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Need some fresh ideas for the holiday season? Look for the Gift Guide in today's paper for tips on decorations, recipes and more.



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GREENSHEET

Furniture gallery Huron Valley Furniture in Milford has been serving customers for years with fine-quality products - Page 1D

NOVI SPORTS



Novi vs. Northville The annual Wildcat/Mustang rivalry heated up the ice but ended favorably for each team as they both came away winners - Page 1B

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Dome dreams shattered Walled Lake Western just could not stop Catholic Central on the Shamrocks path to the Dome - Page 6B

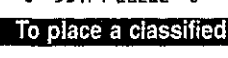
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Officer allegedly assaults girl

9-year-old lived with Northville cop in Novi

By Lon Huhman and Jennifer Norris STAFF WRITERS

Sixteen-year veteran Northville city police officer William Edgar will stand trial for allegedly sexually assaulting his then-9-year-old step-granddaughter this past July at his Novi apartment.

Edgar was arraigned Monday at 52-1 District Court before Judge Michael Batchik. Edgar was ordered by Batchik to stand trial for first degree and second degree criminal sexual conduct charges involving a child under the age of 13, according to the court file. The first degree charge carries a penalty of any number of years up to life, and the second degree charge carries a possible sentence of any number of years up to 15 years.

According to Northville city police chief James Petres, Edgar was suspended without pay on Oct. 10 because of the charges brought against him. Edgar was released on a \$25,000 personal recognizance bond and was ordered by Batchik not to have contact with the victim, victim's family or any other minor children.

According to Edgar's Detroit attorney Christopher Andreoff, Edgar was accused of an isolated incident involving his then step-granddaughter. The court file said the incident

occurred while the girl lived with Edgar and his former wife, the girl's grandmother.

"I think the case is riddled with some ambiguities and credibility issues relative to the victim's version of what transpired," Andreoff said in reference to the prosecution's case against Edgar. "This matter has nothing to do with his duties or his performance as a Northville police officer."

According to the court file, the girl testified via closed circuit tele-

vision at the Monday hearing. The court file said Edgar had assisted in raising the girl since she was two or three years old. Andreoff said Edgar has since divorced the girl's grandmother.

Edgar is set to appear at the Oakland County Circuit Court before Judge Edward Sosnick on Nov. 28. Andreoff said this court appearance will involve Edgar being arraigned on the two charges again. In addition to the court setting a motion and trial dates.

Water issues

Residents deal with little or no water due to main break in area

By Victoria Sadlocha STAFF WRITER

Residents of Novi participated in a real life version of "Survivor," traveling to water stations for a much needed supply.

The city of Novi water superintendent, Bruce Jerome, placed areas of Novi under a water emergency after a Farmington Hills water main break left about 100,000 residents in Novi, Wixom, Walled Lake and Commerce Township with low to no water pressure.

Novi schools were also closed as a precautionary measure.

Residents were urged to cut down on water-usage activities and all Novi residents north of Grand River Avenue or west of Novi Road were placed under a boil water advisory.

The advisory instructed residents to boil their water for at least five minutes before drinking or cooking with it.

Novi Fire chief, Arthur Lenaghan, said the department set up two water supply stations, filling resident's containers.

Fire station one, located on Grand River Avenue, operated 24 hours to meet resident's needs and fire station three on Nine Mile Road operated on a more limited basis.

Members of the department also distributed handouts detailing factual information in an attempt to answer anticipated questions.

Lenaghan said the department also reacted expeditiously employing tanker equipment to take care of the decreased water pressure in case firefighters were called on a fire run.

"The Water and Sewer Department did an excellent job," Lenaghan said.

Lenaghan said he met with city officials, addressing the situation.

Continued on 4

Suiting up



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Marshaling in front of their Novi home in Civil War-era Union garb are the Kchrings: Brian, 15, Jason, 19 and Alan.

Locals will star as extras in movie

By Victoria Sadlocha STAFF WRITER

The Kchrings of Novi are proudly preparing for historical battle and the chance of being movie stars.

Alan Kohring and his two sons, Jason and Brian, were selected to portray soldiers in the upcoming film "Gods and Generals," the prequel to the 1993 film "Gettysburg."

On Nov. 30 and Dec. 3, the Kchrings will be three of the many selected to re-enact the Battle of Fredericksburg in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

"We're honored to go," Alan Kohring said. "We're not going to

pass this opportunity up. No way."

The filming of the Civil War battle scene will be broken into three segments of fighting in town, the attack at Marye's Heights and the attack against Jackson's line near Hamilton's Crossing.

Kohring said they will be part of the regiment walking forward to be slaughtered during the attack at Marye's Heights.

While there, the re-enactors will stay at a motel or in barracks.

Kohring has been involved in historical wartime re-enactments for eight years and serves on the board of "The Stonewall Regiment," the 17th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Company B,

out of Ypsilanti.

Holding the title of 1st Lt., Kohring is very passionate about his involvement with the regiment.

Right now the Ypsilanti regiment is preparing for its Civil War muster which will be held in Depot Town, April 20, 2002.

"It is a great hobby for living history," Kohring said.

The Plymouth-Canton School District teacher is also thankful his passion is shared with his sons.

Jason, 19, holds the title of Corporal and Brian, 15, is a private.

"The kids have a lot of fun with it," Kohring said.

Described as a heart-pounding adrenaline rush, Kohring is deeply moved by the experience of accurately reliving battles of the past.

The uniforms the gentlemen wear are also accurately reproduced, including weapons and haversacks which Kohring explained contained the soldier's food.

"It was usually a three day ration," Kohring said. "Times back then were harder."

The projected four-hour film is based on the novel by Jeff Shaara - carrying the same name. The movie is scheduled to be released in 2002 and stars Jeff Daniels and Robert Duvall.

Moore signs with Notre Dame

By Jason Schmitt SPECIAL WRITER

When you're the most sought after cross country runner in the state of Michigan, the choice of which college to continue your career at can be a tough one.

Throw in the fact that you're a 4.0 student and the decision becomes even more difficult.

But Tim Moore has had to face many tough challenges in his academic and athletic life before.

The 2001 Division I state champion has decided to attend Notre Dame next fall, joining former Novi great Kevin Aventus on the Irish roster. He selected Notre Dame over the University of Michigan, Stanford, Wake Forest and Duke.

He said the Indiana school was the best fit for him, both athletically and academically.

"I have a couple of friends there to start with. Both Kevin (Aventus of Novi) and Todd Mobley (Walled Lake Central) are running there," Moore said. "I also loved the

"He knows what he's doing. He knows how to bring in guys and get the most out of them."

Tim Moore on soon-to-be coach

atmosphere. It was a very cozy campus."

Moore said another big reason for his decision was Notre Dame head coach Joe Plane, who was named national coach of the year this past Saturday.

"Of all the coaches, he was my favorite," he said.

Moore said seeing Michigan native Ryan Shay develop into the 10,000 meter NCAA Division I

champion under Plane showed the coach was committed to working with his athletes.

"He knows what he's doing. He knows how to bring in guys and get the most out of them," he said.

Moore became the first runner in Novi history to capture the individual state title back on Nov. 3. He beat out Woodhaven's Jake Hammerle by 24 seconds, completing the bogged-down Michigan International Speedway course in a time of 15 minutes, 11 seconds.

It was his third-consecutive top-three finish at the finals.

Like Novi, his college of choice has a rich tradition in both cross country and track and field.

Notre Dame finished fifth at the national meet Monday after winning the Big East championship and the Great Lakes Regional title.

If Moore follows in the footsteps of other recent state champions, his future looks bright.

Moore said the choice to attend

Continued on 4



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Wildcat state champion Tim Moore signs his letter of intent to run at Notre Dame while Novi coach Robert Smith offers support.

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Orchard Hills student Tina Heppel looks through her giant magnifying glass during last week's Disabilities Awareness Workshop. The magnifier is used by those with poor eyesight to read text.

Students learn about living with disabilities through workshop

By Angelo Parlove STAFF WRITER

Fourth-grade students at Village Oaks Elementary in Novi learned valuable lessons last Wednesday on what it's like to live with a disability. On Nov. 14, the Disability Awareness Workshop, a program sponsored by Oakland Schools, gave Village Oaks fourth-graders a chance to participate in a variety of physical and learning activities that simulate human impairments, ranging from dyslexia to limited mobility to blindness. "This is an empathy building tool," said Nancy Hart, a Village Oaks Elementary parent volunteer. "And from what I've seen, the kids are getting it." The program uses fun and creative activities, such as a wheelchair obstacle course where students attempt to navigate cones and get through a closed door while confined to a wheelchair.

"Other kids have ways and special materials to get around during the day," said Mike Morrison, a fourth-grade student at Village Oaks Elementary. "I learned what they go through." The kids also attempted to write wearing a glove that restrained movement, as well as solve simple math problems with the numbers written backwards, simulating dyslexia. "The workshop lets you put yourself in someone else's shoes," said Lisa Kowalski of Rochester, who co-developed the Disability Awareness Workshop. "In all, the program has over 90 minutes of activities for students. One student's favorite was experimenting with a walking stick used by the blind." "It's hard to walk around or to turn or go straight," said Village Oaks Elementary fourth-grader Melia Pielik. Furthermore, the workshop acquainted students with a variety

of prosthetics, such as hearing aids and electric voice boxes, which helps students explore this type of equipment. "Feeling and touching these things lets kids become more comfortable around people with disabilities," Kowalski said. "And not just with their peers, but with the general public, too." The Disability Awareness Workshop also exposed the Novi fourth-graders to Braille books and typewriters, vibrating alarm clocks for the hearing impaired and machines that actually speak for those who can't. "Hopefully the end result of the day will be more compassion, patience and understanding," said Village Oaks Elementary principal David Brown. "The students completed an accessibility checklist for their school, where they measured door widths and window heights, as well

as counted the number of handicap parking spaces. These numbers were then matched with Michigan standards and codes to determine how well their school has complied with these regulations. "It was a successful morning," Brown said. "We plan to do it again in the years to come." Oakland Schools makes this workshop available to all schools in Oakland County at no charge. The program went to Orchard Hills Elementary on Thursday, Novi Woods on Friday and ended its area tour on Monday, Nov. 19, at Parkview Elementary. Last year, over 6,000 children and 1,100 parent volunteers in Oakland County participated in the Disability Awareness Workshop.

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

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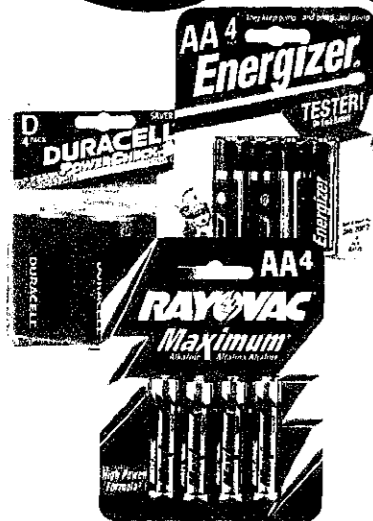
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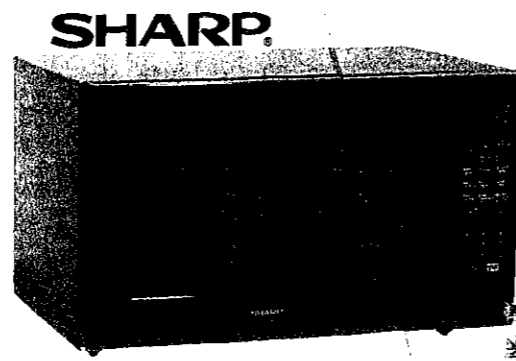
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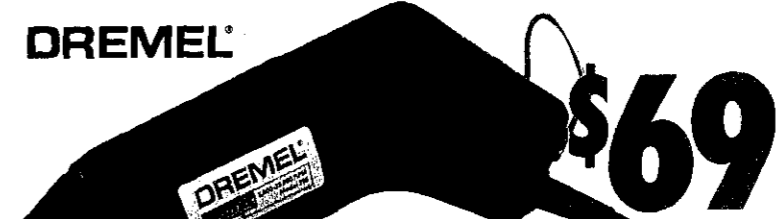
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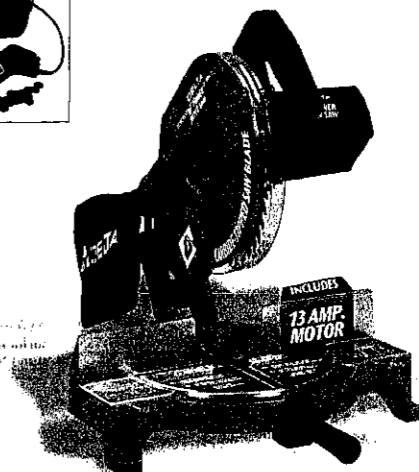
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Meadowbrook Commons opens to excited residents

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Meadowbrook Commons of Novi helps seniors adjust to community living.

"It is better than I thought I would," said resident Harriet Hawkins.

Hawkins lived in a condominium before moving to the recently opened senior center located on Meadowbrook Road.

"There are very nice people here," Hawkins said.

Hawkins met resident Barbara Laura whose husband in high school.

"I was at a party at Barbara's house before," Hawkins said.

"It's a small world," Laura said. "It is remarkable."

Laurin said the adjustment from living alone to living in a senior community environment was difficult, but the staff and residents at the development made the transition easier.

Arthur and Mina Gardner, who recently celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary, live in the ranch models surrounding the main building.

"We like it," Mina said.

After officially opening one month ago, the main building offers amenities including an exercise room, movie-viewing room, 24-hour library, game room and laundry room on each floor.

Opening soon will be a hair salon, general store and computer room.

"Residents won't have to leave to have their hair done," said Marcia Stevens, Meadowbrook Commons property manager.

The smartly decorated complex offers many common areas both inside and outside for residents to relax with other residents and their guests.

The outside common area, in the middle of the main building, contains clusters of patio furniture and will offer barbecues next spring.

"There are so many places to enjoy inside and outside," Stevens said.

Directly attached to the 115-unit main living quarters is the new home of Novi's senior center where residents and non-residents may enjoy ongoing activities held in the newly-constructed community room.

Attached to the community room is a clean, well-run kitchen where volunteers prepare entrees for the city's meals on wheels program.

Although the two entities are connected, the senior center and Meadowbrook Commons have separate entrances for privacy and convenience.

"It is a great community service," said city of Novi's chief operating officer Craig Klaver. "I can't tell you how excited I am about the whole thing."

Klaver explained the city, which owns the center, wanted to provide affordable living for its seniors.

"There are no tax dollars involved with the project," Klaver said.

The property for the center was donated and the city does not pay taxes nor does it make a profit.

Revenues are allocated for operation expenses and debt retirement.

"It is our intent to break even," Klaver said.

Units in the complex range from \$530 to \$890 a month.

Amenities some apartments offer include patio or balcony, emergency call systems, dishwasher, microwave and carpet rental.

"All rooms have telephones and a pull cord in every bathroom and bedroom for added security," Stevens said.

The 60 ranch models offers cathedral ceilings and a window in the kitchen which is very popular with the residents.

Nine units remain and are available for applicants 55 and older with priority given to applicants 62 and older. Novi residents will also be given priority, but everyone is encouraged to apply.

Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at vsadl@novi.honcom.net.

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Cub Scouts join to help needy

Novi scouts joined forces on Nov. 10 for a morning of community spirit, rallying around the "Scouting for Food" collection drive.

Almost 300 cub scouts, with the help of their parents, went door-to-door, neighborhood-to-neighborhood, collecting more than 8,000 canned goods in just three hours.

"This was a great example of Novi people helping Novi," said Wayne Jacobs, troop leader of Cub Scout Pack 375.

The donations were delivered to the Novi Oakland County Emergency Food Bank at the Faith Community Presbyterian Church on 10 Mile Road.

Jacob's troop combined with fellow Novi Cub Scouts, Pack 50, Pack 235, Pack 240, Pack 746 and Pack 54, for the morning event that lasted from 9 a.m. until noon.

Furthermore, Novi Boy Scouts of America, Troop 407, provided hot dogs, doughnuts and refreshments, as well as the majority of the muscle that moved and transferred the goods.

"It was heart-warming to see such a large group of people work together towards one goal," Jacobs said.

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

During the holiday, we should give thanks

Ever since Sept. 11, America has gone through something of a introspective mode. From Atlantic to Pacific and everywhere in between...

Help us help others

Whether you're the type who needs help or can offer it to someone else, the Novi News/Lake Area Times is looking for you.

HELPING HANDS

Wheelchair-bound mom seeks parts for chair

I'm 48, disabled, and a single parent. I'm in a wheelchair 95 percent of the time but many times, need a walker to help me get around.

Grandmother needs help raising grandkids

I am a grandmother helping to raise my grandchildren. Any kind of assistance such as gift certificates to help in food costs would be appreciated.

Single working mother needs a new vacuum

I am a 40-year-old single mom living in Northville with my two sons, 4 and 11. I work evenings as a waitress because that is the only time I have a sitter for my children.

Senior on fixed income needs food, vacuum

I am an 83-year-old senior who is on a limited income. I could use some assistance with groceries and/or I am in need of a new vacuum cleaner for mine has broken.

Tumor has made life difficult for 60-year-old

I am a female in desperate need of a wheelchair because the tumor on my leg has made it difficult to walk. My age is 60 years old and I have degenerative arthritis. I would require a large size wheelchair, new or used.

Limited-income senior looking for a haircut

I am a 78-year-old senior who is on a limited income but would love to have my hair cut and done at the beauty shop.



Learning how others live

Orchard Hills student Spencer Groner experiences what it's like to be blind and rely on a cane during last week's Disabilities Awareness Workshop held at the Novi school. Assisting him in Elizabeth Budesky, left.

LETTERS

Disappointed in library vote

Having been a Novi resident for the past 14 years, I am very disappointed in my community for voting no on the recent library millage. We are a city of very few public services compared to surrounding areas.

Novi CARES continues to help seniors

I would like to thank the Novi News for your assistance in promoting the Novi CARES for senior citizens program implemented one year ago. The article in a recent edition was greatly appreciated.

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.

Special thank you warms heart of vet

I was very surprised and honored the day after Veterans Day to receive thank you letters written by two young ladies from Novi High School. They expressed their thanks for our country's freedom and how the terror of Sept. 11 made them realize that all veterans have kept our nation free.

Candidate offers ideas for future councils

I want to thank everyone who voted for me and supported me throughout my campaign for Walled Lake City Council. When I took this election by one vote on Nov. 6, I was told that never in the history of elections in Walled Lake was it overturned because of the 99.9 percent accuracy of the computers.

Rebecca Gulyas

Walled Lake

Holiday is reminder of importance

Increasingly, my wife Kathy and I enjoy attending our church service on Thanksgiving morning. Not many people show up, so the service is quiet and intimate. The readings and the psalms help us reflect on how much we have to be thankful for.



Phil Power

revelation of God's will. We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing: He chastens and hastens his will to make known. Singing my grandfather's hymn on Thanksgiving morning reminds me of the treasure of family and that gift of memory that keeps that treasure shining bright, even on cold, gray November days.

Economists say 'keep in perspective'

Will the situation in Afghanistan and the progress of our war on terrorism affect the outlook for the economy? Will it affect how the economy does at pulling out of the current recession? The question at the University of Michigan economist George Fulton after his group, the Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics, presented its annual forecast for the state's economy.

Election reporting challenging in Novi

Sometimes wading through all the other stuff in search of a shiny new penny is quite a difficult task. And, not only is it difficult, but it is smelly and unclear too. This is kind of how felt covering and experiencing elections in Novi. As a municipal-reporting rookie, I figured covering an election would be like reporting from the scene of a breaking news story.

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Novi News

Novi News staff directory listing names, titles, and contact information for various staff members.

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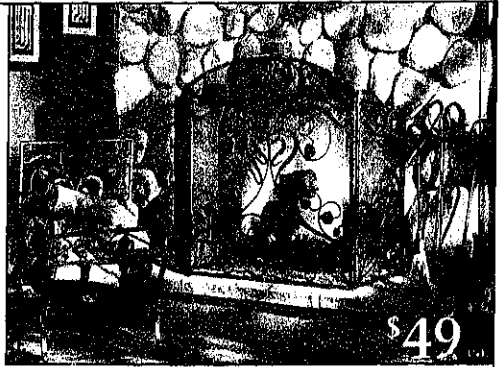
D. A little something for under the tree: Gigantic 8" Tabletop Alarm Clock, in chrome finish, \$9.

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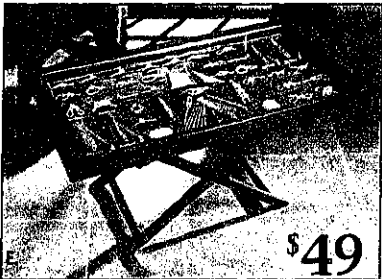
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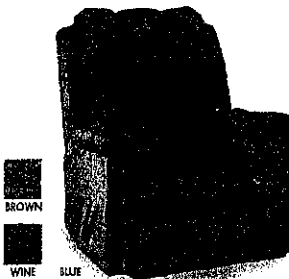
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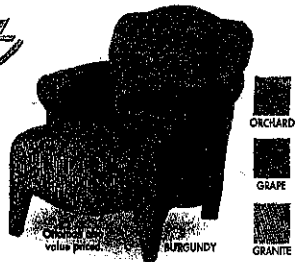
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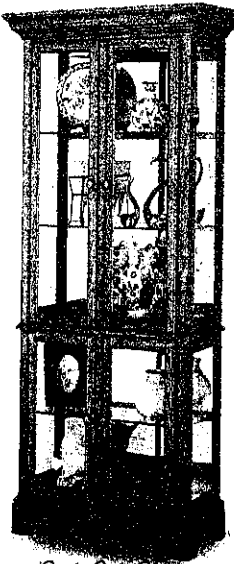
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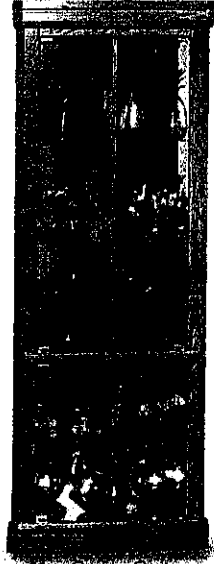
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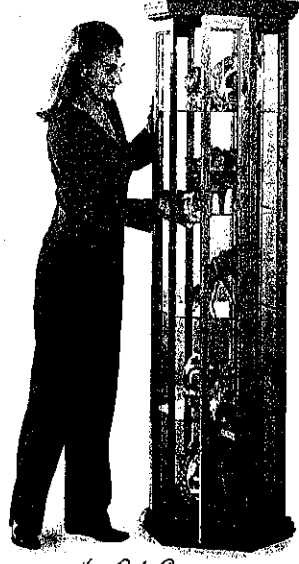
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Doing their best at finals

Swimmers earn valuable experience

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats girls swim team had four swimmers who performed well at the state meet over the weekend.

The girls, Kristine Elrod, Blair Tyler, Amanda Smith and Brittany Brodfehrer, may not have gathered any points in the meet featuring the best of the best — but anytime you score personal records, season bests and break a school record — it is a good day.

"Every event we entered in, we swam much better than where we were seated," Novi coach Larry Teahan said. "We just couldn't quite break into the scoring."

Sure, no points scored — but Smith set her season best time in the 100-meter freestyle with a time of 53.53 seconds for 15th in

"Anytime you make it to the state finals, it was a good season. These girls did a great job and they should be proud of what they accomplished."

Larry Teahan
 Novi swim coach

the state. And she also broke Novi's school record in the 50 freestyle event. Smith swam to a 13th-

Continued on 2



Photo by TOM HIBBELN

The Novi Wildcats scored two quick goals in the third period but could not hold on for the win as Northville came back to tie the game up with time expiring.

Dead even with 'Stangs

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats took to the season opener with one goal in mind — beating their cross-town rivals, the Northville Mustangs.

Instead of a win, the Wildcats held off the Mustangs to gather a 3-3 tie in the season opener.

"You know, it is just one of those games," Novi coach Dan Phelps said of the contest. "It was one of those games that could go either way. It is such a hyped-up game. It has the overtones of a Michigan, Ohio State game or like Michigan and Michigan State."

And intense it was. The Northville Mustangs took to the board first as sophomore Bobby Salerno snapped the puck to the back of the net in the first period in front of a packed house at the Novi Ice Arena.

The Wildcats came back in the second period as senior Adam Haberman found the back of the net off of an assist from Robby Overfield and Robble Harrell.

"I was expecting a good game, without a doubt," Northville senior captain Jason Engelland said. "Playing Novi is something we look forward to. You know it is going to

"I can't complain about a tie in the opening game of the season. Now we just have to get our first win."

Dan Phelps
 Novi head hockey coach

better than what we did against Northville. It is still early in the season and we have 10 new faces in the lineup from last year."

With time running out in the third period, the Mustangs capped the scoring on the night to tie the game at 3-3 as Engelland slipped the puck past goal and into the net with less than five minutes remaining on the clock.

"At that point, it is all about intensity," Engelland said. "In the third period you have to put everything you have left out there. You are pretty exhausted by that late in the game and you have to rely on the intensity you bring into the game."

Both the Wildcats and the Mustangs seemed happy to escape their season opener with the tie instead of what was a very possible loss.

"To get a tie against Novi is something I am not going to complain about," Engelland said. "We were up on them and let them come back in the third, but we are satisfied with a tie against them."

Phelps agreed. "I can't complain about a tie in the opening game of the season," he said. "Now we just have to get our first win."

The Wildcats took to the task of notching their first season win as they skated against a powerful team from Brother Rice Wednesday (after the Novi News went to print).

"They are one of the teams we scheduled to help bolster our schedule," Phelps said of a 2001-02 schedule that includes teams like Traverse City West, Alpena and a long haul to the Upper Peninsula to play tough squads in the Calumet Copperkings and the Hancock Greenlins. "There are no easy games this season. That is what we wanted, a tough schedule that will show us where we stack up," he said.

The Mustangs, helmed by first-year coach Jeff Bond, will look to put the Chiefs on ice when they face off against Plymouth Canton Nov. 28.

"There are not too many games that will equal the intensity of the Novi and Northville game," Engelland said. "We are looking forward to playing everyone on our schedule. It will be nice to go out looking for a win."

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 seggleson@ht.homecomm.net.

Hockey fine tunes schedule

Heavy hitters may benefit Wildcats

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats hockey team has added more than a couple of tough teams to their schedule this season.

The Wildcats have taken to the task of bolstering their schedule with two tough teams, one from Traverse City and the other from Alpena, from the Northern Lower Peninsula while making an addition with teams from the land of hockey in the Upper Peninsula with Calumet and Hancock as well.

"We like to see talent from all over the state," Novi head coach Dan Phelps said. "We have bolstered our schedule a little each year for the last three years. If we play the best competition we can get, we are going to get better within ourselves."

The Wildcats will be led by returning seniors Adam Haberman — who led the Cats in scoring last season — and Fred Napier — who will be looking to overcome some injuries sustained in football this season.

"Adam Haberman is a bright player with a lethal shot," Phelps said. "Napier is coming back in his third season this year. He has been kind of snake-bit the last couple of years but we are looking for him to come out of his shell a little this year and score some goals."

Not to mention Robble Harrell. "Robble is a young man that is earning his stripes for the third year," Phelps said.

"He is good for 10 to 15 goals a

"We like to see talent from all over the state."

Dan Phelps
 Novi hockey head coach

season and we are hoping to bolster that this year."

In addition to the other Wildcats, Robby Overfield is a new member of the team.

"He is from the Compuware midwest triple-A program," coach said. "He is not someone to fill any shoes or anything, but he is a deceptive player with a knack around the net."

The Wildcats will also have the pick of the litter between the posts.

"We have three goalies on the roster," Phelps said. "Right now it is kind of a tight race. The number one and two tandem going in is a couple of sophomores in Dan Morrison and Trent Slasson as well as a senior Stephen Stork. Stork is definitely making himself available, with his play, to see action in the net this year."

No matter the lineup, look for the Wildcats to be a stellar team in the game of hockey this season.

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

Novi falls to district champs Plymouth Salem

By Brian Doyle
 SPECIAL WRITER

For all high school athletes, the last game is inevitable.

The seniors on Novi's varsity basketball team found that out last Wednesday when they lost in the district semi-finals to the Plymouth Salem Rocks.

Novi lost the game 30-55 to the undefeated Plymouth Salem team. Plymouth Salem went on Friday to beat Plymouth Canton for the district championship.

"I thought we played well in the first quarter," said senior captain Brittany Barrett.

Novi at first stayed right with the Rocks and led with five minutes left to go in the first quarter. That was the last time Novi would have the lead.

Part of the reason was because of Salem's Mary Lou Liebau. Liebau led all scorers with 20 points.

During the last four minutes of the first quarter, Liebau single-handedly took Salem from behind by one to a five-point lead.

"We never gave up," Barrett said. However, Novi had trouble hanging around with the fourth-ranked Rocks.

Liebau went back at it and scored five points in the last minute of the first half.

"We had our ups and downs," Barrett said.

Novi went on a six point run in the middle of the fourth quarter led by senior captain Megan Colligan.

Colligan scored four of her eight points during the run. Barrett also scored two of her four.

Novi's sporadic streaks were not enough to keep up with Plymouth Salem's consistent scoring.

Along with Liebau's 20 points, Kelly Jaskot scored 9, and Amy Szawara scored 7 points for the Rocks. Junior Laura Longo was the only Novi player to reach double digits. She scored ten for the Cats.

Angle Schmitt contributed with a three-pointer and Becky Gasorek added three points from free throws. Megan Garham scored two to round out Novi's scorers.

With about two minutes left in the game, Novi pulled out the four seniors that were playing for the last time.

Barrett, Colligan, Carrie Copp and Liz Stevens gave their best effort in the last game. Kate Rose had her season end earlier due to an ankle injury.

According to Cichonski, Colligan was "steady Eddie."

She was the levelheaded player that helped the team stay together. Rose, who missed the last three games of the year, was always gave her best effort on the floor.

"She was our blue collar worker. She had a no-nonsense attitude," Cichonski said.

Although Copp didn't lead the team in points, she provided a different kind of asset to the team.

"She had a zest for life. We're going to miss that at practice," Cichonski said.

Barrett had a good season, but was hampered by injuries and sicknesses all season long.

"If it wasn't for injuries and sickness, she would have been even better. She set the tempo for our team," he said.

Stevens also added an important element to the team. Her coach felt strongly about what she did for the

Continued on 3

These kids know who is number one



Submitted photo

The Novi Jaguars' U9 boys green team took first place in Division I Select Soccer this fall, with an undefeated record of 6 wins-0 losses-3 ties. Pictured from left to right are: First row: Jordan McGuire, Jonathan Hart, Sam Palmer, Eric Weberman, Justin Antolec, Chase Jabbori. Second row: Coach Brian Zawislak, Brian Herron, Steven Meadows, Daniel Abrahamson, Bryan Hawkins, Scott Stanford, Danny Adsit. (Missing is coach Brock Becker, Andrew Check, Christopher Park.)

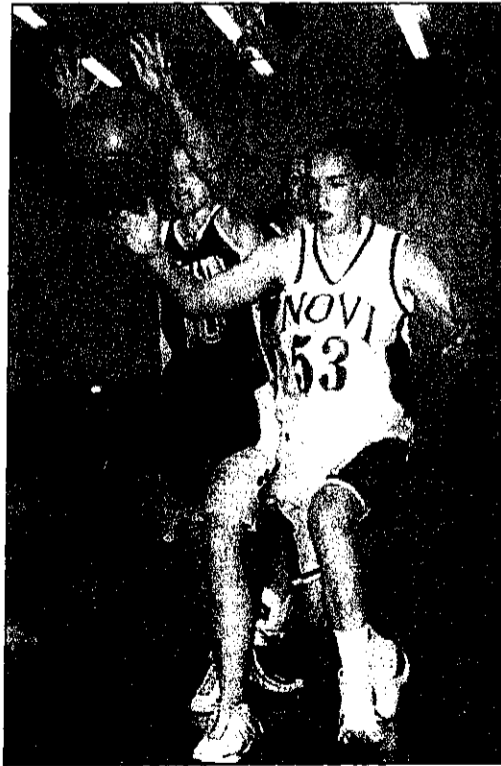


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi's Kate Rose drive to the hoop in a game earlier this season. Rose didn't have the chance to play against the Rocks of Salem due to an injury that hampered her this season and kept her out of the last three games.

Warriors stopped by Shamrocks

Western can't find endzone in tough semi-final loss

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It all came down to execution. The Walled Lake Western Warriors held onto the ball with poise and determination on every offensive down they had, but it just seemed they were always one block or one move short and they fell to powerful Redford Catholic Central 31-0 Saturday afternoon.

"They are a good team," Western head coach Mike Zdebski said after the contest. "You don't make it this far and not be a good team."

The Warriors and the Shamrocks of Catholic Central took to the crisp artificial turf of South Lyon High School's field on a clear day ranging right around 58-degrees with a slight wind. The Warriors foreshadowed the rest of the contest with their opening play after receiving the kickoff. Junior quarterback Jon Michaud took two quick steps back into the pocket before turning to his right and firing a bullet to halfback senior Steve Bell in the flat. Bell, who was behind Michaud when he made the catch, hurled the ball up field and into the hands of

Catholic Central's Ryan Wroblewski for the interception.

The final score may not have been kind to the Warriors, but their defense did what Zdebski said was an outstanding job. The opening-drive interception, which started the Shamrocks out on the Western 25-yard line, ended in a 29-yard field goal by kicker Jason Gingell to put the first points on the board and Catholic Central up 3-0.

"Our defense played a tough game," Bell said after the game. "Our offense just couldn't execute. The plays were there, but we were just short a block or two each time."

The Warriors went back and forth with the Shamrocks for three possessions of the football before Catholic Central took the ball six plays and 87 yards for a score as quarterback Tom Jakacki found Ryan Rogowski for a 26-yard score to put the Shamrocks up 10-0.

A three-and-out by the Warriors led to another long possession and drive by Catholic Central, which added up to another touchdown. The Shamrocks eventually pound-

ed the ball into the endzone with three minutes, 29 seconds remaining in the half as Mike Banaszak took the ball in for a 17-0 lead at the half.

"They were a very physical team," Bell said of the Catholic Central team that made blocks downfield on a very consistent basis. "They would be on you as soon as the ball was snapped. They are a tough program and they knew what they were after."

The second half was much like the first, with the Shamrocks scoring 14 points - all in the fourth quarter - while the Warriors pounded the ball inch by inch in hopes of crossing the goal line.

Western's best chance at putting points on the board came after a Catholic Central score, which found Jakacki hooking up with Rogowski from 16 yards away with 11:15 left in the quarter. The Warriors took the ball at the Catholic Central 44-yard line after Bell hauled the kickoff 47 yards with the kicker making the touch-down-saving stop. It took seven plays before the Warriors were in striking distance at the six-yard line before the squad put the weight on Michaud's shoulders. With 7:35 left in the game, Michaud took the ball up the middle on a sneak, needing to go one yard for the touchdown. He surged, to what seemed to be across the goal line, before being driven back on fourth and one with the officials waving off the score. An incidental facemask call gave the Warriors a second chance. The call found Michaud bootlegging to the left before being stopped just inches short of the goal.

"We were just trying to get some points on the scoreboard," Zdebski said. "We didn't get it. It's tough losing a game like this. We had a great season with a great group of seniors and this is a time that has to happen to someone. You hate losing, especially like this, but someone has to."

The Shamrocks added one more score to the board to cap the game point-gathering, as Kevin McKee carried the ball 24 yards up the middle for the score with 1:51 left in the contest.

The final drive of the game found the Warriors getting their reserves into the game. Damarrow Grace took the first play five yards up the middle before sophomore quarterback Peter Mooney threw an incomplete pass to stop the clock with 1:00 left on the clock. Robert Moreland took the next play nine yards for the first down before another incomplete pass by Mooney stopped the clock at 45 seconds. The final successful Western play came as Moreland went two yards up the middle before a Warrior fumble ended up in Catholic Central's possession.

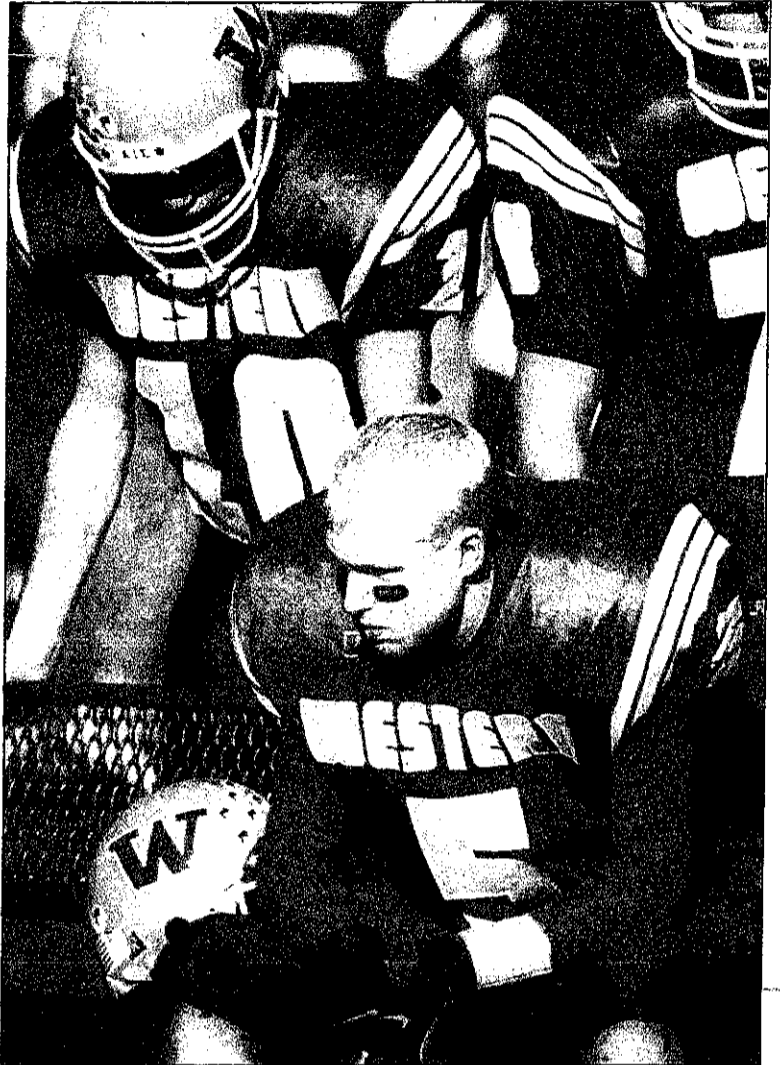


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Warriors Bryan Kowalski (#5) and Robert Biele (#10) look a bit stunned that their team hasn't scored any points by as the third quarter continues in last Saturday's playoff game against Catholic Central.

The Shamrocks knelt the ball to end the game.

When all was said and done, the Warriors no doubt wanted to play a different game.

"This was a game we were hoping to be able to compete in more than we did," Bell said. "They played a better game. They executed better. I guess they are the team that should have won."

The Catholic Central Shamrocks will have the daunting task of defeating returning Division 1 state-champion Utica Eisenhower Saturday.

One of the factors in the game that weighed heavily into the Warriors' trouble of putting the ball into the endzone, was the stingy field-position the Shamrocks gave up. On all but one occasion, the Warriors started in their own territory and around their own 40-yard line on average.

"Field position definitely hurt us," Zdebski said. "They pinned us down pretty well with their punting. They are definitely going to have their hands full against Utica."

For Bell and the other seniors,

this was the last time they would be taking to the field in a Western uniform, something Bell thought the underclassmen on the team should be prepared for.

"Play your best," he said. "Play with everything you have on every play. You never know when your season is going to end."

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Western's Ryan Wilson pursues Catholic Central QB Tom Jakacki in last Saturday's playoff game.

Rude behavior not welcome in football anymore

Jeering, disrespect - none of it belongs on the gridiron

At least the Warriors were never rude about it.

There were times the Walled Lake Western Warriors football team stomped their opponents, crushing them 44-0 and 50-12 - yet, they were never rude about winning.

You never heard a jeer from the sidelines or a group of fans shouting "Over-rated" in unison - not when the Warriors were winning. But when the Warriors were losing? That is a different story.



Sam Eggleston

I have been to quite a few football games in my time - everything from Class D in the Upper Peninsula to college, semi-pro and even had the opportunity to take a look at some of the players from 4A school in Alaska - the one thing I have never understood about football is the rude behavior that is sometimes exhibited.

Walled Lake Western is no doubt a quality football team.

They worked their way through the regular season and to the semi-finals against Redford Catholic Central where they fell to a very good team - but was there need for the calls from the stands or the actions of the players?

I will just give you an example of some of the things I was witness to and some of the things I heard from the Catholic Central crowd.

First, there was not a play that went by that I didn't see a Catholic Central player literally head-butting a Walled Lake player with full force.

This was no friendly helmet-to-helmet talking going on, this was intent to knock someone silly.

Not to mention the plays where a Central kid would run full bore and hit a player that was not even close to where the play was happening just so they could tell their buddies they laid someone out.

Secondly, the fans of the Shamrocks did not know when to keep their so-called cheering down.

The Warriors were trailing 31-0 with time expiring when Coach Mike Zdebski sent in the Warriors who had not had a chance to play yet - the noble thing to do in that

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situation. A hand-off up the middle resulted in negative yardage and someone from the Catholic Central stands yelled out "Great call coach, no wonder you lost."

Give me a break, not only was this a play designed to run the clock down so no one would get injured (which, by the way did not work - Steve Bigger went down with a leg injury on the play) but to give some back-up players some time on the field in what

may be the biggest game of their careers.

A back-up player, mind you, running a time-consuming play to end the game and a fan makes a rude comment about it - real nice, fella.

The final straw for me was when Bigger went down with the injury.

Here a team is, leading by 31 points, with back-ups playing across from them (most of the Shamrock defense was starters by the way) and they refused to kneel for him.

A Catholic football team refusing to kneel for an injured player - makes me wonder if their superiors know about this or not.

Anyway, this was just my way to fume about the direction some teams are taking this game. I hope I see more teams with the attitude and morals of Walled Lake Western and Walled Lake Central in the future.

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Western's Steve Tominna is pursued by Catholic Central's Kevin McKee in Saturday's game.