

50¢ THURSDAY DECEMBER 23, 1993 Volume 38 Number 64 Four Sections 42 Pages plus Supplements

th NEWS

Opinions TRAIL OPPOSITION IS A 'TAKING' OF LAND / 14A Living A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SANTA CLAUS / 1B Sports WILDCATS UPEND LAKELAND / 7B

Council gives firm the OK to test for oil

By JAN JEFFRES Staff Writer

A Grand Rapids-based oil corporation was given the go ahead Monday by the Novi City Council to search for petroleum deposits under the city's new north-end park.

retained Eagle Exploration to conduct a three-week seismic survey using a series of dynamite charges on both public and private land north of Twelve Mile Road, including the Novi Tree Farm site.

tion and over the protests of Council Members Carol Mason and Tim Pope. Wolverine will pay a \$25 permit fee and an as yet undetermined donation to the city's tree fund for the privilege.

Kriewall said he would have to check to see if the city owned the oil rights to the new park land it has recently purchased.

the well could be located at the site of the city's waste water treatment plant on Decker Road and then be drilled at an angle to the city park on Twelve-And-A-Half Mile Road.

the project reiterated that they were agreeing to a seismic survey only, not an oil well.

Residents organize to fight oil survey

By JAN JEFFRES Staff Writer

Residents in the Nine Mile Road/Meadowbrook Road area are organizing to fight a possible oil well in their neighborhood.

In September, the Novi City Council nixed a request from the Traverse City-based Savoy Oil and Gas Co. to lease the mineral rights to Rotary Park, just off Nine Mile Road.

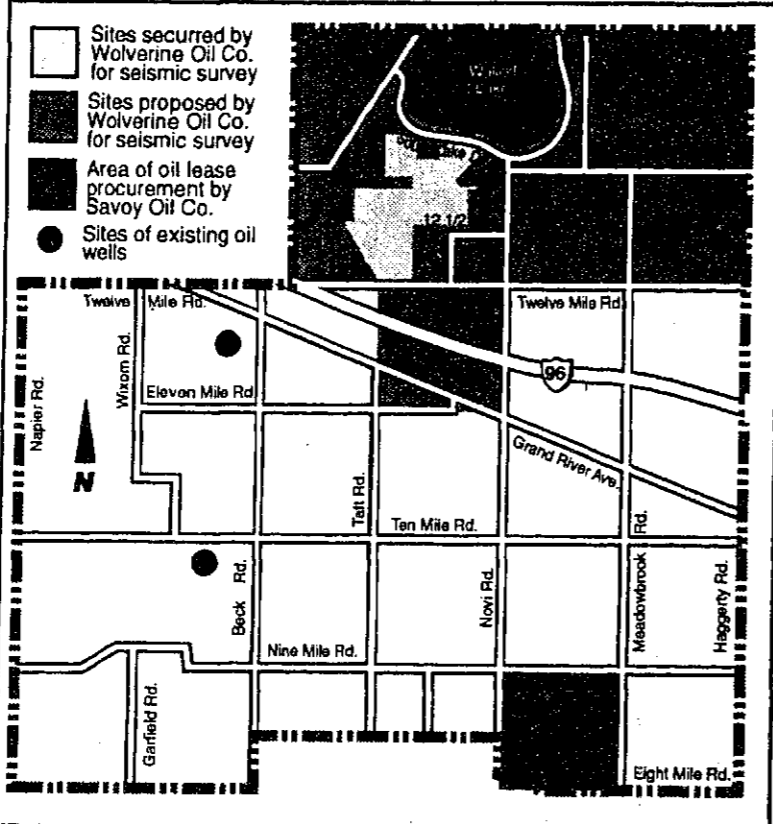
Since then, Meadowbrook Lake subdivision residents Lora Toth and Lisa Barton have been talking to area businesses and homeowners, asking them not to sign any leases.

"We've contacted everyone in the immediate area, either by the phone or by mail. Everyone we've talked to seemed to be real negative," Toth said.

"They all realize nobody would get rich but the oil companies."

Savoy was turned down by the Meadowbrook Lake homeowners association when it sought a lease

Looking for Oil



on that subdivision's park. Homeowners in Deerbrook subdivision were also opposed to the idea.

After the holidays, Barton said they plan to launch a petition drive to seek signatures of residents opposed to oil and gas drilling, and will also ask to meet with other Novi homeowners groups.

The homeowners fear possible environmental contamination and

health hazards if a well is placed near a highly-populated residential area.

Toth said she opposed the city council action to allow exploration for oil on Novi parkland.

"I can't believe they're allowing seismic testing when they know how the community feels," she added.

School board may levy full property tax in July

By SHARON CONDRON Staff Writer

The Novi Board of Education is hoping state legislators will have the school finance riddle figured out before a decision has to be made next week whether to collect half or all of the school district's property taxes in July.

As lawmakers debated the school finance plan last Thursday, Novi board members voted to hold a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 29 to debate the pros and cons of whether they will collect 50 or 100 percent of their property tax revenues on the summer tax bill.

Trustee Robert Schram forced discussion of the issue Thursday night before he left for a previous

engagement. "We haven't seen any figures from the state yet, so I'm not sure how it will affect us," he said about the school finance plan that is expected to be handed down by legislators before the Christmas break.

Schram left the meeting before the board voted to post the special meeting, but not before he voiced his opinion.

"I hope we wouldn't levy 100 percent in the summer and zero percent in the winter," he said. "I'd like to maintain the 50-50."

Board President Ray Byers reminded board members they couldn't vote on changing percentages collected on bi-annual tax bills without first noticing and holding a public hearing.

He said the board could have voted last week to maintain the two tax billings as the district has done in the past, but to levy the full 100 percent on the summer tax bill would require input from taxpayers.

Based on the uncertainty of the 1994 millage, James Koster, assistant superintendent for business and operations, recommended the board opt for the full summer tax levy to avoid a cash flow deficiency.

"We have no idea of what tax will be levied or how tax dollars will be distributed," he told the board Thursday.

But if the current House version of the school finance plan passes,

Mayoral, council candidates file their campaign reports

By JAN JEFFRES Staff Writer

Three Novi candidates didn't quite make the early December deadline for filing their post-election campaign reports but did get the paperwork in recently.

They are mayoral hopeful and Council Member Joseph Toth, winning candidate Council Member Hugh Crawford and candidate Walt Jenkins.

The deadline for filing the reports was Dec. 2, one month after the Nov. 2 election. Jenkins turned in his documents to the county clerk's election office on Dec. 6; Toth and Crawford submitted their reports

on Dec. 13.

The penalty for late filing is \$25 per day.

Financial statements for the candidates which were turned in by deadline — mayoral candidates Kathleen McLallen and Nancy Cassis and city council candidates Oliver Hayman, Rob Mitzel, Tim Pope, David Ruyle and Robert Taub — appeared earlier in *The Novi News*. Write-in candidate for mayor, Lee BeCole, was given a waiver because he planned to spend less than \$1,000 on the race.

Jenkins dissolved his election committee on Dec. 6, certifying no assets or outstanding debts. Taub was the only other candidate who

has dissolved his committee.

The biggest spender in the election was McLallen, who had expenses of \$14,338. Mitzel spent the least, \$1,760, followed by Jenkins, who shelled out \$1,829 during the race.

Here are highlights of the reports turned into the Oakland County Clerk's election office by Toth, Crawford and Jenkins.

JOSEPH TOTH FOR MAYOR: Report filed by his treasurer, wife Marsha Toth. His total contributions amounted to \$5,636; he spent \$5,466. After the pre-election report, Toth took in \$2,586.

Continued on 6



Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

Man of the hour

What's it like being the most recognized and best loved person in the world? To find out we went to the miracle man himself. Find out

what he told us on page 1-B of today's Novi News.

Novi neighbors light up the holidays

By JAN JEFFRES Staff Writer

Merry Christmas to Novi, especially from 42 families, six homeowners groups and six businesses.

They're the folks with such an abundance of holiday spirit that they lit up their homes or businesses — and our evenings — with downright spectacular outdoor decorations.

Such good cheer did not go unnoticed — these 54 winners of the city's annual contest for best-dressed homes and businesses

were presented Monday with Novi Christmas ornaments and, for the most outstanding, plaques.

"This was just an incredible, outstanding year for lights in the City of Novi," Mayor Kathleen McLallen said in announcing the winners.

"If you've only got time to drive through one subdivision, Deerbrook is Edison's best customers. If one did it well, the other did it better. They just went crazy."

How "crazy?" Willowbrook resident Mike Natzel said he used 1,400 red, white and blue lights to build a huge American flag on the side of

his home — to say nothing of the other lights and the Christmas train in his front yard.

Still, what McLallen termed the team of elves evaluating the winners gave the "best of all, most spectacular" award to Roy and Carolyn Wilson on Sullivan Lane in Cedar Springs. Every window of their home was decked out with holiday scenes, including reindeer, a sleigh and Santa.

"They're having a power outage up on Sullivan," McLallen quipped.

Continued on 15

inside BUSINESS 1D CALENDAR 2A CONNECTION 3B CLASSIFIEDS 3D DIVERSIONS 5B EDITORIALS 14A LETTERS 15A LIVING 18 NOVI BRIEFS 11A NOVI HIGHLIGHTS 2B OBITUARIES 7A POLICE NEWS 4A RECREATION 10B SPORTS 7B NEWS/SPORTS 349-1700 ADVERTISING 349-1700 FAX 349-1050 CLASSIFIEDS 348-3024 HOME DELIVERY 349-3627

Season's Greetings from the gang at the Green Sheet

Samaritan finds way to save holiday

By STEVE KELLMAN Staff Writer

They say this is the season for giving, but for one Novi resident the holidays have become the season for giving back.

Lee Mamola, Novi architect, Rotary member and all-around good guy, was out jogging through downtown Northville last Saturday with his running club when he ran by Northville City Hall and stumbled across a lost wallet. "I literally kicked the wallet out of the gutter," he said.

Continued on 10

Volunteer Notes

Novi planners dream of budget plums

By SHARON CONDRON
Staff Writer

Wanted, office volunteers: The American Cancer Society is looking for volunteers to work in the office to help answer the telephones, perform clerical functions and data entry. Training will be provided by their congenial staff. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Any time commitment is welcome. For more information, please call the American Cancer Society office at 1-800-925-2271.

The Nov Planning Commission will be spending the holidays thinking about what it will be asking city council to fund this year. James Wahl, the city's director of planning, said he was given a directive by city officials to have an initial line item proposed budget prepared by Jan. 10. The city's planning and community development budget is separate from the nine-member commission's. Wahl called for the formation of a planning studies committee to formulate any thoughts or ideas and

bring them back to the full commission the first week in January. After the commission reviews the proposed budget, the administration will eyeball it and then send it on to city council and public hearings.

Wahl indicated the review process would be finalized in May. Included in the department's expenses are \$1,500 expenditures for memberships to professional organizations. The line item covers publica-

tions and the seminars many of the city's staff planners attend. Wahl also indicated that the department was looking to upgrade its graphics software capabilities and buy a laptop computer.

"This has been an on-going problem," he said about the department's inability to produce quality documents for planning purposes. "Even though Novi is a fast growing community our presentation and compu-

ter capabilities are back in the 1950s. "Certainly support for that at budget time would be really helpful," he said.

The laptop computer would be used to send signals to the cable systems to provide graphic presentations at meetings.

The planning director also suggested that additional monies be allocated to fine tune the city's master plan and to discuss a five-year review

of that document. "We are suggesting that we spend 1994 looking at a five-year plan and at future... This is something we really need to talk about." City planners are also suggesting that the zoning ordinance be updated and reviewed. City planning consultant Brandon Rogers said the ordinance should be reviewed every 10 years. Next year will mark a decade since the document was last reviewed.


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
5:30 p.m. Worship for Families with Children (Nursery)
7:30 p.m. Carols, Communion & Candlelight Worship (Nursery)
10:30 p.m. Festival Worship, Choirs, Communion & Candlelight
NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP - 7:00 P.M.
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3 blocks W. of Farmington Road/3 blocks S. of Grand River

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CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE 93-28.31
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Novi City Council has adopted Ordinance 93-28.31, an Ordinance to amend Section 54.375 of the Novi Code of Ordinances to provide for the distribution of connection charges established for connection to the Hayes-Nowi Sewer Extension.
The provisions of this Ordinance become effective fifteen (15) days after adoption. The Ordinance was adopted on December 13, 1993 and the effective date is December 28, 1993. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk.
GERALDINE STIPP, CITY CLERK
(12-23-93 NR, NN)

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Dinner:
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Choice of: Prime Rib, White Fish, Filet of Sole Beise Visto, Strudel a la Emma, Chicken Wellington, Tournedos of Beef.
Includes: salad or soup, potato, vegetable, dessert.
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Eastland Mall 18000 E. Eight Mile Rd. 521-4900
Southland Mall Eureka & Pardee Rd. 287-2020
Westland Mall Warren & Wayne Rd. 425-4260
Fairlane Town Center Michigan Ave. & Hubbard 593-3300
Summit Place Telegraph & Elizabeth Lake Rd. 683-9000
Lincoln Park Fort & Emmons 382-3396
Tech Plaza 12 Mile & Van Dyke 573-4370
Briarwood Mall, Ann Arbor 500 Briarwood Circle 769-7910



From all of us...to all of you

Best Wishes for the Holidays!

Kelley Albrant, Bruce Amonette, Jon Anderson, Kristine Anderson, Laura Bailey, Howard Baske, Sara Bidwell, Gladys Blais, Helene Blake, Marsha Blasco, Karen Blatt, Patrick Blays, Barbara Blevins, Jeffrey Bowhall, Linda Bowhall, Mark Bowhall, Chris Boyd, Carol Brant, Marjorie Buckelew, Rick Byrne, Tony Campbell, Kimberly Chapman, Ned Chubb, Carolyn Cisler, Bonnie Clark, Carrie Clery, Barb Cloutier, Randy Coble, Tanya Cochran, Sarah Colby, Sharon Condron, Julie Coy, Lewis Crawford, Mark Cruson,

Sheila D'Amico, Scott Daniel, Dustin Daniels, Colin Davies, James Davis, Collene DeCoste, Raymond Deladurantaye, Darlene DeWolf, Sue Donovan, Sherri Doyle, Lisa Dranginis, Judi Durocher, Vivian Dunstan, Deborah Eason, Frank Eichenlaub, Wendy Eisele, Gloria Estes, Sandy Everly, Helen Faber, Merilee Faber, Tina Ferrier, Anita Flory,

Velvet Garver, Alicia Garrison, William Gehringer, Kristi Gillete, Scott Gilliland, Louie

Glubzinski, Sueanne Golphin, Thelma Golphin, Cynthia Good, Hal Gould, Sharon Grogan, Matthew Hanna, Kami Hare, Michelle Harrison, Lindsay Hefron, Carrie Heidt, Marcia Heilner, Todd Henkel, Georganna Herrington, William Heslip, James Hogan, Kelly Hunget,

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From your
HOME TOWN
Newspapers

Heeeeere's SANTA

By MICHELLE HARRISON
Staff Writer

As Santa Claus, a.k.a. Joe Bommarito, pulled his black knee-high, rubber boots over his red pants, he practiced a hearty "ho, ho, ho."

"The easiest part is putting on the makeup and the suit," Bommarito said from his "dressing room," a vacant store located next to Hudson's in Twelve Oaks Mall. "Mentally, I have to become a little kid. I start saying some ho, ho, hos and I start to feel the excitement."

But once he's on his throne at center court, waiting for the children to make their way up the red carpet stretched out before him, Bommarito is fully into his role as Santa.

"I'm a kid at heart myself," the 6-foot-2 Santa confessed. "When I see the kids and their excitement, that's the best part of it all."

This is Bommarito's second year as a Santa Claus for the Novi mall. A full-time student at

Schoolcraft College and a Hudson's employee, the Northville resident said he initially toyed with idea of playing Santa because of his niece and nephew.

"I wanted to see their expression," he said, adding that his niece and nephew visited him twice at the mall last year and didn't realize it was their uncle underneath the white beard.

But as he continued in his Santa position, Bommarito realized he enjoyed not only the reaction of his relatives, but that of the other children, too.

"It makes me want to have my own kids," he said.

Single and 26, Bommarito said he does make for an unusual Santa Claus.

"Usually, the guys are older and have their own kids," he admitted. "They like to grab onto memories of their own kids and Santa Claus."

It takes Bommarito between 15 and 20 minutes to prepare himself physically for his role. Blush



Ho, ho, ho! Santa, a.k.a. Joe Bommarito, waves to shoppers from his throne at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi.

makes his cheeks rosy and his nose like a cherry, and white clown makeup transforms his dark eyebrows and temples into a shade of snowy white to match his wig and beard.

"Mentally, I start the second I wake up," he said.

Bommarito works four-hour shifts, as do most of the other Santas employed by the mall.

"That way I don't get tired and I still have the energy to see them (the children) all," he said.

Not necessarily performing the role of Santa for the money, Bom-

marito says he believes in the spirit of Santa Claus in spite of his adulthood.

"There's nothing really that I don't like about this job," he said. "I get a lot of crying babies, but that's to be expected."

The image of crying babies

sparked a memory of one of Bommarito's funniest Santa experiences. A mother placed her baby on Santa's lap to get a picture. The baby was laughing and giggling, at least until the baby turned around

Continued on 3



Photos by BRYAN MITCHELL

Left, Santa gets the low-down on 14-month-old Garrett Brady's Christmas list. Above, Santa Claus (Bommarito) prepares for his four-hour shift at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi last Thursday. He, as well as some of the other Santas, work only four hours in order to provide full attention to all their "customers." The shorter stints help keep him "excited" about his role, Bommarito says. It takes about 20 minutes to physically prepare for his position as Santa while mental preparation begins as soon as Bommarito wakes up.

Volunteer



Laura Lorenzo

Photo by HAL GOULD

Volunteer is making a difference for seniors

By DOROTHY NASH
Special Writer

"I am sensitized to the needs of senior citizens on a fixed budget, and I'm trying to make a difference," is the reason Laura Lorenzo gave for her being a member of the Novi Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee.

A description of the committee, according to a booklet put out by the city, reads like this:

"The City of Novi annually receives funding from Oakland County called Community Development Block Grant Funds. The Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee was formulated for the purpose of reviewing community development needs of the City in regard to these funds."

Of the five on the committee, "three of us are women, and there are two men plus Dan Davis," who is chairperson and has an office in Parks and Recreation, said Lorenzo.

For the last two years the Committee has received between \$87,000

and \$98,000 dollars to spend.

A portion, Lorenzo said, "is given every year." The Public Services portion covers the van for senior citizen transportation and two-thirds of the salary of Jan McAlpin, the senior citizen center manager.

The rest is allocated to take care of the needs which senior citizens have reported they can't take care of such as "emergency rehabilitation . . . home repairs . . . things to make their homes livable."

"Basically all of these people," Lorenzo said, "live north of I-96."

"People contact Dan Davis," she said, and then the committee meets to discuss the needs, "prioritizing them," Lorenzo said.

Usually the committee meets twice at the end of the year, and then a public hearing is held, followed by City Council approval. In December application is made for the funds, and in the following spring the funds are available.

"It makes you feel good," being on the committee, said Laura Lorenzo.

It's A Fact

Our Ancestry

This is the breakdown from 9,018 reported ancestries

2,281	German
1,423	English
1,413	Irish
552	Polish
447	Italian
410	Scottish
374	French
178	Swedish
169	United States
144	Scotch-Irish
139	Dutch
117	Hungarian
108	Finnish
101	Welsh
89	French Canadian
76	Norwegian
67	Danish
67	Lithuanian
63	Ukrainian
53	Canadian
52	Slovak
43	Arab
40	Greek
36	Romanian
36	Czech
34	Russian
30	Austrian
18	Swiss
17	Belgian
8	Yugoslavian
429	Other

1990 statistics

Mustang hoopsters tallest in school history

By SCOTT DANIEL
Sports Editor

When you're talking Mustang basketball, just how tall is tall?

The emergence of 6-foot-11 Josh Williams on this year's squad got the *Northville Record* wondering if the senior might be the biggest player in school history. And if he isn't, who is?

According to Stan Johnston, coach of the Mustangs from 1953-60, the Black and Orange has seen its fair share of vertically enhanced players. One of the best remembered big men is Jeff Goodrich.

A 6-foot-10 long drink of water, he played for Northville High from 1956-59. In an era where anyone much over 6-foot was considered tall, Goodrich was indeed a rare bird.

"When you had somebody that was 6-5 or 6-6 you had a big guy," Johnston added.

Perhaps in all of the school's history, 6-foot-6 Cap Pethers is the most talented big man. Pethers, in fact, was a teammate of Goodrich's, Johnston recalled.

"He was an outstanding player," he said. "He could jump, he could shoot the jump shot and rebound. He could do about anything on the court."

"He was a pure shooter," said Dave Longridge, who coached Northville from 1961-68. "He was just good."

Pethers, Goodrich and 6-foot-4 Bill Yahney led Northville to the quarterfinals of the state tournament one year. Johnston's boys met up with one of Lofston Green's great River Rouge squads and lost.

"We were pretty good size," said Johnston, "and won a lot of ballgames."

Longridge said he coached a few tall players himself. He mentioned Danny Brown, a 6-6 player from the early 1960s, as his best big man.

Northville High had "decent-sized" teams throughout the '60s, Longridge commented. He said 6-foot players or a little taller were common to his lineup.

Novi finishes 16th at county

Continued from 7

portunity to see him again this year. I think he has the potential to beat him."

A number of other Wildcats wrestled well at Oakland County but failed to place.

At 135 pounds, Chris Young went 2-2 on the tournament. Huss said the junior wrestler regained his focus and should continue to improve the rest of the season.

Freshman J.J. Balagna got his first varsity win at 112 pounds. Heavyweight Eric Norman and 152-pound Tony Place went 1-2 on the tournament.

Novi voided at 125 and 171 pounds. Garrett Barrons was ill and Matt Buck was out with a sternum injury.

The Wildcats were scheduled to wrestle at the Trenton Tournament yesterday. Novi is now off until Jan. 6.

Cagers edge Eagles at home

Continued from 7

Both teams were sluggish offensively in the first quarter.

Greg Pierman swished a three-pointer from the right wing less than a minute into the game. Jason Fannon hit another trey with 4:12 to put Novi up 6-2. The Wildcats led 10-6 by the end of the period, but missed numerous opportunities to open a larger lead.

Lakeland tied the game at 12 mid-way through the second. A pair of Kelly free throws with 49 seconds left gave Novi a 22-20 lead at halftime.

The teams traded baskets in the third period until the final two minutes. Three different Eagles scored in the last seconds of the quarter to take a 36-31 lead into the fourth.

After playing in the annual Novi-Northville Christmas Basketball Tournament earlier this week the Cats are off until after the first of the year. The season resumes Jan. 4 on the road with Walled Lake Central.

"Most of the schools we played were about the same way," Longridge added. "A big man was 6-4 in those days."

The caliber of big men wasn't quite as good 30 years ago, he said.

"In the old days kids were not as sharp with their feet," Longridge explained. "You see more big kids (now) that are agile."

Williams is a prime example. Although he has grown steadily in his years as a Mustang, from 6-foot-9 last year to 6-11 this season, the senior has maintained his skills.

"He's a talented kid," said current Mustang skipper Larry Taylor. "He can run the floor, he's a good shot blocker and rebounds very well."

Williams can dominate at times. In a recent game against Dearborn Edsel Ford, he scored 13 points grabbed nine rebounds and blocked seven shots.

"There are things you can't teach," Taylor said, "height and quickness." This year's squad may be the biggest in Northville history.

Besides Williams, the Mustangs front line features 6-foot-7 John Buser and 6-6 Kieran Williams. Also seeing plenty of playing time are forwards 6-5 George Lemmon and 6-foot-4 Marc Chiasson.

"I'd say our starters average about 6-5," Taylor commented.

Most college programs would like to have as many big men as Northville has this year. But as tall as the Mustangs are, extraordinary height is becoming more common-place.

WLA Western Division rivals Far-

mington Hills Harrison, Livonia Churchill and Livonia Franklin each boast one or more players over 6-foot-5. In the Lakes Division, Westland John Glenn features 6-11 Guy Rucker and 6-foot-5 Tony Goins while Salem's 6-6 James Head is a University of Iowa signee.

"I don't know what makes them bigger than they used to be," said Johnston.

As far as big men being more talented, the coach said his players didn't concentrate as much on ba-

sketchball. Goodrich and Pethers both played football for Northville High as well as basketball.

"I think they're specializing more now," said Johnston. "Kids today, if they are outstanding in one sport they stick with it."

Editor's note: Did we miss a few? The *Northville Record* would like to hear about any of the big men not mentioned in the preceding article. Call 349-1700 or drop us a line at 104 W. Main Street, Northville, 48167.

YEAR-END MOVE OUT!

Advance Payment Plan and conventional lease payments based on 1993 Villager GS with PEP 692A MSRP \$20,095 excludes title, taxes, license fee. Lease payment based on average capitalized cost of 93.35% of MSRP for 24-month closed-end Red Carpet Leases purchased in the Great Lakes Region through 10/31/93. Some payments higher, some lower. See dealer for payment/terms. Lessee may have option to buy vehicle at lease end at price negotiated with dealer at signing. Lessee responsible for excess wear/tear and mileage over 30,000 at \$1.11/mile. Credit approval/insurability determined by Ford Credit. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 1/03/94. Total amount of monthly payments is \$6,696. Savings based on comparison of total of monthly payments plus down payment under a conventional 24-month Red Carpet Lease vs one advance payment. \$8,342 vs \$7,801. For Cash Back take new retail delivery from dealer stock and finance purchase through Ford Credit by 1/03/93. Offer available to residents of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties. *Excludes tax and other fees.

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REAL ESTATE

Home-building is on the rise

By James M. Woodard
Copley News Service

Home-building is enjoying a semi-boom in today's market. It's the most active time for builders since 1986. That good news was revealed in a study and report by Lomas Mortgage USA, a financial services and research firm based in Dallas.

"Low interest rates and relatively stable prices are helping builders sell their new homes despite slow job growth and considerable consumer caution," said David Stewart, Lomas senior vice president.

Total U.S. home-building permits through September of this year were 6.6 percent more than the same period last year, Stewart said. The surge in building activity was reflected in every region of the country.

Only the state of California continued sluggish—the slowest home-building year since 1982. Home-building permits in that state are off nearly 12 percent from a year ago.

Florida, Texas and the Rocky Mountain states are leading the building surge. Among the most active cities are Chicago, Washington D.C., Las Vegas, Denver and Phoenix.

Home-building in Las Vegas experienced the most dramatic increase during the third quarter

of this year. The city's 5,000-plus single-family home building permits during the quarter represented a 61 percent jump from the same quarter last year. So far this year, Las Vegas home building is 26 percent ahead of last year. However, construction of multifamily buildings in this market is down.

"Las Vegas is our No. 1 market for home building activity," Stewart said. "The city authorized 17.6 new dwellings per 1,000 residents during the past four quarters."

Florida is the most actively growing state in new home permits, reflecting a 20 percent increase during the third quarter compared with a year ago.

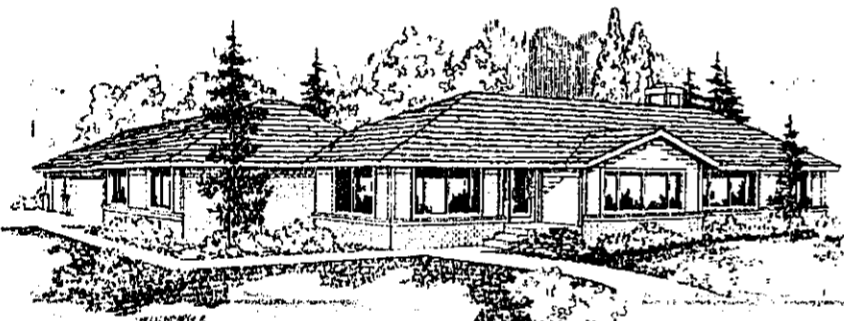
"Last year the southern portions of Florida were still sorting through the rubble of Hurricane Andrew," Stewart said. "Considering the current year through the third quarter, Florida's permits are up by nearly 20 percent."

The construction of multifamily buildings—condos and apartments—throughout the country is picking up, according to the Lomas report. This segment of building activity is up by 4 percent over last year.

The home construction industry would be much more active this year if it were not for a prevailing

Continued on 2

HOME DESIGNS



CARDIFF

Don't let the modest look of the Cardiff fool you

By Anne McCollam
Copley News Service

Behind the Cardiff's modest facade lies a spacious contemporary home, rich in contemporary amenities. The house and garage are designed to wrap around two sides of an outdoor swimming pool with a sun-dappled lattice "roofed" patio.

Vaulted ceilings add volume and increase the sense of spaciousness in the entryway, living room, family room, nook and master suite. And all of these rooms are richly windowed as well.

The kitchen is huge. A wide window in front of the sink allows an adult working in the kitchen to keep an eye on the pool at the same time. Windows in the bayed eating nook and large family room also overlook the pool.

Other kitchen features include just about anything you can think of: a long eating bar, a work island with vegetable sink, a pantry, a built-in desk, an appliance center and a microwave over double ovens.

A long tile hearth in front of the fireplace and bookshelves spans the far end of the family room. Games, card tables and the like, can be stored in the closet outside

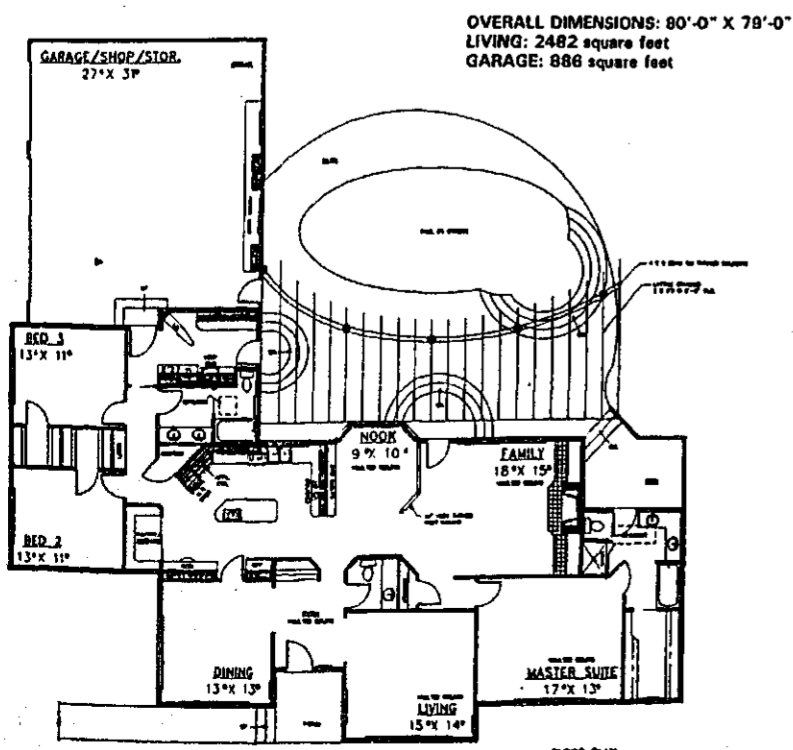
the master suite.

Utilities are in a large room that is adjacent to the garage, the children's bedrooms and just a few steps from the kitchen. Amenities include a fold-down ironing board, deep sink and a counter for folding clothes. It also has direct access to the pool area, allowing swimmers to reach a bathroom without tracking across carpeted floors.

Both of the children's bedrooms have walk-in closets. The compartmentalized bathroom has a skylight in the tub and toilet section, and twin basins in the vanity. Another small bathroom is just inside the front door.

The master bathroom, too, has direct access to the pool, through a private deck. Luxury features include an oversize shower, a skylight, twin basins and a walk-in closet illuminated by a small window. The sleeping area is large enough to include a desk or a sitting area.

For a study plan of the Cardiff (332-190), send \$9 to Landmark Designs, c/o HomeTown Newspapers, 323 E. Grand River Ave., Howell, MI 48843. (Be sure to specify plan name and number when ordering.)



The containment systems allow dogs more freedom than being tied to a tree and protect the animals from injury.

THE INVISIBLE

By Marsha Blasco
Staff Writer

You can't see it, you can't hear it, but your pet will know it's there.

It's an electronic pet-containment system that uses a warning sound—followed by a mild shock—to keep pets within the boundaries of their yards.

Sound cruel?

Not according to veterinarian Dr. Christine Lee of Brighton Animal Hospital, who said she is "pretty positive" about the containment systems.

Like any fence, the containment systems allow dogs more freedom than being tied to a tree and protect the animals from injury, Lee said.

"It's much better to be trained and stay in the yard than to get hit by a car," Lee said, "and, unfortunately, we see a lot of that."

The only system-related injuries she has ever treated have been neck-rub spots from the collars.

The systems also have the endorsement of the Humane Society of Livingston County.

President Christine McKusick believes owners too often let their dogs wander. She sees the results at the Humane Society: animals that have been caught in traps; animals shot when they wandered into a neighbor's yard; and animals hit by cars.

"The (pet-containment) systems are far more humane to the animal," McKusick said, adding that the shock is not strong, "just enough to get the animal's attention."

Here's how the systems work:

A radio signal is sent by transmitter through a cable installed in the ground around the perimeter of the yard. The pet

wears a collar with a receiver. As the dog or cat approaches the boundary, a pulsing beep or humming tone warns the animal. If the pet continues across the line, a shock follows.

Laura Brooks, owner of the Invisible Fencing dealership in Brighton, said she has had three of her own dogs on the system for nine years.

"It's just like a fence is there," Brooks said, adding that her home is on a busy street and that she keeps the dogs out all day during the summer.

Brooks said two main advantages of electronic fencing vs. regular fencing is that if you move, you can take it with you and that the initial cost is roughly one third the cost of a regular fence.

Installation isn't difficult, either—if owners want to do it themselves. And it only takes 7-10 days before a dog is conditioned and able to run free.

Brooks also sells an indoor system for people who want to keep pets from entering rooms or designated areas of the

house.

What about the shock? It's harmless, Brooks said, much like a static-electric shock people receive this time of year when they walk across the carpet and touch a metal doorknob.

"It's the conditioning that makes the system work," Brooks said.

Owners, again, have the choice of do-it-yourself training or having Brooks and her staff train the pet.

"We've never had a dog we couldn't condition," Brooks said.

"We have had owners we couldn't condition."

Brooks said that whether or not she installs the system, she always likes to meet the dog before making a sale, because there are some vicious dogs or dogs with a history of biting that she won't put on a sys-

tem. But, for all other animals—from Yorkies to Great Danes to cats to Pot-Bellied Pigs—the system works, Brooks said.

Invisible Fencing is a brand name. The corporation offers dealerships, like Brooks's, around the world.

But much like the trademark Kleenex—which people use generically to refer to tissue—people use the name Invisible Fencing to refer to pet-containment systems, Brooks said.

Probably because Invisible Fencing was first in the marketplace, protected by patent. When the patent expired several years ago, other products began appearing on the shelves, like Dog Watch, or Radio Fence, manufactured by Radio Systems Corp. in Knoxville, Tenn.

Prices vary based on the amount of extras included in a kit. Area discount stores carry a variety of brand-name kits. At Invisible Fencing, owners can select

Continued on 2

Holiday plants that embody spirit of season

By C.Z. Guest
Copley News Service

GARDENING

I start my Christmas decorating by placing a big wreath (balsam fir because it does not shed) on the front door.

The wreath dates back to ancient Greece, where it was worn by brides as a symbol of good luck and happiness. The circular shape, having neither beginning nor end, symbolizes eternity.

The pine cones on a wreath were used by the guardian spirits of Babylon for the daily ritual of sprinkling the tree of life, to keep demons from attacking. The scent of the pine wreath was thought to drive away evil spirits from the house at Christmastime.

Holly is another good luck piece of Christmas greenery. The ancient Romans thought it to have the ability to ward off lightning, evil spells and poison.

Every Christmas, I get everyone in our house into the spirit by hanging mistletoe in a couple of doorways. Kissing beneath the mistletoe is an old custom that dates back to the Druids.

The plant was believed to symbolize purity and strength

and to bring happiness, peace and promote romance. Enemies meeting beneath a sprig of mistletoe were said to become disarmed and kept their truce throughout the day.

Last is our beautiful Christmas tree. The tree, always an evergreen, is regarded as a symbol of everlasting life. The lights that are put on a Christmas tree were originally meant to help rekindle the sun's light to bring the family warmth through the holiday season.

Knowing these customs gives Christmas a special meaning to me and my family. As we decorate, we have a feeling of peace and happiness and love.

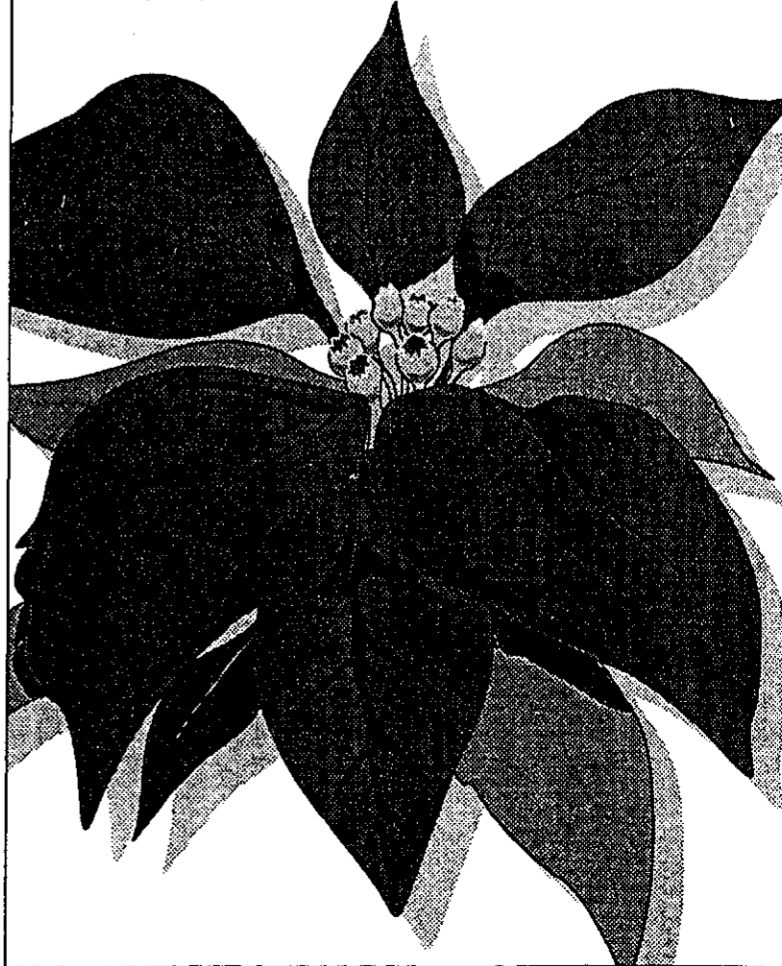
My Christmas dinner table is always red, white and green—red candles, garlands of greenery and bowls of paper-white narcissus, which have a fragrance out of this world.

For the week after Christmas I like to keep the same festive colors throughout the house. The paper-white nar-

Continued on 2

Preserving poinsettias

- Keep soil moist but not soggy.
- When blooms fade, withhold water and keep plant in dark place.
- In early May, trim plant to two or three nodes.
- After frost is gone, place plant in sunny spot in garden and fertilize regularly.



Copley News Service/Dan Clifford

Sports Academy offers training for community

By SCOTT DANIEL
Staff Writer

It used to be, in the not so distant past, that baseball players had no place to keep their skills sharp once the snow began to fly each winter. But, my, how times have changed. The Sports Academy, located at 42930 W. Ten Mile Road in Novi, offers baseball enthusiasts the perfect training facility — all year around. According to owner Stu Rose, business at the Academy has steadily improved since its opening last August. "It started slowly," he said. "But November sales were on the up-swing."

The facility first opened in 1990 as Grand Slam USA. Rose, who worked as an instructor at the business, said Grand Slam was showing a profit.

Previous owners, nonetheless, closed Grand Slam in June of this year. Instead of letting the business die, Rose took over as sole owner. Since opening the Academy, Rose said he has been mending fences with the baseball community and other former Grand Slam customers. "We're very encouraged," he commented.

It shouldn't come as a surprise that Sports Academy is beginning to prosper. In an area where athletic participation is common-place for youngsters and adults alike, the business provides an excellent outlet for practice and fun.

A total of five batting cages are on hand for perfecting hitting skills. Each cage comes with a different speed pitching machine, from slow to fast.

You can even practicing hitting curveballs at the Academy. Baseball batting leagues are routinely formed as well.

Frequent baseball camps are held. Detroit Tiger Travis Fryman worked

"It started slowly. But November sales were on the up-swing."

Stu Rose
Business owner

at Sports Academy's fall camp, for example.

Besides baseball, the Novi-business caters to other sports lovers.

Two full-length basketball courts are available. The courts can be rented for \$10 per half-hour.

Instruction for baseball and basketball is also available. Rose, who coaches baseball at Henry Ford Community College, and others provide expert teaching and advice.

Want to throw a birthday party? The Sports Academy is the perfect place for the kids to have fun.

For a price of \$10 per person (eight person minimum), party goers get the use of the basketball courts, batting cages and video game arcade. Pizza is also provided.

West Ten Mile Road is also the place to go for athletic equipment.

McNish Sporting Goods boasts a 500 square-foot shop loaded with sports merchandise from A to Z. Equipment and apparel are offered for the sports enthusiast or team manager looking to outfit the troops.

The Sports Academy is open from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. both weekend days. For more information, call 380-0800.

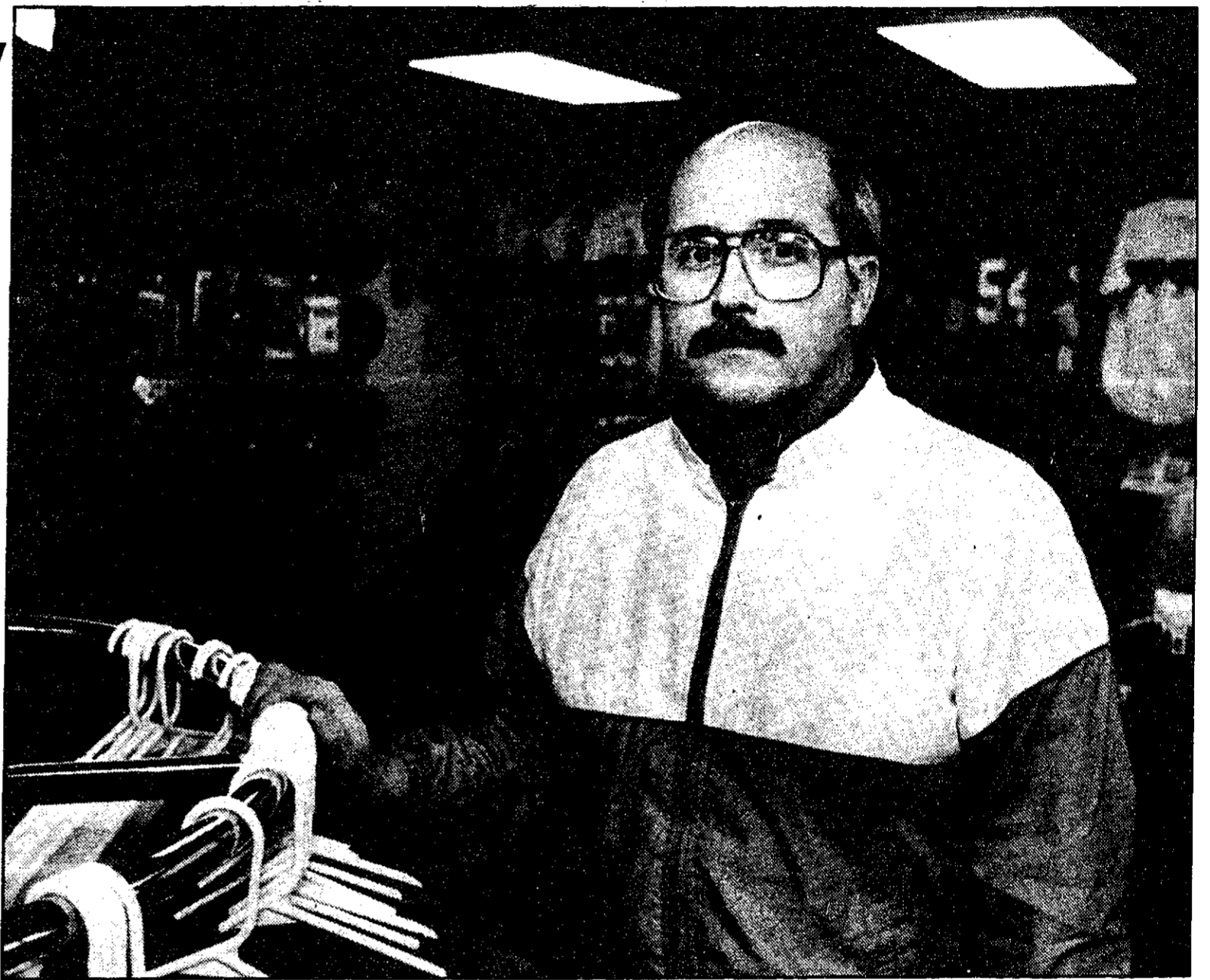
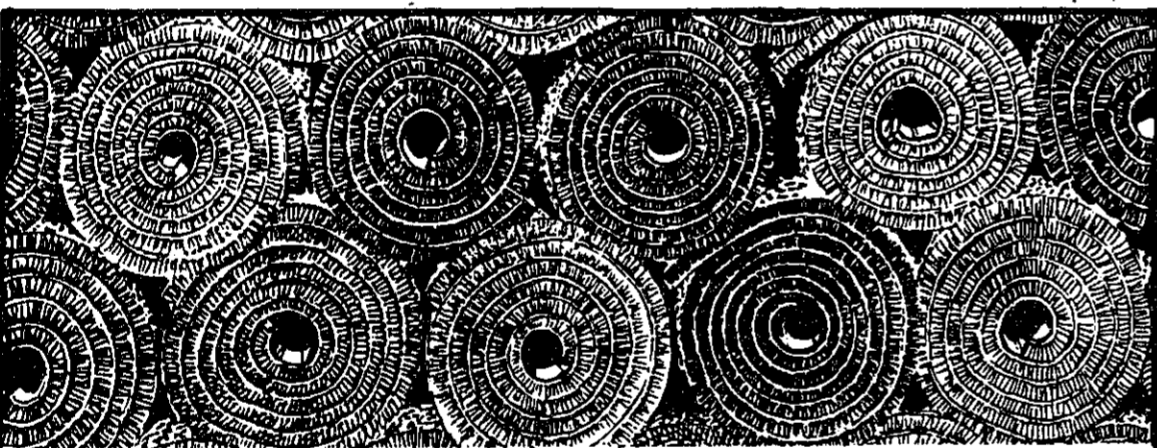


Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

Stu Rose said the Sports Academy offers complete training for young baseball players as well fun for the whole family.



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1986 CHEVY Sprint. Needs engine. \$300/best. (313)437-4258.

1986 OLDS Calais. \$1,000 or best offer. 1984 Charger. \$600. (517)546-4027 until 6pm. After 6pm, (517)546-8671.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS DEADLINES

Monday Green Sheet: Monday Buyers Directory; Pinckney Shoppers Express; Hartland, Fowlerville Shopping Guides; Pinckney Shoppers Express; Hartland, Fowlerville Buyers Directory; and Wednesday Buyers Directory deadlines will be Thursday, December 23rd and Thursday, December 30th at 12 noon.

The Deadline for the WEDNESDAY GREEN SHEET for the issues of December 29 & January 5 WILL REMAIN THE SAME AS ALWAYS - Monday at 3:30pm.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

HAVING problems with your car payments? Car payment too high? We have clients who will assume all of your debt at no cost to you! Eastern Automotive. (313)442-8628.

241 Automobiles
Under \$1,000

1976 MERCURY Marquis. New battery, best offer. (313)363-2804.

1979 FIREBIRD. 301 V-8, 4 barrel. Runs well. 4 speed, newer clutch, dual exhaust, good rubber, rusty. \$450. (313)878-9720.

1981 PLYMOUTH TC3. 2 dr., project car, many extra parts. \$1,000. (313)629-1240.

1982 PONTIAC T1000. 1976 Fiat. Good motors, runs. \$200 ea. (313)229-2039.

1983 CHEVY Caprice 4 dr., V-6 engine, many new parts, must sell. \$750/best. (313)229-9493 between 10am-1:30pm.

1984 BUICK LeSabre. needs trans. \$450. (517)223-3656.

1984 ESCORT Lynx. Good cond. Motor runs good. Power steering/brakes, am-fm stereo, more. \$850 or best. Must sell. (313)498-2423.

ONE WEEK TO DEAL
December 27th - 31st.

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1994 PLYMOUTH VOYAGER

- V-6 Automatic
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- AM/FM Stereo
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- 7 Passenger
- Rear Defogger
- Dual Air Bags
- Plus Much More!

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All power conveniences, anti-lock brakes, traction control, dual air bags, leather interior, infinity sound system & MUCH MORE!

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PER MONTH LEASE 24 MONTH LEASE

So Much Car, So Little Money

- 2 Door
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1994 Dodge Ram Pickup #4052266, Was \$20,353 Chrysler Employee Price \$17,042	1994 Dodge Intrepid #4020344, Was \$19,730 Chrysler Employee Price \$16,553	
1994 Chrysler Concorde #4010189, Was \$21,831 Chrysler Employee Price \$18,276	1994 Dodge Shadow #4020184, Was \$9553 Chrysler Employee Price \$7641	1994 Dodge Dakota Pickup #4050308, Was \$11,883 Chrysler Employee Price \$10,580
1994 Dodge Caravan #4050235, Was \$17,498 Chrysler Employee Price \$15,042	1994 Plymouth Acclaim #4050271, Was \$14,258 Chrysler Employee Price \$11,383	1994 Jeep Grand Cherokee #4050306, Was \$25,181 Chrysler Employee Price \$21,848
1994 Jeep Cherokee #44060347, Was \$17,352 Chrysler Employee Price \$15,561	1994 Jeep Wrangler S #4050304, Was \$14,168 Chrysler Employee Price \$12,365	1994 Chrysler L.H.S. #4010375, Was \$30,076 Chrysler Employee Price \$25,229

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