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NOVI NEWS

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Panel unveils results of city 'futuring'

By JAN JEFFRES
 Staff Writer

They have the vision. They've stated it in black and white.

Now, members of the Novi 20/20 Focus On The Future committee plan to draft volunteers and get down to the nitty-gritty details over the next few months in areas such as local identity, education and growth management.

Monday night, Futuring Chairman Craig DeRoche read the committee's freshly-drafted vision statement for Novi to the city council. A group of 20 finished the writing last week.

Calling it "a monumental task," DeRoche told the council that "the people involved did an excellent job with a very large amount of information."

"I really like that this document is not representative of any individual person's beliefs. There's a lot in this that every individual in Novi is going to say they agree very strongly with and they're glad this is in there and other things, they're not as focused on," DeRoche said afterwards.

What the team did was weave together into a two-page format information from three initial futuring work sessions, attended by over 100 people in February.

"It was a good, forward-looking way of getting of touch with what

THE AUTHORS

Writers of 'A Vision For The City of Novi':

- Craig DeRoche
- Ruth Ann Jirasek
- Steven Myers
- Mark Adams
- Christa Coxon
- Lee BeGole
- John Chambers
- Andrew Mutch
- Melissa Pettijohn
- Siddharth Sanghvi
- Gretchen Pugsley
- Janet Scheuher-Nalezty
- Rita Traynor
- Mike Hurwitch
- Cheryl Girvan
- Doug Smith
- Larry Dormal
- Beverly Dormal
- Donna Yaeger
- Debbie Bundoff
- Kevin DeLisle
- Melissa O'Rear
- Isabel Collins
- Larry Frey

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Jaycee money goes missing after DSA

By WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL
 Staff Writer

Just when the Novi Jaycee's thought they were back on track, misfortune struck.

A cash box full of \$800 in cash and checks from the Jaycee's annual Distinguished Service Award breakfast April 12 was inadvertently left behind at the DoubleTree hotel after the event.

According to Jaycee Beth Murphy it was a matter of each of the officers thinking another officer had it, and now the mistake is a costly one. The box is missing.

"Our chapter has overcome so many hardships," said Murphy. "To have something like this happen is really heartbreaking."

The chapter has recently begun a small revival after losing membership, as well as its biggest fundraiser - the Jaycee's Haunted House held annually at Halloween.

Murphy said the chapter was excited about the breakfast and the missing cash box has the members disappointed. The

breakfast isn't a fundraiser by any means and barely breaks even, she said. Now that there isn't any money to pay for the event which honors local residents for volunteerism, the Jaycee's will have to organize a fundraiser.

She explained the chapter still wants to be able to fund the Needy Family Christmas Program next winter.

Jaycee Matt Serwinek filed a report with the Novi police department that week. According to the report, after finding no one had the box, he returned to the hotel to look for it. Unfortunately, it was already gone.

Murphy said she was shocked to hear the news last week and at first thought someone might have packed it away during the clean up. Now all she can do is hope someone saw something that will help or knows where to find the box.

"I keep thinking This is a really good community, it will be returned," she said.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Farmers Larry and Margaret Schmidt are used to hosting school children to give them their first hand view of a rural, working farm, but they may also have to get used to a large housing development slated to be built adjacent to their backyard.

Fighting to retain farm life

Schmidts face prospect of nearby Harvest Land development

By JAN JEFFRES
 Staff Writer

Larry and Margaret Schmidt are an endangered species.

While they're not on any state or federal list, the couple are hoping to hold onto their rural lifestyle on Wixom Road as a huge new development springs up around them. Their small Maplewoods Farm will be surrounded on two sides by the over 800 acre Harvest Lake subdivision and its 900-plus homes planned for the former Levy gravel mine site.

Although the Schmidts have



been asked to sell their five acres to the developers, or swap for Levy land in South Lyon, they're

resisting.

"I planted that tree. We built this barn. It has personal meaning. I can't imagine leaving here," Margaret Schmidt said.

"This is our home, this is the way we live. Farmers are independent. They don't like people telling them what to do."

Not only does that home provide shelter to two of the couple's three daughters, the family spread includes one cow, pig, horse and donkey - all miniatures, as well as a dog, two cats, a sheep and a lamb, a goose, a rab-

bit, six chickens, assorted ducks and Tom the Terrible Turkey. Most of these animals were once common here, now kids come from all over to experience farm life by tromping around Maplewoods.

The Schmidts say they like the Harvest Lake site plan, that it's attractive and environmentally-sensitive. Four other neighbors of the future Harvest Lake have come out in favor of the plan, including Dinsler's Flowers & Greenhouse.

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Planners approve RUD

By WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL
 Staff Writer

Coming soon to a development near you: picnic areas, a clubhouse, wooded trails, wetland wildlife habitats, a marina, swimming beaches and canoe areas.

The project, known as Harvest Lake of Novi, is one step closer to appearing on the horizon.

The Novi Planning Commission recommended 5 to 4 the use of an old Novi ordinance for the project last week and the City Council is expected to discuss the project May 5.

The Residential Unit Develop-

ment ordinance, or RUD, was first written in 1984 and was used to build Village Oaks at Ten and Meadowbrook Roads and Briarwood at Beck and Ten Mile Roads in the early 1990s, according to the planning department.

It will allow Harvest Land Co. to put nearly 900 homes on the 901 acre parcel of land it owns at Ten Mile and Wixom roads. The development will feature single family homes and cluster condominiums set around the 160-acre lake and back in the natural woodlands.

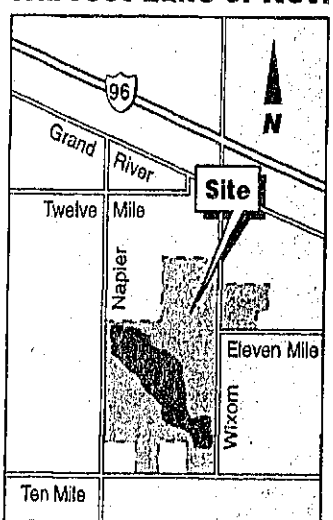
"I think it will set a tone for the rest of Novi," said Commissioner

Peter Hoadley. "We have a lot of land in the west still. It's an opportunity in my opinion to set the tone not only for Novi but maybe other areas. It will allow Novi to shine."

Commissioner Gwen Markham also praised the design but asked the developers to build "unique homes" with character and to vary the architectural style.

The RUD was intended to allow flexibility in housing designs. The current zoning in the area is set for large 1-acre lot parcels, but with the RUD, Harvest can build

Harvest Lake of Novi



Map by JUANITA LITTLE

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In today's issue



A special section . . .

HOME & GARDEN

Art at the Park scheduled for this weekend

By WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL
 Staff Writer

It's Novi's newest art gallery featuring hundreds of both new, unheard names and established artists from around the community.

But the special exhibit is only open this weekend.

Art at the Park '97 is set for Sunday, April 27, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Parkview Elementary. Not only will every one of the 600 students display a painting, sculpture or abstract masterpiece, professional and parent artists will be on hand to demonstrate various artistic techniques.

The public is invited to view the works of art, learn new skills and be entertained by the sounds of Novi High School choir and music students.

New this year is the unveiling of Parkview's first ceramic mural. Jennifer Harvey.

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER

With an example of their marble art, Tom McKinney and Claire Fryatt get ready to show their work at the Parkview Art Show.

4/24/97

State moved to adjust test

By TIM RICHARD
Staff Writer

Take the proficiency test. We'll get rid of the hated word "novice." That was the State Board of Education's message to parents whose public high school 11th graders must take proficiency tests in math, reading, writing and science.

On each test, students are scored as "proficient" (a high passing standard), "novice" (having basic skills) or "not yet novice" (low).

"The word 'novice' is high on the hate list," said Dorothy Beardmore, R-Rochester. "Novice, in the dictionary, means newcomer or neophyte. It doesn't represent the second category (a low score)."

On a 7-0 vote, the state board:

- Asked the Legislature to remove the School Code requirement that test results of "novice" and "proficient" be placed on student transcripts. Instead, the transcript would report the areas where the student has earned a score.
- Sent word to school districts that parents may opt for their 11th graders out of the high school proficiency tests (HSPT) only if they have disabilities or have limited English.

below-novice score would hurt youngsters' chances of being admitted to a choice college. In other cases, superintendents allegedly told weaker students to stay away in order not to reduce averages. The state wants test-skipping stopped.

"Tell them to take the test," said Clark Durant, R-Grosse Pointe, summing up board opinion.

"There shouldn't be wavers at all," said Sharon Wise, R-Oakwood. "Top administrators in the Department of Education were firm that the tests shouldn't be changed though they could be better managed."

"Changes in the test are not recommended at this time," said Art Ellis, superintendent of public instruction.

Anne Hansen, a deputy superintendent, quoted school administrators from southeastern Michigan as saying "We believe in this test" and a superintendent in western Michigan as saying "We cannot afford to lose this test. It's the most important single item in educational instruction return."

Added Ellis: "I have not had one comment from a superintendent to change the test. They say, 'We need this. Tough it out.'"

Masses of students in Birmingham, Troy, Monroe and Muskegon Heights had been reported skipping the tests, for various reasons. Some parents feared a notice or

shouted "Half failed" was "totally inappropriate," said Beardmore. "It is a very high standard, and half of it (proficiency scores) on the first try."

"When a new test is introduced," said Ellis, "test scores almost always show a dramatic decline."

Two reasons: Schools haven't changed their curricula to meet the tests, and students are caught by surprise at the test format.

Compared to previous tests, the new HSPTs "focused more on problem solving and the application of content knowledge," said Ellis, rather than calculations and reorganizations.

To complaints that the HSPTs test what schools haven't taught, Ellis said "They're not problems with the test. We are driving down to lower grades what has to be taken. I hear, 'The state is using the test to make schools teach the core curriculum.' Yes."

"Good idea," agreed board president Kathleen Straus, D-Detroit.

Ellis also defended the test scores' qualifications and credentials. "All checkers have college degrees. All tests are checked twice. We cannot let them (checkers) be abused on this."

Straus and Barbara Roberts Mason, D-Lansing, repeated parents' complaints about state accreditation of schools. "Parent didn't care if schools were accredited," Straus said.

Ellis replied that real estate

Obituaries

WILLIAM A. GRIFFITHS
William A. Griffiths died April 13 at his residence in Wixom. He was 81.

Mr. Griffiths was born Aug. 1, 1915.

Mr. Griffiths was an architect. He graduated in 1937 from the University of Michigan.

He is survived by his loving companion, Arlys Bell, son, Mark; and several grandchildren.

Services were held on Wednesday, April 16, at O'Brien Chapel/Sullivan Funeral Home of Novi.

Memorials to the charity of your choice would be appreciated.

Cindy, brother, Donald (Janet); and three grandchildren, Chad, Kyle, and Jost.

Services were held at the McLaughlin-Anniman Funeral Home in Crestview, Fla.

Memorial contributions to the American Diabetes Association, 30600 Telegraph, Bingham Farms, MI 48025 would be appreciated.

Alliance, 1003 N. Washington, Lansing, MI 48906 would be appreciated.

STEVEN G. BEAM
Steven G. Beam of Novi died April 19 at Providence Medical Center, Novi. He was 54. Mr. Beam was born April 3, 1942.

Mr. Beam was a maintenance coordinator for Ford Motor Co.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Elizabeth; daughter, Nancy Everett; son, Albert; and two grandchildren, Nicole and Ashley.

Services were held on Wednesday, April 23, at St. James Church in Novi. Interment was in Rural Hill Cemetery, Northville.

Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home of Novi.

Memorials to the American Heart Association, North Metro Region, 16310 W. Twelve Mile Road, P.O. Box 76160, Lathrup Village, MI 48076 would be appreciated.

ANTHONY N. PYTEL
Anthony Navare Pytel of Novi died suddenly on April 17, at St. Mary's Hospital in Livonia. Anthony was 4 months old. He was born Dec. 8, 1996, to Michael and Carolyn Pytel.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by sister, Christine Marie; and brother, Michael James.

Services were held on Sunday, April 20, at St. James Church in Novi.

Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home.

Memorials to the Michigan SIDS

ROBERT L. WHITE
Robert L. White of Destin, Fla., formerly of Milford, died April 19 at the age of 68. Mr. White was born May 11, 1928.

Mr. White retired from General Motors Tech Center in Milford.

He is survived by his wife, Carol; daughters, Cathy, Caron and

Memorials to the Michigan SIDS

Memorials to the Michigan SIDS

Memorials to the Michigan SIDS

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Playscape Progress

Future Fundraising Events

On Saturday, April 26, Meadowbrook Glens Subdivision will be conducting a bottle/can drive for the Tim Pope Memorial Playstructure. All Michigan returnable cans and bottles (glass & plastic) will be collected with 100 percent of the proceeds being donated to the playstructure project.

For more information, contact Anne Harland (449-8048).

Volunteer's Meeting

The Volunteer's sub-committee will be holding a special information and orientation meeting for all volunteers on Saturday, May 3. This meeting is intended for those individuals and groups already signed-up as volunteers and any other individuals who think they might be interested. All are welcome to attend.

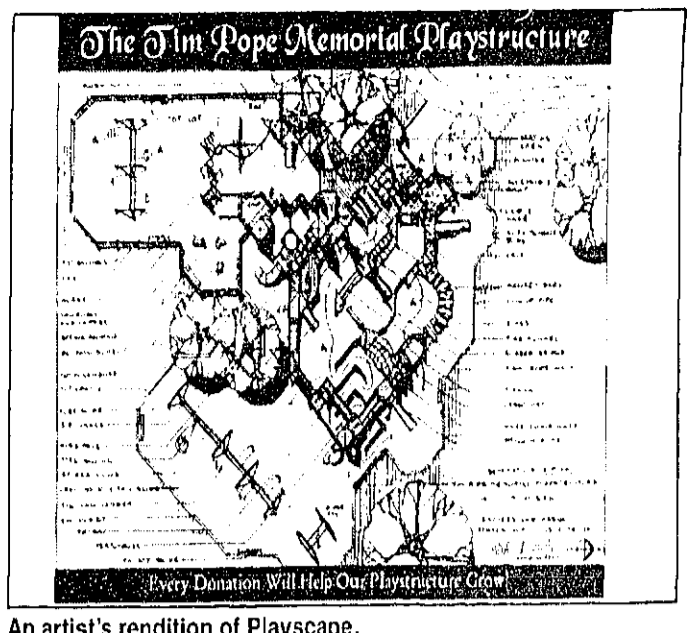
Note that this meeting will be held one hour prior to the Children's Penny Drive, Saturday, May 3, in the Novi Civic Center from 1-2 p.m.

Children's Penny Drive

The Playscape committee is encouraging the children of Novi to break open those piggy banks and donate their pennies towards the Tim Pope Memorial Playstructure. The child who brings in the most pennies will receive a special award. Other awards will be given. Instead of lining up all the pennies, the pennies will be weighed. The event will be held Saturday, May 3, in the Novi Civic Center from 2-5 p.m.

Book Sale

A book sale will be sponsored May 2-3 with 10 percent of the proceeds going to the playstructure. All types of books, especially children's, will be available at between 40-70 percent off retail prices. This book sale will be held concurrently with the Children's Penny Drive, so as the children are having their pennies weighed, mom and dad can do some book shopping. The book sale will be May 2-3 at the Novi Civic Center from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.



Rep. Cassis enters first bill on coin dealers

A state House committee Wednesday approved legislation that will increase state revenue by bringing bullion and coin dealers to Michigan, said Rep. Nancy Cassis, the bill's sponsor.

House Bill 4186 exempts bullion and investment coins from the state sales tax.

It is the first bill reported out of a committee for the freshman Republican from Novi.

"I am very pleased to see the bipartisan support this bill is receiving because of its great potential," Cassis said. "By evening the playing field with neighboring states, Michigan can compete for businesses, dealers and trade shows that will significantly affect the state's economic development."

The exemption exists in 20 states, including Ohio and Illinois.

Since the Michigan sales tax increased from 4 to 6 percent, there has been a 30 percent decline in sales of bullion and investment coins in the state.

In comparison, Ohio saw an increase of 10 to 40 percent in coin dealers' sales after it exempted the items from sales taxes. Similar business increases also were reported in Illinois after its exemption took effect.

"Michigan cannot attract coin shows or convention business because of the sales tax," Cassis said. "Dealers are going out of business or moving out of the state. In addition to bullion and coin dealers, this exemption would mean increased activity for other economic sectors, including food, lodging, transportation and retail sales."

Major coin shows prominently advertise when they are going to be in a tax-free state. It's time they started advertising that they will be in Michigan, bringing thousands of people and millions of dollars of business with them."

House Bill 4186 now goes to the full House for consideration.

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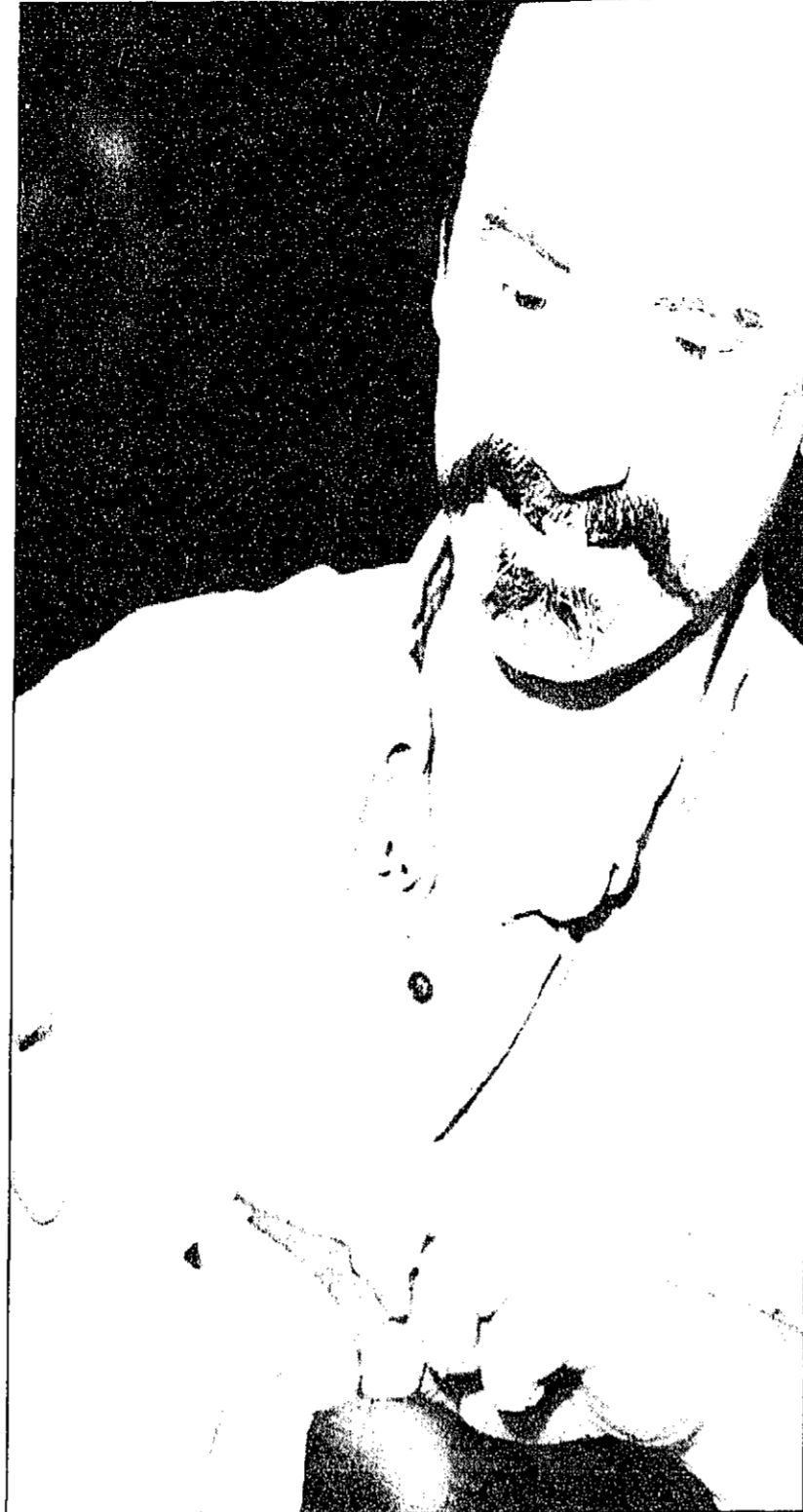


Photo by AL WARD

Artists demonstrate their skills

Above, potter Allen Weighman demonstrates his wares and abilities Sunday at the Sugarloaf Art Fair in the Novi Expo Center. The show, sponsored by Sugarloaf Mountain Works, is considered to be one of premier

traveling art shows. At right, sculptor Patrick Wise puts the finishing touches on a life size whimsical sculpture to be named "Uncle Oscar, the Absent-minded Butler," to be part of a line of known as "Sculptoons."



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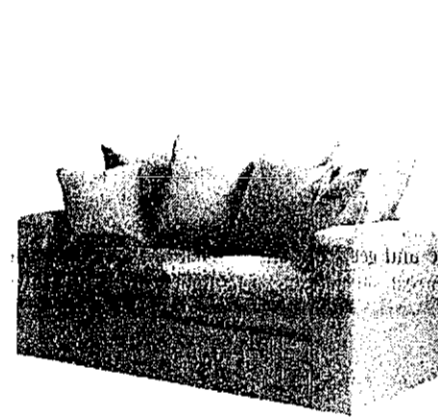


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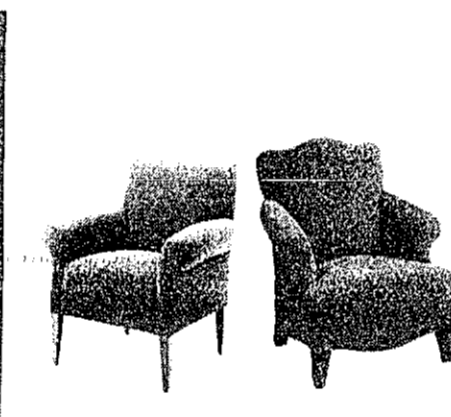
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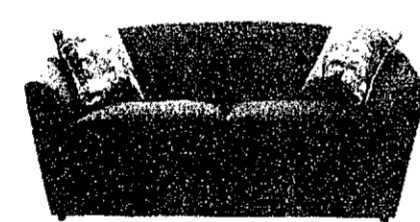
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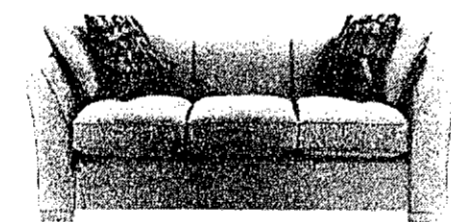
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ALL STORES OPEN SUNDAYS

Author Judith Guest speaks to area library officials

Detroit native Judith Guest, author of the nationally acclaimed novel and movie *Ordinary People*, keynoted the 11th Annual Author Luncheon benefiting the Novi, Plymouth, Canton and Northville libraries at Two Hills Country Club in Plymouth Township Thursday.

Speaking in her stocking feet before a full house that included two tables of relatives and sorority sisters from the University of Michigan, Guest enthralled her audience with her easy smile, keen sense of humor, and tales from her new release, *Errands*.

Set in Michigan, it's based on the lives of her grandparents. Guest's grandfather died at 38, 13 years before she was born. But the author had access to his diaries and hundreds of his letters.

"My grandfather knew my grandmother for four months before he married her in June of 1912," said Guest, who taught in the Garden City Public school system in the late 1950s. Guest shared accounts of her grandparents' happy courtship, as well as their trials in married life. Listening were relatives who hail from Ponton, Birmingham, Grand Rapids and Farmington.

"Making a real home is the real purpose of marriage," wrote Harry in his diary before meeting his beloved Margaret.

Several weeks later was this journal entry: "Purity is making my life happier. But my resolve is not of long standing. It's being

severely tested."

The diary's first mention of Margaret appears after Harry is invited to a party where he is introduced to his wife-to-be and her sister, "Jolly Jean."

"I'm traveling the roads of friendship at a wonderful speed. In all events, I have found some happy friends," he wrote. Some of the entries were heart-breaking to read, Guest said. A man who fell short of realizing his dreams before dying of rheumatic fever at just 38 surmised, "We must find a way to find happiness and contentment along the road."

"It made me sad, yet happy to learn I was fulfilling his dream in some way, doing the job he would have liked to have done," said Guest, who lives outside Minneapolis in Edina, Minn., and summers in Harrisville, Mich., just as her grandparents did.

The late Edgar Guest — poet laureate of Michigan who for 40 years wrote a poem a day for the *Detroit Free Press* — was Guest's great uncle. "He's the source of my endurance," said Guest, the mother of three and grandmother of five.

Guest said one of the most cosmic experiences of her literary life occurred a couple of years ago when she came across *Revel People*, by Edgar Guest. It read, "They live in modest houses, and they work from day to day. And the papers never notice what they do, or what they say. For they're always keep-

ing busy at life's commonplace affairs. Planning futures for their children, and what golden dreams of theirs. The backbone of this nation is the happy-hearted throng of ordinary people who go swinging right along."

"He wrote about ordinary people too," Guest said. "That is what I do, and all I'm interested in doing."

Guest closed with a favorite quote from "The Words to Say It," by Maria Cardinal. "Until you learn to name your ghosts and baptize your hopes, you haven't yet been born. You are still the creation of others."

Members of the audience spoke glowingly of Guest's appearance.

"She's as genuine as your next-door neighbor. I read her new book *Errands* and thought it was good," remarked Betty Griffin of the Friends of the Northville Library. "She has a very clear handle on the way kids talk. I could hear my own teenagers in the back of the station wagon speaking the same way."

Judy Morgan of the Plymouth Friends of the Library said Guest was a great draw for the annual library program.

"Judith Guest drew almost double the turnout we had last year. She's a down-to-earth, open speaker who obviously cares about her story. At one point in her talk, I was ready to cry," she commented.

State urges immunizations

Protecting more of Michigan's youngest and most vulnerable children is the focus of activities across the state during National Infant Immunization Week, running through April 26. Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Director James K. Haveman Jr. recently announced.

"The emphasis is on convenient access and free or low-cost immunizations," Haveman said. "This is a great collaboration with the Michigan Association of Broadcasters (MAB). Ronald McDonald House Charities, local public health departments and other providers statewide."

MAB members in many locations have teamed with local health departments to provide additional awareness of the special clinic hours, free or low-cost shots,

and other immunization events in their communities. "The assistance of MAB members is a vital part of letting parents know that this special opportunity is available," Haveman said.

Ronald McDonald House Charities and McDonald's restaurants are expanding the awareness effort by distributing materials such as immunization schedules, brochures, and pamphlets. "McDonald's restaurants serve millions of Michigan residents," Haveman said. "Their participation is a tremendous community service."

The awareness effort provides parents with a toll-free number, 1-800-26-BIRTH. Parents can call the number free-of-charge and get information about the nearest site for free or low-cost immunizations. Complete vaccination before the

age of two helps prevent serious childhood disease such as whooping cough, measles, mumps and rubella. Michigan's immunization rate among 2-year-olds is 74 percent, up 32 percent from 1991. "We have made excellent progress, but we still have a long way to go to protect 100 percent of our youngest children," Haveman said.

Other sponsors include the Michigan Health and Hospital Association, the Michigan State Medical Society, the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, and McNeil Consumer Products. "The contributions of each of these organizations are important," said Haveman. "Their commitment to Michigan's children is appreciated."

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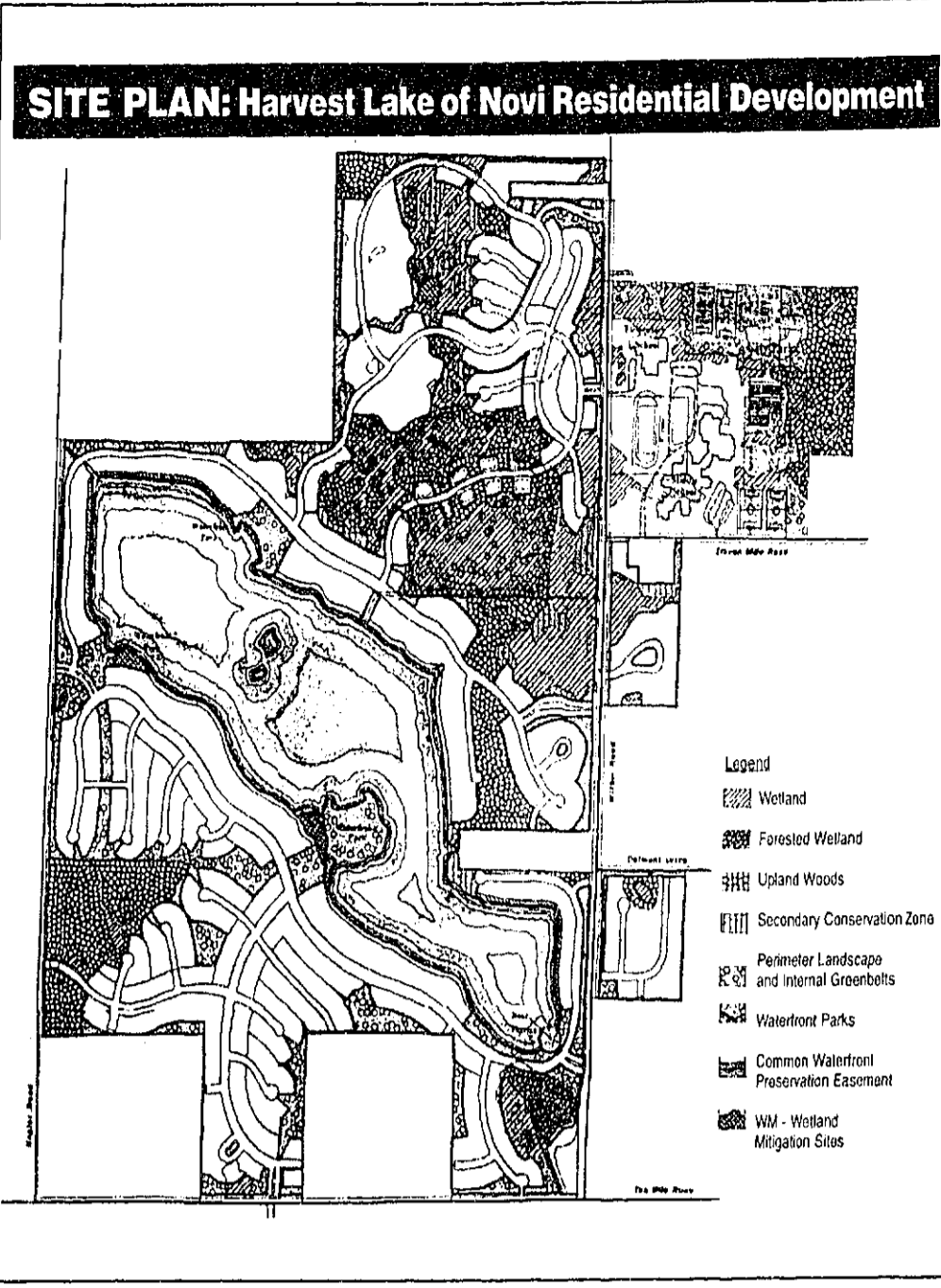
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Harvest Lake development clears planning hurdle, barely

Continued from 1
 Harvest Lake plans to top into the sewer and water mains brought in by the City of Novi and the Novi schools to serve the new middle school and city park to be built on land purchased from Harvest Land Co.
 Consultant Brandon Rogers said the development is the largest in Novi, three times larger than anything within the boundaries. Harvest has the ability to expand into adjacent properties. The company has included stub streets which lead up to those residential properties as required by the ordinance.
 "It's a far better approach than dividing up the land into individual subdivisions or maybe getting a school, maybe not," said Rogers.
 Harvest Land Co. will act as a master developer and sell small lot parcels to builders under its control. Harvest Lake has six phases and will build out in ten to 15 years, according to the plans.
 While they didn't object to the overall concept, commissioners Laura Lorenzo, Gwen Markham, Michelle Bononi and Eda Wedington voted against project after expressing reservations about the procedure followed in the application.
 Typically, the commission first votes to approve revisions in an ordinance before hearing an application to use the ordinance. However, in this case, the commission flip-flopped the agenda when the five other commissioners wanted to hear about the plans.
 That was an error in judgment according to the four commissioners.
 "It's like we're voting for something that isn't finalized yet we don't know what shape or form that RUD will take," explained Wedington. "I think we need to have that discussion first."
 Lorenzo pointed out the commission approved the project although it did not meet the current zoning ordinance.
 The approved application was not in compliance with the currently approved ordinance on the books and still may not comply with future revisions, according to Rogers.
 "Is it not our responsibility to make sure the property we send forward complies with the ordinance?" asked Markham.
 Rogers said the City Council can accept the Harvest Land revisions which would put them in compliance or accept another revision and grant waivers or send the plan to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a variance.
 The property was recently "reclaimed" after being mined for gravel for 35 years by the Edward C. Levy Company. The lake was created by the mining operation. According to Harvest Land Co., the idea has always been to put a large-scale development on the site.



Should school, city land be counted in sub plan?

By WENDY PIERMANN MITZEL
 Staff Writer
 Two Novi Planning Commissioners aren't sure they want future city or school property to be used as a way for the Harvest Land Company to build additional homes.
 "The one problem I have is we are including in the density calculations the school and city park," said Commissioner Gwen Markham at last week's Planning Commission meeting.
 "For all intents and purposes, that will belong to the school district and the city. I don't think that's right. I think Mr. (Steve) Weiner is doing what I would do if I were Mr. Weiner and that is put as many houses on that property as possible," she said.
 Steve Weiner is president of Harvest Land Co.
 Commissioner Michelle Bononi echoed Markham's thoughts.
 "If ownership is not to remain with this parcel then it is a separate parcel," she said.
 The plans, and thus the density calculations, for the proposed 900-acre Harvest Lake of Novi development includes 102 acres of property which the City of Novi and the Novi school district are negotiating to buy. The district plans to use the property, at Wixom and Eleven Mile Road, for the new middle school, and even held a ground breaking for the building on the site earlier this week.
 Assistant city attorney Dennis Watson said the use of future city and school property as well as the 11 acres of current city property bought from the Detroit Archdiocese for \$205,000 in 1995 is still an open issue with the city.
 "The final deal is not signed, sealed nor delivered so Harvest Land can continue to include it in the plans because it still retains ownership," explained Brandon Rogers, planning consultant for Novi.
 According to the Residential Unit Development ordinance, which Harvest plans to use, schools and city parks can be part of the overall RUD for the project located on the west side of Wixom Road, as long as it is under single ownership, Rogers said.
 The provision has been in the ordinance since its inception in 1984.
 If the land were to be sold before the approval, changes in the number of homes and other ordinance requirements would not be met and would have to change.
 Watson said it's difficult to tell what could happen if the land is sold in the meantime and that the deal and the project depends on a number of factors.
 "If we approve the RUD we want to make sure all land owners are locked in to the plan," he said.



Larry and Margaret Schmidt feel that the Harvest Land Company's plan to develop will negatively impact their ability to farm their own land and raise livestock.

Family struggles to hold on to farm lifestyle

Continued from 1
 Through the years, the couple has heard pitches from other developers hoping to buy them out. And they've long realized that the Levy property would be developed some day.
 "But they love their land, which includes about three acres of woods."
 "We have trees that are about 100 years old. Ash, Wild cherry. We have rare wildflowers. It's a forest," Larry Schmidt said.
 Their hope is that their property will be bermed off from the new houses and stub street bumping up against it on the north. Their fear is that the new neighbors won't like living next door to a mini-farm and will cause problems for the family.
 "I really like (the Harvest Lake) cluster concept giving them a higher density and saving the trees. We want to stay here, but we know we're going to get a lot of pressure," Larry Schmidt said.
 "All you have to do is get a couple of people who are awful about animals complaining. We've been here 22 years and we haven't received one complaint."
 The animals are friendly. They're used to being packed in a van and shipped off to be pawed by kids and adults during Margaret Schmidt's educational talks. Popular characters include the New black lamb and Betsy the pot-bellied pig who was born on the land five years ago. Today, Betsy sleeps in the barn, curled in her own blanket.
 Unlike the other local demonstration farms at MSU Tollgate Educational Center or Maybury State Park, this is the Schmidts' day in, day out real life.
 She's known as The Farm Lady for the hands-on educational programs she offers hundreds of children yearly, in school districts ranging from Birmingham to Detroit and through the Michigan History Museum and MSU.
 Both Schmidts were highly active from 1985 to about 1995 with the Novi 4-H Adventurers, offering city kids a chance to do things they'd never experience otherwise, like shearing sheep and spinning wool.
 Larry Schmidt, a Vietnam veteran, specializes in entomology and has spent countless hours teaching local kids about bugs. He raises moths in a giant cage in the yard.
 But the Schmidts also practice what they teach. They left Oak Park and bought in Novi 22 years ago when land prices were "reasonable," with the goal of becoming self-sufficient as possible.
 "For all this time, they've tried to live as much of a rural lifestyle as possible in a suburban area. They heat their home with wood. Along with enjoying fresh eggs snatched from under their hens and butchering their own turkeys for Thanksgiving, they tap their maple trees and make sugar. They can their own fruits and vegetables and are proud of their Iliini X-ira Sweet corn.
 "We've always had good rapport with our neighbors. I hope to keep it that way. It's just that this might create a problem," Margaret Schmidt said.
 "We know what they're waiting for, they're waiting for us to get out of here. I can't see anything that would make us sell if we don't want to. You lose your independence, you lose your rights if you would be forced to sell to anybody."
 Over the past two decades, the family's watched subdivisions grow up across the street and lost their prized lilac bushes to the paving and widening of Wixom Road. Still, the neighborhood's remained the kind of place where Margaret Schmidt can put the little cow on a leash and walk it down the road. Really.
 "A lot of people don't comprehend that for us money isn't everything. The land and the way of life that we live is more important than money. I would not want to leave," she said.
 "You can't take your friends with you."

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As We See It

Odd behavior by planners on Harvest Land design

We can only hope the aliens that invaded the bodies of some Novi Planning Commissioners last week have left the planet.

The many strange occurrences during a commission review of residential unit development ordinance and Harvest Lake of Novi proposal to use the ordinance lead us to conclude something was amiss.



Government

First of all, the commission broke with tradition and reviewed the RUD application for the 800-acre housing development at Ten Mile and Wixom Road before reviewing changes proposed for the RUD ordinance - changes proposed by Harvest Land Company itself.

Typically, an ordinance change is considered without reference to a particular project so that the ordinance is not designed for that specific development and can be applied elsewhere successfully.

But in this case, five of the nine commissioners wanted to see the conceptual plan for the project first and repeatedly asked Harvest Land representatives for their opinion on amendments proposed by the various commissioners.

Reviewing an ordinance proposed by a developer for his own project is quite questionable. As one commissioner in the minority pointed out: it's custom fitting the ordinance to the development. The ordinance should be able to apply to any appropriate project, not just Harvest.

That's why the commission should have reviewed the ordinance revision before looking at the project. No question.

Also, the commission already reviewed and approved a RUD update, which the City Council rejected. What makes the Harvest Land proposal any better?

Second in line of strange happenings at the April 16 meeting was the lack of commissioners questioning the use of the property for the new Novi Middle School and city park in the density calculations for the Harvest project.

Although negotiations for the sale of the property from the Harvest Land Company to the City of Novi and Novi Schools are underway, Harvest Land can use the acreage in a formula to determine how many homes can be put on the remainder of its property. Only two commissioners found this item bizarre, as we do. Kudos to Gwen Markham and Michelle Bononi.

Because the deal involves a developer in the process of building a housing project and two public entities with ties to the development, and because the negotiations can remain in closed session, there are a lot of questions about what is being negotiated.

We hope the City Council is listening and will eliminate the school and city property from the calculations. We also suggest the city remove the provision in the RUD ordinance that allows public park land and school property to be included in the plan. If the land is not part of the project, it should not be included in the plan or the density figures.

For more than a year the developer and the city have been trying to work the kinks out of agreement. What is the delay? Is there stalling to ensure Harvest gets the extra homes? Is the safe being held up so Harvest can count the land in its density calculations? Or is the city merely trying to work out the best deal for the resi-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This newspaper welcomes letters to the editor. We ask, however, that they be issue-oriented, confined to 400 words and that they contain the signature, address, and telephone number of the writer. The writer's name may be withheld from publication if the writer fears bodily harm, severe persecution, or the loss of his or her job. The writer requesting anonymity must explain his or her circumstances. Submit letters for consideration by 4 p.m. Monday for that Thursday's paper. We reserve the right to edit letters for brevity, clarity, ideal, taste and relevance. The week prior to an election, this newspaper will not accept letters to the editor that open up new issues. Only responses to already published issues will be accepted, with this newspaper being the final arbiter. This policy is an attempt to be fair to all concerned.

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The commonplace now unique



Wendy P. Mitzel

I brought home my first batch of farm fresh eggs last week.

They were the result of a visit to the Farm Lady. She sent them home with me in a plastic bag after she yanked them out of her hen house.

I'd never met the Novi Farm Lady before. But my fellow reporter in crime, Jan Jeffers, just raves about her little five acre farm.

So we both took a trip to the Farm Lady's home when we learned she might be affected by a new large-scale development planned to butt right up next to her property.

It was hard to imagine a series of homes springing up next to the small cow pasture, hard to imagine most of her perimeter bound by Novi-sized mansions.

You see, hanging out on Margaret and Larry Schmidt's farm is a precious opportunity. There are no sounds of traffic whooshing by, only the sounds of the couple's cute puppy, Bern, zooming by and then doubling back to harass the barn cats.

There are no sounds of bulldozers or carpenter's hammers and drills building away, only the sounds

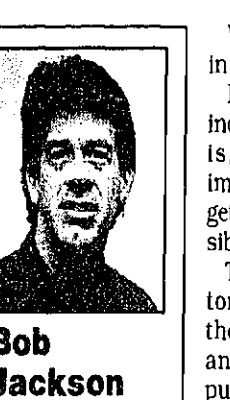
In Focus

By John Heider



A mother and her two sons form a complicated dance partnership at the Northville Mother and Son Hoedown.

It's a hoedown



Bob Jackson

What news should appear in a community newspaper? Discussing what will be included every week in papers, in our minds, just as important as how the stories get written, and it is a responsibility we take seriously.

There are letters to the editor this week that question the wisdom of this reporter, and the newspaper itself, in publishing a story regarding a school district investigation of an employee who booked a trip to Cancun for 35 Northville High School seniors.

During the trip a few of the students - and I stress a very few - took some liberties that wouldn't necessarily be allowed back here in Northville.

We knew upfront that we could take some flak for publishing the report. Sure enough, when the newspaper hit the streets the phone calls came and the letters began pouring in.

"What business is it of yours what our kids do on their spring break?" an angry parent asked me. "What gives you the right to print this kind of stuff?"

"By publishing your story you have ruined it for next year's seniors," another parent pointed out. "Just because a few kids got out of hand doesn't mean the whole group acted irresponsibly."

Both parents raise fair questions. It isn't essentially our business what people do on their vacations. It is our business, however, to look at the ill-advised actions of a few teens if they are connected with a

Robert Jackson is a staff writer for The Northville Record and The Novi News.

Stay the course of proficiency test



Phil Power

Compounding the problem was the nomenclature adopted by the Legislature to characterize test scores on high school transcripts: "proficient," "novice" and "not yet novice." In descending order, Parents and students who had been getting good grades were particularly angered by the use of "novice" - "new, inexperienced," according to my dictionary - to characterize performance on the HSPT.

Then a major statewide daily newspaper, avid in search of readership, gave prominent play to a story on HSPT results under the screaming headline, "Half the Juniors in Michigan Fail Standardized Tests," thereby distorting both the results and the purposes of the test.

Always alert to sharpshooting opportunities, various legislators got into the act.

Rep. Kirk Proff, a Democrat who represents communities in eastern Washtenaw County and usually knows better, introduced a bill to delay the next round of HSPTs. "It has become abundantly clear that the testing instruments being used in an effort to determine high school proficiency are failing as proper measurements of who is actually proficient," grumped Proff's press release.

Republican state senators representing communities in Oakland County held a set of hearings, making sure along the way not to include Democratic lawmakers, Democratic Sens. Gary Peters and Ken DeBeauvoir promptly held their own hearings.

So backers of serious school reform were plenty concerned when the State Board of Education held its monthly meeting last

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Continuing assault on developers

To the Editor:

It is nice to see Nancy Cassis continue her assault on the development community as though it were some sort of evil with which the rest of society has to deal. It is also impressive to see The Novi News continue to support "fashionable" and politically expedient positions relative to "taxation without representation." I will compliment The Novi News, however, for clearly indicating that impact fees are ultimately paid by the next generation of consumers, as no informed developer could possibly bear the burden of improving the infrastructure for an entire community.

What does shock me, however, is the suggestion by Cassis, as reported in and supported by The Novi News, that developers always "freely" accept a hefty chunk of change. That, of course, is a stupid and naive statement, as developers, like all businesses, are subject to the ups and downs of an economy, prudent business decisions, costs of financing, market conditions, etc. Developers make no more "chunks of change" than do automotive companies, restaurants, clothing stores, gas

Letters

stations, and other businesses that fuel our economy. Unfortunately, developers are simply the easiest group for local municipalities to continuously tax because they cannot be represented in their vote, are dependent on local approvals, and it is easy to tax future residents who do not vote.

Notwithstanding that all of us work, live, and entertain ourselves in real estate projects put together by "developers," you continue to believe that developers represent some form of negative to our local communities. Addressing meaningful goals if the responsibility of all citizens of a community - those that pay taxes and those that enjoy the benefits of a community.

In the City of Novi, developers through a cooperative effort with the city, paid for and paved Nine Mile Road between Taft and Beck and improved sewer and water in that area. Developers have paid for many other off-site improvements in Novi without "impact fee" legislation. However, that was at a time when the city was willing to sit down with the development community and address its needs so that all sides benefited.

Who do you believe uses the roads and infrastructure in the city now? The capacity paid for by "previous" residents has been used up by "new citizens," even though that infrastructure was paid for by "old citizens." Shouldn't the new users, in fact, be charged under some equitable basis their use?

The Novi News continues to applaud the City of Novi for funding new and creative ways to tax future residents through the development community. Its building, review, consulting, engineering, water, sewer, wetland, and woodland fees are individually, and in the aggregate, the most expensive in southeast Michigan. Do you believe that has made Novi a better community? I think not. It is time to realize that what makes Novi so successful is its geographic

Learning what this city is all about

To the Editor:

During this past ice storm I found out what this fine City of Novi is all about. With all the damage my neighbors and I sustained from falling trees I called the city to ask for help, and was told by the DPW office that they could not help because they did not have the proper equipment, (i.e. chippers and trucks).

They told me they hired crews that had the equipment, but only for city owned property, not for residents. I was told we were on our own to clean up the mess. What really got me upset was when they told me that the taxpayers would not approve a mileage to buy this equipment. I've been in Novi over eight years now and have never once seen a mileage on the ballot for equipment such as this. If people saw it I'm sure it would have passed.

People in this city vote yes for

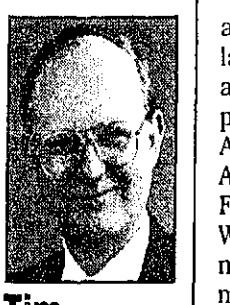
almost everything. This city buys land, builds ice arenas, makes roads for developers and possibly golf courses, all without voters approval. But when we need a hand, we're on our own.

This week I saw a notice on the cable network, Channel 13, giving us until April 15, to have our trees removed from our lots. When are the citizens of this city going to wake up and see what our local government is all about?

I sure hope that this November the people of Novi remember how we've been treated and vote to make changes. Send the mayor and all of those members of council up for reelection packing and bring in newcomers that will really have the people of Novi in their best interest.

Al Hulslander

History misses contribution of banks



Tim Richard

The news coverage was almost laughable. Pictures and sound bites of politicians Dennis Archer, Al Gore, Andrew Cuomo. Fawning over the White House Community Empowerment Conference.

A bare mention of what made new jobs and housing possible: The bankers from seven banks that bankrolled some \$600 million of Detroit's economic rebirth.

"Was ever thus," in the media and history books. What we learned in high school and even college was less history than government history. Kids probably would get bored if history focused on banks and credit. As adults, we use the history we learned as kids.

One of the University of Michigan's great professors, the late J. Philip Wernette of the Business School, used to compare the economy's money supply to a human's blood supply. Too little, and you had anemia and depression. Too much, and you had high blood pressure and inflation. The right amount, and you had good health and a "sanguine" economy. He was colorfully correct.

John Steele Gordon has written a new book called "Hamilton's Blessing" (Walker 1997) about the role of the national debt

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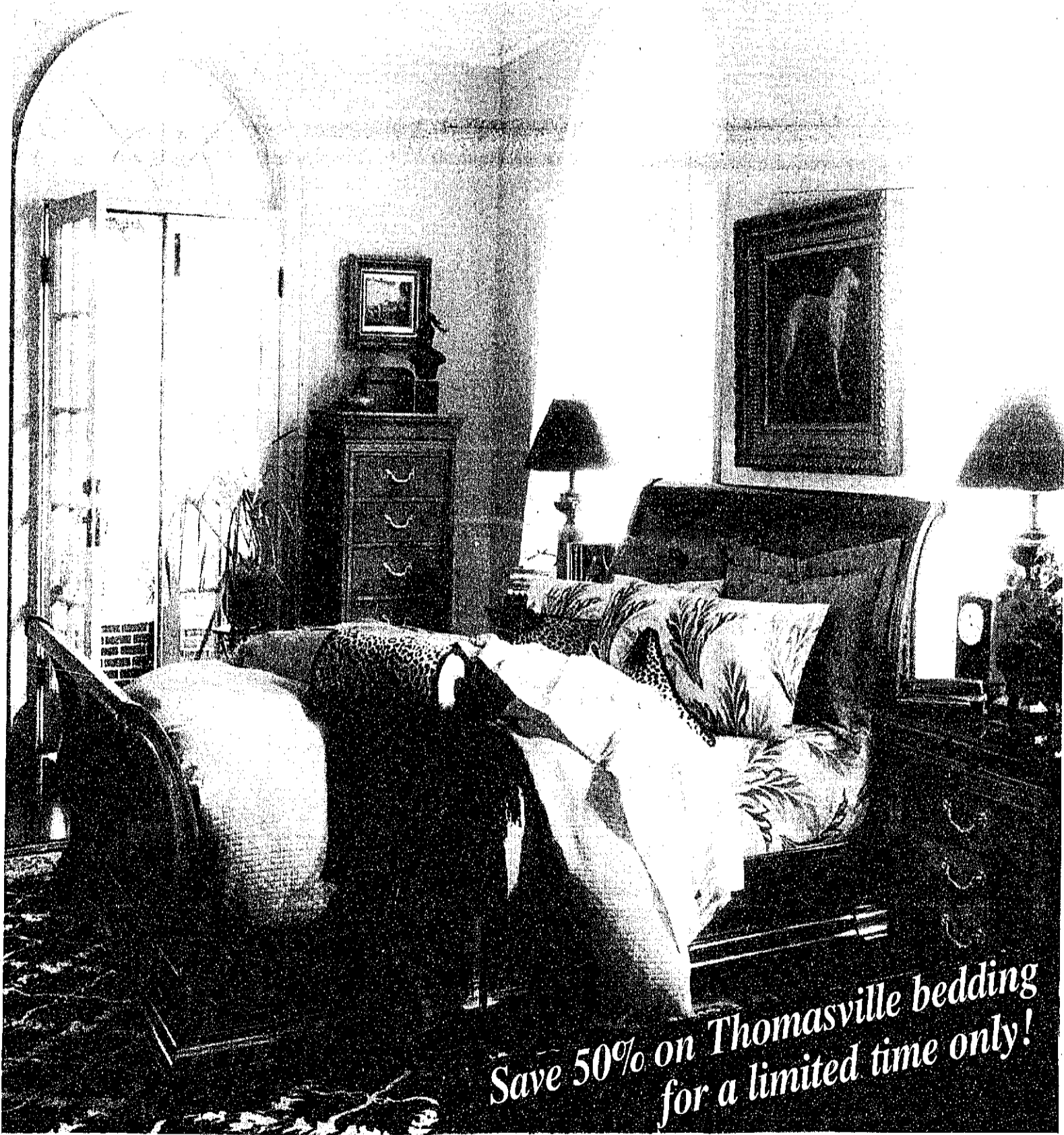
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the NOVI
NEWS

Living

HIGHLIGHTS:
Lioness will host
Euchre tournaments-2B

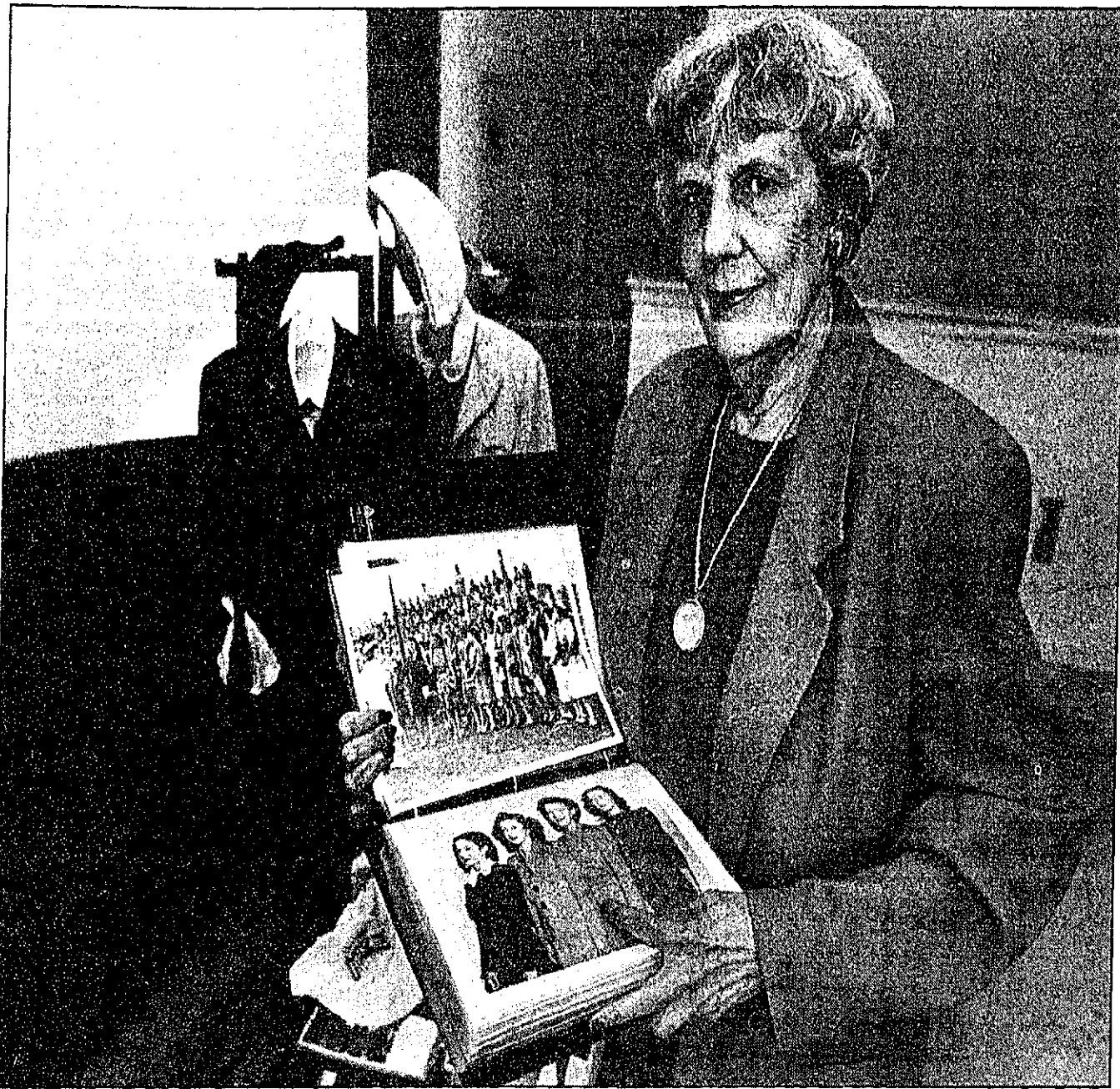
NEW LIFE CHURCH:
Ceremony on Sunday
officially recognizes church-4B

REPUBLICAN:
Woman to receive
award for service-3B

DIVERSIONS:
Busy weekend for plays,
concerts and art exhibits-6B

B

THURSDAY
April 24,
1997



Novi resident Bettie Johnson has a collection of military memorabilia that spans fifty years.

Bettie wants YOU

Navy vet searches for women who served in the military service so that they may be honored and recognized

Bettie Johnson is looking for a few good women. In fact, Johnson is searching for quite a lot of service-women to make sure that their service is recognized and honored in The Women in Military Service Memorial.

The Memorial which will be dedicated in October 1997 in Washington.

Johnson, a Novi resident, has joined more than 1,700 field service representatives of The Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation (WMSA) worldwide looking to register 1.8 million U.S. women veterans and all of the women who have contributed to the nation's military efforts throughout history.

Starting as far back as the American Revolution, women served on the battlefields as nurses, water bearers, cooks, laundresses and saboteurs and as service personnel.

In 1986, Congress mandated the

construction of a memorial to honor all the women who've served in the United States military from the Revolutionary War to the present.

Johnson attended the groundbreaking on June 22, 1995, for The Women's Memorial, which is being built at the main entrance to Arlington National Cemetery.

"Everything connected with this has been first class," said Johnson, a charter member of WMSA.

On Veterans Day in 1995, Johnson went to New York City and walked the route from 47th to 79th streets she had ridden 50 years earlier in the Thanksgiving Day parade.

"We broke a lot of ground back 50 years ago," she said.

Johnson served as a switchboard operator in the Navy because her brother was in the Navy Air Corps and because she had experience as a

switchboard operator with the telephone company.

"I wish I hadn't told them, because I really wanted to get some training on something different," she said. "I thought if my older brother went to the Navy it must be the right place to go, so that is where I went."

Johnson has half a dozen scrapbooks of memorabilia spanning more than 50 years.

"I was always a very enthusiastic Navy person," she said.

The heart of The Women's Memorial will be a computer registry featuring photographs, records of service and memorable stories of women who have served in the United States military.

Eligible women are those who have served in Active Duty, the Reserves and the National Guard; all veterans, living and deceased; service auxiliaries; and the U.S. Public Health Ser-

vice of uniformed women.

Women in the Red Cross, USO, and Special Services serving overseas in direct support of U.S. armed forces during conflict are also eligible.

If you are a former servicewoman, or know of a woman who might be eligible, call Bettie Johnson at (810) 960-9559.

A major fund-raising effort for The Women's Memorial is the sale of the Women in Military Service Commemorative Silver Dollar, the only coin ever issued by the U.S. to honor military women. To order a coin, contact The Women's Memorial at 1-800-222-2294.

For more information about The Women's Memorial, write to the Women in Military Service Memorial Foundation, Department 560, Washington, DC 20042-0560, or call 1-800-222-2294.

Women in the military: A Timeline

- 1881 - Red Cross founded
 - Feb. 2, 1901 - Army Nurse Corps established
 - May 13, 1908 - Navy Nurse Corps established
 - 1941 - USO founded
 - May 15, 1942 - Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) established
 - July 30, 1942 - Women's Reserve of the U.S. Navy (WAVES) established
 - Nov. 23, 1942 - Women's Reserve U.S. Coast Guard (SPARs) established
 - Feb. 13, 1943 - Marine Corps Women's Reserve established
 - July 1, 1943 - Women's Army Corps (WAC) established
 - Aug. 5, 1943 - Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) established
 - April 16, 1947 - Women's Medical Specialist Corps established
 - June 12, 1948 - Women's Armed Services Integration Act granted women permanent status in the Regular and Reserve forces of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and newly created separate Air Force.
 - July 1, 1949 - Air Force Nurse Corps established
 - Nov. 8, 1967 - President Johnson signed Public Law 90-130 repealing ceilings on women's promotions.
 - Oct. 7, 1975 - President Ford signed Public Law 94-106 admitting women to the military academies. Women were enrolled in both service academies, Westpoint and the U.S. Naval Academy, by the fall of 1976.
 - 1978 - The Coast Guard was the first service to open all assignments to women.
 - Oct. 20, 1978 - Women's Army Corps (WAC) disestablished
 - 1992 - Passage of the Defense Authorization Bill repealed laws banning women from flying in combat.
 - 1993 - Congress repealed the ban on women serving aboard combat ships.
- Those who served:**
Number of Women who served in military conflicts
- Civil War:** Unknown
 - Spanish-American War:** 1,500
 - World War I:** 33,000
 - World War II (era):** 400,000
 - Korea (era):** 120,000
 - Vietnam (deployed in theater):** 7,000
 - Grenada (deployed):** 170
 - Panama (deployed):** 770
 - Desert Storm (deployed):** 41,000
(7% of total U.S. force deployed)

Story by Carol Workens • Photo by John Heider

Volunteer



Kathy Maciag (left) enjoys bowling with Dawnanne Auten.

Maciag finds being a Big Sister rewarding

By CAROL WORKENS
Staff Writer

Kathy Maciag became a Big Sister in November 1994. Her little sister is 11-year-old Dawnanne Auten of Novi.

"She is a great girl," Maciag said. "She is very enthusiastic, very talented, likes art, is very friendly and outgoing and loves to meet new people."

Maciag heard about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit from a friend who was a Big Brother.

"I grew up in a very loving family, very close knit," Maciag said. "I always felt like I wanted to provide an opportunity to have an effect on someone's life."

She went through an extensive interview process with social workers, completed a written personality test, and attended an orientation class.

There are 400 matches in Oakland County, according to Christi-

na Konop, a social worker for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

"Little brothers and sisters are always on the waiting list, unfortunately," Konop said. "Matches are not first-come, first-serve - it is whoever would be more appropriate for someone."

Pairs with similar interests, common family backgrounds and close proximity is what the organization is looking at, according to Konop. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age, have their own transportation and be able to make a time commitment of at least one year.

"The child gets used to having that person in their life," Konop said. "Like a friendship, you don't just cut it off after a year. They get used to that special attention."

Maciag and Dawnanne go roller

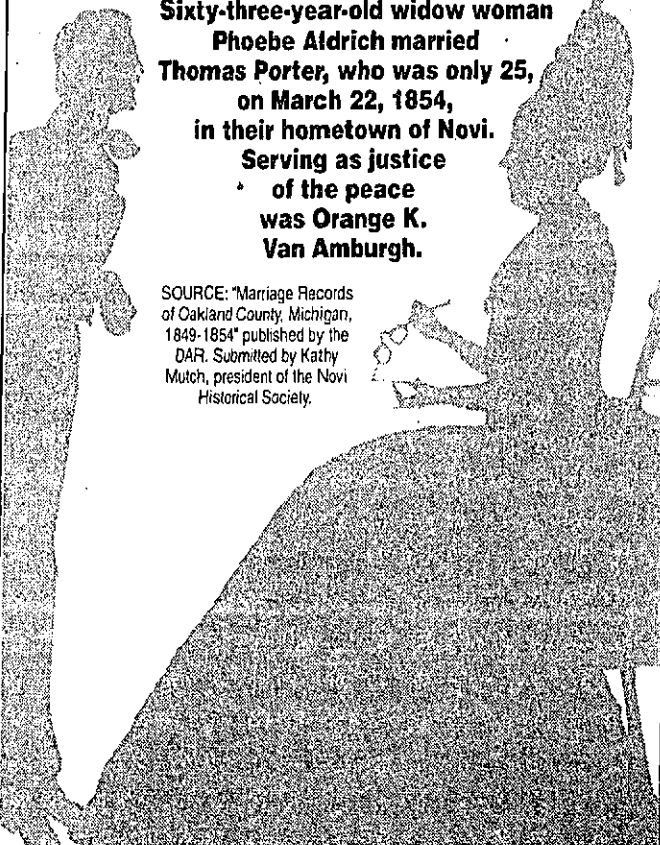
Continued on 5

It's A Fact

MAY-DECEMBER?

Sixty-three-year-old widow woman Phoebe Aldrich married Thomas Porter, who was only 25, on March 22, 1854, in their hometown of Novi. Serving as justice of the peace was Orange K. Van Amburgh.

SOURCE: "Marriage Records of Oakland County, Michigan, 1849-1854" published by the DAR. Submitted by Kathy Mutch, president of the Novi Historical Society.



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the NOVI NEWS Sports

Golfers third at tourney



By SCOTT DANIEL Sports Editor
Scrambles-style golf is usually reserved for weekend duffers and the end of various league seasons.

But Novi High got a chance to compete in the popular format Saturday at the South Lyon Tournament. The Wildcats finished third with a total of 365 while Livonia Stevenson was first at 351 and Brighton second at 363.

"It was interesting," coach Deb Harris said of the tournament. "Our scrambles teams did even better than I thought they would. I was real pleased with what they did."

Novi's first team, which was comprised of Erin Stevens, Kate Miller, Amanda Curly and Rebecca Chang shot 177 for nine holes and took second place.

Novi won the meet, which was comprised of Erin Stevens, Kate Miller, Amanda Curly and Rebecca Chang shot 177 for nine holes and took second place.

SPORTS SHORTS: Baseball competition on deck in city 1/0B
TENNIS: Wildcats second at Fenton Invitational 1/1B
9B THURSDAY April 24, 1997

Runners sail to easy win at Novi Relays

By SCOTT DANIEL Sports Editor
After a slow start, Novi High's women's track team is coming on strong.

The Wildcats proved that play by winning the Novi Relays Saturday. The Cats dominated the meet, scoring 94 points, 28 more than second place Farmington Hills Harston.

"We had some really good performances. Times are coming down," SUE TOMINEK, Novi High women's track coach

Novi won four out of eight running relays. Tominek was particularly encouraged with the performance of her sprinters in the meet. She said Novi needs to continue to improve in that area to challenge for a league title.

"Sprint relays are starting to come around," Tominek commented. "The starting is set better balance."

Novi won the 400-meter relay, the 400-meter relay in 54.93 seconds. Novi won the distance medley with Camp Harrison, Jenny Hampton and Rook (13:34.89).

The Wildcats hosted Hartland on April 15 and, again, dominated. Novi, in fact, won all but two of the 16 events.

Softballers win Early Bird crown

By SCOTT DANIEL Sports Editor
You can't stop Novi High's softball team. Heck, you can't even hope to contain them.

The streaking Wildcats made it four in a row Saturday by sweeping both games in their Early Bird Tournament Saturday. The Green and White didn't allow a single run in the two games.

"I'm very pleased," coach Carol Diglio said of her team's continued success. "We're having a lot of fun."

Novi won the season, the Wildcats have already won more games than last year. Novi played and important league doubleheader at Lakeland tomorrow starting at 4 p.m.

NOVI DOES BOSTON

The 101st running of the Boston Marathon was held Monday. A number of Novi residents ran in the 26-mile race. Here's a list of local athletes:

Table with columns: Name, Time, Finish. Mark Squires 3:03:32 962nd, Larry Hudson 3:43:06 4,939th, Hub Copp 4:19:24 7,621st, Mary DeMatia 4:35:18 8,232nd

Novi 2, SOUTH LYON 0
The Wildcats traveled to South Lyon on April 16 for a game with the Lions.

Seaholm downs lacrosse squad

By SCOTT DANIEL Sports Editor
Experience is important in any sport, but perhaps even more so in lacrosse.

Birmingham Seaholm drove that point home Thursday by crushing Novi High 20-6. The Maples feature 17 seniors in their lineup.

"They're one of the top teams in the state," coach Stan Zajdel said. "I knew we'd have a long day in front of us."

Novi's offense got untracked in the final two periods. Cory Darling scored a pair of goals to lead the way while Matt Crepeau, Chris Johnson, Matt Bailey and Jason Rafeld added goals.

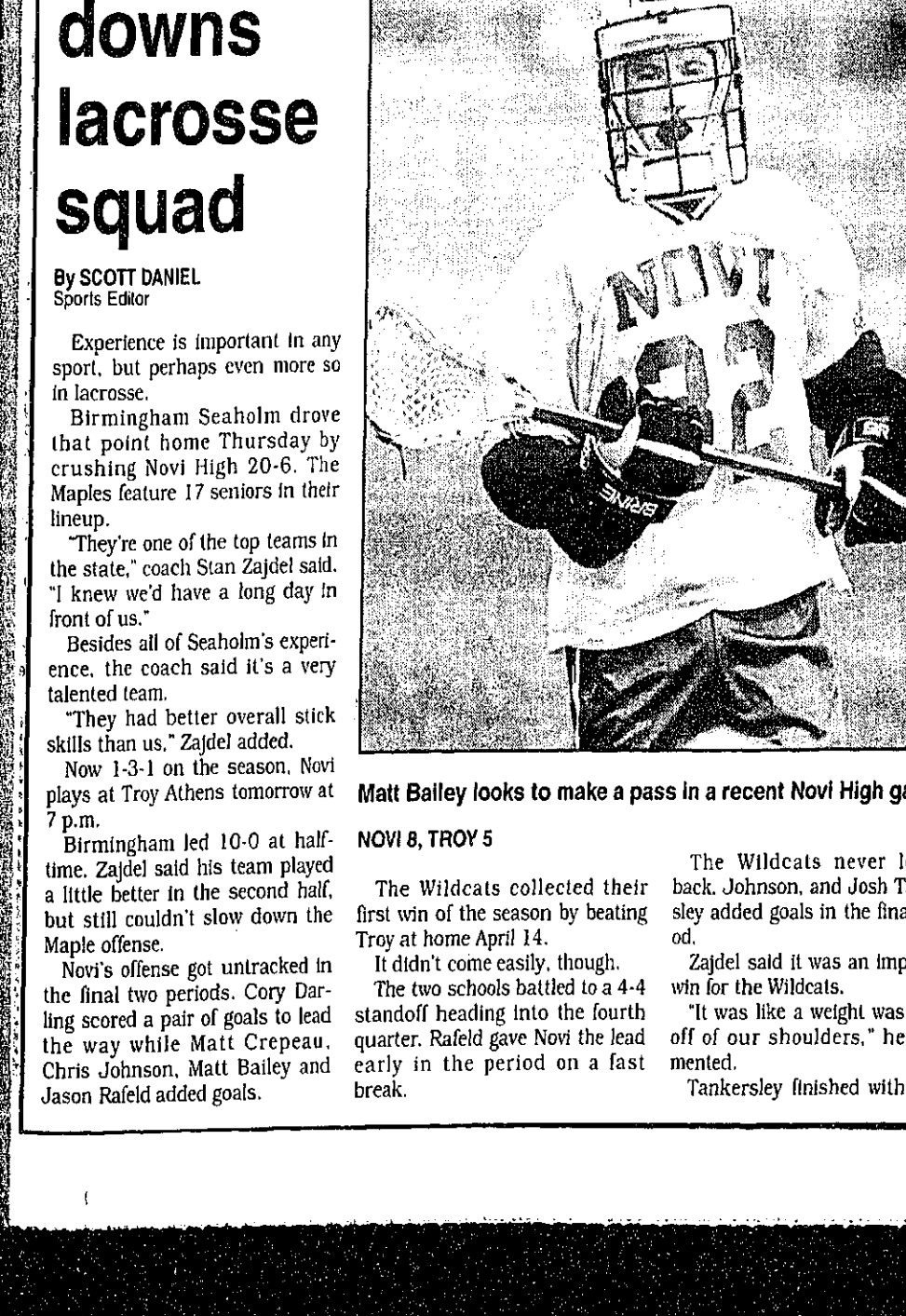
Kickers clip Eagles 7-1 behind Raburn

By SCOTT DANIEL Sports Editor
Lydia Raburn scored four goals to lead the Wildcat soccer team to a 7-1 road victory over Hartland Saturday.

Novi led 2-0 at halftime and put the Eagles away in the second half with a relentless offense. Despite the offensive outburst from Raburn, coach Larry Christoff said his team has shown good scoring balance so far this season.

"We're getting a lot of people involved," he said. "I'm happy with that." LARRY CHRISTOFF, Novi High soccer coach

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Matt Bailey looks to make a pass in a recent Novi High game.

Health

the NOVI
NEWS
12B
THURSDAY
April 24,
1997

Birth 'traumas' not common

Many of us have heard of or know of a child who was delivered during a "difficult birth." Obstetricians refer to some of these cases as "birth trauma."

One form of birth trauma, occurring in 1 in 200 deliveries, is called shoulder dystocia. This is a situation where the baby's shoulders get caught in the birth canal resulting in nerve injury, broken collar bones, newborn asphyxia or worse. Mothers delivering a baby with this difficulty often require a generous episiotomy and may sustain pelvic lacerations.

Fortunately, most cases of shoulder dystocia are treatable and the baby delivers without long-term injury. Needless to say, however, shoulder dystocia disrupts that birthing experience and is emotionally stressful for the mother, her family and health care providers.

Over the years, I have been teaching a technique I call the "Head and Shoulder" maneuver. It seems to help prevent shoulder dystocia in

the situation where it is least expected but most often occurs - in the average size baby. By making sure that the top shoulder comes out of the birth canal right after the head delivers, I know it is safe to stop to suction the mouth and nose. If the shoulder is not delivering easily, I know to institute additional maneuvers.

Traditionally, the birth attendant suctions the mouth and nose before delivering the shoulders. This delay may allow the top shoulder to rotate behind the maternal symphysis pubis bone causing a shoulder dystocia. At this point, it may be more difficult to institute additional maneuvers to relieve the problem.

Despite our best efforts, obstetricians and certified nurse midwives have not found a way to consistently predict which babies are at risk for shoulder dystocia. We do know that large babies, especially those whose mothers are diabetic, seem to have the greatest probability.

Yet, most large babies usually deliver without serious complications.

There are several maneuvers that are taught to obstetricians and certified nurse midwives to treat shoulder dystocia. These have evolved over the years and address the problem after it occurs. Unfortunately, sometimes even in the hands of the most experienced health care provider, a shoulder dystocia still leads to birth trauma. Perhaps this reactive medical tradition needs further analysis and change.

By the way, it's easy for your obstetrician or certified nurse midwife to remember the "Head and Shoulder" maneuver, especially if they've ever suffered from dandruff.

This article was written by Robert Welch, MD, the chairman of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Providence Hospital.

Rehabilitation specialists help children

How many ways can we help you comb your hair? Is there a better way to move yourself around?

These are some of the questions faced by Drs. Virginia Nelson and Edward Hurvitz of the Pediatric Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation service at the University of Michigan Medical Center's C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.

These two rehabilitation specialists (also known as physiatrists), are interested in improving the daily functioning of children with disabilities such as cerebral palsy, myelodysplasia, muscular dystrophy, or any condition or syndrome that interferes with the ability to do what children need to do.

Many of the patients in the clinic have an acquired disability from a car accident or an illness.

Drs. Nelson and Hurvitz use the services of therapists, psychologists, dietitians, orthotists, wheelchair specialists and many other professionals to create a team that will improve the child's function. Each specialist contributes his or her unique point of view to attack the problem.

If a child is having difficulty with communication, for example, the speech and language pathologists will assess the child's oral motor function and ability to use a computer device, if needed. The rehabilitation engineers will test the child's ability to access different devices. If improved hand function will increase the use of

the device, the occupational therapist can help to reduce muscle tightness.

Families are always interested in knowing what is new for treatment of their child's functional problem. The pediatric rehabilitation clinic has always been at the forefront with new innovations. Many of the newest treatments have been aimed at decreasing increased muscle tone (spasticity) in children with cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injuries, stroke, spinal cord injury and other similar conditions.

Botulinum toxin injections, for example, have become increasingly popular during the past few years, but Drs. Hurvitz and Nelson were among the first rehabilitation physicians using them. These injections are used to decrease muscle tightness so children can walk better and get more use out of their hands.

Parents also benefit because, to use one example, they can more easily change diapers in children with less muscle tightness around the hip. The patients have noted a high rate of success, with very few complications. Although the injections only work temporarily, the children's muscle can be well stretched and physical therapy is often more effective during that time. The injections can also be repeated.

Physiatrists often work with other medical specialties to provide more comprehensive treatment. The University of Michigan Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy program is a collaborative effort between Dr. Hurvitz and Dr. Karlin

Muraszko, Mott's chief pediatric neurosurgeon. This program, which is one of the most experienced of its kind in the nation, evaluates children for a neurosurgical procedure that will often significantly reduce spasticity and increase function.

More than 150 children have had the procedure and therapy and many have made wonderful progress in their walking and other movements. Almost all of the children have noticed a reduction of the tightness of the muscle in their legs.

The rehabilitation and neurosurgical teams are beginning a new collaboration on a device that will deliver a tone-reducing medicine to the spinal cord. This device, called the Baolofen Pump, is a small metal disc that is placed under the skin, and has a catheter that goes directly to the spinal cord.

The Pediatric Rehabilitation clinic acts as a gateway to many other special services, including evaluations for children with swallowing problems, patients who need special devices to communicate, and advice about computer access. Every aspect of function and care needs is considered.

Written by Edward Hurvitz M.D., a practicing physician at the Pediatric Rehabilitation Clinic, the University of Michigan Health System. For more information call (313) 936-7200.

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Health Notes

Fathers

"Fathers Who Care," an eight-week program on Tuesdays, May 6-June 24, from 6-7:30 p.m. in the second floor auditorium at the Detroit Medical Center. Topics discussed include how to be a dad, showing your child you care, talking and bonding with your child, and more.

To register, call toll-free, 1-888-362-2500. There is no charge.

This program is offered at the DMC Health Care Center in Novi, located on Twelve Mile between Novi and Meadowbrook roads.

Seminar

A free seminar entitled "Avoid an Attack" will be held on Thursday, May 8, at 6 p.m. in the second floor auditorium.

Stroke and heart disease are leading killers. Learn more about cholesterol and blood pressure in relation to preventing stroke and heart disease.

For more information or to register, call toll-free, 1-888-362-2500, by May 7.

This program is offered at the DMC Health Care Center in Novi, located on Twelve Mile between Novi and Meadowbrook roads.

Sports Injuries

The seminar "Preventing Sports-Related Injury" will be held on Thursday, May 15, at 7 p.m. in the second floor auditorium.

Ronald Lederman M.D., orthopedic surgeon, will discuss how to prevent sports injuries in the active person of any age. Learn about exercise safety tips.

For more information or to register, call toll-free, 1-888-362-2500, by May 14.

This program is offered at the DMC Health Care Center in Novi, located on Twelve Mile between Novi and Meadowbrook roads.

Headaches

A free seminar entitled "Help for Headaches" is being offered on Thursday, May 8, from 7-9 p.m. in its Conference Center at Huron Valley Hospital.

Psychologist David Wartel Ph.D., will discuss current treatments available for headaches. Psychophysiological factors contributing to headaches and nonmedical treatment approaches will be the focus.

For more information or to register, call toll-free, 1-888-362-2500, by May 7.

Screenings

The University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center and department of Otolaryngology are offering free throat cancer screenings on Saturday, April 26, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Taubman Health Care Center in Ann Arbor. Symptoms of throat cancer may include a sore throat or hoarseness that won't go away and difficulty swallowing. Smoking, chewing tobacco

and drinking alcohol are all risk factors for throat cancer. Exams will take less than 45 minutes, and a complimentary parking voucher or round-trip AATA bus pass will be provided. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call the Cancer AnswerLine nurses at 1-800-865-1125.

Support Group

Huron Valley Hospital is hosting an Ostonomy Support Group beginning Thursday, May 22. This group meets on the fourth Thursday in May, July, September, January and March from 7-8:30 p.m.

Professionals will provide a variety of topics to increase the patients' knowledge of ostomies and coping skills.

For more information or to be added to the mailing list, call 1-888-632-2500.

Stuffy Noses

A free seminar entitled "Stuffy Noses - Allergies, Sinusitis and Deviated Septums" will be given on Tuesday, May 13, in the Conference Center of Huron Valley Hospital.

Howard Yerman M.D., a board-certified ear, nose and throat specialist will discuss the different causes of nasal congestion and their treatment.

For more information or to register, call toll-free, 1-888-362-2500, by May 7.

Stop Smoking

If you're ready to kick the tobacco habit, St. Mary Hospital has the class for you. The two-week, four-session Smoke-Free Living Class will be offered from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays, from May 5 through 15, in the lower level Classroom E.

The Smoke-Free Living Class is a two-week program to help individuals quit smoking. The class covers the effects of smoking, benefits of quitting, what to expect when you quit, coping techniques and strategies on staying smoke-free. The program is designed to give you the tools, confidence and support you need to eliminate your smoking habit. The \$25 fee includes all materials.

Deadline for registration is Thursday, May 1. To register, call the Community Outreach Department toll free at 1-800-494-1650.

Health education library

Providence Hospital and Medical Centers is now making its health education library open to the public.

The library has books, video tapes, computer databases, pamphlets and anatomical models available to the public which can be used to learn about illnesses, medications, parenting skills or other health issues. The library is located at Providence Medical Center-Providence Park, 47601 Grand River, and is open

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call (810) 380-4110 for more information.

Blood Pressure Checks

Providence Medical Center-Providence Park is offering free blood pressure checks Monday-Friday, 9-11 a.m.

Area residents are invited to visit Providence Medical Center-Providence Park, located at 47601 Grand River Ave., to obtain this free service. Screening will take place in Providence's Emergency Care Center located within the center.

For further information, contact (810) 380-4225.

Diabetes Series

Diabetes patients and their family members are invited to a three-part series on living a healthy life with diabetes. The series will be held in the second floor auditorium at DMC Health Care Centers-Nov, located at 41935 W. Twelve Mile Road. There is no fee to attend, but preregistration is required. To register, call (810) 347-8102.

Series meets on the following Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

• Wednesday, April 30 - Foot Care, Neuropathy, and Vascular Disease, presented by Dr. Herbert Lantor and Dr. Kirit Tolia.

• Wednesday, May 14 - Nutrition and Meal Planning, presented by Debra Consiglio, RN, CDE.

Diabetes-Cize

This is a 10-week comprehensive exercise program co-sponsored by Health Development Network and Cardio-Care of Botsford General Hospital. The program will help people with diabetes better control blood sugar levels and improve cardiovascular fitness.

For more information, call (810) 477-6100.

Fitness Fun

This program is geared toward the older adult who wants to move from a sedentary lifestyle into a moderate exercise program.

There is a \$25 fee and a registration is required. Contact the Botsford Center for Health Improvement, (810) 473-5600, to register.

Prostate Cancer Support

Offering knowledgeable speakers each month, this support group provides both encouragement and education about prostate cancer, its treatments and the physical and emotional issues associated with it.

It meets the third Monday of every month at 7 p.m. and it's free.

Tulip Garden
DETAIL KATHLEEN CHANEY-FRITZ

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