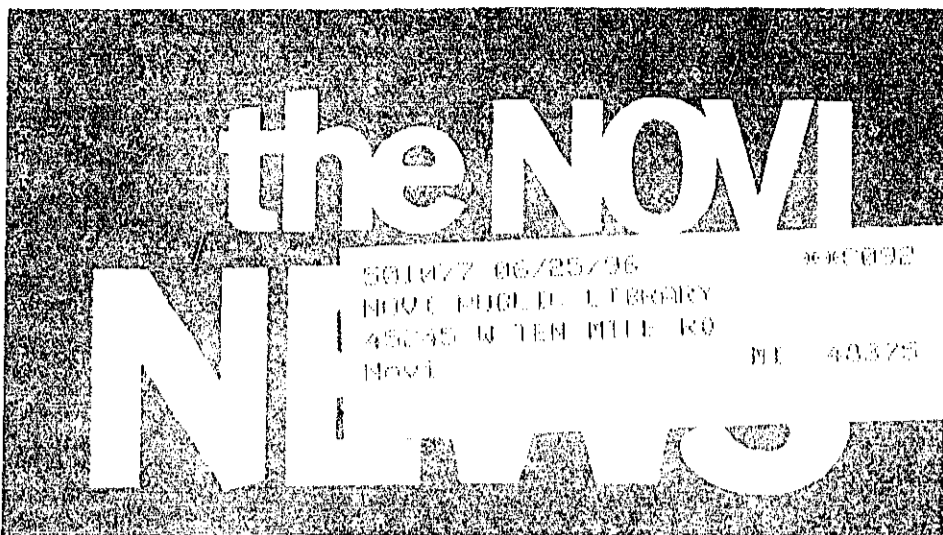


50¢
THURSDAY
DECEMBER 7, 1995

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74 Pages plus Supplements



Opinions RUSS BUTTON WILL BE REMEMBERED / 20A
Living MINISTERING BEHIND PRISON WALLS / 1B
Sports WRESTLING, B-BALL SEASONS GET UNDERWAY / 9B

Button, 86, helped shape city's growth

By WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL
 Staff Writer

The only bad decision Russ Button ever made, according to his daughter, was giving up a contract to make crates for Faygo pop.

"I just wasn't too sure about that fizzy stuff," he told Rose Button.

But the best decision he ever made was coming back to No. VI, settling down, raising a family and helping the rural community become a village and then a city.

Now that city is left with only memories of a man well-known for driving a beat-up old station wagon around town.

Yesterday, friends and family buried Aaron Russel "Russ" Button, a former Village Board member and active member of the political community.

Button, age 86, died Saturday at his home in Novi from Parkinson's Disease.

The retired mechanical engineer was a prominent figure in



Russ Button

the city due to his involvement in forming The Village of Novi and then the City of Novi Charter. He was a member of the Village

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Photos by AL WARD

Andris wins race for last license

By MICHAEL MALOTT
 Managing Editor

The race for Novi's last available Class C Liquor license is not quite over.

The winner - Ted Andris, who plans to build a restaurant called Port Papadapolis on East Lake Road at Fourteen Mile - was given just 90 days to submit his final site plan when the City Council granted his request for conditional approval of the license Monday. And then he has six months to meet all the requirements, including getting final site plan

approval.

Finishing second was the New Bangkok restaurant in the West Oaks shopping center. New Bangkok attorney Paul Dillon argued Novi's ordinance clearly requires an applicant to have final site plan approval before a license can be issued. He said his client was being deprived of a fair chance to obtain the license, even though that restaurant has been in operation for three years already.

Just exactly how Novi's ordi-

Continued on 23

Are your kids eating right?

Your child will eat about 180 lunches in the cafeteria of his or her school this year. Is it clean? Is it healthy? Is it safe? The Novi News and The Northville Record pulled the inspection reports for local schools from the health departments of Oakland and Wayne counties and found that while local school lunchrooms are generally clean, there are a few notable exceptions.



The story is on page 6.



Lightin' up

If Novi hadn't caught the Christmas Spirit already, it sure joined in the holiday festivities Monday night as Novi kicked off the "Light Up The Holiday" ceremony. This year the City Tree was adorned with new ornaments bought with a \$6,500 donation from the Michigan '50s Festival. The night began with some dashing through the snow as residents took a hayride. Then the Middle School Girls Select Choir caroled in the Atrium. Mayor Kathleen McLallen handed Santa the key to the city, the tree was set aglow and Santa took requests. Novi residents donated canned good and boxed items to the Jaycees Needy Family Christmas Program. Top, Santa waits patiently as 5-year-old Alexandra Dinsler of Novi tries to remember the rest of her wish list. Far left, Jennifer Chen (front) and Valerie Stefanson and the rest of the Novi Middle School Select Choir filled the night air with the sounds of the holidays. Left, Paul Salow of the Four Seasons Brass group.

Changes in NHS day explored

By WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL
 Staff Writer

Novi High School officials aren't asking parents and students to throw caution to the wind, but they are asking them for their trust.

More than 70 parents, teachers and students attended a forum last week to discuss proposed changes in the high school day. A team of department heads want to change from using a system of six 55 minute classes a day to four classes of 85 minutes each a day.

The new plan is an effort to increase class options for the students, adding two credits and potentially four classes a year, as well as bring the teaching process into the next century.

"We offer great electives at this school but many of the kids cannot get at them without making terrible sacrifices," Principal Arthur Miller.

While the parents at the forum said they weren't adverse to change, they were a little cautious.

Nancy Hendricks who has a freshman at the high school said, "I believe its time for this, there's no doubt in my mind the kids will benefit from it."

But she did express some concerns. Will the counseling staff to be able to do all this scheduling? she asked. Could staff go back to the students to hear their concerns again?

She also questioned why more school board members haven't been to the high school

forums. "There's a lot of great conversation going on in this community now," Hendricks said.

Miller said he had no doubts about the counselor's ability to help students with the scheduling of the new school day because even the teachers have agreed to help students with the transition.

"We are going to be there no matter when it is to help out with building the master schedule," said Paula Joyner-Clinard, a teacher and chair of the restructuring committee.

When most of the parents continued to press administrators about the changes, one parent suggested they give the schools a break.

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Is city violating employee privacy?

By MICHAEL MALOTT
 Managing Editor

LaReta Roder's son was badly burned last year. The accident involved an ambulance ride and a hospital stay, and the final bill came to thousands of dollars.

That experience now makes her very nervous, she said, about the prospects of her son - a 21-year-old college student - losing medical insurance coverage from the city.

LaReta Roder, wife of retiring Novi Police Department Det. Max Roder, is concerned

about that prospect because of the city's new requirement that employees submit copies of their federal 1040 tax forms to verify the eligibility of any dependents they have claimed for health care coverage.

She spoke to the Novi City Council Monday, contending the requirement violates the Privacy Act of 1974, and expressing dissatisfaction with Assistant City Manager Craig Klaver's response to her first inquiry two weeks ago. She asked several additional questions and called on council to stop the city administra-

tion from "extorting" information from its employees.

But she received no reaction from council, and Klaver said this week he plans no further response.

Still, LaReta Roder is waiting to see if the city will accept the copy of the 1040 her husband has turned in. The only boxes filled in on that copy were those containing his name, their son's name listed as a dependent, and his signature. She noted that since the city

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In today's issue
HomeTown Extra
 NEWSPAPERS
 A special section . . .

GIFT GUIDE

12-7-95

Transplant recipient grateful for 'gift of life'

By LEE SMIDER
Editor

For organ transplant recipients the phrase "a new lease on life" is a lot more than just a cliché expression.

No one knows that better than Dr. John Romanik, who received the gift of life in the form of a new heart in late October.

"I feel absolutely perfect," Dr. Romanik said during an interview last week. "But when the doctor wants to hear my heart I still say, you want to listen to it? I don't think of it as mine yet."

Dr. Romanik is a former pediatrician at the Maybury Tuberculosis Sanatorium and chief of pediatrics at Providence Medical Center in Novi. Though still relatively young at age 60, he describes himself as a type-A personality whose constant stresses and workaholic nature took a serious toll on his health.

At one time, he maintained no less than five professional commit-



Dr. John Romanik receives, working in private practice while maintaining an association with Providence and other offices. He served in the children's ward at Maybury Hospital from 1964

until the facility closed in 1969.

At just 45 he suffered a heart attack, and was added to the state's organ transplant list on two different occasions.

After rallying briefly his heart continued to weaken and his physicians finally installed a permanent intravenous device with a remote medicine box last January.

A defibrillator was also implanted to prevent recurrences of malignant arrhythmia.

The non-stop flow of medication helped provide new strength, but time remained an enemy. That is, until the telephone rang early in the morning on Oct. 25.

"It was the Henry Ford Hospital transplant team. They told me they had a heart for me," he said.

"After a very emotional episode with (wife) Carol, we got in the car and drove down there. At first I was grateful, but then there's this panic because you know you might be going to meet death. I could hear the helicopter fly in

(with the organ)."

Dr. Romanik said his stay at Henry Ford in Detroit lasted seven days and was not without its anxious moments.

Before going into surgery, patient and doctor agreed on a signal arrangement for use after the operation. Knowing he would be unable to talk or ask questions during post-op, Dr. Romanik told the surgeon to squeeze his toes three times if the heart was a compatible fit.

The unusual circumstances of his transplant have propelled Dr. Romanik into the spotlight. A Detroit television crew taped scenes of Thanksgiving dinner at the family's Novi Township home for broadcast during the night news.

While he doesn't relish the attention, Dr. Romanik has decided to use the opportunity to help promote the organ donation program.

"We've got to get some donors out of this," he said. "If you and I

talk for eight minutes someone's going to die for lack of a kidney."

The Transplantation Society of Michigan, popularly known as the Gift of Life Agency, is based in Ann Arbor and is the official organ recovery network for the state.

According to agency literature, organ donation may be accomplished by filling out a uniform donor card or by placing a sticker on the back of a driver's license indicating one's intentions.

The only other step — and it is a crucial one — is the notification of next-of-kin. In the event of unexpected death, the next-of-kin is contacted and asked to sign a donation consent form.

More than 1,000 people in Michigan are currently awaiting transplants. In addition to the heart, the kidneys, liver, lungs, pancreas, corneas, skin and bone are all transplantable.

For more information, contact the Gift of Life Agency at (800) 482-4881.

Democrats to set new Senate agenda

By TIM RICHARD
Staff Writer

"We will move from the defense to the offense," said John Cherry, who took over Dec. 1 as minority leader of state Senate Democrats.

"We must do more than simply criticize. We must also put forward constructive alternatives to the Republican program," said Cherry, 44, a senator for nine years after four years in the House. A Clo resident, Cherry represents half of Genesee County and six northern townships in Oakland County.

"We can offer asylum to the state's politically homeless — the independents and Republicans who reject the politics of division and false choices."

Elected unanimously to succeed Sen. Art Miller of Warren, Cherry immediately launched four "special projects" by individual senators to define Democratic positions. They are:

- Class size in K-12 schools — Joe Conroy, Flint.
- Federal block grants, which will replace specific aid programs to states and local units — Joe Young Jr., Detroit.
- Electronic university, or how Michigan students can earn college degrees through the use of

personal computers — Jackie Vaughn, Detroit. Cherry said this project could help working couples and single mothers become educated to break into the middle class.

Privacy issues due to advancements in telecommunications — Michael O'Brien, Detroit.

The new minority leader plans no major and just a few minor committee assignment changes after the first of the year.

Cherry moves up from Democratic floor leader, a post in which he orchestrated Democratic responses to the 22-16 Republican majority's bills. Republicans have controlled the Senate since 1984.

Succeeding him as floor leader is Virgil Smith, 48, a third-term member from Detroit. Smith, a veteran of 12 years in the House, promised that "we from Detroit are team players."

Smith, also elected unanimously, scored a near-hit in 1992 when he challenged Wayne County Prosecutor John O'Hair in the Democratic primary. Smith still displays some interest in that office.

Miller resigned as minority leader after 11 years — the longest tenure ever for a Senate Democratic leader.

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Is city violating employee privacy?

Continued from 1
 did not ask for a photocopy, an employee could just fill out a 1040 form and submit it. Since the city does not have access to Internal Revenue Service filings, it would have no way of verifying whether it is a true copy of what the employee actually submitted to the federal government.

But Klaver said those three boxes were enough. "That's fine," he said. "That's all I need."

John Nelson, representing the Novit Police Officers Association union, said he was not sure who among employers had submitted their forms to the city or how complete the copies were. But he did say he had passed on word to union members from Klaver that only those three boxes were needed.

Nelson said that although LaFeta Roder is the only person to complain publicly, the new requirement is a concern for all police department union employees, as well as for all city employees. The union's position has been that the requirement violates members' privacy, he explained, and has offered alternative ways of documenting proof of eligibility.

Under contract, Blue Cross coverage is provided to city employees and their dependents up to age 18. Over that age, the dependent must

"... You must as the top policy making body send a message to your administration that extorting information and disseminating that information from employees and their families in direct violation of the Privacy Act of 1974 will not be tolerated."

LaFeta Roder

be a full-time college student to receive benefits until age 25. Nelson argued a birth certification and a tuition bill would suffice. He's offered to have union members submit sworn affidavits.

And he agrees the city's requirement for copies of tax forms will not be the proof the city is looking for, because IRS documents cannot be pulled to verify whether the employee has submitted a true copy.

"All you do when you require tax forms is get everyone's dander up," Nelson said.

This is the first time the city has required copies. Last year, it only asked they be submitted voluntarily, Nelson said, union members ignored that request. But Klaver said this year it is a requirement and it will be enforced. Dependents will be eliminated if 1040 forms are not submitted, he said.

That makes employees all the more nervous. LaFeta Roder and Nelson said, because Klaver claimed in his response memo to have eliminated eight dependents from coverage last year.

But Klaver explained Tuesday those dependents had been eliminated only because they had given up eligibility and the city had not yet been notified.

"None of the eight were receiving benefits," Klaver said, "that the city was paying for them. That's just a waste of taxpayers' money."

LaFeta Roder also objected that the city has given out her Social Security number.

"Take your Social Security card out and look at it," she told council Monday. "Along the bottom in large, bold blue letters it says, and I quote, 'For Social Security and tax purposes - not for identification.' Blue Cross does not meet

either criteria.

"... You must as the top policy making body send a message to your administration that extorting information and disseminating that information from employees and their families in direct violation of the Privacy Act of 1974 will not be tolerated."

LaFeta Roder said Monday she was also upset that Klaver had responded to her inquiries through her husband rather than directly to her. But Klaver said it was standard management practice to provide information about benefits to the employee, rather than to employees' family members.

Nelson said no action will be taken by the union unless dependents are eliminated by the city. At that point, he said, a grievance would be filed. In the meantime, he said he'd be working to get the city to accept alternative proof next year to alleviate the concerns.

Health Notes

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Novi cemetery selected as site for historical marker

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

Michelle Bononi concedes that there are people who think it's weird to prowl through old cemeteries.

She's not one of them. Bononi, chair of the Novi Historical Commission, has long been a fan of burial grounds as places to "steep yourself in the local history of an area."

Wednesday, the second historical marker to go up in the city was planted at the Novi Cemetery on Novi Road. The burial ground is where many of Novi's pioneer fathers and mothers rest, as well as veterans of the War of 1812, the Civil War and World War II. Also there are two, count 'em two, soldiers of the American Revolution.

"We thought there should be some designation to do honor to these people. It's a real cross-section of local history that really deserves some attention," Bononi said.

The striking 30-inch tall, 20-inch wide marker features a brand new historic logo of the old Novi Township Hall framed by one of the remaining trees of the old Fuerst apple orchard.

"It came out even more handsomely than we hoped," Bononi said, adding that the Historical Commission's John Thomson did all the legwork involved in bring-

ing the plaque to Novi. Local historian Barbara Louie took on the research for the text.

"The other historic marker in town is at the old Township Hall.

Old cemeteries are a treasure trove for enthusiasts of local history, genealogy and American folk art.

"There are so many ways to look at a cemetery, not only the obvious ones but looking at the gravestones as carvings," Bononi said.

Pioneers began venturing into this area following the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825. Those interred at the Novi Cemetery include Cornelius Austin, Historic Commission member Kathy Match said. Austin came in 1828, part of the third wave of settlers to town.

Buried at the Novi Cemetery are Caleb Carr and Hooper Bishop, both of whom took up arms to fight the British in the American Revolution. Carr, a Methodist preacher, was born in 1762 and enlisted in the army as a 14-year-old private. Louie wrote in her local history, *No. VI On the Trail*. He died in 1839. Hooper, also born in 1762, signed up for two years in 1779 and died here in 1861, at age 93.

"The problem is documenting all the people who are in the cemetery. There are some interesting ladies there who got involved in the temperance movement in

Novi. It was when the Novi Inn was at the east corner of Novi Road and Grand River and wanted to be able to sell liquor," Match said.

"There was this battle back and forth between the township and these ladies over whether they would allow that or not. The ladies were battling for family and home and all that."

Bononi trekked to Novi from Connecticut three years ago. She's long studied cemeteries and was interested to see two tombstone carving motifs here that she'd never seen before — a hand with a finger pointing heavenward and an acorn. A marble gravestone was a big investment for a local farming family, she points out.

At present, some members of the Historical Commission are engaged in an inventory of the stones, with an eye towards both preservation and distinguishing those of historic and artistic interest. They're also attempting to find out who some of the stonemasons were, not an easy task.

Bononi aims to take black and white photographs of each marker. In future years, they may be all that remains legible of the original legends.

"A lot of the marble inscriptions are obliterated, the passage of time is taking its toll," Bononi explained.



Commissioners Craig Klaver, Carol Bauer and John Thomson unveil the plaque at the Novi cemetery. Photo by SUE SPILLANE

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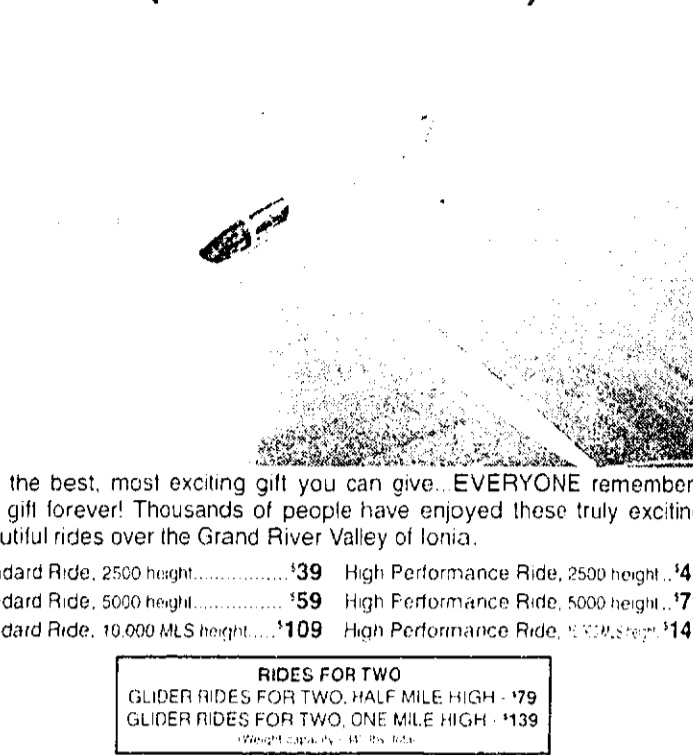
OCC starts search for new chancellor

By TIM RICHARD Staff Writer

What's in a chancellor? Besides having an earned doctorate, the next chief executive of Oakland Community College must have experience as a president or senior administrator in a multi-campus district. The CEO must be able to work with the board of trustees, business leaders, labor unions, legislators (especially those who write the budget) and diverse sectors of the campus community. Oh, and the CEO must believe in shared governance and affirmative action - particularly at a college where 57 percent of the 30,000 students are women. Those were the qualities OCC was looking for in 1991, and most of them will be on the list this year as a new chief to replace Dr. Patsy Galkins is sought. In a memo to 750 college employees, Interim Chancellor Anthony Janson asked, "Help us finalize a new profile that meets our need today by forwarding your suggestions for change to my office."

to know something about dealing with design, facilities and contractors. Trustees clearly want periodic reports about how the capital is being spent. Open meetings have been a problem at Oakland University, the University of Michigan and other units around the state, but not at OCC. Finalists have been interviewed in public sessions, as required by section 8 of the Open Meetings Act. Campus interest has been intense, though the public isn't allowed to ask questions of the candidates. Since medieval days, "college" has meant a representative assembly - hence the Catholic Church's College of Cardinals and the U.S.'s quadrennial Electoral College. Autocrats aren't popular at colleges. "That interest is sure to continue at OCC, where faculty representatives have a context or report at every meeting, and where students have a non-voting advisory seat on the board. At U-M, the faculty served the governing board sternly warning that it expected the successor to James Duderstadt to come from academia, not finance or industry. So far the OCC board has set no target date for a hiring. Typically, the search can take six months; the 1990-91 search took nine months. U-M spent 14 months on its last search before picking the man who was already No. 2 on the Ann Arbor campus.

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Andris wins in race for Novi's last Class C liquor license

Continued from 1
that meeting, council raised the question of whether the applicant must have final site plan approval before obtaining a liquor license, and council turned him away. But Andris has since been informed by his architect that the final site plan cannot be finished before January, 1996.
"To make matters worse, it has been brought to this applicant's attention that another prospective licensee has submitted an application for the last remaining liquor license in the City of Novi," Andris stated in a letter to the council. Since this second request was being submitted by an existing business, Andris speculated it would likely be brought before council before his plan for Port Papadapolis could be completed.

Andris said Monday night the restaurant would employ about 50 workers, although there would likely be no more than 10 or 12 on site at any one time.
New Bangkok need not be per- mitted in second place, council members said Monday evening. When this last license in the city is issued, New Bangkok could apply for a state Resort License, they pointed out.

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by Dennis E. Engerer, P.T.

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the NOV
NEWS

Living

HIGHLIGHTS:
Whitehall seeks volunteer from the community - 2B

AAUW BRANCH:
Hanukkah Experience is the topic at meeting - 5B

SPIRIT OF DETROIT:
Woman's club will sit back and enjoy the harmony - 3B

DIVERSIONS:
Church puts together first Christmas program - 6B

B

THURSDAY
December 7,
1995



Above, two hands connect a friendship that has developed over three years. At right, June Clark touches Denise Whitt gently on the shoulder as a sign of reassurance.

A touch makes contact

In 1991, two lives were changed forever. Denise Whitt almost lost everything. All she had left were her family members and they weren't visiting her.

That same year June Clark answered the call to become involved in the pastoral ministry program through her church. The two women's paths were to cross one year later.

Whitt was very bitter and lonely when she began serving a sentence for manslaughter in 1991 at Scott Correctional Facility in Northville Township.

According to Whitt, she was convicted of manslaughter after she stabbed a man in her apartment. The man stumbled outside where he later died.

The apartment building where she lived was overrun with drug users and the homeless. Her sentence was 7 to 15 years. Whitt will be eligible for parole in 1997.

"I felt as though the world was against me," Whitt said. "I felt as though God had let me down."

But then her attitude underwent a change.

"After a few months and some praying, I decided why be here and be bitter, there's so much here that they offer that out in the world I didn't have time to do because I worked all the time."

Whitt, lonely and in need of someone to talk to, got hooked up with Clark.

Whitt remembers Clark's first visit to her three years ago.

"I don't know what to say or what to do," Clark told Whitt. "I'm religious but I don't throw the Bible. I don't recite verses."

"Just be yourself," Whitt told her. "Just by being yourself, that right there will make everything all



June Clark is frisked by corrections officer M. Cartwright-Biggs before a visit.

right. If more people would understand that you don't have to come and lie, you don't have to come and think about what am I going to say to this person," Whitt said.

Whitt's positive attitude has made her a model prisoner, both at Scott and with Clark, who takes the new pastoral volunteers on a visit to Whitt - whom she fondly calls Dee - as part of their training program.

"When I would train people to come in and do prison ministry, I would always bring them in to see Dee because Dee is so pleasant, and people would be frightened about coming in."

"When they would come in and visit her, they leave feeling really comfortable and really convinced that they want to do it," Clark, a Northville resident, said.

"When you're in prison, you lose a lot," Whitt said. A lot of people lose their family, their home, their job, any money, you lose all that. When you come here you have nothing to look forward to, that makes you bitter.

"I didn't know that there were still people that existed like June," Whitt said. "Now I do and I wish other people would be something like her. You know, come and see someone."

"June keeps me updated on the world," Whitt said of the 67-year-old Clark, whom she warmly refers to as her second mother.

"I look forward to my visits with her, they are special to me too," Clark said.

Over the next three years a trust developed between Clark and Whitt, on a friendship as well as

Continued on 3

Story by Carol Workens • Photos by Hal Gould

Volunteer



Mike Anusbigan

Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

Anusbigan is working to renovate the pond

By DOROTHY NASH
Special Writer

"It started as a group of concerned citizens who lived around the pond," said Mike Anusbigan who is an active volunteer in the effort to renovate Mill Pond.

There are still snapping turtles, geese, and ducks, blue gills and chip bass in the pond.

People used to swim in it, and they'd go by in canoe or rowboat to the Cider Mill.

At the southern end - at Mill Race Historical Village - there is a dam that was built in 1826 when Northville was new. It's a popular picnic spot.

The problem, though, is that this eight acres of water, which is actually the Middle Rouge River, is filling up with silt and sedimentation at an alarming rate. No sewage has been dumped into it, and there's no heavy metal in it. But there are mystery pipes - water pipes, 15 or so - which no one can identify.

New sand bars and islands are

forming, and the dam at Mill Race is getting old and may soon give way.

Anusbigan said this is no ordinary river. It's the Rouge, part of a large system running through a great part of the state.

It needs dredging. The city of Northville owns Mill Pond but it doesn't have the funds to do the job. So a group of citizens was formed in 1943 - the Friends of Mill Pond - consisting of 60 regular members and five corporate members from different companies.

"We meet every six weeks at Mill Race and talk about ways to solve problems of the pond," said Anusbigan. "We have a newsletter we put out every six or eight weeks."

The latest news is that a presentation was recently made to the Wayne County Environmental Department concerning money set aside for water projects.

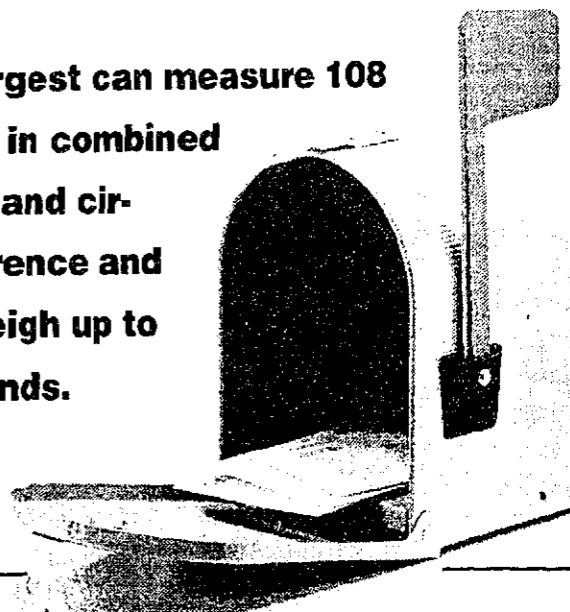
If you are interested in the Friends of Mill Pond, call Mike Anusbigan at 349-0712.

It's A Fact

Mail Species

The smallest piece of mail accepted by the U.S. Post Office measures 3 and a half inches high by 5 inches long.

The largest can measure 108 inches in combined length and circumference and can weigh up to 70 pounds.



Movies

'Red' is refreshingly character driven

RED
By Brad Hundt
Brighton

For better or worse, the tradition of the European "auteur," whose films are draped in angst and symbolism, now seems to reside in the hands of Polish filmmaker Krzysztof Kieslowski.

Among film buffs, the verdict on his work is mixed — some find it maddeningly obtuse, others

believe Kieslowski is a last outpost for challenging, intelligent cinema. Though he is infinitely capable of excess, I lean more toward the latter than the former. And "Red" is an example of Kieslowski at his best.

The final entry in Kieslowski's "Red, White and Blue" trilogy, representing the three colors of the French flag and the ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity, "Red" traces the relationship between a

model (Irene Jacob) and a despairing older man (Jean Paul Trintignant) who spends his days doing little more than drinking and listening in on the phone calls of his neighbors. Though an obvious mismatch, the two strike up a platonic, deeply felt relationship, and help one another arrive at understandings of themselves and the world.

"Red" is refreshingly character-driven. It's filled with small epiphanies and quiet moments of revelation. The performances are fine and the direction is sound. It casts a spell. Patient viewers will be richly rewarded.

Send your reviews

Send your reviews, limited to 200 words, to HomeTown Newspapers, c/o Katie Bach, 323 E. Grand River, Howell, MI 48843. All reviews should include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Reviews without this information will not be published. If you have any questions or want more information, please call Katie Bach at (517) 548-2000.

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THURSDAY
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"We should be better than 500."
"Novi finished fourth in the KVC last winter. Watanabe and Mark McBride qualified for the state final even though the Wildcats didn't make it out of the district as a team."

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PREVIOUSLY SELECTED MERCHANDISE NOT INCLUDED

the NOVI NEWS Sports

SWIMMING: Tankers have lots of experience for coming season /12B

CROSS COUNTRY: Find out who made honorable mention all-area /10B

HEALTH: Wear and tear can cause back problems /11B

9B
THURSDAY
December 7,
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Opening Act

Grapplers start today against Baseline rival

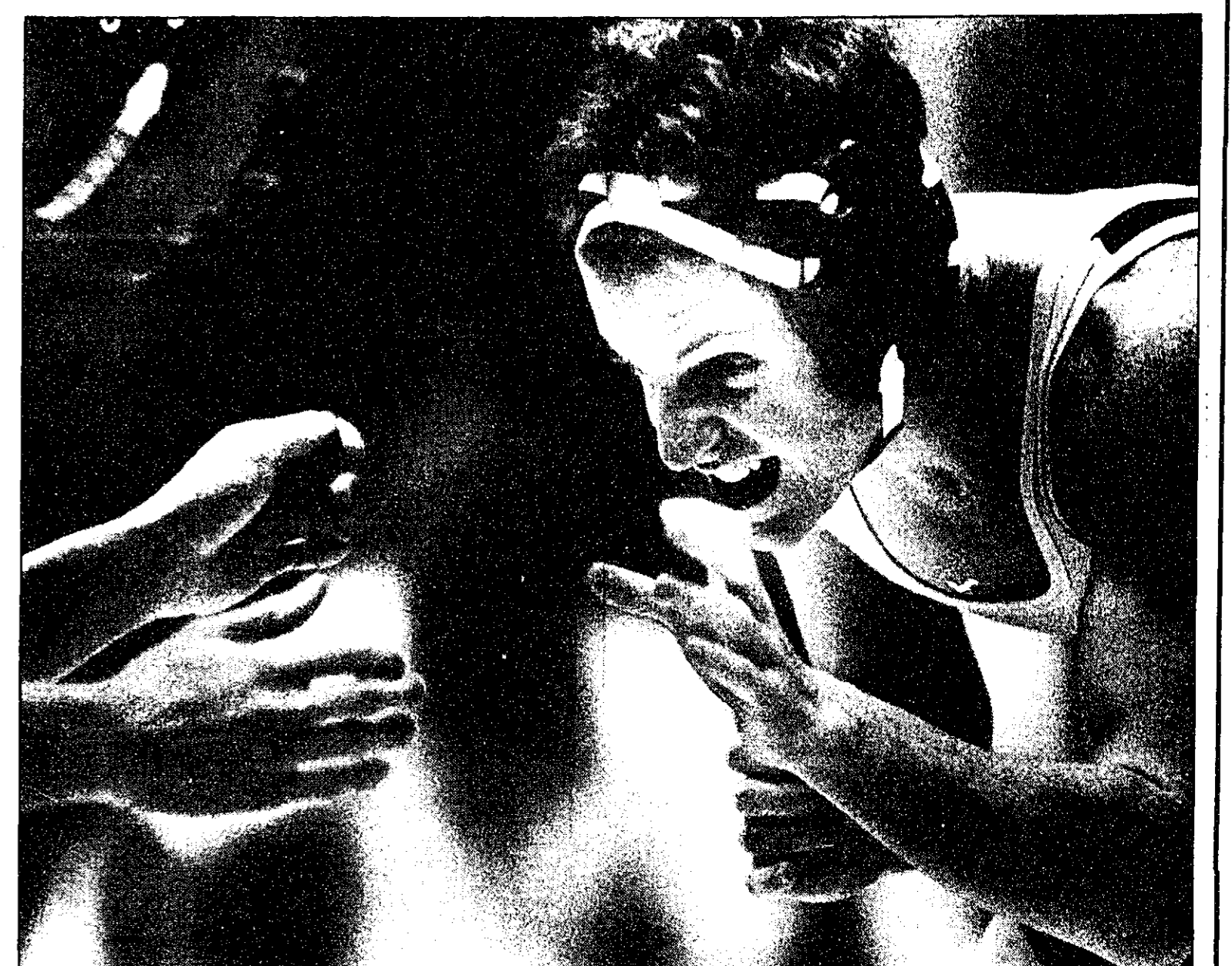
By SCOTT DANIEL
Sports Editor

After years of mediocrity, the Wildcat wrestling team might turn a corner this season. Novi High will field a veteran squad this winter that should emphasize on should — he very competitive in the tough Keston Valley Conference.

Novi finished fourth in the KVC last winter. Watanabe and Mark McBride qualified for the state final even though the Wildcats didn't make it out of the district as a team.

Besides the change in personnel, Novi, like every other team, will have to deal with a pair of rule changes.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association realigned weight divisions. It eliminated a lightweight category and added one at heavyweight.



Julie Britton will wrestle at 112 pounds for the Wildcats. Novi faces Northville in the season opener today. File photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

Spikers showcase experience, skill

By SCOTT DANIEL
Sports Editor

This may be the year Novi volleyball gets on the map in the state of Michigan. The Wildcats feature experience and talent heading into the 1995-96 season.

"We've got a good team," the coach said. "They're all improved their skills."

"I think it's going to be tough," Fisetite said. "Lakeland and Brighton have a lot of returning players."

Julie Britton gives Novi something it hasn't had in recent years — size. The senior stands at better than 6-foot and is a tremendous middle blocker.

"She'll be a definite force this year," said Fisetite. "She'll be a go-to girl."

Michelle Mott will start the year as Novi's top setter. If the coach decides to run an offense with two setters on the court, senior Junko Matsunaga will take the other spot.

Chihyo Amemiya played varsity last year. She'll be a "defensive specialist" in the back row, said Fisetite.

Renee Suenkonis and Shaunnah Yehyeh are Novi's last two seniors. Suenkonis is an outside hitter while Yehyeh is a strong defender from the back row.

"She's really improved her hitting skills," Fisetite said Yehyeh.

Lindsay Drury may be the team's top junior. She plays in the middle and also in the back row.

Amber Rantowich and Sarah McGlinnen are juniors that will see plenty of action. Rantowich is an outside hitter while McGlinnen is a middle blocker.

Sophomore Katie Copp rounds out the squad. She is a solid all-around player who can block in the middle and play right-side hitter.

Fisetite was impressed with the level of skill her team showed in early practices. Summer camps and Athletic Amateur Union games helped, she said.

"I'm optimistic about the season," Fisetite said.



Julie Britton will play at setter for Novi this winter. File photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

Wildcats place 5 on all-area team

For the second straight year, Novi High dominates Hometown Newspapers' East All-Area Girls Cross Country team.

The Wildcats make up exactly half of our 1995 district team. Led by Lorra Camp, Novi won a second straight Keston Valley Conference title and also finished in the state's top 10.

Teammates Kendra Matheny, Katie Zimmerman, Angela Pelletier and Angel Root join Camp on our all-area squad.

Besides the group from Novi, Northville's Allison Murphy joins the squad. A sophomore, she emerged as one of the area's top newcomers.

Let's take a closer look at this year's all-area girls' team as selected by the sports editors from The Novi News, Northville Record, Milford Times and South Lyon Herald:

LORRA CAMP
Novi, Junior
A state qualifier her first two years, Camp had to fight her way back to the finals this year. She



Katie Zimmerman made our all-area first team. File photo by SUE SPILLANE

ANGEL ROOT
Novi, Junior
Root made all-county and the KVC's second team in her junior year.

"She was very, very steady throughout the year," Norgren said. "She's a solid varsity runner."

Shepley, Chipponeri make boys' squad

That picture of durability, the Energizer bunny, has got nothing on Ed Gabrys said the senior was well liked by his teammates.

While many Wildcats battled for top position, Shepley wound up on top more times than not.

He was strongest in the first half of the season, before injuries took their toll. Shepley posted a best time of 17:24 this year.

"He would've been under 17 minutes without the injury," coach Bob Smith said.

DWIGHT VANTUYL
Northville, senior
Without question, Vantuyl was Northville's leader this season.

He led the Mustangs in every race and capped off a fine career.

Continued on 10

Rec Briefs

'The Fridge'

Let's all go sledding over winter break. (Target age group, 5th-8th grade.) Join Novi Parks and Recreation for this afternoon of fun. The trip price includes entry ticket, transportation and chaperones. Adult to child ratio is 1-7.

The date is Thursday, Feb. 15, 1996. The bus leaves the Novi Civic Center at 3:30 p.m. and arrives at "The Fridge" at 4:15 p.m. Depart "The Fridge" at 9 p.m. and return to the Novi Civic Center at 9:30 p.m.

There is a limit of 38 individuals at a fee of \$14 (\$16.80 for non-residents).

Registration deadline: Wednesday, Feb. 7, 1996, at 5 p.m. (for when limit is reached).

Youth Classes

Drawing and Painting for Youth (Ages 5-8), Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon; Feb. 3-March 23 (8 weeks) \$75; materials fee: \$10.

Senior Adults classes

Stretch and Strength Training for Seniors with low-impact exercise, a fun fitness to "big band" music will be held on Fridays, 9:30 a.m.; Jan. 19-March 8 (8 weeks); \$16 resident, \$19.20 non-resident. Drop-in Fee: \$3 per person.

"Swinging Senior" Bowling

For further information call Harry Brown at (810) 348-0986 or Clare Wilson (810) 349-0250.

Clogging

The Beginners I class should wear flat shoes, preferably with leather-like soles.

Mondays-Evenings (all ages).

Workshop and Review - 6:30-7:30 p.m. Cost: \$2 per person (drop-in).

Lesson/Review/Open Dance - 7:30-10 p.m. Cost: \$3 per person (drop-in).

Wednesdays-Daytime (age 50 plus or if you're close)

Performance Practice Lesson and Open Dance - 12:30-3:30 p.m. Cost: \$3 per person (drop-in).

Wednesdays-Evening (ages 8 plus)

Beginners I - starts Jan. 3 (8 weeks) - 7-8 p.m.

Cost: \$20 resident (\$24 non-resident) or a \$3 drop-in fee per night.

Drop-in - Easy Level Lesson and Open Dance - 8-10 p.m. Cost: \$3 per person (drop-in).

Fridays-Daytime.

Beginners II - starts Jan. 12 (10 weeks) - Noon-1 p.m. Cost: \$20 resident (\$24 non-resident).

Intermediate: 1-2 p.m. Cost: \$1.50 per person (drop-in).

Open Dance: 2-3:30 p.m. Cost: \$1.50 per person (drop-in).

None of the above classes will be held on days when the Novi Civic Center is closed.

Fitness Factory

Winter Session: (Week of) Jan. 8-March 16 (10 weeks). No classes Jan. 15, 20, Feb. 19.

M/T/W/Th/F: 9-10 a.m., Lo-Impact.

M/W/F: 10:15-11:15 a.m., Step.

M/W: 6-7 p.m., Hi/Low Impact.

T/Th: 10:15-11:15 a.m., Body Sculpting.

Saturday: 8-9 a.m., Step.

Location: Novi Civic Center.

Fees: \$40 once a week (\$48 non-resident); \$54 twice a week; (\$64.80 non-resident); \$69 unlimited (\$82.80 non-resident).

Step Rental: \$10.

Babysitting: \$1.50 per child. (Available only for classes designated with an asterisk.)

Registration deadline for winter session: Friday, Jan. 12 at 5 p.m.

Bring a towel or exercise mat to class.

Grapplers look for rise in 1995

Continued from 9

"We're looking for big things from him this year," Huss said. "He's a pinner. He'll score a lot of points for us."

Josh Hadley could go at 152 or 160 pounds. A transfer student from Indiana, he should really help to solidify the lineup.

"He looks pretty good in the (wrestling) room," Huss said. "He'll definitely help us."

Skip Becker is back at 172 pounds. He could also be a force,

Huss said.

"He's tenacious," the coach added, "and a very hard worker."

Nate Plecha and James Probyn will battle for the 220 slot. Senior Kyle Bailey rounds out the squad at heavyweight.

"We don't have too many spots where the kids don't have experience," said Huss. "We're hoping last year's experience will help us go a long way."

Tankers aim for top of KVC

By SCOTT DANIEL
Sports Editor

If any athletic program at Novi High is on the rise, it's the boys' swim team.

The Wildcats are coming an 8-4 campaign of a year ago and an unofficial Kensington Valley Conference championship. Now with a record number of people swimming this winter, the future looks even brighter.

"We've got 42 kids," second-year coach Bill McCord said. "I've never had these kinds of numbers."

"When you have those kinds of numbers you have built in competition everyday. It's guaranteed high energy practices."

The Wildcats open the season Saturday at the Eastern Michigan University Relays. The dual meet campaign begins a week from today at home against South Lyon.

Novi beat the Lions and Brighton in dual meets a year ago. The Wildcats then won the Brighton Invitational, the "league" meet for the KVC.

Because there are just three schools in the conference with swimming programs, an official KVC championship isn't awarded.

At any rate, Novi will take a veteran team into battle this winter.

"We've got a lot of guys back," McCord said. "They're coming along nicely."

Erich Kelly heads the list of seniors.

"The 200 IM is his event," said McCord. "But we'll try to get him qualified (for the state finals) in several events."

Mike Girard is another senior that'll be counted upon. He'll work in the breaststroke.

He'll take his turn in relay events, too.

"He's our most accomplished performer," McCord said.



File photo by HAL GOULD

Junior Mike DiClaudio will be one of Novi's top backstrokers this winter.

Brian Leroy will help captain the Wildcats. The senior will compete in the backstroke and butterfly events.

"He's a great leader," McCord said. "He swam really well for us last year."

Senior Henry Newton will have a very defined role.

"He's pretty much a distance swimmer," said McCord. "That's where his strengths are."

Mike Girard is another senior that'll be counted upon. He'll work in the breaststroke.

Matt Christopherson, Tim Kushman and Tim Gibbons round out the list of seniors. Christopherson

and Gibbons will concentrate on freestyle events while Kushman swims the butterfly and sprint events.

Many of Novi's seniors can swim just about any event.

"I think our strength is our versatility," said McCord. "We won't swim the same lineup in two meets this season. People will have no idea what we'll bring to the meet."

Mike DiClaudio should be one of Novi's top juniors. He swims the backstroke and freestyle event.

John Burkhardt is another junior to look for. McCord said he was Novi's most improved swim-

mer last year.

"He really came along in the freestyle," he added.

Sophomore Jason Leroy is one of Novi's fastest swimmers.

"He's probably the most authentic, flat out sprinter on the team," McCord said.

Dan Lynch is another sophomore that should score points. He'll swim in the backstroke and freestyle events.

Among the freshmen, Mike Kurti should make an immediate impact.

"He comes in with good skills," said McCord. "He's looked good in practice."

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Prize Package #2

Lunch for two with Soupy Sales at Genitti's, 2-10 Gift Certificates at Santino's, 6 games of bowling at Novi Bowl, Free new patient consultation at Chiropractic First Health

Prize Package #3

52" ceiling fan courtesy of Reid Lighting, \$25 Gift Certificate from Brickscape Gardens, Wooden "Welcome" plaque from Country Nook

If you can remember these news stories from 1995, you score 5 points for each correct answer, total points available 115. Entry deadline is 5 p.m. December 14, 1995.

1. What was the "Shoe Tree?" Where was it located? (10 points)
2. Who replaced Novi city worker Mabel Ash in 1973? (5)
3. Over 600 people, mostly young children, signed a petition last April to save what piece of Novi property? (5)
4. What annual HomeTown Newspapers' publication spotlights women (exclusively) in business? (5)
5. Which Novi public building celebrated it's official dedication May 1st? (5)
6. The Fifties Festival Grand River Car Cruise is open to cars built in ____ or earlier.
(A) 1962 (B) 1974 (C) 1976 (D) 1980 (E) 1956? (5)
7. This Novi High School sports team won a state championship in 1995. Name the sport. Name the coach. (10)
8. What was the final score in the 1995 "Baseline Jug" game? (5)
9. Which issue (date?) of the Novi News featured the following headlines:
"UFO lands at the mall" and "City welcomes sexy toy store with open arms." (5)
10. Who was the 1995 Victorian Festival Queen?
(A) Laurie Mars (B) Margo Kramar (C) Cynthia Paterson? (5)
11. Who is the highest paid Northville public official?
(A) Leonard Rezmierski (B) Chris Johnson (C) Rodney Cannon? (5)
12. Which famous comedian recently performed at Genitti's Hole-in-the-wall?
(A) Tim Allen (B) Soupy Sales (C) Rodney Dangerfield? (5)
13. When did harness racing season start at Northville Downs?
(A) July 4th (B) April 15 (C) October 16? (5)
14. Which 3 are downtown events sponsored by the Northville Chamber of Commerce.
(A) Northville Chili Cook-off (B) Victorian Festival (C) Art In The Sun (D) Ford Field Polo Tournament (E) Flower Days? (15)
15. Where was the site of the 1995 Northville Farmer's Market? (5)
16. Where will the new Northville public library be located?
(A) Fish Hatchery Park (B) behind City Hall (C) Mill Race Village? (5)
17. Which 3 acts performed at the Northville Folk and Bluegrass Festival in July.
(A) Roy Acuff (B) Claudia Schmitt (C) Josh White, Jr. (D) Earl Scruggs (E) Lou Berryman (F) Nine Inch Nails? (15)

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