

50¢

MONDAY
DECEMBER 7, 1992

Volume 37
Number 64
Two Sections
12 Pages plus Supplements

the NEWS

Opinions COST CUT INCENTIVE
POSES NUMEROUS CONCERNS / 5A

Dining LOTS OF FAVORITE
AT HANUKKAH CELEBRATIONS / 1B

Sports NOVI CITY PLANNER
COMPETES IN MARATHON / 3B



Photo by HAL GOULD

Football ballet?

The Michigan Classic Ballet will auction off sports memorabilia — including an autographed Detroit Lions football Jennifer Ball and Christopher Leadbitter are using in their rehearsal dance — as a fundraiser for the troupe's coming season. The

dancers will perform *The Nutcracker* in three shows at Fuerst Auditorium, Dec. 12-13. The auction will be at 4 p.m. Saturday during an event called *The Sugarplum Tea*. For information, call 661-2430. For tickets, call 645-6666.

Group rethinks ouster strategy after rejection

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

The three Novi City Council members targeted for recall say they are heartened by the degree of personal support they've received since the ouster attempt began.

"I don't think Novi is ready for or wants a recall movement," Council Member Nancy Cassis said Friday. "I think it's going to fizzle. I think to save face it might be in their (the recall group's) best interest to move on."

Language of the first recall petition was rejected as too unclear by the Oakland County Board of Election Commissioners last week. However, recall leaders Art Cervi and Martha Hoyer and their supporters are now rethinking their strategy.

Hoyer took exception to statements made by the targets, Council Members Carol Mason, Nancy Cassis and Joseph Toth, that the action is a move to stifle them politically. Cassis calls the recall movement "a form of political harassment to intimidate and threaten and interfere with the business of the govern-

ment." Toth has referred to it as a "smear campaign."

"I don't really understand that. I don't think the wording on our petitions smeared anybody. The wording said 'we don't think you're doing what you should be doing,'" Hoyer said.

"We just want our government to work effectively and efficiently and we don't see that happening."

The recall movement grew out of negotiations on the Haggerty Connector this summer between the council and the Michigan Department of Transportation. Connector supporters charged that the council members were slowing down the \$90 million project.

The three council members continue to question why the members of the group have not come forward publicly.

That will happen "very soon," Hoyer said.

"We want to dispel those rumors that we are a secret society. We're just plain residents," she said.

Hoyer said the group plans to research city council minutes over

Continued on 4

Woman found guilty of 1st degree murder

By CRISTINA FERRIER
Staff Writer

After six hours of deliberation, a jury came down with a guilty verdict Friday for Edna Zehnder, a Novi woman charged with first-degree murder in connection with the beating death of her 85-year-old father.

The verdict surprised Zehnder's attorney, Judith Gracey. She tried to convince the jury before Oakland County Circuit Judge Barry Howard Wednesday and Thursday that Morrow's death was not due to injuries he received in the alleged beating.

"Mr. Morrow died some time after this alleged beating took place," Gracey reminded the jury. Morrow died Oct. 18, 1991, 3½ weeks after police found him lying naked and beaten on the living room floor of his home on Penhill in Novi's north end. Police reported he had been laying there for several days.

Dr. Robert Hendrix, a self-employed consultant in forensic pathology, testified Wednesday that, after reviewing the forensic records, he was convinced that Morrow died of pneumonia rather than blunt injuries to the head, which was the conclusion of the Oakland County Medical Examiner's office.

"The cause of death was chronic pneumonia and inflammation of the lungs that had been present for several weeks before the time of his death," Hendrix said.

Among the exhibits presented to the jury during the trial were a col-

lection of photos taken of an emaciated and bruised Morrow after his admission to Huron Valley Hospital.

Pressed during cross-examination by Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Jose Fanejo, Hendrix said Morrow's injuries and following days spent lying on the floor were likely to have contributed to his contracting pneumonia.

On Tuesday, Fanejo presented evidence intended to prove that Zehnder, 47, beat her father with the intention of killing him, and that he later died as a result of injuries he received in that beating.

Evidence presented against Zehnder in court on Tuesday included an audio recording of the beating. Morrow reportedly liked to record religious programs on the radio, and was in the process of doing so when the beating occurred.

Other witnesses alleged Tuesday that Zehnder stole \$9,000 from her father, then bought a car with it. Zehnder's son Michael, 22, testified Wednesday that his grandfather was frail, bruised and emaciated before the alleged beating occurred.

"He was very thin, very dirty, he almost never took a shower or a bath," Michael Zehnder testified. "He smelled very bad and his arm was quite curled under" from a previous stroke.

"He had bruises on his arms, and my mother would say he fell down."

Continued on 4



Photo by HAL GOULD

Barbara Louie and her recently completed book on the history of the city, *No. VI on the Trail*.

Novi city history set in type at last

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

It's official. Novi has a history.

Not that the city that was pioneered back in 1825, and before that was home to a thriving population of Native Americans, doesn't actually HAVE a history.

It's just never been firmly bound between the pages of an actual book before. Now, Novi, like neighbors Farmington, Plymouth and Northville, has an authorized publication to show off in both hardcover and softcover editions.

The one thousand copies of *NO. VI On The Trail* were published by the city's historical commission.

Author Barbara Louie, also the Novi Public Library's reference librarian, will be autographing copies of the book Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center.

Residents are invited to come, enjoy the refreshments and above all buy a book. It's \$15 for a softcover volume, \$20 for hardcover.

The history is chockful of tidbits like Oakland County's last living Civil War veteran, Novi's Marvin Bogart, who finally gave up the ghost in 1938 at age 98. Bogart was captured by the Rebs at the Battle of Chickamauga and spent over two years in the notorious Andersonville prison camp.

If Bogart was the county's last Grand Army of the Republic soldier, a first was scored twice by

Novi settler Erastus Ingersoll. He was the first pioneer here in 1825 and during his 11-year stay here it is claimed that Ingersoll invented and used the first mowing machine ever operated in the U.S.

Louie, who started writing the book in 1987, began the project because there was a gap to fill. She completed the work in her free time, especially on weekends.

"Very often people came in (to the library) and asked about Novi and there wasn't anything available and we had to dig up what we could. Hopefully, this will make it easier," she said.

This is Louie's second publication. A previous work is a collaboration with Northville historian Diane Rockall, *Step by Step Through Northville*.

Novi has produced no famous people — or even flash-in-the-pan celebrities. The most notorious thing about the city is the cryptic origins of its name.

"I was surprised to see how many different versions there really are. There are close to a dozen. I didn't expect to find that many," she said.

There's the dueling legends of the sixth gate on the Grand River turnpike; of the local man who was always saying "No" to his wife, Vi; of the bride who eloped here from a namesake town in Yugoslavia . . . Read the book to find out the rest.

The greatest national renown the city has attained was brought by a 1950s-era race car which wowed fans at several Indianapolis 500 races until it was retired in 1966.

"The most famous thing in Novi is the Novi Special. That's the most famous thing living or inanimate we've got," Louie said.

Another surprise to Louie was that Novi was essentially settled in the early 1800s by Farmington residents who thought that frontier settlement was getting too congested.

"We think of things getting too crowded now," she said.

"It's interesting to look back at a place and try to imagine no roads, no homes, no buildings. It gives you a different feel for a place," she said.

The historical commission is hoping that the success of this book will encourage others to author local histories for possible publication.

"Perhaps it will encourage others who have a project in mind, say somebody is writing a history of the Civil War," Kathy Mutch, a historical commission member, said.

"We are pleased to see Novi finally has a published history."

The book will be sold on consignment at Borders Book Shop and is also available at the Novi Civic Center. For information, call 347-0400.

Mutch, who is also president of the Novi Historical Society, suggests that a copy would make a terrific Christmas present.

"It should have a welcome place on anybody's bookshelf. It's an attractive, well-designed book that makes good use of rare photographs. Barbara Louie has done a fine job," she said.

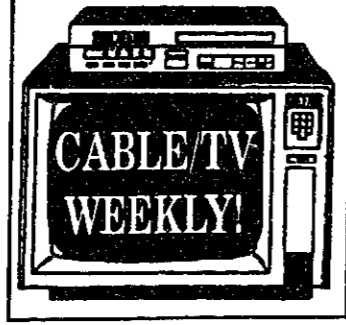
inside

- CALENDAR 2A
- CLASSIFIEDS 4B
- COLUMNS 5A
- DINING 1B
- EDITORIALS 5A
- NOVI BRIEFS 4A
- POLICE NEWS 4A
- SPORTS 3B

- NEWS/SPORTS 349-1700
- ADVERTISING 349-1700
- CLASSIFIEDS 348-3024
- DELIVERY 349-3627

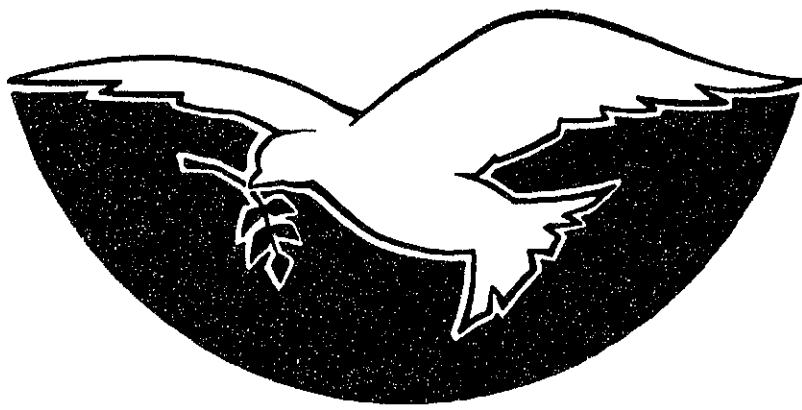
© 1992 HomeTown Newspapers
All Rights Reserved

WHAT'S INSIDE?



We're helping this holiday season. Will you join us?

IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING



FOOD DRIVE

We hope to make the season a little better for those less fortunate. Our stores will become collection points for donations of canned goods or other nonperishable foods, which will be distributed by the local food banks. See store for details.

GLEANERS

COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK
OF GREATER DETROIT

2131 BEAUFAIT, DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48207

"Turning surplus into a plus for the hungry"

IN APPRECIATION OF YOUR
GENEROSITY, WE WILL EXCHANGE YOUR
GIFT OF FOOD FOR A CERTIFICATE WORTH

25% OFF

A REG. PRICED OR
RED TICKETED ITEM
FOR EACH ITEM DONATED, YOU
WILL RECEIVE ONE CERTIFICATE



United Way

2 DAYS ONLY!

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY • DECEMBER 9 & 10

Certificate may be applied to a regular or clearance priced item. Does not apply to sale prices that are in effect for a limited time. Does not apply to red-ticketed furniture, Fine Jewelry, Outerwear. Does not apply to Styling Salon, custom decorating, catalog purchases, licensed departments, cosmetics, multiple-priced items, Smart Values, Swatch, Gucci, Starter, Champion, redeemed for cash, used for payment on account, or in combination with other certificates. Minimum cash value 1/20th of one cent.

JCPenney

Fairlane Town Center
Michigan Ave. & Hubbard
593-3300

Lakeside Mall
M-59 Schoenherr
247-1710

Oakland Mall
14 Mile & I-75
583-3400

Northland Mall
Greenfield Rd. & Hwy. 102
557-6600

Eastland Mall
18000 E. Eight Mile Rd.
521-4900

Southland Mall
Eureka & Pardee Rd.
287-2020

Westland Mall
Warren & Wayne Rd.
425-4260

Twelve Oaks Mall
12 Mile & Novi Rd.
348-3190

Summit Place
Telegraph & Elizabeth Lake Rd.
683-9000

Northwood
13 Mile & Woodward
288-6200

Lincoln Park
Fort & Emmons
382-3396

Tech Plaza
12 Mile & Van Dyke
573-4370

Briarwood Mall, Ann Arbor
500 Briarwood Circle
769-7910

