the Friends of Novi Parks and the city of Novi, group members said the discussed sale of the CDIG acquired land constituted illegal use of grant money.

Attorneys representing members of the Friends argued the city was not allowed to transfer property acquired with CDIG funds to a private developer because the use of the funds was limited to purposes permitted under federal law and city officials obtained the funds for acquiring parkland.

Fisher said the parcel of land purchased with the CDIG funds was not included in the Jan. 8 notice of public hearing before the city of Novi planning commission.

Members of the planning commission voted unanimously to remove the requirement of parkland from the city's master plan for the acreage of North Novi Park offered in the settlement agreement during the meeting.

Fisher has met with attorneys representing Sandstone since the Jan. 9 planning commission public hearing and said both sides are still in negotiations.

Robert Carson, attorney representing Sandstone Associates, declined to comment on how negotiations were progressing.

Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or at vsadlocha@nlh.com.com.net.

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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.

## 39 years later King's words still ring true

On Monday, America paused to remember the life and legacy of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. In that spirit we'd like to present his famous 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech. This week, we reprint excerpts of the historic call for justice and equality.

I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day the state of Alabama, whose governor's lips are presently dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, will be transformed into a situation where little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and

the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

This is our hope. This is the faith with which I return to the South. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope.

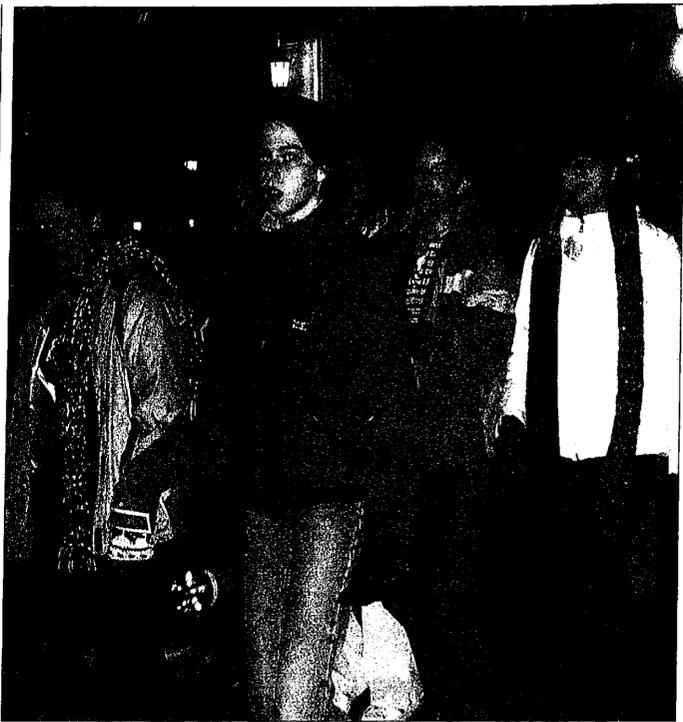
This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing, Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring."

And if America is to be a great nation this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hills of Pennsylvania!

Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado!

Let freedom ring from every hill and every molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"



Remembering the man and message

Participants of Monday night's Martin Luther King Day Walk in Northville head towards the First Presbyterian Church for a service around 7 p.m.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

## Understanding life's true meaning

A couple weeks ago I wrote a story about a young woman who knows the meaning of life.

As a matter of fact she's been fighting for her life for the past 12 years.

Wixom resident Jennifer Pettibone, 28, was diagnosed with a rare condition, Arterio Venous Malformation (AVM), when she was 16 years old. The disease left her face disfigured with a growth of veins that recruit other vessels to create an abnormal tangle of blood vessels. The web of veins grow, which she and her doctor refer to as "the monster". She also has an abnormal AVM growth in her brain that can cause a life threatening aneurysm.



Column Mug box

She will be heading to Beth Israel Hospital in New York City to receive another procedure where clotting agents will be shot into the veins to starve the AVM. Pettibone has had the procedure many times before. It's a temporary measure.

However, it's a measure that can buy her more time with her family. I asked her how she has lived with the AVM over the years. Her response made me aware that she really knew more about the meaning of life than most people. Especially myself.

"I have a lot of faith in God and I know if God's plan for me to be cured, I will be," Pettibone told me. "And if it's not and I pass on, I am still going to win."

I was thunderstruck by her positive outlook. I don't know if my faith would be as strong if something so horrible happened to me. I would like to think I would have that same strength and wisdom.

She hasn't used her affliction as an obstacle. Instead, she has gained courage from it.

Some people, yours truly included, feel sorry for themselves and over everyday hurries. I complain about everything from the weather to lack of

sleep. I even complain about bad hair days.

However, I don't have to worry about hemorrhaging from my face when I wake up at night and can't fall back to sleep. Pettibone does.

Everyday may be her last day and it sounded to me when I spoke with her that she lives life to the fullest. It made me start thinking that I shouldn't take my life for granted. I should be thankful for each day I awake, go to work and make it home safe again to my husband and son.

Pettibone wasn't the only member in the community that perked me up and taught me about life. Hundreds of people throughout the area came to Pettibone's aid Jan. 20, at a benefit dinner, when they discovered she needed traveling expenses. Even local business owners helped Pettibone's sister, Jodi Nicholas, with the event. It's wonderful to know the community pulls together to support another resident in need when times get tough. Now that's the true meaning of life.

Diane Dempsey Deel is a staff writer for the Lake Area Times. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110 or ddeel@ht.hometown.com.

## LETTERS

### Help improve our parks

To the editor: Friends of Novi Parks wasn't created as a single-issue organization devoted simply to preventing the sale of a significant part of North Novi Park to Sandstone. Although we deeply regret the decision to give away a significant part of Novi's park system, there is still much work to be done. But before discussing where we are going, we'd like to review what we have accomplished.

We prevented the city from illegally transferring public parkland to private use. We forced the city to follow the letter, if not the spirit, of the law by removing the park from the master plan prior to transferring it to Sandstone. This may seem like a technicality. However, if a group like Friends of Novi Parks had been watching the city's actions during the original Vistas development, Novi might not have been sued by Sandstone in the first place.

our population grows to an estimated 75,000, this parkland given to Sandstone will be sorely missed. Opportunities to preserve green space will vanish rapidly. It's too late to acquire a single parcel that can replace the useable recreational land lost to Sandstone. We will work with city government to identify and preserve parkland while it is still available. A possible low-cost addition to Novi parks is the city-owned lakefront at Thirteen Mile and Old Novi roads. We encourage the city to formally dedicate this scenic spot as a park.

Novi's remaining parks need development and maintenance. We will raise funds to provide facilities for existing parks. We will provide volunteer assistance for trail construction, park cleanups and other activities.

We invite Novi's residents and our new parks and recreation director, Randy Auler, to join us to improve our parks. Let's make them something that we can point to with pride. We welcome your ideas and comments. You can contact us at P.O. Box 123, Novi, Mich. 48376, by email at info@friendsofnoviparks.org, or at www.friendsofnoviparks.org.

Bob Shaw  
Andrew Mutch  
Brian Smith  
Friends of Novi Parks



## GOVERNMENT

For reader request, we have compiled a list so you can get in touch with your local and regional senators and representatives. Their accessibility allows you as readers to voice your concerns directly and allows them to better represent their districts. If you feel we have missed anyone, contact us at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113.

### United States Senate

Carl Levin (D-Detroit)  
459 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington D.C.  
(202) 224-6221  
senator2@levin.senate.gov

Local office:  
1810 Michigan National Tower  
124 W. Allegan  
Lansing, MI 48933  
(517) 377-1507

Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing)  
476 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington D.C.  
senator@stabenow.senate.gov

Local office:  
280 East Saginaw  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
(517) 203-1760

### United States Congress

Joe Knollenberg (R-Blomfield)  
2349 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington D.C.  
(202) 225-5802

Local office:  
30833 Northwestern Hwy., #100  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
(248) 851-1366

### Michigan Senate

Bill Bullard Jr. (R-Highland)  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536  
(888) 736-2855  
senbullard@senate.state.mi.us

### Michigan House of Representatives

Nancy Cassis (R-Novi)  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI  
(888) 38-NANCY  
ncassis@house.state.mi.us

### County Commission

Hugh Crawford (R-Novi)  
1200 North Telegraph  
Pontiac, MI 48341  
(248) 349-5079  
hughcrawford@msn.com

Nancy Dingeldey (R-Wixom)  
2220 Duna Road  
Wixom, MI 48393  
(248) 669-5621  
dingeldeyn@cc.oakland.mi.us

## Recession's end no where in sight

It's no secret that the domestic automobile industry is facing terrible times. Daimler-Chrysler is still preoccupied with the major downsizing and restructuring effort that followed what now looks like an ill-advised and badly executed takeover by the Germans.

Literally fighting for his life, Ford recently announced record losses and has just embarked on a plan to close five manufacturing plants and cut 35,000 jobs worldwide.

Even General Motors, amazingly converted from perennial also-ran into top dog, is still slashing costs.

Worse, industry experts estimate that up to a quarter of all U.S. automotive supplier companies, tool and die firms and equipment manufacturers will face insolvency this year.

Although the relative dominance of the auto industry in Michigan's economy has declined considerably over the past decade, automobiles are still the heart and soul of what provides jobs, security and wealth for our people. Best estimates peg the auto industry as a whole as representing something like 20 percent of the entire Michigan gross domestic output.

To better understand what's really going on behind the superficiality of all the headlines, I called my old friend David Cole, President of the Center for Automotive Research and unquestionably our ranking expert on the automobile industry.

Cole's prognosis is grim: "The business

model that has defined the auto industry for the past half century is broken and there is a clear understanding that the industry as a whole must restructure in order to remain competitive."

According to Cole, the basic economic logic of the supply side of the industry has been to run the plants at maximum capacity in order to reduce per unit manufacturing costs and to provide the highest possible volume of sales. On the demand side, the idea has been simultaneously to reduce cost and add value — less emissions, better mileage, new models — to stimulate consumer demand.

Clearly, the workings of this largely free market have produced better products, great savings and good deals for customers. For example, buying a car 10 years ago cost the average consumer around 30 weeks of income. Today, buying a (much improved) new car costs the average Joe just a bit more than 22 weeks in wages.

But according to Cole's analysis, two major forces for change have today brought the auto industry to its worst place since the early 1980s:

The vastly increased competitive pressure exerted by three major world automotive industries — Asian, European and American — all focusing much of their production and marketing capacity on a single North American market. Everybody's trying to make and sell cars to the Americans, which results in very tough price and quality competition on the one hand and enormously expensive excess manufacturing capacity on the other.

In this intensely competitive environment, the ever-increasing costs of research and development, new product design and regulatory mandates simply cannot be fully passed on to customers. The result: Vast pressure on profits. Ford is losing money at a never-before

equaled pace; something like \$10 billion in assets are gone from its balance sheet. Chrysler has lost \$8 billion since the acquisition. Only GM is showing earnings in excess of projections, plainly the outcome of an enormous company-wide effort to cut costs and restructure the corporation that took place for the entire decade of the 1990s.

Cole reports all this is happening at greater and greater speed, witness GM's amazing reversal of roles with Ford over just the past 18 months. Just as great high school football players discover everybody's just as fast as they are once they start playing college ball, even giant players in the auto industry are discovering in shock just how fast things can change in a ferociously competitive environment.

Cole's bottom line: "Something's got to change. The old business model is simply not sustainable."

Maybe the recession will come to an end later this year, but I wouldn't bet that things will get a lot better in Michigan for quite a long time.

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (734) 953-2047, ext. 1880, or by e-mail at ppower@hometown.com.



Phil Power

## Give us your tired, your poor, your trash

Trash is trash. The smelly, nasty, disgusting stuff that leaves our homes in the back of a garbage truck isn't likely to any better or worse than that generated by households out of state, or even out of the country.

So does it really matter that trash is being imported to Michigan for disposal in landfills here?

We have an almost instinctive reaction to the idea. We take care of disposing of our own trash, we quickly want to say, so why shouldn't communities elsewhere do the same?

But besides this gut feeling, are there real reasons to object to the importation of municipal garbage in Michigan? Are there legitimate

concern state residents would have to the inflow of refuse?

For one, an estimated 17 percent of the garbage flowing into Michigan landfills currently comes from outside the state ... actually from outside the country, from metropolitan Toronto, to be specific.

That Canadian region has contracts to send 750,000 metric tons of stuff our way each year.

That amount is well up from what it was just two years ago. A task force, appointed by Gov. John Engler in 2000, found that imports then made up 11 percent of the garbage flowing into Michigan landfills. At the time, the task force concluded the amount wouldn't seriously diminish the state's landfill capacity, as long as it didn't increase. As you can see, it's increased significantly since then.

Michigan has spent a lot of time working out plans for taking care of its own garbage. Under state law, counties across Michigan have all devised solid waste management plans that provide planning for landfill capacity 15 years into the future.

State law specifically addresses the issue of transportation of refuse across county lines. One county can't send garbage off to another unless the recipient has plans in place for dealing with imported garbage.

Additionally, there are strict rules about what kinds of things can go into Michigan landfills from Michigan households. And those rules stringently regulate how garbage is to be transported.

But those rules don't apply at the moment to garbage coming in from outside the state or outside the country, according to state Rep. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake.

Since 1992, the courts have maintained that individual states don't have a right to bar the importation of trash because that would be a violation of the interstate commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution. And now with NAFTA in effect, state governments likewise cannot ban imports even from outside our national borders.

Kowall explained that state laws — the ones that require counties to have solid waste plans in place and bar transit of trash between counties within the state — don't apply to those shipments coming in from the outside.

Kowall, along with state Reps. Mike Bishop (R-Rochester) and Mickey Mortimer (R-Horton), have unveiled a plan to apply all the same regulations to trash shipments from out of state that currently are in effect of in state shipments. Among the proposals the trio will make is to require that trucks hauling garbage in from out of state be sealed to prevent leakage during transit. Michigan hauling trucks already have to be sealed.

It is time the same rules applied to trucks coming in from out of state, they explained. "It's in landfills," Kowall said.

"The proposed new rules would ban dumping here anything that in-state users cannot put in our local landfills."

"Some of the stuff that is coming in from Toronto is stuff we don't allow our own residents to put in landfills," Kowall said.

"It contains hospital waste. It includes funeral home waste. I hate to even think what that is."

Kowall denies the intent is to make the regulations so restrictive that it would drive waste importers away from Michigan. That would violate that interstate commerce clause.

But if they are going to bring their trash here, they should at least be required to follow the same rules and regulations that we put on our own waste disposal services.

The three intend to introduce their package bills as soon as the legislature returns to action this month. If all goes well, they will quickly win the support of other legislators in Lansing.

Mike Malott reports on the local implications of state and regional events. He can be reached by phone at (810) 227-0171 or by e-mail at mmalott@hometown.com.

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Photo courtesy Kerry Bowman, Bowman Photography

For one, an estimated 17 percent of the garbage flowing into Michigan landfills currently comes from outside the state ... actually from outside the country, from metropolitan Toronto, to be specific.

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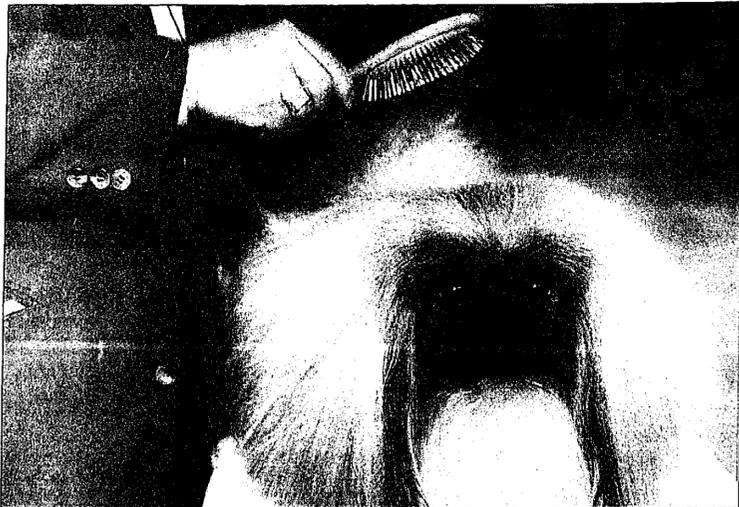
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On Campus

Lauren Parkins, a junior at the University of Michigan, was inducted into Tau Beta Pi...



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REGIONAL MARKETPLACE Page 15A Thursday, January 24, 2002

Your business is their business

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE The Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce Comprised of approximately 520 members...



By Annette Jaworski CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As Gloria Radner used to say 'It's always something.' That's sort of how the weeks and months go at the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce...

Lyle Tyler was selected by the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce as its Citizen of the Year.

Having Some Fun In looking back, many events such as the parade provide entertainment for the public to enjoy.



Colonial Motors was named Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year for 2001.



Getting Down to Business This year the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Development Authority co-sponsored Bob Negan of Whiz Bang Training...



Business in brief

MRA adds seminars The Michigan Retailers Association (MRA) has added two new seminars to its slate of online business courses.

County offer small business seminars

Small business owners who need assistance with business basics are invited to attend seminars in February 2002 offered by Oakland County's Small Business Center.

Gross among elite

Mary Gross, Milford agency, is among an elite group of Allstate insurance agents who recently earned the 'Personal Financial Representative' title.

Hartman appointed market manager

Tim Reimink, senior vice president and Community Banking Executive for National City in Michigan, has announced the appointment of Vicki Hartman as vice president, regional manager for the Livingston market in the East Michigan Community Region.

Table with 3 columns: Date, Name, Phone Number. Regional Marketplace: A Look Ahead

How to become a financial visionary. Finding a way to protect your money from inflation doesn't require a crystal ball.

Jim Seghi Renovations KITCHENS • BATHROOMS • REC ROOMS • CERAMIC TILE • ADDITIONS

NOVI EXPO CENTER THE 2002 NOVI HOME IMPROVEMENT SHOW HUNDREDS OF EXHIBITS... PLUS

# Engler announces 'state quarter' contest

By Victoria Sadlocha  
STAFF WRITER

If chosen, one lucky Novi resident could be in the pocket, coin purse or under the couch cushions of Americans across the nation.

In order to achieve this dubious honor, all you need to do is come up with a winning design for our state's quarter.

Gov. John Engler recently announced the quarter-design contest to give all state residents an opportunity to participate in the U.S. Mint's "50 State Quarters Program."

The program honors each of the 50 states with its own quarter in the order in which that state ratified the U.S. Constitution or entered the Union.

As the 26th state to join the union, the Michigan quarter is scheduled to come out early in 2004, prompting the preliminary process to begin now.

"It is not too soon to begin thinking about a design that reflects our unique history, traditions and

symbols," Engler said to the press on Nov. 28.

As part of the Michigan quarter design process, 25 individuals were chosen to comprise the Michigan Quarter Commission.

Members - including three from Oakland County - will over see the project.

The first step in the process is to think of a design depicting the spirit of Michigan and submit a drawing with explanation to the Michigan Quarter Commission before February 16, 2002.

Next, members of the commission will review the submitted designs, vote and send three to five designs to Engler.

The Governor will review the designs and formally submit the entries, along with written descriptions, to the U.S. Mint for review.

State officials said the Mint will review the submissions for appropriateness and coinability in early 2002.

After the review process is complete, the approved designs are anticipated to be forwarded to Engler during the Fall of 2002 for his final selection.

All of the designs will be evaluated on their overall concept, rather than the artist's skill, execution or complexity of the design, officials said.

Michigan residents who submit a design finalist, will receive a special certificate of recognition from Engler on behalf of the State of Michigan.

"It's a good idea," said Novi Mayor Richard J. Clark. Clark encourages all interested Novi residents to enter the contest and vie

for the chance to represent the state.

Entries may be submitted via e-mail to [mquarter@libraryofmichigan.org](mailto:mquarter@libraryofmichigan.org); faxed to (517) 373-5326 or mailed to the Michigan Quarter Commission.

Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries, PO Box 30007, 717 W. Allegan, Lansing, MI 48909.

The entry form and additional contest information may be found by visiting [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov).

Currently, 15 state quarters have been issued, with Kentucky's quarter being the most recent. All fifty quarters are expected to be out by 2008.

Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or at [vsadlocha@ht.homecomm.net](mailto:vsadlocha@ht.homecomm.net).

## Business Briefs

**Dr. Jefferey E. Michaelson** has been appointed director of Orthopedic Sports Medicine at Providence Hospital and Medical Centers. He joins the Porretta Center for Orthopedic Surgery at Providence with offices in Novi and Southfield.

Dr. Michaelson specializes in Orthopedic Sports Medicine and Surgery with special area of interest in Arthroscopic Surgery of the knee, shoulder and ankle which compliments his interest in sports medicine.

Dr. Michaelson is a graduate of Wayne State University School of Medicine. He completed a fellowship in sports medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

His professional affiliations include the American Orthopedic

Society for Sports Medicine and the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgery as well as state and local societies.

Dr. Michaelson, his wife Dr. Jodi Michaelson and son Connor are residents of Huntington Woods.

**Dr. Timothy Kosinski** of Novi was awarded Fellowship in the American College of Dentists on Oct. 12 during their annual meeting and convocation in Kansas City, Missouri.

Dr. Kosinski is the treasurer of the Oakland County Dental Society and an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry. He is a fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry and a diplomate of the American Board of Oral Implantology/Implant Dentistry.

## State releases contest guidelines

### Guidelines and Rules:

1. Design ideas shall maintain a dignity befitting the nation's coinage.

2. Because it is important that the nation's coinage and currency bear dignified designs of which the citizens of the United States can be proud, no designs will be accepted which are frivolous or inappropriate, or contain a head-and-shoulders portrait or bust of any person, living or dead, or portrait of a living person.

3. Designs shall have broad appeal to the citizens of the state and avoid controversial subjects or symbols that are likely to offend.

4. Suitable subject matter for design concepts include state landmarks (natural and man-made), landscapes, historically significant buildings, symbols of state resources or industries, official state flora and fauna, state icons (e.g. Michigan cherry, Michigan Mackinac Bridge, etc.), and outlines of the state.

5. State flags and state seals are not considered suitable for designs.

6. Consistent with the authorizing legislation, the states are encouraged to submit concepts that promote the diffusion of knowledge among the youth of the United States about the state, its history and geography, and the rich diversity of our national heritage.

7. Priority consideration will be given to designs and concepts that are enduring representations of the state. Coins have a commercial life span of at least 30 years and are collected for generations.

8. Inappropriate design concepts include, but are not limited to logos or depictions of specific commercial, private, educational, civic, religious, sports, or other organizations whose membership or ownership is not universal.

9. Concepts or background materials submitted to the Mint that are covered by copyright, trademark, or other rights (such as privacy and publicity rights) must include a release acceptable to the Mint from the rights owner.

10. Concepts must be submitted accompanied by supporting material as appropriate - for example, photographs or sketches of landmarks, landscapes, historical buildings, or official depictions of state symbols. If copyrighted materials are used, releases should be provided from the copyright holders.

After the federal approval process, the Governor of each state has the authority to choose the quarter's design. The Governor's decision is final.

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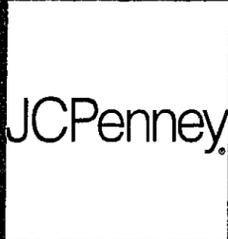


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# Wildcats hand Brighton a big KVC loss

## ... but go 0-2 against two Yooper hockey squads

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats hockey team made a statement recently: they are in control of their own destiny.

The Wildcats may have taken two losses in the Upper Peninsula, but they came back to their old stomping grounds to show Brighton what they learned. The 'Cats took a 2-1 victory away from the Bulldogs Jan. 16 after falling to Catumet 7-4 and Hancock 6-3 in the Calumet Invitational Jan. 11-12.

### Wildcats hockey

Against the Brighton Bulldogs, the Wildcats showed they were still in command of what their fate would be, be it a Kensington Valley Conference title or not.

"The kids are confident in themselves," Novi coach Dan Phelps said. "I do not feel as a coach that we have peaked. I feel we have a lot more to accomplish."

The Novi icers fell behind in the KVC contest as the Bulldogs scored with only 31 seconds remaining in the first period before senior Adam Haberman notched a goal in the second period to tie the game for Novi with assists being credited to

Jared Perras and Robbie Harrell. "We played a good game," Phelps said. "We have a lot of dedicated players who bought into what we were trying to do with this program. It's up to them to take this team where they want it to go from here."

The fast-paced game came down to the third period with the Novi Wildcats looking to cap the scoring and the Bulldogs. The goal that sealed the game came from Robby Overfield as he found the back of the net with five minutes, 52 seconds remaining in the contest with assists going to Haberman and Jordan Collins.

"Any game against Brighton is going to be a tough one," Phelps said. "I am happy with the way this team played and with the outcome. It is always a positive note to build the remainder of your season on when you can beat Brighton."

Dan Morrison played an outstanding game in the net for the Wildcats, stopping several of the Bulldogs shot attempts.

The Wildcats will return to action when they visit the Northville Mustangs tomorrow at 6 p.m. before hosting the Hartland Eagles in a KVC match up Jan. 30 at 6:30 p.m.

### CALUMET INVITATIONAL

Continued on 3



Photo by HAL GOULD

Novi didn't mind handing Lakeland a loss earlier this month (as shown here), as they didn't mind showing Brighton some tips on earning a win in the two teams' second encounter with each other.

# Novi skater wins gold

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

It isn't everyday you get the chance to win a gold medal at the Junior National Figure Skating Championships — when you do, you should make the best of it.

Emily Samuelson, 11 years old of Novi, and her skating partner Evan Bates of Ann Arbor did indeed make the best of it. The ice skating duo recently returned from the 2002 United States Junior National Figure Skating Championships held in Chicago where they took the first-place gold medal in the Intermediate Dance competition.

"We were very excited and happy," Samuelson said. "We were

pleased that we had done so well."

And even with the ultimate finish being the gold medal, Samuelson was quick to admit that it was more than she and Bates were expecting. "For the competition, Evan and I went and weren't expecting to place very high," she said. "It was hard, but it was a lot of fun too."

At the competition, there were 27 couples divided into three groups for the qualifying free dance, in which the couples' coaches choose the music and choreograph a routine. The top six of each group were allowed to go on into the finals. Bates and Samuelson took first-place out of the 10 couples in the qualifying round to advance to the finals.

"(I have known Evan) for about a year and a half," Samuelson said. "He is a really good skater and a lot of fun to skate with."

In the finals, 18 couples first competed against each other in compulsory dances, which are set patterns that each couple must follow as they skate around the rink. The first compulsory dance, in which Bates and Samuelson took first place, was the Ten Fox. The second dance, in which the duo took second place, was the European Waltz.

The final portion of the competition was a free dance in which Samuelson and her partner skated

Continued on 2

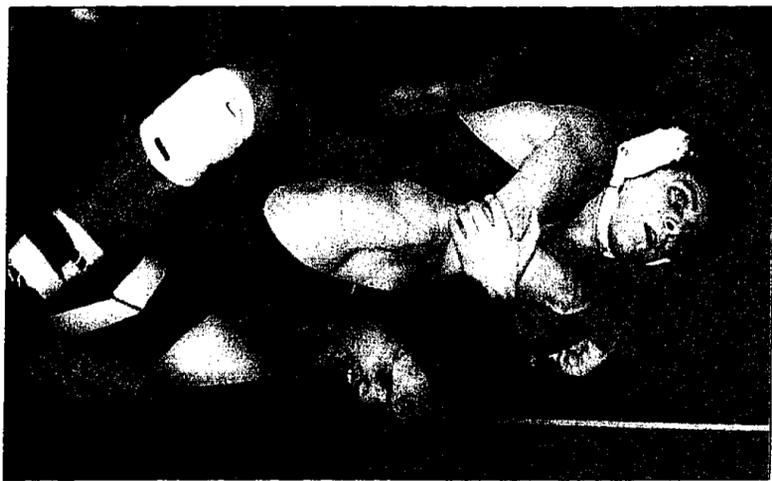


Photo by JPHN HEIDER

Undefeated Wildcat grappler Josh Churella has the upper hand against Howell's Craig Zupl in their match last Friday at Novi High School.

# Wrestlers get huge victories in Rochester Adams Invitational

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

To define a winning streak, one would probably say that it takes three or more wins in a row. Ask the Novi Wildcats wrestling team and they just might say gathering six victories straight is more along their style of a win streak.

The Novi Wildcats defeated Howell 35-34 Jan. 11 before going 5-0 in the Rochester Adams Invite Jan. 12.

"It was a very good weekend for us," Novi coach Brad Huss said. "We went 6-0 and we beat two of the top-10 teams in Howell and Adams."

The Wildcats made winning look easy in the Rochester Adams Invitational, beating Lapeer East 57-9, Utica Eisenhower 47-23, Fraser

52-18, Adams 41-30 and Clio 46-28.

The Adams match found Josh Churella staying undefeated, as he did the entire invite, with a void in his weight class while Brian Ong collected a 15-0 win. Brett Terbeek took a 10-4 win. Dan Cash notched a pin in one minute, 20 seconds. Alex Burch earned a pin in 3:30. Andy Becker won 7-4. Vince Slovan had a void in his weight class and Scott Kortlandt carved a pin in 3:45.

"Having to stay focused as a team through five meets was tough," Matt Kolich said. "It was kind of a struggle to stay up for Adams. We couldn't afford to be flat."

Against Lapeer East, the Wildcats simply dominated. Craig Hearn earned a pin in 1:50. Alex Passariti won 17-2. Eric Hansen took a 9-3 vic-

tory. Churella won 9-2. Ong took a 15-0 win. J. R. Muldoon notched a pin in 3:22. Terbeek won 11-1. Burch collected a 9-2 win. Becker won 6-2. Slovan took an 8-3 win while Kortlandt and Kolich each earned a pin.

"We just got pumped up for the meets," Kortlandt said. "I think it was the first meet we were together as a team."

The Fraser meet was much of the same Wildcat domination. Churella won 9-3. Ong 13-0. Terbeek 10-4 and Becker 7-4 while Cash got a pin in 1:20. Burch earned a pin in 3:30. Kortlandt notched his pin in 3:45. Kolich carved a pin in 3:30 and Joe Harris notched a pin in an impressive

Continued on 2

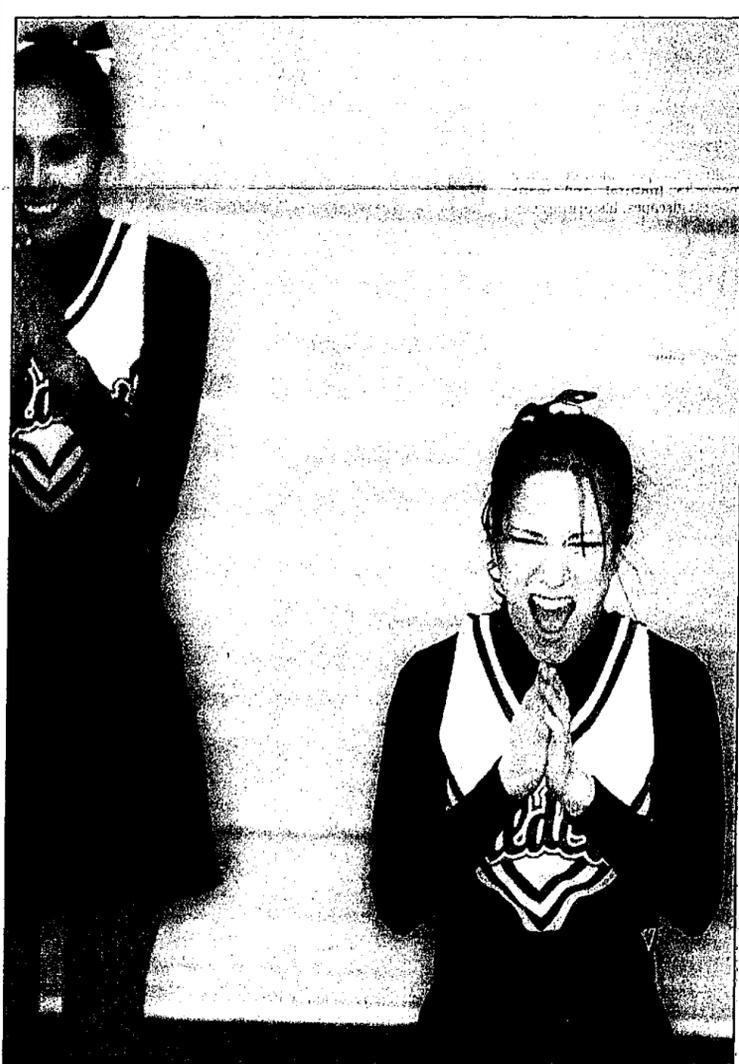


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi varsity cheerleader Meghan McDonald, right, leads a cheer during Friday night's home basketball game.

# McDonald more than a Novi Wildcat senior cheerleader

By Brian Doyle  
SPECIAL WRITER

By day, Meghan McDonald is a small, soft-spoken girl that could easily blend into the crowd at Novi High School. By night, especially Tuesdays and Fridays, McDonald transforms into a crowd pleaser who gets the Novi fans pumped up for their basketball team.

McDonald, co-captain of the Varsity Cheer Team, has dedicated a

lot of her life to the sport. She has been on the team since her freshman year.

"You meet a lot of people through it and learn a lot of stuff while you are doing it," McDonald said. McDonald participates in both the fall and winter seasons of cheerleading but said that the team usually doesn't take more than one month off of practice in the off-season. During the fall, the team cheers on the football team, but during the

winter, along with performing at basketball games, the cheerleaders are in competition season.

It is through cheer that McDonald has gained her greatest friends.

"The cheer team are my closest friends," McDonald said.

She said that she is such good friends with all of them because she is always with them. However,

Continued on 3

# Novi basketball notches win over Northville

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

It's always sweet when a team has the ability to defeat their cross-town rivals, but sometimes that sweetness is tarnished with a devastating loss to a conference rival.

The Novi Wildcats boys' basketball team felt the joy of a 60-51 win when they visited the Northville Mustangs Jan. 15 before falling to a very routine and controlled Milford Redskins team 43-30 in a Kentsington Valley Conference Contest Jan. 18.

## NOVI 60, NORTHVILLE 54

The Wildcats couldn't contain the Redskins to take their game out of their ball controlling offense and managed to score only six points in the first half of the match up.

"They played the perfect game," Novi coach Pat Schuler said of the Redskins. "Their strategy going into the game, which we suspected, was to hold the ball, delay the game and stall our offense. It worked."

The Redskins had the only player in the game that scored in double digits — Matt Marinucci, who scored 18 on the night. The Wildcats were led by senior Brandon Davis with eight points. "Nothing we did really went wrong," Wildcat Matt Emmenecker said. "Their offense held the ball and didn't give us the opportunities to score points. When we did have the opportunities, we didn't get it going."

The Wildcats shot only six free throws on the night, compared to the Redskins' 15-of-17 shooting from the charity line. "They played a great game and shot a high percentage," Schuler said. "It kind of frustrated us but you have to give them a lot of credit."

But there's no doubt the Wildcats will have the chance to redeem themselves when they face the Milford squad in their second scheduled meeting of the season later this year.

"Definitely," Emmenecker said when asked if his team had a chance of beating the Redskins when they meet up again. "The same thing happened last year. They beat us at home but we went to their place and beat them."

The Wildcats will have the task of defeating the Pawkey Pirates when they visit Milford tomorrow

at 7 p.m. "We know they have a really good player in Brandon Thompson," Schuler said. "We are going to have to bring a lot of pressure and do a good job covering Thompson."

The Wildcats looked to Emmenecker to lead the team in scoring, which he gladly did, gathering 17 points while Davis added 14. Shaun Dieken collected 13 and senior center Jamie Schram carved out 10, all from the free-throw line.

"It's always exciting to beat Northville because you know all of the players and everything," Emmenecker said. "Other than that is just another basketball game."

The Wildcats relied heavily on Schuler's preaching of goals for each game — defense, rebounds and free throws — and went 20-of-22 from the charity line for the night.

"We had eight threes," Schuler said. "Defensively, we let them score too many points. It was a good win on the road against Northville, and that is tough."

The Mustangs (next seemed to be to try and shut down Schram on the inside; they also made a drastic change in their defense, from man-to-man to zone.

"We saw zone the whole night," Schuler said. "They wanted to stop Schram and make us beat them outside, which we did. We shot the ball pretty well."

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Novi News and the Lake Area Times. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.



A Milford hoops player is cornered near the Novi bench by Wildcats Chase Chandler and Matt Emmenecker, right, during last Friday's game at Novi High School.

## Next Level Athletes

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

The Next Level Athletes portion of this sports section is dedicated to the men and women who have taken the next step beyond high school athletics. It is here we are able to applaud their abilities, dedication and determination in the sports they love.

**Kelly Carlin, Sophomore, Oakland University** - Kelly Carlin, a Novit resident who graduated from Farmington Mercy High School, is a swimmer for the Oakland University Golden Grizzlies women's swim team. Carlin specializes in freestyle swimming for the Grizzlies and stands 5-foot-4.

**Sheryl Wrobel, Junior, Oakland University** - Sheryl Wrobel, a graduate of Walled Lake Western High School, is a swimmer specializing in freestyle events for the Golden Grizzlies women's swim team. Wrobel, who stands 5-foot-10, was a resident of the city of Walled Lake before attending Oakland University.

**Lee Aho, Sophomore, Oakland University** - Lee Aho, a graduate of Walled Lake Western High School, is a member of the Golden Grizzlies golf program. Aho played in two tournaments as a true freshman, the Golden Grizzlies Invitational and the Iron Horse intercollegiate. Aho averaged an 80.3 through the four rounds and recorded his lowest round of the year (76) twice. He is tied for 10th on the team with his 80.3 average.

**Chris Gawronski, Sophomore, Oakland University** - Chris Gawronski is a graduate of Walled Lake Central High School and a resident of West Bloomfield as well as a member of the Golden Grizzlies men's swim and dive team. Gawronski is one of the members of the team specializing in diving events.

*Next Level Athletes includes former athletes from the membership area of the Northville Record, Novi News and the Lake Area Times. The Next Level Athletes are individuals who have taken the next step beyond high school athletics to the next level — including college, semi-professional, minor league and professional athletes. Anyone who would like to submit information about an athlete can do so via email: seggleston@ht.homecomm.net or mail information to The Northville Record, 104 W. Main Street, Northville, MI, 48167.*

## Skater gets gold medal

Continued from 1

to the song "Let's Face the Music," for which they completed three lifts, a circular step sequence and several other edge and footwork moves.

"We won and it was very surprising to us," Samuelson said. "This was our first time in this competition and we hoped to make the finals and do well. Instead, we won."

Eight of the nine judges at the competition gave the duo a first-place score, with the ninth judge ranking them second overall.

With the victory, Samuelson and Bates will now move up to the Novice level of competition after only a single year competing in the intermediate skating level. The Novice level of competition will give the duo their first exposure to international competitions by participating in the North American Challenge competition held this summer.

Samuelson, who is a sixth-grader at Novi Meadows, and Bates are coached by the former Russian world competitive ice dance team of Laraslava Netchaeva and Iouri Tebenichenko.



Emily Samuelson and Evan Bates pose for the camera after winning the gold medal.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Novi News and the Lake Area Times. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

## Grapplers victorious

Continued from 1

title seconds.

"I hope to [stay undefeated] and all of the tournaments are stepping stones," Churella said. "If I keep up the hard work, hopefully I can stay undefeated."

Against Clo, the Wildcats found another opponent they were able to do what they wished against. Hearn had a void in his weight class for the win, as did Hansen, while Churella notched a pin in 47 seconds. Muldoon earned a pin in 50 seconds. A.J. Morris carved a pin in 3:55, Fordland got a pin in 45 seconds and Kolch pointed out his pin in 1:28. Becker took a 5-1 victory and Matt Hansha-Strong got a 14-6 win.

The match against Uica Eisenhower was one of the closest for the Wildcats as Churella earned his pin in 29 seconds, Fordland got his in 1:37, Kolch notched a pin in 2:31 and Chad Thurman collected a pin in 1:30. Terbeek won 17-2, Muldoon won 16-6, Cash was victorious 12-2 and Chris Stillard won 11-2.

**NOVI 35, HOWELL 34**

In a match that came down to a single point, the Novi Wildcats knew they had their hands full from the very get-go.

"We had four pins to their three and that was the big difference,"

Huss said. "It was a great win over the third-ranked team in the state. We wrestled well and we both won seven matches. Burch, Becker and Kolch really stepped up and got huge pins for us."

Kolch earned his pin in 1:42 while Becker pinned Kyle Tecum in 1:15 and Burch got his pin in 5:29. Hearn earned the fourth pin for the Wildcats in 3:38. Hearn had a 3-1 victory against the Highlanders while Churella notched a 10-2 victory and Muldoon took a 19-1 victory.

Every time they are challenged they step up to the plate and usually hit a home run," Tom Fritz said of the Wildcats. "We don't duck anybody and we go up against the best."

## Sports Shorts

### Coaching vacancy

The Walled Lake Central Vikings' boys track and field team has an opening for a track assistant. Anyone interested in filling the position or looking for additional information can contact the Walled Lake Consolidated Schools Athletic Director David Varbrugh at his office, (248) 956-2073.

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## Spikers look good in win

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

When facing a key conference opponent, it's always safe to say that the game is going to be a close one. Just ask the Novi Wildcats volleyball team.

The Wildcats, led by coach Julie Fisetle, took on their Kentsington Valley Conference rival Pinekey Jan. 16 and walked away with a three-game victory, 14-16, 15-7, 15-10.

"We won," Fisetle said. "The girls played really, really well. They played together as a team with a common goal in mind."

The Wildcats lost the first of the three games 16-14 but managed to come back and collect a very convincing victory in the second match 15-7.

"Kim Zarczynski stepped in for us," Fisetle said. "The truth is, I

was running out of subs. We left her in there to serve and she served 12 balls with seven aces. They just couldn't stop her serve. She did an excellent job."

The third game was a bit more of a challenge for the Novi spikers. "We kept going with our momentum," Fisetle said. "It was a lot closer than the score indicated. Carmen Simpkins played a flawless game, as always."

The Wildcats served the last three points of the third game as Simpkins notched an ace for the first serve before the rest of the Novi squad collected the other two for the win.

Tina Hildreth collected 10 kills against the Pirates as well as three solo blocks while Zarczynski had six aces and four kills.

"This was an important game for us," Fisetle said. "They beat Brighton and we

play Brighton in a week. This gives us a little more confidence going into that game."

The Novi spikers will take on the Brighton Bulldogs in a KVC match up Jan. 28 after postponing their match against South Lyon, which was scheduled for Jan. 21, due to Fisetle being out of town.

"Brighton has a loss with Pinekey," Fisetle said. "Pinekey lost to South Lyon, Milford and us. We only have to play Brighton once this year with the way the league alignment went and I think we have what it takes for the girls to go in and beat them."

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Novi News and the Lake Area Times. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

## Icers lose in U.P., beat Bulldogs

Continued from 1

The Novi Wildcats found more than a challenge when they took a 10-hour trip to the Upper Peninsula to partake in the Calumet Invitational.

The 'Cats, who started their tournament play against Hancock, fell to the Bulldogs in the opener 5-3 before taking a loss to the Calumet Copper Kings 7-4.

"The kids didn't play a bad game," Phelps said of the match up against Hancock. "I just think there was a little bit of a culture shock and they didn't know what to expect."

The Bulldogs came out looking for a win against the Wildcats and that is what they got. The Hancock squad collected six goals on the night, including an open-netter at the end of the third period, while the Wildcats looked to Chaz Bulbuk and Haberman to collect goals for them. Bulbuk opened the scoring for Novi in the first period of the contest as assists from Overfield and Collins before gathering his second goal of the night in the third period with assists being credited to Robert Valaj and Haberman. Haberman notched a goal of his own in the third on assists from Overfield and Collins.

"We were pretty flat when we first came out and didn't get a lot of good opportunities," Phelps

"They are a well balanced team with some good size. To tell the truth they are a little over and above us. They play well and they play disciplined."

Dan Phelps  
Novi hockey coach

said. "The whole Hancock team played well and were a little more hungry with a little more drive."

Trent Sisson sat in goal for the Wildcats in the losing effort.

The Calumet game was much of the same with the Wildcats feeling the sting of their second loss in as many days with the Copper Kings gathering seven goals on the night to Novi's four.

"They are a well balanced team with some good size," Phelps said of Calumet. "To tell the truth they are a little over and above us. They play well and they play disciplined."

The Copper Kings notched the final goal of the night with an open-netter in the third period, but the 'Cats were the first to get

on the scoreboard.

Overfield scored an unassisted goal for the Novi Icers in the first period to open the scoring, but the Copper Kings were quick to answer with two goals in the first period with another in the opening moments of the second. John Murray notched a goal for the Wildcats in the second period with assists going to Robbie Harrell and Ferras before Calumet notched yet another score. Bulbuk collected the final goal for the 'Cats with Overfield and Haberman collecting the assists.

"We weren't able to capitalize," Phelps said of his teams chances to take the lead or tie the contest. "They beat us. They are a very good team and I am proud of the way our team played against them."

Novi pulled goalie Morrison at the end of the third period and the Copper Kings were quick to add the final goal of the contest in his absence.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Novi News and the Lake Area Times. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

## Wild 'Stangs earn victory

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Winning by the skin on your teeth - now that is exciting. But how much exactly is winning by the skin on your teeth? How about three-tenths of a point?

The Novi-Northville Wild 'Stangs gymnastics team collected a first-place finish in the Hartland Invitational Jan. 19 with a total of 144.45 points - their nearest competition, which was Farmington, collected 144.15 points while Hartland took third with 144.1.

The Wild 'Stangs relied heavily on their talent - which is straight across the board with this crew. Lindsey Carlson made a good impression on the judges, collecting a 9.2 on the vault, a 9.1 on the bars, an 8.0 on the beam and a 9.55 on the floor for a grand total of 35.85 total points. Jennifer Sturgis showed why the Wild 'Stangs had awailed her comeback for so long, as she gathered a team high of 37.5 total points while 9.5 coming from the floor routine, 9.25 from the beam, 9.5 on the bars and a 9.25 on the

vault. Sturgis' performance notched her the honor of having the meet high with her total points as well as her bars performance as well as the team high in the all-around scoring, the bars and the vault. Carlson collected the team high with her floor routine score of 9.55.

The Wild 'Stangs showed their depth in the all-around, collecting impressive performances from Carlson and Sturgis as well as Andrea Ledbetter, Sara White Callin Miller took an 8.4 on the beam and an 8.1 in the floor event. Courtney Paul had an 8.0 on the vault as well as a 6.45 on the bars while Whitney Paul took an 8.1 on the vault and an 8.0 on the beam and Erin Yankovich took an 8.0 on the vault.

The Wild 'Stangs will return to action when they visit Canton Jan. 28 in a conference match up.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

## McDonald loves cheer, eating squid

Continued from 1

McDonald has gained one friend in particular with whom she has made a special bond, Megan Crissman. "She's been a cheerleader since sophomore year and we just started talking," McDonald said. Cheer has strengthened her friendship with Crissman.

"We have a lot in common," she said. Besides cheer the friends have another characteristic they share, the love of shopping.

"We go to the mall a lot," McDonald said. There, the girls shop at the Wet Seal, McDonald's favorite store. Besides her friends on the cheer team, McDonald has another group of people close to her. McDonald has three siblings. She has two younger brothers Patrick, who is 15, and Michael, 13. She also has an older sister, Melissa, who is 24.

Although McDonald has all that company, she still prides herself on being an individual. "I don't idolize anyone. I kind of do what I want," she said. One of the things that McDonald wants to do is cook. "I cook a lot," McDonald said. She doesn't specialize in one area

but cooks just about everything. Although she likes to cook, she doesn't plan on pursuing a career in the culinary arts.

"I listen to pretty much everything but Oldies are my favorite," said McDonald.

She also enjoys catching a good movie, especially comedies. American Pie was her favorite movie. "Anything that will make me laugh will make me happy," McDonald said.

That probably means, McDonald's girlfriend, Chris Provost must be pretty funny. The pair has been dating for about two years. They first met on the school bus and started dating soon after.

"I guess we're both weirdos," McDonald said referring to why the two hit it off so well. Although not the obvious choice, McDonald's favorite restaurant is Roddy's of 7 mile in Northville. Her favorite food is also not so predictable.

"I like squid," she said. McDonald enjoys eating Calamari and said eating squid doesn't really bother her. McDonald, along with the four other seniors on the cheer team, will lead the team the rest of the competition season. Cheer is fun to McDonald not only because of the friendships, but also for other reasons that will pay off, McDonald said. "It gives you something to work for."

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## Central cage full of young contributors

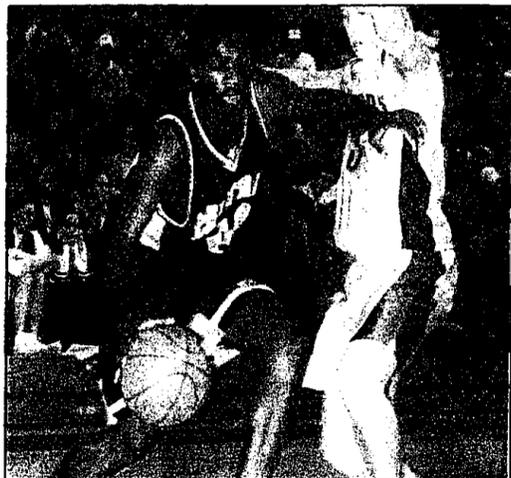


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Maxx Morris, left, tries to move around Western's Robert Zemple.

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

The Walled Lake Central Vikings boys basketball team is young, top-heavy with sophomores, with only two seniors to fill in the leading roles - and neither has been a full-time starter in their four years of high school basketball.

This could prove to be a problem for many teams - but the Vikings take it all in stride. They know that the past was bright for their team and the future may be even brighter - even with two recent losses. The first, Jan. 16, came by way of the Hartland Eagles in a non-conference contest and the second was to Stevenson Jan. 18.

"I like to look back at the books from last year," Walled Lake Central coach Bob Shoemaker said. "I like to look back and see how many of the point scorers we have back from last season compared to what they have back."

Last season, the Vikings topped the Stevenson cagers 57-47 in a Western Lakes Activities Association game. From that game, the Vikings returned none of the players who had points for them, while Stevenson returned a number of players who tallied 44 in that game last season. "And we only lost by seven," Shoemaker said. "Brandon Cassise had 28 points that night."

Cassise, who is a sophomore with the Vikings, was a member of last year's varsity team as a freshman and is showcasing his abilities every chance he gets. A

wicked outside shooter and a competent ball-handler, Cassise has been the mainstay of the Viking offensive attack this season.

"He is a talented player," Shoemaker said. "He was on the varsity squad as a freshman and is one of a large sophomore group we have on this team. We are going to be very, very good down the road, and by down the road, I mean next season."

But with a small crew of seniors to lead the way, the 2001-2002 season has been a rough one for the Vikings.

"Maxx Morris and Eric Wilcox are my seniors," Shoemaker said. "It's not their fault [that the season has gone the way it has]. They haven't had the chance to play a lot when they were coming up. As freshmen and sophomores, their coaches chose to play smaller, more athletic kids at the time. Now those smaller kids have to play a different position and the seniors have to adjust to being starters and to their positions."

The Vikings got top-notch performances from Cassise in the Hartland game as he collected 20 points while Morris notched 12 points. Cassise's 28 point game against Stevenson was the highest scoring for both teams, while Morris added 10 points and 15 rebounds in the losing effort.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Novi News and the Lake Area Times. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Western's Dan Mandeville take a face-off in the Warriors' zone during last Friday's tilt against Livonia Stevenson.

## Warriors fall in WLAA

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Playing the seventh-ranked Division 1 hockey team in the state is not what most programs look to do - but sometimes they have to.

That was the case for the Walled Lake Western hockey team Jan. 18 when the Warriors had the daunting task of defeating Livonia Stevenson in a Western Lakes Activities Association contest. They unfortunately didn't succeed and fell 5-2.

"Stevenson is a very, very strong team," Western coach Mark Johnson said. "We actually came out hard against them."

Very hard is more like it. The Warriors notched a goal only 40 seconds into the game off the stick of Kevin Ortals with assists being credited to Alan Shamoun and Brian Hartman - 11 minutes later is when

"Our players really came out and played hard. We played a good game. Stevenson is one of the better teams in the league. I am happy with our performance."

Mark Johnson  
Western hockey coach

Stevenson started to take over. "We ended up taking a penalty," Johnson said.

"They scored and tied it up. About a half a minute left in the period we took another penalty and they went ahead 2-1."

Stevenson wasn't quite finished though, they team went on to score two more in the second period before the Warriors could answer with a Shamoun goal

assisted by Dave Jackson.

"It was pretty much 4-2 until a few minutes left in the game when they scored again," Johnson said.

The Warriors (2-12) looked to sophomore Greg Hay to lead the way with his play on the defensive end of the puck.

Kyle Davis also had a solid game in the defensive zone for the Warriors.

"Our players really came out and played hard," Johnson said. "We played a good game. Stevenson is one of the better teams in the league. I am happy with our performance."

Justin Strobel, a sophomore goalie, played between the posts for the Warriors, taking 45 shots on goal and stopping 40.

The Warriors will return to action when they play a tough Farmington team tomorrow at 8:20 p.m. in a WLAA match up before playing South Lyon Saturday.

"I hope we can give another strong effort like we did the last game," Johnson said.

"Hopefully we can pull through with a win or close to it."

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Novi News and the Lake Area Times. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

## Warriors basketball earns win

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

The Walled Lake Western Warriors basketball team put on quite a show for their fans and gathered a 27 point victory in the process.

The Warriors, headed up by coach Rex Stanczak, took advantage of their scoring ability as they topped Franklin 76-39 in a Western Lakes Activities Association matchup.

"We were really super-balanced," Stanczak said of his team's scoring. "Everyone that dressed for the game scored."

The Warriors followed the scoring lead of stellar point guard David Zeitlin, who poured in 12 points and collected seven assists on the night, while teammate Chris Eagle added 11 points, Steve Sobleck collected 10 and Bryan Verdun notched nine with six rebounds.

"A guy who really played great off the bench for us was Mike Plisha," Stanczak said.

"He had five points, five rebounds, four assists and four steals. One of his shots was a half-court at the buzzer at halftime. Mike is a great defender and has



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Walled Lake Western coach Rex Stanczak incredulously wonders why a referee called a shooting foul on his team when Central's player hadn't taken a shot at the hoop.

when they host Canton tomorrow at 7 p.m.

"Canton has a really tough half-court game," Stanczak said. "They play an old Indiana-style of basketball."

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Novi News and the Lake Area Times. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

The Warriors will return to action

## WLC hockey gets second victory

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Ahhh, the sweet taste of victory. After a string of tough losses all in a row, the second win of the season is as sweet as they come for the Walled Lake Central Vikings Hockey team.

With a 5-2 victory over the South Lyon Lions, a 3-3 tie against Notre Dame Prep and a 8-3 loss against seventh-ranked Livonia Stevenson, the Walled Lake Central Vikings and their coach, Jim Hogan, are happy with the final outcome -- another season win.

Out of the three, the game against the Notre Dame Prep squad was the most disappointing.

"It was a little disappointing," Hogan said of the contest. "We really thought we should have taken it to them. That seemed to be the consensus of the team."

The Vikings collected a 3-3 tie against the Notre Dame skaters, but had a chance to take the win in the third period.

"With about 2:17 left in the third period, they got a tripping penalty and a bench minor [penalty]," Hogan said. "We just couldn't find the net. The bad thing was, they almost scored against us."

The Vikings (2-11-1) followed the scoring ability of Adam Griffin, who put in two goals in the contest, while senior captain Brian Francis notched the other goal.

Of the humps the Vikings have

had to overcome this season, some are just plain hard to swallow.

"We had a goal in the third but it got called back," Hogan said. "The official decided it was an intentionally kicked puck. It deflected off the kid's skate and he wasn't even looking at the net."

The Vikings will return to action when they take a road trip to visit Grand Rapids Catholic Central in a non-conference contest tomorrow before hosting Northville Saturday.

"We seem to match up well with them as far as we can gather," Hogan said. "It was a game we scheduled late in the season. We rang the doorbell and they answered."

**Walled Lake Central 5, South Lyon 2**

In a game Hogan felt was on "more of an even playing field," the Walled Lake Central Vikings earned their second victory of the season.

The win, which came Jan. 18, came on the backs of Griffin, who scored a hat trick to be the hero for the night, James Kerbawy, who scored a single goal, and Andrew Naylor, who collected a goal on the night. Eric Krejowski notched three assists for himself and the Vikings against the Lions as well.

"Griffin did really, really well," Hogan said. "The whole game he was doing great. He scored on a very pretty short-handed goal."

The goal in question came as Griffin stole the puck from his opponent, skated to his right where

he managed to break free of the Lion defenders and lifted the puck over the goalie's left side and to the top shelf.

"It was a very, very pretty shot," Hogan said.

Hogan noted that it isn't every game he feels his team is on a level playing field with their opponents.

"We have a young program," he said. "We felt that we were very even with the South Lyon team. Our coaches and theirs talked after the game and both felt that the game could have gone either way on any given night."

**Stevenson 8, WLC 3**

The Walled Lake Central Vikings simply - according to Hogan - laid a bomb against the Stevenson skaters.

Stevenson, who is ranked seventh in Division 1 hockey in the state, came in looking to dominate the Vikings and managed to do just that.

"The only good thing that came out of that game was we had some goal scorers," Hogan said.

"We also had some good individual efforts."

"It was the team's individual efforts that led to their goal scoring - or actually it was the brotherly efforts that did. Brothers Kevin and Brian Francis collected a goal and an assist each in the losing effort while Naylor collected the team's only other goal."

"We were really outplayed the whole game through," Hogan said. "It just didn't seem the night for us."