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Novi, Michigan

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INSIDE

Herr Doktor Lippe



Emmett Lippe, superintendent of Novi schools, is going to Germany to study the culture there as part of a U.S. Department of State Fulbright program.

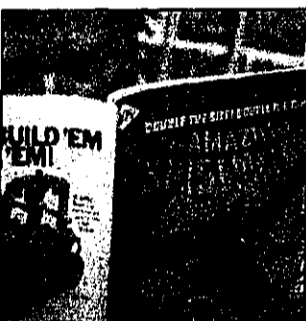
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Going postal

Novi voters were confused by a Republican mailing that included absentee ballot applications with suggested voting patterns. The city had nothing to do with it, Clerk Maryanne Cornelius said.

— Page 4A

LIVING



Funny business

Computers, MTV, new media are all drawing kids' attention away from a form of literature teachers of a past generation used to deplore — comic books. But some readers say the funnies are focusing more on violence these days. Catch an eyeful of it all on

— Page 1A

SPORTS

They're in

For the second straight year, the Novi football team has qualified for the playoffs. They did so with their sixth win of the season, over Pinckney last Friday night at home. Now the team celebrates homecoming with a game against Howell Saturday



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School growth goes slow

■ Mere 1.5 percent hike in enrollment this year startles school officials.

By Stephanie Fordyce
Staff Writer

The Novi Community School District reeled in disbelief last week as the unaudited Fourth Wednesday count figures came in for the 2000-

2001 school year.

With only 89 more students enrolled than last year, for the first time in over twenty years the school district saw a dramatic decline in what has been a typically high growth rate.

"It's a shock to me and it's a shock to the school district," said Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations Jim Koster.

"Since the district has been keeping records in the early eighties, we have not seen this ever before."

With only a 1.5 percent increase in student population, enrollment rose from 5,748 in 1999 to this year's 5,837.

Last year, Novi schools saw an increase of 156 students, an average of four percent, which in the last ten years has been typical for

the district.

"We have never seen anything less than 92 in over twenty years. In the past we grew by 246, 244, 156 - normally four percent," said Koster.

The cause of this year's decline in growth, is unclear, Koster said.

"We don't know why, we don't know what happened," he said.

In comparison to the district's

projected numbers for the 2000-2001 school year, the actual enrollment numbers were way off, said Koster.

With the district anticipating 5,982 students this year, the numbers came up short by 145 students.

"We don't know where these students went. We don't know if its a

Continued on 16

Search on for council member

■ In December, a replacement for Hugh Crawford will be appointed.

By Randal Yakey
Staff Writer

The search is on for a new city council member, with Vic Cassis and Asa Smith among the possible candidates.

With Council Member Hugh Crawford set to leave for the Oakland County Board of Commissioners in January, Cassis' and Smith's names have been bantered about as possible replacements.

Crawford is running unopposed in November for the position of county commissioner, but has one year remaining in his Novi City Council term.

Cassis, noting that he has much respect for Crawford,

said that there were a number of council members who asked him to consider the position.

"There were three different council people who asked me if I would sit on the council," Cassis said. "I cannot say who right now."

Mayor Richard Clark said that the decision on who would replace Crawford was too far in the future to start bringing up names of possible replacements. Clark did say that both Cassis and Smith are individuals of merit and could be considered for council or planning commission.

"I don't have a crystal ball," Clark said. "I have a lot of respect for both Asa (Smith) and Vic (Cassis.) Asa has probably been less visible, but he has made a lot of contributions in the north end of the

Continued on 11

The best of both worlds

Visiting a foreign country for a vacation can be intimidating enough, but at least you know you can go home soon. Moving your family to a new land for a few years is a different story. You've got to learn the language. The food is different. The schoolwork is different. Your friends are far away.

The Novi News took a look at how a growing number of Japanese workers and their families living in Novi make their way through a new country, community and culture before returning home. This is the last in a series of three articles.



Mom Haruka Matsuura sits in her home with daughters Kaori, 16 at left and Yuki, 14 and discusses her perceptions of life in the United States. Sometimes, she gets homesick for Japan.

Asian family rebuilds their lives in Novi

BY WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL
Staff Writer

Life changed drastically for the Matsuura family when they moved to Novi from Japan last year.

Not only did they have to learn a new language, live in a new community and attend new schools, they had the added novelty of spending time with their father.

"In Japan, Dad worked until midnight so we didn't often see him," said Kaori. "Now we have more time to talk as a family."

Shinji now helps his youngest daughter, Yuki, with her homework. attends his son Daisuke's soccer games and watches Kaori play soft-

ball. He wouldn't have been able to do so in Japan. Even their mother, Haruka, was working in Japan and couldn't get to games there but does so now.

Shinji works for Catalel Corp.'s Detroit office. He is a one-man show with a degree in chemical engineering. His job is to set up a subsidiary for his Japanese-based company. He is in the United States indefinitely.

Kaori, 16, hopes to improve her English well enough to attend an American university. Her brother, a senior at Novi High, also plans to stay in the U.S. for college.

But it's 14-year-old Yuki and her mother who seem to miss Japan the



most. Haruka admits she wants to go home. Still, the family has pulled together to weather the new and strange community that they say welcomed them in. So far, it's been a good experience.

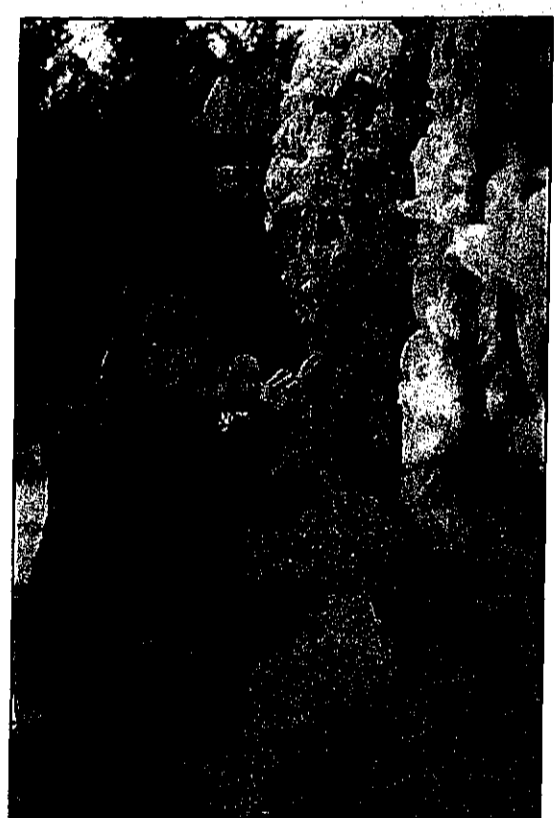
"They have to get together as a family to get through the difficulties, so that's a good thing," Shinji said.

The family agreed America is much friendlier than they anticipated, but the language barrier still prevents close friendships with others.

Even after a year here, making

Story by Wendy Pierman Mitzel
Photos by John Heider

Continued on 2



Sophomores Lyndsey Crofoot, left, and Kiley Elfring place plastic flowers on their class float.

Homecoming, how sweet it is

■ Choco-holics will love Saturday's NHS parade.

By Stephanie Fordyce
Staff Writer

This Saturday, Novi will be turned into a mini Candy Land as the homecoming parade hits the streets.

Over the past two weeks, members of the senior, junior, sophomore and freshman classes at Novi High School have been tirelessly working away to build the biggest and baddest floats the city will ever see, with this year's theme being candy.

"It's really fun and it's a

cool way to represent our class," said sophomore float builder Dave Benton.

Stomachs of parade-watchers will be growling, with the freshman class managing the Hershey Kisses float, along with the sophomores' Kit Kat, the juniors' Bubble Gum and the seniors' Skittles float.

Fifteen-year-olds Lauren Powell, Kiley Elfring and Michelle Slavin, from the class of 2003, said the sophomores chose "Kit Kat" because it was great way to tie in with their school mascot, the Wildcat.

Sophomore Class Advisor JoAnna Haseihuhn, who

Continued on 13

Motor museum races to find a new home

■ New chairman looks for a place to park racing memorabilia.

By Randal Yakey
Staff Writer

He's determined to make the Motor Sports Museum & Hall of Fame a success, but first he has to find it a new home.

Larry Jansen, account manager of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, was named chairman of the board for the Novi-based facility last week.

With forgone conclusion that the Novi Expo Center will be moving, Jansen said the search is on for a new home for the Motor Sports Museum.

"We are perfectly happy in Novi,

but this building will no longer be available to us," Jansen said.

Jansen said that the Expo Center's management told them that they "wanted the room" and that the expansion will leave them homeless if they don't make a move.

"It's a situation where we are growing and have outgrown the space in the building and have been told there will be no space of us in this building, at all, within a year," Ron Watson, President of the Motor Sports Museum said.

"Even if they stay here, they told us there will be no room for us here. They (the Expo Center) are expanding that fast."

Jansen said that the museum



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Larry Jansen, here with the Novi Special, Continued on 12 leads the Motor Sports Museum board.

Continued on 12 leads the Motor Sports Museum board.

The best of both worlds



The Matsuura family of Novi, late of Japan, enjoy some Japanese green tea and traditional sweets at their home. From left are father Shinji Matsuura, son Daisuke, 18, mother Haruka, daughter Yuki, 14 and daughter Kaori, 16. Living in the U.S., the family gets more time together.

A Fulbright fellow Novi schools superintendent embarks on German study tour

By Stephanie Fordyce
Staff Writer

On October 6, Superintendent Dr. Emmett Lippe left for a valuable learning experience across the globe, saying "auf wiedersehen" to Novi and "guten tag" to Germany as part of his recently awarded Fulbright Scholarship.

Lippe will spend two weeks in Deutschland, along with fourteen other American school administrators, to study the educational, economic and political systems of the European country.

I feel very fortunate and honored to have been selected for this opportunity and look forward to visiting and learning about another culture and their educational system," said Lippe, the day before his departure.

The Fulbright Scholarship Program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by former Senator J. William

Fulbright of Arkansas to promote the advancement of knowledge through academic exchange.

The trip is co-sponsored entirely by the United States Department of State through the Fulbright Commission and the Government of Germany.

While traveling throughout Germany, the Americans will observe successful educational models, as well as discuss trends in educational reform, technology and the European Union.

Lippe said he is particularly interested in learning about their school-to-work program.

"It is well known that Germany has one of the best secondary school-to-work programs in the world," he said.

"They are very skilled at putting young people into the world at work."

Lippe said the upside to this program is that

there is as much pride in the community as there is academically.

Lippe will first travel to Berlin, followed by Hamburg, Weimar and Essen before returning to the states on October 31.

Lippe said that while he was looking forward to experiencing the customs and culture of land he has never before visited, this was not to be treated as a vacation by any means.

"The whole purpose is to show you all aspects of the German culture and draw your own conclusions," he said. "They are very specific in that this is not a vacation. This is an educational opportunity and a chance for us to learn from them, not to be entertained."

Since its inception, the Fulbright Teacher and Administrator Exchange Program has helped nearly 23,000 teachers and administrators contribute to mutual understanding

between the United States and countries around the world.

Today, approximately 130 countries participate in the worldwide Fulbright program.

Lippe said he was thankful for the opportunity and that the trip for him will be a wonderful learning experience.

"I think anytime you take a look at how a different organization provides educational opportunities, it's a chance for you to learn from others and pick up on ideas," he said. "I'm not sure if you could pinpoint specifics to bring back, but you broaden your own knowledge about the area of education that you draw upon in determining what's best for this community."

Stephanie Fordyce is a staff writer for the Novi News. She may be reached at (248) 349-1700.



Dr. Emmett Lippe will spend two weeks studying in Germany.

Have a haunt of a good time in Novi

NOVI PARKS AND RECREATION
Put on your costume and get ready for some spooky good fun, as the Novi Parks & Recreation Department holds their annual Halloween Happening on Oct. 31.

The festivities include delicious "Hobgoblin" lunch, games and prizes.

The Halloween Happening will begin at noon at the Novi Civic Center. Cost is \$3. Tickets are available at the Novi Senior Center. Call (248) 347-0400.

DOUBLE TREEHOTEL
The DoubleTree Hotel in Novi proudly presents its Halloween Bash on Oct. 27.

The event, which runs from 8 p.m. to midnight, benefits the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team in Training. The evening includes hot door prizes, a D.J., raffle prizes and a costume contest.

Over 500 tickets are available. Twenty-one and over, please. The entrance fee of \$35 includes two drink tickets with a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Society. Pre-registration is required and overnight accommodations are available. For more Halloween Bash information, call Julie Rachar at (248) 349-5900 ext. 622.

The DoubleTree Hotel is located at 27000 Sheraton Drive.



Shinji Matsuura brought his family to Novi because of the good schools.

Life with father: U.S. job with shorter hours draws family together

Continued from 1

Friends is difficult, Yuki said.

"In Japan we spoke the same language so making friends was easy. Here it is hard. I don't do anything after school, so I just come home," she explained.

Kaori said she finds Americans friendly, but feels that American kids think she doesn't want to get to know them and interact.

But for the most part, all the kids have been nice and Kaori and Daisuke have become comfortable fitting in at school.

Shinji was once worried about how his kids would adjust.

"When we came, I was told it was a difficult age. I was worried how they could go smoothly into school and with the new language," he explained.

He also worried the children would be behind in studies when they returned to Japan, but they've done so well here that those fears have been allayed. In fact, Shinji said he chose to make his home in Novi because of the reputation of the school system.

Living in a community with many other Japanese transplants was an advantage when the Matsuura kids started school. Other families and students helped the family adjust to the differences. In Japan, the teachers move from room to room, not the students. And there are not as many electives. In addition, counselors here meet with students to help them make choices where in Japan, it is a teacher or no one at all. Counselors in Japan are solely for problem children.

Perhaps of all the family members, Haruka has made the biggest adjustment. While she worked as a nurse in Japan, here she has no visa to permit her to do so. Her days now are filled with volunteering at Novi High School with the Japanese class and in the library. She hopes to help out at a local medical facility also and attends English as a Second Language classes.

In between, she squeezes in getting together with other Japanese women in Novi.

"They're always eating something," Kaori laughed.

While life in America is liberating in many ways, Kaori admits she's bored.

"In Japan, I can go somewhere by myself, by bus or bicycle. Here, I can't go anywhere without my parents giving me a ride," she explained.

She spent her summer vacation days "hanging out," sleeping, reading, shopping and playing catch.

The Matsuura kids are enjoying American food but maintaining their roots.

"Sometimes I listen to American music but I don't like it so much," Kaori complained, adding that Billy Joel is one of her favorites though. Her dad is partial to Mariah Carey.

"Yuki now catches reruns of 'Full House' on television in English. Back in Japan, she was a big fan."

Even Haruka is getting into the American act, attempting to cook American "bunsin" like barbecue pizza and roast chicken.

Still, Shinji said: "When we go out to dinner, all of us raise our hand to go to a Japanese restaurant."

"American food is too salty," Kaori complained. "The desserts are too sweet."

The family has wasted no time getting to know America. They've picked cherries in Traverse City, toured Mackinac and hit Hollywood, the San Diego Zoo and Universal Studios on a trip to Los Angeles. When relatives visited from Japan, the Matsuuras took them to Niagara Falls.

"The Matsuuras admit they had preconceived notions of Americans before they moved. Americans were blue-eyed with blond hair, they thought. And Datsuke said: 'Before I came here, my dad told me we were moving to Detroit. I thought it was very dangerous. But here in Novi, it is a beautiful town and safe.'"

Shinji said he never had contact with any foreigners when he lived in Japan, "but when I came here it was beyond our expectations."



Newcomers are shown the ropes by volunteer

Betty Wang is a lifesaver for many Japanese families moving to Novi.

In strictly a volunteer capacity, Wang and her husband Gary, and sons Jack and Michael, have assisted hundreds of new families from abroad.

"I want to help them get adjusted to a new environment and community," Wang said.

The Wangs moved here more than a decade ago from Taiwan, but spent several years in Japan where they learned the language and customs. When they came to the United States, they decided to stay and become citizens. Then they decided to start helping other Asian families adjust.

Novi High School senior Michael Wang tutors Japanese kids at the middle school and his older brother Jack also helps when he is home from college.

But it's Betty who throws new Japanese parents, especially the mothers, a lifeline.

In 1996, she started translating parts of the Novi Middle School newsletter into Japanese, then in 1998 she started a Japanese newsletter for K-12 students with help from the Novi Community School District. It now goes out to 120 families and is growing all the time.

"All the Japanese families will provide me with newcomers," she said. "We try to help everyone."

The newsletter tells families about school events, issues and other important information that many parents wouldn't be able to glean from the regular school newsletters that go out to the students.

In addition to the newsletter, Betty befriends many of the new women and helps them find volunteer work or English classes to take.

Haruka Matsuura, who moved here a year ago with her family, has come to depend on Wang as a close friend. She doesn't know what she'd do without her.

"I have to stay here. I cannot move to (another city) if she stays. I stay," Matsuura said.



Lifesaver

Betty Wang is from Taiwan, but a few years spent in Japan familiarized her with that culture.

Now, new Japanese families in Novi turn to Wang when they want assistance in adjusting to their new lifestyle in Michigan.

Some say they wouldn't move elsewhere in the U.S., because they couldn't bear to part with Wang.

The active Wang even started a Japanese language newsletter for parents of students in the Novi schools.

Stories by Wendy Pierman Mitzel
Photos by John Heider

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Party line by post confuses voters Tickets on sale, the better to see Novi Theatres with

BY RANDAL YAKEE
Staff Writer

Republicans are working hard to woo the Novie voters and some residents are complaining that the sales pitch is leaving them confused and frustrated.

A campaign matter sent out by the Republican Committee 2000 with recommendations on voting for GOP candidates, as well as a letter from John Engler, began arriving at Novi homes last week. The fliers also included applications for absentee ballots. And it's the presence of the absentee ballots that has everyone up in arms.

According to Novi City Clerk Maryanne Cornelius, when residents saw the absentee ballot applications, many became confused. Novie residents should have already received their absentee ballots. Cornelius said the GOP mailers were pre-addressed to the city clerk's office, but the material definitely was not sent by the clerk's office.

"The first week we were receiving about 100 to 200 calls a day."

Maryanne Cornelius,
Novi City Clerk

"The first week we were receiving about 100 to 200 calls a day and that doesn't include the people that came to the counter," Cornelius said. "What people thought is that was put out by the clerk's office. That is not true."

The calls have slowed down since October 2, but some residents are still inquiring about the fliers. Cornelius said.

"We send out hundreds of thousands of those at a time and sometimes there is always some confusion," Sage Eastman, Republican Committee 2000 Director of Communications said.

"The fliers are only suggestions

to those that receive them. We've been doing this for years and years."

Novie voters have an overwhelmingly Republican track record at the polls.

When asked if the scramble over the matters was enough of an issue that the committee would stop sending them out, Eastman said that the confusion had always been minimal.

There have also been some complaints about phone solicitations that have been coming from the Republican campaign headquarters of Texas Governor George W. Bush, Spencer Abraham, R-

Auburn Hills and Joe Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield in Farmington Hills, according to Cornelius.

One resident complained that they received a call from a phone solicitor has about a deceased spouse. Another local resident was worried about who had access to her name and address.

"I got call from a solicitor who know we had absentee ballots at our house," Novi resident Kathy Arenz said.

"They were for my boys who are in college but what if they weren't, who knows what?"

All information about who has applied for absentee ballots is public record, Cornelius said.

According to Arenz, the phone solicitor was very aggressive and came across as pushy and rude.

"He said 'You're not going to vote for that liar Al Gore are you?'" Arenz said.

Tickets on sale, the better to see Novi Theatres with

Get your ticket while their "red" hot as the Little People Players presents "Little Red Riding Hood" October 20, 21, and 22 at the Novi Civic Center Stage.

Of course there's a little girl, a wolf, a granny and lots of goodies-but there is so much more in this version written just for The Novi Theatres.

Come see your favorite fairy tale unfold along with new twists in this comical production.

Show times for Friday and Saturday are 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday performance begins at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. All seats are reserved. Tickets may be purchased at the Novi Parks & Recreation office located in the Novi Civic Center. Call the Novi Parks & Recreation Department at (248) 347-0400.

Get those toes a-tapping at dance in the Novi Civic Center

Join other toe-tappers Tuesday, October 24, from 1-3 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center holds their monthly dance. The day will feature the wonderful "Satin Sounds" band playing your dance favorites. Refreshments will also be served. Cost is \$3.

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Elegant and steady, the only trouble with this bedroom is that you may not want to leave. Sleigh Bed, Queen \$1149

Woman heads to school, with van

Police News

A 42-year-old Orchard Lake resident was arrested by police after she crashed her Ford van into the Meadowbrook Elementary School on October 5 around 9 p.m. at night.

When police arrived at the scene, the woman was agitated and refused to give police the keys to her vehicle. After police asked the woman to take a seat in the squad car, she struck one of the officers. Police handcuffed the woman and placed her in the vehicle.

According to police, the woman was "unable to sit still for more than a few seconds" and was given an alcohol breath test, which she passed. Police, still suspecting the woman was under the influence of drugs, had her transported to Providence Hospital where she failed a substance abuse test. The woman was found to be under illegally using prescription drugs.

The woman was released to her family the next day.

The witnesses described the man as being in his 20s, between 5'10" and 6'00" tall with a goatee and brown hair.

Police continue to look into the incident.

HOTEL CASH GRAB
The Novi Hilton on Haggerty Road reported a man reached into a cash register and ran off with approximately \$250 in cash on October 3 at around 10 p.m. in the evening.

Police reports note that the hotel initially reported an armed robbery in progress. When police arrived on the scene, they found a case supervisor who told them a suspicious man had entered the cafe and when she went to retrieve tea from the back room, he grabbed the cash and left the hotel.

The supervisor said she came back out to the front and saw the man fleeing the hotel. The supervisor said she called for the man to stop but he entered a red late model Plymouth and headed southbound on Haggerty Road.

The suspect was described as a white male between 5'10" and 6'00" tall, 120 to 140 lbs. with brown hair wearing baggy blue jeans and

a navy blue sweatshirt.

BLUNT AND TO THE POINT
After a patrol car pulled up behind him, an 18-year-old Novi man pulled an erratic U-turn onto westbound Grand River just before 1 a.m. on October 3.

When the youth was pulled over, the officer caught a strong smell of burnt marijuana.

"What's that?", the cop asked. "I'm burning oil. There's no dope in my car," the youth said. "My turbo is burnt out and that's what smells."

Police did not believe him and asked the suspect to step out of the car. Inside the ashtray, the officers found a "blunt." A blunt is a cigarette or cigar that is laced with either hashish or marijuana.

The suspect was placed under arrest for marijuana possession and driving under the influence of a controlled substance.

DEER RUN
It must have been the season for a deer run because two 28-year-old women from separate towns hit deer on different roads on the same day.

On October 7, the first woman was driving along Twelve Mile Road when a deer jumped in front of her vehicle just before 10 p.m. There was minimal damage to the car and the woman was not injured in the accident.

In the other incident, a woman was traveling along West Park Road when she struck a deer that was crossing in a northbound direction across the road. The woman had been traveling eastbound and was not hurt in the incident. She drove the car from the scene.

There was no information on the injuries suffered by the deer.

Novi Briefs

NORTH HILLS MEETING
The annual North Hills Estates Board meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. in the Novi Library Meeting Room. All residents of North Hills are invited to attend and meet neighbors. Hear the latest subdivision news and share ideas for improving the subdivision.

FLU SHOT DATE CHANGE
Oakland County rescheduled the Oct. 26 flu shots due to a shortage of vaccine. The new date is Wednesday, Nov. 29, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Novi Civic Center. If you are eligible for Medicare, bring a picture ID and Medicare card; otherwise there is a \$3 charge for the immunization.

MONSTER MOB AT THE MALL
Did you know that 80 percent of children in the United States dress up for Halloween to go trick-or-treating or to attend parties and that sales of Halloween candy generated an estimated \$1.8 billion in 1999?

Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi is proud to make trick-or-treating a fun, safe and "spooktacular" event for all children. Bring your little ghosts and goblins to the mall between 6 and 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 31 and let them enjoy a warm and safe evening of trick-or-treating at participating stores.

Shopping hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

MORE FUN AT TWELVE OAKS
Twelve Oaks announced the second annual Holiday Shopping Extravaganza to benefit Farmington Family YMCA and Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan on Sunday, Nov. 5, from 7 to 10 p.m.

You and your friends will enjoy an evening of holiday excitement, exclusive sales and promotions, refreshments, entertainment and best of all, shopping without the crowds. Activities will also include free valet parking, complimentary gift wrap for up to three packages; and a chance to win incredible door prizes, such as a \$1,000 Twelve Oaks shopping spree, a \$500 Hudson's gift certificate, a \$500 Sears gift certificate, a one-year Farmington Family YMCA membership (worth \$800), and much more.

Each guest will also receive a free gift bag of products and merchant discounts and have a chance to meet renowned shopaholics from the WNIC Breakfast Club morning show, Linda Lenci and Cynthia Canty, as they shop until they drop. Big Al from WCMC will also be making an appearance. Advance tickets are \$40. Tickets can be reserved by calling (248) 203-1260. All ticket proceeds will go to the Farmington Family YMCA and Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan and are tax-deductible. Call Twelve Oaks at (248) 348-9438.

NOW STOP THAT!

A Novi resident and her adult son were returning to her apartment when they caught sight of a man, pants down, masturbating next to an apartment window in the 31000 block of Wedgewood on October 7, just past noon.

Police arrived at the scene, just south of Pontiac Trail and west of West Road, but were unable to locate the suspect.

Northville Garden Club - W.N.F. & G.A.
2000 CHRISTMAS WREATH and ROPING
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I would Like:
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18311 Lanark
Northville, MI 48167

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All orders must be pre-paid by Monday, October 26, 2000 (checks only) and must be picked up at the Mill Race Village on Tuesday, November 14 between noon and 3p.m.

FOOT PAIN? WE CATER TO COWARDS!

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• Do you have Diabetes, Swollen Feet and Ankles, Burning, Tingling, Cramping, Numbness or Ulcers? • Do you have Blisters, Hammertoes, Corns, Calluses? • Do you have Discolored, Ingrown, Fungus Nails? Warts? • Do you have Heel or ankle Pain, Gout, Arthritis or Infection? • Sports Injuries, Fractures, Sprains, Skin Problems? • 2nd Opinions • Circulation or Nerve Problems? • Children's Foot & Ankle Problems

SENIOR CITIZENS FEET HURT? CALL US! MEDICARE ASSIGNMENT ACCEPTED

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Novi Plaza • At Meadowbrook
(248) 349-5559

Livonia Area
30351 Southpark Blvd.
Midland & Merriman
(248) 478-1166

Novi Community School District
Community Appreciation Day
Football Game
Saturday, October 14, 2000

Novi Wildcats vs. Howell Highlanders
1:00 p.m. kickoff
Novi High School
(Corner of Taft & 10 Mile Road)

FREE ADMISSION
for Novi residents and students!

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ALL BRAND NEW MERCHANDISE IN BOXES AS WELL AS DISPLAYS

Total liquidation of all inventory and fixtures from Stores at Livonia & Ann Arbor. Sale being held at former Country Squire store in Livonia

HURRY... THIS STORE GOES OUT OF BUSINESS ON OCTOBER 15th

37156 W. 6 MILE RD. STERLING COMMONS PLAZA

Directions: Just East of I-275 on north side of 6 Mile Rd. across the street from Newburg Plaza.

Call for an appointment (248) 545-4455 - Prowing Inc. or visit store!

NOVI FOURTH WEDNESDAY COUNTS		
NOVI SCHOOLS EXPERIENCE GROWTH DECLINE		
SCHOOL YEAR	TOTAL ENROLLMENT	STUDENT INCREASE
1996-1997	5,102	277
1997-1998	5,348	246
1998-1999	5,592	244
1999-2000	5,748	155
2000-2001	5,837	89

Schools grow, but less than in past

Continued from 1

glitch and people are moving out," he said. "I don't know what these means for the future, but it looks as if it equates itself in the next five years. This could be the calm before the storm."

While the district contemplated 59 new students at the elementary level, the actual outcome was only one. Novi Meadows saw 23 new students compared to the districts projection of 37 and the middle school remained somewhat stable in comparison with 25 actual versus the projected 28. Only in did the high school population exceed expectations this year with 32 new students. The district had predicted 21.

But Koster added that Novi is not alone.

"South Lyon and Huron Valley also experienced a decline (in growth)," he said.

These numbers are crucial because state aid depends on the number of children enrolled. Ever since the approval of Proposal A in 1994, student revenue is now the sole criteria for state school funding.

"(This decline) dramatically affects the district," said Koster. "Right now we're just going to have to watch our expenditures. School spending will be determined on

what they need, not what they want."

This year, the state will use 80 percent of the Fourth Friday (or Wednesday) count, taken in late September and 20 percent of the count from last February as its formula for funding. The blended count is then multiplied by the state foundation allowance.

Koster explained that the allowance for the Novi school district will be \$886 per student.

State funding from the planned budget to the actual budget is \$697,000.

Below is the unofficial count of 5,837 students, broken down by school. The 2000-2001 unaudited count will not officially be completed until November 1.

Total of 2,312 for the K-4 district:

- Novi Woods Elementary - 444
- Orchard Hills Elementary - 525
- Parkview Elementary - 502
- Village Oaks Elementary - 396
- Deerfield Elementary - 445

Higher grades:

- Novi Meadows - 968
- Novi Middle School - 882
- Novi High School - 1, 675

Stephanie Fordyce may be reached at (248) 349-1700.

Library Briefs

LIBRARY HOURS

The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. We are located at 45245 W. Ten Mile Road. Call 349-0720.

TINY TOT REGISTRATION

Children ages 12-18 months are invited to join us for a half-hour of stories, songs and games on Friday, Oct. 13 at 11 a.m. Preregistration is required; register in person or by calling the library. Space is limited, so toddlers and caregivers only, please.

STORYTIME NOTES

Registration for Fall 2 Storytimes begins Oct. 16 and runs until Oct. 28. Fall 2 Storytimes start Nov. 13.

NO. 6 CAFE FOR TEENS

Calling all poets and beatniks in grade 5 and up. Teen Read Week is Oct. 15-21. We are going to have a poetry slam at the "No. 6 Cafe" in the library on Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. Bring your poems for the open mic session, and we'll provide the Java and munchies. No registration is necessary.

THE CHAPTER CLUB

Readers in grades 4-6 are invited to join The Chapter Club. Our first meeting will be on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 11 a.m. to noon. We'll munch on goodies and discuss a different book each month. All

Chapter Club readers will vote at the meeting on our first book to read. No registration is necessary.

PEWABIC POTTERY STORY

Established in 1903, Detroit's Pewabic pottery preserves the esthetics, ideals and commitment to fine craftsmanship of the American Arts and Crafts movement. Therese Ireland, executive director of Pewabic, will discuss the past, present and future of this community treasure and will display samples of Pewabic work. The free program will be held Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. To register, call 349-0720.

HOMEWORK HELP ONLINE

All out of resources for your assignment? We'll show you how to utilize helpful sites on the Internet, using our homework help page and our magazine databases. The class, designed for kids ages 8-12, meets Oct. 16, from 7-8 p.m. (Parents are also welcome.) Register in advance in person or by calling the library.

MAKING SENSE OF SEARCH ENGINES

Internet whiz Richard Truxall discusses the difference between search engines and subject guides; the pros and cons of various tools for searching the Internet; and tips for maximizing the efficiency of these tools and reducing the number of "false hits" in your searches. The class meets Tuesday, Oct. 17, from 7-8 p.m.

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OCTOBER SPECIALS

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• 300 To 1 Digital Zoom
• Dual Digital Electronic Image Stabilization
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• 3.0" Color LCD
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\$999

Panasonic Upright Vacuum
• 12 Amp Motor
• Auto Carpet Height Adjustment
• On Board Tools
• 6 Stage Filtration
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\$99

zenith

Zenith 32" Stereo TV
• Front Surround Sound
• Universal Remote Control
• 6 AV Jacks
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GE 17.6 Cu Ft Refrigerator
• Gallon Storage In The Door
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GE Over The Range Microwave
• Large 1.4 Cu. Ft. Oven Capacity, 950 Watts
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GE 30" Electric Range
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LIVONIA: 34224 Plymouth, 1/2 Mile W. of Farmington Rd. (734) 427-7310

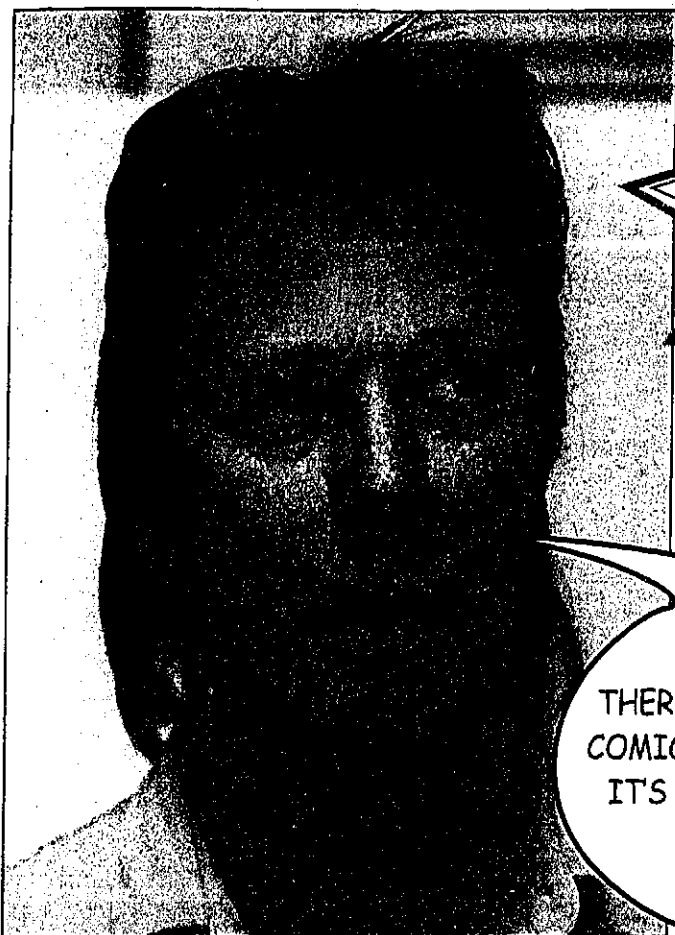
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KERSPLAT!

Are comics dying out?

"NOWADAYS, THERE'S NOTHING VERY COMICAL ABOUT COMICS. IT'S MOSTLY A LOT OF VIOLENCE."

-Steve Iverson

You may say that the comic book industry needs a hero.

While comic book shops may have withstood the powerhouses of places like Borders and Barnes & Nobles, who are rapidly putting independent book stores out of business, they nevertheless seem to be suffering.

Today, our younger generation is finding satisfaction in the growing number of cartoons and video games. They don't have the attention span to sit and read a book - even one as animated and simple as a comic.

"Comic collecting is not as popular as it used to be," said Steve Iverson, owner of Rookies & Legends in Novi. "Kids are more into the movies and the video games. It's all about instant entertainment."

Iverson, who has owned the comic and collectibles store since 1991, said he is the last of a number of shops in the area that have gone bankrupt.

"I know five stores that have closed in the last two years alone," he said.

Like Iverson, many comic book store owners must sell non-comic products such as figurines, sports cards and trading card games like *Pokemon* and *Magic: The Gathering*, to stay afloat.

Average monthly sales for comics sank from \$20.4 million dollars in 1997 down to \$16.9 million dollars in 1999 - a decline of about 17 percent, according to Krause Publication's Comics Retailer.

So why is the comic book industry declining? While the instant gratification of television and video games may play a factor, comic collectors say greedy investors and poor content are also to blame.

"For one thing, it doesn't seem to cater to the kids," said Dennis McDermott, manager of Classic Movie & Comic Center in Livonia. He said his clientele is dominantly males aged 16-25. "There's a few out there, like *MAD* and *Archie*, but most of the comics are dark and angst. Like if you really think about it, the *Spawn* comic is satanic."

Iverson agreed.

"Nowadays, there's nothing very comical about comics. It's mostly a lot of violence," he said.

However, Marvel Comics Public Relations spokesman Brian Rhiner said they are currently developing and

recreating less abrasive comics to lure youth back into the trade.

"Marvel is really bringing back a huge resurgence in the comic book industry with the release of *Ultimate Marvel* and *Ultimate Spiderman*, which is geared back at the young kids, has sold out at book stands and is about to go back into print with a #3," he said.

"*Ultimate Marvel* magazine is hitting the stands in December with a lot of big buzz, so there is a resurgence in the industry," Rhiner said.

While the lighter characters like *Superman* and *Spiderman* have been somewhat replaced by the more evil ones like *Punisher* and *Spawn*, money hungry investors are also hurting the industry.

"There is really one hard formula that makes a great comic: a good story and good art," said Mike Rea, co-owner of A to Z Comics & Cards in Garden City. "I think they've (the industry) gotten away from that. Now they are more concerned with the cover and presentation of the comic and not the content inside."

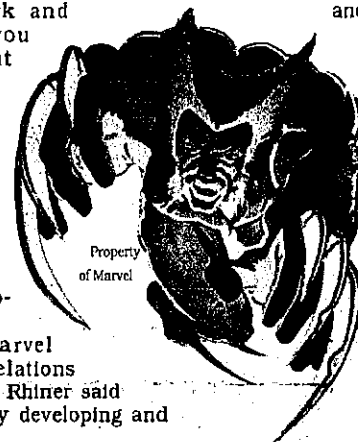
Rea said gimmick special-effect covers like foil and dye-cut fronts may look nice, but that they do little for the inside material.

Another problem with the industry, according to local owners, is that the almighty dollar has taken all the fun out of comics.

"The industry has changed from loving comics and treating it like a fun hobby to making



A X-men comic from Rookies and Legends.



Steve Iverson reads an issue from the Amazing Spider-man.

Continued on 2

TOP 10 COMICS OF SEPTEMBER 2000

1. UNCANNY X-MEN #386 (Marvel)
2. X-MEN #106 (Marvel)
3. WOLVERINE #156 (Marvel)
4. JLA #47 (DC)
5. AVENGERS #34 (Marvel)
6. PUNISHER #8 (Marvel)
7. MIDNIGHT NATION #1 (IMA)
8. SPAWN #102 (IMA)
9. DAREDEVIL #18 (Marvel)
10. X-MEN: BLACK SUN & THE NEW X-MEN #1 (Marvel)

source: Diamond Comic Distributors

Student enjoyed Victorian Festival

HomeTown Authors

Our class went to the Victorian Festival. We went on the bus. When we got there, we went to the theater to see Ms. Polly. After we saw Ms. Polly, we went to story telling. I liked Sodysalartitas. After we went to storytelling, we went to see Victorian Houses and the skits next. We went to gym after the Victorian houses to play games. One of the games I liked was duck duck goose!!! After gym, we went to see Mr. Mannisto play an accordion and the saw. After we saw Mr. Mannisto, we went to see Dr. Rudy. He gave



Ryan Sherry

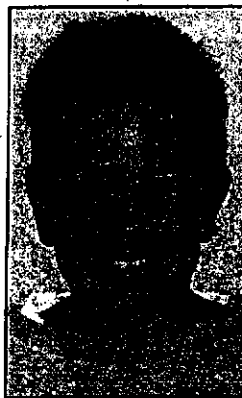
us M and M's. After Dr. Rudy, we had lunch and listened to a band. Then we went back to school. We had a lot of fun.

Ryan Sherry is a third grader in Mary Culik's class at Thornton Creek Elementary in Northville.

Want to be a HomeTown Author?

We're looking for kids ages 8-18 who want to become HomeTown Authors. Please send your story, opinion or article on what is going on in your classroom to *Northville Record/Novi News*, c/o Kelli Cooley, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI. 48167. Entries should be between 300-500 words, (about one to two pages typed.) We also need your photo to accompany the story. A school photo is perfect. Also, please include your age or grade and where you attend school, along with your name.

How can comics be more appealing to kids?



Bradley Cole Borland
Age 8

"They could make them 3-D or base them on a real story."



James Ramsey
Age 8

"They could make comics after video games. They could also make them funnier."



Brent Rau
Age 9

"They could be less violent and more realistic."

Novi Highlights

Novi Chamber of Commerce Reservations for the Oct. 17 chamber luncheon should be in...

Comic industry has hopes for the future

Continued from 1 titles coming out and it just killed it. It's just too much to handle for one comic.

her member, meet the ambassadors and staff, and network with attendees...

COMICS CONVENTION COMES TO NOVI

NOVI EXPO FALL COMIC CONVENTION Buy, sell and trade comics and collectibles at the Motor City Comic Convention...

Recycle HOME TOWN logo with phone number 248-349-1700

Painted Pottery Creations starts Nov. 3 for age 4 and up (with parent).

CHURCH DIRECTORY

For Information regarding rates call The Northville Record or Novi News (248)349-1700

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 9 Mile & Meadowbrook

CHURCH OF TODAY WEST (Unity) Meadowbrook Elementary School - Walnut Lake

NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 349-2632 (24 hrs.)

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 21355 Meadowbrook Rd. Novi, MI 48240

WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 40000 Novi Road - Northville, MI 48162

ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 4820 10 Mile & Novi, MI 48240

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY 24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48240

WORLDWIDE HARVEST CHURCH "A Place to Grow" Sunday Worship Service, 11:00 AM

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 44420 W 13 Mile Novi, MI 48240

OAKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH 23893 Rock Rd., Novi, S. of 10 Mile

PRAISE CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

Weddings

Heather Hitchcock and Jason Stewart were married July 29 at Orchard United Methodist Church.

Northville Seniors

The staff at the Northville Senior Center at 215 W. Cady Street coordinates the following services and activities for seniors age 50 and older.

Birth

American College Fund have set goals and are seeking yearly to award more than 9,000 scholarship awards.

Scholarship

James Petruska and Judith and Jim Petruska of Northville announce the birth of their son, James Matthew.

Weddings

Gregory and Gwen Dobson of Novi announce the marriage of their daughter, Caryn, to Gabriel Stevens.

Birth

James Petruska and Judith and Jim Petruska of Northville announce the birth of their son, James Matthew.

SEARS Warehouse Outlet advertisement featuring 50% OFF on appliances and home goods.

Table listing various churches and their addresses, including Good Shepherd Lutheran, Church of Today West, Novi United Methodist, etc.

Friday The 13th Sale advertisement featuring a haunted house illustration and contact information for Hometown Newspapers.

Matchmaker advertisement titled 'Connect with Local Singles' and 'Did you know... Our system matches you instantly with other singles'.

MOVIES

Page 6-AA

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Taking on the Washington establishment Joan Allen contends with the role that was written specifically for her

In the tradition of such films as "All the President's Men," "The Candidate," "The Seduction of Joe Tynan" and "The Parallax View," "The Contender" is a political thriller that takes us behind the scenes of political power plays.

When the sitting Vice President dies, Senator Laine Hanson (Joan Allen) is chosen by the President (Jeff Bridges) to be the first woman to hold the office. The selection meets with opposition from members of both parties, in particular a powerful political adversary (Gary Oldman) who will seemingly stop at nothing to discredit her. Her confirmation hearings set off a firestorm of controversy as shocking secrets from Hanson's past are revealed, threatening her personal life as well as her political future.

Laine Hanson has what it takes to be a heartbeat away from the presidency. Now she must prove she has the stomach for what it takes to get the job.

A self-described "political junkie," writer/director Rod Lurie enjoys the power plays of government the way some people enjoy gridiron plays. "Presidential election years are like football seasons to me," Lurie says. "I watch the events unfold with great excitement. I can't wait to see who

the Vice Presidential pick will be; I can't wait to see the debates..."

As a former film critic and entertainment journalist, Lurie also had an affinity for movies with political backdrops, especially those that gave audiences an insider's view of the manipulation and machinations of power. He notes, "In the '70s, we had films like 'All the President's Men,' 'The Candidate' and 'The Parallax View.' I loved them even as a little boy. The political films of recent years are more satires. With 'The Contender,' I tried to do something different - more of a throwback to those earlier movies."

However, Lurie is quick to add, "The Contender" is more about principles than politics. The challenges that Hanson faces in this film are decidedly more about her personal life than her public persona. Her principles tell her that under no circumstance should she allow her personal life to mesh with her public one, and her courageousness emerges when she takes a stand and refuses to give in, despite pressure from both sides. Her heroics are based on her sticking to those principles even when they're inconvenient.

The story backdrop of "The Contender" may have arisen from Lurie's fascination with politics,

but he has no hesitation in revealing that it was written for the award-winning actress who stars as Hanson, Joan Allen. "I did more than write this movie with Joan Allen in mind for the role of Laine Hanson," Lurie acknowledges. "I wrote the movie itself for her. I am a gigantic fan of hers. I think she is quite simply the best actress in the world."

The decision to write the script was initiated by an off-the-cuff remark Lurie made while presenting Allen with a Los Angeles Film Critics Award for her work in "Pleasantville." He recalls, "I got up on the stage and, impromptu, said, 'I should write a screenplay for Joan Allen...' I sat down with her afterwards, and she said, 'Write that screenplay.' You know, Joan has never played the character around which an entire movie revolves, and that's what I wanted to give her, so the role of Laine Hanson was born."

Joan Allen was understandably flattered to have the central role of the film written specifically for her, but she was even more thrilled upon reading the script. "I thought it was really wonderful," she recalls. "It's a dream for an actor to have a role like this, but the whole script is so good, and all the characters in it are terrific, not just mine."

Jeff Bridges star as President Jackson Evans, whose choice of a woman to become his new Vice President leads to a showdown in Capitol Hill. "I've spent some time in Washington lobbying for different causes and I'd always thought it would be interesting to play someone in politics," Bridges remarks. "But to play the President of the United States is an entirely different matter. It was fascinating to get in touch with



Jeff Bridges stars as President Jackson Evans, who stirs the pot in Washington by his selection of Joan Allen's Laine Hanson as his new Vice President, in director Rod Lurie's

"The Contender". The film features an all-star cast in an effort to return political films to the roots established by classics such as "All the President's Men" and "The Parallax View."



Director Rod Lurie provides direction to the actors of "The Contender", a film he wrote for Joan Allen, the film's star.

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Heading back

Novi beats up on Pinckney, qualifies for playoffs

By JASON SCHMITT
Sports Editor

Novi intercepted seven Pat Doyle passes and turned them into 30 points en route to a 36-25 Kensington Valley Conference victory over Pinckney last Friday night at Novi High School.

The win was Novi's sixth of the season and automatically qualified the Wildcats for the state playoffs set to begin in three weeks. Pinckney (3-3, 3-4) dropped its fourth-straight game after beginning the season 3-0.

"I can't fault our kids' effort out there," Pinckney coach Jeff Sloan said of his depleted team. "Certainly when we go back and look at the tape we'll find some breakdowns in our game. But they gave it their all."

Scott Kortlandt's interception and 28-yard return for a touchdown on the first play of the fourth quarter was Doyle's sixth of the game and gave Novi a commanding 36-13 lead. The play was on par with what Novi was able to do in the third quarter, where it intercepted two more Doyle passes and scored 13 straight points.

"I was surprised at how much they came out and passed," said Novi safety and quarterback Matt Gorman, who had two interceptions and over 100 return yards to help set up two of the 'Cats scores. "I couldn't believe how good (Doyle) was doing out there. I had a hard time getting traction out there. He did a great job."

Doyle completed 22 of 53 passes for 257 yards and three touchdowns. But even those numbers couldn't offset the turnovers. Pinckney also lost a fumble to complete the eight-turnover night.

Doyle's strong arm kept the Pirates in the game early on as Novi held a slim 17-13 lead at the half. Doyle connected with Chris Hohn for a 27-yard touchdown with 7:14 remaining in the first half. The score gave Pinckney a 7-3 lead, its only lead of the game.

Novi struck back with two touchdowns in a span of

NOVI 36
PINCKNEY 25

1:31 to grab a 17-7 lead. Gorman scored on a five-yard keeper and tailback Blake Myers punched one in from 19 yards out. Pinckney closed out the half with a nine yard touchdown strike from Doyle to Andy Doupe with 39.3 seconds remaining.

"I was confident that even though our kids would give up a 17 to 18 yard completion, we could come back and make a play," Novi coach Tab Kellepourey said. "Coach (Kraig) Caurdy and (Cole) Rowecamp made adjustments on defense and they paid off."

Playing with just 18 players, Pinckney began to break down in the second half. Novi scored twice in the third quarter on runs of 25 yards by Gorman and 20 yards by Fred Napier.

Pinckney made a last-ditch effort in the fourth scoring twice in the last 3:28 to make the score respectable.

Tim Daniels recovered a fumble off a botched punt by Novi in the end zone to give his team a quick score at the 3:28 mark. The team held Novi and Doyle led the team down the field for its last score, a five-yard strike to running back Mike Duncan.

Hohn was Doyle's main target for much of the game. The senior hauled in 11 catches for 135 yards and the touchdown. Doupe grabbed five passes for 62 yards and tailback David Reason, who was helped off the field midway through the fourth quarter after taking a hard hit, finished with three catches for 20 yards.

Novi's ground attack seemed to wear the Pirates out as the game progressed. The Wildcats rushed the ball 52 times for 235 yards. Pinckney finished with 39 yards on the ground.

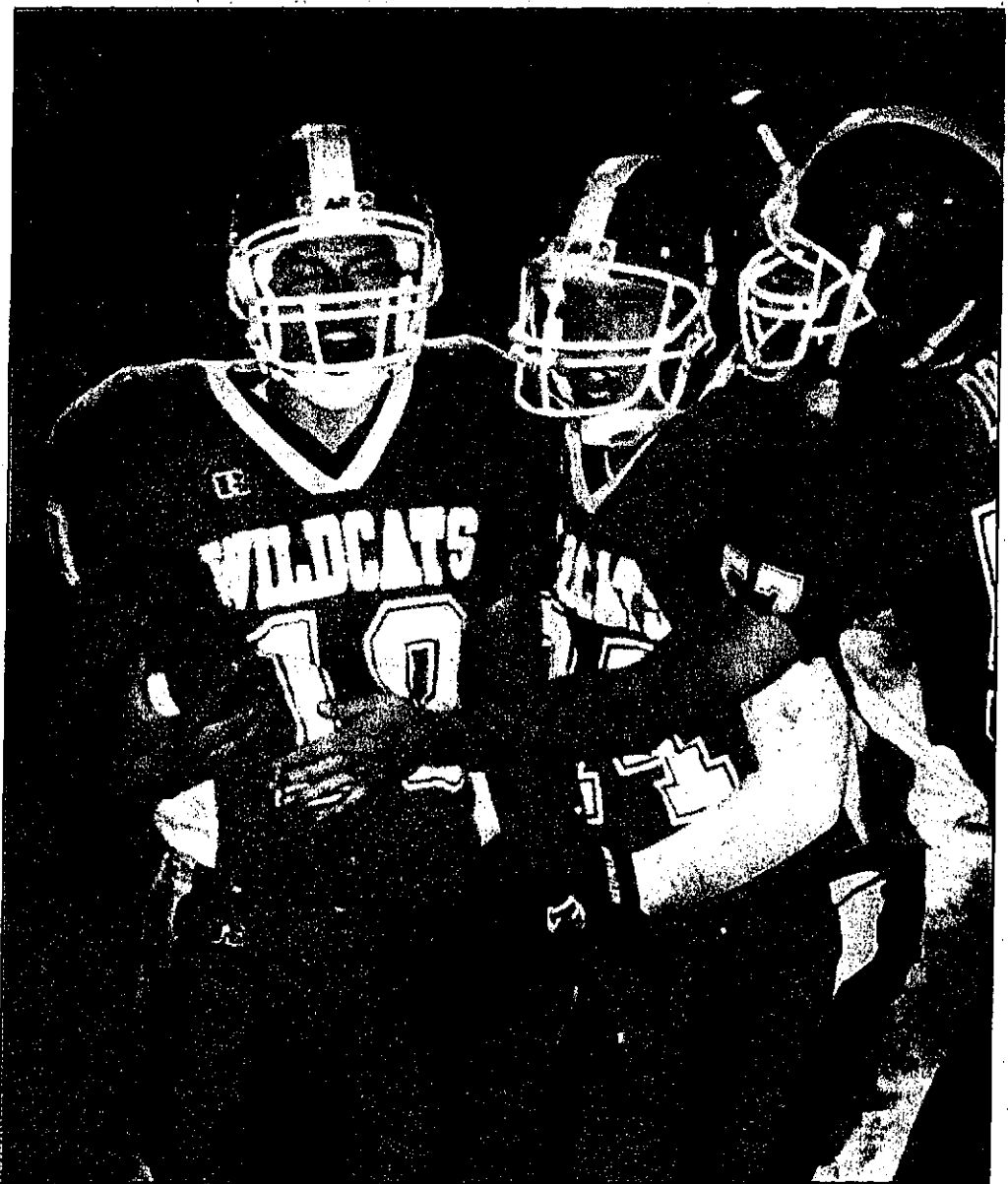


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi quarterback Matt Gorman (10) is congratulated Friday after scoring his first touchdown.

Continued on 3

Toloff leads Novi to county title

By JASON SCHMITT
Sports Editor

Chris Toloff continued his assault on course records and the Novi boys' cross country team won its second Oakland County championship in two years last Saturday at Possum Hollow.

Chris Toloff

The Novi senior co-captain defeated Ben Evans' course record by 17 seconds, winning the individual county title in a time of 15:38.7. He ran along-

side teammate Tim Moore for the first two miles of the race, but pulled away in the last mile to turn in perhaps his greatest performance ever.

He now owns the course record at both Kensington (Possum Hollow) and the Lakeland High School course and owns the school record at Cass Benton in Northville.

The team dominated the field as Moore took second in a time of 15:58 and Mark Aventus was third (16:32). Novi finished with 50 points to top the 39-team field. League foes Milford (90) and Lakeland (122) were second and third. Lake Orion (183) and Birmingham Brother Rice (237) rounded out the top five.

Novi had a pack of three guys close out the county championship. Tim Kava finished 21st overall in 17:18 and Mitch Erickson was close behind in 23rd (17:19). Todd Foren was within 20 yards of his teammates and took 24th in 17:23.

"That was definitely our strategy, especially in a field this big," Novi Coach Bob Smith said. "I told the guys before the race that they were going to see familiar faces around them. And that's really to our advantage."

"They have each other to count on and as long as they don't just run together, but still race and use each other as a barometer, they're going to do well."

Steve Szwast, Novi's seventh

man, took 36th place in 17:44. The top six Wildcats all earned county medals.

The title was Novi's first since 1998. Last year's team was without Aventus and took second to Clarkson. Despite missing Eric Walle, who is still working his way into shape, the Wildcats had little trouble regaining their title.

The KVC was well represented as six of the top 10 runners were out of the conference.

In the junior varsity race, Eric Saurer was the overall champion, and Novi finished second to Milford. Dan Stevens was eighth overall, Steve Duda was 10th, Matt Harsha-Strong 11th and Walle was 14th to complete the team's scoring.

WILDCAT FACEOFF DEBUTS TONIGHT

Novi's football team will debut its new uniforms and faceoff line tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the home of the Rockford team. The Wildcats will be led by head coach Tab Kellepourey and will be looking to make a strong statement in their first game of the season.

Who will be lucky number five?

Does anyone realize just how good the Novi boys' cross country team is this year?



Jason Schmitt

When healthy, the team is perhaps the most talented squad the school's ever had. When healthy, this team has four

other guys whose names have snuck in there lately.

I've been really impressed with the late-season surges by Tim Kava and Todd Foren. Kava is on pace to be quite possibly just a step behind junior sensation Tim Moore. His times and finishes mirror that of Moore's just a year earlier. No doubt he'll join Moore on the front line in the future, but his team hopes that future is now. Foren has been within seconds of Erickson and Kava at all the big meets up to this point, and fans shouldn't be surprised if this guy steps it up and is the team's fourth runner at states.

returning all-staters who have been an integral part of the last two state championship teams.

But for now, the team is not healthy. And the worst thing about it is that the team doesn't know if it'll regain the form it had at the beginning of the season.

Senior Eric Walle, who finished 22nd at last year's state meet, is still suffering from a foot injury that has kept him sidelined for much of the last five weeks. He has competed in the team's last few competitions, but is far from regaining his all-state form.

That means that not only will the team need a valuable fifth man to step it up for the stretch run of the season. But the team may now need that fifth man to kick it up one gear to make up for Walle.

The main difference I see from this year's team from those who won consecutive state titles is that those teams had one guy step it up and help the team to the state championship. In 1998 it was Mike Burns. Last year it was Nick Bassitt's turn.

The reason it's a difference is that I feel this year's team has four or five guys who could fill that role. But because the competition for the last three varsity positions has become so heated, I can't tell who that man will be.

Early on I really felt junior Mitch Erickson was gonna be that guy. He was sure to be the next Bassitt or Burns, only I felt he was better. I've been proved right by that, but there have been a few

Next we have Eric Saurer and Steve Szwast. Both have been among the team's top eight or nine runners consistently all season long. I don't believe either has cracked the team's top four at a quality meet though. Perhaps they'll be the ones who step it up come October 28. That's the day Novi will travel up to Midland to compete at the regional. It'll also be the last week of practice and competition before coach Bob Smith makes his decision as to who will run among the team's top seven at the finals a week later.

To be honest with you, I feel Erickson will be the one who makes the biggest difference for his team. He's got the potential. He's got the merits. But does he have the desire to be among the state's top 30 Division I runners? That's what I think it'll take Novi's fifth man to defeat a tough, tough Rockford team.

Novi won last year's title with a remarkable 68 points. Moore was third overall, Chris Toloff seventh, Mark Aventus 17th and Walle 22nd. Bassitt was 55th overall and 35th in the team race.

The team looked very good at the Oakland County meet last Saturday at Kensington Metropark. It'll take a similar performance for the team to take home the hardware one more time.

Jason Schmitt is the sports editor for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached via e-mail at jschmitt@ht.homecomm.net

Novi falls short

By JASON SCHMITT
Sports Editor

Northville used its strength in the freestyle events to top Novi 112-74 in the two school's first-ever meet at Northville High School back on Oct. 3.

The Mustangs finished first and third in both the 50 and 100 freestyles and swept the 200 free as Amy Black, Elizabeth Underwood and Erin Schubert all finished ahead of their Novi counterparts. The sweep gave Northville an early 19-11 lead, one which it never again relinquished.

The two teams both put up a winning effort as Northville won seven times in 12 events. But the 'Stangs took eight of the runnerup finishes nine more third places to wear out the Wildcats.

Novi opened up the meet with a win in the 200 medley relay. Lindsey Vermillion, Andrea Yocum, Blair Tyler and Amanda Smith finished in a winning time of 1:55.26. Northville countered with another strong finish (1:56.01), but it was not fast enough.

The sweep in the 200 free relay helped Novi to a 13-3 advantage in the event and an eight-point lead. Novi came right back to take 1-3 in the 200 individual medley to close the gap to 26-20, but



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Continued on 3 Christina Thompson performs one of her six dives in last weeks meet against Northville.

Colts get set for playoffs in October

The Northville-Nowi Colts Junior Varsity team is getting set to take its high powered offense into the playoffs. All three teams battled the Lakes Area Hawks. It was a great outing for the junior varsity team as they prepare for the playoffs which begin in two weeks. Colts cheerleaders and parents braved the chilly temperatures with wind chills dipping into the 20s to support their three teams in action at the home of the Northville Mustangs.

Head coach Carl Chandler's meticulous preparation paid off against the Hawks after a sluggish first half which saw the Colts take a 6-0 lead into the locker room. David Bandy scored in the first quarter on a great run around the end and would lead the Colts rushers in the backfield.

The first half was marred by penalties on offense for the Colts. Three big plays were called back because of penalties, including a 40-yard gallop by Brandon Carnegie and an Adam Chandler touchdown pass to Patrick Schlenke. But the offense didn't lose faith and came out smoking in the second half. Behind the offensive line, led by Jeremy Young, Neal Gallagher, Steve Kowalchuk, Michael Maul and Dan Enright, quarterback Adam Chandler was able to guide the unit to two more scores.

David Bandy burst through the line to hit pay dirt for the second time in the contest and later Adam Chandler hit Zach Elker for a short pass to cap off the Colts scoring surge and

put the game out of reach.

Defensively, the unit pitched a near perfect game and didn't give up a point. Nick Zoroya and Joe Kinville and Greg Hasse will especially tough up front. Brian Bagian, Matt Zielke, Ethan Tierney, Joseph Pritchard and Daniel Young pitched in to keep the Hawks out of the end zone. Zack Elker also recovered a fumble. The final score was 20-0 and the Colts junior varsity team's record is now 4-3. A victory next weekend should earn junior varsity squad a place in the playoffs.

The freshman unit was not as fortunate as they suffered defeat at the hands of the Hawks. The final score 24-0 in the favor of the Hawks. The offensive standouts for the Colts put forth a gritty effort but were unable to come out on top. The offensive unit was led by running backs Doug Beason and Bobby Thomas who carried the bulk of the rushing duties.

"This team never gives up," said head coach Dan Thomas. "And that's the joy of working with this team." The coach noted the efforts on the defensive side of the ball from Trevor O'Connor, Jacob Elker, Michael Kinville and Niko Paluzett. Brady Rodriguez and Geoff Gomersall also chipped in to knock down a couple of Hawks when the Colts needed it.

The varsity unit spotted the Hawks three first quarter touchdowns and then were never able to recover. The offense turned the ball over in their first two possessions which led

to easy Hawks touchdowns.

The Colts offense was led by the bruising running of fullback Thomas Spitsch who scored the Colts lone touchdown of the day. The Colts took the ball 70 yards led by quarterback David Carnegie. The Colts got in the end zone following two great runs from scrimmage by Kevin George and quarterback David Carnegie. Then Spitsch punched it in with two tough runs around the goal line. The drive would not have been possible without the solid offensive lineplay from Michael Burke, Joey Perch, Ryan Wiska, John Kinville, Jaymz Maurer and Dean Caleb. Daniel Thomas pitched in the receiving end to make a key reception to keep a separate offensive drive alive.

Defensively Kenny Hayes, Chris McGuire and Bryan Stadtmiller made several tackles in the secondary. Up front Jonathan Pace, Ryan Logsdon, Jeremy Baber, Alex Bartlett and Cory Patterson showed signs of toughness. Ryan Murphy, Peter Piotrowski also pitched in. The final score was 46-6 in favor of the Hawks.

All three teams will head to the Silverdome next weekend to battle the Walled Lake Braves in the annual season finale in Pontiac. It is a tremendous thrill for players and parents alike to play at the official home of the Detroit Lions. The first game will begin at 4 p.m. Sunday.

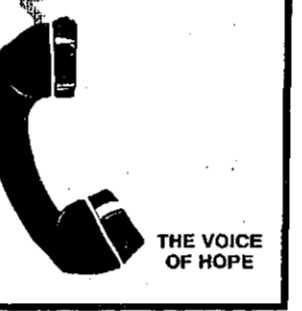
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Hot Picks

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Howell at Novi	Novi	Novi	Novi	Novi	Novi	Novi	Novi
Lakeland at Millard	Millard	Millard	Millard	Millard	Millard	Millard	Lakeland
WL Central at Harrison	Harrison	Harrison	Harrison	Harrison	Harrison	Harrison	WL Central
Indiana at Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan
Wisconsin at MSU	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	MSU	MSU	Wisconsin	MSU
Purdue at Northwestern	Purdue	Northwestern	Northwestern	Northwestern	Florida St.	Purdue	Purdue
Oakland at Kansas City (NFL)	Kansas City	Oakland	Kansas City	Oakland	Oakland	Kansas City	Oakland
Dallas at NY Giants (NFL)	NY Giants	NY Giants	NY Giants	Jacksonville	NY Giants	NY Giants	NY Giants
Jacksonville at Tenn. (NFL)	Tennessee	Jacksonville	Tennessee	Tennessee	Detroit	Jacksonville	Tennessee
Last Week	6-4	5-5	6-4	7-3	6-4	5-5	4-6
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Senior Cas Werda (36) takes the ball from Matt Gorman last Friday.

Novi forces seven picks

Continued from 1

Gorman led Novi with 127 yards on 14 carries and the two touchdowns. Blake Myers added 59 yards on 14 attempts to go along with his score.

Novi (6-1) qualified for the playoffs for the second straight season, giving the RVC two teams (Brighton) who have qualified for the playoffs.

"We're happy to be in the playoffs and right now we have to focus on our next opponent," Kelleppoury said. "Our attitude all along has been that we're a good

Tankers drop one

Continued from 1

Northville would go on to win or tie eight of the last nine events to close out the win.

Yocum and Tyler finished first and third in the IM, with Deirdre Schwirring taking second for Northville. Jenny Carr came right back to share the win 5-0 with Novi's Smith.

Novi's Laurel Weiss won the diving competition with 214.40 points, but Northville's Kim Verres and Katie Braine finished 2-3 to help Northville tie the Cats in the event, 8-8.

Northville outscored Novi 11-5 in each of the first two events as Carr and Hrtvnak went 1-3 in the 100 butterfly and Christina Mocerri and Schubert were 1-3 in the 100 free. Tyler was runnerup in the 100 and Smith was second in the free for Novi.

Vermillion came back for Novi, winning the 500 free in a time of 5:25.7, but once again Northville proved to be too deep as Arlette Greenlee, Underwood and All Stewart went 2-3-4.



Blair Tyler performs the breaststroke in the medley relay last week against Northville.

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There's never been a better time to open an account at your Community credit union. Because for every new deposit account opened by December 9, 2000 you'll get a chance to win one of these great prizes.

Grand Prize
7-Day Caribbean Cruise For Two*

First Prize
Digital Phone & One Year of Cellular Service*

5 Second Prizes
\$100 Cash

New members win in other ways, too. You'll learn first-hand how outstanding service and a commitment to this community really pays off. With great rates, free checking programs, Internet Banking and more, you can't lose! Plus, Community Federal will donate \$5 to the Plymouth Community United Way for every new member.

Bring a friend. Tell a family member and you both could win! Remember, anyone who lives or works in Plymouth, Canton, Northville or Novi can become a part of our community.

www.cfcu.org

Plymouth Branch • 500 S. Harvey • (734) 453-1200
Canton Branch • 6355 N. Canton Center Rd. • (734) 455-0400
Northville Branch • 400 E. Main Street • (248) 348-2920

At Your Service. In Your Community.

Consent reservations must be 18 or older to enter. Community Federal Credit Union employees and immediate family are not eligible. No purchase necessary. Visit any branch for an entry form. Drawing to be held December 12, 2000. All entries must be received by December 9, 2000. Need not be present to win. Odds of winning determined by number of entries received. See any branch for details.

Health Notes

Free Foot Screenings

Free foot screenings are offered every Tuesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Botsford General Hospital, Suite 200, South Professional Building, 28080 Grand River Ave. in Farmington Hills. For more information or to make an appointment, call (248) 473-1320, weekdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Intermediate Water Aerobics

This is a 50-minute water exercise class for postnatal and post-physical therapy patients. There is a \$35 fee for the six-week course and registration is required.

For registration and information, call the Botsford Center at (248) 473-5600.

Child Clinic

Oakland County Health Division's Child Health Clinics provide free ongoing well care for children from birth to school entry. Families who do not have an HMO or Medicaid may be eligible. Clinics are held at 14 locations throughout Oakland County.

Services include heights and weights; head to toe physical examination; immunizations; vision, hearing and lab testing; growth and developmental screening; and counseling as needed.

Appointments are required. For more information, call: north Oakland, Pontiac: (248) 858-1311 or 858-4001; south Oakland, Southfield: (248) 424-7066 or 424-7067; west Oakland, Walled Lake: (248) 926-3341.

Panic attack and agoraphobia support group

They have monthly meetings starting in September at both Northville and Livonia locations. It's a comfortable group support setting for individuals experiencing panic attacks. The cost is \$5. For more information call Susan Franceschi at (734) 420-8100.

ABCs of Weight Loss

A registered dietitian will work with you individually for three months to set up a realistic weight loss plan, organize your appetite and discuss the best strategies for weight loss. A \$95 fee and appointment is required.

The class is sponsored by Botsford's Health Development Network, 39750 Grand River Ave. in Novi. For more information and to register, call (248) 477-6100.

Asthma Education

Individual sessions with a registered nurse can provide the tools to better understand and manage asthma. Day and evening sessions are available. Families are welcome.

There is a \$30 fee and an appointment is required. For more information and to register, call (248) 477-6100.

Child Health Clinics

Oakland County Health Division's Child Health Clinics provide free ongoing well care for children from birth to school entry. Families who do not have an HMO or Medicaid may be eligible. Clinics are held at 12 locations throughout Oakland County.

Services include: Heights and weights; head-to-toe physical examination; immunizations; vision, hearing and lab testing; growth and developmental screening; and counseling with referrals to physicians and area resources as needed.

Appointment is required. For more information, call: North Oakland, Pontiac, (248) 858-1311 or 858-4001; South Oakland, Southfield: (248) 424-7066 or 424-7067; West Oakland, Walled Lake: (248) 926-3300; and Holly residents: 1-888-350-0900, extension 8-1311 or 8-4001.

Healthy Solutions Seminar

Healthy Solutions are offering a seminar series over the next few weeks.

All seminars are free and begin at 7:30 p.m. Please call (248) 305-5785 or stop in healthy solutions to reserve a seat (space is limited). You may show up the night of the seminar, however a seat may not be available.

Hot Flash Study

Women who suffer from multiple daily hot flashes associated with menopause are being sought to participate in a nationwide study to assess the safety and effectiveness of an investigational hormone replacement skin patch to treat hot flashes. Women may be eligible if they are between the ages of 45 and 65, have not had a menstrual period in six months, or a hysterectomy. For more information, call 493-6580.

Blood pressure checks

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

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

For more information call (248) 380-4225.



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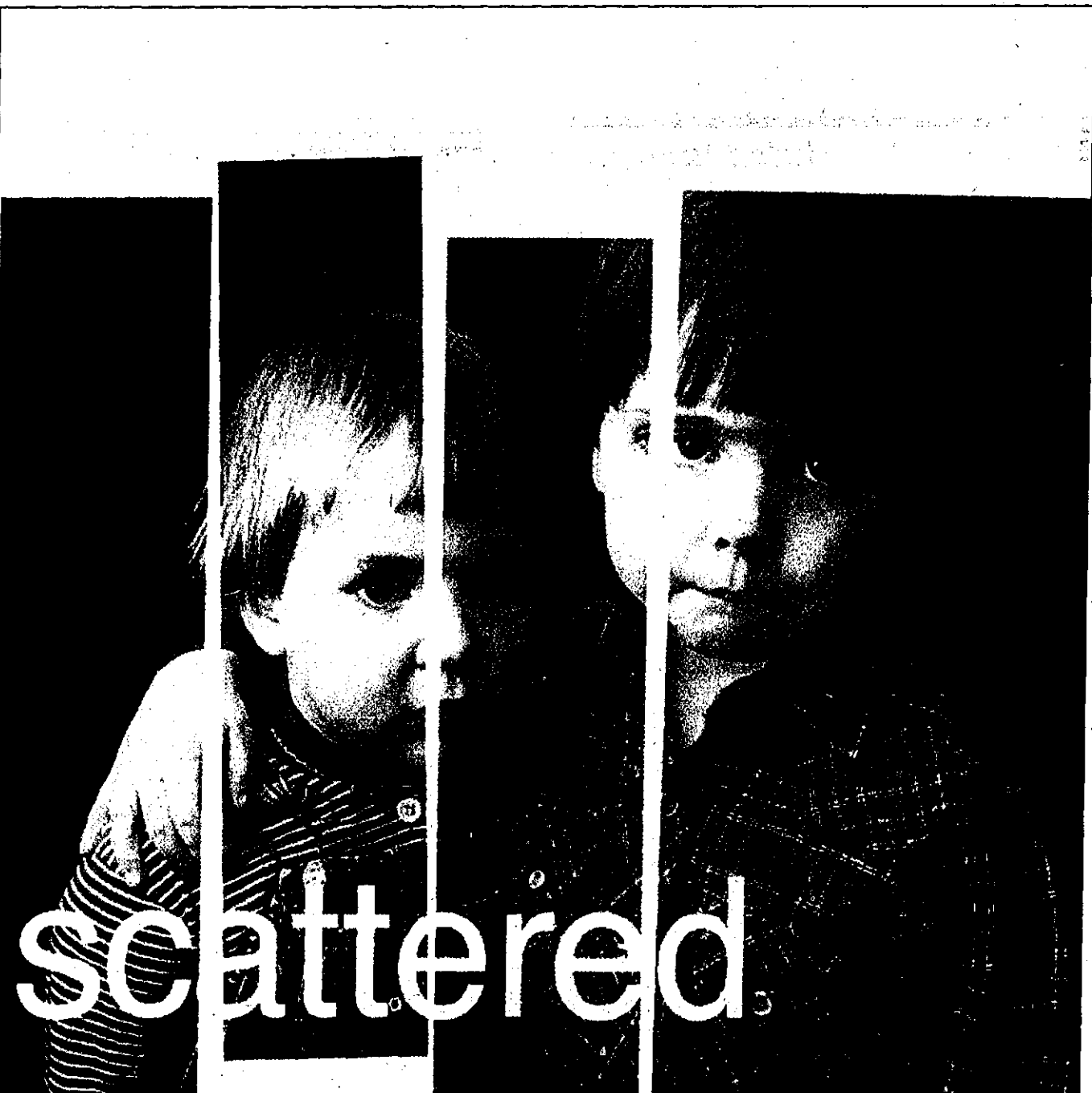
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