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THURSDAY
JANUARY 6, 1994

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State passes pension cost onto districts

By SHARON CONDRON
 Staff Writer

While Novi school officials may be applauding the state Legislature's efforts to maintain the district's revenues, there are certainly no kudos heading to lawmakers about their decision to increase the district's expenses by \$1.9 million.

According to Jim Koster, the district's assistant superintendent for business and operation, the new school aid bill requires school districts to absorb 100 percent of their retirement costs for all public school employees. Prior to the passage of the school finance reform bill, the State of Michigan paid 50 percent of district employees' retirement costs. The district paid the rest.

Under the new bill, and regardless of which tax plan passes by voters in March, the Novi Community School District will have to shell out \$1.9 million this year to pick up what used to be the state's contribution to Novi's school employees' pensions.

"The state has also kicked 100 percent of the retirement costs back to local school boards," Koster told the crowd at the Dec. 29 special meeting of the Board of Education.

"It will be tremendous cost in 1994-95 that we haven't had for years and we have no choice," he said.

But now the district will be picking up the tab for what the state is no longer willing to pay.

Residents in attendance at the meeting asked the board if the increase in expenses meant the schools would have to cut back.

"There will have to be some thrifting, yes," said Novi school board

■ The Novi school board decided last week not to collect all its property taxes in the summer, a decision which came after the state's actions alleviated concerns reform could cause severe financial difficulties here. The story is on page 7A.

■ Business is the big loser in the state's school finance reform, because the tax breaks which apply to most homeowners won't be given to businesses. The state Chamber of Commerce is considering a lawsuit. The story is on page 7A.

President Ray Byers. "The \$1.9 million in retirement is an estimate for retirement."

"That's statutory, it's not contractual," he said.

Another resident asked Byers whether or not the district considered privatizing any of its internal operations as a means of saving money.

Byers didn't answer the question but did say the district's bargaining units have agreed to some contract concessions this year that will save the district money.

"We have received some fairly significant health care concessions from all of our bargaining units," he said. "Plus our health care costs were less than last year."



Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

Boy Scout Glenn MacQueen organized storm drain campaign.

Scoutin' the sewers MacQueen seeks end to river pollution

By JAN JEFFRES
 Staff Writer

Glenn MacQueen's mind was in the sewer last summer.

That's because the Troop 407 Eagle Boy Scout candidate marshaled a team of volunteers to stencil "Dump No Waste, Drains to River" plus the picture of a fish, on 852 storm drains throughout Novi. The project is sponsored by the Detroit-based Friends of the Rouge.

"When he came to us and said he wanted to do 400 drains, I was awestruck. I thought if he did half of that, I'd be pleased. When he told me he did more than 800 I was dumbfounded. That's incredible," said Jim Graham, Executive Director of Friends of the Rouge.

Thirty to forty cans of white spray paint were dedicated to the effort. The purpose, MacQueen said, is to keep residents from releasing pollutants such as antifreeze, motor oil and other substances down the storm drains.

"It goes right into the Rouge River," the Novi High School student explained.

Once the substances reach the water, they are lethal to aquatic life. "Friends of the Rouge" volunteers have done smaller-scale stenciling projects in Southfield, Detroit, Redford and Birmingham.

MacQueen's Novi accomplishment not only covered the largest territory, but also helps make people aware of the dangers of dumping into sewers in a region where the sensitive headwaters of both the Middle Rouge and Upper Rouge rivers are located, Graham said.

"We're making a lot of progress with aquatic life in the Rouge. We had a run of salmon last fall," he added.

"This makes it more apparent that all of us need to be more aware of what we do in our day-to-day lives."

MacQueen said he needed a community service project as part of the Eagle Scout requirement so he contacted Novi City Forester Chris Pargoff.

"He said it was the one project he really wanted done," MacQueen added.

Teams of three and four volunteers, chauffeured by an adult driver, were given maps showing where the city's storm drains are located.

After 155 hours of work, the job was wrapped up in October, but MacQueen, 16, is still awaiting word from the Boy Scout's board of review to learn if he'll get his promotion. Eagle is the highest rank in the scouts and only an estimated one in 100 make it.

"We're really proud of what he's done. Whatever they do when he gets to be an Eagle Scout, I want to be there," Graham said.

Municipalities seek settlement

By JAN JEFFRES
 Staff Writer

The longstanding feud between the City of Novi and tiny Novi Township may soon be so much water over the dam, as the two municipalities work towards an out-of-court settlement of their stormwater management differences.

Pivotal to the agreement is whether or not a proposed detention pond may be relocated to what is possibly Novi's largest single-family residence, the 30-acre Van Buren family estate on Nine Mile

Road.

"They're now listening to all the ideas we have, after all these years," Novi Township Supervisor Ray Schovers said Monday. "Maybe the change in the city council means they're being more open-minded. It looks promising."

In 1986, township residents were horrified to learn that as part of the city's 1983 Stormwater Master Plan, a dam and a stormwater detention basin was planned on Miller Creek at the point where it flows through Novi Township. The township suggested a string of

alternatives.

But in 1992, after 15 months of negotiation with the Chedworth Drive residents, the Novi City Council decided to seek condemnation of portions of their backyards in Oakland County Circuit Court.

A condemnation proceeding has two parts. First, the city must prove it has a need for the property. Novi Township did not contest this.

As the second phase, a trial was scheduled for March to determine how much the city would have to pay for the easements. However, the city council agreed to postpone

the action until May, allowing the city time to review a compromise proposed by an engineer retained by the township, Larry Paxton.

Key to a possible settlement is the Van Buren estate. Barbara Van Buren, who lives on the wooded estate, said last year she'd lost a \$2 million sale to a developer because of extensive flooding caused by upstream city development.

"We gave them (the township) more time. He (Paxton) has apparently worked out some potential

Continued on 7

Police try to reduce trauma for victims

By SHARON CONDRON
 Staff Writer

Months after the Novi Police Department's Victim Interview room has proved itself a valued asset to officers and victims alike, Novi City officials will finally get around its grand opening next week.

Police Chief Douglas Schaeffer said Tuesday's official dedication ceremony was postponed late last year for various reasons, including the holiday season. But now that the hustle and bustle of the season has past, city officials are getting around to thanking those who made the room possible.

The list of guests at Tuesday 7 p.m. ceremony includes the Novi Jaycees, who provided stuffed animals for children of the victims, and the Novi Lions, who supplied the video and audio equipment that records the officers' interviews with the victims of traumatic crimes.

Novi City Council members and other city officials have also been invited.

Schaeffer said the room has been reserved for victims of traumatic crimes, including but not limited to sexual assault cases. It was intended he said to "create a wholesome and less hostile environment" for victims to tell their stories to police.

The room is decorated in warm, subtle hues of a pastel sea foam green and alabaster. Two overfilled couches face each other to create an intimate setting that allows at least two officers and the victim to talk candidly about the event that brought them together.

It has a side entrance that allows victims easy access to and from the station without parading them through the public portion of the police station.

Directly adjacent is a room stacked with stuffed toys, coloring books and crayons and a chalkboard in which to entertain young children while their parents complete the interview process. Schaeffer said children who have come through the interview process are allowed to take a stuffed animal home with them when they leave.

The chief said recently a young boy appreciated the gift so much he wanted to take his stuffed animal to school for show-and-tell.

Officers have used the room several times since it opened in October.

"It has really been conducive to good interviews and it's become very obvious to us that the victims appreciate it," Schaeffer said. "It provides a warm and friendly positive experience from something that was very negative."

"We've had lots of good success with it."

The police chief said high tech recording equipment allows officers to tape the session and use it as evidence in subsequent interviews. The tapes reduce the number of times a victim has to retell the story and therefore speeds the healing process.

"The whole idea was to reduce the trauma," Schaeffer said. "So many times we (the system) have further victimized the victims by asking them to retell the story over and over."

"This makes good sense because we don't want to further traumatize our victims."

News' coupon insert will save readers big money

Coupon lovers and bargain hunters will be the big winners thanks to a new weekly insert that begins this week in *The Novi News*.

Packets of coupons — whose combined value will range from \$20 to \$50 or more — will be inserted in *The Novi News* every week as part of a new arrangement that allows large distribution companies to effectively reach the growing market reached by community newspapers.

"We are excited to add this feature, because it will benefit both readers and advertisers alike," said Rich Perlberg, general manager of HomeTown Newspapers, which publishes *The Novi News* and five other community weeklies.

Coupons will come from market-

ing giants such as Kraft, General Foods and R.J. Reynolds, said Perlberg.

The money that can be saved from a typical packet of coupons will equal the cost of a one-year subscription to *The Novi News*, according to Perlberg.

"For those who collect and use coupons, it will actually pay them to subscribe to our paper," said Perlberg. "Of course, we think our award-winning coverage of local news is an outstanding value in itself."

Coupons are scheduled on a weekly basis through December, said Perlberg. Some weeks there will be two packets of coupons, he added.

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In today's issue
 North American
 International

AUTO SHOW

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Michigan Sinus Institute at Botsford General Hospital takes a comprehensive and total approach to sinus care and treatment. Our physicians are trained specialists in treating diseases of the eyes, ears, nose and throat.

Botsford Center for Health Improvement offers a health care continuum from prevention to rehabilitation for people of all ages. Our Total Rehabilitation and Athletic Conditioning Center, a comprehensive outpatient program, is dedicated to the prevention of injury, physical rehabilitation, and retraining for continued good health. Health Development Network offers monthly screenings for cholesterol and blood pressure. We also encourage healthy living through weight loss, smoking cessation, stress management and several other programs.



botsford general hospital

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School taxes still come twice a year

By SHARON CONDRON
Staff Writer

The Novi Board of Education voted not to increase the summer tax collection from 50 to 100 percent Wednesday night.

More than two dozen Novi residents braved sub zero temperatures to attend the special board meeting and voice their desire to maintain the 50-50 split in taxes residents now pay on bi-annual bills.

Two weeks ago, the school board had entertained the idea of collecting all of the taxes in July and eliminating the winter collection. But that was before the state Legislature passed the new school aid bill.

The new aid bill which emerged after a marathon session of the Legislature on Christmas Eve Day calms district officials' fears about a loss in state revenue and alleviates the need to collect the full tax levy in the summer. The bill guarantees school districts \$10 billion in state aid and affords them the opportunity to levy enough millage this year to maintain the same level of funding as last year.

Jim Koster, the district's assistant superintendent of business, suggested the 100 percent summer collection at a Dec. 16 meeting so that the district would have a cash flow safety net if state revenues were reduced. Koster said then that levying the full tax millage in July would guarantee enough tax revenue for the district to stay afloat through school year 1994-95. Without it, Koster and other school officials feared they would be cash deficient under the 50-50 split if the lawmakers cut property taxes and withheld additional state aid to schools.

State law requires the school district to have a signed tax collection agreement with the City of Novi by year-end. If the board wanted to change the tax structure, the law says the board had to squeeze a public hearing in before Dec. 31.

The hearing was scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 29, but by the time the board got around to addressing the issue, their fears about losing state aid under the state's new school aid bill were alleviated.

School officials worried that after the Legislature wiped out \$6 billion in property tax revenues last summer, a new school aid bill would not replace all of their lost millage revenue. That

hasn't happened for districts like Novi.

Under the new plan, there are 35 districts in the state who will be allowed to levy an additional 1.5 to 3 mills above and beyond the statutory millage outlined by the state. The enhancement millage will afford Novi schools the opportunity to retain its current \$6,800 per pupil expenditure, and give it a one percent increase.

In addition, lawmakers provided \$10 billion in guaranteed aid to public schools regardless of which tax increase plan is put into effect after the March 15 ballot.

Michigan voters will be asked to decide whether they want to raise sales taxes to pay for education in the spring election. If voters reject Gov. John Engler's plan to raise sales tax from 4 cents to 6 cents and cap property tax at 6 mills, then the Legislature's plan to raise income taxes from 4.6 percent to 6 percent and cap property taxes at 12 mills will automatically kick in.

Last Wednesday, Koster gave a terse overview of the impact the new bill would have on Novi schools. The new bill, he said, would force Novi Schools to rely on state aid to run its programs. It will be the first time the district has relied financially on the state and not on local tax revenue to support its program, Koster said.

"The school district has been fortunate enough that it hasn't been dependent on the state, but under the new plan Novi will be dependent," Koster said.

At the Dec. 16 meeting, Koster said the new dependency could cause funding problems for the district if state aid payments are late. That's why he offered the full tax levy as a safety net for potential cash flow problems.

"If we are dependent on the state we won't know what our revenues will be until October," he said. "Before we were always in a positive cash position because we relied on property taxes and we didn't need to borrow."

"That could have changed if the state lowered Novi's millage rate and forced the district to rely on state aid to fund itself."

"If we become state-aid reliant, (we face) the uncertainty of when aid will come in so we might be cash deficient," Koster said.

SCHOOL FUNDING OPTIONS

Unlike last year's Proposal A election, in which voters defeated a sales tax increase that was tied to school finance reform, the current package does not give voters a choice of remaining with the status quo. If voters turn down a measure that would boost the sales tax, then a back-up plan takes effect, raising the income tax. Here's a rundown of the two proposals voters will decide on when they head to the polls March 15.

	CURRENT	BALLOT PLAN	BACK-UP PLAN
Income Tax	4.6%	4.4%	6%
Personal Exemption on State Tax	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$3,000
Sales Tax	4%	6%	4%
Single Business Tax	2.35%	2.35%	2.75%
Cigarette Tax (per pack)	25¢	75¢	40¢
Property Tax			
Homestead (Operational School Tax)	29.4 mills	6 mills	12 mills
Business/2nd homes, cottages, etc.	-	24 mills	24 mills
Local Millage option	-	3 mills	3 mills
Real Estate Transfer Tax	0.11%	2%	1%

Koster said if the board had opted for the 100 percent levy, residents would have paid 19 mills on the summer bill and nothing in the winter. The 19 mills was based on the 12 mill allocation under the new state bill and included the 4.7 mills of district debt and two enhancement mills. But it was still less than the 34 mills residents paid in two installments last year, 17 mills in July and 17 in December.

And if Engler's 6 mill plan passes in March, under the full summer collection, Novi residents would have had to pay 13 mills in July and nothing in December.

School Board President Ray Byers said the district can levy the enhancement mills without voter approval until January 1995. After that the board would have to seek taxpayers approval to levy additional millage. Byers said that if the board exercises its right to the enhancement mills before the 1995 deadline, board members would roll the increase into the current millage and ask voters to approve the new millage as the permanent renewal in 1995.

"It's a one time deal," he said. "It would be a permanent millage. We can't add to it, but it would be a permanent renewal."

"The board can levy up to 13 mills

this year and that is current until January of 1995," said Byers. "In January of 1995 we would ask your approval to levy the millage and then the additional two mills as a permanent renewal."

Lawsuit may loom over business tax

By TIM RICHARD
Staff Writer

Business is the interest that appears to have been left in the frigid cold as the state Legislature rewrote school finance laws last week.

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce this week threatened a lawsuit against the property tax portion of the complex plan.

Owners of business property and second homes will pay 24 mills. Homeowners will pay 12 mills under the legislative bills or six mills if voters like the sales tax March 15.

"We've got a clever scheme to have a six-mill tax on homesteads and a 24-mill tax for commercial property," said Robert LaBrant, general counsel for the state chamber.

"High tax rates discourage economic activity and act as a disincentive for private businesses and entrepreneurs," said Rep. Greg Kaza, R-Rochester Hills, a conservative economist who protested the ballot proposal.

The Michigan Constitution, however, appears to allow one property tax rate for business and one for homes. "Every tax other than the

general ad valorem property tax shall be uniform over the class or classes on which it operates," says sec. 3 of Art. IX. The Finance and Taxation article.

Currently, all classes of property — homes, farms, commercial, industrial, mining and forests — are charged the same millage rates within a district. The statewide average is 34.5 mills for school operations.

The Legislature in July wiped out local school operating property taxes to the tune of \$6.9 billion. The new finance package is designed to replace those taxes.

The Senate barely passed House Bill 5111, which sets up the state education finance authority to collect a statewide property tax. The vote was the bare minimum of 20 in favor and 14 against, with four absent.

Area senators voting yes included Republican Robert Geake of Northville.

Missing the vote were David Honigman, R-West Bloomfield, and Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills.

The House also barely passed that bill, 56 to 45. Republican Willis Bul-lard of Milford voted yes.

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Eastlake Commons, Sterling Heights # (313) 247-8111
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Mitsub-Mark, Roseville # (313) 392-5401
Meadowbrook Village Mall, Binghamton # (313) 375-0823
Novi Town Center, Novi # (313) 349-8090
Oakland Mall, Troy # (313) 589-1433

Orchard Mall, West Bloomfield # (313) 737-8880
(On Blvd. Lake & 13 Mile)
Oxstate:
Columbine, Ann Arbor # (313) 761-0020
(Next to Bearwood Mall)
Crossroads Mall, Kalamazoo # (616) 327-7313
Lansing Mall, Lansing # (517) 321-8261
Meridian Mall, Okemos # (517) 349-4008
Woodland Mall, Grand Rapids # (616) 957-2145

Three try for one planning vacancy

By SHARON CONDRON
Staff Writer

Three Novi residents submitted applications and were interviewed Tuesday night to fill an unexpired seat on the Novi Planning Commission.

Former Planning Commissioner Robert Mitzel vacated his seat on the panel when he was elected to the Novi City Council last year.

There are six months remaining in his three-year term that a new commissioner will be asked to fill.

Edward Phelps, Jr., Pete Hoadley and Gary Myers all submitted applications to the Novi City Clerk Gerry Slipp before their Tuesday night public interviews by the city council. Slipp said the council is expected to decide who will fill the vacant seat by Jan. 10.

Phelps, 133 Maudlin, is a 11-year resident of Novi. He is self-employed as a planner and designer for Blue Collar Enterprises. Phelps graduated from Notre Dame High School and spent another two years in classes at Wayne State University and Boston College. He has also completed a Dale Carnegie course, according to his application.

Phelps is no stranger to Novi planning. He has served as chairman of the Walled Lake Sector Implementation Committee and as a member of the Natural Resource Design Plan Committee.

"I want to become more involved with the planning and future development on the City of Novi," Phelps stated as his reason for seeking the seat.

Attorney Gary Myers, 22477 Brook Forest, specializes in property law with the BASF Corporation in Southfield. The five-year resident of the city holds a law degree from the Detroit College of Law and a bachelor's degree in science from Wayne

State University. He says his experience as a research and development chemist and training in toxic substance control and pollution prevention may help him make wise decisions as a planning commissioner.

Myers is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the Oakland County Bar Association, the American Chemical Society and Toastmasters International.

"To participate with honor in local government and to assist in local government's objectives and standards for development," is part of the reason Myers is seeking the planning seat. "Planning is especially important because of increasing urbanization and growing public concern with environmental quality," he also said.

Hoadley has fewer years invested as a homeowner here in Novi, but seems to have more ties to the community than his opponents. According to his application, Hoadley has lived in Novi for two and a half years at 31084 Arlington Circle. He is retired now but had worked as an insurance claims adjuster for years with various companies in Florida and Michigan. Hoadley also was an executive vice president for the Michigan Clam Service in Lansing. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree in business and economics from Florida's Rollins College.

The retiree has been an active member in several local chapters of the Kiwanis and Lions Clubs since he was 18 years old. He is currently a member and Membership Chairman of the Novi Lions Club.

In Maitland, Florida, Hoadley served four years as a member of that city's planning commission.

"I've always had the desire to serve the community I live in," he stated on his application.

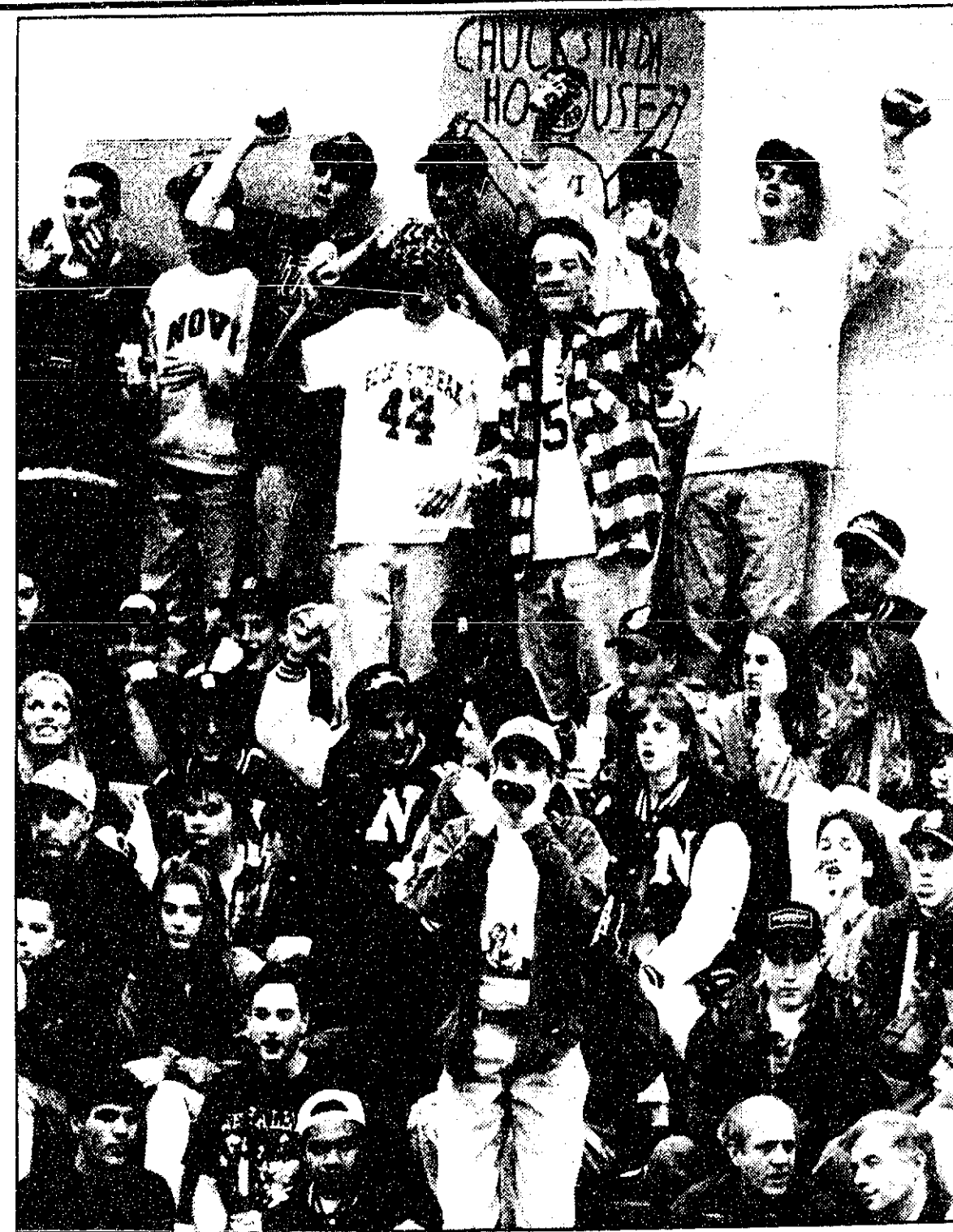


Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

Those wacky Wildcats

Novi High basketball fans rise to their feet cheer on their team, with hoots, hollers and rattled cans. The fans were doing their best to keep the 'Cat cagers alive in late season action in December.

Northville greets holidays with raises

By STEVE KELLMAN
Staff Writer

Three Northville school administrators received Christmas presents in the form of pay hikes late last month, but according to Superintendent Dr. Leonard Reznierski the salary increases were long overdue.

The central office administrators each were granted a 3-percent "position/responsibility adjustment" and a 3-percent salary increase Dec. 20 following a closed session of the Northville Board of Education.

The raises cover the period between July 1, 1993, and June 30, 1994, and bring Special Education Director Robert Somson's annual salary to \$90,464, Finance Director John Street's salary to \$78,628 and Personnel Director R. Roy Danley's salary to \$76,466.

Three other central office administrators — Reznierski and assistant superintendents Dolly McMaster and David Bellitto — will continue to abide by a voluntary pay freeze that building administrators and central office staff agreed to during the 1992-1993 school year.

Reznierski noted that Somson, Street and Danley have taken on added duties in the past two years following the departure of two other administrators. Operations Supervisor James Hylman's position was eliminated during budget cuts in 1992, while Director of Instructional Services William Hamilton resigned last June to take a position with Walled Lake Schools. Hamilton's position was not filled.

Somson's added duties include supervision of the fourth Friday count, supervising grant application, budget and reports for the Student Assistance Program and coordinating district parent training efforts.

Street's added responsibilities include teacher negotiations, attendance at school funding citizens' meetings and analysis of state ballot proposals and the state Legislature's school funding debate. Danley has assumed responsibility as chief negotiator for all employee groups and supervision of school transportation.

"It's a matter of playing catch-up," Reznierski said. He noted that the salary increases were included in the school district's budget for this fiscal year.

Reznierski added that the move is an attempt to keep Northville's salaries competitive with other school districts. He noted that Street, for one, could leave Northville for a comparable job in Novi and receive \$23,000 more in base pay.

"We've got to continue to be competitive or we're going to continue to lose people," he said.

Reznierski noted that he is in the process of reviewing a complete five-year salary and fringe benefit plan for all central office administrators to start in the 1994-1995 fiscal year. The plan still must be reviewed by the board of education.

NOTICE — CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS WOMEN'S LOCKER ROOM EXPANSION — POLICE DEPARTMENT

The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for Women's Locker Room Expansion — Police Department according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Bids will be received until 3:00 P.M. prevailing eastern time, Wednesday, February 2, 1994, at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:

CITY OF NOVI
CAROL J. KALINOVIK, PURCHASING DIRECTOR
45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48375-3024

All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE PLAINLY MARKED, "WOMEN'S LOCKER ROOM EXPANSION — POLICE DEPARTMENT" AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER.

The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informalities or both; to reject any or all proposals; and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the City of Novi.

Notice Dated: January 4, 1994
CAROL J. KALINOVIK,
PURCHASING DIRECTOR
347-0448

(1-6-94 NR, NN)

CITY OF NOVI 1994 MEETING SCHEDULE

REGULAR MEETINGS OF CITY COUNCIL
January 10th and 24th
February 14th and 28th
March 7th and 21st
April 11th and 25th
May 2nd and 16th
June 5th and 19th
July 11th and 25th
August 8th and 22nd
September 12th and 26th
October 3rd and 17th
November 14th and 21st
December 12th and 19th

Council Meetings are held at 8:00 p.m., Prevailing Eastern Time in the Novi Civic Center Council Chambers, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road.

PLANNING COMMISSION — 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. — Council Chambers.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS — 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION — 2nd Thursday of month at 7:30 a.m. in Council Chambers (If Needed).

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION — 2nd Thursday of month at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION — 2nd Thursday of month at 7:30 p.m., in the Old Township Hall — West of Library — 45275 W. Ten Mile Road.

LIBRARY BOARD — 2nd Monday of month at 7:30 p.m. in the Public Library, 45245 W. Ten Mile Road.

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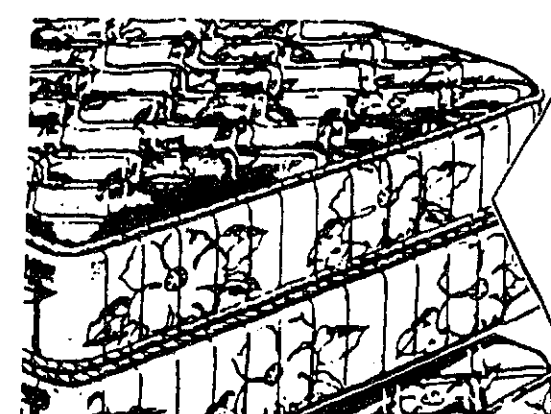
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Northville salutes Martin Luther King

By STEVE KELLMAN
Staff Writer

For such a forward-thinking community, Northville has long lagged behind some of its neighbors in recognizing the country's greatest civil rights leader.

That will begin to change Jan. 17 during a walk in honor of Martin Luther King.

Northville's cultural awareness group, A Community Organization Recognizing Diversity (ACORD), is sponsoring the walk, which starts at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 17, on the front steps at Northville City Hall.

From there participants will march to the Main Street Bandshell, where songs will be sung and local officials have been invited to read passages from the slain civil rights leader's most famous speech, "I have a dream."

While state and federal employees have Martin Luther King's Jan. 17 birthday off, and municipal offices in

Northville Township and Novi are closed on the national holiday, Northville City Hall remains open. Northville Public Schools also remain open, as do surrounding school districts including Novi, Farmington, Livonia and Plymouth-Canton.

But for Charlene Chase, who moved to Northville from Southfield with her two daughters six years ago, the schools' stance put her in a dilemma. Southfield Public Schools take King's birthday off and the city commemorates the occasion with an annual march, a march in which the Chase family always took part.

"We've been torn, because when we moved to Northville we didn't have the day off," Chase said. For three years, she took her daughters out of school for the day so they could participate in the march that had become a family tradition, but eventually Chase decided to leave her children in school rather than jeopardize their schooling.

"I wanted my kids to know about

"I wanted my kids to know about Martin Luther King because we're an African-American family, but I didn't want it to be at the expense of their education."

Charlene Chase
Mother

Martin Luther King because we're an African-American family, but I didn't want it to be at the expense of their education," she explained. "Believe me, it was a fight to explain to my kids why they should go to school and not go to Southfield."

That's why Chase was so glad to hear of ACORD's efforts to organize a King remembrance, and why she joined with ACORD members Mary Ellen King and Lou Wolf to organize the event.

"We have to educate people around us and work within the system, and this is one way that we can do it."

Start tracking down your family

Learn how to do genealogical research in a two-part program at Novi Public Library Thursday, Jan. 20 and 27. Both programs begin at 7 p.m.

On Jan. 20, Kathy Mutch, local historian, genealogical researcher and member of the Oakland County Genealogical Society, will present

"Genealogical Research: An Introduction to Resource Materials and Sources." This portion will include suggestions for developing a record-keeping system, recommended readings and a display of genealogical materials.

On Jan. 27, Mutch will explain "Documenting Genealogical Re-

search: Overcoming the Problems. Avoiding the Pitfalls." Here, using handouts and a brief slide presentation, Mutch will provide suggestions on uses of research data.

To register for these free programs, call Novi Library at 349-0720. The library is located at 45245 W. Ten Mile Road.

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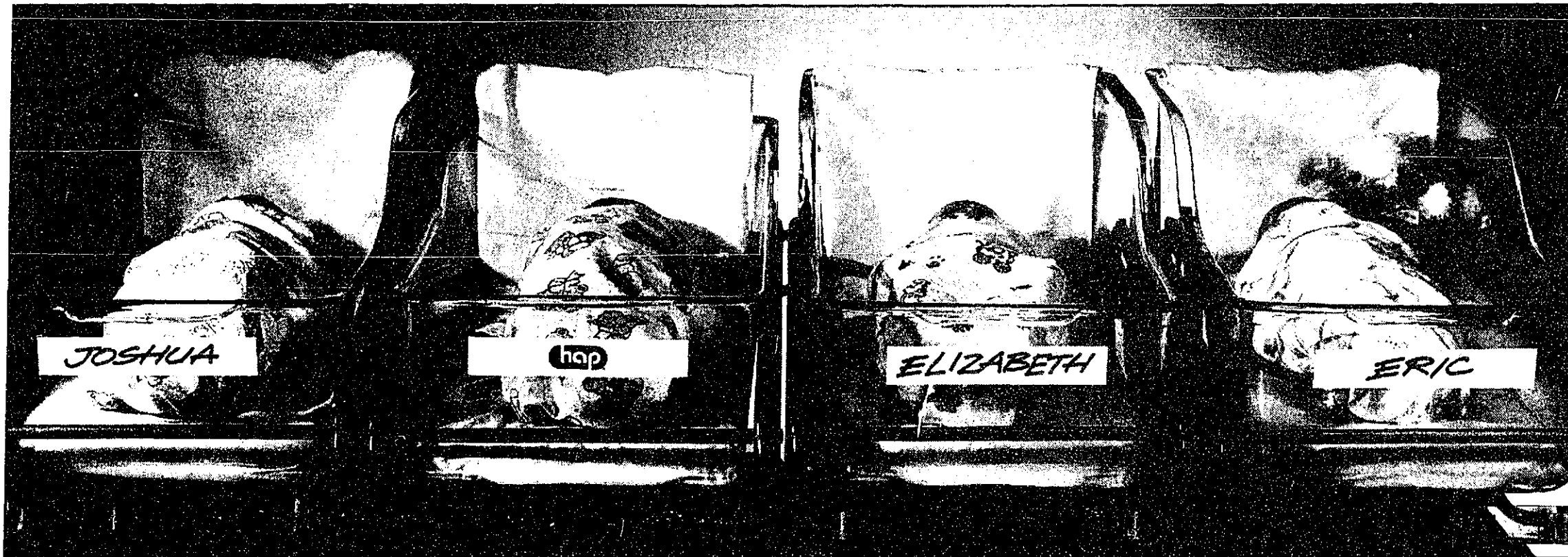
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Willy festival on tap/2B

HEALTH:
Nursing professor
to speak at AAUW meeting/3B

CHURCH
Novi clergy to
host annual breakfast/4B

ENTERTAINMENT
What's happening
in and around town/3B



Greg (above) seemed to really get a lick out of Greta, a boxer who gave an ample amount of kisses. Holly (below in the wheelchair), who always seems to have a smile on her face, reaches out to Merlin, a 16-month-old Bouviers. Kate Gillette, kneeling, is Merlin's owner.

Photos by BRYAN MITCHELL

PET PROJECT

Dogs, cats provide therapy

By MICHELLE HARRISON
Staff Writer

Greg tentatively reached his hand out to Greta, a wrinkly-faced bulldog.

The dog responded warmly, soundly licking Greg's face with its long, pink tongue, leaving Greg wet and in a fit of giggles.

On the other side of the third floor conference room at Northville's Old Village School, Neil, confined to a wheelchair, calmly petted a white kitten. Named Navidad, after the Christmas season, the kitty seemed content perched upon Neil's chest.

The pets and their owners, all members of the Animal Welfare Society of Southeastern Michigan, visit Old Village School once a month as part of the "Pet-A-Pet" program. Volunteers loan their pets for therapy purposes to developmentally disabled and handicapped children.

Cathy Totzkay, who grew up in Northville, coordinates the volunteers and pets for the Old Village program.

"They [students] bond with the animals," she said. "The animals sense that they're special. I think the kids have responded wonderfully."

"A lot of the kids are deaf and blind or very crippled. When they see the dog or touch it, they get more mobile. Some cry, but they warm up. Of course, the animal's unconditional love is always there."

The Animal Welfare Society also visits nursing homes and other schools for severely handicapped children in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Ruth Curry, who along with Joann Gersens coordinates and directs the programs on the west side of the region, began the Old Village program eight years ago after impressing the school's administrator, Chris Call, with the idea.

"It's a good program," Curry said. "... We started out with one (program) and now have 36."

In order to participate, all dogs must have obedience training (either professionally or by the owner), American Kennel Club papers and up-to-date vaccinations.

Totzkay trained her black Lab, Mandy, herself.

"I found that she was good with kids," Totzkay said.

That was evident as Mandy, wearing a red kerchief around her

Continued on 4



Julia, who doesn't speak, "talks" with a keyboard to relate what she's thinking. She had no problem, however, communicating her joy while cuddling this kitten, named Navidad.

Volunteer



Marietta Rathbun

Docent greets guests at historical Mill Race

By DOROTHY NASH
Special Writer

If you want a touch-and-feel experience of life in the Victorian Era, Marietta Rathbun said visiting Mill Race Historical Village is the way to get it.

And it's so worthwhile that elementary school teachers in the area bring their students, one class at a time, for the day.

Rathbun, dressed in a costume supplied by the Northville Historical Society, greets them at Wash Oak School.

The children, she said, are dressed in costumes they have made, and they're carrying lunch boxes they've designed.

She takes them on a half-hour tour of the buildings, telling them about each one — New School Church, Hunter House, Yerkes House, Cottage House, and the Hirsch Stone Blackstone Shop, all of which are original Northville buildings moved into the Historical Village.

After that the teacher, who has researched the times, takes over and gives the children a taste of what a one-room school house day was like in the 1870s. Rathbun said, "They use McGuffey Readers and slates, and at recess they're apt to play games children did at the time."

At the end of the day Rathbun returns to the school to "lock the doors and be sure everything is back where it should be."

She does this volunteering, she said, five times in the fall and five times in the spring. "The weather is too uncertain in the winter" to do it then.

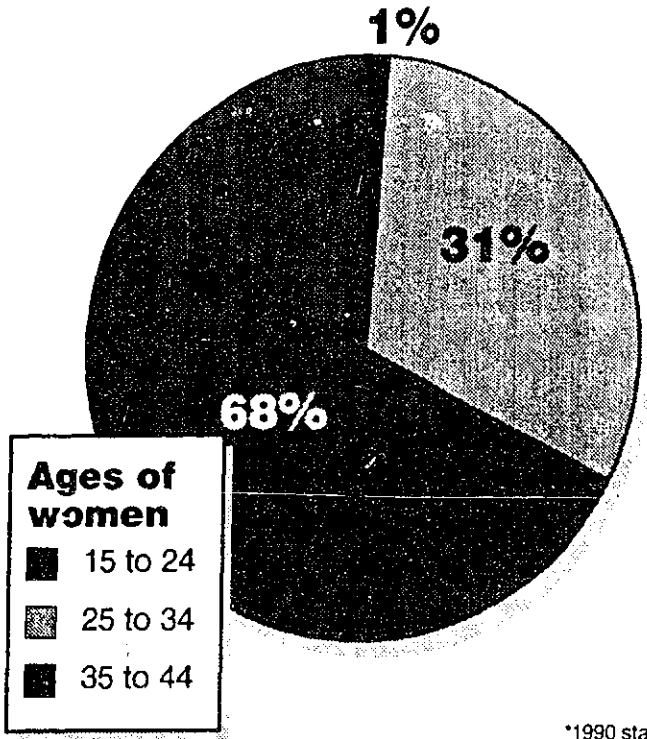
Her qualifications? "I was a substitute teacher after my children were grown," she said.

More importantly, she is a Village Docent, a hostess in one particular building, "bringing its previous users and occupants alive for the visitors." She serves as a docent three or four Sunday afternoons in May through October.

It's A Fact

Birthing Age

Percent of births from age 15 to 44*



Ages of women
 ■ 15 to 24
 ■ 25 to 34
 ■ 35 to 44

*1990 statistics

Volunteers, students benefit from program

Continued from 1

neck, was tugging on her leash excitedly when the students began to arrive.

"It takes certain personalities," Totzkay continued. "If they're shy and fearful, they tend not to do well in strange places and will not work well."

Totzkay got the idea to volunteer after reading about the Pet-A-Pet program in the *Northville Record* in the spring of 1991.

"I just felt like I wanted to volunteer," she said. "Mandy was good with kids and my husband Jim and I have no kids of our own."

Although Lecuan Colby had taken her cat to several nursing homes as part of the Pet-A-Pet program, it was her first time at Old Village during its December session.

The Westland woman, who has been in treatment for depression, was advised to get involved in the program.

"Enjoy it," she said, clutching her cat Smoky. "It's just amazing what this cat has done for me. He was so ugly to me as a kitten."

Shari Moore had her Asil Borzi, a Russian wolf dog almost the size of a llama, complete a certified therapy training course.

"It's similar to basic obedience training," Moore explained. "They see how the dog handles... watch the temperament of the dog, see if it's cordial with someone else or other animals."

Moore has been researching the Russian breed for 10 years. Purchasing the dog from Ohio, Moore said her dog's breed has the least health problems among other canines.

In the midst of the confusion caused by 11 dogs and two cats making their rounds, Curry looked out across the room to see smiles and hear laughter.

"Look at the reaction out there," she said aloud, thinking to herself. Lela Lutz, a paraprofessional at Old Village, affirmed Curry's thoughts. She said the level of functioning of the children participating in the Pet-A-Pet program has increased. The school tries to offer enriching programs to help the children grow.

"And it's fun," she smiled. "Don't forget to say it's fun."

The program also gives the students contact they might not normally get, Lutz pointed out.

"It's one more exposure to the whole community," she said. "A lot of kids don't have pets at home so they don't have that intimate contact."

The Pet-A-Pet program also makes regular visits to Star Manor, a nursing home in Northville.

"There's a lot of cooperation of volunteers meeting together," Curry said. "It's very organized."

Totzkay will send volunteers notices to remind them of the Old Village scheduled visit.

Some of the animals used in the Pet-A-Pet program have been donated by the Animal Welfare Society after area volunteering veterinarians examine the animals.

For more information about Pet-A-Pet, or the society itself, call the Animal Welfare Society of Southeastern Michigan at (313) 548-1150.



Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

Nell was hammering it up for the camera while he held Navidad. Both seemed to respond positively to each other.

On campus

Michigan State University lists 30 area students among its 2,348 degree candidates for fall 1993. Receiving degrees at the Commencement held Dec. 11 were: from Northville, SYED KAMRAN AHMAD, bachelor of science, social science-prelaw; ROBIN MICHELLE ALLEN, master's degree in labor and industrial relations; TODD ALAN BOOTH, bachelor of arts, accounting; CHAD W. BOSSCHER, bachelor of arts, finance; TODD MICHAEL DANIELS, bachelor of arts, M.L.M.-purchasing and operation management; NANCY P. DOYLE, bachelor of science, apparel design; BLAKE WILLIAM FOX, bachelor of arts, M.L.M.-purchasing and operation management; JAY C. GRIFFITH, bachelor of science, packaging; JULIE ANN HILFINGER, bachelor of science, mechanical engineering; WENDY ELIZABETH KOHL, bachelor of arts, elementary education; JAMES K. MORDECK, bachelor of arts, accounting; ROBIN A. PATRICK, bachelor of arts, Am public affairs-social relations;

graduate, audiology and speech sciences; DAVID L. RUSSELL, doctorate, art's history-interdisciplinary; LAURA MARIE STREETER, bachelor of arts, accounting; and TRACEY L. TYRELL, bachelor of science, clinical laboratory sciences. Speaking and receiving honorary degrees were Mary Fisher, founder of the Family AIDS Network and Alfred Taubman, businessman and founder of the Michigan Partnership for New Education based on the MSU campus. Also receiving honorary degrees were Elton R. Smith, former president of the Michigan Farm Bureau and Frank Garrison, president of the Michigan AFL-CIO.

Albion College freshman JEFFREY SCHROEDER has become a member of the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Public Service. Schroeder is the son of Michael and Annie Schroeder and is a 1993 graduate of Northville High School. The Ford Institute is designed to give exceptional students a chance to broaden their education through concentrated study in areas of government and public service, regardless of their major. Students participate in a city government sim-

mulation and complete course work concerning political science, history, and ethics. Their education is continued through speakers brought to campus and an internship in an area of interest. The program also encourages students to seek leadership roles on campus. EDWARD ROHN has been selected by audition to play percussion in the Albion College Jazz Ensemble. The Jazz Ensemble studies and performs jazz literature of all styles. The group performs six to 10 concerts throughout the year, both on and off campus. Rohn, a 1993 graduate of Northville High School, is the son of Edward and Christina Rohn of Northville.

Albion College is a private, coeducational, liberal arts college located in the south central Michigan town of the same name. Albion College junior AMANDA PARKE has been named co-chair of faculty and administrative affairs of Student Senate at Albion College. The official voice of the students and the disburser of the activity fee, the Senate is charged with serving and promoting student rights and services. Much of the Senate's work is done in three standing committees: Internal Affairs, Faculty and Administrative Affairs and Student Affairs.

Unity prayer breakfast set

The fifth annual Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast will be held from 7:30-9 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19, at the Novl Civic Center.

The event, sponsored by Novl area clergy, is held to mark the week of Christian unity and prayer.

Guest speaker will be Eleanor Josits of Focus Hope, a school and training center for young people in Detroit.

Tickets for the program and breakfast are \$10. The event is open to the public.

Notice: Public Comment Period Transportation Improvement Program (FY 1994-1996) Amendments

Presented by: SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
660 Plaza Drive, Suite 1900
Detroit, MI 48226 (313) 962-4266

The public is invited to review and submit comments on amendments to the Fiscal Year (FY) 1994-1996 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) during the public comment period, January 3 to January 28, 1994. The TIP is a listing of federally and non-federally funded major road and transit service improvements proposed by various communities, road agencies, transit agencies and the Michigan Department of Transportation. The Federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) emphasizes the public's opportunity to review and comment on road and transit projects proposed for federal funding. This public comment process is part of SEMCOG'S overall responsibility for formulating the TIP and for approving projects for federal funding. The additional projects are located in the Southeast Michigan counties of

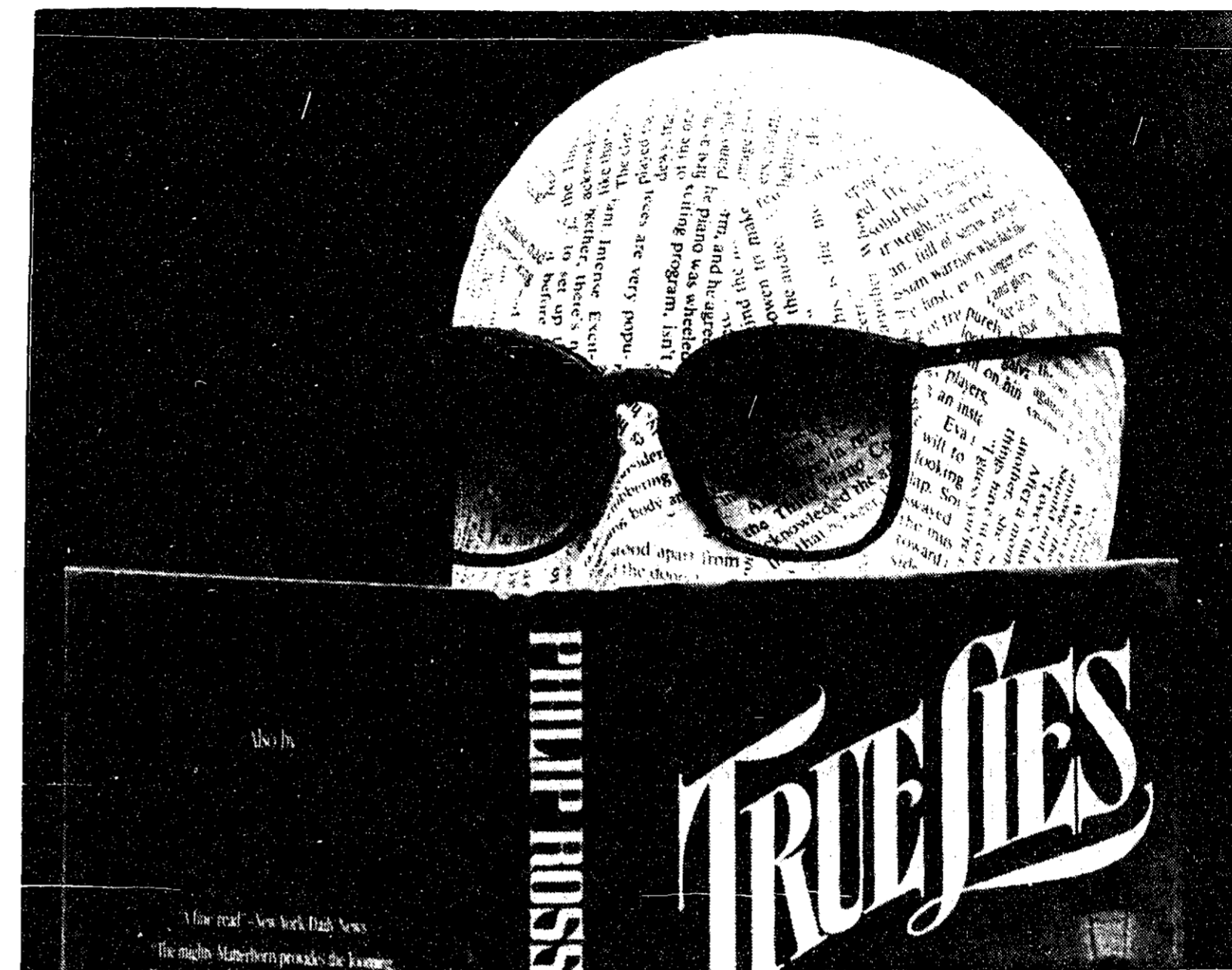
Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw, Wayne and the City of Detroit. The types of proposed projects include construction of new roads, widening of existing roads, resurfacing and repair of roads and bridges, large bus and equipment purchases by transit agencies and operating assistance for transit agencies. The TIP document identifies the location of each project, estimated cost, the source of funds and the agency or community which has jurisdiction over the project. Written comments concerning the projects should be submitted to John M. Amberger, Executive Director of SEMCOG, at 660 Plaza Drive, Suite 1900, Detroit, MI, 48226. Verbal responses may also be made, at SEMCOG's Transportation Advisory Council (TAC) meeting to be held in SEMCOG offices (same address) on Wednesday, January 26, 1994, at 9:30 a.m.

The TIP amendments are available for review starting January 3 at the following locations:
SEMCOG offices (address above)
The Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART), First National Bldg., 660 Woodward Ave., Detroit.
The Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT), 1301 E. Warren, Detroit.
The Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti Urban Area Transportation Study, 278 Collingwood, Ann Arbor.
The Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, 2700 Industrial Hwy., Ann Arbor.

The St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission, 108 McMorrain Blvd., Port Huron.
County planning departments and the main offices of county road commissions in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair and Washtenaw and the Wayne County Department of Public Services (Department of Engineering).
The City of Detroit's planning department and Planning Commission office.

Diversions

the NOVI NEWS
5B
THURSDAY
January 6,
1994



FILE PHOTO

The library isn't just for reading anymore. A host of how-to and informational programs are being offered at the Novi Library this winter.

Library offers plenty of programs

Adults can listen to a Michigan historian and learn the art of paper origami at the Novi Library this winter.

These two programs, as well as a host of others, are sure to help beat the winter doldrums.

For adults, the line-up of programs begins Feb. 3, "Preserving Family Heritage: How to Document and Preserve Photos and Memorabilia" will be presented by Jeanette Holtman. An expert in photo/document preservation, Holtman will explain how to preserve and organize photos in a creative photo-safe family album that can be handed down through the generations.

Carl Osthaus, Ph.D., of the Oakland University history department, will present "The Qualities of Abraham Lincoln's Leadership" on Thursday, Feb. 24. A specialist in American history, the Civil War, the South and

Reconstruction, Osthaus will point out how Lincoln's leadership can be used as a yardstick to measure other presidents' leadership. He will also speak on the six qualities of a successful leader and relate Lincoln's success as a president to these qualities.

On Thursday, March 10, Karen Kessler, community representative for the Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan, will give "A Historical Look at the Original Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan." Learn how the association — which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary — started, its original purpose and its evolution during a slide presentation.

Michigan author and historian Larry Masie will present "Sand Dunes, Sawdust and Shipwrecks" on Thursday, March 24. Masie will tell stories of many coastline cities in Michigan, making history come alive through his storytelling.

All of the above programs begin at 7 p.m. To register, call the library at 349-0720.

For children, the following programs have been scheduled:
"Origami," the tricky art of paper folding using colorful origami paper. Classes are 50 minutes and begin at 1 and 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15. Class size is limited, third grades and older. There is a \$1 materials fee. Registration begins Feb. 1.

"Preserving Family History." Wednesday, Feb. 16, 1 p.m. Learn through creative hands-on activities how you can record and preserve your family's history. Class size limited and open to fourth graders and older. Registration for the 45-minute class begins Feb. 1.

"Horses and Ponies: Fact and Fiction." Thursday, Feb. 17, 1 p.m. A

special speaker will highlight the wonderful stories of Marguerite Henry and the wild ponies of Chincoteague Island. The 45-minute long class is open to those ages kindergarten and up. No registration is required.

"Wild Things." Tuesday, April 5, 1 to 1:50 p.m. Observe first-hand a variety of wild animals and birds of prey, including owls that will visit from the Howell Nature Center. This program is geared toward those ages kindergarten and up. No registration is required.

"Music and Fun, The Old-Fashioned Way." Wednesday, April 6, 1 to 1:45 p.m. Class size is limited; kindergarten and up. Registration begins March 28.

"Incredible Insects." Thursday, April 7, 1 p.m. Lots of hands-on things to view; kindergarten and up. No registration required.

and 1920s-era Novi mansion which now houses Home Sweet Home restaurant. The murder mystery and a tenderloin and salmon dinner are \$25.95 per person.

Diners are given clues — and sometimes speaking roles in the action — to help them figure out who dunnit. Prizes are given out to the best guessers.

Home Sweet Home is located at 4318 Nine Mile Road just east of Novi Road.

For information and reservations, call 347-0095.

GENITTS: Genitt's Hole-in-The-

Wall Restaurant has two production companies performing different Murder Mystery Dinner Theaters every Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. Reservations are required. Special performances of the Murder Mystery Dinner Theater are available.

As the crime unfolds during the performance, the guests try to discover who committed the murder. Audience members are asked to perform roles in the play. Gifts are awarded to those who correctly guess the identity of the culprit.

Genitt's "Hole-in-the-Wall" restaurant is located in downtown Northville at 108 E. Main St. just east of Center Street.

The Murder Mystery Dinner Theater with the seven-course dinner is \$35 per person.

Phone: 349-0522 or fax 349-4641 for reservations. Group rates available.

Music

PROJECT PIANO: Schoolcraft College is accepting registrations for Project Piano, a preparatory program offering a "group plus private study" format for elementary ages (grades 1-4) and transfer students starting in January.

For information, call Linda Wozniak at 261-0318, or Continuing Education Services at 462-4448.

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Cat must be 4 mos. old, extra charge for older cats or pregnancy.

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the NOVI NEWS

Success and failure visits Wildcats in '93

Continued from 7

Swimming: Despite low numbers of athletes, Novi High fielded a competitive team in '93.

Only 16 athletes swam or dove for the Wildcats, just enough to have a team without being cancelled. The team went 5-5 despite the numbers and qualified four swimmers to the state finals.

Mike Lafferty, Mike Speerschneider, Eric Kelly and Dennis Suchyta led the way for Novi.

Coach Mark Mason was not retained at the end of the season. Dave Maker eventually took the position.

SPRING

Tennis: The Wildcats repeated as KVC champions despite the departure of 1992 star Mark McGrew.

The Wildcats finished the league tournament tied with Brighton. But a better overall conference record gave Novi the title.

Baseball: Speaking of repeat championships, the baseball squad got its second straight last spring as well.

Novi split a doubleheader with Brighton on May 26 to take a share of the KVC title.

"Eating part of the cake is still good," coach Barry Howard in describing the achievement. "The kids played hard and earned the championship. I don't care if it was 'co.'"

Shortstop Grigg led Novi to the title. The junior was named Home-town Newspapers' East All-Area Player of the Year for the second straight time. Other outstanding players included Kevin Serra, Andy Sill, Fischer, John Lahti and Paul Roma.

Boys Track: The tracksters had a repeat performance of sorts, too.

For the second year in a row, the Wildcats were fourth in the KVC. Novi was tied for third going into the league meet in late May, but Lakeland moved ahead by beating the 'Cats by seven points.

"It's a better fourth than last year," coach Bob Smith said in assessing. "We were in more meets than last year and I think we had a little more depth."

Top athletes included, Crawford, Vince Meehan and Jason Stimac.

Girls Track: Although Novi finished fourth in the league, progress was made.

Performances improved for the Wildcats but not enough to rank among the top in a tough KVC. Brighton was league champ.

"I was really pleased with our whole season," coach Connie Atta said. "Our times improved each week."

Christy Carmichael, Ursula Place, Karie Jettie and Claire Sheldon were among the top athletes.

Softball: It was the best season in years for the softballers in 1993.

A 10-3 romp over Pinckney in early June gave Novi its first district championship in eons. The Wildcats finished 24-15 and were knocked out of the state tournament in regionals by Belleville.

Strong pitching and enough hitting filled the order for Novi. Bjerke and Julie Swinehart dominated from the mound while Barton and newcomer Melissa Strikulis rallied the offense.

Soccer: Coach Larry Christoff termed 1993 a surprise year.

He made that conclusion noting his roster of young players like Becky Pylar, Betsie Becker, Erin Vogel and Lisa Antuna. Even with that youthful group, Novi put together a 9-6-3 campaign and made noises in the state playoffs before falling in the district final to Baseline rival Northville.

"The girls surprised everybody," Christoff said. "If it wasn't for all the injuries we could have finished in second place (in the KVC)."

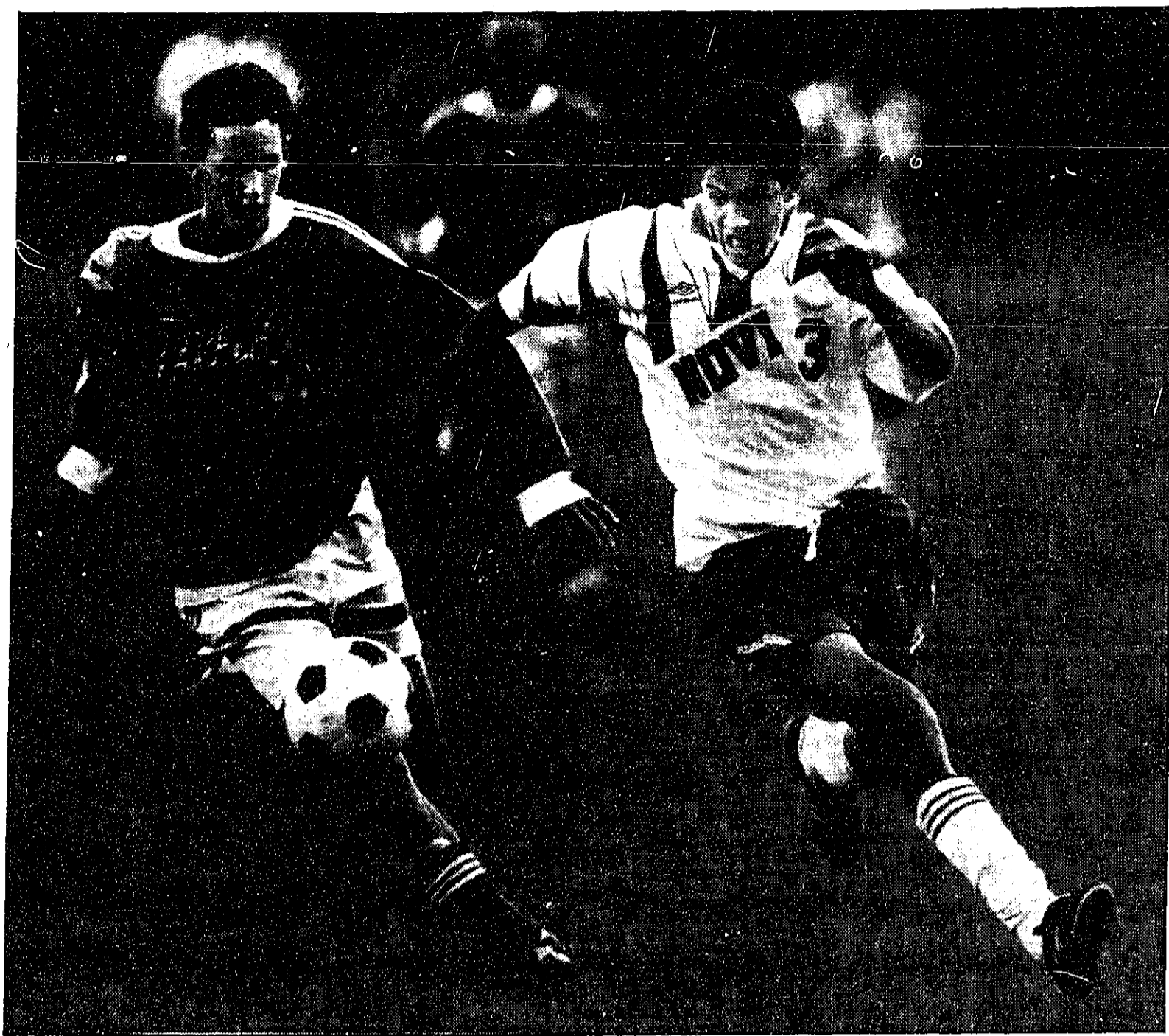
Lacrosse: Novi High's newest sport made its debut in the spring with moderate success.

The Wildcats went 7-8 in their first campaign and went to the quarterfinals of the state tournament. In addition, three all-stars were named from the young squad: Mike Sill, Mike Hicks and Eric Hoffman.

Other top players included Mark Lopez, Kevin Garcia and Steve Wells.

Golf: Also the first season for the linksters, the Wildcats were able to post only a few victories.

Lowes turned out to be the story of



Joe Schmizzi was a vital cog in the Wildcat soccer team's success.

File photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

the team. She earned a trip to the state finals for her excellent play. Alison Omura, Jennifer Presson and Gretchen Harvery were others to compete on the squad.

FALL

Football: It was a year of highs and lows for John Osborne's crew in '93.

Big wins over Walled Lake West-

ern, Mt. Morris and Lakeland were highlights of the year while stinging losses to Milford, Brighton and South Lyon turned the KVC season into a losing proposition. A year after winning the Baseline Jug from Northville, the Wildcats surrendered it back as the Mustangs crushed Novi at home 28-0 on a frigid October night.

Serra replaced graduated John Lahti at quarterback and exceeded all expectations. He, in fact, led the conference in passing and put up good rushing numbers.

Fischer was the defensive horse for Novi. Other top players included John Wroe, Brian Csordas, Hicks

and Andy Sill.

Basketball: In early November, the Wildcats claimed their first KVC championship in more than a decade.

A 50-47 win over Milford gave the team its title. Kearney was the star of that game as scored 26 points.

A total team effort was led by senior star Kenny, junior Christine Edwards, Megan Barton and September Schubert. Novi made it to the second round of the state playoffs.

Coach John Hoffman was fired in late November, shortly after the championship was won.

Soccer: It was also a watershed year for the kickers.

After finishing second in the KVC to Brighton, the Wildcats had an excellent playoff run. Novi first beat league rival South Lyon in districts then ousted heavily favored Plymouth Canton. Plymouth Salem finally stopped the upstart 'Cats 4-1 in the district final in late October.

Novi finished the year at 15-4-1.

A solid lineup was led by Home-town Newspapers' Player of the Year Chris Young, who scored better than 20 goals. Other top players included Joe Schmizzi, Keith Barber and Joe Myer.

Girls Cross Country: Norm Norgren's runners had the turnaround year of the decade in '93.

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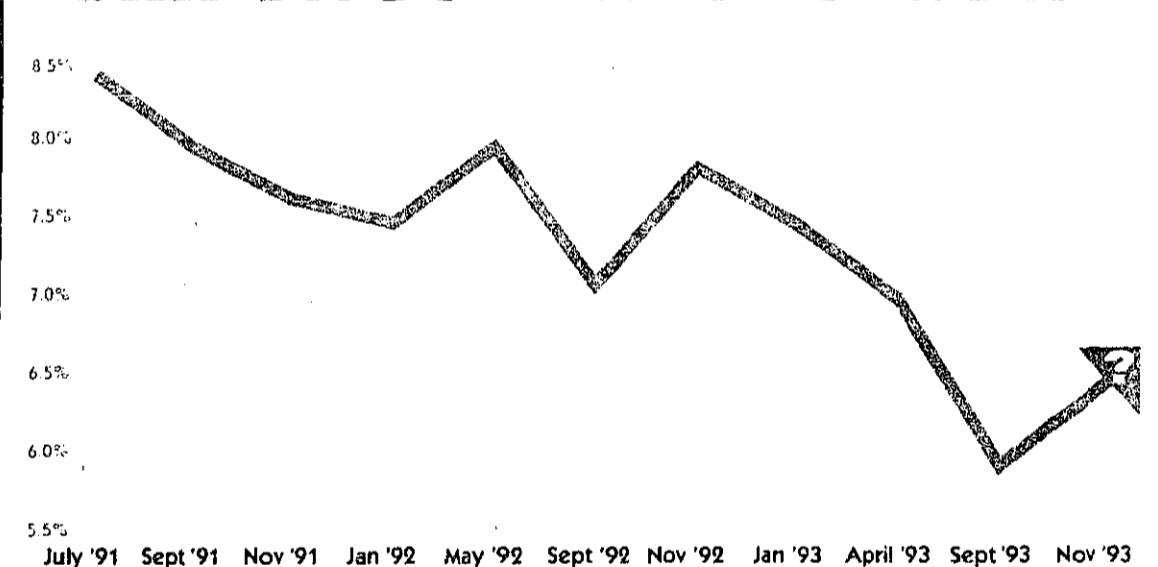
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