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Classifieds

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Group files lawsuit for park land

Friends of Novi Parks sues city over settlement agreement

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

The Friends of Novi Parks filed a request for an injunction last week in an attempt to prevent the city of Novi from conveying city park land

to Sandstone Associates Limited Partnership.
The request was filed in Oakland County Circuit Court on Nov. 20 with the intent to keep a portion of North Novi Park, which the city plans on releasing as part of the lawsuit settlement agreement.
"The injunction will preserve the status quo," said Scott Howard of Olson and Bzdok, P.C., an attorney representing the group in the suit.
Olson and Bzdok, P.C. is a Traverse City law firm specializing in environmental and land use law. Howard explained the point of

requesting the injunction is to prohibit the city from being able to convey the park land until the group's anticipated future trial date.
If the injunction is granted Dec. 5, then Howard said the process will move forward with the group's ultimate goal of prevailing against the city proving the proposed settlement is illegal.
Novi city attorney, Gerald Fisher, said the first step is to see if this type of group has the right to move forward with a lawsuit. Fisher is looking into the issue because the

Friends of Novi Parks entity does not pay property taxes and this could be a taxpayer lawsuit issue.
The goal of the group stated by members is to prevent what they believe is an illegal transfer of up to 95 acres of North Novi Park as part of the Oct. 15 unanimous city council decision to settle the suit.
"The city is planning on giving away 25 percent of all the land in one of our most valuable public recreation areas," stated LuAnne Kozma, a Novi Parks and Recreation commissioner and member of the Friends of Novi

Park, in a press release.
The release stated "the proposed transfer would take away roughly 25 percent of the park and over 10 percent of all the park land owned by the city."
Members have said city officials are downplaying the acreage the city plans on conveying to the partnership all along.
"What we did was what we thought was fair and appropriate," Csordas said.

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Santa was here



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Rachel Murray seems to be having a jolly old time visiting with Santa Claus after Novi's Main Street Holiday Walk and Tree-Lighting ceremony a couple of Tuesday's ago. Kids young and old lined up inside Novi's Main Street shopping area to visit with the man from the North Pole.

Let the season begin

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Holiday spirit filled downtown Novi last week, as residents marched down Main Street to welcome Santa Claus and watch the city's Christmas tree illuminate officially beginning the holiday season.
Nearly 800 celebrators gathered at the Main Street clock the

evening of Nov. 20 marching west down the middle of the street to the band shell located near the corner of Novi Road.
Members of the Novi High marching band led the way filling the street with Christmas carols including one of the crowd's favorite - Jingle Bells.
City officials, including council member Lou Csordas and Rep. Nancy Casstis (R-Novi), welcomed

the crowd reflecting back on the Sept. 11 tragedy and forward to what hopes to be a merry and prosperous holiday for all of Novi's caring residents.
Jon Dietrich of Novi was jumping up and down across from the band shell anxiously awaiting Santa Claus' arrival.
"Santa, Santa, Santa," the 11-

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State says letter from DeRoche was not illegal

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

The Bureau of Legal Services for the state of Michigan closed its investigation this week, stating Novi City Council member Craig DeRoche did not violate the Michigan Campaign Finance Act by sending out a letter to citizens.

"The matter has been dismissed," said Elizabeth Boyd, spokeswoman for the Michigan Department of State.

David Murley of the Bureau of Legal Services, rendered the decision on Nov. 20 after conducting an investigation to see if DeRoche violated Sec. 44(2) of the MCFCA by using candidate committee funds to make an in-kind contribution of independent expenditure on behalf of another candidate.

After receiving invoices and copies of canceled checks showing DeRoche paid for the correspondence with personal funds not cam-

aign committee funds, Murley found the only issue that could possibly be raised regarding the letter is the identification statement at the bottom which read, "Paid for by DeRoche for Novi City Council."

Section 47 of the act requires a person to include an identification statement - which includes the name and address of the person paying for the material - if they are not a candidate but are acting as an agent for a candidate or committee and not independently.

Whether DeRoche needed to place an identification statement at the bottom of the letter was not formally investigated, but since he identified the committee, rather than himself, Murley said DeRoche seemed to have met all of the requirements.

None the less, the state closed the case because the spirit of Sec. 47 is disclosure and "while there may have been misidentification in this

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Man in trunk admits to taking money

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

A gas station employee is facing a little more than he gambled for after his tale of robbery and kidnapping was foiled by Novi Police.

A 52-year-old Detroit resident, who was let out of the trunk of a blue Taurus on Nov. 27 in the parking lot of General Filters Inc., told police he was put in the trunk after being robbed while making a commercial bank deposit.

The money allegedly stolen from him was supposed to have been deposited in the bank as one of his duties as an assistant manager of the Speedway Gas Station located on Eight Mile and Haggerty Roads.

The suspect told police the deposit money was stolen from him and then he was put in the trunk by the alleged robbers.

When police arrived at General Filters in response to the person-in-the-trunk call, they learned the license plate of the Taurus matched the same gentleman listed as a

suspect in the \$5,700 embezzlement Speedway case, said David Molloy, Detective Sgt. of the Novi Police Department.

After being released from the trunk by police, the Detroit man said he was put in the trunk of his car last week.

"He was alleging he had been in the trunk since Nov. 22," Molloy said.

Molloy said he did not show any signs of dehydration which would normally be associated with a claim of that nature.

After being examined and released from a local hospital, the man voluntarily went to the Novi Police Department for questioning, police said.

"We found a lot of discrepancies in his story which subsequently led to the truth," Molloy said. "He did admit to embezzling the money."

Molloy said the man has now only compounded his troubles adding a felony charge for filing a false police report for the trunk incident on to the embezzlement charge.

"We determined it pretty

Continued on 4

Middle School helps students stay healthy with Turkey Trot

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Middle School promoted healthy living and holiday spirits with its 10th annual Turkey Trot on Nov. 21.

"This is a community service effort that emphasizes physical fitness," said Novi Middle School principal Milan Obrenovich.

Students donated non-perishable food items and money to the Novi Emergency Food Bank at the Faith Community United Presbyterian

Church on 10 Mile Road. They closed the collection drive with a 1.2 mile walk around the school grounds.

The middle schoolers were encouraged to donate two food items or \$2 during the pre-Thanksgiving week of Nov. 12. Overall, they gathered over 2,100 food items and \$512.

"I'm proud of the kids for being willing to do something for folks less fortunate than themselves," Obrenovich said.

The trot started at 8 a.m., with

students making one loop around the athletic track before heading up Wixom Road in the brisk November weather conditions. For the home stretch, the trotters continued to brave the elements and traveled east on 11 Mile Road, where they were greeted by a giant Thanksgiving turkey giving high-fives at the finish line.

"It was fun, but it was really cold out there," said Novi Middle School seventh-grader Marcus McDuffie

Continued on 4



Photo by LESLEY DONNELLY

Novi Middle School students prepare to take off on their morning jog but not before they say hello to Tom Turkey.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Group hopes to stop settlement agreement

Continued from 1

Based on the advice of city and bond attorneys, Coorads said he and other members of the council based their decisions on recommendations from consulting attorneys was legal. "If it was not (legal), we would not have done it," Coorads said. "If the Friends of Novi Parks prevail in its lawsuit, preventing the city from conveying park land as an answer to rid the city of the looming Sandstone lawsuit, Novi taxpayers would more than likely see a tax increase ranging from \$250 to \$1,200 a year to pay the Sandstone judgment, depending on the taxable value of the Novi resident's home and what the lawsuit value increases to over time. The lawsuit is currently valued at \$69.5 million, but continues to rise as the judgment amount accrues interest at an annual rate of 12 percent.

"Our main goal is not to increase taxes for anyone," Coorads said. "To have a significant tax increase on this for something we had nothing to do with is not appropriate."

"I believe when you are suing the city, you are suing the residents," said Tom Nagy, Novi resident and member of the Novi Planning Commission.

Novi City manager, Richard Helwig, considers the entire situation an emergency.

The Friends of Novi Parks was created to support the protection, acquisition and development of parks and open spaces within the city of Novi.

Smith said the idea for the group was actually kicked around long before the announcement of the park land transfer agreement.

"The city's actions made us realize that passive recreation users in Novi needed more effective representation," Smith said. "The important thing to remember is that we don't plan on being a single issue group. We want to work with the city to preserve green space and develop recreational opportunities in Novi."

Organizers said the group plans to work with the city, residents and other groups to create a long-term plan which will result in a city that has varied and balanced recreational opportunities looking at recreational needs from a regional as well as city perspective.

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

Taste of Novi a hit with patrons

Continued from 1

one old friend as the merry of solo arrived in a bright yellow fire truck.

This was the second year parents, Karri and Mark, came to the holiday walk.

"It's lots of fun," Mark Dietrich said.

It truly is a family affair as the Dietrichs' other son, Jason, plays in Novi High's marching band.

After Santa arrived and wished everyone a "Merry Christmas," the crowd counted to three watching Novi's Christmas tree light up in the white lights.

The band played back up on the street while small children cheered candy canes forming a line to enter the Main Street development's common area.

Inside the open area, patrons had the opportunity to warm up and sample for free, many of the city's finest cuisines.

More than 12 area restaurant representatives brought samples from their kitchens for revelers to sample.

Stomach-filling treats ranged from Nachos to Sushi and were provided by caterers including Maiano's Italian Restaurant, Bi Bin Imb, Applebee's Neighborhood Bar & Grill, Cannon Coffee, and Mesquite Creek Steakhouses.

The city of Novi's police and fire chiefs, Douglas Schaeffer and Arthur Loughran, accompanied the diners enjoying the event.

Above the "Taste of Novi" on the second floor, Novi Girl Scouts sold baked goods to benefit the community's families in need of assistance and Santa Claus offered the invitation for area children to sit on his lap, telling him their Christmas wishes.

He passed out ornaments and representatives from McDonald's passed out certificates for hamburgers attached to reebers to sample.

Speedway employee admits to taking money

Continued from 1

much all contributed to gambling," Molloy said.

Novi Police believe the suspect spent the money on a gambling spree after finding out he was very active at one Detroit casino during the time he initially told police he was hooked in the trunk.

Molloy credited detective Ron Roy with doing an excellent job of questioning the suspect to bring both cases to an end.

The drama began 11:53 a.m. Nov. 27 when the department received a call to respond to General Filters, located on Grand River Avenue west of Novi Road, for what was believed to be a person locked in the back of a car parked at the east side of the lot.

"An employee next door heard yelling and saw the trunk bouncing up and down and called police," said Paul Stullgros, detective of the Novi Police Department.

When officers arrived on the scene, they approached the blue Toyota, determined someone was inside, and in less than 10 minutes he was free.

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

DeRoche letter was not illegal, state says

Continued from 1

DeRoche said he initially identified the letter as being from the campaign committee because he wanted to make sure voters did not think it was paid for by Novi taxpayers.

The letter was mailed to absentee voters endorsing then city council candidates, Kim Capello, Victor Cassis and Edward Kramer, while reminding against Laura Lorenz and David Landry.

"I sent the letter to begin a debate on the issues I thought should be debated in the campaign," DeRoche said. "I hope that Novi always has strong debates over issues, such as the letter I sent, but that we move away from the personal attacks some groups orchestrated in this campaign."

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

Organization Calendar

- ACORD**
Phone: (734) 349-1843
- ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**
Where: Faith Community United Presbyterian Church, 44400 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375
When: General meeting: Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.; Couples meeting: Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.; Women's meeting: Sunday at 4 p.m.
Contact: Stanley
Phone: (734) 522-8971
- AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS**
Phone: (248) 626-0877
- AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN**
NORTHVILLE/NOVI BRANCH
What: Promotes equity for all women and girls, life-long education and intellectual challenge.
Contact: Barbara Wilson (248) 348-3999
- AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION - NOVI OAKS CHAPTER**
What: Bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations and provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow professionally.
Where: Windham Garden Hotel, 42100 Crescent Blvd., Novi.
When: Every third Monday of the month.
Contact: Bettie Johnson
Phone: (248) 960-9559
- AMERICAN LEGION NORTHVILLE - POST 147**

- Phone: (248) 349-1060
- AMERICAN LEGION NOVI - POST 19, AUXILIARY POST**
What: Service group open to all eligible veterans of all wars and conflicts as prescribed by the U.S. Congress. Auxiliary is open to all female members of eligible veterans' families.
Where: Novi Expo Center, 43700 Expo Center Dr., Novi
When: Every second Tuesday for business and every fourth Tuesday for social event at 8 p.m.
Contact: (248) 344-8236; Auxiliary: (734) 981-5125
- ANETS**
What: Provide services and assist with obtaining benefits for veterans and their families of military service during and after World War II through present.
Where: Novi Expo Center, 43700 Expo Center Dr., Novi
When: First Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m.
Phone: (248) 349-2835
- BUSINESS NETWORK INTERNATIONAL**
Greater Novi Chapter
Where: Novi Hilton, 2111 Haggerty Road, Novi
When: Every Wednesday from 7-8:30 a.m.
Contact: BNI regional office
Phone: (810) 323-3800
- Whom Chapter
Where: Leon's Restaurant, 29710 W. Wixom Road, Wixom, between Pontiac Trail and I-96

- When: Every Friday from 7-8:30 a.m.
Contact: BNI regional office
Phone: (810) 323-3800
- CALLING CARD**
Contact: Sojia Lane
Phone: (248) 348-0528
- CIVIC CONCERN**
Contact: Marlene Kuuz
Phone: (248) 344-1033
- CIVIL AIR PATROL - NORTHVILLE**
Phone: (734) 591-0360
- CIVIL AIR PATROL/SIXTHGATE COMPOSITE SQUADRON - NOVI**
Phone: (248) 349-2807
- COMMUNITY CLOTHES CLUB**
What: Assists with emergency needs and helps low-income families with clothes and baby items.
When: Every Monday from 9 a.m. to noon and 6:30-8:30 p.m.; the first two Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon and the last two Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon
Phone: (248) 349-8553
- DETROIT/OAKLAND CHAPTER - GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS CHOIR**
Contact: Fran Durham
Phone: (248) 344-4613
- FRIENDS OF MATURE STATE PARK**
Phone: (248) 349-8390
- GOODFELLOWS**
- When: Every Friday from 7-8:30 p.m.
Contact: Bob Peterson
Phone: (248) 349-2357
- HURON VALLEY GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL**
Phone: (800) 497-2688
- KIWANIS CLUB**
Phone: (248) 349-0611
- KIWANIS EARLY BIRDS**
Phone: (248) 347-3470
- KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**
Phone: (734) 453-9833
- LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NOVI/WEST OAKLAND**
What: Promotes responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and action on selected governmental issues.
Phone: (248) 380-8474
- LOTAL ORDER OF MOOSE - LODGE NO. 1190**
Phone: (248) 344-0920
- MARINE CORPS LEAGUE - NORTHWEST DETACHMENT NO. 162**
What: A service-oriented organization dedicated to the purpose of uniting all U.S. Marines, both discharged and on active duty. They also assist and help all needy veterans and their families.
Where: Novi Expo Center, 43700 Expo Center Dr., Novi
When: Second Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m.
Phone: (734) 421-8298
- MASONIC TEMPLE ASSOCIATION**
Phone: (248) 476-0320
- NOVI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**
What: Serves the public through amateur radio service. It offers help during all emergencies and disasters. The club also provides parade control in Northville on July 4 and works with R.A.C.E.S. and the tornado alert system.
Where: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile, Novi
When: First Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.
Phone: (248) 349-4064
- NOVI BAND**
Where: Novi High School or Novi Middle School, throughout school year
When: Tuesday evenings, 7:30 p.m.
Phone: (248) 932-9244
- NOVI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
What: The chamber of commerce is an organization which coordinates the talents and resources of business and professional men and women.
Where: Novi Expo Center, 43700 Expo Center Drive, Suite 100, Novi
When: Membership meeting: third Tuesday of every month at noon and board of directors meets at 6 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday
Phone: (248) 349-3743
- NOVI HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
What: Gives residents of the community a knowledge of their com-

Novi water shortage over as tests come back negative for bacteria

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Novi residents had an extra reason to give thanks this holiday as the boil water advisory was lifted just in time for a Pilgrim-style feast.

"It looks like everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and was able to cook their turkeys," said Anthony Nowicki, city of Novi director of public services.

The advisory - instructing residents to boil their water for at least five minutes before drinking or cooking - was terminated by city officials Nov. 21 at 11:55 a.m.

The termination was communicated to Novi residents and business owners after two consecutive rounds of Total Coliform Bacteria sampling and analysis were completed indicating no Coliform bacteria was present in the publicly-owned water supply system.

City officials said the boil water advisory was issued Nov. 16 to residents living north of Grand River Avenue or west of Novi Road as a precautionary measure after the city sustained a major reduction of incoming water supply system.

The water emergency affected three fourths of the community, causing the remaining one fourth to support the city.

Once notified of the situation, city staff convened to develop a response while keeping in direct contact with Detroit Water and Sewerage Department.

"We were able to notify the vast majority of citizens," Nowicki said.

Methods used to keep citizens informed included the city's reverse 911 public notification system, community access cable, mailers, the media and phones manned by city employees.

Novi City manager, Richard Helwig, said this was the first time the city's reverse 911 system was used and he would like to see what percentage of Novi residents received calls.

"Our objective was to notify everyone twice," Helwig said.

Helwig expressed his gratitude to the community for its patience and understanding.

Novi City Council member David Landry commended the administration.

"These kind of emergencies no one likes to see, but they are inevitable," Landry said.

City officials have still not heard a definitive reason as to what caused the Nov. 16 Farmington Hills water main rupture flooding the area of Fourteen Mile and Halsted Roads.

About 100,000 residents in Novi, Wixom, Walked Lake and Commerce Township were left with no to low water pressure.

The city is currently working on an agreement to develop a 10 million gallon water reservoir approved by members of the Novi City Council in 1999.

The reservoir will provide the city with a water source which may be used to maintain water pressure and would also be helpful for fighting fires, Helwig said.

Right now, the city relies entirely on the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department.

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

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Gathering quiets fears on proposed rule changes

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

Almost 200 people from across Oakland County gathered in Novi to challenge the proposed rule changes regarding special education in Michigan schools, fearing higher class sizes and inadequate programs for their children and students.

On Nov. 19, Michigan Superintendent of Schools Tom Watkins hosted a "Listen and Learn" public gathering at the Novi Instructional Technology Center, where parents and teachers of special education students voiced their concerns with the state's top education official.

"I am doing this so that when I begin making decisions, I can think about how these rules are going to affect real people," Watkins said. "I want to sit down and listen and talk to people who want to share their stories and opinions."

In all, Watkins held five "Listen and Learn" gatherings across Michigan in November, where he met with many seemingly emotional parents prepared to express their concerns - loudly, if necessary - over the possible administrative changes that will directly impact their

children's futures.

"This is a very volatile and sensitive issue," said Novi Schools superintendent Emmett Lappe.

In the past year, the heated clashes have involved the proposed changes that would minimize state regulations for special education, putting the responsibility at the county level and requiring the 57 intermediate school districts to set their own standards.

"This will be the most sweeping set of changes since the special education law was enacted in 1971," said Novi Schools Director of Student Services Donna Tinberg.

However, the crowd encountered an attentive Watkins who encouraged the parents and teachers' ideas on these difficult issues, smoothing over some tensions between the state and special education clients and providers.

"The parents felt listened to," Tinberg said. "The bark and the bite dialogue was helpful." Many parents fear such rule changes would encourage more relaxed standards, fostering inadequate programs that will send special education class sizes and student teacher ratios

soaring, especially in difficult financial times when school budgets are squeezed or in low-income districts.

"We have to try and be reasonable and not oppose change because it's change," Tinberg said. "However, we must think about the kids and make sure they get equivalent services."

The official public hearings for these issues have come and gone, along with court trials, protests and rallies, setting the controversial tone for this continued debate.

Watkins plans to hold a virtual "Listen and Learn" video conference with residents of the Michigan upper peninsula in December.

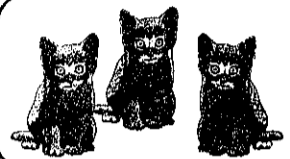
Angelo Parlove is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 3109 or at aparlove@ttt.humecomm.net.

Library Lines

LIBRARY HOURS
The Novi Public Library, 45245 W. Ten Mile Road, just east of Taft is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. For more information, call 349-0720.

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Our December selection is "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant. The group meets Monday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room. All are welcome.

STORYTIME NOTES



Too Many Kittens To Feed? Place an ad in the Classifieds to find them a new home.

Our regularly scheduled Storytimes will not be held on Tuesday, Dec. 4 due to a staff in-service day.

SANTA CLAUS: A CHRISTMAS TRADITION
The traditional Christmas visit of Santa Claus is a combination of legends, historical facts, Christian beliefs, social customs, and the imagination of artists and writers. Popular speaker Weldon Petz uses slides and figurines to illustrate the evolution of a saintly third-century bishop into the white-bearded gentleman of the north. This free program will be held Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room. To register, please call the library at 349-0720.

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
The Novi Library Board of Directors meets Monday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room. Community members are welcome to attend.

SENIOR BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Senior book lovers are reading "Tulip Fever" by Deborah Moggach for their December meeting. The group meets in the library meeting room on Thursday, Dec. 13 at noon.

Novi Briefs

RAKING LEAVES
City of Novi officials request residents discontinue raking leaves into the street. Although the city will continue sweeping the streets, the equipment is not intended to remove high piles of accumulated leaves which has been a problem in some subdivisions. Officials said wet leaves also clog drains causing flooding.

NOVI POLICE RECEIVE ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT FUNDS
The Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland County invited the Novi Police Department to be a cooperative agency and receive \$8,000 of a traffic enforcement grant the association was recently awarded. The funds will be applied to police officer overtime for hours spent enforcing alcohol driving offenses. According to a memorandum issued by Novi Police Chief Douglas Sheaffer, 168 hours of overtime will be paid for alcohol enforcement action on eight different occasions beginning Dec. 21 through July 5, 2002.

WINTER PROPERTY TAX BILLS
Winter 2001 property tax bills are due on or before February 14, 2001 in order to avoid late payment penalties. Citizens wishing to deduct their winter property tax payment on their 2001 federal income tax returns must pay on or before Dec. 28, 2001. A drop box for payment is located behind Novi City Hall through Dec. 31. For more information, call the treasurer's department at (248) 347-0440.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Two Novi construction projects are in the environmental review phase, while a third has already begun. The Grand River Avenue project improving the avenue from the city limits east to Beck Road, is underway with the castbound lanes planned for completion in 2001 and the westbound lanes scheduled for 2002. The improvement projects initiated for the intersection of Novi and Ten Mile Roads will begin during the 2003 construction season. The Grand River Avenue project is moving forward as members of the city council approved a design concept and 100-foot right-of-way limits on Sept. 10.

NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

Novi Mayor, Richard J. Clark, proclaimed November, 2001 as National Family Caregivers month. Clark asked residents to pause during the Thanksgiving season, giving thanks to caregivers taking care of our friends and loved ones. With the advances in medical technology, people with disabilities are living longer enhancing the caregiver role. Clark stated it is likely we all know at least one caregiver and the holiday season is an appropriate time to extend the city's appreciation for their efforts.

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SHOWTIMES 11/29
11:30, 2:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
DARBY PATER AND THE EMBROIDERER
STONE POST (PG) + RENTIN
12:00, 12:50, 1:50, 3:30, 3:55, 4:15, 8:10
8:45, 7:10, 9:45, 9:45, 10:20
BLACK KUBRIC (PG-13)
11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20
HEAT (R) 11:50, 2:10, 4:45, 7:30, 9:50
SHALL WE DANCE (PG-13)
11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:50
MURDER, INC. (R)
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THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Auditions will be held for the Novi Theatres' presentation of "The Sound of Music" 7:30 p.m. Dec. 10 and 17. The musical will be performed March 8 through 10 and 16 through 17, 2002. Audition packets are available now at the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. For more information, call (248) 347-0400.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Novi Theatres presents "A Christmas Carol," Dec. 7 through 9 at the new Novi

GLENDAS

Members of the theater promise to bring to the stage a straightforward, faithful and theatrically stunning adaptation of the Dickens classic. Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door and may be purchased at the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department, the Novi Middle School theater is located at 49000 Eleven Mile Road. For more information, call (248) 347-0400.

SANTA AND REINDEER VISIT

Suburban Hockey to hold one-day clinics on Christmas Eve. Players ages 8 and up are encouraged to sign up for Santa's Workshops - two clinics offered by Suburban Hockey on Monday,

Suburban Hockey

Dec. 24 at the Novi Ice Arena. From 10:11:50 a.m. Suburban will offer the Shoot to Score Clinic where players will learn proper shooting technique, shooting while moving, scoring drills, wrist shots, backhands, snap shots and slap shots (if applicable). Suburban is also holding a Defense Clinic, from noon-1:50 p.m. at which players will work on proper positioning, footwork, phony lateral movement, stickhandling, passing and shooting from the point. Backward skating, and acceleration. Enrollment is limited so reserve your spot today, call (248) 478-1900 or visit www.suburbanhockey.com.

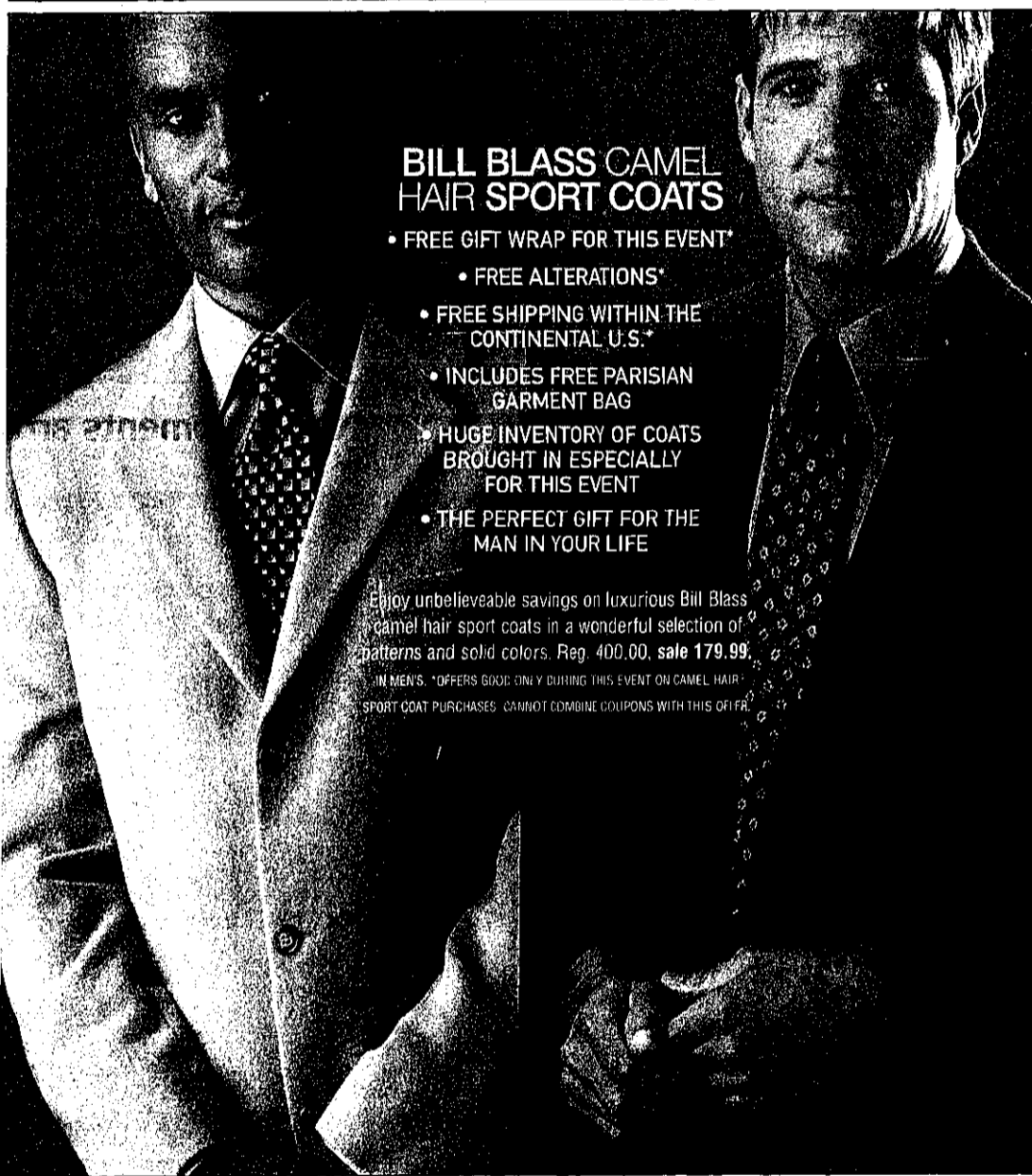
VISIT SANTA'S WORKSHOP AT THE NOVI ICE ARENA

Suburban Hockey to hold one-day clinics on Christmas Eve. Players ages 8 and up are encouraged to sign up for Santa's Workshops - two clinics offered by Suburban Hockey on Monday,

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We'll be giving away \$5,000 to five lucky winners EVERY SUNDAY...including Sunday, December 16th, when we're giving away the house.

Winter Percussion gears up and jazzes up their music

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

Novi High School drummers and percussionists are gearing up for the winter music season, with jazz numbers on this year's billing. The Novi Band Boosters and the Novi High School music program are sponsoring the Novi Winter Percussion, an extracurricular activity for Novi High School band members, which follows the close of the fall marching band season. "It's a unique and different kind of music," said Linda Bess from the Novi High School Band Boosters. "The program features only drums and percussion sections, blending together a variety of styles, including jazz, rock, blues, folk, and drums in a potpourri of music. Both orchestral percussion and marching percussion instruments are used as percussive voices integrated with color and movement to present a musical theme," said Tim Rehbeck, the director of the Novi Winter Percussion. "This year's show will feature the music of jazz guitarist Bill Metheny. This is the first time the ensemble has played jazz," Rehbeck said. "We try different musical styles each season so the students get an opportunity to play different types of music." Furthermore, many of the band's members did not start out as percussionists. Most students play a different instrument for the Novi High School marching band and

learn entirely new percussion skills for the program. "Winter percussion teaches more than musical skills," Rehbeck said. "Students learn lessons they will use all their lives, such as teamwork, responsibility and the values of good setting. Each year, the Novi Winter Percussion attempts to capture it listeners with a symphony of rudimentary drumming and experimental sounds. "Our focus is a musical and visual presentation that is fun for the student performers, entertaining for our audience and technically challenging," Rehbeck said.

The band members spend long hours rehearsing, practicing on weekends and through school vacation breaks to master the challenging material. "This is a very rigorous program and the kids are extremely dedicated to this music," Bissi said. Last year, the group finished

13th at the WGI World Championships in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. 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.

rehearsals begin in November and run through the end of the competitive season in April. This year, the program will compete at the WGI Midwest Regional in Indiana and the WGI World Championships in Dayton, Ohio, as well as several local competitions in Michigan.

Novi City Council is hoping for some fresh ideas at the commission table, as three new planning commissioners were appointed to help shape the future look of the city.

New planning members ready to start working

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

Novi City Council is hoping for some fresh ideas at the commission table, as three new planning commissioners were appointed to help shape the future look of the city. David Ruyle, Gwen Markham and Tim Shroyer will sit at their first Novi Planning Commission meeting on Dec. 5, and all three are bringing a listful of plans and beliefs with them. "This is the strongest position you can hold within the city without being on the council," Ruyle said. "You're involved in policy making decisions."

Currently, Ruyle runs his own business, selling a variety of office furniture to churches, halls and businesses. In the past, he has served six years on the Novi Parks and Recreation Commission and was appointed to the 52nd District Court committee that spearheaded the move of the court from Walled Lake to its current site in Novi. "I have a lot of interest in Novi and its development," Markham said. "I've been a member of the committee in 1996-1997, but was not reappointed."

"I grew up in a political family. That's what we talk about, that's what we do," Markham said. "I developed a sense of how the community is supposed to be involved."

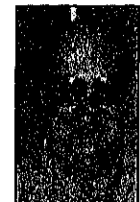
Shroyer is focused on increasing citizen participation in the issues at-hand. "It's important that we make citizens more knowledgeable."

Shroyer hopes for better coordination of infrastructure plans between Novi and its surrounding cities, seamlessly connecting the roads, business and residential development. "Zoning needs to be consistent between cities and townships," Shroyer said. "We need to look beyond our bound-

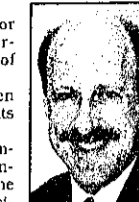
aries to see how our communities can fit together." Also, the new planning commissioner wants improved interaction between Novi's different boards and commissions. "If we are going to work as a team for the city, we should all get to know each other and strive for better solutions," Shroyer said.



Gwen Markham



David Ruyle



Tim Shroyer

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Lakes Chamber signs with Digital

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER

The Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce is one of 10 local chambers of commerce committed to making residents lives easier by partnering with Home Town Digital, a sister company of Lake Area Times/Novi News. They recently signed a partnership agreement, which will make a suite of communications, information and marketing products, developed by Home Town Digital, available to residents at discounted rates. Residents will have access to the new community portal Web site, HomeTownDigital.com. That Web site will provide for members a special members-only communications link. Residents will be able to access upcoming chamber events and it will also include special features that will increase local business in business districts, said Janine Sturm, executive director at the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce. "I think this partnership will help member businesses grow and it will serve the Lakes area community," Sturm said. She also noted that the service will give members access to up-to-date products and it will help the business climate. "I think this is a new and unique program for the chambers," Sturm said. "I really think it will be a big advantage for chamber members." The Web site will take people directly to a directory of businesses in the area, she said. It offers more advantages than other bank directories because it is updated often. "So you will always know if a business is still in business," Sturm said. Sam Girardi, sales manager of Home Town Digital, said, "We are just delighted to be working with the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, one of the area's outstanding chambers. We'll be working with the chamber to give members up-to-date products that improve communications and marketing, facilitate member-to-member communications and help improve the local business climate. Taken together, we think there are real benefits here for every chamber member." Basic to the Home Town Digital product line is the portal Web site HomeTownDigital.com. Included on the site is news and classified advertising from the Lake Area Times, as well as searchable data bases business listings from the recently published telephone directory. Home Town Digital may be reached at (734) 266-2500.

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Novi School Board members oppose election switch

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

A package of Michigan senate bills that would move school elections to the November general election is raising eyebrows in Novi. Novi Community Schools Board of Education president Carol Elfring and trustee George Kortlandt voiced their concerns over these possible changes at the Nov. 15 school board meeting, asking Novi residents to do the same with State Rep. Nancy Cassis (R-Now) and State Sen. Bill Bullard (R-Highland).

"The (current) system has worked for years. I don't see any uprising in the state or complaints in the community," Elfring said. The state legislation is part of an eight-bill package sponsored by four Republican senators and is known as the Michigan Senate door for a vote. However, no date has been set for this action to be taken up.

Senate Bills 438 through 444, along with Senate Bill 786, was reported out of the Senate Government Operations Committee on Nov. 8. Each bill received a 3-2 vote, with Republicans supporting and Democrats opposing.

"It has strong support in the senate, but could stall in the house," Elfring said.

If passed, the package would require school and local elections to be held in November of odd-numbered years. Currently, regu-

lar school elections may be held on specified dates in April, June or November of any year. "It puts too many names and issues on a ballot at one time, especially in a presidential year," Elfring said. "It's proven that the longer the ballot, less people vote."

Besides the volume of topics a voter must tackle, some Novi school board members are concerned about increased costs of elections. Candidates may be forced to shell out extra dollars to get their name known in a cluttered November political landscape. "School board elections don't usually require a lot of out-of-pocket expenses," Elfring said. "School elections are non-partisan, but you'll have to fight to get name recognition in a contested race," Elfring said.

Furthermore, the bills would remove from school districts the power to administer their own elections, mandating that they be conducted by local units of government under the Michigan Election Law. "Thus, the Novi Community School District, which runs only three precincts for elections, would turn over its voting operation to the city, which runs 18 precincts.

Elfring said the extra money for the additional staffing required to run a larger election would come from the school district's general fund. "In this day and age, why would you want to put forth a system that will cost more money," Elfring said. Also, by holding elections in November, new board members would begin in the middle of the fiscal year, raising yet

another concern. "It's possible that half of the board members could turn over at one time," Elfring said. "This can be disruptive and not good for planning."

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

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Peters drops out of race for governor

By Mike Malott
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
MMALOTT@HOMECOMM.NET

State Sen. Gary Peters Monday became the first candidate to withdraw from a crowded primary field in the race to become the Democratic nominee for governor in next year's elections.

He declined to throw his support to any of the remaining contestants for the time being. But he did say "many people are encouraging me to run for attorney general. This is an option I will certainly consider."

Peters (D-Bloomfield Township) explained his decision to bow out of the gubernatorial race came because "I am concerned we are heading into a costly and divisive primary that may weaken our ability to win in November."

He told fellow Democrats "the time has come to think strategically about the entire statewide ticket," including Secretary of State and Attorney General.

"Too many candidates chasing too few resources and creating too many hard feelings is not in the best interest of our party or our state," he said.

Among the competitors for governor has been Jennifer Granholm, currently state Attorney General. Speculation is that if Granholm fails to get the party nomination for governor next August, she might seek her party's nomination for a run at re-election as Attorney General. Nominations come in party conventions following the primary, which is also how nominees for Secretary of State are chosen.

Granholm has declined to say whether she would again seek the AG post if she does not win the primary for governor. Peters took up that issue directly in his withdrawal announcement.

"We must work toward building a consensus around candidates for attorney general and secretary of state," he said. "If we wait, there will be insufficient time for our candidates to raise the necessary money and build the statewide organization needed to win. This will be particularly true given the total focus on electing our democratic gubernatorial nominee in the fall. If we don't think strategically about the other state offices now, we risk an excellent opportunity for victory across the entire ticket."

Peters acknowledged he has sought a commitment from Granholm that she would not again seek the nomination for AG at that convention, but said he has not received such a commitment.

Peters has not fared well in recent polling in the governor's race, but he said the numbers did not play into his decision.

"Every campaign at some point has to assess where it is and where it is going, especially when there are better know candidates out there who have already spent a couple million dollars in a crowded primary field," he said.

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Protesters: psychiatric hospital getting shortchanged

By Lon Huhman
STAFF WRITER

Drivers cruising along Seven Mile Road on Monday probably couldn't help but notice the people waving protest signs near Northville Psychiatric Hospital's east entrance. Those carrying the pickets were speaking out against a pending sale of NPH land and an eventual shift of patients from state- to privately-provided care.

Larry Preston, president of the hospital's Local 960 direct care staff union, said the aim of the Monday protest was to get the word out about Governor John Engler's executive order proposal to gain revenue for this year's budget by selling off its 456 acres on Seven Mile Road and requiring a property buyer to lease the hospital back to the state for a minimum of three years while the operation is phased out and homes for the patients are found.

The state blamed a budget shortfall of \$845,500 for the need to find ways to generate short-term revenue.

Preston said the future of the hos-

pital's patients was the union's main concern.

"We think the public should be better informed about the state's proposal to eventually sell the hospital," Preston said. "We're worrying about where the patients are going to be sent. I've heard statements they may send some to facilities in Kalamazoo or Caro. Most of the patients and their families are from Wayne County and that can be a long drive for families."

According to Michigan Department of Community Health spokesperson Gerilyn Lasher, the Northville facility was built to house 1,200 patients but currently has 374.

Preston and Local 960 represent the direct care staff of the Northville hospital and is a part of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Michigan Council 25. The AFSCME Council 25 said it strongly opposes the sale of the hospital and the state-wide cuts in mental health services. Preston said the Northville facility exports patients a big part in the mental health services of Wayne

County.

"Once this facility is closed down, there will be no place in Wayne County of this size and quality of care for acute and chronic mental health patients to live," Preston said. "We want to see the patients kept within Wayne County for the sake of themselves and their families."

Lasher said the community health department has not yet drawn up a closure plan for the facility. She said it would be premature to speculate on the future of the patients and direct care staff. However, she said the county does have other mental health facilities, such as the Walter

Reuther Psychiatric Hospital in Westland. As for the future of the state's practice in the past to have staff from facilities closed down be transferred to another location.

"I must stress that the facility will not be closed down in three days, but rather it will be leased back to the state for at least a minimum of three years," Lasher said. "It is the valuable, unused state property around the facility that initiated this proposal, not the facility."

Local 960's assistant Chief Steward Artero Wilson said he was surprised by the state's sales

announcement. Wilson said he found the state's budget shortfall argument to be weak, saying he believed cutting crucial services was being done to cover the state's mistake for making premature tax cuts and giving the state legislature a 38 percent raise.

"As of 1997, 25 percent of the prison population had mental health problems and this number has probably risen since then," Wilson said in reference to the consequences of cutting state mental health services. "The homeless problem can also be attributed to the state's cuts in mental

health services."

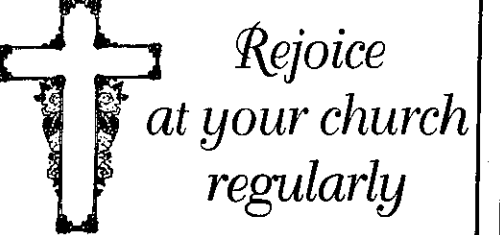
Preston said the union will be doing more picketing outside the hospital in the future and contacting legislators, but he said the most important thing was for Michiganans to know about this issue so they can also voice their concerns to their state representatives.

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 lhuhman@nl.comcon.net.

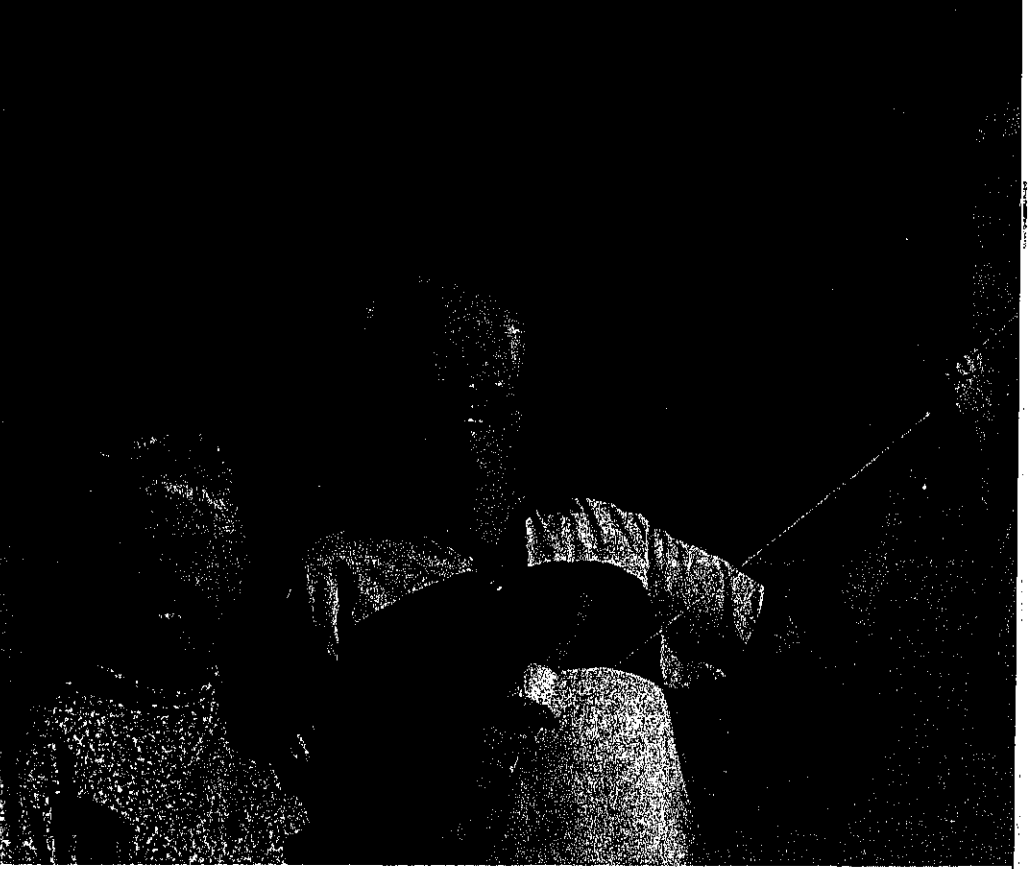
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NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 4421 W. 14th St., Novi, MI 48240 362-2652 (4243) Sunday Worship at 9:45 am Nursery Care available Pastor: Dr. Paul	ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN MISSOURI SYNOD Northville, Michigan 1 Lutheran Pastor Church: 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM Sunday: 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM Lutheran Synod Services at 11:00 AM Sunday School & Bible Classes 9:00 AM
MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 21355 Meadowbrook, Novi, MI 48240 Morning Worship: 10:00am Church Office: 349-2559 Pastor: Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt Minister of Music: Patrick Kuffel	FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 2407 FARM ROAD, NORTHVILLE, MI 48161 Worship Services: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am Sunday School: 9:30am Pastor: Rev. Gordon Kautz
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ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI 4825 10 Mile Rd. Novi, MI 48240 Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM Bible Study: 9:30 AM, 10:00 AM Pastor: Rev. James P. Kautz	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 217 N. Wing Sunday Worship: 10:45am, 8:30pm West Youth Meetings: 7:00pm Bible Study: 7pm, Prayer: 8:30pm Sunday School: 9:30am
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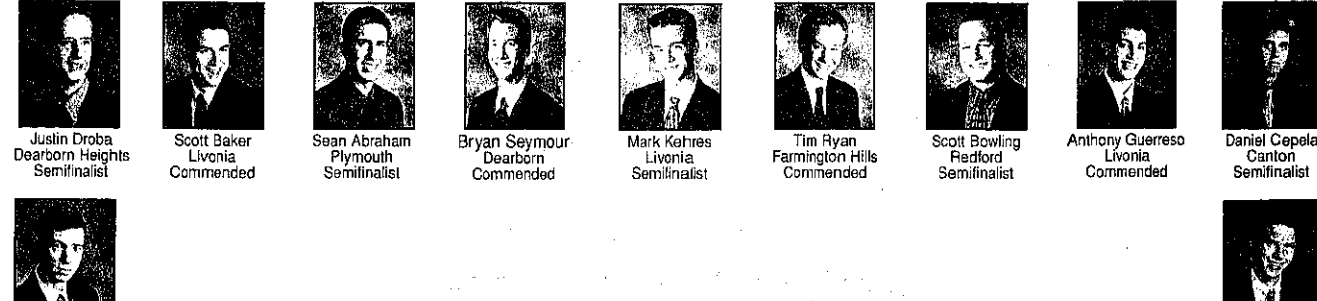
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Students who achieved National Merit Scholar status at Catholic Central High School all agree that their success is primarily due to CC's faculty. "It's definitely about the education I've received since I was a freshman," said Adam Ralko of Livonia. "The faculty gave us a strong foundation. It made the test even easier." Ralko's high remarks for the faculty continued: "They are top-notch. Every teacher is always available, willing to help us with whatever we need to succeed. They're good about going beyond what's required." Fellow senior Nicholas Hnatuk of Dearborn said, "The faculty prepares us for a higher caliber than what you would expect to find in high schools."

Another National Merit Scholar, Paul Hagan of Livonia, knows there is something special about Catholic Central. What does he think of being one of 31 Scholars? "Since there are so many of us, then they (CC faculty) must be doing something right," he said. "The faculty prepares us very well. It seems normal for us to perform at this level on tests."

Fr. Richard Ranalletti, CSB, principal, is proud of the students' success. "It's part of the tradition of this place," he said. "There is pride in this school. This is the place to come to make things happen, where the kids can excel."



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Economy has slumped into mild recession, researchers say

By Mike Malott
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
MALOTT@HOMESCOM.MI

The state's economy may have cooled off enough to merit the label "recession," according to a University of Michigan forecast, but it won't likely be as deep, as severe or as long as the last one.

Economists Jean Cray, George Fulton and Saul Himmels projected in their Michigan Economic Outlook for 2002-2003, presented at the 39th annual U-M conference, that the turn around will begin in the second half of 2002 with "moderate growth" through 2003.

"After nine consecutive calendar years of growth in wage and salary employment, the Michigan economy's longest expansion in the past 50 years has run its course," Cray said as he presented the forecast Friday, Nov. 16,

in Ann Arbor. "Employment weakens further for 2002... We are forecasting a rebound for 2003... Although these would be the first consecutive years of job declines since the 1980-82 period, and can properly be viewed as a recession, the magnitude of the downturn is mild by historical standards."

The national economy has been slumping too, but Michigan has seen the beginning of the year after adding jobs at the rate of 1.7 percent in 2000, the state was on pace to post a 1.8 percent decline by the end of 2001.

"Set against the backdrop of the past several years, this is not a very upbeat forecast," Cray said. "But a comparison to our last experience with recession—the 90-91 period—puts things in a different light. The 90-91 experience was a relatively mild recession... Yet, if our forecast links true, the '01-'02 recession will prove even less severe."

"The trough won't come as fast or as deep, and it is expected to take only three quarters for employment to return to pre-recession levels, compared to six quarters in the early 90s," Cray and Fulton predicted.

The economy had been cooling off, but as recently as August, the U-M economists were unwilling to call it a recession. Then came Sept. 11. "The event and its aftermath had sufficient repercussions for us to make the recession call," the researchers said.

And further terrorist attacks could dampen the economy more.

The fears that persist among much of the public constitute a significant downside risk to the forecast. And of course the outflows feared do not even need to materialize to have an adverse effect," Cray said.

That the U-M economists are not as gloomy as some who measure

consumer confidence.

"We certainly saw a response to (the attack) immediately. But I don't think it is having a major impact," Fulton said following the presentation.

Fulton is telling us they are more concerned with their own income and "job prospects" to determine their level of spending.

Interest rates will likely continue dropping into 2002, but the economists expect rates will begin to rise next year. They projected the Federal Reserve will again drop federal fund rates in December.

"The T-bill bottoms at 1.5 percent" in the second quarter of 2002, they predicted. Conventional mortgage rates, now at about 6.5 percent, bottom at about 6.3 percent in the spring of next year.

Fulton said the Fed, with its rate drops, as well as federal tax cuts mean a substantial amount of fiscal stimulus is on its way into the economy."

But he worries that low interest rates, like zero percent financing being offered by some car makers, may only convince consumers to move up purchases they would have made anyway sooner or later, rather than actually spur additional economic activity.

The dipping economy has effects on state government revenue, already headed into the red. Scheduled tax cuts at the state, including rate reductions in income and single business taxes, will further cut into state revenues, Cray and Fulton projected.

They projected a dip in revenues of 2.8 percent, if the cuts are left in place next year, compared to just under one percent if the cuts are delayed. In

Fees added to traffic tickets would pay for road patrols

By Mike Malott
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
MALOTT@HOMESCOM.MI

Think of it as a user fee. Speeders would pay for the deputies that have to be employed in order to catch them, under a bill now pending in Lansing.

That's the idea behind Senate Bill 677, sponsored by Sen. Phil Hoffman, which would tack fees on to the fines levied against drivers for traffic violations. The fees would include \$10 to go to secondary road patrols, conducted through county sheriff departments \$5 for a jail reimbursement program, and a highway safety assessment for another \$5.

"It's a way to get users to pay for the secondary road patrols," Hoffman said. "It is better than having law abiding citizens pay for those programs. As long as you follow the speed limit, you don't have to pay."

But the idea is not popular with everyone.

"For the life of me, I don't understand why libraries are opposing this," Hoffman said.

Indeed, the Michigan Library Association is opposed to the proposal because much of the fine money from traffic tickets goes to support library operations. And the Library Association believes that as the cost of traffic tickets goes up, judges will be increasingly likely to waive fines and fees when tickets are contested.

Mike Ranville, a Karoub Associates lobbyist speaking on behalf of the Library Association,

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NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 01-042

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Associated Construction Services Corporation is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow a trailer at 5022-04-378-002 (Sunice Corporation) from the date of the meeting until December 5, 2002.

A public hearing can be requested by any property owner of a structure located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for temporary use permit.

This request will be considered at 3:00 p.m. on December 5, 2001 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. All written comments should be directed to the City of Novi Building Department and must be received prior to December 5, 2001.

SARAH MARCHIONI PERMIT SECRETARY (248) 947-0415

TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY (248) 947-0415

(11-29-01 NRANN 1082761)

CITY OF NOVI

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Woodlands Review Board, of the City of Novi, will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 6, 2001 at 4:30 PM at the City of Novi, Community Development Conference Room, Novi, Michigan to review the Woodlands Review Board Permit Application for Lou Dorantes, Cheltenham Estates, Lot 6 (Case #01-11).

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are invited to attend. Any written comments may be sent to the Department of Public Services, Attention: Woodlands Review Board, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375, until 3:00 PM, Thursday, December 6, 2001.

KAREN AMOLSCH, Customer Service-DPS (11-29-01 NRANN 1082759)

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CITY OF NOVI APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE TO SERVE ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Novi City Council will be interviewing applicants for appointments to the Beautification Commission, Board of Review, Election Commission, Housing & Community Development Advisory Committee, Historical Commission, Library Board, Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission, Planning Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals on Monday, December 10, 2001 beginning at 7:30 PM.

If you are a qualified voter in the City of Novi and interested in volunteering to serve on a City board or commission, applications are available in the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile, or by calling (248) 947-0452 to receive an application by mail or fax, or log onto the City website at www.novimichigan.com to print out an application. Please submit your application by Tuesday, December 4, 2001 to allow time for scheduling appointments. Interviews are 15 minutes each; all City council meetings are televised.

MARYANNE CORNELLUS, CITY CLERK (11-22-01 NRANN 1079138)

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NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 01-044

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Landmark Building and Development is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow a sales trailer at 8022-109-053 (Pointe Park Condominium) from the date of the meeting until December 5, 2002.

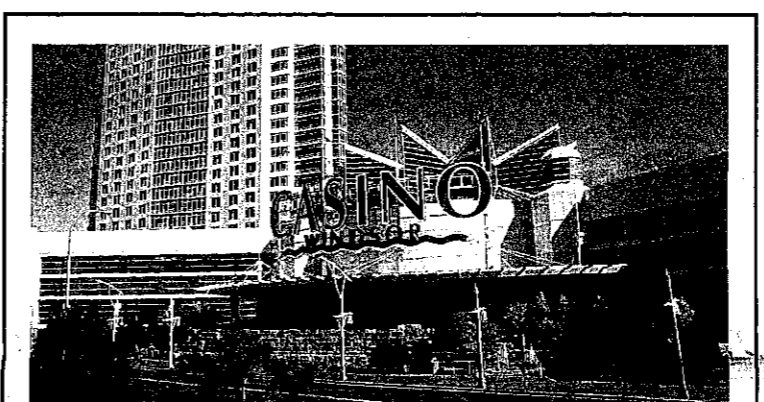
A public hearing can be requested by any property owner of a structure located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for temporary use permit.

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Northville elementary students make own magazine

By Jennifer Norris
PHOTO BY JENNIFER NORRIS

Not every elementary-age student has the opportunity to create photographs, write and edit their own magazine. But that's exactly what a classroom of Northville third graders are doing.

Miss Janke, a third grade teacher at Silver Springs Elementary, has been awarded a grant which she plans to use to purchase cameras for her students to use a

camera to boost their writing skills and implement a classroom magazine.

Janke, a self-described amateur photographer, said, "I want to share my passion for photography. I want them to find the thrill of taking pictures and using pictures to enhance their writing."

Janke was awarded the innovative grant offered through the Northville Public Schools Office of Instruction. She applied for the grant in order to receive photo equipment and supplies. Janke said she plans to use the cameras throughout the curriculum and continue to focus on the students' writing.

"They're going to take pictures to enhance their writing," said Janke. "We are going to create a classroom magazine, complete with various forms of writing, poems, informative articles and narrative stories. I feel through this magazine they will practice the process of writing."

She said students will be organizing their own magazine

and will be able to experience the process of writing, editing, taking and selecting photos and piecing the magazine together. The first edition is due before Christmas.

But improving writing abilities won't be the only skill students acquire.

"I think through this magazine, the focus will not only be the writing process, it will encourage cooperative teamwork," said Janke.

She said for the first issue, students will be writing in pairs, editing each other's work, taking pictures and making decisions on organizing the magazine's pages.

While the classroom magazine will not be for sale, copies will be available for parents and the school library.

"I'm trying to get all of [the students'] strengths in this magazine," said Janke. "The children's strengths will show through their writing, their photography, illustrations and drawings. I'm excited about this."

She also said her students are eager to see the final product and have their written words reach beyond the classroom.

"The process is just as important as the product," said Janke. "I'm developing their writing skills and they're writing for a purpose."

Jennifer Norris is a staff writer for the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 107 or by e-mail at jnorris@ht.hometown.net.

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Area Briefs

Children's author to sign books at Waldenbooks

Cynthia Furlong Reynolds will sign copies of her latest book, "S is for Star: A Christmas Alphabet" at the Waldenbooks in Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi on Dec. 1 from noon to 1 p.m.

Call (248) 735-8301 for more information.

Novi American Legion Post #19 holds open house on Pearl Harbor anniversary

Novi American Legion Post #19 will hold an open house on Dec. 6-7 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Wellington Room of the Novi Expo Center in Novi.

Any honorably discharged wartime veteran, regardless of location of service or gender and their families are welcome to attend. A professional American Legion State Service officer will be available to assist veterans and their families who may be eligible for VA benefits. This service extends to families of deceased veterans.

For more information, call Tony Lofli at 348-2776 or Jim Peterson at 926-681.

AAUW to host holiday gathering

Cady Inn at Mill Race Historical Village in Northville will be the setting for a holiday gathering of the Northville-Novati branch of the American Association of University Women. The gathering will be held on Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. Guests will be community members who served as hosts/hostesses for the Historic Home Tour held during the Victorian Festival this past fall. Contributions are being collected for Civic Concern.

Anyone interested in AAUW and its programs should contact Membership/Diversity Co-chair Joan Cotton at 344-8162.

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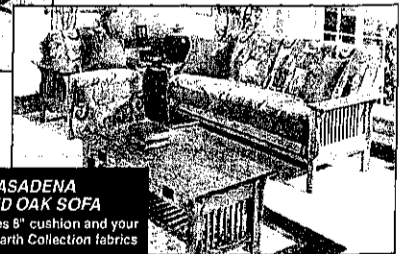
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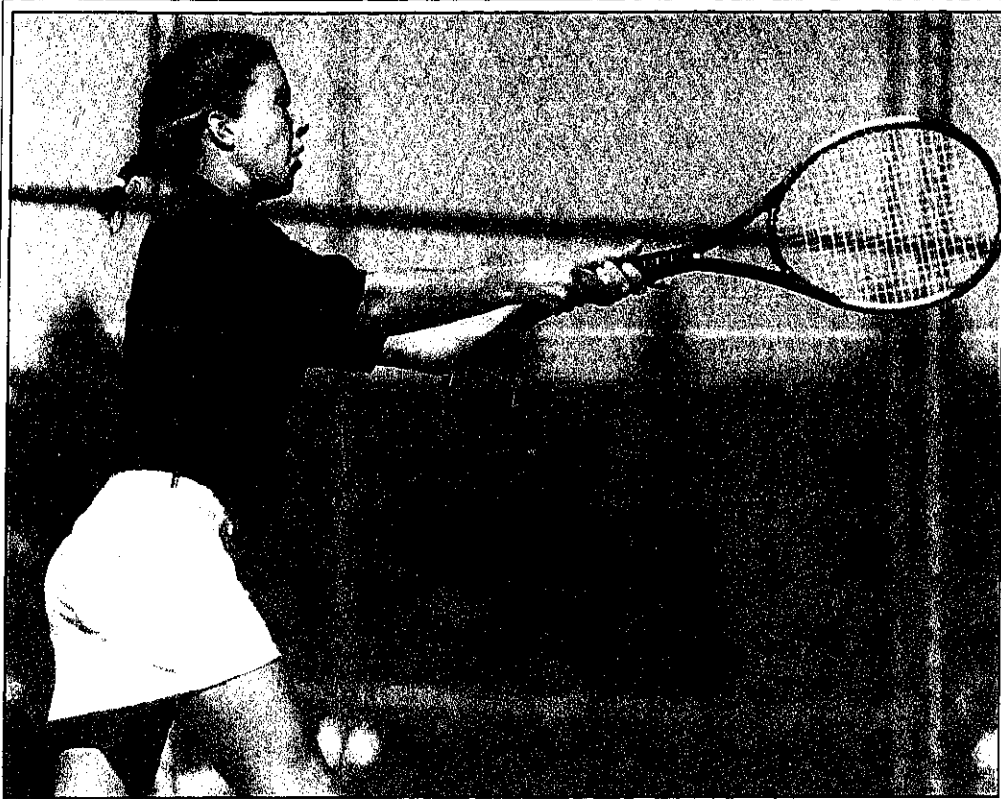


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Melissa Roemer returns a serve in one of her many games throughout her career. Roemer, along with other Novi Wildcat Netters, was a shoe-in for the HomeTown Newspapers All-Area team.

Wildcat netters named to HomeTown Area team

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

It is always difficult to select the best teams of the Area for the HomeTown Newspapers All-Area team — especially with the level of talent always on the rise. Here are this season's selections:

First singles - Lauren West, Senior, Northville - A well-known face and a well-known name in the Northville Tennis community, West has been a consistent factor for the Mustangs throughout the season. West, a senior first singles player for the Northville girls' tennis team, is one of the team leaders and someone Coach Sandy Woolfall said "is a solid tennis player."

Second singles - Melissa Roemer, Senior, Novi - Notching two very exciting wins during the Kensington Valley Conference tennis tournament and collecting an All-KVC first-team position at two singles is a

top-flight accomplishment for most tennis players and a compliment to Roemer's abilities. A thorough tennis player for the Novi Wildcats, Roemer has collected win after win and has proven herself to be a superb tennis player that her numbers have shown her to be. Roemer's ability has made her the selection for the 2001 HomeTown Newspapers Player of the Year.

Third Singles - Carolyn Vermeulen - A senior third singles player, Vermeulen is a solid performer with the ability to keep her opponents reeling through the majority of a match. Her record shows her not only to have the ability needed in a top tennis competitor, but her determination in notching victory after victory. Vermeulen collected an All-KVC nod with her impressive domination of the third singles brackets in the conference tournament.

Fourth singles - Anna Switzer, sophomore, Novi - A sophomore for the Novi Wildcats

tennis team, Switzer collected an impressive run of wins in the KVC tennis tournament, rocking both Pinckney's Alexa Turke and Brighton's Megan Fischer in fourth singles to get key points for the 'Cats and an All-KVC spot.

First doubles - Lauren Farris and Sarah Poirier, seniors, Northville - The first doubles duo from Northville were pretty much unstopable through the majority of the season. The teammates, both seniors on the Mustang squad, have the ability to keep their opponents running and fighting to stay in the match. Farris and Poirier are two of the top Mustang tennis players. Coach Sandy Woolfall said "Farris and Poirier are a good team that works very well together. Which is very important as a doubles team. They have been a strong point on this team all season."

Second doubles - Laura Vaughn, sophomore, and Emily Holt, freshman, Novi -

Vaughn and Holt made a deep impression for the Novi Wildcats this season. Holt, a freshman, and Vaughn, a sophomore, will no doubt continue to be one of the mainstays in the Novi tennis community for years to come. The young Wildcat duo collected an All-KVC spot after dominating their doubles bracket in the conference tournament to collect the nod.

Third doubles - Megha Vadula, Junior, and Gabi Frask, Junior, Novi - this third doubles duo from Novi collected an All-KVC birth with impressive control and determination in the conference tourney. Frask and Vadula was a solid pair of netters for the Wildcats and are proof that the Novi tennis team is going to be just as strong come next season.

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.

Volleyball team returns top starters

By Brian Doyle
 SPECIAL WRITER

The Novi girls volleyball team has nothing but high expectations for the upcoming season.

After only three days of try-outs, due to the school closing on Monday and early dismissal Friday, head coach Julie Fisette fielded a team of three seniors, seven juniors and one sophomore. Novi returns seven players to the Varsity team so even though Novi will only have three seniors, experience shouldn't be a problem.

"The juniors will be the ones that will be coming back and leading the squad," Fisette said. Crystal Corte, Tina Hildreth, Shoko Oshima and Angle Schmitt are the returning juniors.

"The juniors, the hitters, will be the boisterous ones," Fisette said. According to her, the most vocal junior will be Schmitt, who is one of the tallest on the team at 5-foot-10 and will be playing middle blocker.

"I've got a lot of height on my team," Fisette said. Hildreth and Corte are also 5-10. Hildreth, known as "Hilda" to

her teammates, looks to make contributions as a middle blocker.

"Tina will be good; she's versatile," said senior Carmen Simkins about Hildreth.

Corte is also versatile player who will play both middle blocker and outside hitter. Rounding out the returning juniors, Oshima at 5-3 will be a defensive specialist and setter.

The other three juniors will play a range of positions. Andrea Borashko, adding more height also at 5-10, will play outside hitter and middle blocker. Shannon Shrader at 5-2 will contribute as a defensive specialist. Finally, at 5-4, Gabi Frask will be a setter.

Adding more height, sophomore Kim Zareczynski at 5-10 will be an outside hitter and middle blocker.

While the captains have not been chosen as of yet, one senior's play has made her a leader by example.

"I've got an excellent returning senior," Fisette said, referring to setter Carmen Simkins. While Simkins isn't quite as tall as the other girls at 5-7, she looks to improve on the excellent season she had the previous year.

Continued on 2

Hockey earns tie against Rice

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats hockey team skated to their second tie of the season in as many games Nov. 21.

The Wildcats, led by coach Dan Phelps, took to the task of beating a very tough team from Brother Rice and took home a 3-3 tie instead.

"I am satisfied," Novi coach Dan Phelps said. "We lost 10 players from a team we built up three years ago. We lost two goaltenders. Have we replaced them with effective goaltending? Yes, we have."

The Brother Rice squad was the first to get points on the scoreboard and found the back of the net behind sophomore goalie Trent Sisson to take Rice to a 1-0 lead in the first period.

The Brother Rice skaters notched another goal in the second, edging the puck into the goalie net for a 2-0 lead in the second.

"We have a pretty green team right now," Phelps said. "I think their ripening time is going to be a progressive one and one that is

"We have a pretty green team right now. I think their ripening time is going to be a progressive one and one that is much quicker than many expect."

Dan Phelps
 Hockey head coach

much quicker than many expect. It is just a matter of time until some of these kids just explode."

If the Wildcats have learned anything with their frustrating season start - it is never give up. The

Continued on 3

Moore, Kava, Foren named as All-Area harriers

By Sam Eggleston
 and Steve Bell
 SPORTS WRITERS

As is often the case, HomeTown Newspapers' East all-area boys' cross country team looks more like an all-state team. In fact, five of the seven first-team members made Division I all-state, including state champion Tim Moore of

Novi. There's no better cross country league in America than the Kensington Valley Conference, and the Oakland County members carry the torch.

First team
Tim Moore
Novi senior
 Tim Moore — what is there to

say about a runner like him? He was the Kensington Valley Conference Champion, the regional champion, the Oakland County champion and he was the Division I state champion. Adding to that was a recent overall first-place in the Footlocker Regional Competition on his way to the Nationals. Is there anything Moore can't do? When it comes to cross

country, Moore has enough going for him to have the University of Notre Dame more than happy to sign him. His personal best time is 15:10, which has kept him undefeated this season.

Brian Theut
Lakeland senior
 Theut was a stalwart of Lakeland's program the last four

years, running in the state finals in all four of those seasons. Theut was one of Lakeland's top two runners for three years. He made all-state in 2001, placing 28th at MIS with a time of 16:13. Theut was fifth at the Holly regional (16:24), second-team All-KVC (ninth at the league meet with a time of 17:04), 16th at the Oakland County meet (17:13),

13th at the Jackson Invitational (16:31) and fourth at the Oxford Invitational (16:49), which the Eagles won.

Nick Kopezyk
Millford senior
 Because MHS was on the front of his jersey, there was a target on

Continued on 3

Tim Moore takes Regional first

By Jason Schmitt
 SPECIAL WRITER

Tim Moore had little competition throughout the high school cross country season, having only to run against himself and his own will - so this past weekend he traveled to Kenosha, WI in search of a push.

The Michigan state champion proved to be the best in the midwest, winning the Foot Locker Midwest Cross Country Championship in a time of 15:15. He beat runnerup Chris Solinsky of Stevens Point, WI by seven seconds.

Runnerup last year to former Rockford sensation Dathan

Ritzenheim, Moore left no doubt he will be ready to improve upon his 8th-place finish at the National Final, which will be held Dec. 8 in Orlando.

"He ran a flawless race," his coach Bob Smith said. "Tim knew what he was doing. He knew that if he got out and ran a good, hard race, one where he set the pace, he would be in charge."

The field consisted of 332 runners from 15 states throughout the midwest.

The top eight runners automatically advance to the national meet. For the fourth-straight year, Michigan proved its worth by placing three run-

ners among the top eight. St. Joseph's Adam Ludwig, who finished third in Michigan's Division 2 race, finished fifth at the Midwest regional. Caledonia's Tim Ross, the only runner to better Moore's time at Michigan International Speedway back on Nov. 3, also advanced to Orlando with a sixth-place finish.

Moore's time was 10 seconds slower than his runner-up finish on the same course a year ago. However, windy and rainy conditions hampered all runners times this year.

The Footlocker National

Continued on 2

Dancing to victory

The Novi High School Junior Varsity Pom Pon squad recently competed and won first place for their high kick routine at the Mid American Dance Team Competition.

The team is coached by Maria Hernandez and consists of Deanna Albanelli, Kell Black, Kelly Breedlove, Carrie Capanyola, Sarah Cellski, Brittany Cirka, Chelsea Cracraft, Brittany Davis, Niki Giannoulakis, Cindy Herman, Laura Hirshfield, Ashley King, Jessica Kim, Gretchen Kroff, Marybeth Miles, Audrey Oh, Jessica Pierce, Ashley Powell, Emily Reid, and Carlee Rodriguez.



Submitted photo

Western basketball looking strong

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Walled Lake Western Warriors are going to be taking to the court with a full spread of seniors this season.

"We are not providing a lot of experience for the future this season," Western head coach Rex Stanczak said. "We are definitely going to start five seniors and nine-of-the-ten guys who are going to get the most play are going to be seniors."

The Warriors, who compiled a 13-9 overall record last season and were the Western Lakes Activities Association Western Division Champions, will come



Photo by LESLEY DONNELLY
Adam Muehl buries his shot during practice Monday.

into the season looking to use their depth.

"We are going to have a lot of guys off the bench getting as much playing time as the starters," Stanczak said. "We have a lot of depth and we are going to have to utilize it if we want to use it in our advantage."

The Warriors will follow the lead of stellar senior point guard David Zeitlin. Zeitlin, who was selected to the WLAA All-League team last season, is a solid passer and ball handler for the Warriors. Zeitlin is a second-year captain for Walled Lake.

"I would consider him one of the best, if not the best, point guard in the county," Stanczak said. "I would probably say he has the ability to be a Division II (college) level player with the possibility of becoming a lower-level Division I player with a great year."

In compliment to Zeitlin, Chris Eagle will be burying the three-point field goal at shooting guard.

"Chris is kind of our heart and soul guy," Stanczak said. "He has the heart of a lion. He has an excellent three-point shot and drives well. Everything you are looking for in a shooting guard."

Playing at the 3-man spot for Western will be Bryan Verdun. Standing around 6-foot-5, Verdun was the leading scorer for the Warriors last year, averaging around 15 points and six rebounds a game last season on his way to being selected to the first-team All-Western Division.

"Out of all the top basketball players that have played here, Bryan was the first to lead the team in scoring and in rebounding in the same season since I have been here," Stanczak said.

The fourth returning starter for the Warriors is Steve Sobieck. Sobieck is a top-flight defender who runs the floor well and rebounds well.

"Steve is our hustle guy," Stanczak said. "He is sort of a combo forward. We really don't have a traditional post-type situation."

Drawing the duties to cover the big guys down low is first-year starter Adam Muehl. Standing at 6-2, Muehl earned a starting spot after four years of hard work.

"He earned the starting job flat

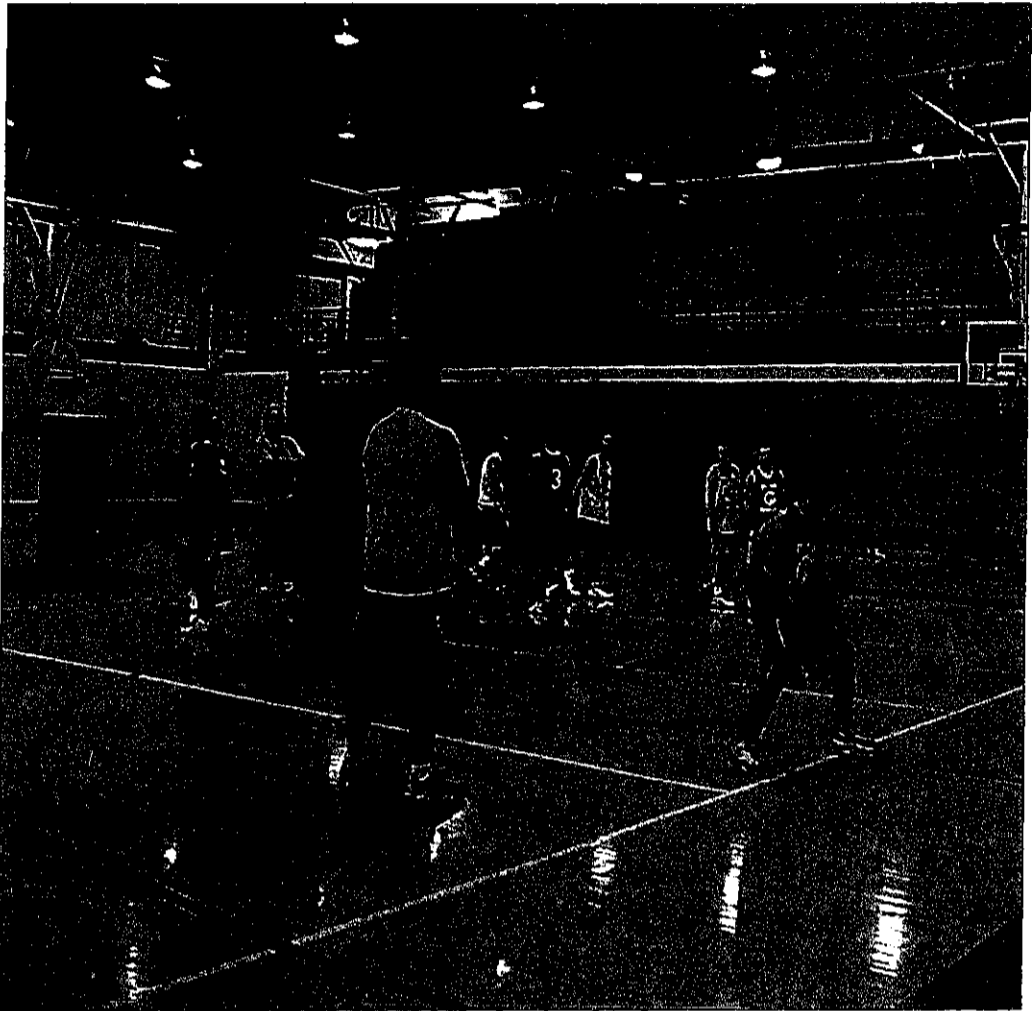


Photo by LESLEY DONNELLY

Walled Lake Western is geared up and ready to go as they run through their practice schedule Monday night.

out," Stanczak said. "He is a tremendous worker who takes charge on the court. He dives after loose balls and always finishes his shot. That is why he earned the starting spot."

Coming off the bench for the Warriors but playing equally important roles will be seniors Rocky Zemple, Mike Pisha,

Trevor Monfette and Steve Bell.

"Pisha, Rocky and Monfette are basically our top three off the bench," Stanczak said. "They will play vital roles for us. Steve Bell missed all of last season after being banged up in football. We are glad to have him back."

Another player who will figure significantly in Western's plans will be John Sowders.

"John will give us some depth playing behind Adam in that post position," Stanczak said. "He is not very tall but he has some bulk to him."

The Warriors will open their season as they visit the Novi

Wildcats in a non-conference game Dec. 4.

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.

Central icers can't seem to get first season victory

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Just not quite there yet.

The Walled Lake Central hockey team can't seem to get their much needed first win of the season.

The Vikings, headed by coach Jim Hogan, have not been able to collect a victory as they fell to Lakeland 6-2, Plymouth Salem 6-3 and Plymouth Canton 9-3. "I am being very positive at this

point," Hogan said.

"We have (Walled Lake) Western Friday and I know the guys will be pretty fired up for that one. There is no love lost in the city championship game."

The Vikings fell to the Lakeland Eagles in the opening game of the season.

"The team as a whole did really well," Hogan said.

"We just couldn't get everything going good at once. We are in a slump from one end of the bench to the other end. It isn't

just one or two of our big guns in a slump, it is the whole team."

Part of that slump seems to be hurting the goalies' games as well.

"Neither goalie has a lot of experience," Hogan said.

"They will both get time on the ice. Our two goalies have plenty of talent, but the slump is getting into their game as well."

The Vikings fell in their second game to the Salem Rocks 6-3.

"We played the game with a lot of heart," Hogan said.

"We just couldn't complete some break-aways and we had one stopped by the post in the third period. Take those and give us goals and you are talking about a possibly tied game."

The last game brought a crushing defeat to the Vikings.

"It was one of the worst games I have ever seen a Central team play," Hogan said of the 9-3 shelling.

We were not able to do anything the way we are capable of doing them. When you play like

that you are lucky to even get points on the scoreboard."

The Vikings will have the task of beating the Walled Lake Western Warriors in a cross-town rivalry game.

"I think we will be ready to play them," Hogan noted.

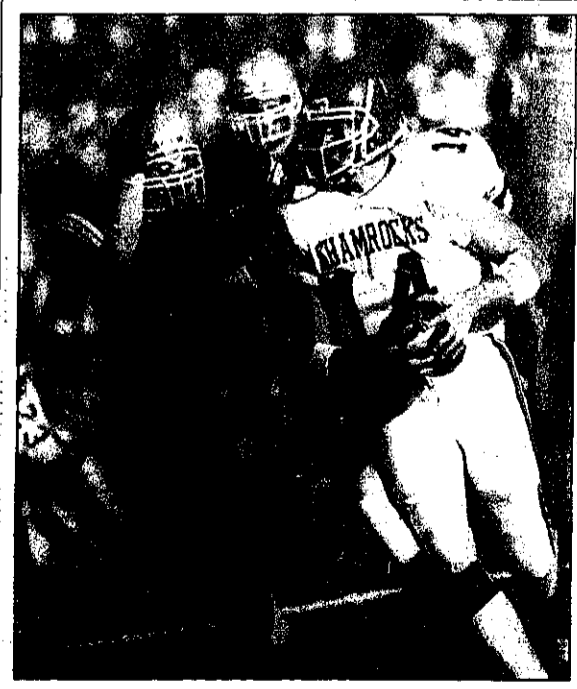
"This is one of those games where no one's feelings get hurt. There is a lot of emotion and a lot of heart from both teams when we play this game."

"It is going to be a tough one to win, but I am confident we can

do it if we play to the best of our ability."

The game against the Warriors will be tomorrow night at 8:20 p.m. at the Lakeland Arena in Waterford — which just happens to be both hockey teams' home ice arena.

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.



Gave a good effort

Western's Ryan Wilson pursues Catholic Central QB Tom Jakacki in the state semi-final playoff game. The Warriors ended their season to the Shamrocks two weeks ago 31-0.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Sports shorts

Baseball/Softball Private Lessons and Trainings

Total baseball will help kids ages 6-128 years to improve their game. Instructors include Bruce Fields, Toledo Mudhens Manager; former professional players and college/high school coaches will help individuals and give private drills/programs to each athlete. Pitching, hitting and fielding lessons are available. Lessons are by appointment only. Total Baseball's lessons start at \$35 per one-half hour or five private lessons for \$160.

Call (248) 668-0166, e-mail: totalballwixom@aol.com or check out our Website: www.eteamz.com/totalbaseball for more information.

Soccer meeting slated

The Northville Soccer

Association will hold a meeting Dec. 5 at the Northville City Offices in Meeting Room A.

The subject of the meeting will be nominations for the board. The meeting will be at 8 p.m.

Elections will follow Jan. 8 at the Northville Township Offices.

Alumni game needs players

The Novi Wildcats Alumni game is in need of players interested in taking part in the First Annual Alumni Game.

The "Green & White" Alumni Hockey Game is at 3 p.m. Dec. 28 at the Novi Ice Arena.

The cost is \$20. Please contact Dave Vigna at (248) 347-9658 for more information or to sign-up by Dec 1. All players and managers from the 1998, 1999, and 2000 seasons are welcome to participate in the event.