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NEWS

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 FOR NOVI HOCKEY SQUAD / 9B

City hires new guns for appeal

By JAN JEFFRES
 Staff Writer

Area law firms have been chomping at the bit to represent Novi in the city's sure to be publically generating appeal of the \$40 million Sandstone lawsuit judgment.

Monday, the Novi City Council chose the Detroit-based Plunkett & Cooney, which will work with city attorneys Fried, Watson & Bugbee on the litigation as it proceeds to the Michigan Court of Appeals.

"They all wanted the case very badly. This is a high-profile case," Council Member Bob Schmid said.

"If they lose the case, their face will be red. If they win the case, they will have a shining star."

City Attorney David Fried said he will file this week a motion for a new trial of the case at the Oakland County Circuit Court.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Barry Howard ruled earlier this month that the city must pay \$40 million to Sandstone Limited Associates for a loss of profits. The judge's opinion found that because the city did not open

Decker Road to through traffic, the developers lost major money. Decker Road was built with a special assessment district on the developers' property.

If the city doesn't prevail, taxpayers can expect a millage roll-up for ten to 15 years.

Attorneys with significant experience in appearing before the Michigan Court of Appeals were sought by the city. Ten law firms applied for the job; city administrators cut the list down to three. Last week, the council's Consultant Review Committee interviewed lawyers from Johnson, Rosati, Galica & Labarge; Plunkett & Cooney; and Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone. The committee, which includes Schmid and Council Member Kathy Mutch, recommended Plunkett & Cooney.

"They have great influence with the judges, they're before them all the time. That's important for an appeal," Schmid said.

Plunkett & Cooney's team of five lawyers will be lead by Mary Massaron Ross, who has experience in land use and government liability law.

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Joe Sinceworth Jr. and mother Audrey Diameck have been reunited after 56 years apart.

Photo by JAN JEFFRES

Reunited after 56 years

Separated from family in 1942, Novi man finds mom, sisters

By JAN JEFFRES
 Staff Writer

Audrey Diameck never forgot June 6, 1941, the day her first child entered this world. John Colvin, Jr., was a blue-eyed, blond baby boy who weighed in at six pounds. The radio in the delivery room was playing the song "San Antonio Rose."

Audrey was only 19. She had no idea that when her little boy reached the age of 18 months, he would be torn from her arms for 56 years.

"I always thought about him over the holidays. Whenever I heard that song, I thought about him," Audrey said.

All her life, Carolyn Kidd, Audrey's second child, born in 1944, wondered about the brother she never met, the only boy in a family of four sisters. Her mother had told her that father, John Colvin, Sr., simply gave his first-born to a stranger and disappeared himself for several years. Colvin returned and had two daughters with Audrey before dying in a car accident in 1949.

"It's like I kept thinking to myself, I wish I could find my brother," Carolyn said. "I'd have someone to cry on their shoulders and talk to."

Sixteen years ago, Novi resident Joe Sinceworth, Jr., and his wife Ferne began trying to

"I've always thought about it, always. We thought one of these days we might find him. We tried to picture him."

Pat Sibert

locate his birth family, with no luck. They rummaged through records in Detroit and Lansing. Raised since early childhood by Joseph Sinceworth, Sr., Joe never knew he was adopted until he turned 18. Then, he was told to sign his own adoption papers, because his birth parents had never put their signatures to the document.

All of the records were sealed. He learned only that he was born June 6, 1941, and the name on his birth certificate was John Colvin, Jr.

This bothered Joe, he wanted to know who his real family was, what their lives may have been like. But the elder Joe Sinceworth wasn't talking.

"He sidetracked it so fast. He wanted to get that seal on the paper and legalize it. He tricked me, when you think about it," Joe

said.

Not long before Christmas 1998, Audrey, now 76, sat in her pretty living room in Westland, reminiscing with Carolyn about the son she had lost.

"I kept thinking, I hope I can see him before I die," Audrey said.

A man named Joseph Sinceworth took the baby, she recalled. That was a bombshell. For 30 some years, Carolyn had looked for her brother under the name his biological parents had given him, John Colvin, Jr. She estimates she wrote some 25 letters to assorted John Colvins, with no luck.

Not long after that, Carolyn grabbed the phone book. Only one entry appeared under that name, a Novi exchange for G.J. Sinceworth. Nervously, she dialed the number and an answering machine responded. She put the phone down.

"I called again and nobody was home so I hung up again," Carolyn said.

The third time, trying not to sound anxious, she left a message. Joe's wife, Ferne, played back the tape.

"I said, 'I want to talk to you, it's really important. I want to talk to you or your wife or whoever you're living with,'" Ferne said.

"We played it two or three times. She didn't leave her number."

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Wetlands debate sent to state AG

By JEREMY MCBAIN
 Staff Writer

The debate over wetlands regulations has gotten personal between a Novi City Council member and two Novi Planning Commissioners, according to Planning Commissioner Kim Thomas Capello.

Novi City Council Member Laura Lorenzo sent a letter to Michigan Attorney General Jennifer Granholm detailing what she believes are violations of the public officials' ethics standards by planning commissioners Capello and Michael Watz.

"As a citizen of Novi, I am requesting your opinion as to whether or not the individual behavior of certain members of the Novi Planning Commission has constituted a violation of any portions of Act 196, the State Ethics Act and the City of Novi Standards of Conduct for officers, employees and consultants," Lorenzo wrote.

She detailed three instances where she believes commissioner Capello participated in the consideration and approval of preliminary site plans and wetlands permit approvals for projects that he was directly or indirectly associated with.

She also states in the letter, that commissioner Watz also participated in the consideration and approval of the preliminary site plan and wetland permit for a project, when he previously represented the seller of the property.

Lorenzo said she sent the letter through certified mail January 27 and has received confirmation that it arrived at the Attorney General's office.

"I thought it was important to get an independent opinion," Lorenzo said when asked why she sent the letter.

But Capello sees her actions differently. "What Laura does consistently is if she can't address an issue, she poses a personal attack on people. Which she has done on me and Mike Watz," he said.

Capello is referring to the recent debate in city council over a proposed revision to the city's wetlands ordinance. The revision would make it mandatory to replace wetlands under two acres that are filled by development, if they meet any of the so-called "10 criteria."

The proposal was promoted heavily by Lorenzo, but it was sent back to the ordinance review committee for more work after it was

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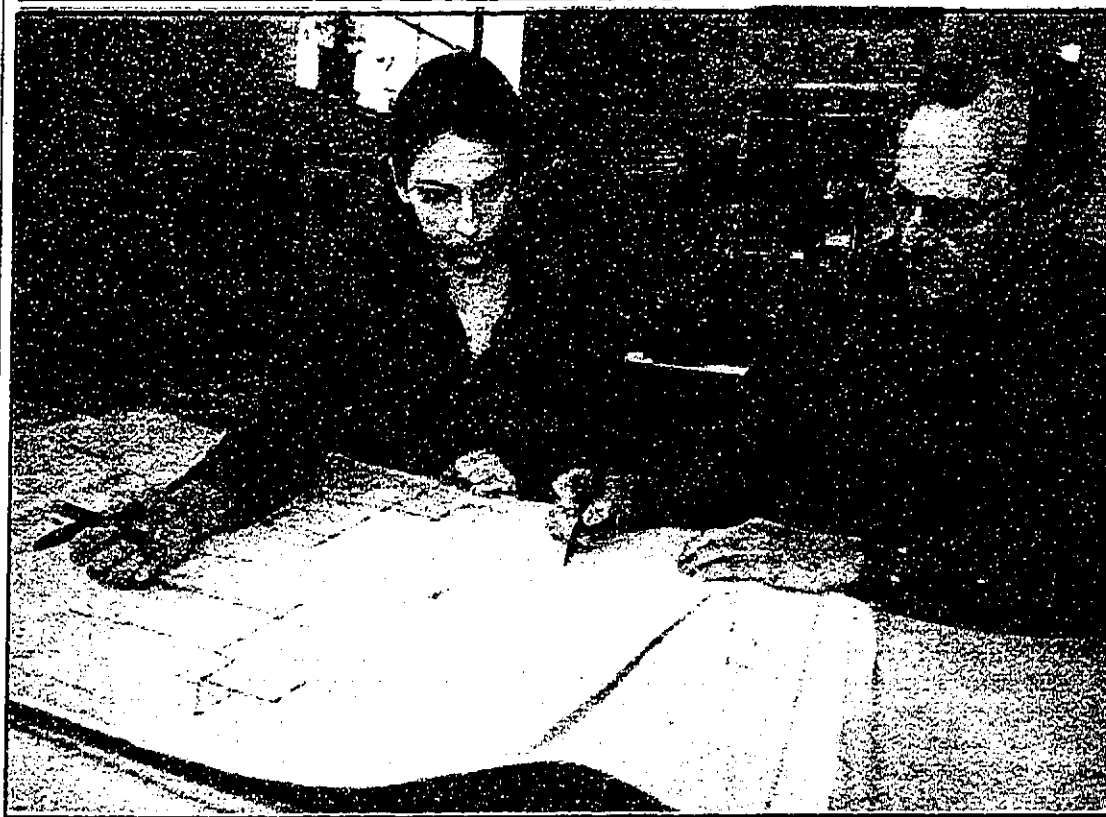
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in today's issue



A special section ...

Weddings



Polish architectural student Magdalena Walenta and Novi's Lee Mamola work on a design.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

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Exchange student learns design of U.S. cities

By JAN JEFFRES
 Staff Writer

When architect Lee Mamola agreed to hire a Polish exchange student as an intern, two challenges arose.

Where would she live? And how would she get to his office in Novi without a car? An easy solution to both was found when Mamola's office manager, Sue Tinker, agreed to put Magdalena Walenta up in a room vacated by an adult son.

Walenta, an architecture student from the Warsaw Polytechnic, spent the fall semester studying at the University of Detroit-Mercy. She thought she could take a bus from Detroit to Mamola's Nine Mile Road headquarters. Instead, she had a real

Japanese student needs a home

By JEREMY MCBAIN
 Staff Writer

A 17-year-old female exchange student from Japan is in need of a host family so she can finish out her senior year at Novi High School.

Wakana Shoda came to Novi last fall to live with a temporary host family, but is now in need of another host family to enable her to stay in Novi until the end of her senior year early this June.

Shoda has many friends, is

active in the school and is a very important part of the school band, said Scott Boerma, Novi High School band director.

She plays the violin and piano as well as various other instruments. She is also taking part in

the winter drum line, Boerma said.

Boerma describes Shoda as a "sweet girl with a shy personality, who is also very polite."

She is currently staying in Fly-
 Continued on 11

2-11-99

Community Calendar

To have your organization's activities, regular meetings or special events listed in the Community Calendar, send information to Community Calendar, The Novi News, 104 W. Main Street, Northville, MI 48167.

Thursday, February 11

Parks meeting

The Novi Parks and Recreation Commission will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center.

Youth baseball

Novi Youth Baseball meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center. The meeting is open to the public.

Novi Rotary

The Novi Rotary Club meets at noon at the Novi United Methodist Church at 41971 Ten Mile Road. For information, contact Bob Lighbright at 380-6550.

TOPS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly for all ages meets at 7 p.m. at the Novi Meadows Clubhouse on Napier Road. For more information, call after 6 p.m. (248) 344-2167.

Monday, February 15

ABWA

The Novi Oaks Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association meets at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, at 42100 Crescent Blvd. Social hour is set at 6 p.m. and dinner is served at 7 p.m. Meetings are open to all working women. For reservations, call Audrey Colley at (248) 624-1718. For membership information, call Bettie Johnson at (248) 960-9559.

Motor City Speak Easy Toastmasters

The Motor City Speak Easy Toastmasters Club meets from 7-9 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 777 W. Eight Mile. For more information call Tom Lahill at 348-6019 (evenings). Visitors are welcome.

Tuesday, February 16

Garden Club

The Novi Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center.

Civil Air Patrol

The Sixgate Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, meets at Novi Middle School, 25299 Taft Rd., from 7-9:30 p.m. Adults and youths who have finished the sixth grade are welcome. For additional information, call 349-2669.

Chess Club

The Novi Chess Club will meet from 7-10 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center. There is no charge to attend and all players are welcome. For more information, call Tim Sawmillier, 344-4269 evenings after 6 p.m.

Bereavement Support Group

A bereavement support group meets at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd., from 7:30-9 p.m. The meeting will be facilitated by Dr. M. Meyer. There will be a brief prayerful reflection during the meeting by a member of the clergy from the area.

Wednesday, February 17

Planning Commission

The Novi Planning Commission will meet in regular session in the Council Chambers of the Novi Civic Center.

Thursday, February 18

Novi Rotary

The Novi Rotary Club meets at noon at the Novi United Methodist Church at 41971 Ten Mile Road. For information, contact Bob Lighbright at 380-6550.

TOPS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly for all ages meets at 7 p.m. at the Novi Meadows Clubhouse on Napier Road. For more information, call after 6 p.m. (810) 344-2167.

Tuesday, February 23

ZONTA

The ZONTA Club of Farmington/Novi meets at 6 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel (between Seven and Eight Mile roads, off I-275). ZONTA International is a worldwide classified service organization of executives in business and the professions, working to improve the legal, political, economic and professional status of women. For information and reservations, call (313) 538-8043.

Civil Air Patrol

The Sixgate Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, meets at Novi Middle School, 25299 Taft Rd., from 7-9:30 p.m. Adults and youths who have finished the sixth grade are welcome. For additional information call 349-2669.

Youth Assistance

Novi Youth Assistance board will meet at 7 p.m. in the Novi Community School Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Rd.

F.E.M.A.L.E.

The Novi area chapter of F.E.M.A.L.E. (Formerly Employed Mothers at the Leading Edge) meets at Providence Mission Health Center, 39500 W. Ten Mile Rd., Conference Room A. For more information call Janet at (248) 446-0130.

Camera Club

The Novi Camera Club meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center. For more information, call Hugh Crawford at 349-5079.

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Puppets visit with students at Parkview

By JEREMY MCBAIN
Staff Writer

Students and parents at Parkview Elementary School learned the skills involved in puppetry Thursday as part of a Family Puppet Night at the elementary school.

The night included a puppet performance and a puppet museum hosted by Madcap Productions Puppet Theatre of Ohio. Janice Pagano, Parkview PTO assembly coordinator said the program "really revitalized the school."

"I think around February the teachers and students need a little boost," she said. While she believes the program gave them that "boost," Pagano said the program also taught the students a lot about making puppets, being creative and telling stories.

The puppet night included a museum with lots of "retired" puppets, plays and lots of handmade puppets ranging from six-foot tall to finger-sized. Along with the Family Puppet Night, puppeteers from Madcap Productions visited the school throughout the week, going into classrooms and teaching students about puppeteering.

Puppeteers told the children how to use a puppet's personality and appearance to come up with a name, voice and role in a story. "The puppeteers had so much energy and they taught the kids so much about making puppets," Pagano said.

According to company literature, Madcap Productions Puppet Theatre is a non-profit, touring children's theater company based out of Cincinnati, for which the goal is to "introduce children to a whole new concept of puppetry, one that allows all the elements of theater to be combined in a dynamic and exciting arts experience."

The touring theater is 14 years old and performs throughout the country at schools, libraries and community centers. While the puppet company may be non-profit, the PTO still had to pick up costs associated with the event. Pagano said the total price of the PTO was \$3,500.

She added the production fit in with a PTO assembly goal of bringing in programs to the school that students would not normally see.



Photo by TOM HIBBELN

The youngsters of Parkview Elementary School just couldn't get enough of Madcap Productions' show on Family Puppet Night.



The Family Puppet Night was a hit with parents, teachers and students, Pagano said. "There were close to 600 people there," she said. "We couldn't have it another person in (the school)."

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Planners prepare for joint meet with council

By JEREMY MCBAIN Staff Writer

Planning Commissioners discussed possible topics at their Feb. 10 meeting in preparation for a joint meeting with the Novi City Council, scheduled for 7 p.m. March 11.

John Woddington, commission chair, said the council usually starts to discuss highlights from last year's agenda, seasonal projects, budget requests and highlights of the Master Plan, as well as any mutual problems or concerns.

However, commissioners felt these topics were not a good use of time and that other topics would be more appropriate.

Commissioner Andrew Mutch said the planning commission should talk more about policy issues that have come up, such as the recent controversy over wetland mitigation.

"We all know what we did last year, let's talk about policy," Mutch said.

Last fall, Commissioner Kim Jenkins Capello started a debate over wetland's mitigation when he proposed exempting a development from mitigation even though the

Commissioners agreed they wanted to discuss development options and allowing more projects to be decided at the planning commission level.

wetlands met a city environmental consultant's definition of "high-quality."

Previously, when a wetland was deemed "high-quality," the commission required mitigation. Capello's actions went against the commission's practice, but not the city's ordinance.

This started a debate in the Novi City Council over the ordinance and Capello's actions.

Mutch proposed using the commission's time with the city council to address policy questions like this.

"Let's get this settled. I hate having to play this game over wetlands mitigation," he said.

Commissioner G. Brent Carnup added along with addressing the policy questions presented in the wetlands matter, he would like to address some irresponsible actions by some council members or vendettas brought towards some members of the planning commission.

Previously, during the wetlands ordinance debate, Council Member Laura Lorenzo requested the resignation of Commissioner Capello

due to his actions.

She also has sent a letter to Michigan State Attorney General Jennifer Granholm requesting her opinion in relation to the matter.

In addition to these suggestions, commissioners agreed they wanted to discuss development options and allowing more projects to be decided at the planning commission level.

Currently, the planning commission has only an advisory role on most projects brought before it.

The commission can only send a recommendation or disapproval of the site plans for a development to the city council. City council then makes the final decision on the projects plans.

Police ask families to teach children about passenger safety

The Novi Police Department urges families to spread the word and recognize Feb. 7-13 as National Child Passenger Safety Week. According to Sgt. Terry L. Whitfield, "Motor vehicle injury is one of the leading killers of children more than one year of age. Whether as occupants in motor vehicles, pedestrians, or bicyclists, too many children are seriously injured or killed in preventable crashes."

Parents can help establish these safe patterns of behavior by making sure that children age 12 and under always ride buckled up or in properly installed child safety seats in the back seat," Whitfield said.

"And rear facing child seats should never be placed in the front seat of a motor vehicle equipped with a passenger air bag."

"Not all injuries happen inside vehicles. Nearly one-third of all children between the ages of five and nine years who are killed in motor vehicle crashes are pedestrians. Almost one-fourth of the traffic fatalities were pedestrians under the age of 16," said Whitfield.

According to Sgt. Whitfield, who is the Novi Police Department's Occupant Protection trainer, bicycle crashes are one of the most frequent causes of injury-related deaths among children.

Children are at risk when it comes to traffic accidents and parents must teach children to buckle-up. Parents are the first line of defense for their children and serve as role models for the conduct that their children will imitate for the rest of their lives, Whitfield said.

The Novi police department will be placing special emphasis on vehicles stopped during the National Child Passenger Safety Week Campaign. Officers will be watching motorists that they stop to insure that children passengers are buckled in their car seats or buckled in properly and are wearing their safety belts, the sergeant stated.

On Saturday, Feb. 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Whitfield will be joining several officers and safety officials at Bob Sellers GMC Car Dealership in Farmington Hills to give a Car Seat Clinic, sponsored by the Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland County. Parents can meet with occupant protection specialists and leaders in traffic safety issues to learn how to properly install children's car seats.

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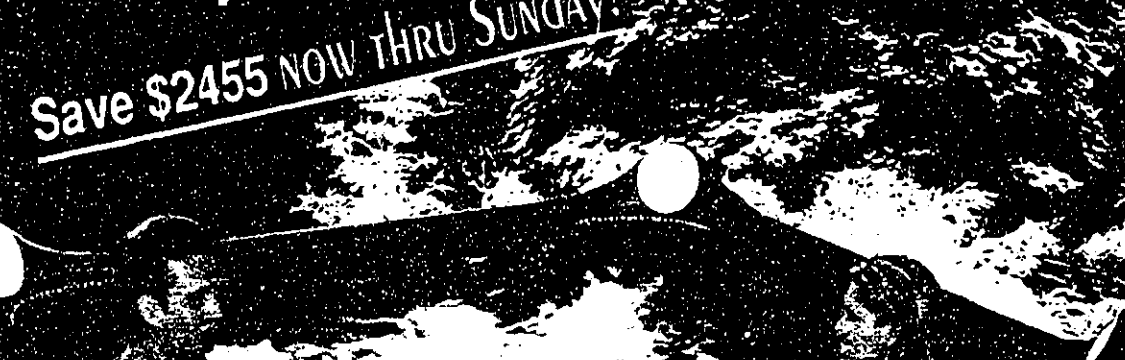
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Family reunited after 56 years apart

Continued from 1

For many, the Sinceworths have a familiar identity. Ferne, beloved of Carolyn.

"She said it's really long story. It goes to the start version. I said, 'You better give me the long version, because I don't know where you fit into my life,'" Ferne replied.

"I thought it was an old girl thing," Ferne said. "The times and times, and she had the little information they had about Joe's early life."

"I said, 'You remember what the lady's name was?' When she said 'Pat,' I said, 'I just about had the lady,'" Ferne said.

When Ferne revealed to Carolyn what she knew of her husband's past, Carolyn began to cry. She said she had found the perfect Christmas gift for her family.

"I thought he did a pretty good job. He was from the old school of thinking, he was a World War I veteran," Joe said.

"He and his adopted father were active with Boy Scouts, a tradition Joe carried on with his own sons. He is now Unit Commissioner of the Chilton Valley Boy Scouts. A Ford Motor Company retiree, Joe also works at Scott Service Station in Novi.

Sinceworth would never discuss his past with his son. For Joe, what was most frustrating is that he never learned that he was adopted until he reached adulthood.

"He ruled the house with an iron fist. He was a Hungarian-German. You don't talk about things like that," Joe said.

When he was 18, the senior Sinceworth married Jean, his housekeeper, an immigrant from Scotland. Ferne and Joe took care of Jean in her old age, until she died in 1980.

As a boy, Joe used to wonder why the Sinceworth family would suddenly change residences, sometimes at odd times of the day. His sisters now speculate that when their father, John Sinceworth, was still alive, he might have regretted his rash action and hoped to reclaim his only son.

Joseph Sinceworth Sr. remains an enigma, so does John Sinceworth Jr.

One day, Colin left Audrey when she was away at work, taking her boy with him. Colin was the boy next door, ten years older than she was. Her father threw her out before the judge was born.

For two days after Colin's birth, Ferne and Joe took care of him in her old age, until she died in 1980.

Christmas together there, with so many little children running around. Ferne said, they seemed to be crawling out the windows. Joe and Ferne have always questioned why Joseph Sinceworth Sr. adopted the boy. Before they learned the truth, the couple speculated that Joe might have been the natural son of one of Sinceworth's adult daughters, who had left home well before the future Joseph Sinceworth Jr. arrived.

"We thought the man who raised him could have been his biological grandfather. We wondered why a 50-year-old man would wait an 18-month-old boy to raise by himself," Ferne explained.

That answer Sinceworth took to his grave in 1978. Joe said, still, Joe had a pleasant childhood with his adopted father, a Hungarian artist, who owned a paint and wallpaper store.

"I think he did a pretty good job. He was from the old school of thinking, he was a World War I veteran," Joe said.

He and his adopted father were active with Boy Scouts, a tradition Joe carried on with his own sons. He is now Unit Commissioner of the Chilton Valley Boy Scouts. A Ford Motor Company retiree, Joe also works at Scott Service Station in Novi.

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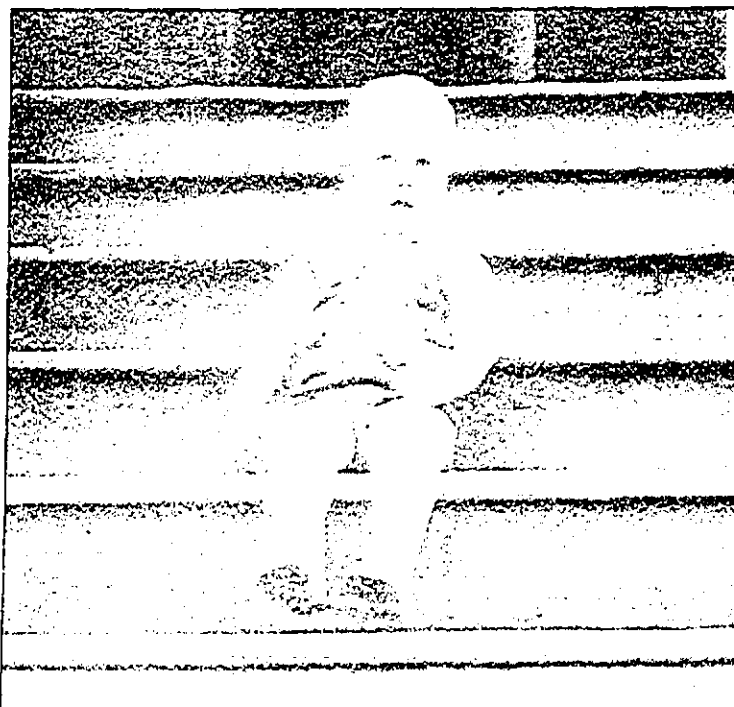
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Joe Sinceworth with (left to right) sisters Pat Sibert and Carolyn Kidd, mother Audrey Diameck and sister Cathy Carter.



John Sinceworth Jr. at the age of separation from his family.

Audrey stayed alone in their home, with nothing to eat. "I went to his brothers and sisters and they wouldn't tell me anything. It wasn't easy," Audrey said. "Somehow, Audrey discovered the house on Glen Court in Detroit where her son was living and would stand in front of it, hoping to catch a glimpse of the little boy. Recently, Joe showed her his baby pictures, portraits of her sitting on a high chair leading to a porch. Audrey immediately recognized the house.

"I tried to disguise myself. You could see them through the curtains... They wouldn't let me in to see him. I never signed no papers," she said.

"He has been on my mind for years and years. Every time I'd go shopping, I'd look at the little children and wonder if it was him, if they looked anything like him."

Out of the blue, John Colin Sr. appeared at her doorstep one more and Audrey took him in.

"When he decided to come back and wanted to start all over again, you don't know much of anything at that age. I didn't know any better. I thought maybe I'd get him (the baby) back," she said.

Their two daughters were born, but Colin would never tell her details about why he had been entrusted his son to a casual acquaintance.

"That's just the way he was. He drank, but I shouldn't tell tales about him when he's gone," Audrey said.

After Colin died, Audrey remarried. Audrey always told her daughters that they had an older brother.

"I've always thought about it, always. We thought one of these days we might find him. We tried to picture him," Pat said.

Since that first meeting, the family gathers together weekly. On Jan. 31, Joe and Ferne visited his mother and sisters in Westland. The man who never knew his roots was shown faded photographs of his father, grandparents and a great-grandmother. He learned that longevity runs in his mother's side of the family. Joe is interested in his family's medical history, because one of his sons is diabetic.

"That drove me crazy for years. The history of the family is very important," he said.

His relations debated about who Joe most resembles.

"He looks just like his dad, his eyes and his color," Audrey said. "No, he looks like you," her daughters chimed in.

"His voice sounds just like his dad's on the phone," Audrey persisted.

Carolyn presented Joe with the guest book from his biological father's funeral.

"I figured, he's the oldest one now," she explained.

And Ferne was busy marking down her in-laws birthdays in her pocket calendar.

Audrey, Joe and his sisters are busy knitting together a family split by strange circumstances.

"I love them both. I'm never going to let them go," Carolyn said.

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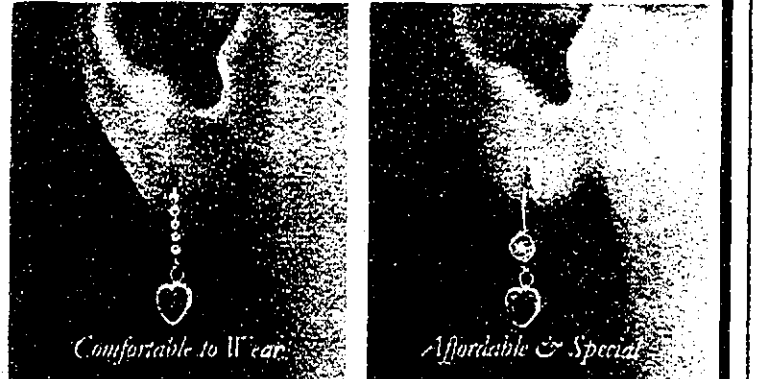
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More Trees Are Needed Where We Live

More Trees Are Needed for Wildlife



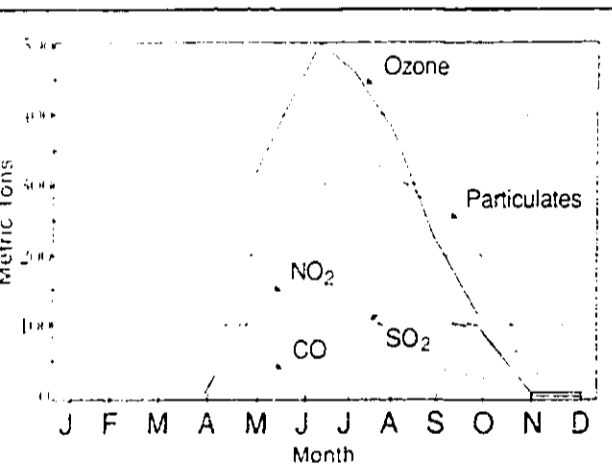
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You Can Join the Arbor Day Foundation and Get 10 Free Flowering Trees



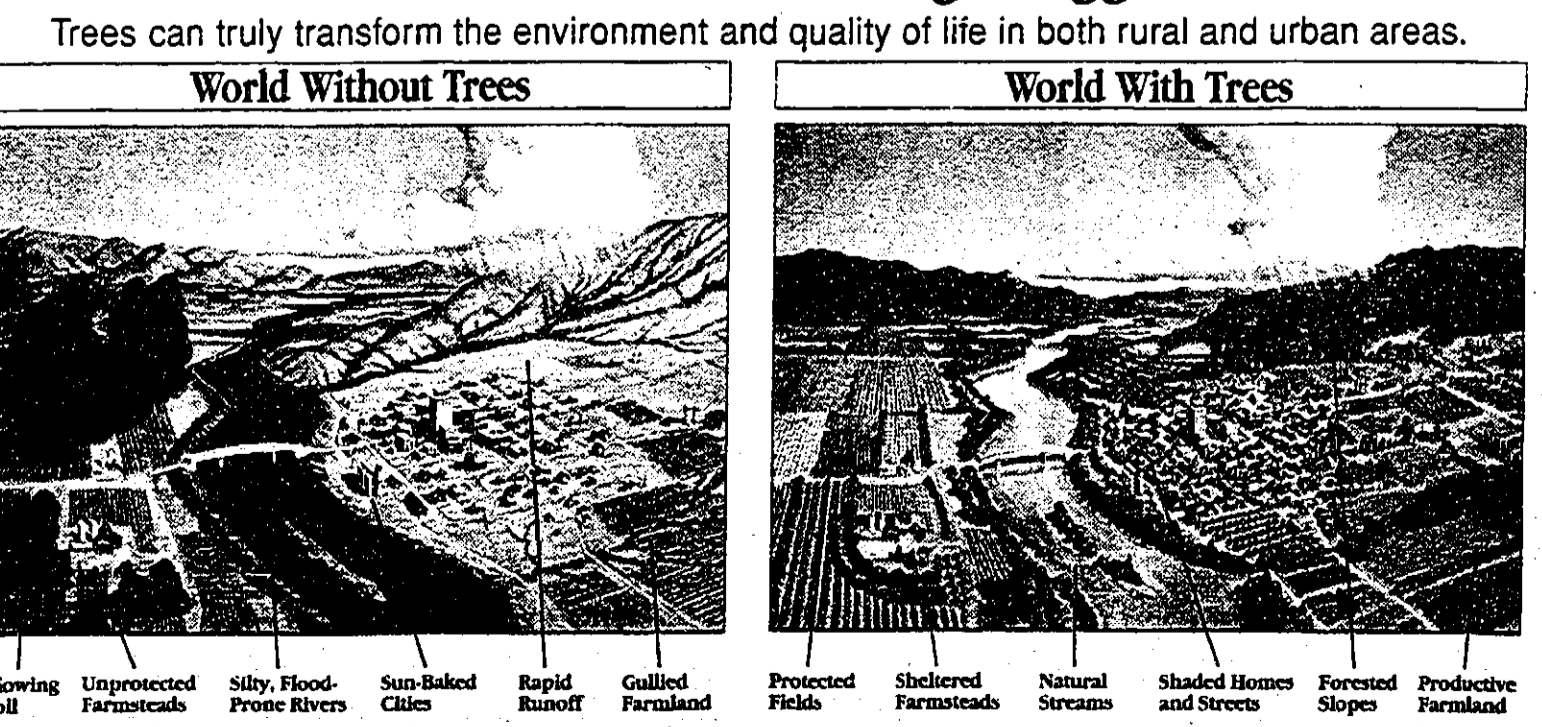
The flowers of the White Flowering Dogwood (Cornus florida) are large and showy in the spring.

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Trees Make a World of Difference.



Trees can truly transform the environment and quality of life in both rural and urban areas.

City selects its attorneys to appeal Sandstone ruling

Continued from 1 Massaron Ross said Tuesday she thought it was premature to comment at this time on any grounds for appeal that might be found in the judge's ruling. "I have handled a high number of appeals, particularly on behalf of local governments," she said.

Council member sends wetlands issue to state Attorney General

Continued from 1 She did not get it, nor did she get support from the city council for removing him from the commission. In reaction to Capello's charge she was just conducting a personal attack, Lorenzo said.

Library Briefs

Library hours The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

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Spring story time registration

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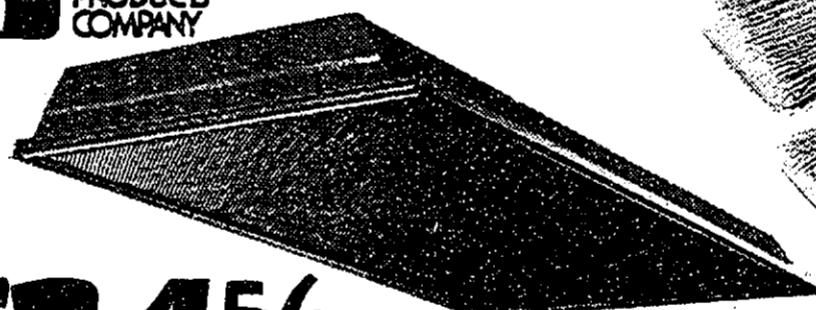
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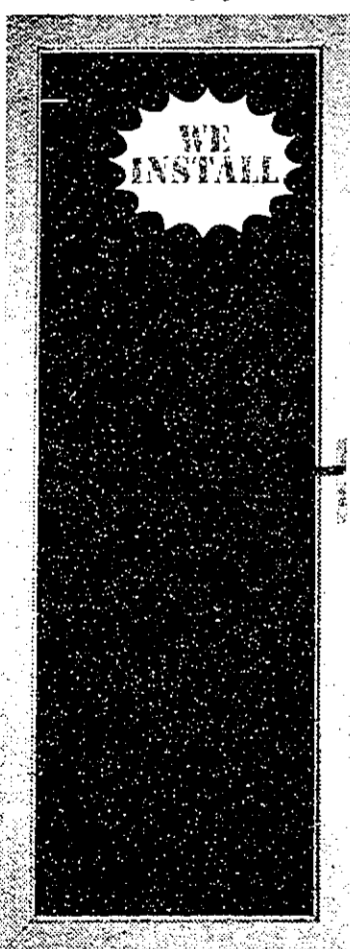
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Living

HIGHLIGHTS:
Boy Scouts invited to attend church-2B

DETROIT LIONS:
Team members play Walled Lake school staff-3B

APPRECIATION:
Hippies dress for dinner-3B

DIVERSIONS:
Barbershop performance and digital music concert-5B

B
THURSDAY
February 11,
1999



Left: Joe's Team members celebrate after their win against the Apache team.
Below: Sue Spiers of Joe's Team led the team with precise passing in a January game.



Holding Court

Northville Parks and Recreation gets its first women's basketball league

It's slam, dunk time. The Northville Parks and Recreation's first women's basketball league took to the court on Jan. 5 in a season that runs through the end of March.

Joe Barberio, who came on as the recreation department's part-time athletic programs supervisor in August, decided to put together the women's basketball league after hearing that Plymouth's had fallen through.

"It's supposed to be a part-time job, but you can catch me here just about every day," Barberio said.

Barberio has played a lot of volleyball, but has also coached soccer for 20 years, the last six of which were as assistant soccer coach at Ladywood High School. He is one of the assistant coaches for the Plymouth-Salem High School girls' volleyball team.

Half of the six teams in the league are newly-formed while the others carried over from the defunct Plymouth league.

After forming five teams, Barberio received so many calls from other women asking if any of the teams needed players, he formed a sixth team and called it simply "Joe's Team" which is managed by Lori Shingledecker.

Almost all the women have experience. Lori Moss, who manages the Laurel Manor/Starting Gate team, comes from a family of basketball players. Both her mom, 72 and her dad, 75, played basketball in high school. All of her seven siblings play basketball. Her three younger sisters are on her Northville team.

When Moss was younger, her brothers told her she couldn't play basketball with them until she was good enough.



Rosie Marano manages the Apache team.

"I'd be out there all hours of the night shooting because I wanted to play with my older brothers," Moss said.

With four brothers all over six foot, she figured she'd never get a rebound so decided to concentrate on outside shots and they let her play when she was about 12.

The league entry fee is \$390 plus referees costs of \$20 for each of the 12 games which comes to another \$240.

"If you can get a sponsor to do the whole shot, that is great," Barberio said.

A few teams have been able to do that. Moss's team has Laurel Manor Banquet and Conference Center in Livonia and Starting Gate Saloon in Northville as co-

sponsors and are known as the Laurel Manor/Starting Gate team.

Lovely renamed her team from Small But Slow to Wagon Wheel after their Northville sponsor.

There are between 10 and 12 women on a team.

Moss has been playing with a core of about half a dozen women since 1987. Some are former college basketball team members from the University of Michigan-Dearborn, while others are former rivals from Wayne State University.

Some players from various teams left to take up women's hockey.

"It is the best exercise that I think you

can possibly get because you are constantly running and stopping," Moss said of basketball. Like many of the other players, she also plays softball in the summertime.

"I enjoy basketball more," said Moss, whose husband also plays basketball. "You play more as a team. Everybody is really close."

Games range from 35 to 55 points.

"Anything over 55 is pretty high," said Moss. "When the teams are balanced, that's about the range, if not, it could go in the 80s."

With 2 wins and 3 losses so far, Moss is feeling challenged.

"This is one of our better seasons because the losses that we do have are within a reaching distance that we think we could win," Moss said. "We are in a league that is more our caliber."

With only six teams in the league, all the teams get a chance to play every Tuesday night.

As of last week, All-4-One, managed by Mary Kay Whalen, was 5 and 0.

Whalen and most of her team have been playing together for five or six years and won the league championship in Plymouth last year. Most played sports together in high school and college.

"A lot either coach basketball or softball," Whalen said.

Whalen, who is a coach at Livonia

Story by
Carol Dipple

Photos by
Thomas Hibbeln

Continued on 2

Young dancers showing interest in ancient dance form



Photo by MARGARET HARJU

Hula dancers wearing natural grass skirts for their performance at the Detroit Boat Show included, left to right, Jessica Kelly, Kaitlin Zolna (shown in mirror), Kristen Hansen, and Rachelle Hadley.

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

It's February, and the mind of a Michigander naturally turns to the tropics, warm breezes, sand, the islands.

But those who attended Hula Nights, a charity luncheon at the Detroit Boat Show, didn't have to travel far to get a glimpse of Hawaiian culture when a group of local dancers swayed across the stage.

Pacific Polynesian is a juvenile dance troupe directed by their teacher, Novi resident Marlene Hadley, who's studied the hula as practiced in Hawaii, Tonga, the Marquesas, Fiji, Samoa and Bora Bora.

"The music fascinates me and the drums. I always liked drums. When I went to Hawaii and heard the drums, it always excited me," she said.

Hadley may not be a native islander, but since she fell in love with the dance style 17 years ago, she perfected her technique under the tutelage of the Kuma Hula Masters and, this past summer, at the Polynesian Cul-

ture Center in Laie.

Now, she's passing on the tradition to a younger generation. Three years ago, two students at Piazza Dance Company in Northville were interested in the hula and Hadley formed a class. Today, she has 30 students. Twelve of them, ranging in age from 7 to 14, perform in Pacific Polynesian.

While Feb. 5 was their first performance at the boat show, the youngsters have danced at a number of other venues, including a recent AMC Theatre grand opening.

Northville Township resident Beth Ann Knisely, a graphics designer, recruited the group to dance at the charity luncheon. Knisely is one of a group of advertising and media professionals who put the benefit together to benefit Vista Maria, the Lighthouse of Oakland County and Turning Point Inc.

She was familiar with the dance group and thought they'd set the perfect theme.

"They're very polished with a lot of stage presence," Knisely

said.

Two brothers of the dancers, who are drummers, were drafted to set the beat.

To cut costs, the girls or their parents make their own costumes, using authentic materials such as beads and shells imported from Hawaii. One of the costumes features imported artificial tea leaf skirts.

"They're plastic but they really look like authentic tea leaves. They move and swish and swing just like they do," Hadley said.

Although hula dancing is an ancient art, variations of the form reflect different eras. In Victorian times, Hawaiians danced in high-necked velvet mums, while the 1930s and 1940s led to Hollywood's influence on performers.

"Today, there's a little more rock and jazz. They're even doing hula in high heels, when it was always done barefoot," Hadley said.

As a girl, Hadley studied ballet,

Continued on 3

PAWS holds 'Benefit Days'

While customers are buying books, videos or music for their loved ones, they can also help benefit Paws With A Cause, a nonprofit organization that trains dogs to assist people with disabilities.

The Border's Book Store Benefit Days' charity fund-raiser is donating 15 percent of all sales to Paws With A Cause if customers present a "benefit days" coupon or request that 15 percent of their purchase be donated to Paws.

Last year the Border's Novi store raised \$1,100 to benefit Paws.

Throughout the weekend, starting the evening of Feb. 12 until late afternoon on Feb. 14, Paws volunteers, working teams and staff will be in the store to answer questions, distribute information and give demonstrations showing how a Paws assistance dog can bring independence to its owner.

Many of the volunteers present will have their laws foster puppies with them. Paws foster puppies are raised and socialized by volunteer families until they are about 15 months old. The puppies are then returned to Paws Headquarters in Waukegan, Mich., where they receive advanced training.

Once the dogs have completed their advanced training, they are matched up with a new owner. Paws service dogs help their owners in many ways by performing such tasks as opening or closing doors, turning light switches on or off, assisting their owner in a wheelchair, retrieving fallen items, the portable telephone, the TV remote or any other items their owners may need.

Paws Hearing Dogs help their owners by alerting them to a variety of sounds in the home such as the doorbell, the alarm clock, the TDD telephone or a baby crying.

Paws is a non-profit organization that is funded in part through the United Way, civic and community support, as well as individual donations. For more information about Paws, contact the Paws Southeast Michigan Regional Office at (248) 693-9759 or Paws Headquarters at 1-800-253-PAWS.

Paws representatives will be in the store starting Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. until closing, all day Saturday, Feb. 13 and Sunday, Feb. 14 until 6 p.m. The "benefit days" applies only for the above dates and only at the Novi Border's location. For more information, contact Border's (248) 347-0780.

Weddings



Valerie and Jeremy McBain



Emily and Chris Davis

Valerie DeFew and Jeremy McBain were married Sept. 12, 1998, in Traverse City. Judge Richard Griffith officiated the ceremony and the bride was given in marriage by her father, Rick DeFew. A reception for 300 guests followed.

Both bride and groom are graduates of Central Michigan University. Valerie is employed at Ernst & Young, and Jeremy is a

reporter for The Novi News. Attending as matron of honor was Stephanie Matis. Serving as bridesmaids were Bonnie DeFew, Anna DeFew, and Amy Gary. Mike Moore served as best man and attending as groomsmen were David Bourough, George Gormare, and Oliver Hobson.

The couple went to Inverness, Scotland, for their honeymoon and now reside in Novi.

Emily Suzanne Brockman and Chris Davis were married Dec. 11, 1998, in St. Boniface Catholic Church, Waukegan, Iowa. The Rev. Stephen Orr officiated the double ring ceremony; the bride was given in marriage by her father, Deacon George Catanzano, and the groom's best man was Michelle Bartlett and Kameron Woodward, friends of the family.

The groom is the son of Edward and Susan Davis of Novi. In May 1996, he received a bachelor of science degree in journalism from Central Michigan University, and is currently a reporter for The Novi News.

Eddie Davis served as best man, with Mark Hill, Chris Polesinelli, and John Williams attending as groomsmen.

The couple went to Disney World and took a Disney cruise on their honeymoon. They now reside in Novi.

Ash Wednesday services announced by some area churches

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, signals the beginning of Lent for Christians. Lent is a 40-day season in the church year and a time of penitence.

Ash Wednesday Services at area churches include:

HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 46200 Ten Mile Road in Novi, and **ST. ANNE'S**, 430 Nicolet in Walled Lake, will begin the Season of Lent with Ash Wednesday Services on Feb. 17 at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. at St. Anne's and at noon and 7 p.m. at Holy Cross.

Lenten studies will be held during Lent with emphasis on Christian spirituality and its disciplines. The Lenten studies at St. Anne's will be held Feb. 23, March 2, 9, 16, and 23 at 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The series begins at Holy Cross on Feb. 24, through March 3, 10, 17 and 24 at 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Both churches cordially extend an invitation to anyone who wishes to

share in this program. Call the church office at (248) 349-1175 for details.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE, 200 East Main Street in Northville, will hold an Ash Wednesday Evening Worship Service from 7 to 7:30 p.m.

For more information, call (248) 349-0911.

THE MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 21355 Meadowbrook Road in Novi, will hold the annual Ash Wednesday Potluck Dinner on Wednesday at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There is no cover charge, but it is absolutely potluck with beverages and rolls being furnished by the Deacons. The Ash Wednesday Service will follow at 7:30 p.m.

An evening study series will be led by Rev. Neil Hunt entitled "Jesus, Faith and Practice," on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. The first class begins Feb. 24.

For more information, call (248) 348-7757.

NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 41671 West Ten Mile Road in Novi, will have Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30 p.m.

The Lent 1999 Sunday Evening Services begin with Soup Suppers in Memorial Hall for five Sunday nights at 5:30 p.m. Special programs follow at 6:30 p.m. and include a piano and violin performance by Laura and Ted Schwartz on Feb. 21; "Slides of the Holy Land" by Pastor Louis Ott on Feb. 28; an All-Church Hymn Sing with Teresa Rawson on March 7; the Northville High School Choir directed by Mary Kay Pryce on March 14; and the Novi Chorale with Jan Wassilak on March 21.

For more information, call (248) 349-2652.

The Ash Wednesday Service at **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, 777 West Eight Mile Road in Northville, is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. The Sunday Lenten Studies begins Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. and Thursday, Feb. 25, at 1:30 p.m.

For more information, call (248) 349-1144.

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 39200 West Twelve Mile Road in Farmington Hills, will also have a Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30 p.m. Each Wednesday during Lent, a Community Soup Supper will be held at 6:30 p.m. beginning Feb. 24. An evening worship service called Holden Evening Prayer will begin at 7:30 p.m. This is a brief service featuring beautiful music, readings from the Bible, and a time of prayer and meditation.

For more information, call (248) 533-7170.

On Campus



Ruchika Khetarpal



Eric Saurer



Melissa Schneider

RUCHIKA KHETARPAL (tuba), **ERIC SAURER** (clarinet) and **MELISSA SCHNEIDER** (flute), members of the Novi High School Band, have been selected to perform with the Southeastern Michigan Honors Band on its European tour this summer. They auditioned for the ensemble and were selected from students throughout the area.

The 15-day tour is more than an opportunity to display musical talents; it is a cultural exchange as well. Band members will visit museums, castles, and some of the most beautiful areas of Europe. This year's tour will visit the cultural centers of Europe. Visits and concerts will include: London, England; Brussels, Belgium; Bonn, Konigswinter, Koblenz and Eisenach, Germany; Prague, the Czech Republic; Vienna, Austria; and Budapest, Hungary.

The 45-member ensemble will begin rehearsals in February and will continue throughout the year under the direction of William W. Gourley, director of bands at Chelsea High School. Gourley has conducted honors groups throughout the state and presented clinics throughout the country and Canada. The once-a-month rehearsals will continue through June 19 with a farewell concert at Chelsea High School on Sunday, June 20. The band will tour June 22 through July 5.

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News to share?

Have you recently become engaged? Newly betrothed? Or are you proud new parents? Are you celebrating a big anniversary? Send the information and picture if you have one to The Northville-Record/Novi News, 104 W. Main Street, Northville, MI 48167, or stop by the office and pick up a birth, engagement or wedding announcement form and we'll see to it that your happy news appears in the paper. The deadline for submitting a wedding announcement and photo is six months after the wedding date.

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Diversions

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Watercolors are on exhibit at Gate VI

By CAROL DIPPLE
Photo by JOHN HEDDER

Penny Thorsen has a new inspiration for her painting - snow-capes.

Thorsen has been painting for the last 30 years so full-time and participated in many juried art shows in the Atlanta area before moving to live with her husband, Benjamin, in Novi.

"I can do snowscapes that I wasn't able to do in Atlanta," she said.

Thorsen did show her work in the "Sharing the Gift Within You" Juried Exhibition at the Northville Presbyterian Church in October 1998.

She has played a major role in Penny's life since she was old enough to hold a crayon. As an elementary teacher for many years, she used art as an essential tool to motivate young students.

Thorsen started out in oils and pastels but once she discovered watercolors in the mid-1980s she had to go back to her former medium.

"Once I found out how quick, portable, and versatile they were,

I've never really gone back," she said. "You can paint really strong, vivid color or pale washy color. You can do so much more with watercolors."

She also found mixed-media collage and the beautiful textural effects it offers.

"There is inspiration everywhere," she said. "Nature is probably one of the biggest things for me. All kinds of architectural forms are so fun to look at."

Thorsen enjoys doing still life, landscapes and architectural forms.

The Pittsburgh native, using photography extensively to help her with her craft. Special gardens she enjoyed seeing in Atlanta she would photograph.

"When the weather is bad, I can do a spring picture easily," she said. "When the weather is nice, I can paint outside."

The Thorsens have two grown children.

Thorsen's exhibit runs through Feb. 12 at the Gate VI Gallery located in the Novi Civic Center.



Penny Thorsen's exhibit at the Gate VI Gallery in the Novi Civic Center runs through Feb. 12.

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Movies

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Private investigator travels into society's darkest corners to solve mystery in 'Eight Millimeter'

Tom Welles (Nicolas Cage) is a family man with a modest home-based private investigation business living a simple life in Pennsylvania — until a reel of crudely shot eight millimeter film sends him down a gritty and frightening path into society's darkest corners.

From the lurid sidewalks of L.A.'s Hollywood Boulevard to the squalor of New York City's meat-packing district, Welles relentlessly pursues a bizarre trail of graphic and disturbing evidence to determine the fate of a complete stranger — a girl who begins to haunt his imagination and conscience.

Aided in his obsession by the streetwise Max (Joaquin Phoenix), Welles drifts away from his wife (Catherine Keener), family and former life.

In the provocative thriller "Eight Millimeter," Welles enters a world beyond his wildest dreams and worst nightmares as he comes to realize how deadly a small reel of eight millimeter film can be.

Look for "Eight Millimeter" in the theaters this month.

Nicolas Cage (right) stars as private investigator Tom Welles in Columbia Pictures presentation, "8MM."



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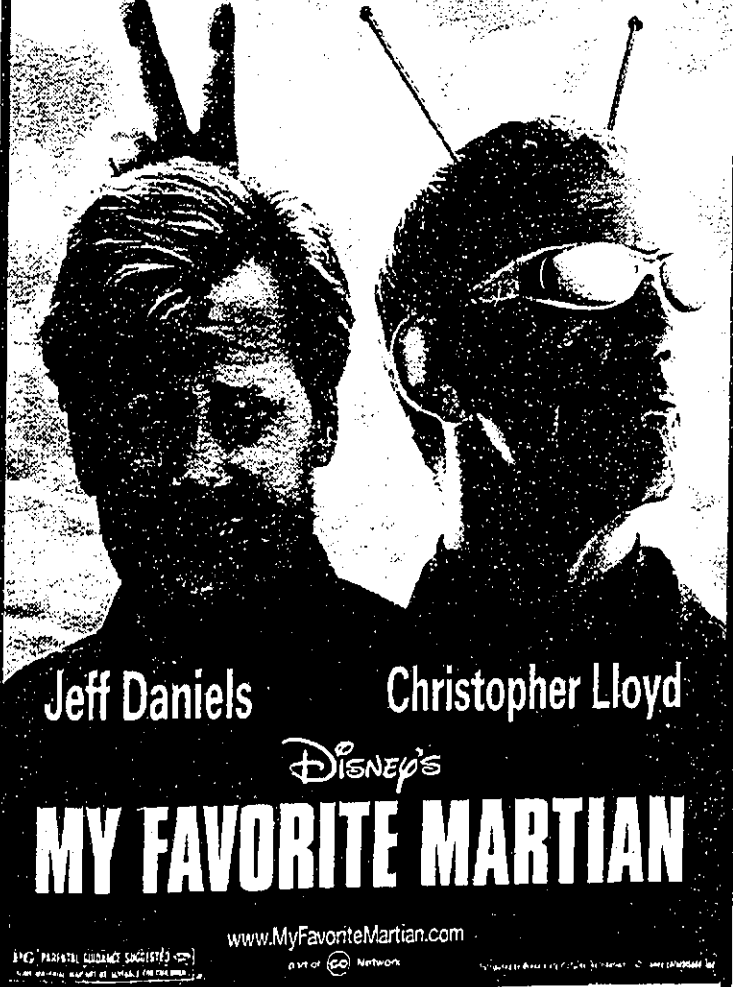
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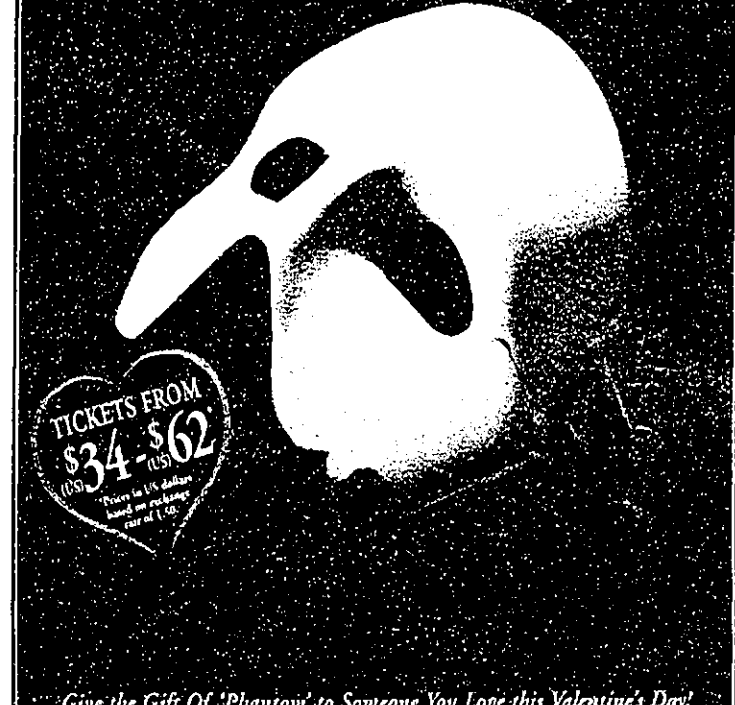
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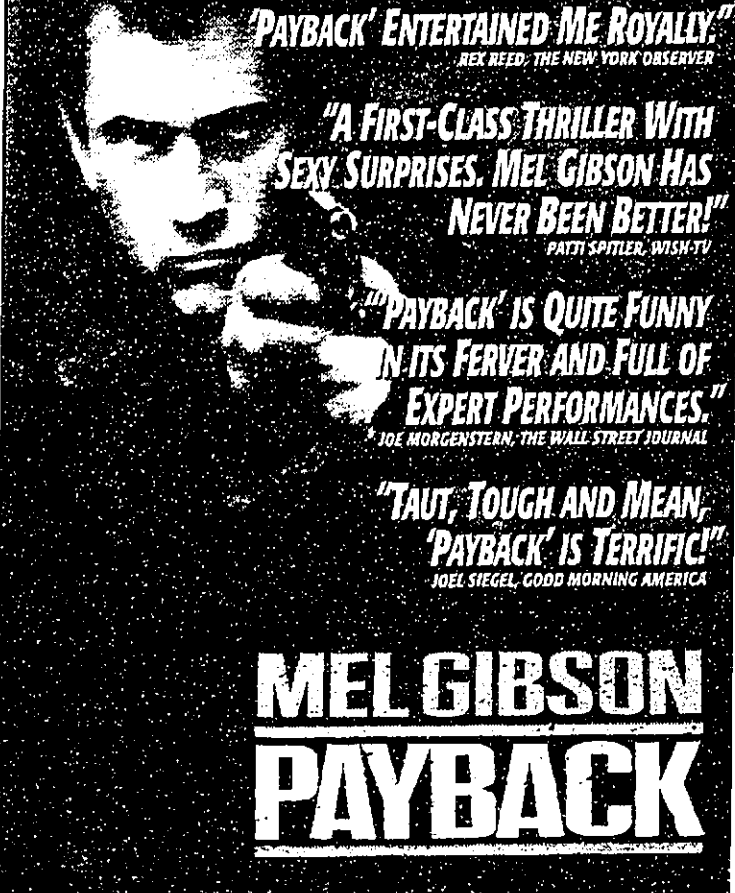
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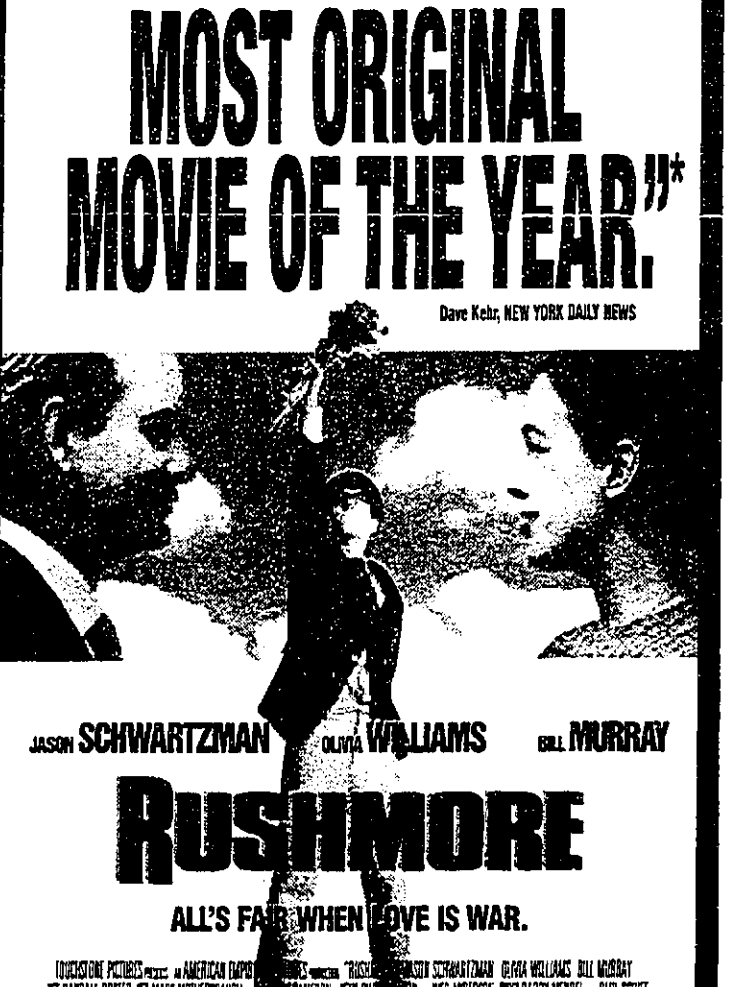
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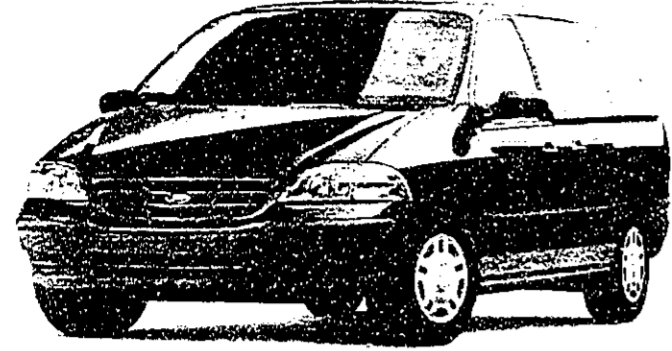
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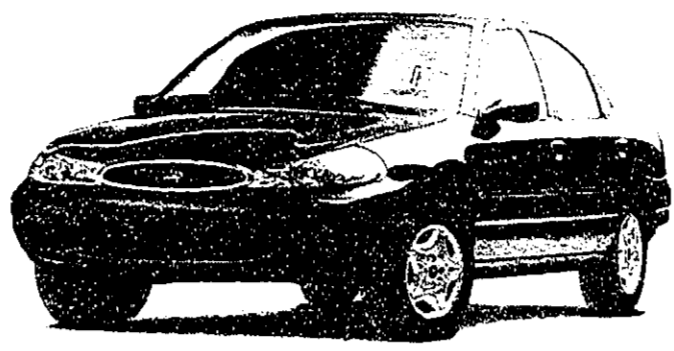


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