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News

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INSIDE

Conflicts of interest

City Council sets guidelines as to decisions made that may be a conflict of interest as well as work on an ordinance for the same matter
— Page 6A

Posthumus visits Novi

Elementary students learn about government from special state of Michigan guest recently
— Page 7A

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE



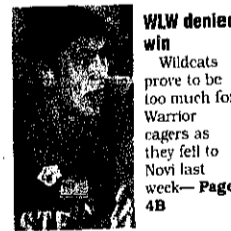
Jasmine's
Jasmine's of Northville provides quality food, such as basil chicken and honey-walnut chicken, and service to its customers
— Page 21A

NOVI SPORTS



Cager action
Wildcats boys basketball had a successful week as they defeated the Walled Lake Western Warriors last Tuesday
— Page 1B

WL SPORTS



WLW denied win
Wildcats prove to be too much for Warrior cagers as they fell to Novi last week— Page 4B

INDEX

- Area Briefs10A
- Classifieds3D
- Editorials18A
- Letters18A
- Novi Sports1B
- Obituaries9A
- Police News3A
- Regional Marketplace21A
- WL Sports4B

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Judge rules in favor of Home Rule Act

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

The judge has ruled: stating the proposed transfer of at least 87 acres of North Novi Park was impermissible as proposed in a draft settlement document intended for Sandstone Associates.

Oakland County Circuit Court Judge John J. McDonald ruled on Dec. 11 that the proposed sale of the park land was prohibited by the Michigan Home Rule Cities Act.

The Act states that a city does not have the power to sell a park, cemetery, or any part of a park or cemetery, except where the park is not required under an official master plan of the city.

After hearing two days of testimony on Dec. 6 and 7 from witnesses and experts from the city of Novi and Friends of Novi Parks, McDonald determined the acreage in question was required parkland on the city's master plan.

Despite the verdict, a victory was

felt by both sides involved in the lawsuit.

City manager Richard Helwig said the city of Novi was pleased McDonald chose to rule on the city's judicial review request opposed to The Friends of Novi Parks request for an injunction to prohibit the transfer of land.

"We're grateful to have direction on how to consummate the settlement now," Helwig said.

Brian Smith, member of Friends of Novi Parks, said he and other

members were happy with the judgment.

"It keeps the park alive for now and it stops the city from doing something illegal," Smith said.

City officials are now left with two options in order to execute the settlement as originally planned.

According to court documents, McDonald ruled "if the city's master plan is amended so as to reflect a designation of the property to be transferred in a manner other than 'park,' or, if the transfer has been

presented to and approved by the city's electorate. It is the determination of this court that, without further action on the part of any party, the land in question may be transferred as contemplated in the amended judgment in conformance with MCL 117.5(e)."

The first option (the judgment put forth was to offer the land portion of the settlement sale as a ballot issue for Novi residents to vote on.

Please see SETTLEMENT, 4A



Tim Moore competes in a cross-country meet earlier in the year.

National champion

Moore wins national meet by one second

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Tim Moore, cross country and track star and senior at Novi High, did the unthinkable Saturday and staked his claim for a national title.

The thirst this harrier possesses for running and for winning is second to none and he proved it in Orlando, Fla. last weekend as he galloped to a first-place finish in the Footlocker National Cross Country Championships.

"I just tried to stay relaxed and concentrate on what I had to do so I wouldn't doze off (mentally) in the middle of the race," Moore said via phone interview from the finish line in Orlando. "As we came to the end, I was trying to sprint as hard as I could. I crossed the finish line and I could barely even stand anymore. I just wanted to find some grass and lay down."

Moore not only gave his friends, family and fans what they wanted with a 14 minutes, 50 seconds victory, he gave the spectators of the race an exciting finish as well. Moore finished just one second ahead of runner-up Bobby Lockhart of John Handley High School in Winchester, Virginia — who will be running for the University of Wisconsin next season — and just two seconds ahead of Chris Sollinski of Stevens Point, Wis.

"It took him forever to catch Bobby," Moore's high school coach and race spectator Bob Smith said. "They rounded the last turn, about three-quarters of a mile to go, and Tim was about a yard behind Bobby. It took him darn near a quarter mile to close the gap, they were running stride for stride and shoulder to shoulder after that. It was one of the longest minutes of my life."

With 70 yards remaining in the

race, Moore edged his way into the lead.

"The entire last mile it seemed like me and Bobby battled back and forth," Moore said. "We kept exchanging surges with the lead changing all of the time. I finally got past him with about 70 yards to go, if not less, and gave it everything I had to stay in the lead."

And stay in the lead he did — all the way to the finish line.

Moore's accomplishments did not go unnoticed.

"I tell you what, it was a thrill for us to see how well he did," said Joe Plane, the University of Notre Dame head cross country coach. Moore recently signed his national letter of intent to run for the Irish. "He is going to be a terrific collegiate runner. He fit in here like a hand in a glove when he came to visit us, the other kids just loved him. He is a terrific kid."

Though his current coach and his future one were more than excited, a surprisingly gathered and reserved Moore was still recovering from the reality of winning the national championship.

"I have thought about this race for a long time," Moore said of the cross country run that found him finishing eighth just a year prior. "I couldn't even imagine winning it."

Others could see the stellar runner capturing the title though.

"I sure did," Smith said when asked if he thought Moore was capable of winning the race. "I didn't want to make predictions before the race with the chance of Tim finishing second. Second-place is not bad, but if you predict a first-place finish, it is kind of a loss. I felt he had the best chance of everybody."

A lot of that confidence in Moore

Please see NOVI, 4A

Main Street will be in the dark

Detroit Edison to cut power to building

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

It looks as though the lights will be going out on Main Street — literally.

Detroit Edison has issued a disconnect order effective Monday, Dec. 17 for the entire Main Street building shared by many tenants including The Lazy Lizard Cantina, Mesquite Creek, Coffee Trader, Novi Jewelry and Kitchens by Design.

Brian Larson, co-owner of Larson Jewelry Design said when he called Detroit Edison to find out the details, he was told the electricity would be turned off because the bill had not been paid since July.

"When the rents aren't paid by the tenants, then there is no way to pay the bills," said John Pitrone, a representative from the Hayman Company.

The Hayman Company was hired by part owner and managing partner of Evergreen III, James Chen, to manage the Main Street project. Pitrone said they are owed many

and many thousands of dollars from certain Main Street tenants but there is only one electric account for the entire building.

"A shut-off puts us all out of business," Larson said. "This just seems like it is getting bigger and bigger."

The "bigger and bigger" refers to the electrical shut off as being yet another chapter in the ongoing struggles between 10 Main Street tenants and Chen.

Chen issued eviction notices to the tenants in mid-October igniting a legal battle over common area maintenance fees (CAMs).

Tenants said they refused to pay what they called suspicious and undefined CAMs after repeated requests for detail of the charges were not granted.

Kim Capello, city council member and local attorney representing seven of the 10 tenants, said his clients did not stop payment to their landlord altogether.

Capello said they were still paying rent and base CAM charges and only stopped paying the excess amounts in question.



Members of the Novi Middle School choir entertain visitors last Thursday with holiday songs during the annual senior citizen/Rotary luncheon.

Seniors celebrate holiday with NMS

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

Fifty young adults spent last Thursday afternoon together, celebrating the holiday season with music and food.

The Novi Middle School and the Novi Rotary Club sponsored its

24th annual senior citizen luncheon at the Novi Middle School, with the Novi Rotarians indulging themselves in Christmas carols and turkey.

"This is one of our premiere projects," said Novi Rotary Club president Siddharth Sanghvi.

As the seniors gathered in the

school auditorium, the eighth-grade boys and girls choir entertained their guests with traditional Christmas music, under the direction of Novi Middle School choir teacher Patrice Pederson.

"It's a community service that

Please see HOLIDAY, 4A

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Disorderly man arrested at Novi Hilton

NOVI Confused

A Dearborn Heights man was arrested for disorderly conduct after continually asking police to arrest him and throw him in jail. Novi Police received a call from the Novi Hilton on Haggerty Road at about 4 a.m. Dec. 8 stating a disorderly man was intoxicated in the hotel lobby. When the officers arrived on the scene, a hotel security officer led them to the 28-year-old male who police noted was clearly agitated, obviously intoxicated and had cuts on his knuckles. The police report said his face and head were mottled red. The security officer told police he believed the man had been striking the wall in the elevator and possibly the wall in his room. He told officers he had been at the hotel with a party and he believed he was upset by his girlfriend. The other members of the party were at the other side of the lobby. Officers said they tried to talk to the subject, but he only kept saying "just take me to jail." Novi police on the scene tried to arrange a ride home for him because he could not drive or walk and had no money for a taxi cab. Police said the other members of the party would not lend him the money for a taxi ride home. The man kept asking to be taken to jail and then peered a bottle of Sprite on the lobby floor and started punching himself in the face. At

Police News

that point, police arrested him for being disorderly. It was noted in the report that while the Dearborn Heights resident was at the Novi Police station he experienced mood swings going from crying to laughing to normal. At one point, the man knocked his forehead on the floor two to three times. He refused medical treatment and was picked up by a family member. Officers did check the hotel room and found no damage.

Egged

A Novi homeowner is left wondering who egged his house in the middle of the night on Dec. 5. At 3:30 a.m., a resident in the 23000 block of Brookforest called police to report a malicious destruction of property. The homeowner said several eggs were thrown at his garage and 17-year-old daughter's upstairs window. The man told police it was the second time in seven days his house had been egged. The homeowner's daughter said she had no idea who would be doing this. She said she saw an unknown vehicle leaving eastbound from her house at the time

of the egging. Novi Police officers checked the area, but were unable to locate any suspicious vehicles or people. The man said he was going to wash the egg off immediately. The case remains open.

Hunter in suburbia?

On Dec. 4 at about 5 p.m., a caller notified the Novi Police Station that a man was hunting in the area of Meadowbrook and Twelve Mile Roads. Police officers did not observe the man actually hunting on the property, but spoke to the alleged hunter on the telephone. Police advised the man not to hunt until he had a permit. The man said he would no longer hunt in the city of Novi.

WALLED LAKE Likes fast food

A 19-year-old Walled Lake woman came back from break at the Walled Lake Burger King Dec. 6 and got a real eye full. She noticed a man standing under a tree across from the drive-through window. The man was masturbating. When he was done, he walked off toward the railroad tracks. The man could not be located at first. He was later found and arrested. He was brought to the

station where he was processed and lodged until he was sober.

Keyed car

Walled Lake officers were dispatched to Villa Ct. Dec. 5 when a woman reported that her 1994 Oldsmobile had been keyed on both sides. The victim's daughter told police she had heard a girl she knew had keyed the car. The girl had allegedly threatened to kill the woman's daughter in the past. Police spoke with the suspect and her parents. She told police she was at the Villa that night but the car was already keyed. The case is still open.

Too many warrants

A 54-year-old Walled Lake man was arrested for outstanding warrants when the driver of the car was stopped by police for not wearing seatbelts. The pair was stopped just east of Pontiac Trail on Maple Road. The officer ran the driver's name through Lein, which came back clean. However, the passenger had two outstanding warrants for his arrest out of Walled Lake and another out of Midland. The man was handcuffed, arrested and lodged at the station pending arraignment.

Woman attacked in Walled Lake while walking to work

By Diane Dempsey Deel
 STAFF WRITER

A 53-year-old Walled Lake woman was assaulted and stabbed on her way to work Nov. 30.

The woman told police she had been attacked by two men behind Dairy Queen on Pontiac Trail, just south of Maple Road.

One man was about 6 ft. tall and was wearing a dark sweatshirt and jeans. He wore a dark ski cap and leather gloves.

The other man was about 5 ft. tall and he was also wearing a dark sweatshirt, jeans and had long dark hair.

She said the taller male grabbed her by the left sleeve of her coat and ripped it. He said "We want to kill you."

She then grabbed her shirt and tore it while the woman yelled

"Leave me alone."

The taller man pulled out a single blade knife about 6 in. long and swung it at her. The blade cut the left side of her face and her left shoulder.

She was then pushed to the ground and the two men took off running.

She ran to her work and called police.

Police used a dog from a K-9 unit from the Waterford Police Department. However, the dog could not pick up the men's scent.

The woman said she has been followed in the past.

Several suspects have been picked up and questioned.

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

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ecycle HOME TOWN

All parties felt partial victories before judgement

By Victoria Sadocha
STAFF WRITER

Before the verdict came in, partial victories were enjoyed by both representatives of the city of Novi and members of Friends of Novi Parks.

"I'm very happy with how it went," said Bob Shaw, former Novi Parks and Recreation commissioner and member of Friends of Novi Parks.

Shaw mirrored the sentiments of the other members of the group who also plaintiffs in the case against the city of Novi - after both sides presented their cases Dec. 6 and 7 in Oakland County Circuit Court before Judge John J. McDonald.

"The (McDonald) is going to answer the question we came here for," said Brian Smith, member of Friends of Novi Parks.

One preliminary victory the plaintiffs felt on Dec. 7 was the determination by McDonald that the transfer of North Novi Park acreage was actually a sale.

"That is helpful, obviously," said Scott Howard, attorney representing the group.

Howard explained if the judge had found it was not a sale, it would be harder to try and prove the city's proposed settlement document was in violation of the Michigan Home Rule Cities Act, which states a city does not have the power to sell a park, cemetery, or any part of a park or cemetery, except where the park is not required under an official master plan of the city.

Attorneys for the city of Novi and Sandstone Associates argued what the city has been referring to as a "conveyance" was not a sale.

Robert Carson, attorney representing Sandstone who was also involved in the proceedings, said one of the reasons the transaction

was not a sale was because Sandstone will be giving Novi community park land in return for the citywide park land city officials are offering Sandstone as part of the settlement package.

Carson argued, therefore, it was actually an exchange.

City of Novi attorney, Gerald A. Fisher, argued the transaction was not a sale because a sale is a voluntary process.

"This is anything but voluntary," Fisher argued in court.

Although McDonald did acknowledge the proposed settlement transaction as a sale and was taking his time to determine if the proposed park land was not required on the city's master plan, there were some defects to the plaintiffs.

The defects came as a result of McDonald's Dec. 7 partial ruling that the city's proposed settlement sale of park land to Sandstone was lawful despite the fact the land was purchased by 1993 voter-elected bond funds.

In his opening remarks on Dec. 6, Howard said one of the reasons the transfer of land was unlawful was because the park land in question was purchased with bond proceeds approved by Novi voters.

As part of their complaint, members of the Friends of Novi Parks said the park land that was purchased for "recreational purposes" violated the intent of the ballot language.

Expert testimony provided by Dennis Neuman, attorney for Miller, Canfield, Parkovak and Stone, P.L.C., said bond funds generated through the 1993 vote would have to be used to purchase property as stated on the bond proposal, but the city did not intend to maintain the bond proposed use of the property in

perpetuity.

Neuman said he has never seen anything in the law that says you have to keep the property in the same use forever.

The attorney specializing in municipal law and finance said the portion of the 1993 bond pertaining to the proposed acreage to be sold to Sandstone as part of the drafted settlement deal could be legally defused if a contract that is voided by judgment bonds obtained by the city.

McDonald said he found the court issuance of bonds proper as there was nothing else to contradict the testimony that it was legal.

Other arguments brought into the issue by both sides were also stated as McDonald whitened the issue down to whether or not the proposed acreage is required park land or not.

McDonald felt that was the primary issue and was the main reason he wanted to hear from all sides at one hearing.

Before informally combining the cases on Dec. 5, there was supposed to be two different hearings.

Both hearings were to be held that day.

The first hearing was the injunction filed by Friends of Novi Parks against the city of Novi.

The second hearing, which had been previously scheduled by the city, was for the purpose of receiving a judgment as to the legality of the proposed settlement agreement previously drafted and agreed upon by members of the Novi city council with Sandstone Associates.

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

Settlement violated Home Rule Act, judge stated

Continued from 1

Helwig said that he, Mayor Richard Clark and Novi city attorney Gerald Fisher feel the proposed settlement can not hang around for months.

That option was discussed at a city council public hearing dedicated to the lawsuit topic, but discarded because of the cost.

During the Oct. 1 hearing, Novi city clerk, Maryanne Cornelius, stated the very earliest the city would be able to bring this to the voters would have been January of February of 2002, and that would be the best case scenario. It was estimated at that meeting the cost of the ballot proposal would be about \$2.4 million in accrued interest plus \$40,000, the approximate charge to hold a special election.

The city's second option is to have members of the Planning Commission amend the city's master plan to prohibit the proposed acreage is not required park land.

Helwig said this option is the likely way the city will go, and the city is tentatively planning a public hearing before members of the Planning Commission Jan. 9.

Fisher and Carson had joined together on the attempt to prove Friends of the Novi Parks had no right to sue the city.

"It is a sham entity without financial status or ability to carry out its business," Carson argued in court.

Carson also said the entity had no property, was not a citizen of Novi and paid no taxes.

Scott Howard, attorney representing Friends of Novi Parks, argued his plaintiffs did have standing because they had a unique interest in the park land.

Howard said they were hikers, bikers and bird watchers who frequented and developed trail systems in the proposed settlement area.

McDonald said it did not matter whether the group had standing or not because he still will have to decide on whether or not the land in question was not required as park land on the city's master plan.

The proposed settlement agreement challenged by members of The Friends of Novi Parks was drafted to put an end to an outstanding \$39.9 judgment rendered Jan. 21, 1999 in Oakland County Circuit Court in favor of Sandstone Associates which is currently in the appeals process.

City officials authorized settlement talks in February of 2000 because the judgment amount is accruing interest at an annual compounding rate of 12 percent, which equates to about \$20,000 a day.

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

Robert Carson, attorney representing Sandstone, intended on meeting with his clients on Dec. 12 to determine if the second alternative was acceptable to them.

Helwig indicated an executive session will also be included on the Dec. 17 city council meeting agenda to discuss the matter further.

Bob Shaw, former Parks and Recreation commissioner and president of Friends of Novi Parks, said all the group wanted was an opportunity for the court to hear its member's side of the story.

"We feel vindicated that the judge agreed with what we have been telling the city all along," Shaw said.

The Dec. 11 verdict came after a partial ruling issued by McDonald on Dec. 7 stating the land transaction under question was a sale, was not prohibited because it was purchased using 1993 voter-approved bond funds and portions of the "so-called Mitchell property" were not prohibited from being transferred even though purchased by the city under the power of eminent domain.

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Scott Howard, attorney representing Friends of Novi Parks, argued his plaintiffs did have standing because they had a unique interest in the park land.

Howard said they were hikers, bikers and bird watchers who frequented and developed trail systems in the proposed settlement area.

McDonald said it did not matter whether the group had standing or not because he still will have to decide on whether or not the land in question was not required as park land on the city's master plan.

The proposed settlement agreement challenged by members of The Friends of Novi Parks was drafted to put an end to an outstanding \$39.9 judgment rendered Jan. 21, 1999 in Oakland County Circuit Court in favor of Sandstone Associates which is currently in the appeals process.

City officials authorized settlement talks in February of 2000 because the judgment amount is accruing interest at an annual compounding rate of 12 percent, which equates to about \$20,000 a day.

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

Novi coach knew Moore had ability to win nationals

Continued from 1

are. He is a great competitor, tough as nails, and that is what is attractive about him."

Looking back on the night before the race, Moore knew it was going to be tough from the start, he was one of the top returning runners.

"I knew it was going to be a very fast run," Moore said. "Last year, there was a clear cut favorite and it seemed like everyone just hung back waiting for him to make his move. This year no one was being timid, everyone was running as fast as they could."

Moore knew that a start too fast would sap his energy reserves - "I would expect him to be solidly in our top-five next year," Piane said. "We are excited to have him coming to Notre Dame, we really

the race in a tight pack with the split reading 4:40. By the second mile, through 9:32, the field had thinned.

Confidence, county, regional, state, Midwest, regional and national titles are now all Moore's to claim state to - what is there left for an athlete like this?

"Well, what is left for him this week is some much deserved rest. It is mentally tiring. When it comes to cross country, he is the national champ, there is nothing bigger. But Tim will be gearing up for track season soon. The sky is the limit for an athlete like Tim. He has a nice mix of speed and aerobic ability. Tim has a capacity that is unparalleled by anybody right now."

If the sky is the limit, then Moore will probably test it.

"I just want to do my best in everything I do," Moore said.

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

came not only from his ability, but from his tremendous work ethic.

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Holiday spirit filled Middle School as students celebrated

Continued from 1

(the students) can directly do with the community this time of the year," said Novi Middle School counselor Doug Cline. "It's a good interaction between young people and seniors."

Then, the Novi Middle School's eighth-grade grade select choir, a group composed of the school's top female vocal chorists, performed the Ukrainian Christmas classic, "Carol of the Bells," to a hearty round of applause.

"These youngsters are our future. Aren't they great," Senghvi announced to the Nova Rotarians.

The afternoon musical adventure continued, as the Novi Middle School concert band made their way to stage, under the direction of Novi Middle School band director Gordon Seltzer.

"We enjoy having you here year after year. Seltzer told the audience of seniors.

To conclude the musical program, the choirs, the concert band and the seniors joined together for a sing-along, featuring the classic carol, "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful."

The day's festivities moved onto the cafeteria, where the Novi Middle School student council served the seniors lunch - which included turkey and trimmings.

"It's nice for the seniors to see some young faces," said Novi Middle School eighth grade student council president Nick Wright. "It reminds them of their youth and they get to meet some new people."

Angelo Profico is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or at aprofico@nl.homecomm.net.

Organizations Calendar

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Where: Faith Community United Presbyterian Church, 4400 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375
When: General meeting, Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Corporate meeting, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.; Women's meeting, Sunday at 4 p.m.
Contact: Sunday
Phone: (734) 522-8971

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN - HORTONVILLE BRANCH
What: Provides equity for all women and offers life-long education and positive societal change.
Contact: Barbara Wilson (248) 348-3999

AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION - NOVITA CHARTER CHAPTER
What: Using together businesswomen of diverse occupations and provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow professionally.
Where: Woodlawn Garden Hotel, 42100 Crescent Blvd., Novi.
When: Every third Monday of the month.
Contact: Leticia Johnson
Phone: (248) 360-9550

AMERICAN LEGION - NOVITA - POST 147
Phone: (248) 349-1060

AMERICAN LEGION - NOVITA - POST 18
What: Service group open to all eligible veterans of all wars and conducts 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 Thursday for business and every fourth Tuesday for social event at 8 p.m.
Contact: (248) 344-6236; Auxiliary: (734) 991-5125

AMVETS
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) 345-2835

BUSINESS NETWORK INTERNATIONAL
Counselor Novi Chapter
Where: Novi Hilton, 2111 Haggerty Road, Novi
When: Every Wednesday from 7:30-9:30 a.m.
Contact: HVI regional office
Phone: (810) 323-3800

CALLING CART
Contact: Sergio Lopez
Phone: (248) 348-0628

CIVIC CONCERN
Contact: Marlene Kunz
Phone: (248) 344-1033

CIVIL AIR PATROL/SIXTH GATE COMPOSITE SQUADRON - NOVITA
Phone: (248) 349-2607

COMMUNITY CLOTHING 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 Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon.
Phone: (248) 349-8553

FRIENDS OF NOVITA PARKS
What: The Friends of Novi Parks' purpose is to support the protection, acquisition, and development of parks and open spaces within the city of Novi. Membership is open to anyone interested in recreation and parks in Novi.
Contact: For more information, you can visit their web site at http://friendsnoviparks.org. The organization can also

be contacted at Friends of Novi Parks, PO Box 123, Novi MI 48375-0123.

GOODWILLERS
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

KINGDOM OF COLUMBUS
Phone: (734) 493-9833

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NOVITA/WEST OAKLAND
What: Promotes responsibility through education and active participation of citizens in government and action on selected governmental issues.
Phone: (248) 360-8474

LOCAL ORDER OF MOOSE - LODGE NO. 1189
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) 421-6298

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 Road, Novi
When: First Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.
Phone: (248) 349-1064

NOVI BAND
Where: Novi High School or Novi Middle School, throughout school year
When: Novi Middle School, 7:30 p.m.
Phone: (248) 922-9244

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
Phone: (248) 348-0531; Lioness: (248) 348-9098

NOVI MINISTERS ASSOCIATION
Phone: (248) 349-5817

NOVI NEWSMAGAZINE AND NEIGHBORS
What: To help newcomers to the area, as well as, current residents who would like to become more familiar with the community on a social and civic level. Newcomers hold fund raisers to aid the Novi community.
Where: Once a month, September through May; Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi
When: Novi Civic Center, every second and fourth Wednesday, Lioness: every third Tuesday. Social hour is at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m.
Phone: (248) 349-3743

NOVI HISTORICAL SOCIETY
What: Gives residents of the community a knowledge of their common heritage; fosters the collection and preservation of records and objects; and loans historical material to other historical societies or educational institutions have a curator. It is also the purpose of the society to establish a historical museum in Novi.
Contact: Kathy Match
Phone: (248) 349-6774

NOVI JUVENILES
What: Group of men and women ages 21-39 working on community projects, leadership and spiritual and management skills. The juveniles sponsor fund raising projects for muscular dystrophy, St. Jude, March of Dimes and local charities affiliated with the juveniles.
Where: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi
When: First Thursday of every month at 8 p.m.
Phone: (248) 348-6924

NOVI LIONS CLUB AND LIONESS CLUB
What: The Lions' objectives are to help the blind, sight impaired and blind physically and mentally challenged children and to help find cures for preventable blindness. Lionesses work with the Lions Club but also host their own projects and programs.
Where: Harry's Garden Restaurant, 26150 Novi Road, Novi
When: Lions: every second and fourth Wednesday, Lioness: every third Tuesday. Social hour is at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m.
Where: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi
When: Committees meet every fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m.
Phone: (248) 347-9410

PRESERVATION NOVI
What: Non-profit corporation whose stated goal is to promote and encourage preservation of historic buildings in Novi, for example, restoration of the Forest Farm property.
Where: Annual meeting is in the second quarter and open to all interested residents.
Contact: Kathy Match
Phone: (248) 349-6774

SWOC
What: Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission serves Novi residents with community access television. Residents interested in registering for the TV or radio workshops can call for more information.
Contact: Carol Collins
Phone: (248) 473-7266

VETERANS ALLIANCE OF NOVITA
What: VAV is a coalition of the following veterans groups: Novi Post 18, The American Legion; Perry Kemper Post 76, AMVETS; Northwest Detachment 162, Marine Corps League; and Novi Post 2165, Veterans of Foreign Wars.
Where: Novi Expo Center, 43700 Expo Center Drive, Suite 100, Novi
When: First and third Monday every month at 7:30 p.m.
Phone: (248) 349-2835

YFP POST NO. 4612
Phone: (248) 348-1400

local citizens who volunteer their time and skills toward the goal of preventing juvenile delinquency. They are aided by a professional staff person in implementing programs such as Summer Teen Center, parent-child classes, and Substance Abuse Prevention.
Where: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi
When: Committees meet every fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m.
Phone: (248) 347-9410

YOUTH LIONS CLUB
What: Youth Lions Club is a youth organization that provides leadership training and community service opportunities for young people.
Where: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi
When: Meetings every second and fourth Tuesday.
Phone: (248) 349-3743

YOUTH ROTARY CLUB
What: A service-oriented club composed of business and professional people within the community. The Rotarians hold a variety of fund raising events every year.
Where: Novi United Methodist Church, 4171 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi
When: Every Thursday at noon
Phone: (248) 380-6500

YOUTH ASSOCIATION
What: Prevention program that relies on

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Guidelines for conflict of interest set up by council, attorney

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Specific instances and definitions of conflict of interest topped the priorities for city council. Novi city attorney, Gerald A. Fisher, provided guidelines at the Dec. 3 meeting based upon a prior request regarding city council member voting and related issues. The request was made by Novi Mayor Richard J. Clark during the Nov. 13 city council meeting. Clark placed the "conflict of interest ordinance" as an agenda item under the topic of mayor and council issues as a proactive measure to avoid possible conflicts of interest by city council members. Although Clark said during the Nov. 13 meeting that he was not casting a dispersion on anyone, newly elected city council member Kim Capello felt the request for an ordinance was directed towards him. "I have a lot of issues," Capello said referring to some of his client dealings. He feels should be addressed by the city attorney. Capello said he had planned on obtaining legal advice from Fisher on his own in order to comply with code of ethics he follows as an attorney.

He further said when he was on the Planning Commission, he did not take properly related cases and now that he is on the city council, he will not take cases resulting from city council ordinance adoptions. "That is one thing I am going to have to give up," Capello said. One factor believed to possibly imply a conflict of interest brought up at city council meetings in the past was the fact Capello's office is in the same building as JCK & Associates. JCK & Associates is under contract to provide engineering, surveying, grade and architect, and

environmental services to the city including professional opinions on wetlands and soil erosion. During his presentation of the conflict of interest guidelines, Fisher said to specific questions presented with regard to whether voting on matters involving JCK & Associates would amount to conflict. Fisher explained although the council member does occupy an office within the same building occupied by JCK & Associates, the council member does pay fair market rent and all rent is paid in cash with no part of the rental obligation

provided services. He also said the council member was not providing service to JCK & Associates and if future work was entered into, the council member would disclose the nature of the business relationship to the council. Fisher ultimately concluded there appeared to be an indirect business relationship and Capello would generally not need to abstain from voting on any issues involving JCK & Associates. One instance Fisher does feel the council member (Capello) will have to abstain from voting is if the

owner of Main Street appears before the city council. Capello is currently representing tenants of the Main Street development in an ongoing lawsuit. Clark said the legal guidelines presented at the council meeting were not in lieu of the ordinance. He said the actual ordinance is on its way and is currently in the draft phase. Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Nov News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or at vsadlocha@ht.homecom.net.



Michigan Lieutenant Governor Dick Posthumus patiently answers questions posed by Orchard Hills students.

Posthumus teaches Orchard Hills a lesson in government

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

Michigan Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus tackled questions from a curious crowd in Novi last Friday. "Is it hard to be a lieutenant governor?" one audience member asked. "Every job has some things in it that are hard. It is important to find what you like in life, then go out and do it. If you like what you're doing, even if it's hard, you don't mind," Posthumus said. "Sometimes (politicians) have to make tough decisions for the good of everybody and not everyone will like that." On Dec. 7, Posthumus visited the fourth-grade students at Orchard Hills Elementary, where the youngsters got to participate in a question and answer session with the Michigan politician in the school gymnasium.

"What is politics?" a student wondered out loud. "It is the science or occupation of working on issues involved in our daily lives," Posthumus said. Orchard Hills fourth grade teacher Leslie Anibal wrote the lieutenant governor a letter, asking him to come to their school. "I asked him to talk to our fourth-graders about Michigan politics and history," Anibal said. Currently, the students are in the midst of studying Michigan government and their afternoon guest provided a real-life lesson plan, bolstering enthusiasm for the subject. "The kids returned to their rooms excited to talk about state government," said Orchard Hills principal Paul LePae. During the Q&A session, no question went unexplored - the relevant and even the frivolous. "What kind of car did you come in?" asked a student who sat

"I came in a Chrysler...because Michigan is so big and I'm on the road so much, I have to use it like my office."

Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus
as how he arrived at Orchard Hills

and I'm on the road so much, I have to use it like my office," he said. One fourth-grader sounded like a seasoned journalist. "Why do you want to run for governor?" she asked. "There is a lot of things we can still do to make Michigan better for my children and my grandchildren someday," Posthumus said. The Michigan lieutenant governor said his many visits to different schools across the state have reinforced his confidence in their academic abilities. "It confirms how good a job public schools do in this state," he said.

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

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FRESH SUB

Lettuce, Tomato and Cheese.....2.78.....4.34

MEATBALL SUB

Meatballs, Parmesan Cheese and Meat Sauce.....2.78.....4.34

ROAST BEEF

Lettuce, Tomato and Cheese.....2.78.....4.34

STEAK SUB

Steak, Mushrooms, Onions, Peppers, Bacon, Cheese.....2.78.....4.34

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CHICKEN DINNER.....6.27
CHICKEN SNACKS.....4.81
CHICKEN CHUNKS.....3.73
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SPAGHETTI with MEATBALLS.....4.72
SPAGHETTI with MUSHROOMS.....5.15
SPAGHETTI with MEATBALLS & MUSHROOMS.....5.80
BUCKET OF SPAGHETTI (serves 4-6 people).....10.38
• YOU with MEAT SAUCE.....4.67
• YOU with MEATBALLS.....5.76
• YOU with MUSHROOM SAUCE.....5.19
• YOU with MEAT SAUCE, MEATBALLS & MUSHROOMS.....6.23
LASAGNA.....6.13
CAPPELLINI (Cannoli, Fresh Fruit & Gelato).....6.23
Also: Dinner Includes Breadsticks and Sauce

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PASTA

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History of Santa speaker delights audience at Novi Public Library

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

For one hour, Novi residents of all ages believed in Santa Claus. The "Miracle on Fourth Street" style belief was attributed to historical speaker Weldon Petz who spoke to interested participants on Dec. 5 at the Novi Public Library.

Petz lectured for one hour telling the history of Santa Claus from 270 A.D. to the present.

His interest in the jolly of "sant" began after receiving Christmas ornaments from his ancestors. He currently has an ornament hanging on his tree from 1840.

This holiday season will be a special one for Petz as his collection of 2,957 Santas is home for the first time after years of traveling to various places for display.

"Santa Claus is an interesting and fun subject," Petz said. "Nobody really knows what Santa Claus looks like. I don't think we have two in our collection that have the same facial expressions."

Petz explained the tradition of Christmas has been woven into all of our lives in both religious and secular aspects.

The tradition of Santa Claus began when a boy named Nicholas secretly dropped bags of gold into a window of two girls needing dowries. The bags fell into stockings hanging by the window.

Nicholas was later named Bishop carrying out many good acts - gaining the title of Saint.

From that point, the legend of St. Nick took on many stories and depictions all over the world, Petz said.

The Santa Claus we know today has been portrayed as an earth-bound gypsy, a hunched-back dwarf, a man dressed in con skin with a pelt hat and the more traditional style traveling with Christ's child.

In earlier versions of the man we call Santa Claus, he had a long black beard instead of the white beard we know today.

The story of Santa Claus as a gypsy is believed to many as bringing the popular tradition of being naughty or nice into today's tradition as the gypsy-style Santa traveled with a companion known as "Black Peter" or "Rupert" who looked like the devil.

Black Peter would travel with the "gypsy" Santa carrying a satchel of switches asking children at their doors if they were good little boys or girls.

He promised the good children they would receive a present at the end of the year.

Petz said many of our current depictions and traditions came from Clement Clarke Moore when he wrote "Twas the Night Before Christmas" in 1821. This was the first year Santa Claus was in a sleigh led by reindeer.

"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was not added until 1939.

In Scandinavian countries, Petz said Santa Claus rode a goat.

Petz heard Moore arrived at his description of Santa Claus by looking out his window and watching one of his workers shoveling snow.

Another person instrumental in defining Santa Claus was American cartoonist Thomas Nast, Petz said.

Nast drew the first Santa Claus on Jan. 3, 1863 and in 1886, the red suit was created thanks to the newness of color printing.

"The story is very complicated," Petz said.

Another notable American depiction was in 1939 with the birth of the Coca-Cola Santa. Petz said so many traditions were used in creating the Santa Claus we know in America.

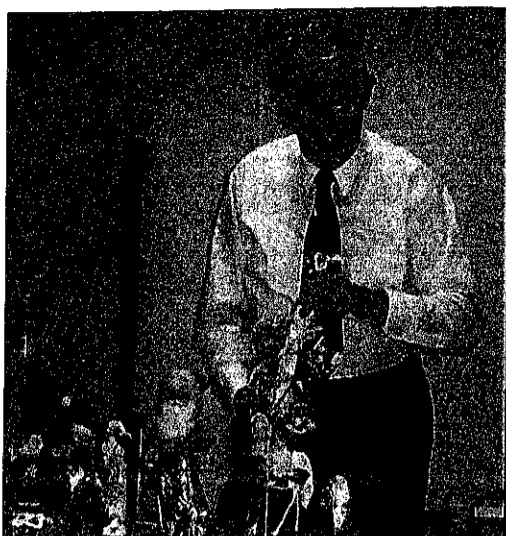
"We have to ask ourselves now does Santa Claus still live?" Petz questioned.

He hoped he made everyone believe that night because after all, "I believe in Santa Claus," he said.

The historical speaker has given lectures at the Novi Library before, speaking during the Korean War Project and about the history of Abraham Lincoln.

The free program was sponsored by The Friends of the Novi Public Library.

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



Historical speaker Weldon Petz spoke to Novi residents at the Novi Library about the history of Santa Claus and displayed a few depictions from his collection of 2,957 Santa Claus figurines.

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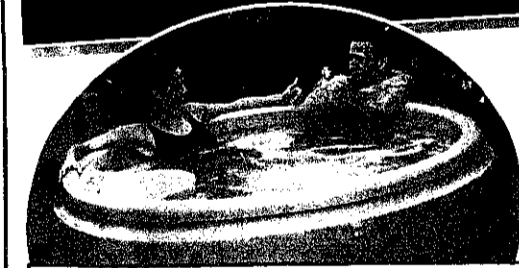
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CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY 24605 Meadowbrook Rd. Novi, MI 48375 Morning Worship 9:30 am, 10:30 am Holy Communion 10:30 am, 12:30 pm Former John Bunker, Pastor Former Joseph H. Jones, Pastor Parish Office: 349-8847	FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 3200 Haggerty, Northville 48170 (between 8 & 9 Mile and near Northville) Sunday School 9:45 am Morning Worship 11:00 am Discipleship Service at 6:00 pm www.fcnazarene.org Dr. Carl M. Leah, Pastor
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Obituaries

Norman C. Anderson
Norman C. Anderson, 77, of Vanderhill, formerly of Northville died Monday, Dec. 10. He was born Feb. 14, 1924, in Gay, Mich. Before retiring in 1986, Mr. Anderson was employed as a machinist for Pyles Perfection Pust in Wixom for several years. He was a member of Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Plymouth and in 1941, became a lecturer and teacher of the beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses.

He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Ruth of Northville; six children, Dorothy (Phillip) VanHagen of Vanderbilt, Carroll Payne of Tennessee, Janice Spring of West Virginia, Gary Kenny of Brighton, Norma Jr. (Sue) of Detroit, and Johnny (Marsha) of Howell; one sister, Lila of Minnesota; five brothers, Edmund, Paul, Wayne and Reuben, all of Copper Harbor and Wesley of Lapeer; 20 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Anderson was preceded in death by an infant son, one sister,

and one brother.

Memorial services will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 15 at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Plymouth.

Arrangements were made by Nelson Funeral Home Inc. of Gaylord, Mich.

Memorials to Watchtower Bible and Tract Society in Brooklyn, N.Y. or to Hospice of the Straits through the Nelson Funeral Home, 135 N. Center, Gaylord, MI 49735 would be appreciated.

Renate Calligaris
Renate "Renee" Calligaris, 69 of New Hudson died Dec. 3 in Rochester, Minn. She was born in 1932.

Mrs. Calligaris is survived by her husband, Richard Jr.; daughter, Carol (Ernie) Moeglein; son, Richard A. (Robin); and grandson, Michael Moeglein.

A private service was held on Saturday, Dec. 8 at O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home of Novi.

Memorials to the Gift of Life Transplant House, 705 Second St. S.W., Rochester, MN 55902 would be appreciated by the family.

Marguerite S. Coykendall
Marguerite S. Coykendall, 90, of Northville died Dec. 5 at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia. She was born April 23, 1911, in Marlette City, Mich., to Fredrick and Mary (Stegler) Schirner.

Mrs. Coykendall moved to Northville in 1947. In the 1970s, she moved up north then returned to Northville in July 2000. She was a repair person for Burroughs. Her memberships included the Philatelic Club, a community service organization; Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in South Lyon and Faith Lutheran Church in Mesick. Mrs. Coykendall enjoyed handicrafts and during her volunteer work at Cadillac Hospital, she made at least 500 knitted caps for newborns.

Mrs. Coykendall is survived by two daughters, Marlene Shoebridge of Northville and Sherry Manning of Washington; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Guy in December 1987. They were married in September 1927, and celebrated 60 years together; and eight brothers and sisters.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Monday, Dec. 31 at Faith Lutheran Church in Mesick. The Rev. Kelly Todd will officiate.

Arrangements were made by Castleline Funeral Home of Northville.

Memorial contributions to the charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family.

George G. Dible
George Guy Dible, 89, of Chelsea died Nov. 12 in Ann Arbor. He was

born Nov. 2, 1913. He is survived by his wife, Mary, two daughters, Janese (Jim) Weinmann, formerly of Novi and Eunice (Stephen) Hitchcock; son, Stephen (Julie); and seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Services were held on Thursday, Nov. 15 at Orchard United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills.

Arrangements were made by O'Brien Chapel/Sullivan Funeral Home of Novi.

Memorials to Orchard United Methodist Church Building Fund, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334-1938.

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Collection of school mills cause of higher tax bills this winter

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

Some Novi residents have a few complaints with their 2001 winter tax bill this year, particularly one pesky gripe regarding its higher than usual bottom line.

Concern has been raised over the total levy stemming from the Novi Schools portion of the tax bill, prompting some residents to speak up.

"I have received some calls about it," said Novi Community Schools assistant superintendent of finance

James Koster, who attempted to clear the air of confusion with distressed callers.

"For the calls that I have received, I explain it, and I think they understand it," Koster said.

The problem, some residents feel they are being overbilled.

And the response: it is a tax matter — moreover, an accounting discrepancy.

In a nutshell, here it is: The winter tax bill that homeowners just received reflects the effect of the Novi Schools' \$75 million bond proposal and sinking fund — which

was approved by voters on June 11.

Typically, the Novi Community School District collects 50 percent of its levy in the summer and the remaining 50 percent in the winter.

However, the two new issues were passed too late to be placed on the summer tax bill, so the entire levy for these items — all 100 percent — is being collected on the 2001 winter tax bill.

Thus, the entire 1.8 mills' increase for the 2001 portion of the bond proposal and sinking fund appears on the current tax bill.

spiking the bottom line higher than previous years.

"Because we could not levy in the summer, it appears that there is a substantial gain on the winter tax bill," Koster said.

In 2002, the levies will again be qualified over the two tax bills.

"The December 2002 tax bill will be less next year," Koster said.

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

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Second marketing class on possible horizon

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

A new business class is making its way to the fall of 2002 curriculum at the Novi High School, emphasizing real-world skills in the competitive job market.

An advanced topics marketing class was presented to the Novi Schools' Curriculum Council on Oct. 13 by Novi High School marketing teacher Jodi Brothers.

"The overall concepts of the course were articulated by Ms. Brothers so as to support the fact that the marketing classes at the high school have been growing over the last three years," said Rita Traynor, assistant superintendent at Novi Schools. "There is a need to broaden the offerings for students because of limited options."

After approval from the curriculum council, Brothers presented the proposal to the Novi Board of Education at its Dec. 6 meeting, seeking implementation of the course next fall.

The advanced marketing course would cover such topics as sports and entertainment marketing, fashion merchandising and entrepreneurship, as well as allow for emerging trends depending on student interest, such as travel and tourism, hospitality and e-commerce.

"It's applicable to the real world," Traynor said. "Kids are wanting to see if they can apply what they learn."

The new course hopes to meet the rising demand for business-related and marketing classes at Novi High School. This year alone, over 200 students enrolled in the introductory course, Marketing 1. If these students wish to advance to a second year of marketing, their only option is Store Operations - the class that operates the school store - which has a capacity of 38 students and usually runs a waiting list.

Furthermore, the co-curricular activity, DECA - a national high school marketing organization - has been well received with Novi High School's membership over 70 students.

"So many students are interested in marketing and getting involved in the school store," Traynor said. "They are learning communication and writing skills and how to deal with people - everything you need on the job."

The initial cost estimated for the three textbook set recommended for the course is just under \$4,000. Currently, the Novi Schools' Board of Education is reviewing the new class proposal.

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

Engagement



Ashcroft - Borusch

The engagement of Benjamin Robert Borusch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Borusch of Northville and the late Ann Borusch, to Julia Ross Ashcroft, is hereby announced by their parents.

The bride-elect is the daughter of James M. and Beverly W. Ashcroft of Matthews, N.C. A graduate of Western Carolina, Julia Ross is currently employed with Carolinas Medical Center in North Carolina.

The groom-elect is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and is currently employed as an engineer at Duke Power in North Carolina.

A June 1, 2002 wedding is planned.

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WOVI sponsors marathon for Toys for Tots

On Dec. 14, WOVI 89.5 FM, the Novi High School student-run radio station, will air an 18-hour marathon to benefit Toys for Tots.

This year, Novi High School WOVI senior program director Mark Levin and junior Christian Van DeWiele will tough out the holiday drive that collects toys for children. WOVI has broadcast the "Toys for Tots" marathon for the last three years.

Listeners can drop off unwrapped new toys in their original packaging at the Novi High School office through Dec. 14.

WOVI 89.5 FM, which has been on the air since 1978, is the 2001 Michigan Association of Educational Broadcasters High School Station of the Year, recognizing the student station for its community service efforts.

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First of sinking fund money appointed for school district

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

Novi Community School District is spending its first dollars from its new sinking fund, which was approved by voters in June. The district will put in a new chiller - an air-conditioning unit that controls the entire climate of the building - at the Novi High School, costing nearly \$294,000. This was unanimously approved by the Novi Board of Education at its meeting on Dec. 6.

ture control, electrical and HVAC - to four different companies: the Dietzel Company of Frazier, BASS of Warren, Doublejack Electric in Royal Oak and Heights Heating and Cooling in Auburn Hills, respectively. "They are all known companies," Koster said. "When the bids are awarded, they are always in the best interest of the school district." On Nov. 27, bids for the project were opened and publicly read, with over 20 companies vying for the new chiller project. The bid prices came in at over \$100,000 under the estimated budget for the project. "There was good participation," Koster said. "It was a buyer's market."

Furthermore, Koster, with recommendations from the district's construction manager, Elkin Skanska, urged the Novi School Board to award the bids immediately due to the long lead time required for delivery and installation, about 12-16 weeks. "Each of the recommended contractors are those with the lowest bid amounts that meet plans and specification requirements," said Chris Becker, project manager for Elkin Skanska. A fifth project category - painting - was postponed for re-bidding due to one late bid. The old high school chiller, originally installed in 1976, quit in late October, one day before it was scheduled to be shut down for good.

Angelo Parlove is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 249-1700, ext. 108 or at aparlove@ht.homecomm.net.

NHS bands perform holiday concert

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

The popular musical sounds of winter hit the stage at Novi High School Monday night. The NHS concert bands hosted this year's holiday performance, the "Winter Winds Holiday Concert," at 7 p.m., which packed the Novi High School Fuest Auditorium. The different musical ensembles delighted the ears of the audience, as the jazz band and wind ensemble, under the direction of Novi High band director James Shekeler, the symphony band, conducted by Novi High School assistant band director Matt Orway and the concert band, under the direction of Joanna Haselhuber, played a vast selection of holiday tunes. Each ensemble graced the

stage, with the concert band kicking the evening off with the "Star Spangled Banner" and concluding in an ode to traditional Celtic sounds, "A Celtic Christmas" by James Hosay. The jazz band featured "Love Walked In" by George Gershwin, which included solos by Novi High School students Jessica Ferris, Robert Willing, Brandon Heffernan and Jason Bates. They closed their portion of the show with "Night and Day" by Cole Porter. The symphony band added some cultural flavor to the musical festivities. They performed "Cherubim is Here," arranged by Cabrita Custer, and a sampling of Russian Christmas music by Alfred Reed and arranged by James Currow. On their final selection, the symphony band was accompanied

by members of the wind ensemble who played at the back of the auditorium. "It was quite impressive. Like surround sound," said Linda Bissi of the Novi High School Band Boosters. The holiday program closed with selections from the wind ensemble, featuring "Bugler's Holiday" by Leroy Anderson, which included trumpet solos by Novi High School seniors Emily Cross, Chris Perry and Jameel Naqvi. The concert ended with a band favorite, "Sleigh Ride," by Leroy Anderson. "The kids always enjoy and have fun playing this piece," Bissi said. The Novi High School concert bands will continue through the rest of the school year, participating in a number of competitive winter and spring festivals.

Corridor study turns to improving Wixom roads

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER

Drivers will eventually see Wixom roads improved since the Corridor Study took a different direction in September. The Study's Oversight group voted at that time to focus their efforts on identifying roadway improvements for all high traffic roadways. Therefore, they put aside intentions to study a single primary state trunkline to address congestion and safety issues.

Wixom Road, Beek Road and Milford Road are a few of the main roads that are destined for upgrades. However, they are now identifying ways to fund road improvements. Greg McCaffery, director of Public Works, said they are looking at routes and gathering information so traffic will be alleviated in the area. They plan to improve roads by adding more lanes in certain high traffic areas, traffic signals and left hand signals, he said. They may also add passing lanes and roundabouts in other areas.

Beek Road may become a five lane roadway to accommodate traffic flow from I-96 to West Road, he said. Wixom Road may also become a five lane road from I-96 to Pontiac Trail. "I think it is met with more cooperation between the communities affected than building a single corridor," McCaffery said. "There is a few who would want one single corridor instead of a few."

"They decided there was no hope getting a single corridor through the area."

Michael McDonald
Wixom Mayor

going north and south, they will have to go east and west too," McDonald said the single corri-

dor was eliminated because of a lack of support from residents in all of the proposed areas. "They decided there was no hope getting a single corridor through the area," McDonald said. "There were public meetings in March and April, which many residents came out to voice their concerns. They didn't want a major highway running through their backyards. Since then, the study team has been gathering additional data to evaluate potential impacts of every corridor alternative. "What they have done is look at

any number of routes to gather additional information," McCaffery said. "What they are trying to do is determine ways to improve traffic. The consultants said we will look at what you have and figure out how to facilitate traffic. I think if we improve several areas we can facilitate traffic through."

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

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CITY OF NOVI NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 19, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider, Haggerty Pumping Station D1-71, located south side of Fourteen Mile and west of Haggerty, for WOODLANDS PERMIT, WOODLANDS PERMIT AND PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN APPROVAL. The applicant is proposing a water supply and reservoir and pump station.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning & Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 5:00 P.M., Wednesday, December 19, 2001.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
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The "Stream Map of Pennsylvania" was completed in 1965 after a thirty-year effort by Howard and Higbee, a former Penn State Professor.

Professor Higbee succeeded in creating a map that shows every stream and lake. He painstakingly plotted by hand the location of 85,000 miles of streams onto a 3 x 5 foot map. The map sold extremely well - until it was lost several years after it first appeared in print. Incredibly, the printer retained with the original drawing and printing plates, declared bankrupt, they carelessly handed Higbee's 30 years of work to a landfill.

The 60 remaining day-colored copies became a prized fisherman's possession. Professor Higbee was offered \$5000 for one of his last maps. And state agencies were forced to keep their copies under lock and key.

Happily, told Professor Higbee that reproductions were impossible, because the maps were printed in non-photographic blue.

Then in 1990, at the age of 91, Howard and Higbee's dream came true. Computers made it possible to reprint the map. Holding an updated map, Howard said, "I never thought I'd live to see this day."

Then, by combining Professor Higbee's knowledge with computer technology - the STREAM MAP OF MICHIGAN was created.

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American Heart Association

Don't get me started...

Dickens Olde Fashioned Christmas Festival

November 23, 24, 25
December 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23
Saturdays 1-7pm, Sundays 1-5pm

Every weekend is full of family fun. Set in the days of Merry Old England, you'll see and hear the sights and sounds of Christmas. Come mingle with the Dickens characters right out of one of Charles Dickens' Victorian tales. Witness the occurrence of Marley's ghost, Bob Cratchit with Ebenezer Scrooge and be entertained by Old Man Fog's little urchins!

Food merchants dressed in period costumes will serve hot & hearty delights. Local shops are filled with gifts for everyone on your holiday shopping list. Experience traveling musicians, carolers, jugglers, and Father Christmas among the strolling Dickens characters. After strolling through 40 specialty and antique shops, you'll find a carriage ride the perfect ending to a fine day!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARADE

The parade features Santa, his five reindeer, floats decorated in the old fashioned look keeping in tradition with the Dickens era. After the parade, the reindeer will be in a text next to Joseph's Oak Shop on Saginaw St. for the children to get an up close look.

DOWNTOWN DECORATIONS

Decorations on shops in downtown Holly reflect the decorations popular during the time of Dickens in England. There are lights on trees, buildings and lamp posts, cedar garlands on buildings and light posts, also decorated with bows in burgandy and gold. In the middle of downtown is the big Christmas tree decorated with the handwork of Holly children.

For More Information Call the Holly Chamber of Commerce (248) 634-1900

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CASTING BY PHIL BRADMAN
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PRODUCED BY MICHAEL BACHMAN
WRITTEN BY MICHAEL BACHMAN
DIRECTED BY NEAL H. ANDREWS

Novi News

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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.

Moral victory goes to Friends of Parks

The Dec. 11 ruling and hearings held previous to that date, involving the city of Novi, Friends of Novi Parks and Sandstone Associates was more than a win-lose situation.

The events played out in Oakland County Circuit Court proved to be a lesson in democracy as well.

Although the ruling may be an ultimate victory for the city, it also served as a moral victory for members of Friends of Novi Parks.

The events played out in Oakland County Circuit Court proved to be a lesson in democracy as well.

What members had been saying all along - that the proposed "sale" of acreage located in North Novi Park was prohibited - was proved correct by Judge John J. McDonald.

Members of the group tried to prove that continuously from the Oct. 1 public hearing, with no acknowledgment from city officials, their drive and dedication to not only keep the park land in the city, but also to prove officials were trying to do something wrong, shows Novi residents have a voice that will be heard.

On the flip side, what has this lawsuit brought against the city by the group concretely done?

City officials had already sched-

uled a hearing before the very same judge to seek judicial review of the proposed settlement draft document to make sure the land transfer was legal.

And now, after a costly extra day of testimony to hear members of the group, city officials have their judicial review ruling and will push the issue to the Planning Commission.

After a public hearing, members of the planning commission will vote on amending the master plan in order to omit the required park land of North Novi Park.

If that happens, the park land will be transferred to Sandstone Associates as part of the settlement agreement.

Unless previous and recently appointed members of the Planning Commission vote against the amendment, the result will be the same - the park land will be gone.

We think we have all learned something from this process and commend the Friends for voicing their concerns, and taking action until someone would listen to them. But in the end, the lesson remains a moral victory instead of an actual one.



Having lunch

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi Middle School student Mark Favorita serves to coffee to a number of guests including Ann Marocco, left, at last Thursday's senior citizen Rotary luncheon.

Reflections for the year, part one

Working in the Record office in mid-December is one of the most frantic, and at the same time, satisfying times of the year. It's mostly due to the fact that staff members are compiling information for our annual Year in Review edition, which typically comes out as the final edition of the new year.

As the final edition of the new year or the first edition of the new year, I've done what a lot of reporters in the office are doing right now: scrambling through back copies of the news-papers and extracting nuggets of information from this place and the next, trying to assemble a chronology of all that's occurred over the last 50 or so weeks.

In 2001, I did something different. I decided to make the project an incremental one, where I'd write a chunk of information each week and spread out the workload over the course of the months, rather than trying to do it all in a span of four or five days.

Both methods have their ups and downs, but I'm convinced that the bit-at-a-time approach has paid the greater dividend. And here's the reason why: I've been able to spend time reviewing and reflecting on the news of the year at a time when I'd normally be hunting it down. In other words, it's provided me more time to stuff off than I would in other circumstances.

Some of what we're compiling isn't necessarily good news. Other parts of what we're compiling is good news. What goodness or badness notwithstanding, these were the events that shaped Northville throughout the last 360-odd days.

The staff here at the Record is enjoying putting together the Year in Review edition. As for me, well...since I'm done with my work, I can kick back and review the material more closely. This is advantageous as an editor, but also because I'm constantly surprised by the number of times I read a passage and find myself saying, "Oh, yeah! I remember that!"

Historians like to say that it's impossible to know where you're headed if you don't know where you've been. It's our aim to help you, the readers, figure that out. You might be surprised about some of the territory we covered this year.

Chris C. Davis is the editor of the Northville Record. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 114, or at cdavis@ht.homecomm.net.

LETTERS

The potential of great family parks is there

Let's talk today of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Do you think somebody, somewhere could put it in print what this commission has done over the tenure of the two mayors prior to Clark other than plan a golf course? I'd like to know what parks and rec has done over the past several winters to avoid city residents of the winter, wondrous that some of us remember Michigan to be a completed years ago to the former director about the sledding hill. His last winter in office, he said we didn't have enough snow. And please be reminded that this was the winter that snow fell in November and December and stayed until February.

Maybe the weather is different in the south - of Nov. Maybe they don't have the same weather the old part of the city (Lakes area) has. There is no reason that Lakeshore Park has never been utilized to its fullest for winter sports. We now have, I understand, a new public restroom to the tune of some \$70,000 (using HCD funds, thank you) that is not yet open. Unfortunately, it's not in sight distance of either the back pavilion, new play structure, or the sledding hill. Who hasn't stormed that one? We won't even get into the fact that the Board of Health (Oakland County) slowed the project down because they refused permits for septic and a well. With sewer and water in the area, why are we expected to accept substandard? I've said it many, many times before: The old Lakes area is no longer podunk anymore. Let's act it.

It's time we take a close look at who and what is on our Parks and Recreation Commission. There are too many other people waiting to share their ideas with wonderful family activities. Cross country ski trails with equipment rental at Lakeshore? Fall pumpkin fest or harvest apple fest in Novi Hayrides? Sledding to usher in the holiday season? It all could be so wonderful. So, dear city council, when it comes time for appointments, get some life into this commission and into this city. Parks and rec should not be about just team sports - there is the potential of so much more. When will we realize our potential?

James E. Korte Novi

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

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

We are lucky to have Don Saven

The recent statewide recognition of Novi's own Don Saven as the "best of the best" of Michigan's building/code officials is a comforting reminder that while the year 2001 has been filled with all extraordinary turmoil on international, national and municipal fronts, a hard working corps of professionals continues to plug away day in and day out - month after month - year after year to make our city a better community.

Don Saven is a committed professional, who exemplifies the best that Novi has to offer to residential homeowners, special needs citizens, as well as developers wishing to invest in the future of our city. Don Saven is particularly effective because of his willingness to "go the extra mile," to work overtime, and to blend his meticulous knowledge of arcane fine print code with a unique mix of flexibility, "can do" commitment, and an ever-present sense of humor.

At this time of year we should give thanks for those persons who have given their all to make our city a better community. Don is an example to all of us and his recognition is well deserved. James J. Harrington III Novi

HELPING HANDS

I wish to take my husband who has been ill for a long time out to dinner/lunch and to see a current movie at the AMC theater.

I wish to have a bed pillow with arms to support me for I am in bed 90 percent of the time due to my illness. If this is too hard to find, I would appreciate a bed jacket (size medium) to put on when friends visit.

I wish to have movie tickets to AMC theater for a hat/sarong and gloves set in red medium.

I wish to have my hair done at JCPenney if I had it done there and loved it. Or if that is too expensive, a dinner out anywhere would be so nice.

I wish to have a dinner-out gift certificate so I can pay my own way sometime, when I am out with family or friends.

I wish to have a haircut certificate to have my hair cut. It would be appreciated.

I wish to have a new electric razor. My budget does not allow me to purchase one on my own, with my wife's illness and recent death.

I wish to have my hair done at a local salon. This would be a real treat for me.

I wish to be able to go out to dinner at a local restaurant. It would be nice to do something different.

I wish to have a new knitted hat and scarf/gloves set in red. It is nice to get something new to dress up in.

I wish to have my hair done at a local salon for dinner out at a local restaurant. It's hard to do these kinds of things.

I wish to have my hair colored at the hair salon at Allen terrace. I can't afford this on my own.

I wish to have a hair cut and perm at JCPenney's. They did a nice job on me before but on a limited budget, I can't afford one on my own anymore.

I wish to have my hair done at a local place or a dinner out would be so nice. What a treat.

I wish to have my hair done at a local place or dinner out. Anything would be fine.

If you're in need of help this holiday season, or can offer a hand to someone in need, call Northville Civic Concern at (248) 344-1033.



Is the government going too far?

Last week marked the 60th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The national mood of outrage led to the triumphant American entry into World War II. It also led to the shameful internment of hundreds of thousands of Japanese-Americans.

And last week FBI agents began to interview 560 people who are 18 to 33 years old, from Middle Eastern or Islamic countries, who are living in southeastern Michigan on non-immigrant tourist, student or business visas. The interviews are part of a nationwide effort to contact more than 5,000 people to determine if they have been recruited by or have information about Osama bin Laden's terrorist organization, al-Qaeda.

In his forceful testimony last week before the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Attorney General reasoned that the country is at war and therefore winning the war against terrorism and keeping Americans safe from terrorists justifies what in normal times would be regarded as excessive measures by the government. The response from civil libertarians and some senatorial critics is that it's especially important at moments of crisis to hold fast to the principles that define and guarantee just why we are in the right in the war against terrorism.

I admire people who are blessed at all times with the ability quite clearly to distinguish right from wrong. Whether they're best described as "true believers" or "pragmatic realists," they have the advantage in crisis times like this: The effectiveness of their certainty is that they need not concern themselves over shades of gray. Things are either black or white, and that's that.

Nationwide, 1,200 people were detained shortly after the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. Of that 600 or so still in custody, around a dozen are being held as material witnesses to the outrage, 60 or so are being charged with lying to federal agents and the rest are being held for unspecified violations, presumably of immigration laws. Most of their names are still being kept secret; some have lawyers, some do not.

The bedrock legal doctrine of habeas corpus literally, from Latin, "we have the body," is intended to make sure the government does not arbitrarily and in secrecy throw somebody in the slammer for an indefinite period without being charged in a public proceeding with a specific crime. Attorney General John Ashcroft first said that names of those detained were being kept secret to preserve their privacy. He then argued that to release the names would advertise to al-Qaeda who we had picked up.

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Well, things in the real world are rarely that simple. Interning Japanese-Americans after Pearl Harbor seemed like the right thing to do at the time. But in wartime back then there wasn't much public debate or discussion. And the verdict of history now is that the episode is among the most shameful in American history.

The contending views are powerful. On the one side, "the Constitution is not a suicide pact." On the other, our government should be of laws not of men.

That's why a robust public debate about whether the government is going too far, too fast in the war against terrorism is so important, whether it's the U.S. Senate or the Detroit chapter of the ACLU raising the questions. Attacking those questions and that debate as unpatriotic is to miss the point entirely.

Phil Power is the chairman of HomeTown Communications Network, the company that owns this newspaper. He can be reached at (734) 953-2047, ext. 1880, or at ppower@homecomm.net.

Kids need more lessons with money

Most students in Michigan know next to nothing about money or how to handle it when they graduate from high school.

But I'm not picking on the youngsters. Members of my generation were no better educated overall about financial matters. When I received my diploma a few years back, I had never had someone show me how to balance a checkbook. I learned later...the hard way.

Isn't it interesting that in a society where we not only give 13 years of free public education to our youngsters, but mandate that they attend to teach them how to enter the working world and earn enough to support themselves, that we also provide very little instruction about how to take care of their money once they have it.

The evidence comes from a recent survey conducted by the National Institute of Consumer Education, located at Eastern Michigan University. The institute gave a 30-minute test earlier this year to 352 high school seniors about money matters in order to gauge their knowledge of topics like earning, spending, credit, saving and investing.

The average score was 49 percent. That's right, the average score was a humiliating grade in fact, 62 percent failed. Only 13 percent scored a C or better.

The National Survey of Financial Literacy conducted similar tests nationally in 1997 and 2000, and found that students across the country did no better. The average score was 52 percent, and 69 percent failed. Only 7 percent got a C or better.

Students were weakest in their understanding of saving, investing and - here's the scary part - "true credit." That's scary, according to State Rep. Michael Bishop (R-Rochester) because these days virtually every college student gets a credit card application during their freshman year.

Exactly why card companies are extending credit to youngsters with no real income isn't clear and it is probably something the regulators should crack down on, Bishop contended. But as things stand, the first lesson many youngsters learn about credit may be when they get themselves into trouble with those first cards, he said.

The representative has introduced legislation in Lansing, House Bill 5327, instructing the state Department of Education to develop a model curriculum for teaching personal money management in K-12 public schools. Adding the course work would be strictly voluntary for individual school districts. They would not be mandated to include them in their class lists. But the model would encourage guidance in how to develop financial literacy programs, if they decide to add them, instructing kids on how and why to save, spending wisely, proper use of credit and smart investing.

The Department of Education supports the bill, as does the Michigan Credit Union League, the Michigan Banks Association, the Michigan Federation of Teachers and School-Related Personnel and the Michigan Jumpstart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy.

I've been hearing a drum for several years about the need for financial literacy programs in the schools," Bishop said. And it wouldn't be that hard to get them started. Officials from banks and credit unions that he has talked to

about it say they would eager to work with school districts to develop such programs. They would in fact be willing to come in to the schools and make presentations directly to the students, Bishop said.

This might not be a sexy issue. It isn't likely to create a lot of controversy, so you are a lot less likely to read about it on the front page of the daily papers. And it may command less attention of state lawmakers.

But it also one of those areas, overlooked by many when they think of where we could definitely make improvements to our students' education. Let's not overlook an opportunity to give them information they'll definitely make use of later in life.

For further information about financial literacy programs, visit the website of the National Institute for Consumer Education at www.nice.emich.edu; Technology Integration Group Services, Inc. at www.tigsj.com/main/home; and the National Endowment for Financial Education at www.nefce.org/pages/history.html.

Mike Malott reports on the local implications of state and regional events. He can be reached by phone at (810) 227-0171 or by e-mail at m.malott@ht.homecomm.net.

Adding the course work would be strictly voluntary for individual school districts. They would not be mandated to include them in their class lists.

School times shouldn't be changed

Two weeks ago, I ventured out to Walled Lake Central High School to hear a group of educators from Minnesota pitch the idea to delay start times at the high school level to several local school districts. Representing the Edina Public School district in Edina, Minn., three school officials and a high school senior offered their comments on why other districts should consider rolling back the start time for high school an hour or so.

According to the district's superintendent Kenneth Dragseth, this policy has not only been more attune to teenager's sleep patterns but has had a positive effect on their academic performance. At this time of year we should give thanks for those persons who have given their all to make our city a better community. Don is an example to all of us and his recognition is well deserved.

James J. Harrington III Novi

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around 9 p.m. or 9:30 p.m. (My mother was very good at seeing I went to bed on time.)

My brother, who is currently a senior in high school, also doesn't seem to be suffering from the existing starting schedule. Like myself, he also is consistently on the honor roll and finds time for his night lessons.

While I'm not a doctor nor an expert on sleep patterns of children, I am a product of starting school at 7:25 a.m. and leaving school at 2:10 p.m. I don't feel like I'm in a minority when I say that this current structure - which has been in place for quite some time - seems to be working just fine.

Besides, if students are allowed one extra hour of sleep, I think more than a few students will just postpone their bedtime by an hour or so. The sleep problem just wouldn't be solved.

I do understand that sometimes a better idea comes along and its wiser to follow through with that new proposal. That's the whole idea of progress. And if it weren't for someone thinking that there was a better transportation method out there, we'd still be hitching up our horses to our wooden wagons.

But whether the idea to postpone the start time of high school is a wise idea is yet to be seen. I say leave the alarm clocks set at their current time. The system in place isn't broke. Don't fix it.

AAU Girls Basketball & Walled Lake Warriors Try-Outs. Dec. 15, 2001 @ Walled Lake Western High School. 11 & Under 8-9:30am, 13 & Under 10-11:30am, 15 & Under 12-1:30pm, 17 & Under 2-3:30pm. \$15.00 Mandatory Try-out Fee.

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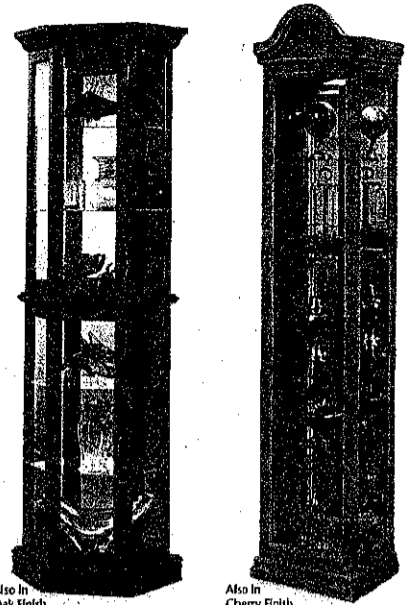
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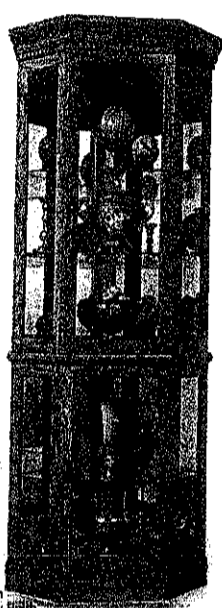
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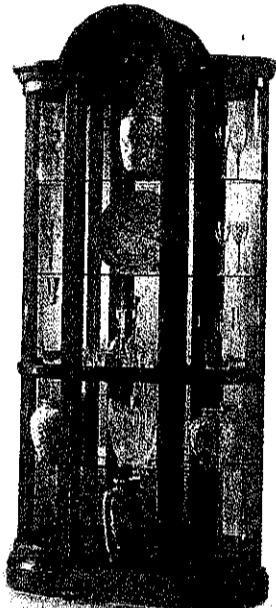
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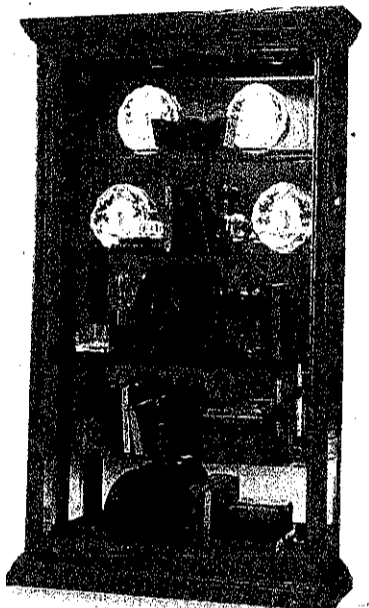
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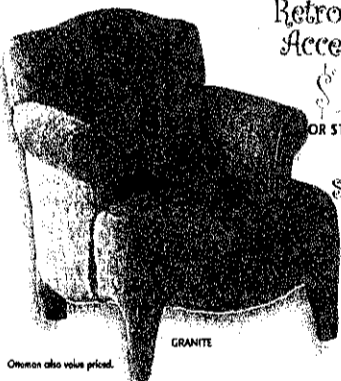
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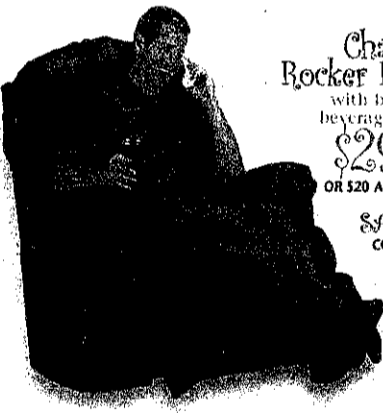


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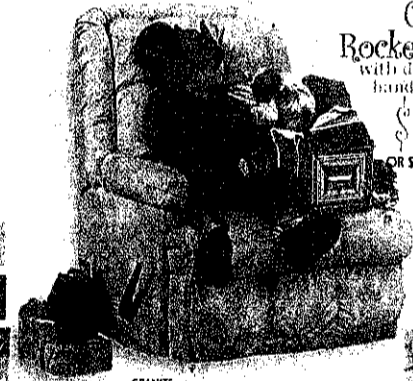


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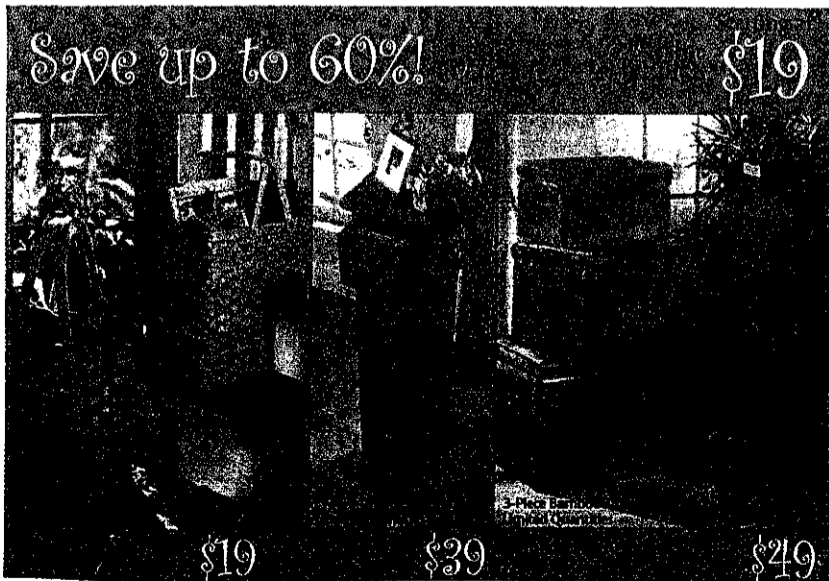


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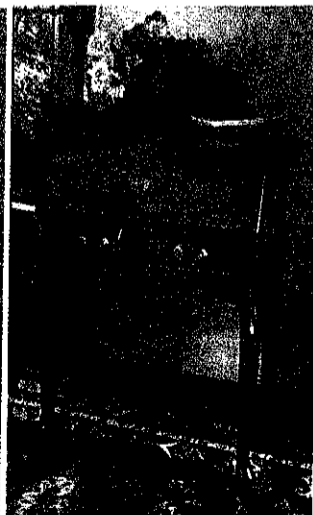
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B-1

KVC girls swimmers B2
All-Area Cross Country B3

novinews.com

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Swimmers to open season

By Brian Doyle
SPECIAL WRITER

The Novi Swim and Dive team has to face tough challenges in the upcoming season.

Novi lost a lot of strong talent from last year's team to graduation. This year, they hope to use hard work and the strength of their top swimmers to carry the team.

Preview

Senior captains Jordan Moblo and Juhwan Yoo will lead Novi. The swim and dive team is comprised of 25 members including two more seniors, Josh Christopherson and Ali Zuberi. Three freshmen, five sophomores, thirteen juniors round out the team.

"We're usually at 31 [members]. It's very different, we don't have the same kind of depth," said Novi coach Bill McCord said.

Novi still hopes to make a strong showing this year. Since there are only four teams in the KVC, it is not a MHSAA recognized conference.

Novi puts a lot of emphasis on individual performance and invitations however; Novi still has motivation to succeed in dual meets. Novi has fierce rivalries with Brighton and Northville.

"Those have been historically close meets," said Novi coach Larry Teahan.

This year, the Brighton co-op team, which consisted of swimmers from Brighton, Howell, Hartland, Fowlerville, was disbanded. The Brighton team will only be made up of members from Brighton High School. The Novi coaches still believe that this meet will be a very competitive one.

"Two other teams have also caused a 'friendlier rivalry' to emerge. Plymouth Salem and Piquette. They will definitely be a challenge," Teahan said.

Even with all the challenges the dual meets will bring, they are still not the top priority of the team.

"We never emphasized dual meets."

Continued on 3

Cheerleading has lots of team firsts

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Excited. It is a simple word to describe the buzz that the Novi High School cheerleading team is creating for themselves.

The Wildcats, who are returning 11 members from last season's squad, are looking to strut their stuff as soon as they can.

"We are looking forward to our first competition on Saturday, December 15 at Hartland High School," fifth-year coach Amy Denys said. "We have never attended a competitive event so early in the season, another first for us this year."

Other first include the Wildcats' ability to do back handsprings. This season marks the first time the team will have enough cheerleaders capable of doing back handsprings to incorporate them into the team's material.

"I attribute this accomplishment

to the increase in gymnastic training at all levels in my program," Denys said. "I am lucky to have outstanding coaches for both the freshman and J.V. teams. Their coaching, in addition to some outside gymnastic assistance, has added a depth to the Novi cheer program never obtained in the past."

Another positive for this season's cheerleading squad is that every one of the 22-member team — which is the largest competitive team in Novi's history — has competitive cheer experience.

The girls, who according to Denys are anxious to take the floor Dec. 15, have incorporated lots of stunting and newly master gymnastics into their routine. Those looking to watch the cheerleaders closer to home can see them at the halftime of home basketball games with the team being led by seniors Erin Benson, Jenny Broadwell, Megan Crissman, Christina Macioci, Meghan McDonald and Kristen Owens.

Cats tops in KVC

By Frank Dimich
HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

The view is always the best from the top — and that is where Novi is sitting in the KVC.

The Novi Wildcats hockey team put their mark on the ice and made it clear they intended on staying at the top of the Kensington Valley Conference as they showed the Hartland Eagles they still have work to do if they want to be number one. The Wildcats skated their way to a 7-3 victory over the Eagles Dec. 5th at the Kensington Valley Ice House.

Novi climbed to 3-0-2 finds itself in first place at 3-0 in the league while Hartland fell to 3-2,

1-2 in the KVC.

Senior John Murray scored Novi's first two goals on his way to four for the night. One was off a rebound and the other came after several passes deep in Hartland's zone.

With the game tied 2-2 late in the first period, senior forward Robbie Overfield and senior forward Robbie Harrell scored in the last four minutes of the period to give Novi a 4-2 lead it would not relinquish. Harrell's goal came when Novi was shorthanded.

"We broke down defensively in our own end," Hartland co-coach Scott Gardiner said. "I still believe

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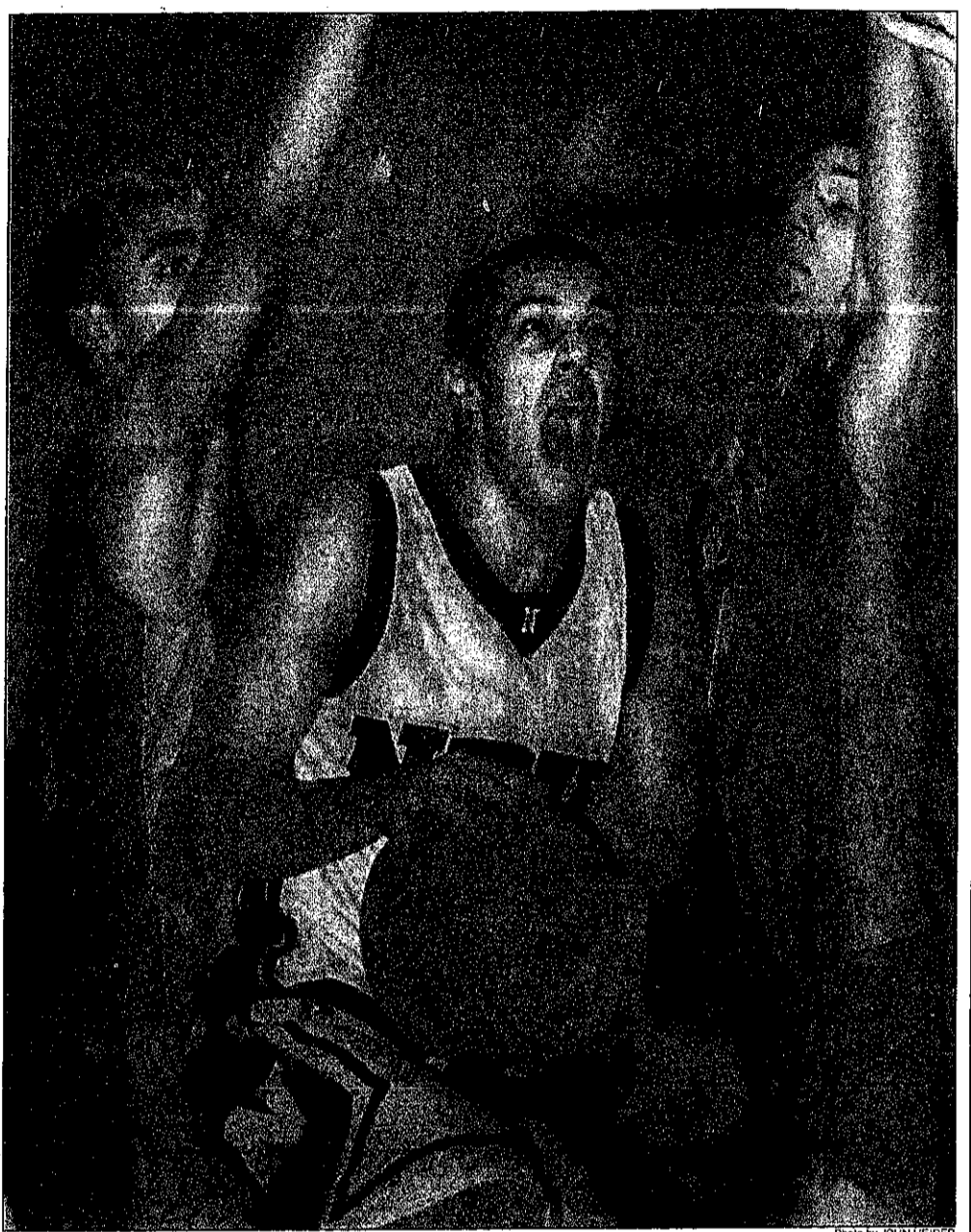


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi Wildcat Matt Emenecker takes the ball to the hoop in the Novi squads' upset of top-ranked Walled Lake Western in the opening game of the season.

Who ranks these guys?

Novi cagers knock off pair of top-10 Oakland County teams

By Brian Doyle
SPECIAL WRITER

So far this season, Novi has not let anyone stand in their way.

In their first Kensington Valley Conference game, Novi jumped out to a quick lead over the Lakeland Eagles and never looked back, clipping the Eagles 52-44.

Novi took a 14-8 lead in the first quarter and never looked back. The team shot 19 for 28 from the foul line. Novi junior Matt Emenecker led all scorers with 14 points.

"I thought I played pretty solid," Emenecker said. He was four for six on free throws and nailed five

field goals. Although Novi won the game, not everything went the way Novi would have liked it.

"We didn't play with the same intensity as against Walled Lake Western," Novi head coach Pat Schluter said.

Aside from the first quarter, Novi and Lakeland were fairly evenly matched in the other three quarters. Novi scored eight and seven points in the second and third quarters respectively. The Eagles scored nine and six points in those quarters.

Both teams exploded in the fourth quarter scoring twenty plus points. In the end, it was Novi's 28 foul shots that gave them the vic-

tory. Senior captain Brandon Davis scored 12 points, 8 of which were off of free throws. He was the second leading scorer for the Wildcats.

"Davis scored a lot of points down the stretch," Schluter said. Novi and Lakeland played two completely different styles. Novi relies heavily on their speed and Lakeland plays more dependent on their size.

"Lakeland plays slow, it kind of takes us out of our game," Schluter said. However, Novi dealt with the Eagle's style of play well enough to hold on for the win. One of Novi's goals going into the game

was to shutdown Leuan McAvoy. "I thought Shaun Dicken did a great job on him," Schluter said. The game before Novi, McAvoy had scored 26. Against Novi, he was contained to 10. Dicken also added six points including one triple.

Among other players, Schluter pointed out the exceptional play of senior captain Jamie Schram. "Schram did a great job," he said. Schram scored nine points for Novi and opened up the outside for players like Dicken and Emenecker.

"I just try to create a presence on the inside to open it up for players

Continued on 2



Submitted Photo

Novi's national champion

Tim Moore smiles as he hoists his newest trophy. What is he smiling about? Well, Moore just won the Footlocker National Cross Country title — read all about it, page A1.

Wild 'Stangs can't beat Hartland

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

This wasn't the way they wanted to start the season.

The Novi/Northville Wild/Stangs gymnastics team fell to the Hartland co-op team — comprised of members from Hartland, Milford and Lakeland — 134.45-133.25 Dec. 6.

"It was the first meet," coach Lindsay Schultz said of the loss. "A lot of things always go wrong in the first meet."

Schultz noted that with the graduation of much of their team from last season — a team which captured the state title — there is a lot of work to be done throughout the remainder of the rest of the season.

"We lost a lot of girls from last year," Schultz said. "We didn't come out with a great start, but our season isn't over. We are not going to just call it quits. There is a lot of season left and a lot of things to work on before regionals."

And from what Schultz has heard, there is going to be plenty of competition along the way.

"Farmington is going to have a great team this year," she said. "I am not sure about Brighton, but they always come out strong. I have heard that Salem has a great team this year too, but that is just what I heard."

The Wild 'Stangs will follow the lead of the squad's best performers.

Seniors Lindsey Carlson and Andrea Ledbetter will lead the way as captains and the only two seniors on the team while juniors Jennifer Sturgis — who won't be able to compete until January — and Sara Wilchowski are looking to lead their fellow classmates with great seasons.

"They are all coming back from last year," Schultz said. "They remember how we were last season and they are ready to work at getting us ready this season."

As of right now, the Wild 'Stangs are — according to Schultz — going to "try to survive the December meets."

But there are plenty of goals for the team to strive for as well. As a team they hope to do well at the regional meet and to qualify for the state meet — and, of course, to win as many meets during the regular season as they can.

"It's okay if we don't win everything," Schultz said. "Our goal is to do the best we can and to have a lot of fun doing it this year."

The Wild 'Stangs will have their hands full in the beginning of the season. After losing to Hartland, the squad gets to look forward to taking on Farmington and Brighton in their next two meets.

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

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Sports Schedule for the week of December 13-20

Volleyball
12/13 Hartland A 6
12/15 Saline Invite TBA
12/17 Farm Harrison A 6
12/20 Lakeland H 6

Hockey
12/14 Brighton A 7:30
12/19 Pluckney A 7

Basketball
12/14 Brighton A 7
12/18 Stevenson A 7

Cheerleading
12/15 Hartland A

Swimming
12/13 South Lyon H 7

Wrestling
12/21
Oakland Co. at South Lyon A 3:30

Note: All times are p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Cagers win two games

Continued from 1
on the outside," Schram said.

Junior Chase Chandler added four points for Novi, senior captain Brian Swift and junior Chris Lewis both contributed three points for the Wildcats.

Novi battled tied Northville on Tuesday and will be facing a tough Brighton Bulldogs team tomorrow. The Bulldogs have a 6'11" player who will be tough for Novi to match up against.

Wildcats 87, Warriors 49
The Novi Wildcats defeated a strong Walled Lake Western team on Tuesday, December 4 in the

Wildcats top KVC rival Hartland

Continued from 1
we can skate with anyone and I look forward to playing Novi again. Maybe next time for play, we can share up the defense.

Hartland was within one, 4-3, midway through the second period after junior forward Craig Kopyczek scored on a breakaway.

But Mustangs' senior right back, a minute later to make it 5-3 with the help of crisp passing by Farrell and Jared Perras near the crease.

opening game for both teams. Novi played strong and hammered the Warriors 67-49.

Leading the way for Novi were Brandon Davis and Shaun Dieken. Both players had 14 points.

Novi featured two other players with double-digit numbers that night. Jamie Schram scored 13, and Matt Emmecker knocked in twelve points.

"We have a lot of offensive weapons, you could expect three or maybe four guys to have double digit numbers," Schram said.

Novi came out strong and shut down Walled Lake Western's offense.

"Our team is very young," Novi assistant coach Dave Zarem said. "Getting down really tested them. We are real proud that they kept their composure."

Hartland had two power plays early in the third period that Gardiner saw as critical, but the Eagles could not convert.

Then, Mustangs put the game out of reach by scoring off a face-off in the third period.

"I thought we were in it."

guard, Zetlin," Schram said. Novi did just that. They held Zetlin to 11 points and Steve Sobczek to 11 for the Warriors.

Novi also shut down Bryan Vertin, who averaged 15 points a game last season. On December 4, he wasn't even among Western's leading scorers.

Novi did a nice job spreading the ball around and not relying too heavily on any one player for points.

"Playing as a team is one of our greatest strengths," Schram said. Novi definitely did play as a team.

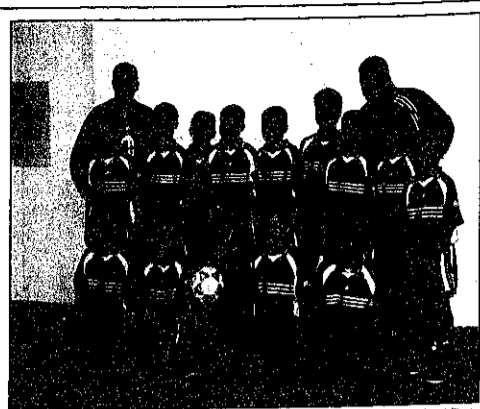
They came out strong knowing that they had something to prove and wanted to knock off the Warriors.

Gardiner said of play to that point. "We needed to convert on one power play... Then, they got up 5-3. In a game like that, the next goal is a big one."

Hartland junior goalie Chris Palatin had 21 saves and Novi senior Steve Slork 13.

Novi's defense was solid, but the Mustangs' senior right back, a minute later to make it 5-3 with the help of crisp passing by Farrell and Jared Perras near the crease.

"I thought we were in it."



Soccer team has plenty of stars

The U10 Boys Novi Jaguars Green team came in first place to win the regional championship in the Total Soccer National Indoor Soccer Tournament on Dec. 1 and 2. They were undefeated in all four games of the tournament. They will go on to compete in February in the national championship tournament in Columbus, Ohio. Back Row: Dave York, assistant coach and Paul Timmon, head coach. Middle Row: Cole Borland, Alex Bernstein, Anthony Capatina, Ricky Enright, Nick Bowser, Jordan Jabbori, Brandon Cameron, Kevin Zak, and Andrew Lumley. Front Row: Ricky McCarthy, Doug McGinn, Jimmy Pitcher, Chris Slack, and Anuj Rama.

NOVI ALL-KVC SWIMMERS

- All-KVC girls swim from Novi High School
- 50 Freestyle**
1. Amanda Smith, NOVI - Time of 25.91
- Diving**
1. Laurel Wells, NOVI - 344.85
2. Christina Thompson, NOVI - 337.92
- 100 Butterfly**
3. Blair Tyler, NOVI - 1:05.19
- 100 Freestyle**
1. Amanda Smith, NOVI - 55.73
- 200 Freestyle Relay**
1. Novi - Brittany Brodfeurer, Kristine Elrod, Amanda Smith, Blair Tyler - 1:44.06
- 100 Breaststroke**
2. Kristine Elrod, NOVI - 1:12.24
- 400 Freestyle Relay**
2. Novi - Brittany Brodfeurer, Kristine Elrod, Amanda Smith, Blair Tyler - 3:48.92

Note: Racing first through third in the Kennington Valley Conference swim meet was awarded with All-KVC honors.

Schmitt named Runner of the Year

Heather Mochle
Northville Junior

Mochle was definitely one of the best runners in the Western Lakes Activities Association and it showed from the start. Running a 19:23 at her home course of Cass Benton, Mochle captured the Mustang record time - a record that was in place since 1982.

Strutting her abilities was no problem for the talented runner, she medaled at every invitational this season and was the Champion at both the Corona Invite and the South Lyon Invite. Take that and combine it with a second-place finish in the WLA Conference meet and sixth at the Holly regional and you have a dangerous mixture of talent and determination.

Mochle finished 36th at the state finals meet with 19:36.

Devon Ruple
Northville sophomore

Ruple was a surprise this season. A good 400-meter runner in track as a freshman, Ruple had never taken to the task of running cross country before this season - the Mustangs are sure glad she did. Showing her pure talent at the beginning of the season when she collected the 11th-place of the South Lyon Invitational - the team's first run of the season.

Ruple went on to medal at every invitational in which she ran, including a first-place in the John Glenn Invite with a time of 19:02.

Ruple was the Wayne County runner-up as well as the regional champ with a time of 19:13. Her season came to an impressive first-year end with a 13th-place in the state finals with 19:02.

Nina Schmitt
Novi junior

Schmitt was a consistent and steady bright spot for the Wildcats this season. On a team that had to challenge themselves in order to be competitive, Schmitt was the model that all Wildcats looked to set themselves by. Her running captured her

first-place title on more than one occasion, including impressive running at the Holly Regional and the MHSAA state finals meet.

Schmitt was looked to by much of her team as the shining example of how a cross country runner should be. Her steady pace and her determination, dedication and competitive nature made her a tough foe to run against in the Kennington Valley Conference. Schmitt's running ability and her dedication makes

HomeTown East proud to present her as Runner of the Year.

Bethany Kittle
Novi Senior

Kittle may have been the number two runner on the Novi Wildcats squad, but her abilities and her dedication made her a top-notch hamper in the KVC. Kittle showed through consistent running and usual strong performances so she was a runner to contend with.

A major factor in the Wildcats' ability to collect wins this season, Kittle showed her teammates the dedication and concentration it took to be successful. An ever-improving runner, Kittle battled in each and every run she participated in with hopes of placing high for herself and, more importantly, for her team.

Lisa Canby
Novi sophomore

This year she didn't take anyone by surprise, but Canby still wouldn't be denied. She made all-state for the second time in as many tries, finishing eighth in Division I (19:56).

Colleen Johnson
Novi senior

The lone senior among the Redskins' top seven, Johnson set the tone for a squad which couldn't do it with numbers so won on guts. She placed third at the regional (19:39) to help Milford defend its title. Johnson was fourth at the KVC meet (20:29) - one of three Redskins to make first-team all-conference (13th at Oakland County (20:36) and 33rd at

the state final (19:34).
Kristin Granroth
Milford sophomore

Granroth's responsibilities increased considerably from her freshman season, when her remarkable improvement in the post-season simply made a strong team stronger. This time around the Redskins couldn't win without her. Johnson and Canby bringing it every time out. So she did. Granroth finished 10th at the state meet (18:58), fifth at the regional (19:47), fifth at the KVC (20:33) and 16th at Oakland County (20:41).

Katie Keel
Lakeland senior

Keel's return to the sport was a fortuitous one for the Eagles as she was Lakeland's number one all season. She was 17th at the KVC meet (21:27), 27th at Oakland County Invitational (20:44), Keel rose to the competition as evidenced by her time of 20:24 in the Brighton dual meet.

Alysa Mauney
South Lyon sophomore

A first-year runner who was a major reason behind South Lyon's fourth-place standing at the conclusion of the KVC dual meet season.

Shannon DeRusha
Milford freshman

Shannon was an unproven ninth-grader, by the end of October she was helping the Redskins to another regional championship and top 10 state finish, where she was 131st with a time of 20:45.

Elizabeth Darga
Milford sophomore

As with Delatasha, Darga stepped into the void to make Milford a particularly dangerous team late in the season. She set a PR - 20:36 - in the South Lyon dual meet and that was the turning point.

Tiffany Kaul/Katie Kramer
Milford sophomore/Junior

They were both all-state in 2000



Nina Schmitt makes her way through the course at the Holly Regional. Schmitt was named HomeTown East's Runner of the Year.

Next Level Athletes

Next Level Athletics is a section dedicated to the athletes of our local high schools and from our area that have taken the next step in the sports they dedicate their time and their hearts to - we applaud their abilities and their dedication.

Joshua Ott, senior, Louisiana State University - Joshua Ott, a 1998 graduate of Northville High School, will compete in January in Orlando at the USA National Cheerleading Competition. Ott was a member of the 1998 NHS cheer team that competed at the high school level, which took ninth in the nation with Ott only cheering for three months before the first win. This inspired Ott to tryout at the college level, and made the Western Michigan University team. After two years at WMU, Ott decided to try out for the competitive LSU team and made it before transferring there in 2000. Last

year LSU placed seventh in the nation and hopes are high with the LSU squad that they will defeat the current champions at the University of Kentucky - who have been the National Champions for the last eight years.

Emily Carbutt, Freshman, Michigan State University - Emily Carbutt, a 2001 graduate of Northville High School, is a member of the Spartans women's soccer program. Carbutt started in all of MSU's 20 contests this season. She plays defense for the Spartans.

Colleen Lewis, Sophomore, Siena Heights University - Colleen Lewis, a 2000 graduate of Novi High School, is a 5-foot-10 small forward and guard for the Lady Sabots basketball team at Siena Heights University in Adrian, Mich. Not only does Lewis excel on the hardwood, she is also a Presidential Scholar and a National Academic Scholar.

Swim ready for season

Continued from 1
McCard said.

The team trains hard all year long to peak at their last meet. For Novi swimmers Mochle, Ian Robertson, Jack Tyler, Yoo and his younger brother, Tachwan Yoo, that last meet will probably be the state meet.

Those swimmers will be the top swimmers for the team.

"We expect those individuals to qualify for the state meet," McCard said. Novi also hopes to send divers to the state meet. Those individuals have worked hard to get where they are.

"I'm [Robertson] and Jack [Tyler] worked very hard in the off-season," McCard said.

"Realistically we can send a diver or two, maybe three," Teahan said. The top three divers for Novi going

into the season are Juniors Dan Basse, Scott Rettmann, and Matt Van Nortwick.

Even with all the hard work, the lack of depth on Novi's team may pose challenges in dual meets. MHSAA rules state that a swimmer can participate in a maximum of four events and a maximum of two individual events. As a result of this, Novi can't put every swimmer they want into every event.

"We may struggle putting together good relay teams at the meet," Teahan said. However, Novi still has hopes of qualifying all three relays for their talent to the class of 2001, the team looks to use hard work to produce a successful season. Their first dual meet is against South Lyon today at 7:00 p.m.

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WLW volleyball going to give it their best

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It will all come down to progress and growth.

The Walled Lake Western Warriors girls volleyball team will depend on the experience and the skills the juniors on the squad learn over the next couple of weeks.

"I think the big question is the juniors," 11 year helmsman Fritz Tallian said.

"As they progress and develop, so will the team."

But Tallian isn't saying his team is weak or that they will have trouble competing in the Western Lakes Activities Association or in their Lakes Division.

"We are hoping to challenge for the [Lakes] division. It is early and tough to tell right now."

Fritz Tallian
Western volleyball coach

"I think if the juniors develop, we will be all right," he said.

"We are hoping to challenge for the [Lakes] division. It is early and tough to tell right now. I am

always optimistic at the start of the season."

The Warriors bring four seniors to the floor in Danielle Bonjerno, Courtney Dye, Ashley Patterson and Megan Sorenson and will rely on some senior experience throughout the season.

"I think the leadership of Bonjerno and Sorenson is invaluable," Tallian said.

"We are going to rely heavily on their experience this season. They are also the co-captains of the team this year."

Looking up to the seniors will be juniors Teri Burt, Nicole Hequist, Shannon Osso, Stacey Pisha, Jackie Poliak, Rachel Rzeznik, Lauren Sharp, Becky Whittle and Lesley York.

"I think the middle of the court is going to be a big concern in the beginning," Tallian said of the middle which is made mostly of juniors.

"Our serve is one of our strengths, but it will all come down to the development of our juniors. Their ability to control the blocking and quick hits is going to be key."

Tallian said the teams to watch out for in the Western Lakes Activities Association are perennial volleyball powerhouses.

"Obviously Walled Lake Central is going to be extremely tough," Tallian said of the Warriors' city rivals.

"Salem is going to be tough, they always are. Churchill looks to

be a really, really tough team. They might even challenge for the state. Once we play Churchill, we will be able to tell where we stand after that."

The Warriors will have opened their season Monday when they traveled to Milford to face the Redskins in a non-conference opener.

The squad will be on the road until Jan. 7 when they host Farmington in a Western Lakes Activities Association contest.

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.

WLW VOLLEYBALL

December		
12/17	Churchill	A 5:30
12/27	U-M invite	A 9 a.m.
12/28	U-M invite	A 9 a.m.
January		
1/5	WLC Invite	A 9 a.m.
1/7	Farmington	H 5:30
1/9	Canton	H 5:30
1/12	Northville Inv	A 9 a.m.
1/14	WL Central	A 5:30
1/19	WLC Invite	A 9 a.m.
1/23	Stevenson	H 5:30
1/26	Ferndale Invite	A TBA
1/28	N. Farmington	A 5:30
1/30	Harrison	H 5:30

The remainder of the schedule will be printed at a later date.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Walled Lake Western couldn't seem to get the ball rolling in the direction they wanted to in their season openers. The Warriors fell to Novi and to the University of Detroit Jesuit.

Warriors drop openers

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It wasn't the way the Warriors had hoped to start the season.

In fact, it wasn't the way most people had figured the Warriors would start the season. The Walled Lake Western Warriors, coached by Rex Stanczak, fell to University of Detroit Jesuit 74-56 after falling to Novi 67-49 just three days prior.

"To be perfectly blunt here, we had an absolutely awful week of basketball," Stanczak said. "We are not even close to being where this basketball team should be."

The Warriors came out limp against the strong U of D team, falling behind 27-10 in the first quarter and a half of the contest. The Walled Lake squad fought back in the second half, staying even with the eventual winners but could not come back from the early hole they fell into.

"They buried us," Stanczak said.

"To be perfectly blunt here, we had an absolutely awful week of basketball. We are not even close to being where this basketball team should be."

Rex Stanczak
Western cage coach

"They jumped us right from the start. We cut the lead to 11, but they are too good of a team to get that far down against."

The Warriors, who were led by Bryan Verdun with 15 points on the

night with Trevor Monsett adding 11, were having trouble containing Division I college football prospect Joe Wood — but that was not their only problem.

"We shot the ball extremely bad," Stanczak said. "We shot under 35-percent in this game. When you are a parameter team, some of your success is based on your ability to shoot the ball. When you are not shooting well it is difficult to win."

The Warriors (0-2) will have returned to action when they faced Inster Tuesday after the Lake Area Times went to print and will be resting for a week before playing Ann Arbor Huron.

Novi 67, WLW 49

The Warriors found their hands full in the first game of the season when they visited the Wildcats of Novi.

The Warriors, who were led in scoring by David Zelin with 11 points with Steve Sobieck matching

him shot for shot and gathering 11 points as well, could not contain the outside shooting of the Wildcat guards.

"They shot very well," Stanczak said. "We made poor shot selections and they picked their shots very well. We were shooting constantly in the first half, but could not pull away from them because they were hitting so many of their threes."

The Warriors seemed to just fall to a team that was playing better on a given night.

"Novi played extremely well that first night," Stanczak said. "Pat (Schluter) has a very good team this year. They have a big kid who can play and guards who can shoot."

Preparation seemed to have something to do with it as well.

"Pat did a masterful job preparing for us," Stanczak said. "They took all the things they wanted to away from us. They need to get as much credit for playing well as we deserve to get the other way."

Gymnastics wins first season meets

Injury sidelines top athlete Geena Borg

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Now that's the way to start a season.

The Walled Lake gymnastics team notched two victories to open their season as they topped the Waterford-Clarkston team 134.5-129.75 Dec. 6 after edging Livonia 135.65-132.80 Dec. 3.

"We are pretty deep all around," assistant coach Mary Lynn Tobel said of the squad. "We did very well to start the season. We also realize that every meet is going to be a battle, especially with teams like Novi-Northville and Brighton."

The Walled Lake crew topped Waterford-Clarkston as Amy Gursky collected 8.55 on the Vault to take first, followed by Sarah Chrzanowski with 8.4 and Lindsay Brown with 8.35 for a sweep of the event. Bars found Stefanie Schmalz collecting an impressive 8.6 for the top spot while Brown took second with 8.25. Third-place was a tie with Chrzanowski and Katherine Mazzeo — of Waterford — each notching 8.15.

The Walled Lake squad wasn't finished scoring though, following Gursky to another first-place, this time on the beam, as she collected an 8.9 while Brown notched an 8.4 and Kim Stevenson collected an 8.2. Floor found Brown taking a first with 9.05 while Stevenson hit 9-even with Waterford-Clarkston's Amy Kinney getting an 8.75 for third-place.

Winning isn't without a price to pay at times — stellar gymnast Genna Borg suffered an knee injury in the Walled Lake meet against Livonia and is questionable for future competition.

"We are hoping to keep going strong," Tobel said. "The girls are really doing well and showing some strong routines right now."

Winning doesn't come without a price though. Walled Lake's win over Livonia Dec. 3 left the team with a big gap.

Junior gymnast Genna Borg, who collected two second-place finishes (in the vault and in the bars) and two firsts (in the beam and on the floor) in the Livonia meet, will be undergoing an MRI to see what extent of damage was done to her knee during the meet.

"She was second in the states on the beam last year," Tobel said. "She is one of our top scorers and an all around player. Thursday (Dec. 6) she was still on crutches, but we have our fingers crossed for her."

Redskins 10 better than Vikings in first b-ball contest

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Some starts to a season are rough.

Walled Lake Central Vikings boys' basketball coach Bob Shoemaker is the first to admit that — especially after his squad fell to the Milford Redskins in their season opener 58-49.

"It is an opening day loss," Shoemaker said. "We only have three players back from last year's team. We are not performing real well because we have not been together very long. Not only are we inexperienced, we are young too."

And though that may sound like it is a bad thing, it is also a very good thing according to Shoemaker.

"Thirty-eight of our 49 points were scored by players who will be back next year," Shoemaker said. "The good news is they are young, the bad news is — they are young."

The Vikings headed into the fourth quarter down by just two points, but they could not hang on to collect the victory.

"I made a lot of critical mistakes," Shoemaker admitted.

"Subbing kids, changing the defense, they were not ready for that. I am the experienced guy and I should have known better."

There was an upside to the contest though.

"We had four kids score into double digits," Shoemaker said. "They scored all of our points."

Brandon Cassise, a sophomore with the Vikings, collected an impressive 15 points on the night while junior Jeff Malheney poured in 12 points. Sophomore Lemmie Plummer added 11 points in the contest while Maxx Morris notched 11 in the losing effort.

The Redskins were led by junior Jim Presley who seven-for-seven from the field for 15 points and added seven boards. Jeff LaClair and Matt Marinucci both scored 10. Kyle Plummer scored eight and Jason Brown had nine rebounds.

The Vikings will have another tough non-conference contest when they host the South Lyon Lions — who returned a slew of players from last season's lineup — Saturday at 7 p.m.

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.