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Novi, Michigan

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INSIDE



100 day celebration

On Jan. 30, the first-grade students at Orchard Hills Elementary in Novi celebrated the 100th day of learning for the 2001-2002 school year in grand style.
— Page 3A

MARKETPLACE



Elite Fitness

The minute you walk in you know it's different. Club Elite Fitness For Women is unlike any other health club you've seen. For more, please look inside.
— Page 15A

SPORTS



Swimmers riding a wave

The Wildcats, led by coach Larry Teahan, took and eighth place finish in the Oakland County Invitational swim meet with 72 points Feb. 2
— Page 1B

W. L. SPORTS

Western ica chips

The Walled Lake Central Hockey team falls to Livonia Franklin 4-2, but coach Jim Hogan says the team is steadily improving — Page 4B

INDEX

Business	1D
Classifieds	3D
Editorials	13A
Library Lines	7A
Letters	13A
Novi Briefs	4A
Obituaries	10A
State Briefs	11A
Sports	1B

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City set to sell Mitchell property

Sandstone to purchase property as part of settlement agreement

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

With the settlement agreement on its way to the finish line, it looks as though the last piece of controversial property in North Novi Park will be sold to Sandstone Associates without further trouble to the city.

Despite initial arguments by members of the Friends of Novi Parks that selling the property may result in a potential lawsuit, 40 acres of park land once owned by Paul and Marianna Mitchell will more than likely go quietly away.

Arguments regarding the potential sale of

the Mitchell property to Sandstone were quashed by Oakland County Circuit Court Judge John J. McDonald's Dec. 11 ruling following court proceedings between the City of Novi, Friends of Novi Parks and Sandstone.

McDonald ruled despite arguments otherwise, there is no prohibition upon the transfer of the Mitchell property even though it had been purchased under the power of eminent domain by the city.

The judge ruled since the property was purchased in good faith to create a park, the transfer will be lawful.

Lynda Racey, attorney and member of

Friends of Novi Parks, stated a lawsuit seeking additional compensation by the Mitchells could be another potential lawsuit for the city.

Racey drew attention to the 1994 condemnation of private property for the development of parks for public recreation document signed in Oakland County Circuit Court by the Mitchells, city officials and McDonald.

The document, which sealed the deal for the city to take the property, states at the bottom the payment taken by the Mitchells from the city shall be without prejudice to the right of the land owners

to seek additional just compensation.

In December, Racey called the language of the 1994 document clear and open-ended a position she now backs away from.

"We brought it to the city's attention so I am now assuming they looked into it," Racey said as to why she now believes there may not be a viable lawsuit.

Paul Mitchell said he's asked legal council about seeking additional compensation since the land may now potentially be used for residential development, but did not find an attorney who felt he had a case.

Continued on page 4

Schools plan for MEAP testing

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

From Jan. 21 through Feb. 8, the Novi Schools' fourth, fifth, seventh and eighth-grade students sized up their knowledge of math and science, as well as put their reading and writing skills to the rigors of the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests.

Over the past years, MEAP testing has been a common measure of accountability for Michigan schools and a leading indicator for strengths and weaknesses of a district's curriculum when compared to standards established by the state of Michigan.

However, the Novi Community School District is choosing to emphasize personal growth and development for its children, too, when assessing its MEAP scores, instead of strictly comparing student and district results against each other.

"We want to use it as a broader indication of what the kids can do," said Novi Schools' curriculum and testing coordinator Jane Hesse. "We want to look at the children over a cross-section of time."

Meaning, the district uses MEAP results to monitor an individual's growth from fifth grade to eighth grade and then onto high school, and attempt to meet the students' needs as they progress through the district.

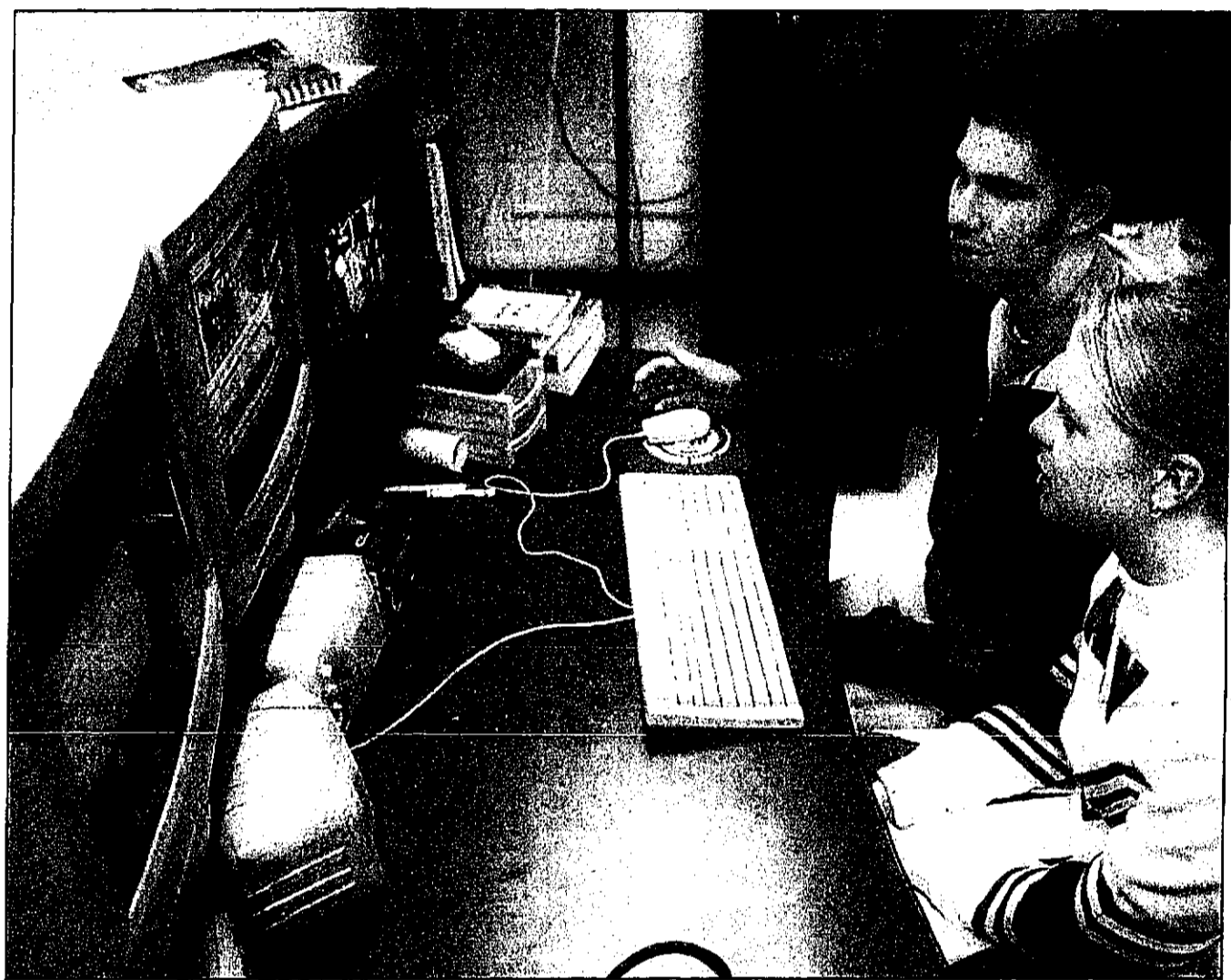
"We want to be aware of the challenges to our students as they move through the school system," Hesse said.

Thus, the students' MEAP scores are evaluated from year-to-year instead of comparing, say, this year's fifth grade class to the previous one.

"We want to compare the same kids to the same kids," said Novi Schools' assistant superintendent Rita Traynor. "It takes time to analyze it on an individual basis, but you give teachers information back on what the kids know."

At the end of the year, teachers can then look at the data for the incoming students and assess their strengths and shortcomings.

"It creates conversations between teachers and they plan accordingly," Hesse said.



Photos by JOHN HEIDER

Andy Capanyola and Erin Reid were part of a Novi High School team that was recognized for its TV production skills by the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. Other members were Geoff Paquette, Sarah Wilson and Jordan Moblo.

Open mic: Students capture awards

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

A handful of Novi High School students will be honored this month in Lansing for their broadcasting excellence.

The Michigan Association of Broadcasters (MAB) will recognize two Novi radio and television projects at the Great Lakes Broadcasting Conference on Feb. 18-20.

The students competed in the MAB High School and College Broadcast Awards Competition, which saw 253 entries from 14 high schools and six colleges.

Novi High School seniors Andy Capanyola, Jordan Moblo, Geoff Paquette, Erin Reid and Sarah Wilson produced a short television feature, "Senior Goodbye," which won first place as a large group television entry.

"It was our first project, so we weren't expecting much out of it, but it turned out good," Moblo said.

The four-and-a-half minute feature, which was made last April, captured the last days of school for the Novi High School class of 2001 in a montage of interviews, short video clips and music.



Novi High School junior Kelly McMann nabbed a third place award.

"It has a strong narrative quality. The emotion in it is genuine without being forced," said Novi High School broadcasting teacher and WOVI 89.5 FM station manager David

Legg. "It struck a nice balance between emotion and telling a story."

"Senior Goodbye" focused on what the out-going senior class will miss most about Novi High School, as well as what the underclassmen will miss about the departing students.

"It was fun to make. I couldn't wait to work on it each day," Reid said.

Furthermore, junior Kelly McMann won an honorable mention third-place finish in the radio air-check category for a recording of her music request show on the student-run WOVI 89.5 FM radio station.

"Kelly's strong point is her on-air personality that bubbles through and makes for a strong show," Legg said.

The honorable mention finish recognizes McMann's on-air delivery, creativity and show elements.

All MAB entries were judged by professional broadcasters throughout Michigan.

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

Curry announces candidacy for state representative

By Anna Troppens
STAFF WRITER

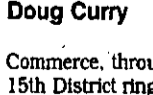
Lyon Township resident Doug Curry will throw his name into the hat as a Republican candidate for the 38th District state representative seat.

The district includes South Lyon and Lyon Township, as well as Wixom, Walled Lake, Novi and Northville south of Eight Mile Road.

Boundaries for the 38th District were redrawn last year by the Legislature after U.S. Census Bureau results were released.

Because of the population increase, the physical size of the district decreased.

The 38th District is an open contest as term-limited Rep. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) will run for the 15th District Senate seat against Rep. Mike Kowall (R-White Lake). And last week Sean Carlson, D-Commerce, through his hat into the 15th District ring.



Doug Curry

"Running for state office has always been something I have had a desire to do," Curry said.

He decided to run for office because of "an overriding desire to serve" and a love for his state.

"I believe deeply in the concept of citizen involvement in the affairs of our community and hold a life-long love and pride in the state in which I live," he said. "My parents, long ago, taught me the importance of involvement in the world around me and encouraged me to engage in activities that could be of service to others. The idea of helping to make a positive difference has

always been a driving force for me."

Curry wants to make Michigan an "even better place to live and grow," he said. If elected as state representative of the 38th District, he would bring with him experience centered in community and professional involvement.

"Throughout my life, whether it has been with my family, church, profession or community, I have strived to make my commitment to involvement and service to others a reality," he said.

In addition, he said he would address and represent the needs and desires of the local communi-

ty, as well as bring a strong interest and level of concern for the statewide issues of natural and human resources, health and education.

State officials should help provide workforce training, educational opportunities and job security — all of which impact an individual's ability to be successful, Curry said.

One of Curry's focuses in his current position as executive director of the Michigan Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance is promoting

Continued on page 4

Parkview Elementary celebrates Olympics

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

Parkview Elementary in Novi is selecting its hallways with a mighty collection student-made world flags.

The school's fourth-graders, under the guidance of Parkview Elementary art teacher Leslie Starter and parent volunteers, are making over 50 national flags, with each one representing a country and nationality of a student in the school's cultural-rich population.

The project is part of the school-wide Olympic celebration. "One school, one world, Parkview celebrates the Olympics," which recognizes the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"It's up to the fourth-graders to make the flags as a salute to the Olympics," Starter said.

The project began on Jan. 23, with the kids lining up the creative challenges that accompany making a piece of national heritage that spans over three feet in colored felt.

"Making flags is a lot of fun," said Parkview Elementary fourth-grader Mary Reid, who is in charge of creating her school's United Kingdom flag. "It's going to be messy dealing with a lot of glue and felt."

The students are taking up the Olympic challenge in teams of two.

"It's fun learning about all the different countries," said Parkview Elementary fourth-grader Curtis Berenguer, who is tackling the classic white and red Polish flag.

Furthermore, parent volunteers are joining the students in the Olympic celebration and lending a helpful hand to the creative efforts.

"Parents have been an important part of this project by sewing the flag banners and taping intricate flag elements to the felt," said Parkview Elementary PTO member Cindy Buckley.

The flags will be displayed in the school hallways through the week of Feb. 18.

Olympic skaters visit Parkview students

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

Next month, Novi students will get the opportunity to hear first-hand insights into some true Olympic competitors.

Ice skaters Elizabeth Punsalan and Jerod Swallow will be visiting Parkview Elementary on Feb. 22, where they will talk to students about their experiences as U.S. Olympic competitors.

The event is being sponsored by the Parkview Elementary PTO as part of the school-wide celebration, "One School, One World, Parkview Celebrates the Olympics," which aims to foster student recognition and interest for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"Punsalan and Swallow will be talking about their Olympic experi-

"We appreciate that Elizabeth and Jerod are professional athletes, and that they are willing to consider to talk to our children is a real honor."

Cindy Buckley
Parkview Elementary PTO member

ence, good sportsmanship and the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle," said Parkview Elementary PTO member Cindy Buckley.

Punsalan and Swallow, who perform as a figure skating pair, finished 14th and seventh at the 1994 and 1998 Winter Olympics, respectively.

"We've also asked them to talk

and Jerod are professional athletes, and that they are willing to consider to talk to our children is a real honor," Buckley said.

The skating duo, who married in Sept. of 1993, currently reside in Bloomfield Hills where they train under acclaimed coaches Igor Shpilband and Elizabeth Coates. Their training emphasizes a blend of on-and-off ice activities, including ballet, weights and ballroom dance.

Punsalan and Swallow are also five-time U.S. National Dance Champions and plan to participate in the Winter and Spring 2002 Champions and Ice Tour.

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

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Hunter Robinson, 13, right, tries to nail Brady Babala, 14, with a snowball last Thursday morning as they enjoy a day off of school after the snowstorm. The epic battle took place along Novi's Sullivan Street.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Community Health

PROGRAMS

- Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital offers free seminars:
- Alzheimer's Association Community Caregiver workshop - Feb. 20 at 1 p.m.
- Joint Replacement seminar - Feb. 26 at 7 p.m.
- Golf Fitness seminar - Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.
- For information or to register call (888) DMC-2500.
- Milford Park Place announces the Medillage Group, Inc. has made available to local clubs and organizations a representative to discuss topics that include assisted living, long-term care, services available, reimbursement under Medicare. For information call Milford Park Place at (248) 685-1460.

SUPPORT GROUPS

- Alzheimer's Family Support Group meets at 7 p.m. on Feb. 27 at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association and HV Hospital provide information and coping strategies for interested family members.
- Arthritis Club meets at 6 p.m. on Feb. 21 at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital. Offers educational, social and recreational activities for those dealing with arthritis. Call 937-3314.
- Breast Cancer Support Group is for women who are at high risk for developing or who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. The

group meets the First and Third Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Providence Medical Center in Novi. For information call (248) 424-2769.

- Cancer Support Group (Moving On) is held at 7 p.m. on Feb. 25 at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital in conjunction with Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. This group for cancer patients and/or survivors and their support persons provides information and an open forum to improve coping skills and quality of life. For information call (888) 362-2500.
- Divorce Support Group meets on Feb. 20 at the Women's Resource Center, 207 E. Grand River in Howell. Join counselor Peg Marsh for information and advice along with the support of others in the same position as you. For information call (517) 548-3525.

VOLUNTEERS

North Oakland Medical Centers (NOMC) is looking for volunteers and interns to help plan special events and perform daily tasks. Volunteers should be of high school age or older, spend two afternoons per week at the Foundation office, located on the main campus of NOMC. For information call (248) 857-7098.

- Parent-Child Home Program - sponsored by Catholic social Services of Oakland county is looking for caring volunteers to assist with the parent-child home program. The program services children for ages 17 months to 5 years of age and their parents. For information call (248) 334-3595.

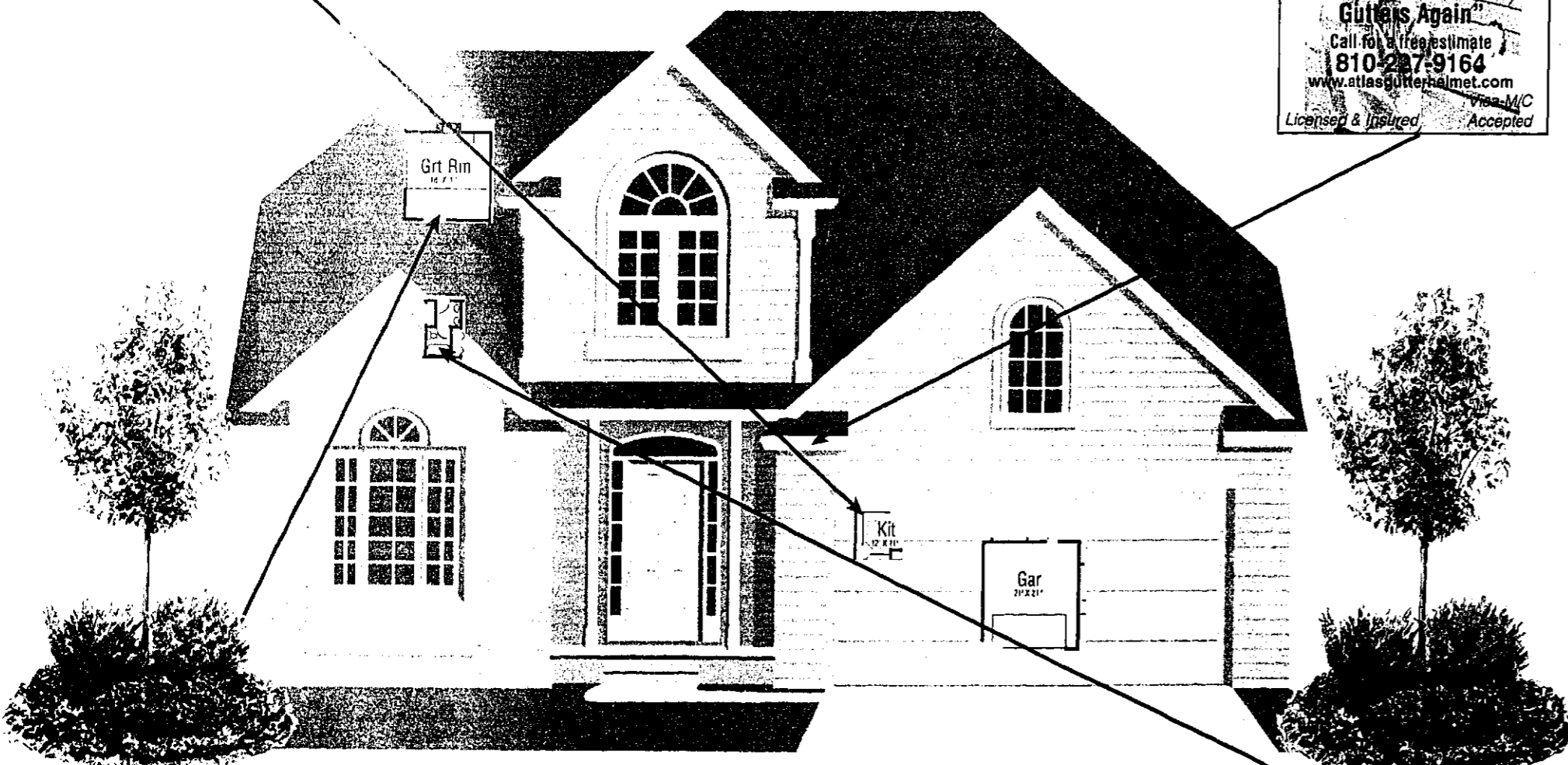
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REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 15A

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Unlike any club you've ever seen

No Experience Necessary

AN ELITE CLUB

Club Elite Fitness For Women is located at 22018 Novi Road between 8 and 9 mile Road in the Oak Pointe Plaza in Novi. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Call (248) 305-8707 to schedule a consultation.

By Annette Jaworski
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The minute you walk in you know it's different. Club Elite Fitness For Women is unlike any other health club you've seen. Walking through the front door is more like the lobby of a first rate hotel rather than a gym with it's elegant décor. Everything from the furnishings to the restrooms are subtle and refined.

Women are surprised when they walk in. One of the first things they comment on is how welcome they feel," said Kristie Owens, co-owner of Club Elite in Novi.

And the second surprise is their all female clientele. But make no mistake about it, the members of this lady's only gym are serious about their results.

And when it comes to fitness, most of us want results fast, said Owens. She says the concept of Club Elite's program is circuit weight training. Although members come in for fitness results, they can have fun and meet new friends, too. And it's all within a program that they can fit into their busy schedules. Just three times a week is enough for the members to truly see results.

"What makes it appealing to them is that for around thirty minutes you get a total body workout," said Owens.

The program combines cardio training and weight bearing exercise with a new twist. Club Elite uses rebounders, looking like small trampolines, which seem to bring out the kid in everyone. Even the skeptics find these are a lot of fun.

"The first time I tell them to try rebounding, their expression changes from uncertainty to delight," said Kristie Owens.

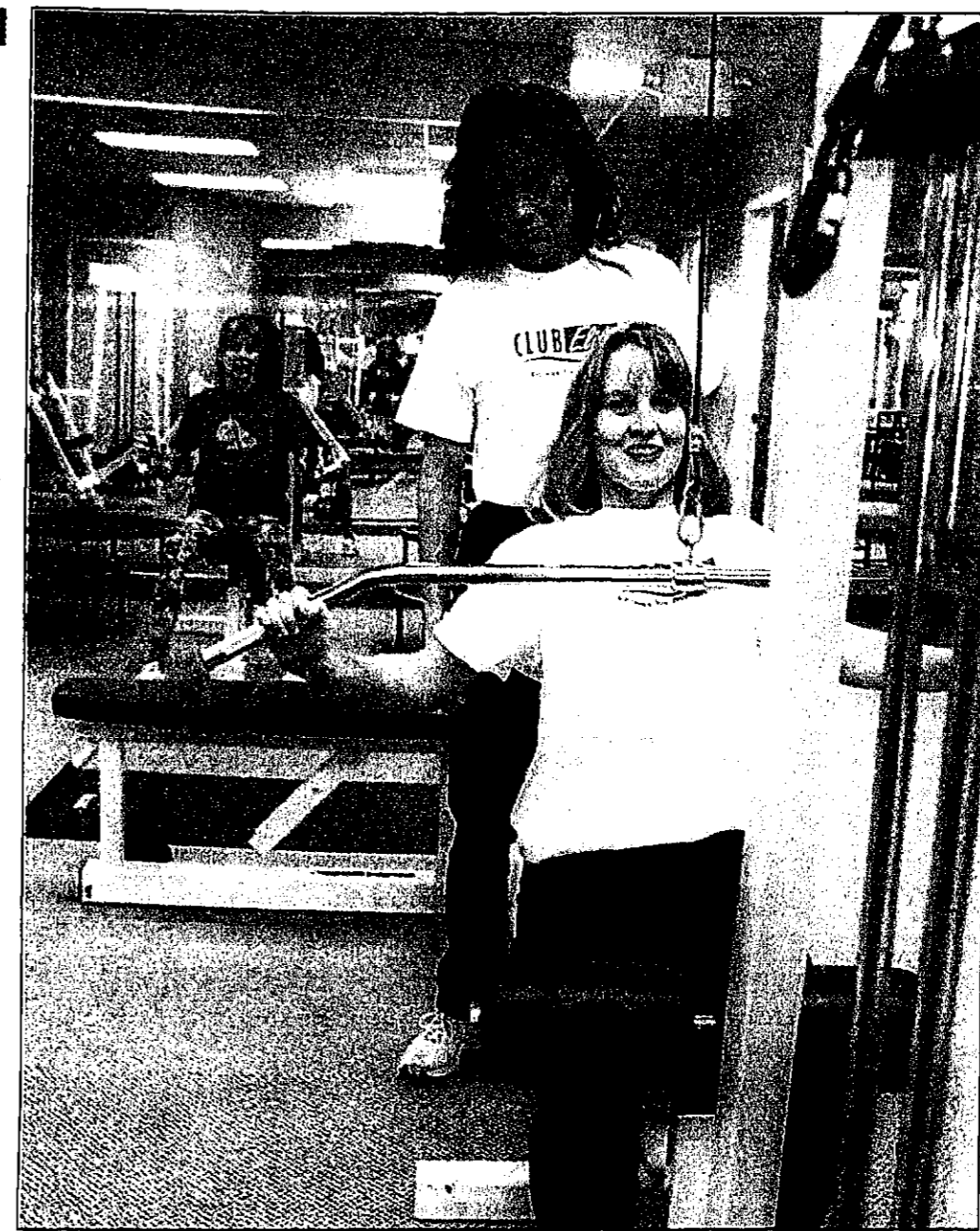
Club Elite's simplified program takes the guesswork out of exercise. In addition to the circuit machines and rebounders, there are free weights, and other exercise equipment available for individual use. Clients can always receive guidance and advice from the staff.

Co-owner Wendy Corriveau agrees that everyone wants to be in shape, but they come to the club for different reasons. It may be for toning, weight loss, health reasons or increased energy.

"We offer one on one consultation to new members," said Corriveau. "It's important to us to understand the main reason a client comes to Club Elite."

At the client is measured and weighed so they can actually see the results.

"Once you feel good and look good, your whole outlook changes."



Photos by JOHN HEIDER

Wendy Corriveau works her deltoids at Novi's Club Elite - with the supervision of Chrissie Owens.

Corriveau added.

Some of the big gyms with lots of equipment can be intimidating, confusing and intimidating if you're not sure how to use it, they believe. And having an all women's gym encourages members to be more comfortable and relaxed. Long term contracts are not required at Club Elite, members can choose from month to month or one year memberships.

The age of their members is just as varied as their goals. They see women ranging in age from teenagers with their moms to 70-year-old grandmothers. But whatever their goals, Corriveau and Owens want to make sure they help members to achieve them.

Tanning is available and can be added to a membership for a minimal fee. Shower and changing facilities are available to members as well. They're now offering their own private label vitamins. Club Elite membership is limited to ensure the best workout experience. Future plans are underway to franchise to other locations in Michigan and eventually throughout the country.



Wendy Corriveau, left, and Chrissie Owens in the lobby area of their Club Elite Novi workout facility.

Business in brief

New board elected

The Northville Central Business Association elected its new board at the January meeting held on Jan. 22. Officers elected include president Julie Fraser, vice-president Ed Fleming (Northville Record), treasurer Chris VanDam (VanDam's Women's Clothing) and secretary Ken Slop (Main Street Family Chiropractic Center).

The NCBA, with its membership primarily composed of downtown Northville business owners, is the group which coordinates several special events in the downtown area, including Northville's Hopping, the Bargain Bazaar, Santa Parade and the Candlelight Walk. All positions on the board are voluntary.

The NCBA does employ one paid position - the event coordinator, which is an unoccupied position at present. Candidates interested in the position should send resumes to Julie Fraser,

501 W. Dunlap, Northville, Mich. 48167.

Arends joins UM

Physician Eye Care Associates, the ophthalmology practice of Robert C. Arends, M.D., has joined the University of Michigan W.K. Kellogg Eye Center, as of February 1, 2002. The affiliation gives Dr. Arends and his patients access to a wide array of medical and surgical services, ranging from laser eye surgery to a host of vision sub-specialties.

Dr. Arends' practice, which he established in Milford in 1979, is located in a historic designated building at 320 West Commerce Street. The staff will remain much the same, with Theresa Hunt continuing in her role as health center manager. Dr. Arends' practice takes the new name of the U-M Kellogg Eye Center-Milford.

For more information, about the U-M Kellogg Eye Center-Milford, Call 248-664-7337 or visit www.kellogg.umich.edu.

Susan Daratony is a personal mortgage consultant for Homestead USA Mortgage. Her toll-free number is 1-800-312-5467.

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Financial troubles for Blue Cross described as a 'looming crisis'

By Mike Malott
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE

The financial troubles confronting Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan are nothing less than a "looming health care crisis."

So says Barry Cargill, of the Small Business Association of Michigan. Without reform, he contends, Blue Cross' problems could — for small businesses with fewer than 50 employees — spell the end of employer sponsored health care coverage in Michigan.

Michigan's Financial and Insurance Services Commissioner Frank Fitzgerald agrees.

"The Small Business Association is not being alarmist when it says we are facing a crisis," Fitzgerald said. And he's said it before.

"If we ignore these symptoms today, we are creating the distinct possibility that BCBSM as we depend on it will not exist at decade's end," he stated last September. The problem is "a threat to affordable and accessible health care coverage in Michigan."

State Rep. Paul DeWeese (R-Williamston), who is also a doctor, said the crisis is already developing. Premium increases of 25 percent annually for the last four years have forced many small business owners to find alternative ways to pay for insurance for their workers. Some have asked employ-

ees to cover much of the cost increases themselves. Others now just give employees a stipend to purchase health insurance on their own. Still others have dropped insurance altogether.

Considering that half of Michigan's residents get their insurance through Blue Cross, this is a "pocketbook" issue for most of the state.

Nonetheless, it is an issue few have recognized because the audit that identified the problem — \$400 million in losses by Blue Cross over the past five years — was released in September and was quickly overshadowed by events in New York and Washington.

So it counted as a surprise, for legislators as well as the public, when Gov. John Engler highlighted the problem in his recent State of the State address.

Legislation to implement Engler's calls for reform is being drafted now, Fitzgerald explained, and he expects a three-bill package will be ready for introduction in the next two to three weeks.

Among Engler's proposals were:
• Increase the insurance commissioner's ability to regulate the operation of Blue Cross. Fitzgerald said it "should be on par" with the commissioner's ability to regulate any other insurance company in Michigan.
• Restructuring the Blue Cross

board of directors. Fitzgerald anticipates cutting it from the current membership of 35 to "somewhere in the teens." He'd like to see the membership, now selected from a number of special interests, changed to increase public representation.

• Engler also proposed creation of a trust fund intended to protect residents should Blue Cross privatize. More than 20 other states have turned their programs over to for-profit businesses, and while Fitzgerald insisted Engler is not advocating that, it might still occur.

Blue Cross of Michigan is the largest remaining state sponsored, not-for-profit health plan in the country, Fitzgerald explained. It was set up by the state legislature back in the '30s to serve as the "insurer of last resort."

Its status as a private, non-profit insurer lies at the heart of the issue. By state law, Blue Cross must charge all its customers a single "community rate." It is not allowed to adjust rates up for people who are older or less healthy, as private insurance firms can. Nor can it turn customers away.

According to Cargill, private insurance companies have been able to beat Blue Cross' prices by "cherry picking" employers with younger, healthier, less risky groups of employees. That leaves Blue Cross with the older, less

healthy, costlier groups of employees to insure.

Cargill therefore believes reform will have to include rate reform throughout the industry. He advocates a plan called "rate banding," which allows insurers, Blue Cross as well as private companies, to adjust premiums according to risk, but also requires all insurers to take a certain percentage of good and bad risks. That would end the "cherry picking," he contended.

Fitzgerald isn't convinced. When you have a "behemoth that dominates the market as Blue Cross does," it isn't reasonable to believe that a few private companies could have much of an impact. "At best, they are just nipping at your heels," he said.

Fitzgerald instead believes the reforms have to be internal to Blue Cross. They would include allowing Blue Cross to adjust rates for risk.

DeWeese agrees with the internal approach. But if higher risk customers can be charged more for premiums, it raises a question of whether Blue Cross can fulfill its role as "insurer of last resort."

"That is something we are going to have to talk about," both DeWeese and Fitzgerald said.

The goal is to reform Blue Cross without having to cut back on benefits, that is what conditions and treatments the insurance plan will cover, Fitzgerald said.

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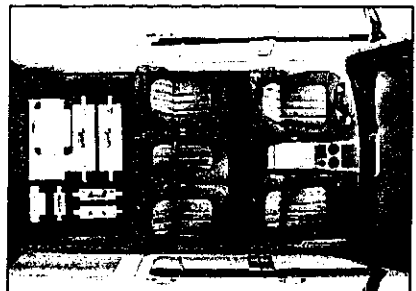
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Cagers keep on winning

By Brian Doyle
 SPECIAL WRITER

The Novi Wildcats refused to let Hamtramck close to them when they beat them 64-39 last Tuesday. The Wildcats jumped out to a big lead and never looked back.

Novi took a 41-18 lead at half-time and were able to do some things in the game that they wanted to.

"Our goal was to get everyone in," Novi coach Pat Schluter said. Novi was able to get all 12 players a lot of playing time.

Even though Novi scored over 60 points, junior Shaun Dicken was the only Novi player in double digits with 15 points. Brandon Davis, senior, scored nine for the Wildcats. The team was able to rotate the ball well and did not have to go their leading scorer, Jaime Schram as much as usual.

"He probably only played half the game," Schluter said.

Schluter pointed out the strong

play of juniors Eric VanTassel and Evan Rodriguez. VanTassel scored five points for Novi. Despite the score Novi's play did have some downsides.

"We actually didn't shoot well," Schluter said. Hamtramck used a zone and tried to take Schram out of the game. According to Schluter Novi missed a lot of wide open shots that they usually would have hit.

Hamtramck also did a couple of things well.

"They did a good job helping on (Schram)," Schluter said.

Hamtramck performed better in the second half when they scored the same 21 points that Novi did.

Novi was also supposed to play on Friday but the game against Howell was cancelled because Howell did not have school. The teams will have made up the game Wednesday (after the Novi News went to print). Novi will play conference rival Lakeland

Continued on 2

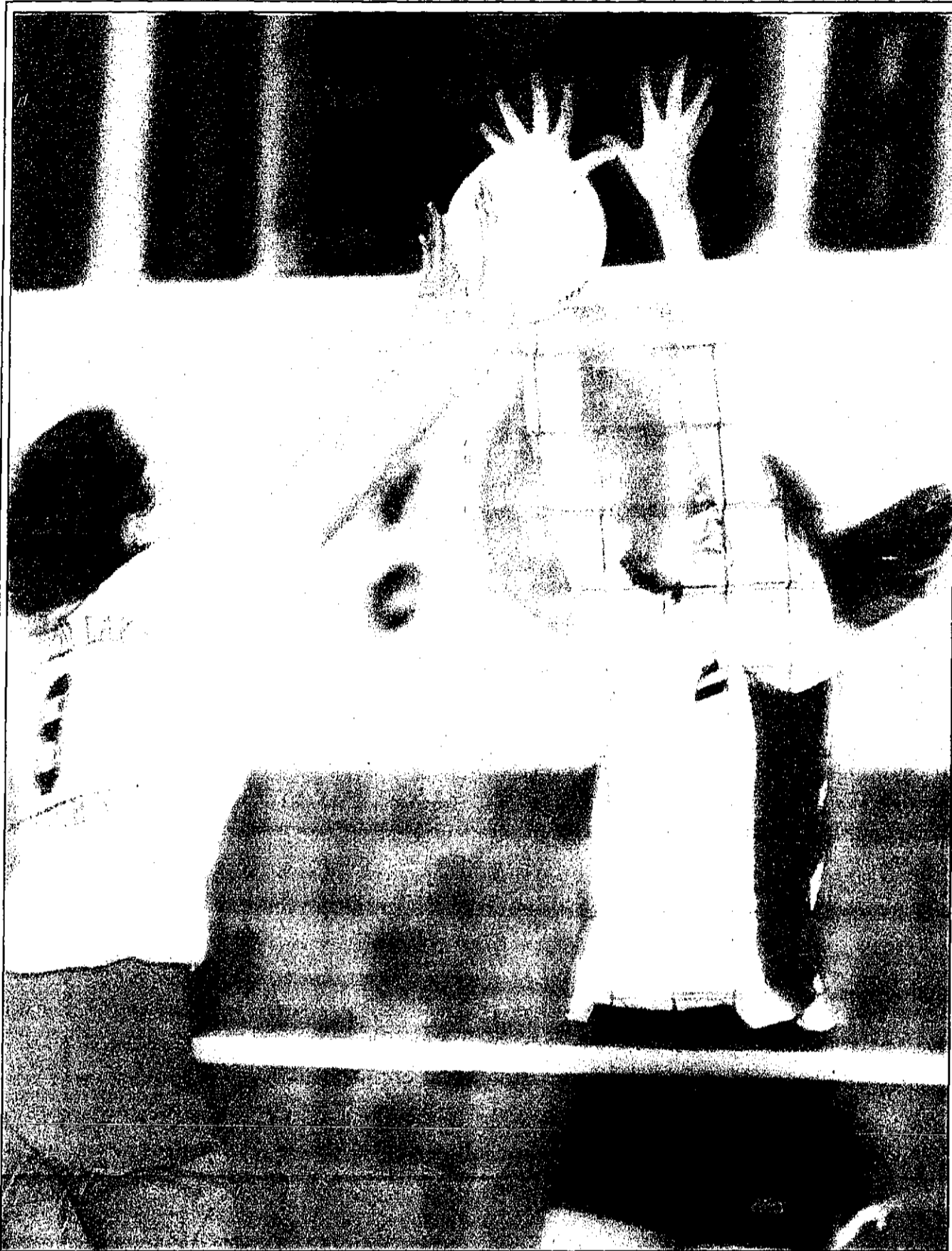


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

The Novi Wildcats girls volleyball team seems to be on quite a roll this season with the help of determination, dedication and athletic ability. They are currently undefeated in the Kensington Valley Conference.

Gymnastics meet may be good one

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

The Northville-Novi Wild 'Stangs gymnastics team will be looking to notch yet another win Feb. 14 when they visit Salem in a conference contest at 7 p.m.

Though the meet will be taking place on St. Valentine's Day, I am not predicting the Wild 'Stangs are going to let the Salem squad slip away with a victory just out of the kindness of their hearts.

The Wild 'Stangs, a team consisting of players from both Novi and Northville, are coached by Lindsay Schultz and are looking to continue their improved style of competition when they take the short road-trip to Plymouth for this match up.

The team consists of players like Lindsey Carlson, Andrea Ledbetter, Jennifer Sturges, Sara Wilchowski and Jenn Mehl as well as top-notch gymnasts Tricia Brownfield, Amanda Crawford, Marlee Fink, Nika Frimenko, Jessica Glancy, Cathi Miller, Maggie Mills.

Continued on 2

GAME OF THE WEEK



Wild 'Stangs
 Gymnastics
 vs Salem

Thursday, February 14
 7:00 p.m. at Salem

Center of attention Schram is top 'Cat on court

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

If one were watching Novi senior Jamie Schram down low on the hardwood, few would be able to correctly characterize him off the floor. While on the court he may pound his way to the hoop with his fiery red hair, off the court Schram is as laid back as they come.

Schram is the center and a co-captain of the Novi basketball team. Although some small schools have

expressed interest in him playing basketball for them, Schram's current top choice is Michigan State University.

"I'm strongly looking towards MSU," Schram said.

Schram has a line of Spartan affiliation. His older brother Ryan, with whom Schram said he is really close with, is attending MSU. Even his mini-schnauzer dog is named Sparty.

Schram's family has been very

Continued on 2

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

The murmur in the crowd seems to be saying that this is the best season of Novi Wildcat volleyball yet.

The Novi Wildcat volleyball team, headed by coach Julie Fissette, made another notch in that argument with a big win over the Brighton Bulldogs 7-15, 15-11, 15-4 Jan. 28 before entering the Schoolcraft College Invitational and notching both wins and losses Feb. 2.

"It was a big thing for this team to beat Brighton," Fissette said. "Novi hasn't beaten Brighton in years, 10 years to be exact."

When asked who really stepped up for the Wildcats, Fissette

echoed the thoughts of the football world champion New England Patriots.

"They played as a team," she said. "It was a big team win for us. They went in knowing they would have to play as a team and they came out with the win because they did."

With the win, the Wildcats and the Milford Redskins are the only two teams left standing without losses in the Kensington Valley Conference.

"I think we really pulled together," Fissette said. "We worked towards a common goal and knocked off a big team. These girls believe in themselves. They have played very good volleyball all season long and we are just chugging ahead, one game at a time."

And though the Wildcats try not to look too far into the future, isn't the thought of a KVC title tempting?

"Looking ahead, there is a possibility that we could take the KVC this year," Fissette said. "We are very excited."

The Wildcats will return to action when they host the Hartland Eagles today at 6 p.m. in a Kensington Valley Conference game.

Schoolcraft College Invitational

The Novi Wildcats knew that the invitational was going to be quite tough when they loaded the bus and they knew that gathering even a couple wins in a tournament like this is something to be proud of.

Continued on 2



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi's Juhwan Yoo swims the breaststroke portion of the 200 meter relay during a January meet.

Swimmers continue to look strong in '02

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

An eighth-place finish in the Oakland County meet and a win over Saline are just some of the things the Novi Wildcats swim and dive team has done so far this season.

The Wildcats, led by coach Larry Teahan, took and eighth place finish in the Oakland County Invitational swim meet with 72 points Feb. 2 after defeating Saline 114-72 Jan. 25 in a non-conference contest.

The Wildcats, who placed ninth in last season's Oakland County swim meet, came on strong in the County Invitational tournament with two swimmers and a diver taking fourth place finishes and a slew of others placing in the top-12

of the meet.

Jordon Moblo took home a fourth-place finish in the Oakland County Invitational in the backstroke, finishing the event in 56.92 seconds while teammate Jack Tyler took fourth in the 500 freestyle with a time of four minutes, 54.49 seconds.

Diver Dan Bassett took fourth in his specialty, collecting 350.95 points in the process.

Tyler and the Wildcats weren't finished collecting points though as the sophomore swimmer went on to take 12th-place in the 200 freestyle and Ian Robertson continued his steady season by grabbing a ninth-place finish in the butterfly as well as a 10th-place in the 200 individual medley.

Continued on 3

RESCHEDULED

The following Novi High School athletics contests were rescheduled:

Wrestling match rescheduled

The Novi wrestling match against Hartland and South Lyon at Hartland High School scheduled for Feb. 1 was postponed due to weather conditions.

The meet was Feb. 6 at Hartland High School (after the Novi News went to print).

Basketball postponed
 The Novi Wildcats basketball game against the Hartland Highlanders was postponed due to weather conditions.

The game was played Feb. 6 at Hartland (after the Novi News went to print).

Information on both of these matches will be available in next week's sports section.

Gymnastics team gets win

By Brian Doyle
SPECIAL WRITER

The Walled Lake gymnastics team is off to a strong start to the 2002 season. The team has a 5-4 record and has recently completed two strong matches.

The team squared off against Royal Oak and ended up snagging a 136.05-123.8 victory Jan. 28 after strong performances.

"We were pretty much solid all the way around," said Walled Lake coach Jennifer Hart.

Lindsay Brown and Sarah Chrzanowski tied for first in the vault event and scored 8.7.

"We did very well that night on the vault," Hart said.

That night Brown finished in the top three in all

four events. She took first in the vault with an 8.7, second on the bars with an 8.6, second on the beam with an 8.6 and third on the floor with an 8.85.

Stefanie Shmoltz also performed well and took first on the bars with a 9.0, third on the beam with an 8.2 and second on the floor with a 9.05.

Also finishing in the top three for Walled Lake were Amy Gurski who took third on the bars with an 8.55 and third on the beam with an 8.2.

The girls fell short in their meet previous to Royal Oak, when they lost a close one to Farmington 144.1-133.5. Brown and Shmoltz performed well and tied for third in the vault with an 8.55. Brown also took third on the bars with a 9.05.

The team had beaten Farmington the previous year but just couldn't pull it off this year.

"We had a rough night," Hart said.

On the positive side, some of the girls had their highest scores of the year. However, these were not all Walled Lake's strongest gymnasts.

According to Hart, so far Walled Lake's strongest competitors have been Brown, Gurski, Shmoltz and Chrzanowski. The team as a whole does have a lot of collective strengths.

"Even if we start off rough, we can come back and do great," Hart said.

The team works very hard to achieve that recoverability. The team also works hard at consistently on all pieces of equipment.

"We're pretty consistent on vault and floor," Hart said.

The team also has the capability of doing very well on the bars and on the beam.

"It's a matter of staying solid on the beam," Hart said.

They have the ability but can't always seem to put everything together in those events.

According to Hart, they can land the big tricks, but the smaller ones are the ones that sneak up and cause trouble.

"It's the little things," she said.

The teams next match was Wednesday against a Northville-Novii who Hart said is always of the most challenging teams. On Saturday, they will be attending an Invitational at Ann Arbor Pioneer High School.

Brian Doyle is an intern for the Northville Record, Nott News and the Lake Area Times. Comments can be directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Central's Eric Krajewski tries to control the puck in his opponent's zone during a home game in January. Krajewski is one of the Vikings team captains this season.

Western gridders earn Spicer award

The Walled Lake Western Warriors football team just wasn't ready to stop making headlines — instead, they were determined to gather at least one more before they called it quits.

The Warriors, headed by coach Mike Zdebski, was recently named the Class A winner of the 2002 Steve Spicer Award for the football team that does the most for its community.

The Warriors were indeed a busy group of gridders, having done community service from the spring of 2001 through October.

In October, the Warrior gridders took a trip to the Wixom Panther Hunt and handed out candy and worked the event's games and rides before being a part of the Wixom Haunted Woods while working with children by escorting kids, handing out candy and being the props that added a little spook to the Haunted Woods.

In July of 2001, the Warriors worked with youth in the Hawks Football Camp, teaching them the skills of football. The month of May was also filled with plenty of com-

munity service with the Warriors working on an exterior clean up of retired senior citizens homes in Commerce before working at the spring fair at Guest Elementary School. Not only did the Warriors do all of that, they also got down and dirty laying 9000 square feet of sod for the Lakes Area Hawks football program.

In April, the Walled Lake Western football players refereed a middle school flag football league, hosted a Youth Bike Safety course at the Wixom Community Center, instructed a youth football camp and red and tutored elementary students in the Walled Lake school district. The month of March found the Warriors working games at the Look Lake Spring Fair and reading and tutoring to the elementary students in their school district.

February of 2001 was the month the Warriors spent tutoring and reading to elementary students at Pleasant Lake as well as being involved for the tutoring of high school students, which was offered all through the winter and spring seasons.

Trapped like a rat



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi's Matt Emmenecker finds himself caught between a threesome of Western Warrior defenders during a game at Novi.

WLC icers on right track

... but still fall to WLAA foe Livonia Franklin

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

They are always so close, always almost there — but when it comes to sports, almost is only in horse-shoes, not hockey.

The Walled Lake Central Vikings made another huge improvement in their game in hopes of collecting a win, but, alas, it would not be so and they fell to Western Lakes Activities Association opponent Livonia Franklin 4-2 Feb. 2 after having their games versus Farmington and Canton postponed due to inclement weather conditions.

"We ended up staying really close to these guys all the way through the game," Walled Lake Central coach Jim Hogan said. "We came out and scored first, but they answered pretty quick and ended up leading 2-1 at the end of the first (period)."

The first goal of the game was credited to Eric Krajewski, who collected a single goal and an assist on the night. The Vikings collected their second and last goal of the night off of sophomore Adam Griffin, who also collected an assist in the game. Closing on the collection of points for the Vikings was senior captain James Kerbawi, who notched an assist in the contest.

"The team is certainly gelling," Hogan said. "It is unfortunate for us that the season is so short. We only have six or seven games to go. Everything is starting to come together for us, I can really feel it. We could really use another month, like March, and make it a long one."

Between the Franklin Patriots and the Walled Lake Central Icers, only five penalties were called. Unfortunately for the Vikings, four of those were called on them.

"This team is fairly disciplined," Hogan said. "I like the way we are going right now. This team has managed to get itself under control and that is important for us to have

success."

After the game, which was Senior Appreciation Night for the Vikings, the Franklin coach had a few important words to say to the struggling Walled Lake Central players.

"He paid a visit to our locker room," Hogan said. "He complimented us and said that our record was not indicative of our quality. He said that we should hold our heads high and that we should keep forging on because we are not too far off the mark."

Senior goalie Craig Przytulski

guarded the posts for the Vikings, taking on 30 shots and stopping 26.

"He had a real nice game for us," Hogan said. "I am really happy with his performance."

The Vikings also had top-notch games from Ben Brand, who is a sophomore defenseman, as well as the line of Griffin, Krajewski and Kerbawi, which is continuing its stellar play. Hogan also noted the play of Kevin Francis, who is a sophomore defenseman for the Vikings.

The Vikings will return to action

when they take on Livonia Churchill tomorrow. The Chargers are 8-0 in the league and are not known for backing down against anyone.

"We are going to throw everything we have at them," Hogan said. "We'll take it to the streets and do whatever we can to get this win."

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



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Central's Adam Griffin brings the puck into the Western Warrior's zone during their earlier tilt.