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Novi, Michigan

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Harleys come to town
Novi Police Department receives three Harleys on loan to help patrol the city — Page 5A

Magistrate still on bench

Robert McKenney just celebrated his 80th birthday. Find out how he keeps young-at-heart and still has time to serve the community as a magistrate — Page 12A

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New faces

Council chooses new planning comm. members

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

With the election behind them, the new players step up to the plate during Nov's Nov. 13 city council meeting.

After an inspirational swearing in of the new candidates by Judge Dennis N. Powers - newly re-elected mayor, Richard Clark addressed the citizens of Novi.

"I will do my level best to continue to earn your trust and confidence in the next two years," Clark said. "The election is over and it is time to move forward."

Clark said he hopes he never sees another election like this in Novi and admonished the practice of personal attacks.

"Let us put the past behind us and move forward for what is in the best interest of this community."

Continued on 4

Library board reviews proposal

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Finding out why the Nov. 6 Novi Library Millage proposal did not pass is the anticipated next step for members of the library board.

"I think we're probably going to discuss if a public survey will be done," said Kathy Mutch, vice-president of the Novi Library Board.

"It would be so helpful to do a formal analysis," said Brenda Evans, director of the Novi Library.

Mutch explained professional polling usually finds out the real reasons opposed to surveys done by individuals linked to the library.

"If the majority of the community does not want a new library then we need to know that," Mutch said.

Continued on 4



The United States Air Force string band, including Master Sergeant Sharon Bingham, right, entertains Novi High School Thursday morning.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Honoring the red, white and blue

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

Novi High School students honored Veteran's Day with the U.S. Air Force Band last week.

On Nov. 8, nine members of the U.S. Air Force Strolling Strings, a musical ensemble that plays a variety of classical, popular and bluegrass tunes, performed in the Novi High School Fuerst Auditorium for students and faculty.

"This was to celebrate being Americans and standing together for Veteran's Day," said Jamil Wilkens, Novi High School dean of student services.

The Strolling Strings performed its full range of music for the Novi audience from Mozart to toe-tapping bluegrass to its encore, the patriotic "America the Beautiful" - which received a hearty round of applause.

"Our job is to entertain," said Bryce Bonner of Indiana, who is a viola player in the U.S. Air Force Band.

Currently, the Strolling Strings are on a national tour, dazzling music fans of all ages across the country.

"We promote awareness of the armed forces through music," Bonner said.

These concert performers

have received a professional military education and completed boot camp, but are serving their country at home with violins and cellos.

"We help build public morale and patriotism," said Bill Popp, an accordion player with the U.S. Air Force Band.

To close the morning program, the Novi High School students displayed a huge American flag that spanned the length of the auditorium, showing their appreciation for their guests.

"We wanted to show our gratitude to them for serving our country and taking the time from their busy schedule to come here," Wilkens said.

A reception was held after the performance, where students and faculty mingled with the U.S. Air Force Band members.

"This was an opportunity to broaden the students' awareness of what the armed forces really do for our country," said Novi High School principal Jennifer Cheal. "It also was a chance for students to meet Air Force professionals and see different career possibilities."

The reception was coordinated by the new, Novi High School student group, United We Stand, which seeks to unite the school through patriotism.



Novi High School students unfurl a Red, White and Blue surprise for the U.S. Air Force Strolling Strings band after their performance at the school last week.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

"The students gained a better appreciation of music and the military," said Matt Harsha-Strong, a spokesperson for United We Stand.

The Strolling Strings, which was originally formed in 1954, is a 22-piece musical ensemble that often performs for the president and visiting head of states. The group has played in every country in Europe as well.

When needed, the group also performs as the U.S. Air Force

String Orchestra and combines with the Concert Band to form the U.S. Air Force Chamber Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra.

Overall, the U.S. Air Force employs 209 musicians, ranging from chamber soloists to country music guitar players.

Angelo Parlove is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or at aparlove@ht.homecomm.net.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

With help from the Organization "Novi Cares for Senior Citizens", Whitehall residents like Bert Andrews will have brighter holidays this year. From left is Novi Police Officer Diane MacGregor, Whitehall Activities Director Christine Valley, Bert Andrews, Carolynn and Tony Mallia of the VFW, and Officer Joyce Nelson.

Novi CARES gives seniors their dreams

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

For senior citizens who don't have anyone to wish them a merry Christmas or a happy birthday, members of Novi Cares for Senior Citizens are a welcomed friend they never thought they would have again.

The group comprised of members of the Novi Police Department and Novi City Hall, created a program to bring companionship and material wants and needs to residents of Whitehall and Charter House nursing homes.

The goal of the group is to bring birthday and holiday celebrations to those not fortunate enough to have outside support systems and as a result, are in need of attention and friendship.

The idea came about in November of last year when Novi police officer, Joyce Nelson, began looking for a way to carry out the police department's mission of "partners in our community striving for excellence."

Nelson talked to Novi police officer Diane MacGregor about her ideas and one year later, Novi Cares for Senior Citizens

was up and running with a favorable response.

"Novi Cares is the only program that is constant," said Christine Valley, director of activities at Whitehall of Novi.

Valley explained it is the only group that is around all year and the residents receive so much joy from its efforts.

Through the generous donation of time and funds from other members of the community, the group has been able to expand its efforts in a few different ways.

One of the ways is by organizing and providing group outings for the 34 seniors the group serves.

Coming up in December, Novi Cares will be providing residents the opportunity to see the Novi Senior Variety Series present its annual holiday show, "Silver Belles & Beaus In Concert."

"The residents are so excited about going," Valley said.

Next year, Nelson plans on providing outings every other month. She would prefer every month, but at this time it does not look like funds will be available to make that happen.

Whitehall resident, Bertrand Andrew, was the recipient of one of

Continued on 4

Cash box stolen from Novi Meadows

NOVI

A cash box containing about \$400 was reported missing from the fifth grade house of Novi Meadows. A teacher from the school notified police, an unknown subject or subjects stole a gray petty cash box from the classroom on Nov. 8. He was nervous when the last time he saw the cash box was, but believed it was someone during the prior week. The box is only visible if someone is under the desk. The officer noted in his report that the teacher said when he is not in his classroom, he keeps it locked and the only other people who have access are cleaning personnel and other teachers from the school. The note teacher had been off work on Nov. 7 and when he returned on Nov. 8, the door to his classroom was unlocked. Assistant principal Carracci was informed and indicated he would be sending an e-mail to the teachers in the school advising them to be more safety conscious. It was also noted in the report there was an outdoor theatrical production Wednesday night, but the complaint said his classroom was not used. The teacher told police that during the Wednesday production, a parent left her purse in the cafeteria and when she returned the purse was missing. It is unknown if the cases are related.

Police News

A Novi police officer responded to a large-scale call in the Sandstone and Novi Road area. An anonymous caller notified the police department two males had stolen political signs from the corner. The caller said the males stopped in a blue Ford F-150 and then exited the vehicle to take the signs. After stealing the signs, the two males got back into the truck and fled the area in an unknown direction. The officer attempted to locate the vehicle, but was unable to do so and determined the vehicle was gone on arrival.

How do you spell Oconomowoc?

On Nov. 7 at about 10:15 p.m., a Novi police officer pulled a Wisconsin man over for drinking and driving and possession of narcotics in the area of Grand River Avenue and Meadowbrook Road. The officer was traveling westbound on Grand River Avenue west of Meadowbrook Road when he noticed a white van traveling east in the center turn lane with its headlights off. The officer immediately got behind the van and noted in his report that three cars traveling west in the westbound lane had to go to the shoulder of the road

to avoid being hit. The officer activated his lights and the male driver crossed the roadway into the eastbound lane before coming to a stop on the shoulder of Grand River Avenue. After approaching the vehicle, the officer detected a strong odor of intoxicants coming from the man and noted his speech was slurred and he had trouble understanding. The 50-year-old man from Oconomowoc told the officer he had a couple of drinks. After a poor performance on his field sobriety tasks, the man was asked to take a preliminary breath test and blew a .131. While doing a search of the man's vehicle, the officer found a small black leather pouch in a storage tray between the two front seats. The pouch contained a small marijuana pipe, a small burnt marijuana roach and .2 grams of marijuana. One of the department's canine units was dispatched to locate the two front seats. The pouch contained a small marijuana pipe, a small burnt marijuana roach and .2 grams of marijuana. One of the department's canine units was dispatched to locate the two front seats. The pouch contained a small marijuana pipe, a small burnt marijuana roach and .2 grams of marijuana.

Purse stolen

A 20-year-old Commerce Township woman said her purse was stolen at the Salvation Army store Nov. 9 on 1154 E. West Maple Road in Walled Lake. She told police she set her purse down to try on clothes. When she came out, her purse was gone and her car keys were in a pair of shoes that were not hers. The woman lost her drivers license, social security card, Medicaid card, \$30, and other items. The case is open.

WALLED LAKE Caught red-handed

A 38-year-old Northville man working as a Detroit News vendor in Walled Lake has noticed copies missing out of the Sunday newspaper for the past two years. Other Walled Lake people have witnessed a small woman in her

Stranger accosts kid on Bryne

By Victoria Sadlocha STAFF WRITER

Walled Lake Police were notified Nov. 12 when a man got a bill for \$1,700 for a computer purchased at Gateway. However, the Walled Lake man told police he never purchased a computer. Gateway personnel told the man that he used his social security number to apply for credit and the computer was shipped somewhere in Detroit. Store fraud division is checking into the matter. The case is still open.

WIXOM Joy ride

An unknown suspect entered the Varsity Lincoln-Mercury dealership, 48650 W. 12 Mile Road, in Wixom on Nov. 19 and drove a new vehicle into some deep mud. The suspect entered the locked lot and set their sights on a new Lincoln that was brought to the dealership the same evening. The vehicle's keys were in the visor due to the late delivery. However, the Lincoln was driven behind the dealership and into a dirt lot west of Varsity on 12 Mile Road, where it appears the suspect attempted to take it on the expressway. However, the vehicle got stuck in mud and was left abandoned. The police have no suspects at this time.

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Scooby-Doo author entertains kids

By Victoria Sadlocha STAFF WRITER



A monstrous Cyclops who hypnotizes people with his evil eye recently materialized in Novi with the help of a large group of youngsters and Scooby-Doo mysteries' author James Gelsley.

School-aged residents helped Gelsley create Scooby-Doo and the Evil Eye during a Nov. 8 program held at the Novi Public Library.

"It was awesome," said 8-year-old Novi resident Gabrielle Gauruder. "That was fun."

Gauruder was one of the room-filling participants learning the brainstorming technique Gelsley uses to create the Scooby-Doo mysteries he began writing four years ago.

Gelsley began his enthusiastic and attention-keeping presentation by telling the participants the ultimate tool he uses when writing is his imagination.

"I am able to think things and go places I would never be able to do in real life," Gelsley said.

Then, with the help of some magic markers, big pieces of white paper and wonderful suggestions from the arm-waving audience - the creative process began.

Gelsley instructed the anxious participants that all Scooby-Doo stories must have certain main ingredients including monsters, clues, mystery, characters, suspects, structure of story and a setting.

"With all these ingredients, I am able to concoct a Scooby-Doo mystery," Gelsley said.



Author James Gelsley signs a copy of one of his Scooby-Doo mysteries for 8-year-old Gabrielle Gauruder of Novi at the Novi Public Library as 10-year-old Alan Pierce and 11-year-old Travis Neihoff wait their turn.

The first decision was the setting. "I try not to use real places," Gelsley said.

The crowd of mostly elementary school students and a creative writing group from Novi High, gave all kinds of suggestions.

"I like to use an alliteration," Gelsley said.

He then chose the winning title and that is how Scooby-Doo and the Evil Eye invaded Novi.

Gelsley told the audience, "Some of the 23 mysteries available are 'Scooby-Doo and the Farmyard Fright,' 'Scooby-Doo and the Seaside Slimmer' and 'Scooby-Doo and the Carnival Creeper.'"

"I did not invent Scooby-Doo," Gelsley said.

The lovable, laughable pooch was created in the mid-1960s and masterminded by Bill Hanna and Joe Barbera along with media executive and producer Fred Silverman.

Gelsley told everyone in attendance the mysterious thing is he has a dog named Scooby-Doo which he bought two years before receiving the job.

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Novi Community School District invites qualified contractors, including MBE/WBE/BESB, to submit proposals for the above-referenced project for the following Bid Categories: 1A - Metals; 1B - Painting; 1C - Temperature Controls; and 1E - Electrical.

BIDS ARE DUE at 2:00 local time on Tuesday November 27, 2001.

On behalf of Novi Community School District, Elkin Skanska Inc. in cooperation with the Construction Management firm, will receive sealed proposals for the above project at the Office of the Construction Manager, Attention: Chris Becker, until the stipulated bid opening date and time. Bids received after the stipulated date and time will not be considered and will be returned unopened. Bids will be opened at a public meeting to be convened at 3:00 on Tuesday, November 27, 2001, at Novi Community School District, Educational Services Building Board Room, 26345 18th Road, Novi, MI 48374. Bids must be clearly marked with the project name and bid categories.

All interested bidders may obtain copies of the drawings and specifications from Elkin Skanska Inc. upon request and upon providing a bid deposit of \$50.00. Documents will be ready for pickup Wednesday, November 14, 2001 at 8:00 a.m. Elkin Skanska Inc. will return all bid deposits to contractor(s) after bid date and when bid documents are returned to Elkin Skanska Inc. in cooperation with the Construction Management firm.

A minimum of 5% bid security, either in the form of a Bid Bond or Cashier's Check payable to Novi Community School District, must accompany each bid. In accordance with Michigan Compiled Laws Section 120.201, successful contractor(s) must obtain Performance and Payment Bonds for any Bid Category exceeding \$50,000. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be in an amount equal to the contract amount. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be solely for the protection of Novi Community School District and Elkin Skanska Inc. as dual obligees. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Michigan and be listed in the Federal Register or have an A.M. Best Rating of B+ or better.

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Seniors rely on officers' support

Continued from 1

the group's outings and hasn't stopped talking about the exciting day.

Andrew, who played for the Detroit Red Wings in 1960, was one of the residents Nov. 10. Cares took to a Red Wings retired players game and then into the locker room to meet the players.

"It was really great. It was wonderful," Andrew said.

Another way the group has changed is by expanding its companionship to Nov's "shut-in" seniors.

By reaching out, Nov Cares hopes to continue increasing the number of residents it services

from the 20 seniors it began with last year.

"The support from our city personnel has been phenomenal," Nelson said.

She said the group would be lost without the help from the Whitehall Senior Community, Nov Police Officers Association, Nov Sergeants and Lieutenants Association, Nov Fire Department, Merwyn's department store, Kroger and Anthony and Carolyn Mallia.

"The Mallias, who represent the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2269 in Whitehall, became members of the not-for-profit group after reading about its efforts last year.

"The VFW has the same goal," Anthony Mallia said. "We assist in

Bononi named Mayor Pro-tem

Continued from 1

Clark said.

On that note, he moved into the first order of business — appointing a new Mayor Pro-Tem.

After thanking council member Laura Lorenz for her "outstanding job" as former Mayor Pro-Tem, Clark explained both he and Lorenz decided to share the honor and broaden the horizons of the community by choosing someone new.

Before a round of applause, he announced Michelle Bononi as the new Mayor Pro-Tem of Novi.

The next act with the old and in with new item of business was the appointment of three new members of Novi's Planning Commission.

Before presenting the names of his recommended appointees for a vote, which have been presented to council in the past, Clark offered new council members David Landry and Jim Capello the opportunity to ask questions about the applicants he supported.

"I was taken by surprise when asked to interview right now," Capello said during the meeting.

Landry felt comfortable with the recommendations of Gwen Markham, David Ruyle and Timothy Shroyer and had no problem voting on the issue.

Capello, who stated the plan-

Single-point interchange approved

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Novi City Council adopted a resolution of support giving the Michigan Department of Transportation its approval to develop and construct a single-point urban interchange at the Interstate 96 and Beck Road connector.

Members of the council voted unanimously in favor of giving MDOT their approval during the Nov. 13 city council meeting.

"I think it is a very positive step," said David Wresinski, project planning manager for the Michigan Department of Transportation.

The next step is to proceed with the design aspect of the project in a timely manner in order to meet the \$4 construction date.

Wresinski had received a lukewarm reception from members of the prior council after asking them for their approval at the city's Sept. 24 meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Michelle Bononi said she wanted to be sold and not

told what type of intersection would be constructed and therefore wanted more time to review the interchange design which is new to Michigan.

Bononi was concerned after viewing what she thought was a 20/20 program portraying the intersection as one of the most visually confusing in the United States.

Despite her yes vote, Bononi and council member Laura Lorenz, did not vote their concerns with the safety aspects of the connector.

Lorenz was still not sold that intersection markings would be clear in the snow and Bononi felt there are still reviews attached to the design which are a great concern to her.

"It doesn't seem like we have very much of a choice here," Bononi said. "I hope there were approvals as soon as possible to hit this 2003 construction date."

MDOT had originally planned on constructing a partial cloverleaf design and switched to the single-point design after realizing the

cloverleaf was not economically feasible.

The single-point design requires the purchase of less land, or "right-of-way." In the area of the interchange making it more appealing.

MDOT officials estimate the cost to purchase right-of-way for both the Beck and Wixom Roads connectors is rising at about \$500,000 per month.

By changing to the single-point design, MDOT estimates it will save about \$15 million.

The department had originally set aside \$80 million for both the Wixom and Beck Roads connectors when allocating funds for its five-year plan.

Six million dollars of the funding for the project came from Novi residents in the form of the city's road bond and land contributions from both Novi developers and the city.

Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or at vsadlocha@ht.homecomm.net.

Proposal's denial leaves questions

Continued from 1

If feedback supporters of the millage proposal receive indicates residents are willing to pass a proposal, but just not right now, Match said they really do find that out as well.

The prospect of what to do now is somewhat frustrating, according to the Novi library millage proposal supporters who have been trying to figure out what to do with the limited funds they have.

"We can't continue to provide services people are not willing to pay for," Match said.

Match explained the difficulty of the board's position is compounded by the fact the library can not sell services to bring in revenue like service industry-type businesses.

"In addition, the building continues to deteriorate," Match said.

Since the proposal was declined, the library has to face the building will need a new heating and cooling system.

Overall, Match said the most important action is to review and analyze the results of the election.

"Are voters saying no, not now or no, not ever?" Match questioned. "Or are they saying no, not this proposal?"

Match said she will be presenting the library millage proposal to the Novi residents who voted on the ballot proposal.

Out of the city's 30,503 registered voters, 3,768 residents voted against and 2,687 residents voted for the 1.20 mills increase needed to construct and operationally fund a new Novi library.

Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or at vsadlocha@ht.homecomm.net.

Michigan Senate attempts to end use of public dollars for campaigning

By Mike Malott
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
MMALOTT@HOMECOMM.NET

State senators are toughening up rules that prohibit a public body from using public funds to advocate a position on a ballot question or attempting to influence the outcome of an election.

In other words, they don't think city councils or school boards should be able to use taxpayers' money to try to convince those same taxpayers to approve a millage increase, as an example.

If Senate Bill 759, sponsored by Sen. Beverly Hamnerstrom, R-Temperance, is eventually passed the practice would be strictly limited. Senators have voted 20-15 on the bill and sent it to the House of Representatives for review.

Further, the law would ban non-profit corporations from trying to influence the outcome of an election with money they receive from public bodies through dues or fees.

An example of the practice cropped up in a recent election when the 'Let Local Votes Count' proposal was on the ballot. The Michigan

Municipal League campaigned vigorously on behalf of the proposal, which would have protected local control from state legislation.

But the MML was criticized for the campaign, noting that it was essentially using money paid to it in dues from city councils, which were drawing money from their general fund budgets to do so.

The practice has been legal. Both this Attorney General and the previous one reviewed it and found it acceptable under Michigan law.

Following the Let Local Votes Count campaign, the state Chamber of Commerce challenged the MML's use of the money in court as well, and the judges agreed it passed muster under state law.

Hamnerstrom explained the purpose of the ban was to keep non-profits from using dues as a way to funnel money out of public coffers and into campaign funds.

Sen. Dianne Byrum, D-Onondaga, noted that the issue of non-profits campaigning on ballot questions has been tested. She noted that the attorney general has ruled that funds stop being public funds as soon as they are

paid out by cities or school districts.

Oponents of the bill argue it might be used to keep groups from campaigning just because they do business with a city or school district.

Hamnerstrom added exemptions to the bill to allow those groups to use money from goods and services on campaigns, but they could not do it on work time.

Nothing in the bill would stop public officials from participating in interviews, forums or debates.

Public bodies, such as schools or cities, are already prohibited from using public funds for campaigning, but the rules are not always clear. So when the Oakland County Intermediate School District attempted informational presentations about the recent school voucher ballot question, it got wrapped for crossing the line into advocating a position.

Intermediate school officials said they didn't think they had crossed the line, but voucher proponents and the Secretary of State believed they had. The district was ordered to stop using the presentation.

To clarify the rules, the bill requires that public bodies "maintain strict neutrality in each election."

The bill says that "it would not prohibit individual expressions of views by elected or appointed positions. Officials and government employees would not be barred from taking positions, but they could not do it on work time."

Another amendment by Sen. John Cherry, D-Clio, to block public corporations from advocating a position on the ballot was also rejected.

Senators approved passage of the measure in a party-line vote.

SEMCOG gives nod to SpeedLink plan

By Mike Malott
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
MMALOTT@HOMECOMM.NET

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments has approved a regional transportation plan that will set the direction of mass transit in the region for the next 25 years.

The \$2 billion plan includes bus rapid transit, known as SpeedLink, that would cover 250 miles along 12 of the region's busiest corridors.

The high speed bus service would pick up riders up at some 265 stations and transport them along dedicated lanes toward their destination.

Bus rapid transit may be expensive, at \$1.8 billion for development, but the price beats light rail transit, which would run somewhere between \$8 and \$14 billion to cover the same areas.

The plan will also feature a regional authority to oversee mass transit in the region. SMART and DDOT will continue to operate their systems, but the regional authority will coordinate their activities with the overall plan.

Approval by the municipal members of SEMCOG at a meeting in Plymouth Thursday, Oct. 25, is the first step in a process that will culminate in an election to approve the system. But first, the state

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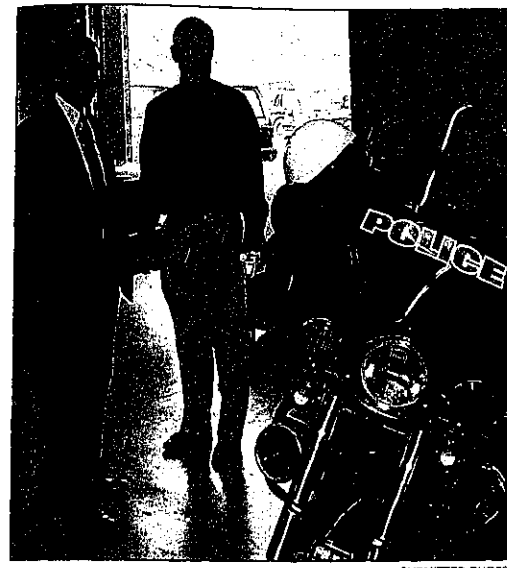
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On a recent tour of the city, Novi Police Chief Douglas Shaeffer shows Michigan's Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus the department's motorcycles if leased for \$1 in the Spring.

Police officers break out the leather

Department gets three Harley-Davidsons for patrolling, parades

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

For the small price of \$3, the city of Novi is a much safer place.

Thanks to a lease program provided by Harley-Davidson, the city leased three motorcycle for \$1 each in an effort to provide better access when servicing the city.

"I paid \$1 out of my own pocket," said Lt. Timothy McNamara, of the Novi Police Department. "Kids love them and adults love them too."

McNamara is a fan of the motorcycles the department received in the spring because the bikes put officers in closer proximity with the residents, more like the old days when officers walked a beat.

"The community has given the motorcycles a very warm response," said Douglas Shaeffer, chief of police for the city of Novi.

Shaeffer added he has received many positive compliments from citizens and officers.

Officers from the department like patrolling on the motorcycles because they say it makes them more approachable.

In addition to placing the officers in closer proximity to residents, the bikes are also useful for practical purposes.

"When officers go through the neighborhoods, people tend to notice."

Lt. Timothy McNamara
Novi Police Dept.

Examples McNamara used were being able to get in and out of tight spots, providing escorts and patrolling hard to reach areas such as parks, school parking lots and special events like parades.

He also stated they are helpful when patrolling Twelve Oaks Mall and the Novi Expo Center.

"They are useful in places where patrol cars can't go," McNamara said.

Officers of the department attended a volunteer training program offered through the Michigan State Police at the State Fairgrounds to learn how to operate and maneuver the bikes.

"It is pretty intense training," McNamara said.

Officers are trained to go slow, how to break and what to do if the 750-pound bike drops and officers need to get themselves and the bikes back up and running.

McNamara also likes the bikes because they get people's attention.

"When officers go through the neighborhoods, people tend to notice," he said.

Lt. David Butler of the Novi Police Department said the department is offered unlimited mileage on the bikes which are leased for one year before turning them in for new ones from American Harley-Davidson and Buell in Ann Arbor.

The Novi Police motorcycles will remain on the streets through December before being stored until about March.

In a recent tour of the city, Michigan's Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus and County Commissioner Hugh Crawford stopped by the Novi Police Department expressing favorable remarks about the city's acquisitions.

Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or at vsadlocha@ht.homecomm.net.

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Drama times two

Central hosts "You Can't Take It With You" this weekend

By Diane Dempsey Deel

The central play, "You Can't Take It With You" will leave the auditorium...

enjoy, she said. "You can bring the kids and they won't get bored," Fookes said.

There's fireworks, as it's visually pleasing.

Devin Cameron, a senior plays the wacky Syracuse family.

The play is the only same one in the family except for "Allie," Cameron said. "I can accept the insanity but I keep it balanced."

He said he has become more relaxed like the character since he started performing the grandfather.

The audience can expect a lot of laughs when they see the play, he said.

"It's real light hearted," Cameron said. "You will have a good time."

Megan Hildebrandt, a senior, portrays Penny Syracuse, who is a passionate writer but never publishes any of her work.

The play is completely different than last year's "The Crucible," she said.

"The characters say things that you think but you would never say and that's what makes it so funny," Hildebrandt said.

Rehearsals has been a breeze, she pointed out.

"This show has been really easy to do," Hildebrandt said. "You sit around and laugh with friends then you realize that you have gotten so much done. The weeks have gone so quick, yet so smooth. We are really for an audience."

Mike Sachs, a junior who plays Tony Kirby, said his character is handsome, charming and in love with Allie.

"It's looking for something different than he is," Sachs said. "It's looking for love. He likes the Syracuse family better because they love and care about each other."

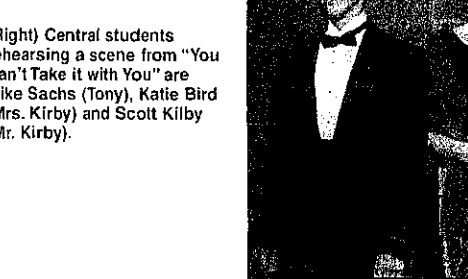
He believes the audience will like the play as much as he does.

"It's my favorite show that I have done in my three years doing plays," Sachs said. "It's really funny. The playwrights were great. I go home laughing every day from rehearsal."

Diane Dempsey Deel is a staff writer for the Lake Area Times. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110 or ddeel@laa.com.net.



Photos by JOHN HEIDER. (Left) Megan Hildebrandt (Penny) runs through her lines during Central's rehearsal.



(Right) Central students rehearsing a scene from "You Can't Take it with You" are Mike Sachs (Tony), Katie Bird (Mrs. Kirby) and Scott Kirby (Mr. Kirby).



Walled Lake Western High's Heather Rogers (Adelaide) and Seth Kahle (Nathan Detroit) strike a pose from their upcoming production of Guys and Dolls.

"Guys and Dolls" to be performed at WLW

By Diane Dempsey Deel

Ladies and gents will go wild for Walled Lake Western's "Guys and Dolls."

The play will be presented Nov. 15, 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Walled Lake Western auditorium.

It's the 50th Anniversary of the hit Broadway show, which takes place in New York City during the late 1940s. It's a love story that follows the interaction between gamblers and other street people and rescue mission workers.

Greg Cleveland, vocal music director at the school, said there are 70 students in the cast.

"I like to push it to 70 to give kids a chance to participate in a show," Cleveland said. "It could be the only time they can participate in a show."

The back drop is like a bright, comical cartoon, he said.

"It's the perfect musical for where the world is at right now," Cleveland said. "This musical is a chance for people to come and forget about their cares and worries. It's full of classic humor and wonderful, memorable songs."

He noted that the actors over-exaggerate to make the play amusing.

"It's over the top," Cleveland said. "Take Miss Adelaide. If she is flirty, she is very flirty. If she is sneezes, she sneezes really big."

The students have been rehearsing three to four times a week for the past eight weeks.

Erin Farnsworth, who plays Sarah Brown, said her character is the head of the rescue mission who becomes involved with a gambler, Sky Masterson.

She said the character isn't much different than she is. However, there are a few differences.

"She's more into religion than I am," Farnsworth said. "She gets drunk and goes to Havana with a strange man. It's not something I would do."

Farnsworth has had a great time working on the show.

"I'd rather do the show than go to school," Farnsworth joked.

Heather Rogers plays a dancer named Adelaide who has been engaged for 14 years to another gambler.

"I love the character," Rogers said. "The voice is fun to do. It's kind of a New York accent and it's kind of screechy."

People will have a great time when they watch the play.

Tickets and ticket information can be obtained by calling the ticket hotline at (248) 566-4578.

CAST

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

- Megan Hildebrandt, Catic Entwistle, Frankie Shepherd-Bates, Rose Turner, Aaron Sulla, Larry Davis, Patrick McGlew, Garrett West, Devin Cameron, Lauren Foukes, Amanda Kahl, Lita Otto, Mike Sachs, Rick Kamit, Lindsey Groves, Kirstyn Dannecker, Scott Kirby, Nikki Simonsen, Katie Bird, Emily Drellch, Jen Peck, Doss Frel, Ardy Johnson, Pat Robinson, Eric Johnson, Adam Charles, Gayle Barrie, Laura Lupus, Sonal Wagh, Michelle Markowitz, Elaine Cham-Yee, Lillian Kishak, Ali Olsen.

Stage Crew

- Ashleigh Tillingier, Chelsea George, Jena Edwards, Erin Marquis, Matt Lawrence, Frederike Slansky, Nick Brown, Jeff Walden, Erica Stack, Debbie Ridenour, Kristina Hamilton, Renee Kuiting, Emily Taylor, Lauren Petrik, Jade Huffman, Matthew Micallef, Ashley Murphy, Rebecca Ridenour.

CAST

GUYS AND DOLLS

- Heather Rogers, Jason Rogers, Eddie Rubin, Jamie Schare, Jared Schneider, Derek Schoen, Tim Smith, Jordan Solomon, Ryan Swett, Rachel Tabacnic, Jordan Tank, Shannon Taylor, Ryan Vandervoel, Brandon Webster, Stephen Zerber, Lindsay Zingano, Simon Zolatory, Christina Roback, Jillian Starbuck, Sam Gilbert, Chris Kazanowski, Chris Kir, Jay Josefostky, Jenna Maxey, Julie Watkins, Allison Bergsaker, Tracy Grobhoff, Brandt Small, Sarah Smith, Barbile Urquhart, AKI Watanabe, Mike Katz, Kristin Goodiney, Robyn Martin, Peter Rasmussen, Garrett Whitten, Arnie Milecki, Lindsay Orr, Amanda Tashjian, Liz Wozniak, Brittany Donnelly, Ashley Martin, Philip Baranski, Kyle Hoob, Lindsay Orr, Melissa Penn, Danielle Robling, Theresa Vric, Brandon Newman, Caleb Newman, Allison Turner, Devin Schonheek.

Second Meadows speaker focuses on "boy code"

By Angelo Parlove

A workshop for Novi parents entitled, "Raising Strong and Gentle Sons," challenged popular attitudes in today's society that often limit the potential of adolescent boys.

On Nov. 8, guest speakers Carole Lapidos, a social worker from Ann Arbor, and Jeff Spaulding, a social worker for Jackson Public Schools, led the evening's discussions in the Novi Instructional Technology Center, motivating parents to embrace the softer sides of their sons.

"Boys have a tendency to act out and become increasingly aggressive," Lapidos said. "There's more to being a boy than being tough."

The workshop encouraged parents to help their sons break the "boy code," society's expectations that hinder unpopular interests and ideas and channel these emotions into something creative and productive.

"Thus, if a son chooses to join ballet, a parent should support their efforts wholeheartedly. "Sons must learn when to follow the boy code and when to follow their heart," Lapidos said.

Lapidos said that it is the job of parents and teachers to open children to alternative solutions, allowing them a chance to carve their own unique paths in life, despite social pressures.

Furthermore, the workshop encouraged parents to teach boys to deal with anger and develop empathy skills.

All too often, boys are encouraged by television, video games and peers to solve problems through violence.

"I wanted to reassure the parents that they are not alone..."

Lisa Fenichel

Novi Meadows teacher

A suggestion was to limit a child's media exposure, diverting energies from television and video games towards skill building activities, such as reading and problem solving exercises.

Raising Strong and Gentle Sons" was the second of two lectures at the ITC by Carole Lapidos this fall, following "Raising Strong and Confident Daughters" on Oct. 29.

Whether it's working directly with students during the school day or attending workshops in the evening, these activities help to build the school community, Fenichel said.

Angelo Parlove is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 1108 or at aparlove@ht.homecomm.net.

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Too Chez turns gourmet into Bistro dining for customers

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

It may be hard to think back to a time when choosing a restaurant in Novi didn't require a directory the size of "War and Peace," but when doing so, residents may recall Too Chez on Skeraton Drive as the old-timer restaurant row.

Unlike Archie Bunker, an old-timer set in his ways, this dining establishment is continually changing to keep up with the trends.

Presently, the current trend in the restaurant business is family dining. People want restaurants where they may go as a group, enjoy a high quality meal and walk out of the experience with some cash left in their wallets.

So, in response, the restaurant has underwent another name change, changed the menu including prices, spruced up the joint and is busy spreading the message that it is now called, Too Chez Bistro.

"We used to be a destination restaurant," said John Baumgartner, general manager of Too Chez Bistro.

Baumgartner explained customers used to travel to the restaurant's location for the purpose of enjoying an expensive, formal meal chosen from a list of pricey and exotic choices.

Now, the restaurant welcomes everyone, offers more recognizable food choices, has lower prices and even added a children's menu - which is quite a contrast from the old days.

The menu, which changes seasonally, ranges from a \$7.50 Chez burger to grilled yellowfin tuna served with roasted red skin potatoes, tomatoes, artichokes, caramelized onion, capers and sauce Beurre Blanc for \$26.50.

Also on the menu are appetizers including smoked chicken quesadilla, phylo-crusted shrimp, crispy crunchy calamari and smoked salmon tostada; salads including



Photo by JOHN HEDER

Novi's Too Chez restaurant manager Achille Bianchi brings fresh bread and water to a pair of mid-day diners.

grilled chicken or salmon Caesar, not-so-simple greens and grilled tenderloin tips and arugula; burgers and sandwiches including a bacon olive burger, veggie burger, grilled corned beef and crab cake "Po-Boy"; main dishes including pan-fried whitefish, mussel and shrimp linguine, 6-ounce char-grilled filet mignon and Michigan chicken fettuccine; and of course desserts including chocolate and carrot cake, Ralph's cheesecake, "Terra Me Soo," "Split Vanilla Bean Bruke" and ice cream and sorbets.

The eatery also offers sides and a full selection of after-dinner liquors and specialty coffee drinks.

Patrons may order of a separate menu for lunch and a large artistically designed chalkboard at the back of the elegantly designed restaurant highlights available meal choices.

The wine list, which was also revised, now features a summary sheet listing flavorful and affordable priced wines ranging from

\$14.75 to \$35 a bottle. More expensive selections are still available for that special occasion and Baumgartner, who is also a certified sommelier and the restaurant's dining room manager, and maître d' Achille Bianchi are both happy to make wine recommendations.

The family tree of Too Chez Bistro began in 1982 when chef Keith Farney, also known for his participation in the hit show "Survivor II: The Australian Outback," became the culinary creator of the highly exclusive French dining destination named Raphael.

The restaurant later changed to Chez Raphael followed by Too Chez and finally Too Chez Bistro showing its final evolution into a dining establishment.

Too Chez Bistro is open 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday for lunch; 5:30 to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 5:30 to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday for dinner; and beginning Nov. 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays for brunch.



Photo by JOHN HEDER

Novi's Too Chez chef Michael Schmidt prepares a filo-crusted spicy shrimp with peanut sauce, roasted red peppers and basmati rice for a lunch-time patron.

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Novi Briefs

SWDDC TO MEET

Please note the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission will have a special meeting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27 in the Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

NOVI POLICE DEPARTMENT ONLINE

As a result of its continuing effort to reach out to the public, The Novi Police Department announces its new Web site. A representative from the department said the site, www.novipolice.org, is one of the first in the country to be truly interactive. From this site members of the community may file non-emergency police reports, ask the on-duty sergeant a question, request a vacation home check and request the department's speed measurement trailer in a specific area near your home. The Web site also allows users to e-mail employees and learn a number of interesting facts about the department.

HOORAY FOR THE THEATER

An atrium reception featuring

food, fun and memories was held Oct. 15 at the Novi Civic Center in celebration of the Novi Theatre's 10-year anniversary. Everyone involved in making the theater a success was recognized by the mayor of Novi, Richard J. Clark, including theater founder and director Linda Wickert. "The Novi Theatre is one of the jewels of our community," Clark said to attendees of the evening's crowded city council meeting. "We felt it was necessary to recognize one of the gems of our community."

PRESERVATION WEEK POSTER CONTEST

The National Trust for Historic Preservation announces the start of its "Preserving the Spirit of Place" 2002 Preservation Week poster contest. The winning poster will be chosen from all colorful, creative and evocative entries embodying the theme of preserving the spirit of place. Judges will also look for posters that enhance the many layers of the past: from Native American archeology to Atlanta's inner neighborhoods. All schools,

nonprofit organizations and state or local governments are encouraged to enter. The National Trust will award cash prizes of \$2,000, \$1,500 and \$1,000 to the top three winners, and the winning poster will become the trust's official Preservation Week poster displayed across the nation May 12 through 18. The deadline to enter is Jan. 4, 2002. Certain rules and requirements apply; call (202) 588-6037, send an e-mail to preservation-week@nhtp.org or visit www.nationaltrust.org/preservationweek for more information.

CALLING YOUNG ACTORS

Auditions for the Novi Theatre's Children's Annex presentation of "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" will be held 4 p.m. Nov. 19 and 20. Actors ages 10 through 13 are invited to try-out for a part in the play being performed Feb. 1 through 3, 2002. Rehearsals will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m. and actors must pay a participation fee of \$125 if chosen. For more information, call (248) 347-0400.

MAIN STREET HOLIDAY WALK

The seventh annual Main Street Holiday Walk will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Nov. 20 in downtown Novi. The walk will begin at the Main Street clock and will travel the street to the city's holiday tree. Inside of the Main Street commons area, "A Taste of Novi" will also be happening featuring more than one dozen area restaurants. Some of the restaurants participating are B-D's Mongolian Barbecue, Coffee Trader and Local Color Brewing Co.

MONGOLIAN BARBEQUE GETS CELEBRITY SERVERS FOR MARCH OF DIMES

WDRQ - 93.1 FM's Jay Towers and the Morning Revolution as well as anchors from WDIV-TV 4 and Mike Skupin from Survivor will be on hand to show off their grilling techniques at bd's Mongolian Barbecue, 43155 Main Street, in Novi on Nov. 20 from 6-9 p.m. They will be raising money for the March of Dimes.

Novi High students named AP Scholars

Novi graduate Michael Wang qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average grade of 4 or higher on all AP exams, with grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Other 2001 Novi High School graduates recognized were Karen Andrews, Michael Bliss, Ross Hughes, Tristan LaChance, Srivithya Mahadevan, Blitsh Sarna, Zhenghao Wu, Yin L. Yin, Jessica Zhou, Elizabeth Boyall, Michael Livermore, Melissa Schneider, Maureen Sebastian, Stephen Szwasz, Allison Tingwall, Mark Avenius, Elizabeth Cynar, Shawn Goldman, Steven Home, Asim Kagzi, Nathan Kelber, Nicholas Kowalczyk, Nicholas Peruski, Eric Saurel, Ryan Slater and Alexander Wong. High school students take AP examinations in May after completing college-level courses.

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Photo by JOE HENDERSON

Tara Williams of Waterford leads her straight-Egyptian arabian horse into the Novi Expo Center Friday afternoon at the start of the North American Horse Spectacular. Breeders and riders from all over the midwest attended the event.

North American Horse show features everything equine

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

"This is my fourth year here," said Jamie Newson, as he brushed the brim of a black cowboy hat, polishing it up for sale. Newson is the owner and operator of New's Hat Company of Pacific, Missouri, and makes his living selling cowboy hats at different horse shows across America.

Last weekend, he traveled to Novi for the 8th North American Horse Spectacular at the Novi Expo Center. The exposition and trade show featured over 150 exhibit booths selling boots, hats, jewelry and a variety of other horse-related goods, such as horse trailers, stables and equine health products.

"The best part of this business is that you meet a lot of different people," Newson said, who purchased his hat company four years ago from an older gentleman who retired.

Nearly 14,000 people attended the three-day Novi event, top-

ping last year's mark of 12,000. "It was a very good year," said Diane Seyka, the North American Horse Spectacular show manager. "The (attendance) numbers went up every day."

The weekend boasted over 50 different horses, representing 20 breeds.

"The reason you do a show like this is to promote the horse industry and introduce horses to those who would like to get into it someday," Seyka said.

The show gives horse associations, such as CANTER, the Communication Alliance to Network Thoroughbred Exercisehorses, an opportunity to promote their programs, and allows farms to advertise their breeding and training facilities.

"It gets the word out about us and helps find homes for at-risk horses," said Judy Bolles of Bath, a member of CANTER. CANTER is a non-profit corporation that finds "foster homes" for thoroughbred ex-

ercisehorses, and would otherwise be sold to slaughterhouses. Furthermore, the North American Horse Spectacular hosted an array of guest speakers, riding shows and free carousel rides for kids all weekend.

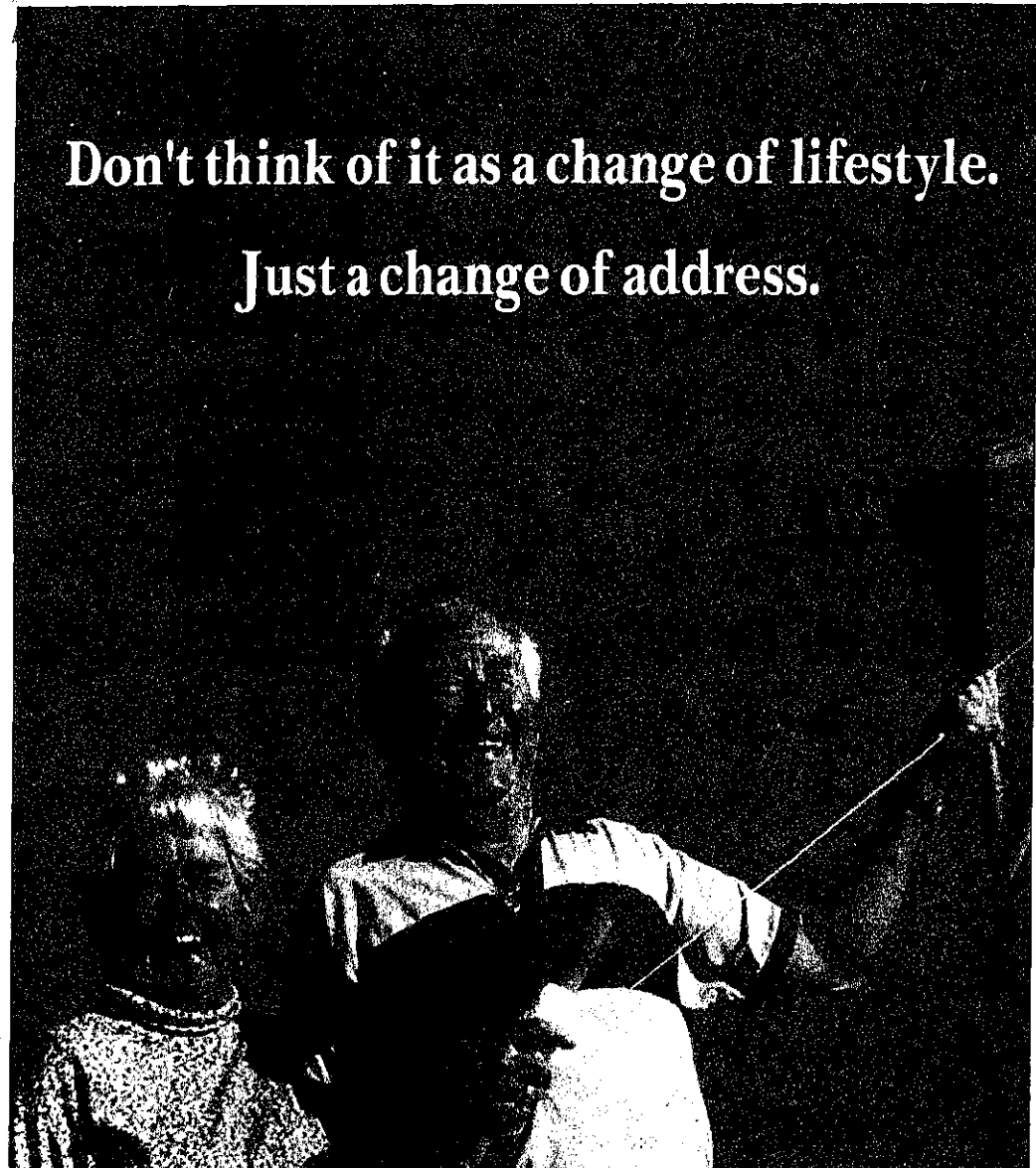
The featured speaker, Chris Cox of Mineral Wells, Texas, a leading horseman and clinician, shared his life experiences throughout the weekend with Expo Center visitors. Cox gave his insights on horse behavior and forming a versatile and useful partnership between man and horse.

"He gave people some good tips to go home and work on," Seyka said.

Seyka is already planning next year's event, lining up top notch speakers and new attractions.

"It grows every year," Seyka said. Angelo Parlove is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or at aparlone@ht.lanovimn.com.

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Magistrate celebrates 80th birthday while still on bench

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

Robert McKenney first put on the black robe in May of 1999, becoming a magistrate of the 52-1 District Court in Novi.

"Law is the greatest profession in the world," said McKenney, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday. "To law, you learn to respect other people regardless of background, race, creed or color. People have rights and those rights have to be protected."

McKenney is focused on continually using his knowledge and experience of law to serve his community and improve his surroundings.

"It is really something to have an individual his age that is focusing on the community as opposed to thinking about himself and retiring," said Judge Dennis Powers of the 52-1 District Court. "See, after I see people counting down the days until they retire, when in fact, contributing to soci-

ety takes all of us today."

McKenney was born in Amsterdam, New York, in 1921. His father owned his own automobile shop, specializing in batteries.

"It was a great business up to October of 1929," McKenney said, noting the month that America entered a bleak point in history, the Great Depression.

McKenney pondered on some advice his father once gave him that drove his educational pursuits. "Don't ever get a job where you have to use your hands," he said.

As a magistrate, McKenney handles a variety of traffic, small claims and arraignment cases that appear before his bench.

"I treat lawyers how I wanted to be treated when I was lawyer. I treat people how I wanted my clients treated," McKenney said. "You can't embarrass or degrade people. You have to be patient and let them have their say."

His fellow co-workers partly

attribute to his kindness and respect for his success in the black robe.

"He has consistently been gentle, kind and consistent," said 52-1 Court Administrator Michelle Bilger. "He and his family are role models."

While temporarily stationed in Lansing during World War II, and awaiting his military orders that would direct his near future, McKenney met a young woman, Virginia, who was training to become a nurse.

After serving his country in the U.S. Army Infantry, 78th Division and earning a Purple Heart, McKenney returned to Michigan to marry Virginia in September of 1945. Today, the couple just recently celebrated their 56th anniversary.

"It was the secret to a lasting marriage," McKenney said. "Consideration." McKenney said. "You have to be in love with each other because we're all human beings with our faults."

"This was a marvelous program," McKenney said. "I couldn't have gone to law school without it."

The same was true for many of his peers returning home from war, as well. In fact, McKenney's entire class at law school, except two, attended Syracuse on GI Bill of Rights assistance.

Upon graduation from law school in January of 1948, McKenney went to work for the law firm Levine & Gouldin in Binghamton, New York.

"It was a very good place for a young lawyer to start," McKenney said. "They were men of excellent character and honor. When they made a commitment, they stuck to it."

However, the couple had thoughts of starting a family in Michigan, so three years later they headed back towards the Great Lakes. McKenney took over a law firm in Holly from an older gentleman who passed away.

He ran his private practice that specialized in real estate and probate matters until his retirement in 1989.

In all, the McKenneys have six children, five sons and one daughter, along with 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

"So, what is the key to life? One that successfully balances career and family responsibilities? Faith in God, family and friends, McKenney said.

"No matter what happens in life, if you turn to those you will survive," he said. "This will support you in times of need and stress."

McKenney is a member of both the New York State Bar and Michigan State Bar. He is also a member of VFW Post 5587 and American Legion Post 149.



Robert McKenney

Angelo Parlove is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or aparlove@ht.homecomm.net.

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Novi code enforcement given honor of hosting annual conference

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Honors were bestowed to the city of Novi last month after years of planning paid off big at the American Association of Code Enforcement's 12th Annual Business and Educational Conference.

The conference, held Oct. 10-12 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Novi, caught the attention of Gov. John Engler who commended Novi for pulling off the seemingly overwhelming task.

The conference, titled "Odyssey of Education," actually began two to three years ago when Novi filed an application to host the 2001 conference.

"We won the bid in 1998 beating out cities like Chicago, Texas and San Antonio," said Cynthia Uglow, city of Novi Neighborhood Services coordinator.

Uglow said one reason Novi was chosen is because of the desirability of the Midwest location offers to out-of-state participants.

Thirty-one states were represented at the three-day event, bringing more than 160 code enforcement officers and building officials from other states into the city.

"On our top day, we had 282 attendees," Uglow said. "It really put Novi on the map."

The convention began with an opening ceremony including

appearances by the Novi High School band, Novi's National Honor Guard — comprised of members of the Novi Police and Fire Departments — and opening speeches by Mayor Richard J. Clark and city manager Richard Hevia.

From there, attendees participated in a number of workshops examining the state and national laws of code enforcement.

Some of the workshops included International Residential Code Overview, Customer Enthusiasm, Team Building, Stress Management and Communicating with Substance, Lead and Liability, Radon Control, Bridging the Gap Between Planning and Code Enforcement, Gaining, Maintaining and Regaining Perspective, Digital Photography and the Courts, and Enforcement and Police-A-Workable Combination.

Spoken to in with the classes were topics of the city including commercial and residential developments and a performance by the Novi Seniors Group.

"We had so many compliments on the site," Uglow said.

Code enforcement officers are responsible for enforcing all of a city's ordinances and codes.

"They regulate what people can do and how they do for the goal of a city," Uglow said.

Two examples of what a code officer might issue a notice of violation for are broken windows and debris covered property.

Uglow stated code enforcement is a very important function of the city in order to keep property values increasing on a yearly basis.

"It all comes down to the quality of life and health and welfare of every citizen," Uglow said.

She added conferences are also very important to keep officers on the cutting edge.

Gov. Engler, Rep. Nancy Cassis (R-Now) and Sen. Bill Bullard, Jr. (R-Highland) issued an executive declaration to the city of Novi honoring its officials for hosting the 2001 national conference.

Another declaration was also issued to the city declaring Oct. 10 as Code Enforcement Day.

In addition to Engler's kudos, Clark thanked Uglow for her role as chairman of the Conference Committee and issued a proclamation of appreciation to DoubleTree Hotel for its role as the host hotel of the event.

The conference was hosted by the city of Novi, Michigan Association of Code Enforcement Officers and Michigan Association of Housing Officials.

Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or vsadlocha@nl.homecom.net.

Lions Club to hold Sock Hop

The Novi Lions Club is turning back the clock to the 1950's for one night.

On Nov. 17, the first "Rock, Roll and Strolling Sock Hop" is coming to the Doubletree Hotel, 27000 Sheraton Dr., in Novi. Doors open at 8 p.m.

"We hope to make it an annual event," said Fred Young, an optician and member of the Novi Lions Club.

The event will host a night of classic 50's and 60's music played by DJ Vic Salvo, door prizes for the best-dressed 50's costumes, and a Hula Hoop contest.

"It's going to be a good time," Young said.

All proceeds from the event will go to Lions Club charities to assist the blind and visually impaired, such as Leader Dog School for the Blind in Rochester, the Penrickton Center for Blind Children in Taylor and the Michigan Eye Bank and Transplantation Center.

Ticket prices are \$25 per couple and open to the public.

"The money all goes to a good cause," Young said.

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Now is the time to prepare your home for Holiday Entertaining

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- Bradington-Young
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SALE ENDS NOV. 24th

CLASSIC INTERIORS FURNITURE

Hours: M, Th, F, 9:30-9:00 Tu, W, Sa, 9:30-6:30 Sunday 12-1:30

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Bathtub Liner and Wall Surround Sale

Factory Direct Pricing To the Public

WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD! Cut Out the Middleman and... Save 33% to 64% Off Retail Prices!

BUDGET ADVANTAGE Tough acrylic won't chip, crack or fade.

BUDGET ADVANTAGE Acrylic is scratch-resistant, the finish can also be polished for an ultra-shine.

BUDGET ADVANTAGE The glossy acrylic is non-porous and does not allow the growth of mold and mildew.

BUDGET ADVANTAGE Optional non-slip bottom promotes home safety.

5 ft. ACRYLIC TUB LINER **\$389*** INSTALLED

SEE... Your Choice of: Delta Chrome Shower Fixtures Delta Chrome Shower Doors

FREE NO OBLIGATION ESTIMATE

COMPLETE LINE OF...

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- Shower Base Liners • Shower Doors
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Budget Bathtub Liners will install a beautiful new acrylic bathtub liner right over your old worn or damaged tub!

Your existing tiles, walls, flooring and plumbing will not be disturbed. One made to measure bath and wall liners cover over old tile or wallboard from tub to ceiling. Walls priced separately.

Budget 1-800-BATHTUB (228-4882)

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Toledo: 419-866-4211
Grosse Pointe: 313-882-4454
Dearborn: 313-561-7789

Too Many Kittens To Feed

Place an ad in the Classifieds to find them a new home!

Obituaries

GRACE L. HANCHETT
Grace L. Hanchett, 95, of Northville, formerly of South Lyon, died Nov. 8 at the Village of Chelsea. She was born Dec. 19, 1906, to Walter and Minnie (Neal) Westphal of Brighton, Mich.

Ms. Hanchett was a former secretary at Northville State Hospital and a member of the First United Methodist Church of Northville.

She is survived by a son, the Rev. Bruce Feller of Texas; one sister, Ella Koont of Brighton; and three grandchildren.

Services were held Nov. 12 at the First United Methodist Church of Northville, with the Rev. John Hice officiating.

Interment was in Calvary Cemetery, Brighton.

Arrangements were made by Caserline Funeral Home of Northville.

Memorials to the First United Methodist Church of Northville would be appreciated.

ROBERT E. HARRIS
Robert E. Harris, 71, of Farmington Hills died Nov. 11 in Providence Hospital, Southfield. He was born in Michigan, July 10, 1930.

Mr. Harris was in tool sales with Valeron Corp. before his retirement in 1993. His interests were in golf and sailing.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Virginia; two sons, Robert E. (Sidley) of Clinton and Keith of Novi; and three grandchildren, Adrienne, Clair, and Rob.

A memorial service will be held at noon Thursday, Nov. 15 at Theyer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., Farmington. The Rev. Larry R. Auslitt will officiate.

Memorial contributions may be donor's choice.

Regional Marketplace gives new avenue for business advertising

By Tran Longmoore
STAFF WRITER

There's a new way to get your message out.

HomeTown Newspapers is connecting businesses to customers in the Regional Marketplace.

Regional Marketplace is dynamic new business page slated for the front section of the Milford Times, Northville Record, Novi News, and South Lyon Herald. When it debuts Dec. 6, Regional Marketplace will reach 27,000 households in the HomeTown Oakland coverage area.

The four-color page, located on the inside-back of the "A" section, offers local businesses a unique advertising opportunity.

When a business purchases the featured four-color advertisement on the page, they are entitled to a story and photograph on their business.

"I'd like to see more stories about the climate of business in our communities, and more news about consumerism," he said. "We might also explore passing on tips for money-saving and running a small business."

Classifieds will now be front and center on the cover of the Green Sheet.

"Classifieds are very important to the newspapers and to our communities," Dranginis said. "We want to make them more accessible to readers."

To learn more about Regional Marketplace, call advertising representatives Susan Bolton or Jennifer Walker at (248) 349-1700.

OPEN THE DOOR TO THE MOST REMARKABLE MOVIE OF THE YEAR!

"Life as a House" has many stories on many levels — rejuvenation, lives reformed and refreshed. Kevin Kline nails his character in a bold and eminent performance, with a supporting cast that beams. An excellent movie!

—Gene Shalit, THE TODAY SHOW

"The movie is generating the kind of buzz — adjectives like 'grown-up,' 'sexy,' 'challenging' — that haven't attended a Hollywood movie since 'American Beauty.'"

—Nolly Haskeli, THE NEW YORK TIMES

★★★★
The crowning achievement of Kevin Kline's career!"

—Mike Clark, USA TODAY

"A godsend! 'Life as a House' connects to its audience more honestly and effortlessly than any other movie this year."

—Sarah Kerr, VOGUE

Life AS A HOUSE

Kevin KLINE, Kristin SCOTT THOMAS, Tom MICHEN

Helen CHRISTENSEN, Jon MALONE, Nan STEENBURGEN

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND SCREENPLAYER BY DEBBY CRIBB
DIRECTED BY DEBBY CRIBB

STYLING BY JENNY JAMES • HAIR BY RICHARD LEE • MAKEUP BY JENNIFER GARDNER • COSTUME DESIGNER: JENNIFER GARDNER • PRODUCTION DESIGNER: JENNIFER GARDNER • EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: JENNIFER GARDNER, JENNIFER GARDNER • PRODUCED BY JENNIFER GARDNER • WRITTEN BY JENNIFER GARDNER • DIRECTED BY DEBBY CRIBB

AMC FORUM 30	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC LIVONIA 20
BIRMINGHAM 8	AUR SOUTHGATE 20	SHOWCASE ONLY
SHOWCASE DOWNTOWN 4	SHOWCASE DOWNTOWN 2	SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR FAIRLANE	STAR GRANDT 15 MILE	STAR GRANDT CROSSING
STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE	STAR SOUTHERN	STAR COMMERCIAL STADIUM

NO PASSES OR DISCOUNTS ACCEPTED.

Your Christmas Store

Over 50 different styles of natural looking trees

Fantastic selection of indoor and outdoor lights

Hundreds of tree trimmings in a variety of themes

Nativity Sets

Variety of Beautiful Wreaths and Garlands

Large Selection of Collectible SANTA'S

CORNWELL Christmas World

874 W. Ann Arbor Road PLYMOUTH

Pre-Lighted Christmas Trees

CHECK FOR IN-STORE SPECIALS

(734) 459-7410

TREES 20' - 12' 11"

Hours: Mon, Thurs, Fri, 10-8; Tue, Sat, 10-6; Sun, 12-5; Closed Wed

Home Appliances Red Tag Sale

15-50% OFF

Regular retail prices. Excludes special purchases.

Look for the red tag for additional savings off our already low prices!

NOW through Nov. 18TH

SEARS OUTLET STORE

ONE-OF-A-KIND, OUT-OF-CARTON, DISCONTINUED, USED, SCRATCHED AND DENTED MERCHANDISE. ITEMS PICTURED ARE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES OF THE HUNDREDS OF GREAT VALUES. MERCHANDISE SHOWN IS REPRESENTATIVE ONLY. ACTUAL MERCHANDISE VARIES BY STORE.

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PHONE: 422-5700

Now more ways to buy at Sears

Open 7 Days
Mon-Fri 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m.
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Sunday 12:00 Noon to 5:00 p.m.

PREVIOUSLY SELECTED MERCHANDISE NOT INCLUDED

Novi News

Part of HomeTown Communications Network™

Editor: Kaill Cooley, Managing Editor: Robert Jackson, Publisher: Grace Perry, Chairman of the Board: Richard Brady

Our fundamental purpose is to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the home towns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Interchange can be a positive for area

To quote Mayor Pro-tem Michelle Bononi, "I hope it works." We hope the single-point interchange at Beck Road works too. The interchange was debated more on the Novi council's part than Wikom counterparts, but perhaps that's because the Beck Road interchange currently is already confusing. With only one way to get onto I-96 (to go west), it has created consternation. Compound the confusion with the growth of the city and the approval of the EXO overlay district which will allow the relocation of the Novi Expo Center miles from the connector, something needed to be done. On top of all that, if MDOT did not receive approval soon - it would not be able to meet its 2003 construction date which would probably push the project into the department's next five-year plan. Finally, the most important factor in the equation, the single-point design is pretty much the only economically feasible solution because of the land surrounding the connector's increas-

Recount is expression of democracy, freedom

In the last two months patriotism and democracy has been on the tips of everyone's tongues. It's important to note that what is happening in Walled Lake is at the core of our beliefs as Americans and as written in documents founding our country. Even though tempers may flare and words may be said, it is any candidate's right to ask for a recount if the votes are close

GOVERNMENT

Per reader request, we have compiled a list so you can get in touch with your local and regional senators and representatives. Their accessibility allows you as readers to voice your concerns directly and allows them to better represent their districts. If you feel we have missed anyone, contact us at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113.

UNITED STATES SENATE: Carl Levin (D-Detroit), 459 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. (202) 224-6221

Local office: 1810 Michigan National Tower, 124 W. Allegan, Lansing, MI 48933 (517) 377-1507

Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing), 476 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. senator@stabenow.senate.gov

Local office: 280 East Saginaw, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 203-1760

UNITED STATES CONGRESS: Joe Knollenberg (R-Flomfield), 2349 Rayburn House Office

ing purchase price. Confusion of how the interchange works was the biggest concern to council members along with safety. The newly proposed and approved single-point interchange will have signage and traffic lights directing traffic through the interchange making it less confusing - according to MDOT. MDOT answered member's questions at two council meetings and held an open house in October giving residents the opportunity to learn and question the interchange's functions. Unfortunately there are times when trust is the only thing you have. MDOT and Novi City Council have researched this interchange almost to the point of exhaustion. We must move ahead if we want the interchange to be improved at all, which voters who approved the road bond said they wanted. The interchange can be a positive improvement to this section of the city. We will just trust city council to be continuous watchdogs of the project.

Plan accordingly for Township land

I believe Northville Township officials when they say they had no prompting from the state of Michigan regarding the proposed sale of the state property along Seven Mile Road. However, I also believe they saw the signs of the potential sale that stirred them into action so they were prepared for the future development of the state's 453 acres. Some individuals might be thinking that the township rushed the Seven Mile corridor plan and zoning amendments through after a back room tip was given to them. As far as the tip - no one can ever confirm something like that, but rushing the plan through couldn't be further from the truth. It started late last spring when the township planning commission initiated discussions and exploration for the creation of a concept plan for future development of the state property, which includes the psychiatric hospital. And then the state made a number of staff cuts at the psychiatric hospital and Hawthorne Center, a sure sign something may be in the works. This, combined with the fact the hospital is at 25 to 30 percent capacity may have also stimulated the township to get to work quickly on the concept plan. Despite the signs, I was still wondering: when will the property be sold, sooner or later? One politician approached me when the signs became even more apparent. House Representative John Stewart, for me at least, was the only politician to really get down and dirty with me and speak about true and evident possibilities regarding the land. He told me the land would be sold very soon, and I went ahead with a story. We both kind of looked wrong at first, but then came the announcement of the sale, with the hospital operation slowly being phased out over three years. It seems Mr. Stewart was right. Before adopting the draft plan, the planning commission held a public hearing so residents could voice their views regarding future development in their backyards. Residents were concerned but were far more vocal to consider the facts the commission sent forth. One major fact is this: the state's land. For the township to have a big say in what would occur on the land, it needed to develop the plan and amend the zoning. I saw a Detroit Free Press article pertaining to the township's plan and sale of the state land where a township resident said he would like to see a park, but he then asserted that would not add to the township's coffers. A 453 acre park - that would be huge and maybe unnecessary when you consider the Northville community already has Maybury and Hines parks across. What's wrong with filling the coffers? I'm sure the first thing township officials would say is additional revenue will only help improve public services such as road improvements and public safety. The development of Seven Mile Road Corridor is inevitable, like the township said, and this may be a signal of the nearing end of further development in the township. There are vacant areas will be scarce 10 years from now. What's wrong with filling the coffers? I'm sure the first thing township officials would say is additional revenue will only help improve public services such as road improvements and public safety.



Lon Huhman

Lon Huhman is a staff writer for the Northville Record. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 114, or at luhman@ht.hometown.com.net.

LETTERS

"In perpetuity," too long. I find myself amazed that Mr. Chambers and other supporters of the Novi Library millage proposal are shocked that it was voted down. Let me sum it up for you in two words - "in perpetuity."

They put forward a flawed proposal and the voters recognized that. How long does it take to pay for the construction of a single building? According to the proposal, forever. If I had voted yes on their children and all future generations of my family living in Novi would pay an ever increasing amount for the construction of a single structure. As our property values rise, so does the amount we are required to pay each and every year. We already pay outrageously high taxes in this city and for what. Garbage collection - no. Street lights - no. Full time firefighters - no. So why on earth would we or any other taxpayer agree to permanently raise taxes to construct a single building in 2002?

Please don't try to tell us it is to continue to fund the library. First, doesn't the library already have a budget we pay for? Second, the proposal gave the outrageous figure that would be generated in 2002 taxes. That sum will only go up every year with our property values. Once the building goes up, there will be enough left over to fund every library in Oakland County and pay off the Sandstone settlement. Believe it or not, I strongly favor the construction of a new library. My family utilizes the library a great deal and I can only see that increasing in the future. We have long felt that the current one would become inadequate for this growing community of families. As such, I ask the library board and the new council members to consider resubmitting their ballot proposal in a more reasonable fashion - perhaps a time limit on the millage increase of 5 years or a bond proposal such as was done for the schools. Those make sense to me and I'm sure they would to others. Just ask me to pay for your building once, not forever.

Share your opinions. We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

Letters to the Editor: Kelli Cooley, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167. E-mail: kcooley@ht.hometown.com.net. Fax: (248) 349-9832.

Capello's remarks not positive. Lauren Brennan, Novi.

Reps say display of Ten Commandments will pass constitutional muster

By Mike Malott, HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE. If city council members or school board trustees want to hang a copy of the Ten Commandments in their buildings, legislation pending in Lansing would tell them "what to do in a fashion that has passed legal muster." Rep. Ken Bradstreet, R-Cayler, has sponsored House Bill 4226 which would allow the Ten Commandments to be posted in public buildings, as long as it was included in a display with other, historically significant documents like the Declaration of Independence and the Magna Carta. The bill is slowly making its way toward a floor vote in the House, expected to come next month. Many consider the Ten Commandments to be a religious document, of course, but Bradstreet said it has also had a significant impact on the formation of western law. The U.S. Constitution, in part, has its foundations in the Ten Commandments, he argued. A lot of people are intimidated about this issue," Bradstreet said. "But as long as it is displayed with other documents of historical significance, this bill sets out the criteria for display that has passed court challenges." According to the House Legislative Analysis section, the Supreme Court tossed out a Kentucky statute requiring the display of the Ten Commandments in schools back in 1980. But in doing so, however, the court laid out a three-part test to determine whether such a display would be constitutional. It ruled the document would have to be displayed with other historical documents, and would have to be displayed for a secular purpose. This bill has been drafted to meet those criteria. Three other states have passed such laws, and five more are reportedly considering them. Civil libertarians oppose the bill on grounds that the Ten Commandments is clearly a religious document, and posting it on public property results in the government promoting one religion over another. The ACLU has also raised the concern that different denominations recognize different versions of the Ten Commandments, and there is no standard text for which version is most commonly used. Nationally, there is a movement favoring the posting of Ten Commandments, based on the belief it will help restore respect for a basic moral code and promote good citizenship.

OTHER OPINIONS

Federal courts should not be stymied by partisan wrangling

It isn't for nothing that the old saw, "What goes around, comes around" is an axiom in politics. Cast your mind back to the days in the Clinton Administration when the Republicans controlled the U.S. Senate. President Clinton nominated two distinguished Michigan lawyers - Court of Appeals Judge Helen White and Dyleen Gossett law firm partner Kathleen Lewis - to fill vacancies on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Ordinarily, nominations for judgeships are sent to Senate Judiciary Committee, which then holds hearings on the qualifications of candidates. If the committee approves the nomination, confirmation is virtually certain. But because it's the Senate, informal practice trumps standard procedure. In cases of federal appointments custom is for the White House to check with the two senators representing the home state of nominees. If they approve - signified by returning a "blue slip" to the White House - the relevant committee holds hearings and the nomination proceeds. If a blue slip is not returned, custom dictates that no hearings be held. In the cases of White and Lewis, Michigan Senator Spencer Abraham stood in the way. By refusing to return blue slips, he single-handedly kept both nominations pending without hearings. No questions or concerns were ever raised about the qualifications of either nominee. Judge White's nomination stood without a hearing for four years, longer than any nominee in Senate history, while Lewis sat for 18 months.

Today the shoe is on the other foot. Democrats control the Senate, while Republican President George W. Bush occupies the White House, anxious to make judicial and other appointments. The Sixth Circuit, now with seven vacancies - four from Michigan - out of 16 seats, is hobbled in doing its work. Two Michigan senators - Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow - are Democrats with the power to do to Republican nominees Abraham did to White and Lewis. So how to break the logjam? One possibility was signaled in a Nov. 1 letter signed by Levin and Stabenow to Judge Alberto Gonzales, White House Counsel. The Senators say they are committed to bipartisanship in filling vacancies on the federal courts, "as evidenced by our timely return of blue slips to Jeffrey Collins and Margaret-Mary Chiara, the President's nominees for United States Attorneys in Michigan." But our Senators go on to say they cannot, "in good conscience," go along with Sixth Circuit nominees until the unfair treatment of White and Lewis is resolved. The Senators invite a deal. "Given that there are four Michigan vacancies on the Sixth Circuit, we believe that it should be possible to achieve compromise. We believe that a bipartisan commission offers a vehicle for such a compromise." In other words, let's have everybody save face by appointing a commission that would - surprisingly - recommend appointment of White and Lewis and two unnamed Republicans to the four vacant seats on the Sixth Circuit. When a good idea! Especially since White House Counsel Gonzales admitted in an Aug. 14 interview with CNN "there is a lot of bitterness" about the "logjam." He acknowledged some Republicans placed holds on Clinton nominees. "That was wrong," Gonzales said. "That's not right. Part of this is based on the conduct of Republican senators in the past." Gonzales then expressed gloom about prospects for getting approval for Bush

Senators put politics ahead of issues

Urban precincts also are more susceptible to slowdowns, should any occur from this election. Of course, that is where Democrats draw the majority of their votes. So, while the woods may be troubled these days and the folks at home hope their leaders are taking care of business that desperately needs to be done, Republicans in the final day before break put a priority on legislation to give themselves a political edge in the next election. Democrats' behavior wasn't any better. Part of politics is knowing when you're beaten and going on to the next subject, where maybe you can have more impact. Instead, Sen. John Chery, D-Clia, insisted that the proposal be read to the Senate ... not just considered read, the way bills usually are presented, actually read aloud to senators, all 45 pages of it. Mike Malott reports on the local implications of state and regional events. He can be reached by phone at (810) 227-0171 or by e-mail at mmalott@ht.hometown.com.net.

majority of state senators' time during the last day before its two-week break? Eliminating straight-party voting from the ballot in Michigan elections is a good idea. It is a crisis that voters can walk into a precinct and cast a ballot for all Democrats or all Republicans with the simple flip of one's lever? Why do it? Sen. Bill Bullard, R-Highland, sponsor of the bill, argues that straight party voting is the cause of, or a contributing factor to, fall off in voting on non-partisan positions and ballot issues. Having pulled the lever for the party ticket, voters may assume they've cast votes for every seat and miss some at the end of the ballot. We want to make sure that each voter votes at each office for which he or she can cast a vote," Bullard argued. Just below this verger of election reform, however, is the reality of political advantage. The GOP doesn't like straight party voting, the Democratic party does. Republicans tend to go through the ballot office by office. Democrats, on the other hand, more often pull the party lever.

Society's conveniences would spin heads

I imagine if First Lady Martha Washington and former president George Washington were alive today, their minds would be spinning with how Americans live in the 21st century. Today, we are up to our ears with modern conveniences, technological gadgets and an ever expanding service industry. In our society of instant messages, pagers, computers, cell phones, fax machines, dishwashers, satellite television and e-mail, one could argue that our lives have been made easier by such inventions. However, I know of some folks who get frustrated just trying to find the "on" switch on their computer. I wonder if President Washington would have found cell phones useful in his famous Christmas Eve river crossing. Perhaps Paul Revere could have gotten his message out faster if he'd used e-mail instead of his trusty horse. I'm a believer that certain conveniences or services can help us save a lot of time and even have the ability to get us out of sticky situations. When I looked my keys in my car, I used my cell phone to contact roadside service to call the phone. Before roadside service came about, I guess people who were locked out of their cars had to resort to using a wire hanger, wedging it inside the car and wrapping it around the lock. It's amazing to think of all the services that exist in society these days. If your car breaks down, a service will tow it away. If your grass needs cutting, a service is available. The same applies for those that need their fingernails manicured, their house painted, their children supervised, their food prepared, their mail delivered, their clothes cleaned, their home decorated or their pet shampooed. Recently, I learned of a service where personal chefs will prepare meals in their clients' own home. How interesting! I bet Laura Ingalls Wilder would have appreciated a night off from cooking and I bet she would have enjoyed a day at the local spa or salon. While I'm sure those famous individuals would have laughed at the idea of such services coming into existence, they may have enjoyed the conveniences of it all if they could have tried it for a while. It makes me curious to think about what

judicial nominees, predicting no more than five confirmations this year. His predictions were confirmed last week, when Bush selected three Michigan judges - Wayne County Judge Susan Eicke Nelson, Court of Appeals Judge Henry Shad, and U.S. District Judge David McKeague - for his nominations to seats on the Sixth Circuit. Both Levin and Stabenow promptly said they couldn't support his nominations until the problems with White and Lewis were settled. Maybe, just maybe, cooler heads are beginning to prevail. The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals is scheduled to hear cases from Michigan. But the court is riddled with vacancies, unable to conduct its business in a timely manner. And White and Lewis are still waiting ... and waiting. Here's hoping our two senators and the White House cut a deal. White and Lewis have been treated shabbily and deserve better. And our justice system should not be stymied by partisan wrangling.

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (734) 953-2047, ext. 1580, or by e-mail at pp.wei@hometown.com.net.

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Novi News

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Choralaires to perform "Christmas Celebration"

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Choralaires are getting their vocal chords ready for the upcoming Christmas program. The community chorus group will be performing "A Christmas Celebration" this year, beginning on Nov. 30 at the Farmington Methodist Church in Farmington at 7:30 p.m.

"It is an upbeat traditional concert that will make you smile and feel good," said Novi Choralaires director Janet Wassink, who has been leading the program for 25 years.

The concert is filled with a variety of popular Christmas songs and familiar religious carols performed by 13 choral members.

"It is a very entertaining program with lots of uplifting music," said Lyon Nichols, a Novi Choralaires member.

Furthermore, the singers will be accompanied by the Metro Brass, a five-piece brass section, and the Tacaoda Handbell Quartet.

"Focusing on each performance, the three groups will perform a medley together."

Also, the show boasts two

unique pieces that put the words of Edgar Allan Poe and Robert Frost to music.

"We are trying something a little different this year," Wassink said. On Dec. 1, the chorus group will be at the Novi Methodist Church, 41671 W. 10 Mile Road, in Novi at 7:30 p.m., followed by a Dec. 2 performance at the Holy Family Church, 24505 Meadowbrook Road, in Novi at 4 p.m.

This is the 27th year the Novi Choralaires have been entertaining the Novi community during the holiday season.

Admission prices are \$7 for adults and \$6 for seniors and children 12 and under. Call (248) 317-0400 for ticket information.

The Novi Choralaires is a non-profit organization. A portion of the proceeds from the Christmas program will be donated to the American Red Cross.

Angelo Parlove is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108, or at aparlove@nl.home.com.net.

New reporter puts focus on education and Novi Planning Commission

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER

Angelo Parlove has brought his flare for film writing to the Novi education beat.

The newest addition to the Novi News, who grew up in Brighton, graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in marketing.

However instead of working in business after graduation, Parlove started a film company with one of his friends.

"In 1998, we made an independent film and it played at the Cannes Film Market," Parlove said. "All through college I was interested in films."

He had the chance to work on a movie and seized the opportunity to make it. He felt he would always regret it if he let the chance slide by.

The movie, "Mind Bound," detailed the experiences of a fictional stand-up comedian. The film was about the man who gained maturity and self evaluation.

"I put everything into the film company and then when the movie flopped, I didn't know what I was going to do," Parlove said. "I didn't want to go into the business world so I picked up a journalism degree."

Parlove, who wrote for the Hillsdale Daily News before coming to the Novi News, enjoys putting his writing to use by keeping the community informed.

"You get to meet a lot of people," Parlove said. "It makes the job fun and interesting."

Parlove was a general assignment reporter at the Hillsdale Daily News where he wrote stories on educational and city government issues.

However, he is happy to be closer to home and able to cover Novi.

"It's good to be contributing to an area that I'm familiar with and to put my skills to use to offer help to the community," Parlove said.

Novi News and Lake Area Times editor Kelly Cooley said Angelo is a solid and fundamental reporter and a great addition to the staff.

Parlove is also committed to bringing the schools into readers homes every week.

"I like education," he said. "I think the education beat is important in community news."

Educational news is the link between schools and parents, he said. Parents are able to keep up to date on the happenings in their children's schools.

Not only is Parlove committed to reporting education, he believes in furthering his own education. He's currently earning his master's degree in economics at Wayne State University.

"I think if you want to separate yourself educationally, you have to pursue higher education," Parlove said. "I enjoy the material and the subject. Economics has an intellectual and practical feel. I think the combination helps you grow."

Diane Dempsey Deel is a staff writer for the Lake Area Times. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110 or ddeell@nl.home.com.net.



Angelo Parlove

Municipalities, educators wrangle over inspections of schools

By Mike Malott
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
MMALOTT@HOME.COM.NET

Local building inspectors have to sign off on the construction of nearly every building in the state, to assure that they are safe and built according to code ... all buildings except schools.

That exception in state law has been the source of many a conflict between school boards and municipalities over the years.

Now the issue may split the education community itself.

Legislation pending before the state Senate is intended to resolve that age-old conflict by giving school districts three options for getting their buildings inspected — through local building departments, through the state department of Consumer and Industry Services, or through an outside, certified inspector.

Because the issue has been in dispute so long, the legislation also calls for the re-inspection of all schools built since 1978.

"This bill has been around as

long as the Mackinaw Bridge has," said Sen. Mat Dunaskiss, R-Lake Orion. Bills changing the way inspections are done have been introduced nearly every year, but not made it through both chambers of the legislature.

According to CIS department spokesperson Amy Zaagman, the bill this time has won the support of some educators because it gives districts several options for getting inspections done.

Brian Whiston, spokesman for the Oakland Intermediate School District, said area districts favor the bill because it moves the ultimate responsibility for these inspections from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to CIS.

"It has been questionable whether that is the appropriate department for these inspections, based on time and expertise," Whiston said.

Whiston said districts typically aren't concerned with the back inspections. They believe buildings that have been put up in recent years are safe, and if there were safety concerns with the

buildings, they would have been spotted by now.

But not all educators are on board. The Michigan Association of School Boards opposes the bill, according to Tony Derezinski, director of government relations.

"The most onerous part is the one that says that schools built over the last 25 years have to be inspected," he said. "That holds the potential for huge increases in expenses. It has headache implications as well."

Besides, Derezinski said, "the current system works just fine."

In practice, school buildings are most often inspected by the architects hired by the district to design them. Since those architects are the ones most familiar with the project, they are in the best position to give the school buildings proper inspections, he argued.

"Further inspections would just be gilding the lily," he said. They would be duplicative, adding expenses to school construction unnecessarily and slow the projects down waiting for

inspectors to show up. Senate Bill 358, sponsored by Sen. Bev Hammerstrom, R-Temperance, is pending before the Senate's Human Resources and Labor committee, which is getting ready to send the bill to the floor for a senate vote.

Current state law leaves the job of inspecting schools to the state Superintendent, who relies on the state's Office of Fire Safety to oversee school building projects.

Inspectors in that office are trained for fire inspectors, but not for mechanical, plumbing, electrical or structural inspections.

Nonetheless, Zaagman said it has been a frequent complaint from school districts that those inspectors review more than they are supposed to because it's the only outside inspection school buildings will receive.

Derezinski said that the architects, for practical purposes, are the ones that inspect schools. And they bear the responsibility for the safety of those buildings.

The state superintendents

"It will only settle that conflict if the school district and municipality already have a good working relationship."

Tom Martin
Legislative liaison for CIS

office does review all site plans for school buildings.

That's where the issue with municipalities comes in. Cities and township typically are the ones to conduct site plan reviews and inspections.

But by legislators, schools aren't subject to local zoning, site plan reviews or building requirements. "Schools are an agency of the state, administered locally," he

argued. "The legislature has purposely tried to take schools out of the local political scene." That's because, ultimately, school boards have to report back to the same voters that the municipalities do.

The current bill would not address zoning issues, Zaagman said, only construction codes and inspections.

Tom Martin, legislative liaison for the CIS department, said he doesn't anticipate much in the way of additional costs for the state. Most inspections would be handled through local building departments or an outside inspector. Any additional inspections that have to be done by state officials would be covered in through fees assessed to the district doing the construction work.

But Martin also doesn't see this bill ending disputes between school districts and municipalities over school buildings.

"It will only settle that conflict if the school district and municipality already have a good working relationship," he said.

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Northville will get Quail Ridge funding

By Lon Huhman
STAFF WRITER

State House Representative John Stewart, R-Plymouth, delivered on his promise to help facilitate the granting of state funding toward the Quail Ridge Drain improvement project.

"I am pleased Northville Township will finally receive the grant money they were awarded," Stewart said. "Working with MDEQ representative Susan Erickson, I was able to ensure the drain project received the funding it was promised."

The \$338,400 grant contract, which was provided by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, had been approved by the state back in September and had been held up prior to Stewart's intervention on behalf of the township. The township board of trustees and other administrators, including the

township's director of Public Services Donald Weaver, asked Stewart when he was at the September board of trustees meeting for his help in moving the grant award along quicker so the township could proceed with their plans to improve the drain.

The drain improvement project has also been funded by a \$213,650 grant from the Rouge Project office. Both grants are expected to cover the majority of the construction and design costs, Weaver said. However, the construction improvement design plan still is pending approval by the state.

Northville Township wanted to begin work on the drain area this fall, but the grant and improvement plan approval delay has now pushed back work into the spring of 2002, Weaver said.

The primary problem area of the drain is located in the northern area of the township off of

Eight Mile Road. According to Weaver, the 275 acre Quail Ridge Drain watershed consists of 216 acres in the city of Novi, 8 acres in the Eight Mile Road right of way and 51 acres in the township. Weaver said there has been extensive erosion, runoff and sediment flowing into neighboring waters such as Lake Success.

Since the problem is occurring in two jurisdictions, Weaver said the township and city of Novi have formed a partnership in order to improve water quality in the Middle One Subwatershed of the Rouge River by implementing erosion control measures in the drain area. The areas in Novi and the township are fully developed with residential subdivisions consisting of lots less than one acre.

According to Weaver, the development of the area took place prior to the implementation of detention regulations,

meaning storm water pickup was not incorporated into the watershed. The proposed improvements encompasses reducing sediment transport in downstream waterways, protecting existing properties as well as enhancement of the aquatic habitat. Other significant plan improvements to prevent further problems include reducing channel velocities, stabilizing stream banks and redirecting flow away in certain areas.

Weaver said the current design plan states velocity and stream bank erosion may be fixed by vegetative bioengineering, step-pools and pool-riffle sequences.

Lon Huhman is a staff writer for the Northville Record. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 109 or by e-mail at lhhuhman@ht.homecomm.net.

Tom Watkins will visit Novi Schools

The top educator in Michigan is coming to Novi next week.

On Nov. 19, state of Michigan Superintendent of Schools Tom Watkins will be at the Instructional Technology Center in Novi at 7 p.m. to discuss the proposed changes in Michigan special education rules.

The program, "Listen and Learn," gives local consumers and providers of special education a chance to gather and openly discuss the controversial issues with Watkins.

Recently, public hearings have been held regarding the role of special education in Michigan, with new plans on the near horizon that would align the state with federal guidelines.

This gathering is not part of the formal period of public comment on the new proposed rules, which ended on Oct. 1. Instead, "Listen and Learn" will be an informal setting where parents, family members, students and educators can share their stories and concerns about special education in Michigan schools.

CITY OF NOVI
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
GRANT FUNDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Novi will hold a Public Hearing on the use of Community Development Block Grant Funds for 2002. The hearing will be held on Monday, November 26, 2001, at 7:30 p.m., EST, at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375, for the purpose of receiving written and verbal comment regarding the use of 2002 Community Development Block Grant Funds.

All interested citizens are requested to attend this hearing. Comments will also be received in writing or in person at the City Offices, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375, until 5:00 p.m., November 26, 2001.

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These Novi Wildcats swimmers are headed for the state finals tournament. From top left, clockwise: Amanda Smith, Kristine Elrod, Blair Tyler and Brittany Brodfuehrer. The state meet will be tomorrow and Saturday at noon.

Photo by LESLEY DONNELLY

Swimmers should have fine showing

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

Way to go Wildcats. Qualifying to take a trip to the state finals swim meet is not something that is accomplished each and every day — but Novi High School will be sending four representatives of the school, community and Novi swim team to compete with the best tankers in Michigan. The four top-notch swimmers taking the voyage to Oakland University for competition tomorrow and Saturday at noon both days are Amanda Smith, Kristine Elrod, Blair Tyler and Brittany Brodfuehrer. Smith, Elrod, Tyler and Brodfuehrer will be forming a fearsome foursome as they take to the waters in the 200-meter freestyle relay and in the 400-meter freestyle relay. These girls must have fins — that is the only thing that can explain their speed and finesse while lapping it up as a team aiming for one goal — victory. Besides the relay teams, Smith

GAME OF THE WEEK



Novi Wildcats
 at the
State Swimming Finals

Friday & Saturday at Oakland University

will be competing in the 100-meter freestyle event as well as the 50-

Continued on 2

Headed to the states

Novi sends four tankers to state finals meet

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats swim team will be well-represented at the state finals tomorrow and Saturday. The four Wildcats who qualified for the state meet will have the daunting task of swimming both the 200-meter freestyle relay and the 400-meter freestyle relay with Blair Tyler, Amanda Smith, Kristine Elrod

and Brittany Brodfuehrer being the four members of the team. "I think I would have to say I don't know if we have the potential to finish in the top-six in the state," Novi swim coach Larry Teahan said. "We do, however, have the opportunity to score points." Teahan noted that when a team goes to the states, it can't

have any parts not going smoothly. "When you go into the state meet, everyone has to be hitting on all cylinders. The competition is so tough. Right now our goal is to go into the states and score some points," Teahan said. Besides the relays, the Wildcats will be represented in the 50-meter freestyle and the 100 free by Smith. "We had to choose for her,"

Teahan said of the stellar swimmer who also qualified for the 200 individual medley. "She qualified for the individual medley before she qualified for the 50. We feel the 50 is probably the better event for her to compete in." Does Smith have what it takes to place in the finals though? "I feel she has the opportunity to place in the top-12 for both

Continued on 2

Cagers eyeing District tourney

By Brian Doyle
 SPORTS WRITER

The roller coaster is climbing its last hill — the Novi girls varsity basketball team's season is winding down. The team began playoffs on Monday against Livonia Churchill, a game all the players wanted to win. "I just want to get past Churchill," said senior captain Megan Colligan, days before the game. Two other players also had a personal battle to start the playoffs. Julie and Laura Longo have a cousin named Deanna DeRoo on Churchill's basketball team. "It's a big rivalry between the families," said junior Laura Longo. Julie said that the game will be "unusual." Julie has had many unusual games this year because along with Jessica Haggerty, she was one of two

freshmen on the squad. "It was pretty tough. The competition was harder, but I knew the girls before and they really helped me out," she said. Senior Kate Rose also had a burning desire for Novi to win the game. However, she was unable to act on it because of a sprained ankle suffered in practice the week prior. According to Rose, she may be back for Novi's second playoff game, if there is one. "It has been difficult to possibly play your last game and not know it," Rose said. The other seniors also felt desperate to win. "I definitely think we can beat this team and it's not going to be our last game," said senior Carrie Copp. After the regular season came to a close, many players had mixed emotions. "I think we've done okay this

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Novi collects win Cousins take no prisoners as Longos, DeRoo play in District

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats girls basketball team's first District game came down to a couple of lead changes and tense last minutes. No sweat for these cool 'Cats. The Wildcats collected a 50-45 win over the Chargers from Livonia Churchill in the opening round of the District playoffs to gain a birth against the fourth-ranked team in the state of Michigan — Plymouth Salem. "We were looking at this game before even thinking about Salem," Novi coach Dennis Cichonski said after the game Monday night. "Our goal right now is just to play the best we can against Salem and to see what we can do." The Wildcats had to take it to the Chargers before they could

look at the weapons Salem brings on the court — that led to more than one interesting match-up. Senior Laura Longo and sister Julie had the task of going toe-to-toe with stellar guard and cousin Deanna DeRoo in hopes of taking her down along with the rest of the Chargers. "I know I just really wanted to give it all I had when I went up against my cousin," Laura Longo said. "She is an awesome player with a lot of talent. She played her heart out and I wish her the best in everything. I couldn't be more proud of her than I am with the way she played tonight." DeRoo collected 26 points against the Wildcats, but it was not enough to shut down the multi-faceted offense Novi brings to the hardwood. The 'Cats, who led the game 24-14 with three minutes, 56 seconds remaining in the first

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi's Laura Longo, center, goes up for an offensive board against a pair of South Lyon hoopsters.

Divers head to Regional meet

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

Only one step away from the state, the Novi Wildcats girls divers will be represented by two talented individuals in this year's Regional meet. Christina Thompson and Laurel Weiss will be representing the Novi Wildcats as they strut their stuff in hopes of being one of the top-12 participants in the diving Regional at Ann Arbor Pioneer High School. The event, which was held Tuesday afternoon (after

the Novu News went to print), is held to decide who is qualified to compete at the state finals. "To get out of the Regionals, a diver has to be one of the top 12 divers in the Region," Novu swim and dive coach Larry Teahan said. "At the Regional level in Class A, there are three Regionals across the state with each sending 12 divers to the state meet." Weiss and Thompson earned the right to represent Novu and much of the Kensington Valley Conference with their first-place (Weiss) and second-place (Thompson) finishes at the KVC

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'Cats swim team will feel the sting of senior graduation

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

All in all it wasn't a bad year for the Wildcat girls swim team. They took second-place in the Kensington Valley Conference after falling just short to Brighton in the KVC meet. Not to mention they had plenty of improvement across the board from many of their swimmers. "I thought we did pretty well," Novu swim coach Larry Teahan

said. "We are pretty pleased with most of our swms (at the KVC). We were hoping to finish a little closer to Brighton." Teahan said he felt as though his squad had the ability to win the conference. "Obviously going into the meet in a three way tie (with Brighton and Howell) we thought we were

Swimming

going to win," he said. "We were a little disappointed that we didn't win but it was a pretty good meet for us." The Wildcats found that one of the most positive aspects of the KVC and the 2001 season was the amount of improvement they saw within their own ranks. "We had a number of girls who made a lot of progress for us throughout the year," Teahan said. "It is difficult to single anyone out."

Another bright spot coming out of the KVC meet was the repeat championships gained by Laurel Weiss in the diving portion of the meet and Amanda Smith in the 50-yard freestyle event. "Laurel has won the diving three years in a row," Teahan said. "Amanda Smith, who is a junior, has won the 50 free every year she competed in it." Teahan noted that the Wildcats had a particular swimmer come through big for them.

"Christina Barage came through big for us," he said. "She didn't place one, two or three but she placed in the top-six of both the 50 and 100. She had a really fine meet." Teahan said that the one thing the swim team will miss is the leadership of the seniors. "Our seniors took leadership roles and played them well," Teahan said. "Sarah Dawonkowski especially. Bridget Daly and Lindsay Block also

stepped up for us. They were not necessarily point scorers, but they did their job as seniors well." Everyone who placed first through third in the KVC meet is a member of the All-KVC team. Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Novu News and the Lake Area Times. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

Catholic Central, here we come

Bell, Michaud, VanNortwick hit century mark in Regional

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Just call these guys bread. The Detroit Pershing Doughboys went onto Dick Watson Field at Walled Lake Western High School in hopes of defeating the Warriors. The Warriors made sure the Pershing gridders climbed on the bus for the ride home shaken, baked and with a fork stuck in them.

The Warriors scored only one touchdown in the second half, but the game was more than finished with their high-octane offense scoring 43 points in the first half.

"We just executed very well," Western head coach Mike Zdebski said after the presentation of the Region Championship trophy by Dick Watson himself. "I think these guys played as well as they could have played. We are going to have to get better if we want to stand a chance against (Redford) Catholic Central."

The Warriors put the first points on the board after a Pershing three-and-punt as junior quarterback Jon Michaud stepped up and connected with Steve VanNortwick on a pass to the flat for an 11-yard score. Ruben Adery tacked on the point after to gain a 7-0 advantage with five minutes, 44 seconds remaining in the first quarter.

The Western defense would not be outdone however, and were determined to score points of their own. With 4:44 left on the clock in the first.

Pershing's punter fumbled the snap and was hauled to the ground by a slew of Western defenders for the safety.

The ensuing kickoff found the Warriors going five plays and 49 yards for the touchdown as Michaud took the ball in from two yards out on the sneak with 3:08 left in the quarter to go up 15-0.

"We actually expected a more physical team," Western's All-Star middle linebacker B.J. Opong-Owusu said. "The offense really came out and played their game tonight. The defense really held strong against a fast offense."

The Warriors were not finished scoring though, collecting a touchdown as stellar running back Steve Bell hauled a hand-off up the middle before breaking to the sideline for a 62-yard jaunt. Adery tacked on the PAT to put the Warriors up 22-0 with 9:45 left in the first half.

Just over two minutes later, Michaud found John Sowders in the middle of the field. Sowders took the ball and pounded through two defenders before rumbling 48 yards for the touchdown.

With only 2:25 left in the first half, the Doughboys managed to find the endzone for one of their two touchdowns of the night. Pershing's second quarterback of the night, DeAndre Taylor, connected with Raymond Cherry for a 19-yard score to pull within 29-6. The Doughboys' second score came as Taylor connected with Jason Miles for a 60-yard touchdown pass with 3:16 left in the third quarter.

The Doughboys first chance to

score came with 7:21 left in the first half with a 78-yard touchdown pass that was nullified and called back due to an illegal motion call on Pershing.

"They were a strong team," offensive lineman and team captain Mike Larges said. "They have a lot of speed and a lot of strength. They played their heart out and we were the ones who were fortunate enough to come away with the win."

The Warriors had plenty of more scoring left under their belts with the sounds of the Western fans calling an echoing chant toward the field to cheer their team to victory.

The Western gridders collected a second score from Bell as he took a reverse hand-off up the middle and high-stepped 10 yards to cross the goal line to put the Warriors up 36-6 with 1:12 left in the first half.

Two plays later, top-notch defensive back Mike Pisha added another interception to his already impressive senior stats and returned it 46 yards before being haled to the ground with 6.5 seconds left on the clock for the first half.

That was all of the time the Warriors would need to collect yet another score as Michaud found Bell all alone in the corner of the endzone for the score with Adery tacking on the extra-point to go up 43-6.

"I think we really stepped up tonight," Bell said. "This was a total team effort and it took everyone to get the win. They (Pershing) are a good team with a lot of speed. We were able to execute well and play the game, we are capable of playing."

The second half of the contest was much less eventful, with the Warriors' top players resting on the sidelines, their sights already set on Redford Catholic Central. The Doughboys collected their second score of the game before the Warriors capped the scoring in the fourth quarter as VanNortwick hauled the hand-off 10 yards for the score to put the icing on the cake, 50-12, with 9 minutes left in the contest.

"Our seniors have carried us through this season," Zdebski said.

"That was the biggest thing tonight. The seniors playing their last game at home. We wanted to make it three (wins) in a row on Dick Watson Field."

The Warriors are only one step away from taking the coveted trip to the Pontiac Silverdome.

There is only one team standing in their way - Redford Catholic Central.

"They are playing great football this time of year on a consistent basis," Zdebski said. "We are going to have to improve on our performance here tonight if we want to stand a chance against them."

The Warriors will have the daunting task of beating Catholic Central when both teams travel to South Lyon High School for a 1 p.m. kickoff Saturday.

This is in order to play on neutral ground and on the new artificial turf the Lions installed



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

A number of Warriors wraps up Pershing's punter in their endzone for a safety in last Friday's game at Walled Lake Western.

for this season.

As it is with every artificial surface, speed will no doubt be increased for both teams, but will the speedy Warriors be able to capitalize on it?

"It is going to help both teams," Opong-Owusu said. "We are going to be able to hit the holes faster and harder on offense. The defense is going to be able to move side-to-side faster as well. I think both teams will benefit from it."

Bell led the offensive charge for the Warriors, though he only played in the first half of the contest, and collected 105 yards on 5 carries while VanNortwick gathered 131 yards on 13 carries. Michaud showed why he is the starting quarterback, collecting 128 yards in the aerial attack on 14 attempts.

Pershing's passing attack was a dismal 97 yards on 22 attempts.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Novi News and the Lake Area Times. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

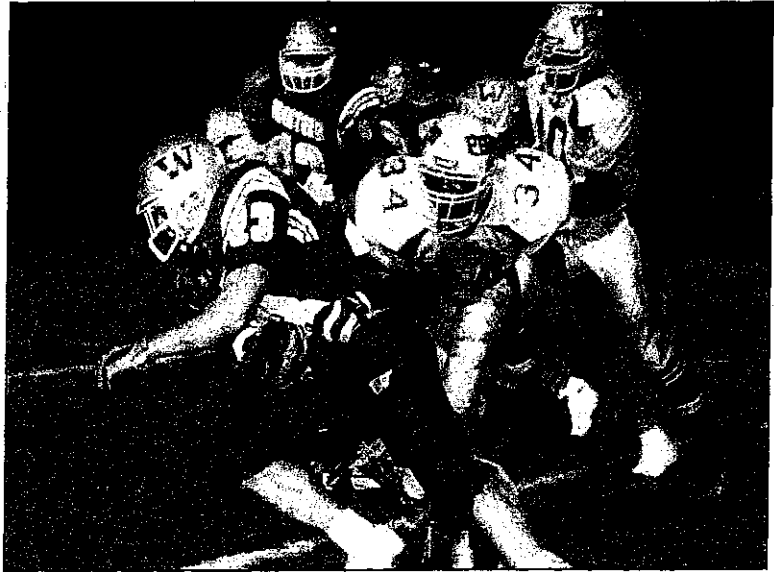


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Warrior Steve VanNortwick is brought down by a horde of Doughboys after a substantial gain.

Walled Lake Western not ready to end grid season Warriors eager to take on powerful Catholic Central

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Now these boys are tough. The Warriors, that is. They may look like bruised and battered football players, but beating in their chests are hearts as big as they come. These guys are ready to play the best of the best — that's because they are among the best of the best.

The Warriors looked a little shaky in their game against Detroit Pershing — for two plays. The first play was the unfortunate interception thrown on the Warriors first possession — the second came on a botched reverse hand-off on the opening kickoff of the second half. Other than that, the Western gridders looked simply in control of every aspect of their game.

The offensive line did their job, the defense did theirs and — no surprise — the Warriors offense did their job as well. Led by the speedy feet of Steve Bell and Steve VanNortwick on the ground, the Warriors will have a steady backfield to carry them against CC. Not to mention the junior quarterback Jon Michaud. Michaud stands 5-foot-9 and weighs in at 165 pounds — not really what you would expect from a quarterback intent on leading his team to the promised land (but hey, look at Doug Flutie — right?). Michaud has a cannon of an arm no matter what his numbers compute out to. Capable of throwing the deep ball or drilling a receiver such as John Sowders cutting across the middle, Michaud is more than comfortable taking the throne

and ruling as king of the football field. The offensive line, led by senior captain Mike Larges, will have their hands full in dealing with a fast and furious Catholic Central defense. If they play like they did Friday, there is little to worry about. The line literally gave Michaud enough time to read every receiver on the field before he had to put the ball in the air. Even when it looked like someone was getting through, the offensive line recovered nicely and did their job. On the defensive side of the ball, the Warriors will rely on Peter Busciglio as a defensive lineman to put the pressure on the Catholic Central backfield. Linebackers Barima Opong-Owusu and sophomore Greg Hay will have the job of filling gaps

and punishing runners looking to get past the line of scrimmage. In the defensive backfield, Mike Pisha will be planning on adding more interceptions to his already impressive senior statistics. The Warriors will have to watch for Catholic Central's aerial attack but that shouldn't be a problem for the speedy and aware Western defensive backs. No doubt Catholic Central has what it takes to play at this level — chest deep in the state playoffs with only Western standing in their way to the Silverdome. All-in-all, I expect this to be a barn burner. Catholic Central is always a highly touted team this time of year and will no doubt look to continue carving wins out of every team they come across. The

Warriors have proven time and time again they have the ability to compete with some of the best teams around. They have shown their ability to play the rush and the pass on the defensive side of the ball as well as look to their seniors and skilled players to lead their offensive charge. I am, of course, picking the Warriors to come away the victors — and to the victors go the spoils. Walled Lake Western Warriors 34, Redford Catholic Central 32. Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Novi News and the Lake Area Times. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

GAME OF THE WEEK

W Walled Lake Western Warriors

vs.

Redford Catholic Central

Saturday at 1 p.m.
at South Lyon High School