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Bye blue light Novi Kmart to close doors

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

With tears in her eyes, Kmart Assistant Manager Jackie Fagan shuffled members of the media out of her store last week after the announcement was made the Novi location would close its doors for good.

"It is very devastating to begin with," Fagan said. "It is very hard."

A press release issued by Kmart's Media Relations Department after the March 8 closure announcement stated, "out of respect for our employees, we are not allowing media access to our stores at this time."

It was a difficult day for many Kmart employees as executives announced earlier that morning it would be closing 284 "under-performing" stores as part of its initial

Chapter 11 financial objectives review.

Eighteen of the doomed stores are located in Michigan, with three metropolitan area Detroit stores located in Livonia, Taylor and the West Oaks Big Kmart in Novi closing their doors. The Novi Kmart opened in 1981.

"I shop here all the time," said 11-year customer Linda McEachin.

McEachin works for the Novi School District so she said it was convenient to stop by at lunch.

"I have had a couple problems in the past," McEachin said.

The blue-light shopper said she ran into some difficulties recently trying to return a defective table purchased at the store.

"I'm not surprised," said Cheryl Diedrich.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi's Kmart store, in the West Oaks shopping center, will close its doors later this month in the company's cost-cutting move.

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Granholtm visits Novi schools



Photo by TOM HIBBELN

State Attorney General and gubernatorial candidate Jennifer Granholm brought her campaign for the state's top seat to the Novi Technology Center last week, discussing the latest educational issues with gathered teachers, administrators and paraprofessionals.

Gubernatorial candidate wants 'creative' government

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

As Michigan Attorney General Jennifer Granholm stepped before a roomful of metro-Detroit educators, she made her intentions clear for visiting Novi last Thursday.

"I want to hear from you," she said. "The ones on the front lines of education have the best ideas for the problems out there."

With the November election eight months away — one that will boast a new Michigan governor — Granholm brought her campaign for the state's top seat to the Novi Technology Center, discussing the latest educational issues with gathered teachers, administrators and paraprofessionals in an open-forum setting.

The afternoon saw Granholm and teachers freely swap questions and comments for

"There is hope that we can still get people to want to change the world."

Jennifer Granholm
State attorney general

about 90 minutes on such topics as MEAP testing, childhood development, teacher-student ratios and special education, offering a mix of wide-eyed optimism and lines in the sand.

Granholm downplayed a concern that the teaching profession doesn't attract the most

talented people, pointing to the crowd before her as proof.

"There is hope that we can still get people to want to change the world," she said.

However, the Michigan attorney general was quick to challenge the recent emergence of charter schools across the state, saying they often lacked accountability and siphoned off public school dollars.

"The charter school is a bizarre aberration," she said. "A lot of charter schools are not up to our standards."

The open forum was hosted by the Novi Education Association (NEA), a division of the Michigan Education Association (MEA) teachers' union.

"We want to hear what (Granholm) is about and what she stands for in terms of public edu-

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Waiting for an answer

Contractor claims city ignored his repeated inquiries regarding fire station problems

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Life for Rob Siemens of Royal Arc Manufacturing has been a nightmare since being hired by Greystone Construction to work on Novi's \$1.9 million Fire Station No. 4 and Training Center.

Not only has he not been paid the more than \$100,000 he is owed, but he said it took him seven months of phone calls to Novi officials to find out why.

"It went so far that I went to a meeting to talk to the city council," Siemens said.

It wasn't until he appeared at the Feb. 25 meeting that he learned James Chen's construction company defaulted on the job and the fate and funding of the site is now in the hands of Liberty Mutual Bonding company and out of the city's control.

Although Siemens now knows why he has not been paid, he still wants to know why it took from August, the first time he said he called the city, until Feb. 25 to receive an answer.

Novi City Manager Richard Helwig said unfortunately he could not answer the question because the person who was in charge of the project, Tony Nowicki, is no longer an employee of the city.

Helwig explained many times phone messages are passed to other city employees who are directly overseeing a project.

"I did talk to several contractors

Continued on page 2

Public discusses study for West Oakland Corridor

\$121 million road project will span 23 miles

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER

The talk is finally over and now funding is the question after residents attended the last public meeting to discuss road improvements as part of the West Oakland Corridor Study.

The March 6 meeting, held at the Wixom Community Center, informed residents which local roads would be improved to make travel easier for drivers. However, it is still unclear how the \$121.7 million road projects that would span 23.15 miles would be subsidized.

Adiele Nwankwo, area manager for Parsons Brinkerhoff, explained that officials could apply for grants or residents could

vote to raise the millage for the improvements.

"Any community can get together to define options to fund this," Nwankwo said.

The now defunct plan to create a major highway connecting I-96 to M-59 has now been directed to improving three separate corridors. The improved corridors would lead to easier access to M-59.

The Beck Road corridor project would widen Beck, Pontiac Trail, Benstein, Bogle Lake and Oxbow Lake in certain areas. It would also create an extension for Oxbow Lake Road to Teggerdine and Beck Road.

Wixom Road would widen to five lanes between I-96 and Pontiac Trail. It would

Continued on page 10

Novi city council to decide on meeting guidelines, rules

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

A watch may come in handy at future Novi city council meetings after members voted in favor of new meeting guidelines, including restrictions on how long people may speak during audience participation.

The initial nod placing a three minute warning followed by minutes to wrap-up for individuals speaking before the council was not welcomed by City of Novi Mayor Richard J. Clark.

Clark was one of the voters casting a no vote with the other nay coming from Novi city council member David Landry.

Clark maintains that restricting speech length is against the spirit of placing the voice of each resident first.

"Our function is to sit here and listen and sometimes to learn," Clark said.

Novi Mayor pro-tem Michelle Bononi suggested instead of just cutting someone off at three minutes — a possible solution to long-winded speakers, a "not-to-exceed" time be enforced.

"I wouldn't hesitate to interrupt anyone about to deliver a treatise," Bononi said, but felt those before council should have a little bit of time to wrap their point up.

"The intent is never to limit anyone's right to address council," said Louis Csordas, Novi city council member.

Csordas said the limit allows city council to start business in a timely manner and encourages speakers to organize their thoughts in a succinct manner.

In addition to limiting individuals, group representatives will be capped to five minutes with a few minutes to wrap up.

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NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY

Contractor seeks answers from Novi city officials

Continued from page 1

issued until July 30th," Pearson said. Pearson said because the contractor wasn't issued until the end of July, there did not seem to be a way Siemens could have performed work in July and expected to see a payment in August - which is why Siemens said he began calling the city in the first place. Siemens maintains he left something wrong in August. Laura Lorenzo, Novi city council member, said she didn't know there was a problem on the site herself until the last few days of

December when she received an unfavorable performance evaluation from a firm hired to look into Greystone's ability to finish the job. Once finding out, Lorenzo said council was informed Chen would be given a 30-day extension to turn things around and in the case he did not, Greystone would be terminated from the job. With all the apparent run-around, Siemens said he is running out of patience. He said he received a letter from the city explaining the situation on March 11, but still remains unpaid.

"My people are hurt by this," Siemens said. "If I have to lay them off then that is not right." City officials said their hands are tied in the entire situation because payment to subcontractors on the project is now in the hands of Liberty Mutual. Siemens feels the city still has an obligation even if it is a moral one. "We don't have to feed the homeless either, but we do," he said. "I'm not going to change my values over what they (city officials) are not doing. I know how hard I worked at

this job and how hard my people worked." Right now, Liberty Mutual is investigating the claim and will soon decide if the subcontractors originally hired to build the much needed station on 10 Mile and Wixom roads will be retained for the project or if the insurance and bonding company will provide its own. Victoria Sarlocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or at vsarlocha@homecomm.net.

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LAKES AREA TIMES

School officials propose 'choice' program

By Diane Dempsey Deel STAFF WRITER

James Geisler, Walled Lake Consolidated Schools Superintendent, proposed joining a county wide schools of choice program in order to solve the school district's forecasted financial woes. The proposal was announced on the heels of Geisler's announcement to board members and parents last month that the economic outlook for 2003 to 2004 looked poor. For years the school district has continued to grow, he said. However, now the district's population is showing a slight slowdown. Therefore, since the district takes in state money per student, it isn't taking in as much money as it previously has. "All of this leads to a challenge," Geisler said. "We will have a balanced budget but

we will have to make some adjustments." The district has already allowed students to enroll in the school of their choice at certain schools. However, this would allow students from outside the district to attend certain Walled Lake Consolidated schools. There is room for additional students at Northern High School and in some elementary schools, he said. However, the middle schools are filled to capacity. There's also no extra room for out-of-district students at Western High School and Central High School. "We could do this and it would generate revenue," Geisler said. Even though the district would bring in extra money, he pointed out there would a downside to implementing a county wide school of choice program. The students would be a permanent part

of the district once they are accepted into the district, he said. Therefore, it could cause a overcrowding problem if the population explodes in the future. "When elementary students get to the middle schools it could be a problem," Geisler said. "The other thing that is unfortunate is you end up competing with your neighbors in sports." It's becoming increasingly common for Oakland County school districts to allow students to have their choice of joining their districts, he said. Michael Karson, board of education secretary, wanted to ensure that in-district children have the opportunity to attend the school of their choice first. "I think once we put ourselves on the auction block, we would get a tremendous amount of kids who want to come here,"

Karson said. Geisler pointed out that districts can set up their own region timeline, which would allow Walled Lake students would get first pick. Thomas McConnell, school board trustee, said he was concerned about joining the program. "I don't think these would be solid funds," Karson said. "These kids could go back to their district the following year." The district has built a new high school because of population growth, he said. Therefore, he said he feels allowing outside students into the district would send the wrong message to parents. Marc Siegler, school board president, said he wanted to make sure school officials would be able to review student records before accepting them into the district.

He said doesn't have a problem with outside students going to Northern High School. However, it could be an issue with other schools. "We need to know much space is available," Siegler said. Alp Onder, school board vice president, agreed. "I think we have to tread real carefully here," Onder said and added that the school board would have to look at the district's population numbers carefully. "It shows the numbers are going down," Onder said. "But if we're wrong, we're in trouble."

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

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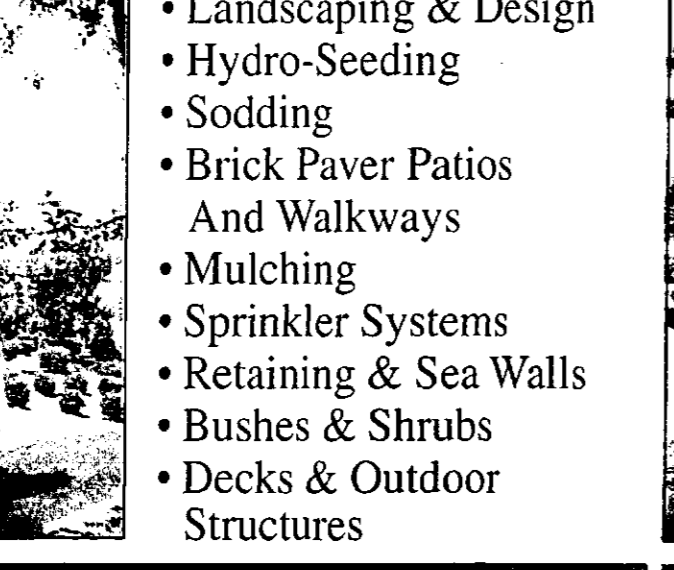
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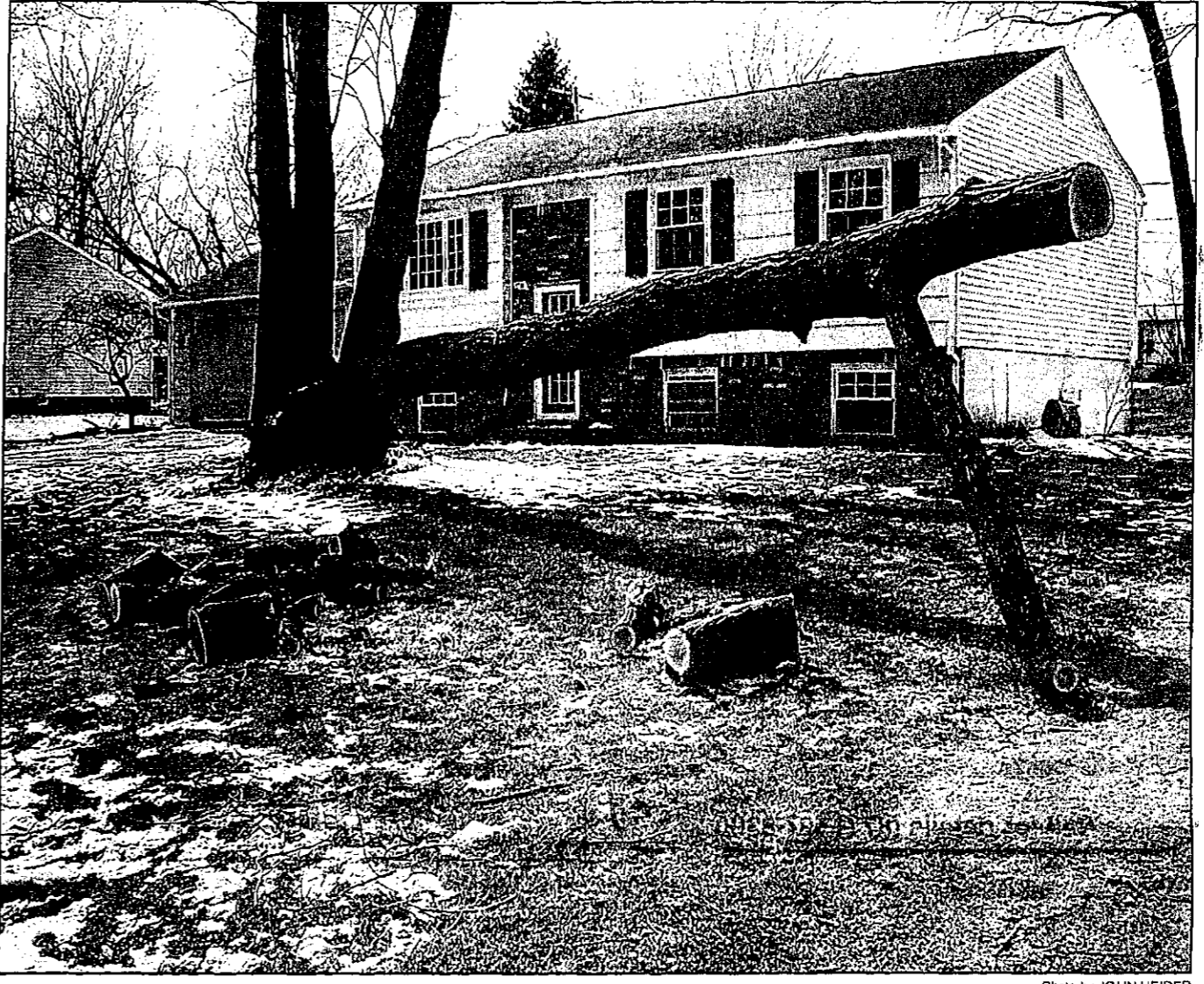
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Storm damage
This large tree fell on Walled Lake's Delta Street during this past weekend's windstorm. By Monday afternoon efforts to remove it were underway. More than 100,000 metro-Detroit residents were without power due to the high winds and Detroit Edison crews worked to restore power this week.

Students seek support for fundraiser

By Diane Dempsey Deel STAFF WRITER

Walled Lake Western High School students need the community's support to raise funds for children with leukemia. Students are hosting a 20-hour volleyball marathon to benefit the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan. The event will be held 4 p.m. April 19 and will end at noon April 20. Each student is required to raise a minimum of \$100 to participate in the marathon. However, there will be much more than volleyball for students to do while participating in the 20-hour benefit. They will be able to dance, swim and play other games while volunteering their time for the cause. Approximately 388 students have already set aside the time for the cause. "We will give a grand prize to the individual who raises the most money," said Craig Rimpley, student activities advisor. Representatives from three other charities went to the school to plea their cases to students who plan the event. In the past the students have hosted marathons to support Make-A-Wish and the Forgotten Harvest Food Bank. Joan Blanchard, senior, pointed out that the representatives from Children's Leukemia Foundation made it easy to make a decision. "The people who came were helpful and they seemed serious about it," Blanchard said. "It's a good cause and it helps little kids who need it. At my mom's work, a child just found out she had it. So, it really hit home." Joe Taylor, senior, agreed. "Besides having a great cause, they were as enthusiastic as I was about putting on a memorable marathon," Taylor said. "They came to the meeting with fresh ideas and they were ready to work



Student Activity students discuss plans for the upcoming volleyball marathon to benefit Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan. From left: Nicole Lovin, junior, Dayna Batterman, junior, Brittany Koester, junior, Ashley Goldberg, junior, and Joe Taylor, junior.

with us." Sara Smith, senior, said she was motivated to choose the organization because her grandfather has been fighting the disease for the past two years. Smith understands that it is more than just the student-raise money for the cause. "You realize how much the community can do and how much they care," Smith said. Jodie Rosenbaum, junior, said

the organization helps children with other blood disorders as well as children with leukemia. "I personally chose it because when I see kids in need I feel better about myself just knowing that I can do something to help them," Rosenbaum said. Katie Rousseau, senior, is more than ready to start playing volleyball all night long. "I'm looking forward to the whole thing," Rousseau said. "It's

fun and it's a great way to raise money for a good cause." Smith said representatives brought a small boy stricken with leukemia to the school to meet Western students. "When I looked at him, I realized how important it was to raise money for someone like him," Smith said. "It hits your heart." To make a donation or pledge contact the Student Activities office at (248) 956-4429.

Lake businesses to partner with river program

By Diane Dempsey Deel STAFF WRITER

Walled Lake business owners recently learned what they can do to protect rivers and other waters from pollutants. The breakfast meeting, which was held Feb. 27 at the fire station training room, was designed to encourage business owners to join the River Friendly Partners Program. The program is sponsored by the Wayne County Department of environment to ensure that the Rouge River is kept clean.

Michael Flowers, spokesperson for the program, first gave owners a history lesson about the river. He then explained how businesses can alter their daily work practices so they don't contribute to storm water pollution. There are benefits to owners joining the program, he said. Business owners can receive free pollution site evaluations, free expert technical assistance and advice and public exposure as a river friendly business, he said. They can also receive free ongoing support and advice as well as increased community interaction.

Cities that are connected to the Rouge River will be required by 2003 to be certified for environmental permits for watersheds, including the Huron River. Lloyd Curcison, Walled Lake Department of Public Works director, said Walled Lake officials have been doing their part to keep storm water clean for years. "We looked at what we weren't doing and discovered we weren't far from compliance," Curcison said. Everything from pet droppings to the way residents wash cars contribute to the pollution of storm water, which seeps into rivers, streams and lakes, he said. "It piles up the closer it gets to the Detroit River," Curcison said. Philip Vawter, Walled Lake city

"I'm a lakefront homeowner so water quality and keptint it clean is an important asset to the city. I am very concerned with new developments and the runoff into the lake."

Rebecca Gulyas Walled Lake resident and businessowner

manager, said this watershed program is the biggest policy imposed on local cities for storm water and water quality. "Walled Lake has always been interested in quality of the lakes," Vawter said. "In the '80s water quality improved rapidly when we disconnected from septic tanks and wells."

Dr. Steven Burns, owner of Walled Lake Veterinary Hospital, came out to find out what he can do to help the environment. "I feel environmental issues in the community are important," Burns said. "Being a local business owner I feel I have a vital part in that."

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

Steve & Rocky's captures top award in culinary contest

Novi's own Steve & Rocky's was voted "Best Restaurant" at the 7th annual Michigan Culinary Food & Wine Extravaganza (MCFWE), a Mardi Gras benefit for the Michigan Culinary Team and Scholarship Fund, held Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2002, at Mac & Ray's Banquet & Conference Center in Harrison Twp.

MCFWE featured 20 restaurants from across Metro Detroit presenting an artful display and tasting of their delicacies specially paired with an accompanying wine. Nearly 800 guests raised approximately \$50,000 to support local chefs and aspiring culinary students. Guests at the "Fat Tuesday" celebration cast their vote for the event's best restaurant, with Steve & Rocky's taking the first place "People's Choice" trophy. Steve & Rocky's served warm salmon with coarse grain mustard and potato cakes with vermouth sauce, paired

with Trimbach Pinot Gris 1999 Reserve. In 2nd Place was Mac & Ray's of Harrison Twp., which served rack of lamb paired with Penfolds Thomas Hyland S. Australian Shiraz 2000. In 3rd Place was the Golden Mushroom of Southfield, with applewood house smoked salmon with boursin cheese on crispy root vegetable chips, drizzled with sundried tomato oil, paired with a 1999 New Zealand Pinot Noir (Rowland). A panel of restaurant critics and wine writers also judged the restaurants to determine the Best Food & Wine Pairing at the event. Steve & Rocky's scored very well among the media judges as well, finishing a very close second to Cortina of Farmington Hills, which presented a tasting of handmade gnocchi with a delicate porcini mushroom, truffle oil sauce and parmesan crisp paired with a 2000 Jermann Pinot Grigio.

Novi school district ponders cutbacks to programs

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

Facing a deficit of over \$800,000, Novi Schools' officials are looking at a mix of program cutbacks and revenue enhancements to meet its 2002-2003 fiscal year budget.

"Over the past few months we have gone through quite a lengthy process for possible reductions for the school district," said Novi Schools' assistant superintendent of finance James Koster. "The committee looked at all the reductions and a couple came surfacing to the top."

Topping the district's list for potential cutbacks next year is fourth-grade swimming, drivers' education and elementary counseling.

"This is always under constant evaluation, though," Koster said. "Eliminating the elementary counseling would be the most difficult choice, but the district's current set-up — one counselor for five elementary schools — wasn't getting the job done. Koster said.

"In order to have an effective counseling program, you need more than that," Koster said. "And since we don't have any resources and a couple came surfacing to the top."

Furthermore, the district is looking at a series of fee increases for such programs as drivers' education, community education and pre-school, therefore, raising revenues and offsetting costs for the upcoming budget.

Koster said many program fees have not been increased in over eight years.

"We'll take a look at the fees and see if this district is comparable to other districts," Koster said. "There is an opportunity to raise revenue to at least be competitive with surrounding districts."

In the end, higher fees could save the drivers' education program.

An advisory committee of over 40 people, including parents, teachers and administrators, met on Jan. 28 and Jan. 30 to prioritize a list of cutbacks.

"I think we have been able to preserve the important programs and keep the district rolling along," said Novi Board of Education president Carol Eifring.

Also, to ease the budget pinch, the district plans to turn back the clock to the days of conscious conservation, saving on added electricity and heating fuel costs.

"I went through the energy fiasco in the '80s and we did dial down and we did turn lights off," Koster said. "Since that time we have been somewhat lax doing that."

Furthermore, the district plans to reduce capital expenditures in its general operating budget, relying on its recent \$75 million bond issue for new construction projects.

"We have a unique opportunity right now because we have a bond issue," Koster said. "We can take a big chunk of capital outlay that we normally spend and reduce it."

The Novi Board of Education will adopt a preliminary budget for the 2003-2004 fiscal year in June.

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.

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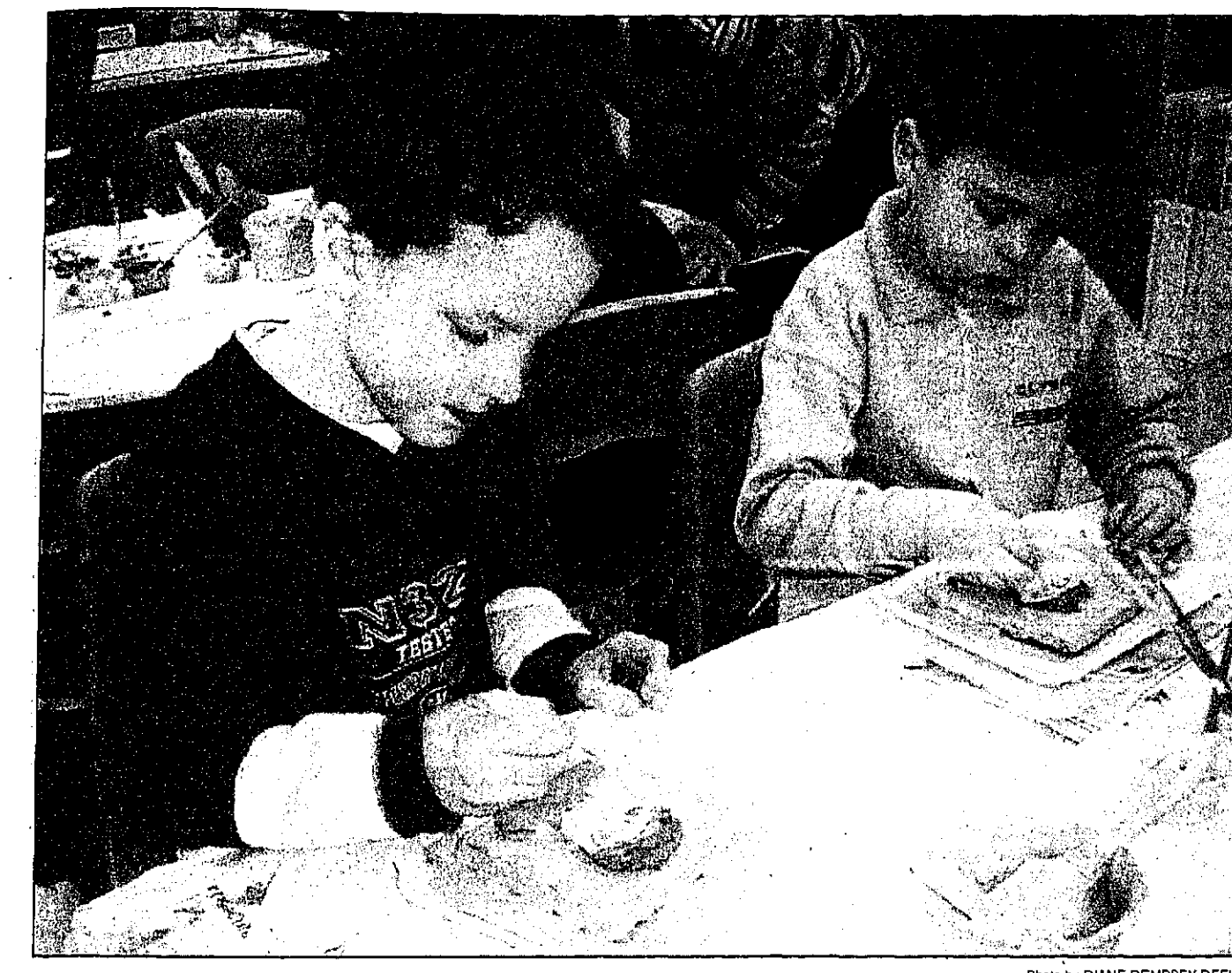
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Recycle HomeTown



Iain Young, left, second grade, and Tudor Bamahta, second grade, work on their tiles, which will eventually become a wall mural at Hickory Woods Elementary.

Artwork teaches students about diversity

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER

Students at Hickory Woods Elementary made a lasting impression last week as they created a rendering of their faces on Pevablit tiles.

The tiles will be placed together to form a wall mural in the foyer, which will celebrate the school's 10 year anniversary and its ethnic diversity. More than 100 out of the school's 500 students originate from different countries.

Pevablit Pottery artists from Detroit joined the school's art teacher, Joan Sterling, to instruct the children, who designed a template of their faces on a five-inch tile. They placed their names at the bottom of each tile.

The project was partially funded with a \$5,000 grant by teacher Janice Calligaris' uncle. However, the finished project will cost \$10,000.

"It took a lot of time to prepare and organize the project, Calligaris said, who helped head up the project.

"I'm pleased with how this has turned out," Sterling said. "It's very rewarding. I can't wait to see it up on the walls and the kids can't wait to see it up."

"The students' parents helped get the venture completed," she said. "They will be putting in hours of work as they put a clear coat of glaze on each tile."

"When I saw the first tile complete, I got goose bumps because it was the realization of what we have been planning for," she said.

Karen Hubner, a Pewable artist, said the company, which started in 1903 by a Detroit ceramic artist, often does projects with area schools. However, they create art schemes for corporations as well.

"It's been a lot of fun," Hubner said. "We've been here every day this week and we got to know a lot of the students and teachers."

The students enjoyed making a " likeness of their face on the tiles," she said.

"They think their taking it home," Hubner said. "But when they find out it will be at the school for a number of years, they get excited about it."

Sterling said she enjoyed working on the project with the students on the future mural.

Novi school district hosts family program

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

Parents criticize their children 12 times for every one praise, said Judith Cox-Wentz, executive director of Wise Mothers, Inc.

"Criticism jeopardizes the parent-child relationship," Cox-Wentz said.

"It tries to focus on not being in a mad rush, but to sit back and listen to your child," Steeh said.

Four "Focus on Families" follow-up sessions will be available over the next month, with these dates still to be determined.

"This will give parents the opportunity to get more depth on these parenting issues," Steeh said.

Also, the workshop will host exhibitors displaying a variety of parenting resources.

"Focus on Families" workshop is partly funded through a grant from Target, Wise Mothers, Inc. is a non-profit organization that offers parent education workshops throughout Oakland County.

The event is \$5 per person, \$3 per person for pre-registration. For more information call Novi Schools at (248) 449-1206.

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

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TICKETS ON SALE MARCH 16 - 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, July 16 - 8:00 p.m.

Travis Tritt

Advance Reserved & Gen. Admission: \$23.00
All Tickets Day of Show: \$25.00

TICKETS ON SALE FEB. 9

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Published Each Thursday
By The Novi News
104 W. Main Street
Northville, Michigan, 48167
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Botsford debuts video court system

Elderly patients with mental illness can have a difficult time with changes in environment and routine. That's why Botsford General Hospital and Wayne County Probate Courts are partnering to implement an Interactive Video Conferencing System. Similar to video conferencing, patients and officials will use the system to conduct routine court hearings to determine admission to Botsford's Geropsychiatry unit or to validate continuing treatment of a patient. "This eliminates the trauma our patients undergo when they have to travel down to the Wayne County Courthouse," said Sandy Plumer-Dickens, program director for Botsford's Geropsychiatry unit. "Change is very difficult for them. We are very excited to be a part of this program and look forward to providing the kind of care these very special patients require."

The Michigan Supreme Court recently authorized the pilot program that began the video conferencing initiative to eliminate patient distress and increase efficiency for both courts and hospitals. Wayne County is one of six counties in Michigan implementing the program. Botsford was asked to participate because of the large percentage of geropsychiatric patients it serves from Wayne County.

"Nearly 340 patients could benefit from this program in 2002," said Plumer-Dickens. "Patients from Wayne County comprise almost 50 percent of our admissions." Botsford will use a special room dedicated to this type of video conferencing and simply bring patients into the room for their court hearing. Conversely, Wayne County will have special court rooms equipped with this technology to hold hearings. At the scheduled time, the systems will be synchronized and normal court proceedings will occur.

Obituaries

WANDA M. BOWERS

Wanda Bowers of Monroeville, Indiana, formerly a longtime 64-year resident of Plymouth, died March 5, she was 81. Mrs. Bowers was born July 24, 1920 in Morrow County, Ohio to the late Craven Squires and Lamma (Michelle) Squires. She was an Inspector for Burroughs and was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Canton, MI until her move to Indiana in 1993. She is survived by her daughter, Sandra (Kenneth) Klinski of Monroeville, Indiana, two sisters and a sister-in-law, 3 grandchildren, Mrs. Bowers was preceded in death by her husband, George E. Bowers (1921), her parents, one brother and one sister. A funeral service was held March 12 at Castlerine Funeral Home, Inc., 22 W. Dunlap, Northville, MI. Pastor John Shinn of Calvary Baptist Church officiated. Interment will be at Lapham Cemetery-Salem Township, Michigan.

ROBERT (DIANE) RISKO

Robert (Diane) Risko, Grandmother of Brian, Debi, Renee and Dominic, Great-grandmother of Steven and Michael. A funeral service was held Mar. 5 at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Farmington, MI. Funeral arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River Ave., Novi, MI 48375. Interment will be at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to the Medical Intervention of Autism.

MARGUERITE "PEGGY" A. GRABOWSKI

Marguerite Grabowski of Novi, died Feb. 28. She was 76. Survivors include her husband, Stephen M. Grabowski, 3 daughters, Suzanne Murphy, Joan (Delmus) Goolsby, Barbara (Steve) Vandette, one son, Michael (Susan) Grabowski, 3 sisters, Ellen Sturm, Dorothy Refenow, and June Moore and 7 grandchildren. Her brother, John Ayotte, preceded her in death. A funeral service was held Mar. 4 at Holy Family Church, Novi. Funeral arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River Ave., Novi, MI 48375. Interment will be at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice or Mass Cards.

DUANE E. BELL

Duane Bell died Mar. 6 at his residence in Novi. He was 74. Mr. Bell was employed at Trickey's Hunting and Fishing in Novi. He was a volunteer fireman in Novi for 20 years, and the first paid fire chief. Mr. Bell was the Novi Township treasurer for 8 years and a member of the Novi United Methodist Church for 57 years. He was also a member of the Amvets, American Legion and the Veteran Alliance. He also belonged to the Little City Oddfellows of South Lyon and the Novi Rebekah Lodge. He was in the U.S. Navy for 6 years and a postal clerk in Novi for 10 years. Mr. Bell is survived by his wife, Laree, 3 sons: Timothy (Sandra), Thomas (Mary) and Steven, one daughter, Kathleen (Alan) Bond, 4 grandchildren and one sister, Winifred Minche. Visitation was held Mar. 11 at O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi, with Veteran Services and Little City Oddfellows of South Lyon Service held. A funeral service was held Mar. 12 at Novi United Methodist. Funeral arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River Ave., Novi, MI 48375. Memorial contributions may be made to the Novi United Methodist Church and Angela Hospice.

JEAN ZINK

Jean Zink died Feb. 28 at Harper Hospital, Detroit. She was 75. She was born June 28, 1926. Mrs. Zink was the wife of the late Clifford Zink and Joseph Risko. She was the Mother of Sharon (Donald) Siddall, and

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Sound of Music
Tickets are on sale now for The Novi Theatres' production of "The Sound of Music." All performances of the musical will be in the Novi Middle School theater March 16 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. and March 17 at 1 p.m. Tickets are available at the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry center in the Novi Civic Center.

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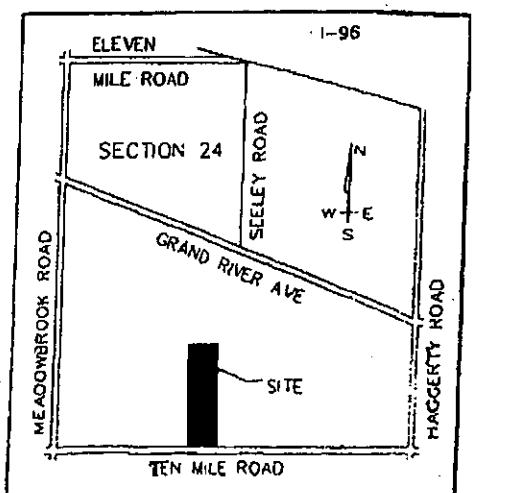
Urgent news for people who took Fen-Phen or Redux

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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, March 20, 2002 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider: **AVANON SUB-DIVISION SP-177**, located on north side Ten Mile Road between Higdon and Westwood Roads, to consider a **RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL FOR TENTATIVE PRELIMINARY PLAT**. The applicant is proposing a single-family subdivision with 25 lots on a 9.49 acre site.

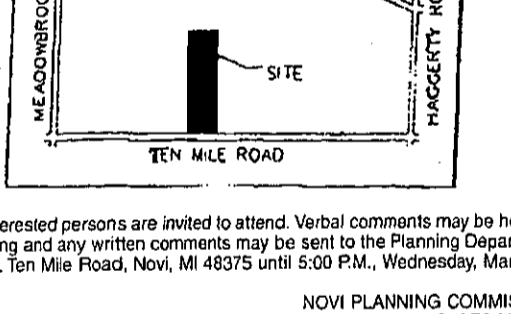


All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be sent to the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 5:00 P.M., Wednesday, March 20, 2002.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
LODIA RICHARDS, SECRETARY

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 20, 2002 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider: **ANIMAL EMERGENCY CENTER, SP-02-10**, located on the north west corner of Novi Road and Ten Mile in the Pine Ridge Shopping Center, to consider **PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN APPROVAL AND SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT**. The applicant is proposing an animal hospital.

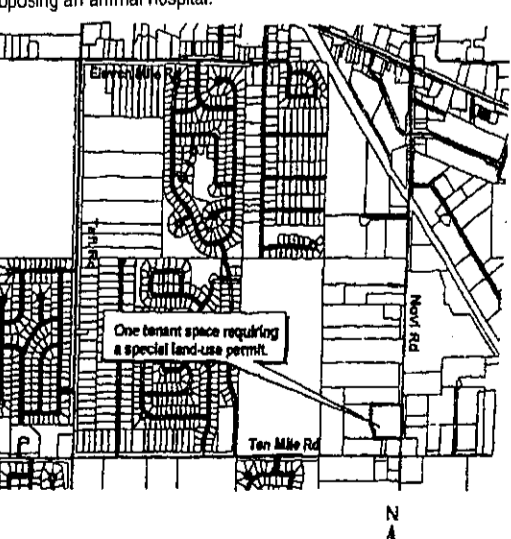


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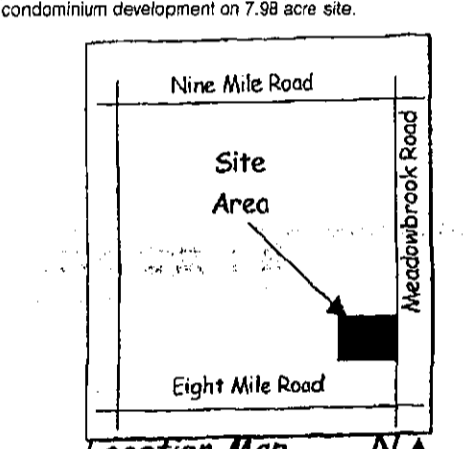


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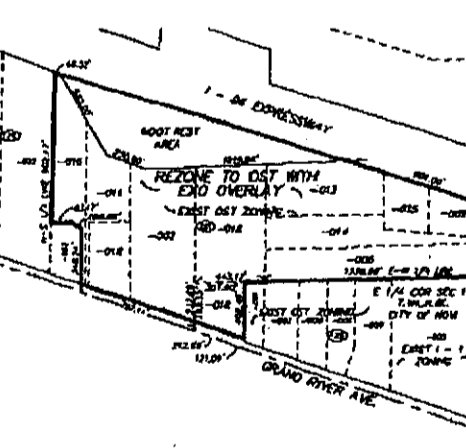


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NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
LODIA RICHARDS, SECRETARY

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 3, 2002 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider: **ZONING MAP AMENDMENT 18,619 FOR POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL FOR REZONING ON PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE NORTH OF GRAND RIVER AVENUE AND WEST OF TAYLOR ROAD, FROM OST OFFICE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY TO OST WITH EXO OVERLAY (EXPOSITION OVERLAY).**



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NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
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MARVIANNE CORNELIUS, CLERK

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be received by the Planning & Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 5:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 3, 2002.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
LODIA RICHARDS, SECRETARY

Bistro may secure liquor license

Members of The Novi City Council tentatively agreed to issue a liquor license to the Novi Bistro on one condition - the outstanding personal property tax bill is paid to Oakland County.

During the March council meeting, attorney Joseph Xureb explained he had cleared up all other outstanding debts.

In what Novi City Mayor Richard J. Clark called "the final roll call," members voted unanimously to approve conveying the license held by the Bistro's proprietor Oxford Inn Nov as long as the \$11,212 bill was paid in 30 days.

"I think we should put the heat on the applicant," said David Landry, Novi city council member. "If the taxes are not paid in the amount of time given, council members will not allow the transfer."

"We're not able to pay in full, but

are working out an arrangement with the predecessor to take care of the obligation," Xureb said.

During the Feb. 25 council meeting, the attorney was instructed that his client, Apostolos Peristeris, would have to pay all outstanding debts owed to employees and a water bill owed to the city before March 4 or the request would be denied.

All payments under the client's control were paid with the exception of the Oakland County Treasury debt.

Christopher M. VanMill, Oakland County treasury agent of personal property, said an arrangement is being negotiated to pay off the outstanding debt.

VanMill said he was asked for a March 31 deadline to settle the outstanding 2001 and 2002 bill.

In January, the Treasurer of the County of Oakland placed a seizure notice on the door and changed the locks to prevent the property, including furniture, fixtures and machinery from being removed before the taxes were paid.

VanMill said if the debt is not paid by the end of the month, auction proceedings will commence.

Xureb explained his client is working very hard at making arrangements to have the bill paid because liquor license or not, the restaurant will remain locked until the debt is eliminated.

Members of the council moved forward on the liquor license transfer request despite what Novi city council member Louis Cosola called the "slippest application he has ever seen." The council believed having a fully functioning business at the Grand River Avenue east of Novi Road location was better than an empty building.

"We really don't want a vacant building," Landry said. He believed the decision was in the best interest of the city.

Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 106 or at vsadlocha@home.com.net.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 02-88.06

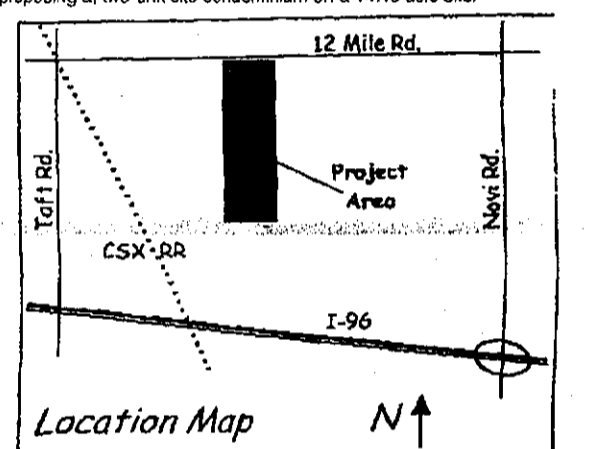
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Novi City Council has adopted Ordinance No. 02-88.06 - An ordinance to amend Sections 16-32, 16-34, 16-35 and 16-37 of the Novi Code of Ordinances, to provide that insurance certificates are to be provided as a condition of issuance of a license to remove or transport refuse through streets, alleys or other public places or ways of the City.

The provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, March 4, 2002. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. prevailing local time.

(3-14-02 NR/NN 1098403) MARYANN CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 20, 2002 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider: **JIMBER CREEK OFFICE BLDG. EXHIBIT PARK**, located on the south side of Ten Mile Road west of the Novi Road, for **PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, SITE CONDOMINIUM, WETLAND AND WOODLAND PERMIT APPROVALS**. The applicant is proposing a two-unit site condominium on a 14.16 acre site.

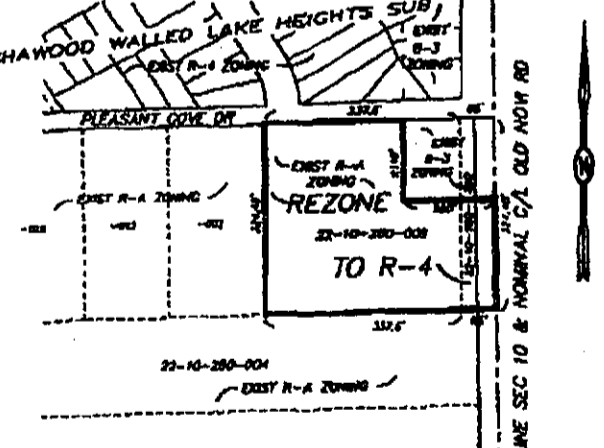


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All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be received by the Planning & Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 5:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 3, 2002.

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MARVIANNE CORNELIUS, CLERK

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NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
LODIA RICHARDS, SECRETARY

Quinn announces candidacy for 52-1 District judge post

By Victoria Sadlocha
3-13-2002

The more reason than one, former Novi Mayor Matthew Quinn will be passing all the right qualifications to put him behind the 52-1 District Court bench.

After announcing his decision to run for judge, Quinn said his experience on all sides of the court room, commitment to the community and managerial skills make him qualified to wear the robe.

"Since I've handled a majority of cases on both sides, no one can pull me out from my cases," Quinn said. "There are not many trials attorneys can pull on me."

And the former six-year mayor

said if there are new tricks he will learn them.

Before becoming Novi's mayor in 1987, the 24-year-old Quinn spent his time as a trial attorney handling plaintiff and defense cases in both civil and criminal areas.

Appearing in numerous district and circuit courts, the 27-year attorney has overseen numerous cases including general negligence, product liability, corporate disputes, real estate disputes and medical malpractice cases.



Matt Quinn

Since 1993, Quinn has focused on municipal litigation matters as a partner of the law firm Cooper, Shifman, Gabe, Quinn and Seymour, P.C.

In Quinn's opinion though heavy court-room experience isn't enough to prepare someone to serve as judge.

"I think judges owe it as their duty to get involved in the community," Quinn said. "District Court is really a community court."

In addition to promising to reach out to all the communities covered by the district, Quinn vows to be heavily involved with schools, educating the youth.

The 54-year-old believes in bringing courtroom education into

schools and bringing students into the courtroom.

"That is a definite must," he said. In the past, the candidate has shown his commitment to the community as the charter president of the American Heart Association Southwestern Oakland County Chapter, Novi City Hall Town Hall member of the Palmer Drug Abuse Center in Milford, charter member of the governing board of directors of Michigan Health Inc. in Novi, member of the 52-1 District Court Citizen Support Committee and chairman of the Novi High School Senior All-Night Party fundraising committee.

What Quinn said most people

don't realize is District Court Judges are also managers of the court.

With help of others, District Court judges oversee employees and other administrative duties such as budgets, he said.

"I've worked on budgets for six years," Quinn said. "I've also managed my own practice with 16 employees with help from my partners."

Quinn said his experience as a member of the community advisory board of Providence Park Medical Hospital Novi and chairperson of the planning committee of Providence Hospital in Southfield has given him immense management experience.

Quinn has also served as city or

township attorney for Lyon Township, City of Lathrup Village, City of Southfield Downtown Development Authority and City of Ferndale.

"I've always had a goal to be judge," Quinn said. "I consider it a continuation of community service. To me it is the next step."

Quinn said he has waited patiently since 1992 for the seat in the first district to be created before he would run.

"I didn't want to run against my friends," he said. "I think I fit the bill for being a qualified district judge."

"You have to be firm and fair at the same time," Quinn said. "Courtrooms run the gamut of emotions."

Granholtz addresses educators

(Continued from page 1)

Granholtz said NEA president Terry McAuliffe said the next Michigan governor has to include educators at the policy table, a vital component to making a "government that is effective."

Granholtz said the key to making the government work is what the government does, the 15th Michigan attorney general said.

The education forum was the second of two that Granholtz participated in last week, following a similar question and answer session in Bay City on Wednesday.

Associate press secretary Maxine Brennan at the Granholtz for Governor office in Livonia said these forums prove the attorney general's commitment to including the many voices of educators in policy making.

"This is one way to start getting information," Brennan said. "And Granholtz intends to get these views in. Different school districts have different problems and we can't address that."

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Police News

Graffiti vandals

On March 9 at about noon a resident living in the 29000 block of Carousell called the Novi Police Department to report vandalism to her property.

Upon arrival, the 45-year-old female showed the officer an assortment of comments demeaning women spraypainted on the back of her trailer. The Novi officer noted next to the painted orange derogatory names was a gang symbol. The resident told police she was told about the graffiti by a neighbor at 6 p.m. the previous day. The last time the resident remembered the painted area was clean was two weeks ago, but could not pinpoint a specific evening.

Lawn repairs?

Super Bowl weekend was not so super for one Novi resident as he learned he received a lawn job. A 59-year-old male called Novi Police on March 7 at about 5 p.m. to report someone had damaged his lawn.

The resident living in the 43000 block of Galway said he was out of town the month of February and when he returned he discovered

Purse snatcher

A 48-year-old West Bloomfield woman stopped a man from stealing her purse at Farmer Jack's grocery store March 10 in Walled Lake.

The man grabbed her purse from her shopping cart and she yelled at the man to return her purse. Her screams alerted produce workers and shoppers.

The man, a 6 foot white male with light brown hair wearing a dark jacket and blue jeans, tossed her purse on a table and ran.

The woman followed the suspect out of the store and wrote down his license plate on a maroon Jeep Liberty. Police checked the plate, which showed the Jeep had been stolen from Redford the day before.

The case is still open for investigation.

Cat fight

Two Walled Lake women were arrested March 11 after they

Witnesses told police

the women were slapping, punching and pulling each other's hair.

The women each claimed the other woman through the first punch. Both women were arrested for fighting and assault in a public place.

The case is clear.

A costly withdrawal

A man working at Co-op Credit Union in Walled Lake contacted police when a 20-year-old Westland woman allegedly bilked the man out of money from his bank account.

The woman was a former employee of the man who was defrauded. She allegedly accessed his account and stole money on three different occasions. On Feb. 11 \$405.95 was taken from his account, Feb. 21 \$420.73 was stolen and March 6 \$406.94 was taken.

The man said he doesn't know how the woman got access to his account.

The case is open for investigation.

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Novi Kmart closes doors

Continued from page 1

Diedrich, who like McEachern shopped at the store for as long as 15 years, said she has been following the problems Kmart has been going through and wasn't particularly shocked at the announcement. "Other shoppers agreed the closing was inevitable, complaining of a sparse selection and low inventory."

The store closings will result in the elimination of about 22,000 associate positions with about 75 of those coming from the Novi location. "While the business rationale supporting this action is compelling, we deeply regret the impact these store closings will have on our associates, our customers and the communities where these stores are located," said Charles C. Conway, former Kmart chief executive officer in a media release. "We want to thank all of our associates for their dedication and outstanding contribution and will make every effort to ease the transition for those associates who are displaced."

Executives said the closings are expected to generate a cash flow improvement of about \$550 million in the current year and about \$1.5 billion annually thereafter. "All stores will remain open for business pending approval of the store-closing plan by the Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois and thereafter until the related store-closing inventory sales are completed on a store-by-store basis," said a Kmart media relations representative. "It is anticipated the closings will start in May."

The \$37 billion company announced its decision to file for Chapter 11 protection in January beginning the restructuring process.

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

Council mulls meeting changes

Continued from page 1

Regular meeting attendee Carol Crawford said - in a brief amount of time - she did not support the limits because it may intimidate first-time speakers. "Other council meeting guidelines receiving approval included allowing the correction of a speaker if they are disseminating false information, preparing realistic agendas in an effort to end meetings at a reasonable time and returning

meeting tapes for 90 days. Crawford struggled with wording in the guideline document giving the impression speakers would not have the right to criticize members of the council. Craig DeLoche, Novi city council member, explained the spirit of the wording prohibiting derogatory comments was to eliminate name-calling or negative comments that did not pertain to city business. "If someone engages in personal attacks I will inform them they are

out of order," Clark said. Novi City Clerk Maryanne Cornelius said the council organization rules and order of business document will return on March 18 as an item on the council's agenda for members to review the final document with the approved items included. Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or at vsadlocha@nl.home.com.net.

West Oakland Corridor discussed

Continued from page 1

also be widened from three lanes to five lanes between Pontiac Trail and West Maple Road and it would be widened from two lanes to four lanes from Pontiac Trail to Gleggery Road. "Milford Road would be widened up to five lanes in some areas with two extension projects proposed. The road improvements are needed, according to Swankow. "It comes down to the fact that a lot of people want to live in Western Oakland County," Swankow said.

Mayor Michael McDonald said he was pleased at how well the meeting was received by residents. "I think the people in West Oakland showed real class by sitting here and listening to the conclusion of the steering committee and making comments," McDonald said. However, McDonald also had questions about funding. "I don't know where they are going to get the money for these improvements," McDonald said. "I think all of our work product was good. The hope is at the next meeting we will have a picture of how to address this."

Sandy Arnold, a Commerce Township resident, said he supported the original plan to have a highway connector. Nevertheless, he supports additional improvements to the currently proposed roads. Dick West, a White Lake resident, said he has questions about how long it will take for the road projects to come to fruition. However, he feels the road improvements "I really think it would be better to do it in little sections," West said. "I think it will be a slow process."

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



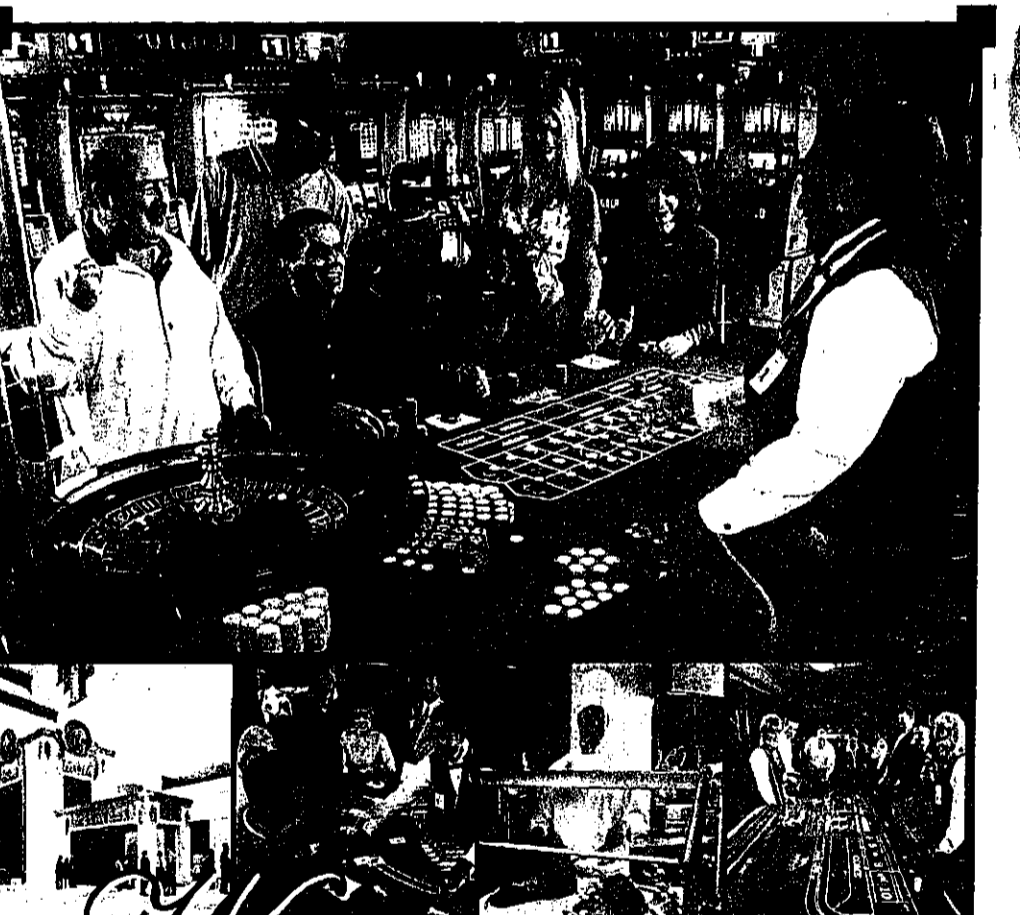
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Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro to host St. Patrick's Day fete

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Although some may equate St. Patrick's Day with an over abundance of green beer, Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro in Novi offers a true Luck-of-the-Irish celebration. "It is a very family day," said Mary Brady, co-owner of Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro. "It is a great place to come after church."

In honor of the March 17 holiday, the bistro is extending its normal hours to accommodate the near-to-the-owners' hearts occasion. From noon until 8 p.m., the popular eatery will offer special Irish cuisine, the Gaelic band Gael Force will play from 3 until 8 p.m. and there will be an array of St. Patty's Day drinks for the adults. "It is the only day we do entertainment," Brady said. "Kids sing and dance with the music. It is a lot of fun."

The special menu, which the Brady's have offered since they opened in Novi 10 years ago, includes Corned Beef and Cabbage, Irish Lamb Stew, Beef and Beer, Dublin Bay Salmon Pot Pie and Tipperary Whitefish. And for the true Irish at heart - Guinness Stout chocolate cake for dessert. "We don't change (the menu) from year to year because everyone enjoys it so much," Brady said. "Everything is very traditional except the Salmon potato."

Brady did clarify that although Salmon isn't normally linked to

Ireland, it is revered by those who live there.

The mouth-watering pot-pie consisting of salmon, bacon, leeks, baby peas, onion, celery and fresh lemon zest in a white wine sauce atop a puff pastry isn't the only menu item to peak interest. Brady's corned beef and cabbage has a highly thought of reputation. The co-owner said what separates her entree from the others is the quality of the beef the restaurant cooks with.

In addition to the excellent presentation, the corned beef served at the bistro is of the highest quality meaning minimal fat and a pure taste. "We purchase the best ingredients," she said. "We don't buy anything low end." Brady said the brisket is cooked for a very long time bringing the popular holiday menu request to tender perfection. For those who may not be able to make it on Sunday, the Town Center establishment will be offering the special Irish menu on March 15 through 16 - minus the band and green camaraderie.

Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro is located at 26053 Town Center Drive next to the Novi Town Center movies. The restaurant is accepting some reservations, but seating will also be available for those without. For more information, call (248) 380-8460.

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

CORNEBEEF AND CABBAGE

Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro Recipe for Corned Beef and Cabbage:

- 4 pounds corned beef
- 1 sprig of fresh thyme and celery tied together with string
- 1 medium onion stuck with 6 cloves
- 2 onions quartered
- 2 carrots, sliced large
- 2 small heads of cabbage cut into quarters
- 1 1/2 pounds baby scrubbed potatoes

- Put beef into stew pot and cover with cold water. Add herbs and onions with cloves. Gently simmer uncovered for approximately 3 hours or until for tender. Skim any scum as it rises.
- Remove clove studded onion and herbs leaving meat in the pot. Add the potatoes, carrots, onions and cabbage and cook until vegetables are tender.
- Remove the meat to a platter and surround with the vegetables and a bit of the broth. The seasoning may or may not need to be adjusted depending on how salty the meat was to begin with.

Note: Serve with horseradish or horseradish flavored sour cream. Recipe serves 6

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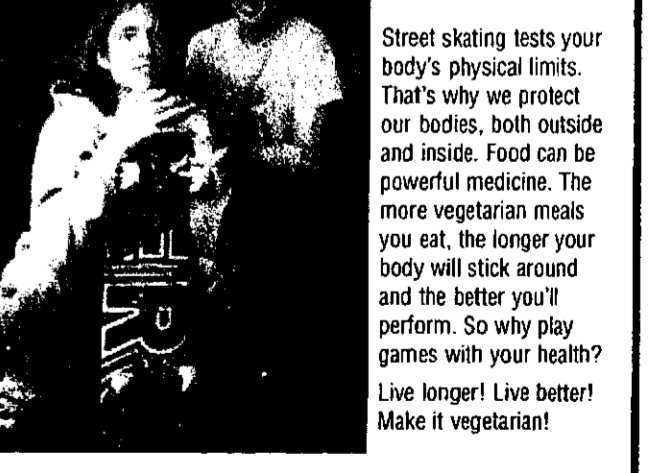
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OAKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH 2393 Beck Rd., Novi S of 10 Mile Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 10:00 AM Morning Worship: 11:00 AM and Church: 11:00 AM Sunday Evening Church Service 8:00 PM Worship Services: 9:30am, 11:00am, 7:00pm Pastor: Dr. Scott Hummel We are One Baptist Family!	CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL 10 Mile between I-96 & Beck, Novi Phone 349-1175 Sunday 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist Sunday 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11 a.m. Sunday School & Nursery
IMMANUEL CHURCH Sundays at Hickory Woods Elementary 30655 Novi Rd. (between 12 and 11 Mile Rd.) Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship: 11:00 a.m.	ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH (248) 624-3817 430 Nicolet St., Water Lake 9 am Holy Eucharist Church School The Rev. Leslie Harding Vicar
WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 4000 S. Main St., Northville, MI 248-374-7400 Services 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 a.m. Sunday School & Nursery Provided Contemporary Service 8:45 a.m. & Contemporary Service 7:00 p.m. Live Service Broadcast WAVE 200AM 11:00 a.m.	

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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.

City officials need to be more accountable

Let's play pretend for a few moments. Let's pretend that you're a subcontractor working on a construction project for the city of Novi. You've performed the work you were hired to do, and you're just waiting for the general contractor to pay you.

One month goes by, and then another, and still no payment. You begin to call the general contractor, but you're not getting any answers. In a final act of desperation, you attempt to contact city administrators with your complaint. Certain you'll be given an explanation you continue to wait.

Another month goes by. No word from either the general contractor or the city. Now what do you do? Well, if you're Rob Siemens, you end up going to a city council meeting and demanding some answers. That's exactly what the owner and operator of Royal Arc Manufacturing was forced to do recently. Siemens' company was hired by Greystone Construction to work on Novi's \$1.9 million fire station and training center. When Greystone didn't pay Siemens' company the approximately \$100,000 it owed, Siemens began what has turned out to be an unnecessarily long journey to get some answers.

First, he went directly to the source — contacting Greystone to inquire when the money would be sent. When he got no satisfaction from Greystone, Siemens turned to city officials for answers. The problem is, according to Siemens, city officials ignored his pleas and never bothered to return phone calls or contact him... for seven months.

If that is indeed true, city administrators owe Siemens a huge apology, and they owe the city council — as well as residents — a huge explanation. One week we can forgive. We might even be able to overlook two weeks without a return phone call, but seven months? That's totally unacceptable in our books, and brings us back to a point we have been belaboring for the past month, and that's the issue of accountability. When we asked city manager Richard Helwig how such a thing could happen, his response floored us.

He said unfortunately, he could not answer the question because the person who was in charge of the project, Tony Nowicki, is no longer an employee of the city.

Correct us if we're wrong here, but isn't the city manager ultimately responsible for the day to day operation of the city? Wouldn't a person surmise that if a contractor called with a major problem involving a city project, that the city manager would be notified immediately?

Assistant city manager Clay Person is doubting that Siemens called in August, when the notice to proceed with the work was actually issued July 30. Siemens countered that he felt something was going wrong with the project in August and that's why he began calling.

Ah...there's that nagging question again. The one city officials really don't want to answer: when did they realize that something was going terribly wrong with Greystone and the fire station project? Regardless as to whether Siemens called in August or September, city officials had an obligation to return his calls and answer his questions. The fact that they didn't concerns us.

Where's the follow-up? Where's the accountability? Who, over there in city hall, is paying attention to projects that have a direct impact on residents? Who is protecting our tax dollars?

We sincerely hope the mayor and city council will start asking questions of their own. We expect people doing business with our fair city will be treated with fairness and respect. To leave someone hanging for several months without answers is unacceptable in our opinion, and someone needs to formally apologize to Siemens and his company.



Nature's ice sculpture
The northern shore of Walled Lake is ice-covered after recent high winds pushed water onto its banks. The lake is beginning to re-freeze again, but is expected to be ice-free later in the week as temperatures climb.

Wading through the stream of politics

In the past months, I have been reevaluating where I stand politically. So, when I heard Michigan Attorney General Jennifer Granholm was coming to Novi for an open forum with metro-Detroit educators, I was looking forward to covering her visit for the Novi News. Maybe it would help my dilemma.

Now, over the years, I have voted strictly for Democrats. I gave my nod to Clinton and then Gore in the past two presidential elections, as well as Debbie Stabenow for the U.S. Senate. I even voted for Democrat Diane Byrum over the victorious Republican U.S. Congressman Mike Rogers, who is from the same hometown as myself.

However, lately when I'm in Border's Books in Novi, I find myself gravitating towards the conservative political magazines. I no longer immediately pick up the new copy of "Mother Jones," but feel compelled to first reach for such pro-right-wing publications as "The National Review" and "The American Spectator."

At first, it felt like committing a misdemeanor to read these magazines at the newsstand. I kept waiting for a friend to sneak up behind me, grab the conservative weekly from my hand and smack me in the head with it. Three months ago, I would have done the same to them.

Did I still have a sense of loyalty to liberals? I wasn't sure anymore. I was hoping the Granholm visit would point me in a direction.

As Granholm bounced questions and comments off her audience last Thursday in the Novi Schools' Tech Center, I felt my critical nature start to pop its ugly head through the cracks. Who do these Democrats think they are? They would rather make another justification than have people stand accountable for their own personal actions. I paused a moment. Was I really thinking that or was that "The American Spectator" getting the best of me.

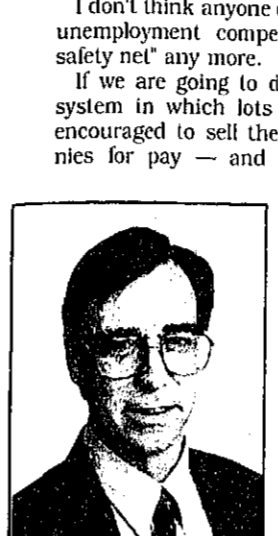
Granholm carried on. Look at that, taking cheap shots at charter schools in a roomful of public educators. Just like a liberal, afraid to offend anyone listening, let alone support healthy market competition.

Why was I being so critical? Granholm seemed like a decent person, I thought. Definitely smart. She carried herself well. I must have been listening to too much pop music this week. All those countless songs about lost love, heartbreak and despair always makes me cynical. I'll have to remember to turn the radio off in my car on the way home.

But the tug-a-war continued. There you go again, I thought next. Just like a typical Democrat, dwindling your standards and justifying your actions to account for it. It was a sell out. Moral erosion will be our downfall. Who is saying these things?

Then, it hit me. I didn't have an opinion about charter schools. I couldn't care less about right or left. Yet, I was hooked on political magazines and talk shows. My brain flip-flopped.

I was neither. I wasn't a Democrat or a Republican. I was just sick of getting half the story. It was like only reading the parts that Robert Louis Stevenson wrote about Dr. Jekyll and skipping the rest about Mr. Hyde. Or like watching "Midnight Cowboy" and hitting the mute button on the remote control every time Ratsko Rizzo spoke. How silly would that be? Maybe you could only watch Jon Voight and walk away completely satisfied, but Dustin Hoffman is fantastic in that movie.



Mike Malott

They fall off, as some inevitably will. There is a societal benefit. That safety net eliminates a lot of the mess the rest of us would just have to clean up one way or another.

But it was interesting to sit down with Rick Studley, spokesman for the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, to get his take on unemployment compensation. Studley's job is to serve as the voice of business in Lansing, giving the perspective of company owners to those who make the laws.

Since I, like most, have never owned a business, it's a perspective I don't come by naturally. My view, like most who draw a paycheck, comes from that vantage point. Nonetheless, as state legislators hammer out a bill intended to raise the maximum benefit for jobless workers, it is, I think, an important perspective for us to keep in mind.

"It's the cheapest insurance policy you will ever have," Studley explains. Yes, an insurance policy, very much like the policies your boss takes on your behalf for medical coverage, or prescription drugs, or dental care. An insurance policy like the ones you buy to protect your car and home.

He further argues that putting those benefits too high might even serve as a disincentive for people to go out and find work, even in times of low unemployment. When there is moderate unemployment, as there is now, the figure can reach as high as \$1 billion per year.

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GOVERNMENT

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

United States Senate
Carl Levin (D-Detroit)
459 Russell Senate Office
Building, Washington D.C.
(202) 224-6221
senator2@levin.senate.gov

Michigan House of Representatives
Nancy Cassis (R-Novi)
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
(888)-736-2855
senbullard@senate.state.mi.us

County Commission
Hugh Crawford (R-Novi)
1200 North Telegraph
Pontiac, MI 48341
(248)-349-5079
hughcrawford@msn.com

Michigan State Congress
Joe Knollenberg (R-Bloomfield)
2349 Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington D.C.
(202) 225-5802

LETTERS

Blame it on politics?
Dear Editor:
Why is it when politicians like Rep. Nancy Cassis (R-Now) get caught doing something they shouldn't be doing their response is to always blame it on politics?

Complain or contribute
Dear Editor,
I heard a quote the other day which brought to mind James Korte and his numerous letters to your paper. The quote is "Those who complain the most, usually contribute the least."

Protecting voter interests
To the editor:
Representative Robert Gosselin (R-Troy) voted to comply with the Michigan constitution's Headline Amendment by opposing a bill that would increase the diesel fuel tax. The increased tax would also cost residents/taxpayers more for goods and services.

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

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



Possession of blueprints outlawed for terrorists

from the caucus to oppose the bill, including Rep. Dan Godchaux (R-Birmingham).

Rep. Jennifer Faunce (R-Warren), a proponent of the bill, argued that supporting evidence would be needed to show that there really was an intent to "terrorize" — fell short of the number of votes needed for passage. The vote board was cleared without a tally being taken, allowing House leaders to bring the bill back another day.

Rep. Judith Scranton (R-Brighton) expected lawmakers to quickly pass legislation that would give school districts a chance to review and respond to test irregularities before they are made public.

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House to vote on bill regarding MEAP irregularities

ment simply made the list public while it notified school districts that they would appear on it. Nonetheless, many districts were unable to quickly explain the irregularities as something other than cheating.

Scranton's bill requires that school district administrators get five days to review any irregularities spotted in their MEAP test results and have a chance to respond before the list is made public in the future.

Scranton's proposal, House Bill 5049, won unanimous approval from the House Education Committee recently. It is expected to come up for a vote in next week.

Scranton said Roberts has already talked to her about the bill, saying his department has already adopted similar rules regarding the list of the MEAP irregularity list.

Scranton said, "I don't forget easily."

Top honors

Howell High Schools held its first Competitive Cheer Invitational on Saturday, January 12th at Howell High School. The Novi Junior Varsity Competitive Cheer Team came in first place competing against five schools. The JV team had a score of 596.5 beating out Brighton with a 523.0 and Hartland with a score of 431.5. On Jan. 19, Novi hosted the Novi Cheer Invitational and the JV Team placed first, edging out Brighton 447.5, to 401.5. Pictured are Melissa Laird, Whitney Haynes, Erin Rouhan, Barb Espinoza, Lisa Howell, Emily Ichei, Jessica Harbin, Amanda Orlando, Molly Ruhl, Katie McDowell, Margeaux Reizan, Amanda Smith. Emily Parker coaches the JV team.



Walled Lake to celebrate Pet Awareness Day

By Diane Dempsey Deed
STAFF WRITER

Every dog is going his day in Walled Lake this fall after city council members approved the city-owned Bundo property to be used for Pet Awareness Day. The day for furry friends and their owners is planned for Sept. 22. Pam Janson, co-chairman of the Downtown Development Authority's promotions committee, said the event is still in the planning stage. However, committee members have substantial plans for the event. The day will have everything from pet training demonstrations to stupid pet tricks, she said.

"We will have people show us the fun things their pets do and they can show off their pet abilities," Janson said. "We hope to have an agility demonstration. It's an obstacle course for dogs." Committee members are still trying to organize having groomers, rescue leagues, leader dogs, police dogs and pet vendors for the event. "We hope it will be educational and help pet owners," Janson said. "It should be a fun, family day to include with pets." Pet Awareness Day organizers chose the Bundo property, which is just east of Pontiac Trail on E. West Maple Road, because of its large size and high visibility. "We hope to stop traffic in Walled Lake," Janson joked. However, the committee's goal for the event is to bring people into town who would not normally come into Walled Lake. She hopes people will shop at area businesses when they visit. There is one problem organizers will have to overcome by having the event at the city-owned Bundo property. The land is not yet hooked up to electricity. "It's a problem that can easily be overcome. Generators could be rented to power the needs of vendors and other participants," according to Loyd Cureton, director of the public works. Dr. Steven Burns, owner of Walled Lake Veterinary Hospital who is helping to organize the event, other communities throughout the nation have organized such an event. There are more than 12,000 pets in surrounding Walled Lake communities, he said. The event will unite people from all over, since everyone loves their pets. "A lot of people like to talk about their pets," Burns said. "It's something everyone can talk about on the same level." Burns is trying to get other veterinary clinics to get involved in the event. "We can get together as a veterinary community," Burns said. "We can get together as one to answer questions."

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

City council Briefs

NEW CAMERAS IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Televized Novi city council meetings have a new look now with the help from some recently purchased camera equipment. Novi City Manager Richard Helwig made the announcement at the beginning of the March 4 meeting. Benefits of the needed upgrade include character generation capabilities to show who is speaking, televised agendas showing where in the outline the meeting is at, direct input for presenters utilizing laptop computers and a clearer picture.

CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Members of the city council unanimously voted to appoint William Cory to Novi's Board of Review. The new board member's term will expire Jan. 1, 2005. Members of the council interviewed Cory for the position during a special city council meeting held immediately before the regularly scheduled March 4 meeting. Additionally, Novi's Director of Public Works, William McCusker was named as the new street administrator for the city. The position had been held by Tony

NEW TRAFFIC SIGNS

Two new yield signs will be coming to Novi streets. Members of the Novi city council gave their approval March 4 to install a yield sign on Southbound Forest Park at Edinborough Drive and northbound Edinborough Lane at Andover Drive. Novi's former director of public services, Grant Request Approval. The Novi Fire Department received the approval it needed on March 4 to apply for the Federal Emergency Management Administration Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program 2002. Officials from the department are requesting funds to purchase vehicle exhaust systems for Fire Station Nos. 1, 2 and 3 and commercial washing machines for laundering firefighters' gear. The estimated cost of the equipment is \$100,000 and the grant application deadline is April 1. If approved, the Novi Fire Department would be required to match the federal grant funds with an amount of nonfederal funds equal to 10 percent of the total project cost.

Fitness Fair set at Twelve Oaks Mall

Waltowood At Twelve Oaks is hosting a free Health & Fitness Fair for seniors. Free door prizes, food and a raffle. Waltowood is located on the service drive of the Twelve Oaks Mall. The address is 27475 Huron Circle, Novi. For more information, call 248-735-1500.

VOTE FOR THE BEST OF 2002

NOVI is filled with people and places that stand out from the crowd. We want to know what readers think is head-and-shoulders above the rest. Take a few moments to make your nominations for the Best of 2002.

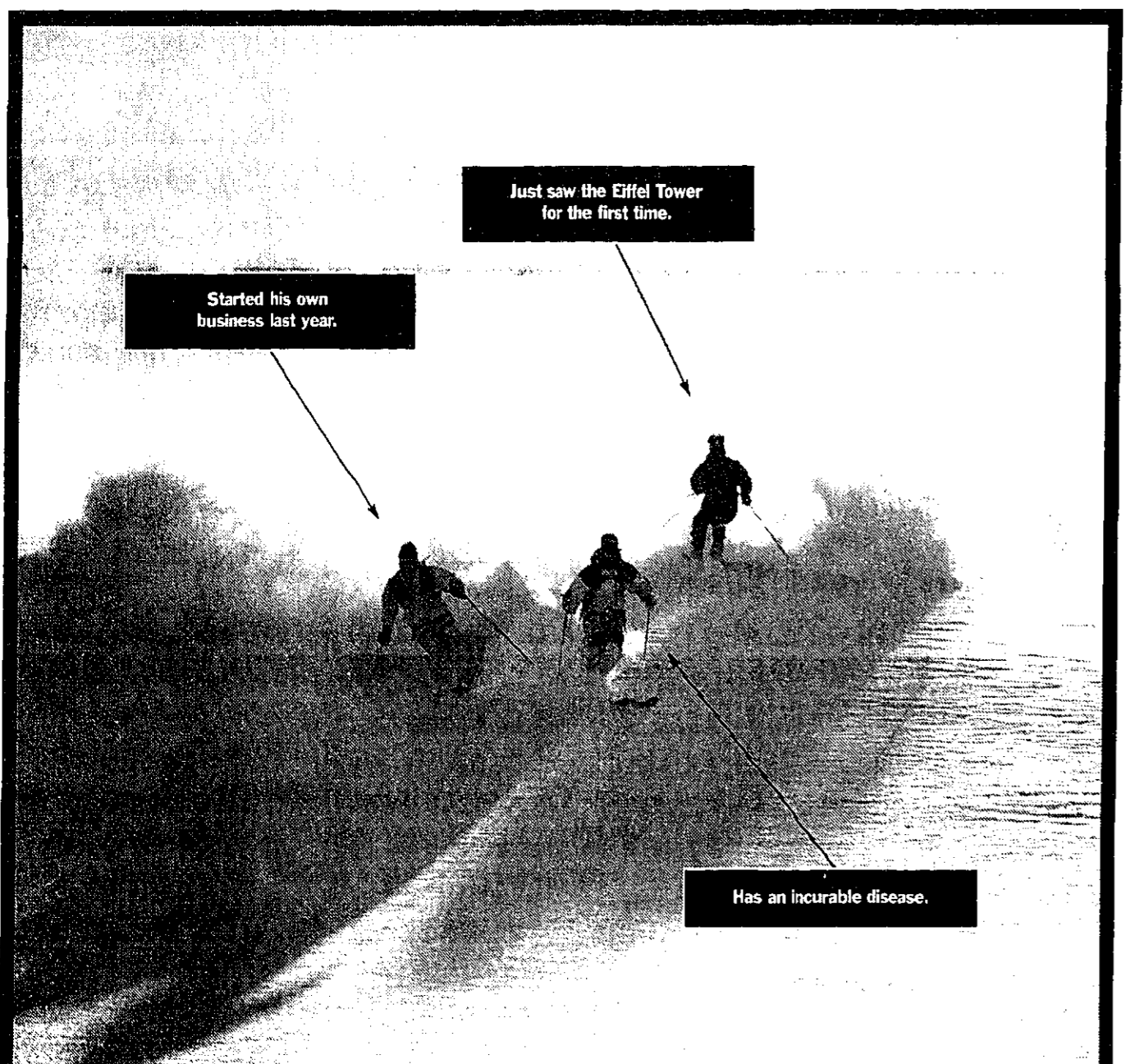
- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| WHICH RESTAURANT SERVES THE BEST FOOD TYPES | BEST SERVICE OUTLETS |
| Appetizer _____ | Bank _____ |
| Dessert _____ | Gas Station _____ |
| Sandwich _____ | or Quick Mart _____ |
| Main Dishes _____ | Hair Salon _____ |
| Salad _____ | Insurance Agency _____ |
| Soup _____ | Internal Provider _____ |
| Burger _____ | Golf Course _____ |
| Chicken _____ | BEST SERVICE PERSON |
| Steak _____ | (Please include full name, |
| Sea Food _____ | business name & city) |
| Pizza _____ | Bank Teller _____ |
| French Fries _____ | Barber _____ |
| Ice Cream _____ | Dentist _____ |
| BEST SPECIALTY RESTAURANTS | Auto Dealership _____ |
| Chinese Food _____ | Doctor _____ |
| Family Restaurant _____ | Veterinarian _____ |
| Fast Food Chain _____ | Hair Stylist _____ |
| Quality Dining _____ | Walker _____ |
| Most Romantic _____ | Waitress _____ |
| Coffee Shop _____ | Receptionist _____ |
| Pub _____ | Insurance Agent _____ |
| Bar _____ | Chiropractor _____ |
| Rock & Roll Bar _____ | Pharmacist _____ |
| BEST SHOPPING LOCATIONS | Florist _____ |
| Appliances _____ | Police Officer _____ |
| Bargain _____ | Jeweler _____ |
| Strip Mall _____ | Travel Agent _____ |
| Video Store _____ | Accountant _____ |
| Hardware _____ | Receptionist _____ |
| Bookstore _____ | Fast Food Employee _____ |
| Men's Store _____ | Librarian _____ |
| Women's Store _____ | Government _____ |
| Shoe Store _____ | Employee _____ |
| Lawn Equipment _____ | Elected Official _____ |
| Specialty Gift Shop _____ | Firefighter _____ |
| Pharmacy _____ | Snow Remover _____ |
| Furniture _____ | Auto Service _____ |
| Auto Parts _____ | BEST MEDIA OUTLETS |
| Carpenter _____ | TV Station _____ |
| Home Improvement _____ | News Reporter _____ |
| or Lumber _____ | Grocery _____ |
| Grocery _____ | Radio Station _____ |
| Music Store _____ | Radio Personality _____ |
| Auto Dealership _____ | |

CONTEST RULES
 1. Original newspaper entry blanks must be used. Photocopies or facsimiles cannot be accepted.
 2. All entries must include the entrant's name, address, daytime telephone number and signature. Incomplete entry blanks will not be counted.
 3. Employees and relatives of HomeTown Newspapers are not eligible to enter.
 4. All entries must be received no later than noon, March 15, 2002. Entries may also be dropped off in person at the offices of the Method Times, Northville Record, Novi News or South Lyon Herald. Results of the polling will be announced in a special HomeTown Newspaper supplement.
 5. Nominations for categories must be located within the community served by your HomeTown Newspaper. Each community's winners will be recognized separately.
 6. Mailed entries should be sent to:
 Novi News, c/o Bob Jackson, Editor, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167

Name _____
 Address _____
 Daytime Phone Number _____
 Signature _____

Please check which newspaper this entry blank is coming from:
 Method Times/Huron Valley Times Northville Record
 Novi News/Lake Area Times South Lyon Herald

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A-America Cherry Finish Hide-A-Center WAS \$1499	NOW \$698
Coca-Cola Indoor/Outdoor Bench WAS \$299	NOW \$78
30" Coca-Cola Wooden Bar Stool WAS \$59	NOW \$28
☆☆ 50 Assorted Desk Chairs ALL 60% OFF OR MORE! YOUR CHOICE! ☆☆		
Brownwood 3 Pc. Madura Pine Ent. Wall WAS \$3199	NOW \$1498
Imperial 4x8' Antique Oak Friar Pool Table WAS \$2399	NOW \$1298
Craftsman Mission Styled Director's Chair WAS \$149	NOW \$48
☆☆☆ Assorted Neon Clocks and Signs ALL 50% OFF! YOUR CHOICE! ☆☆☆		
Craftsman Down Filled Leather Chair and Ottoman WAS \$1399	NOW \$498
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REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Thursday, March 14, 2002

Keller Williams Realty knows the magic of teamwork

By Annette Jaworski
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There's definitely something going on when a company grows from a staff of eight to 125 in less than three years.

"It's not magic," said Mark Bullard, Associate Broker and Team Leader of Keller Williams Realty. "It's called teamwork."

Their unique approach to training and profit sharing has resulted in an explosion on the real estate market.

"As the office succeeds, we all succeed. It creates accountability," said Bullard. "It's the right business model in an industry lacking this opportunity."

Front agents to staff they have a vested interest in the concept of working together. One of the ways that top producers are rewarded is a position on the Board of Directors. The board is made up of 14 of the highest producing agents, who then have a vote in all office operations.

"As a board we create office policies. We work hand in hand," said realtor Bonita Crawford. She agrees that it's a different atmosphere, because they're encouraged to share their knowledge and success.

"In a non-profit sharing type of environment, agents compete with each other. That's why we're so successful," Bullard noted.

An added bonus at Keller Williams is that experienced realtors actually train and mentor new agents. Since they have the profitability of the company in mind, the training equals out to be a win-win situation for the experienced as well as new agents. Senior agents realize that helping

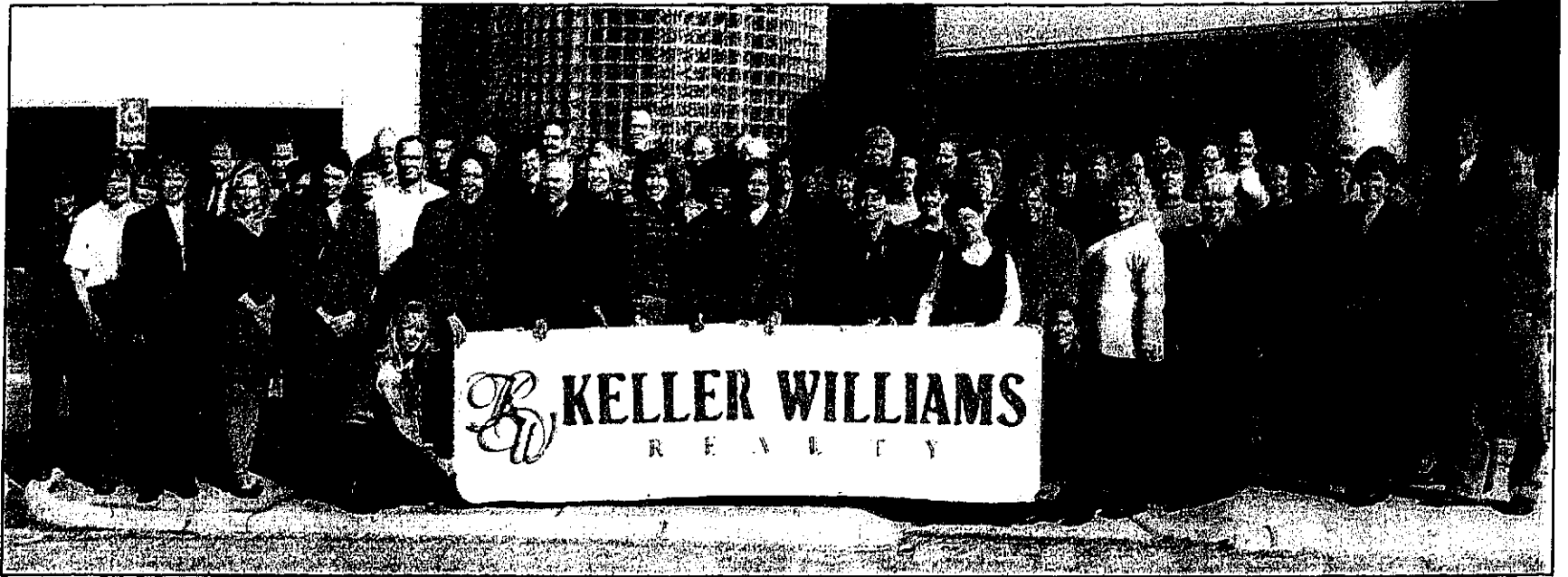


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

The Keller Williams real estate staff out front of their Farmington - Haggerty Road office.

an agent to become more successful creates a more successful company. The result is that even newcomers are important contributors.

"In fact 38 percent of our gross company dollars were brought in by new agents," noted Bullard.

Frank Burkett, a Keller Williams realtor, says his daughter, Jennifer Burkett-Johnson, became part of the Keller Williams Group six months ago and found that her training was exceptional.

The members of the board also participate in various committees, as well. In fact, one of the committees includes the finance committee, where agent Jim Nawrot

serves as its chairman. It's an open book policy, when it comes to company finances, he points out.

"We can look at the books every month and know our expenses," said Nawrot. Other committees determine the policy on marketing, advertising and training for example.

Bruce Hartman, realtor, says what attracted him to Keller Williams was he found it the most technologically advanced of all the companies. The company is designed for top producers and agents who aspire to become top producers. For example, a state of the art high-speed computer net-

work system, along with digital quality fax machines, high-speed laser printers, websites for all of their agents and a high tech phone system.

Realtor Lea Ann Malmn points out that agents are free to choose their own mortgage and title companies at Keller Williams, which is unusual, many other brokerages have a recommended mortgage and title company, that agents are strongly urged to use.

"Whatever companies work best for you; it always goes back to providing what will work best for our customers," said Malmn.

The agents realize that taking care of people first will help their

business flourish.

"We bring an ability to listen and understand the customer's needs and goals along with an uncompromising commitment to excellence," said Linnie Jo Strunk, team partner along with Jane Traudt.

They're also proud to note that they house the DIMora Team, which is the top producing Keller Williams real estate team in the nation.

They continue to look at future growth and plan to buy or build their own building, said Bullard.

Bullard also stated, that nationally, real estate was one segment of the economy that held up well

after the Sept. 11 tragedy.

"There's always a great opportunity regardless of the cycle of the market. Real estate is often an overlooked segment as an investment. It makes a quality staple in anyone's portfolio."

Keller Williams Realty welcomes clientele buying or selling residential, vacant land, new construction and resale properties - from first time buyers to multi-million dollar homes. The Keller Williams Realty Northville Market Center is located at 22260 Haggerty Road Suite 250. Call (248) 380-8800 or surf their website at www.KellerWilliamsRealtyOnline.com

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No Experience Necessary

Technology to make this business world a better place

By Tim Kissman
SBAM DIRECTOR OF PUBLICATIONS

Is there a more awkward place to have a conversation than the office restroom?

Conversations only take place after a person opens a stall door and walks into the common area, usually by the sink. No one wants to make eye contact in the bathroom; no one wants to peek over the top, or underneath a stall.

And my goodness, no one wants to breathe any more than they have to in most bathrooms. Conversation involves breathing, and smelling and ... well, I don't think I have to go into any more detail on that one.

But yet, people still manage to do business, talk about old times and discuss politics like they were standing in a field of fresh daisies. Then there's me — I'd be happy standing in a field of rotting stinkweeds then the bathroom with some people.

I just read an article on the Internet that could eliminate bathroom discussions all together. It seems some Florida-based, high-tech company is trying to market an implant, filled with work data, medical information and tracking software, to willing consumers.

The implant, as big as a grain of rice, is injected under someone's skin and contains a magnetic strip filled with everything

thing there is to know about you as possible. For example, if you are a person who takes several medications, and are allergic to even more, medical technicians can scan your implant in case of an emergency and make the correct treatment.

There's no way something like that will ever go into me. No way. But the more I think about the possibilities, the more I warm to the idea. It's still a no, a BIG no, but I can just see the future.

With the chip, you can hold the passwords to your computer, your bankcard, credit card and probably even the ignition to your car. Imagine just pressing your wrist and having your car start. No more keys. No more fumbling, or forgetting, and in my case, I leave my many keys on my dresser at home. I jingle more than a cat wearing a cow's bell when I walk with my current key setup.

I've heard of chips turning on machines like a computer, turning on lights and even operating Coke machines by paying for the pop through a debit card. That would be cool. I bet the chip could even help you find where you parked or where you're driving via satellite hookup.

Then there's the best reason for a chip and the reason for this column. With a chip you can track where someone is. If they're at home, you'll know. If they're at lunch, you'll know. And if they're in the bathroom, you'll know. If you're crafty enough and have enough control, you can time your breaks around everyone else's and have the restroom all to yourself.

Not a bad deal for something as small as a grain of rice. Not bad at all.



Tim Kissman

MDOT overhauls bidding process for contracts

The Michigan Department of Transportation, long reorganized as a national leader in transportation innovations and strategies, has implemented an electronic bidding system that will revolutionize bidding on state transportation contracts.

The improved process makes MDOT one of only a handful of states in the nation with a fully automated contract-bidding on state transportation contracts.

The electronic bidding process works by permitting private contractors to receive and generate bids over the Internet. Utilizing BidX, a Florida-based company specializing in electronic bidding, documents are secured and kept confidential until the prescribed time and date bids are opened by MDOT. Contractors' bids are

encrypted and sent to secured servers in Florida and Georgia. According to BidX, it could take a super computer hundreds of years to break the security codes on individual bids.

"The electronic bid process is one of many success stories at MDOT," said State Transportation Director Gregory J. Rosine. "The road-building industry is as excited as we are about this process. Electronic bidding will reduce bid errors, save tax dollars, shorten approval time, free-up working contractors from traveling to bid lettings, and enhance our business relationships with our customers."

Utilizing Internet technology for bidding purposes will reduce the potential for errors caused when transcribing paper bids to electronic files, when bidders make last-minute changes to documents, or when handwritten bids are illegible. Once an electronic

bid has been submitted, it can still be opened and changed by the bidder using a personal access code. Changing a bid is easy, confidential and possible until the bid deadline.

MDOT will save as much as \$2,000 in transcription costs per month. Further efficiencies are realized by a shortened approval time. Electronic files can be reviewed and prepared more quickly than paper bids. Reduced errors and minimizing the potential for misinterpretation of ambiguous material further streamline the process.

Using paper bids, contractors previously had to prepare the bids by either typing them or writing them out in long hand. After submission, bidders often would check with MDOT to make sure their mailed bids were being processed. Many contractors felt it was to their advantage to personally deliver bids to assure

they were delivered on time, and it also afforded them the opportunity to make last-minute changes to their bids prior to final submission. Using the Internet, contractors can submit bids by computer, be assured they have been received, check the bids, and even change or withdraw their bids right from their computer terminals. Contractors involved in severe projects, or in efforts to secure work for their companies, are freed from the necessity of attending bid lettings.

"Becoming customer-focused has been a priority for MDOT for some time. In this case, both the contractor and the department benefit from electronic bidding," Rosine said.

In 2002, MDOT will contract for \$1.5 billion in road and bridge work. On average, the department receives more than 270 bids each month.

State News

Optimism at highest level in months for retailers

Michigan retailers are the most optimistic they have been in 17 months, following their best sales performance in nearly two years, according to the Michigan Retail Index.

The index of retailers' sales expectations for the next three months climbed to 70.3, the highest level of optimism since August 2000. It stood at 69.6 in December and 63.6 in November.

Retailer' rising expectations follow January's sales performance index of 56.1, the highest level since March 2000. It stood at 49.8 in December and 49.2 in November.

The Michigan Retail Index is a joint project of the Michigan Retailers Association (MRA) and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and is based on a monthly survey of MRA members. For

the first time in the survey's eight-year history, the results have been seasonally adjusted to provide a better comparison of month-to-month retail data.

"January's numbers show a strong rebound from the sluggish performance of the past year and have raised retailers' expectations for continued year-to-year growth in the next three months," said Larry Meyer, MRA chairman and CEO.

"We're also pleased to announce that like many of the products our members sell, the Michigan Retail Index has become 'new and improved' by using seasonally adjusted numbers. This enables us to eliminate seasonal fluctuations and more accurately gauge how a month's retail performance and expectations compare to those of other months," Meyer

said. The data have been seasonally adjusted by applying a widely used U.S. Census Bureau procedure ("X-11"), according to William Strauss, senior economist and economic advisor with the federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. A more in-depth explanation of the seasonal adjustments and a study of how well the Michigan Retail Index tracks economic data will be available in a Chicago Fed Letter to be published in March.

The Michigan Retailers Association is the unified voice of retailing in Michigan and the nation's largest state trade association of general merchandise retailers. MRA's more than 5,500 retail business members operate more than 12,000 stores across the state.

William Strauss, Senior Economist and Economic Advisor with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, can be reached at 312-322-8151.

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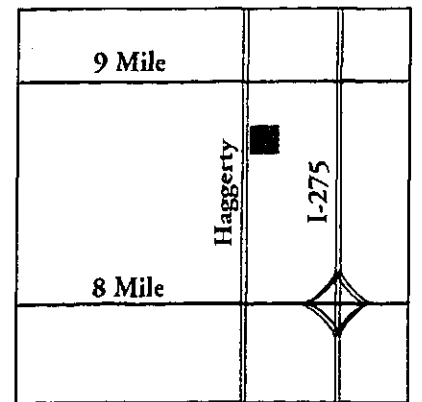
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Josh Churella stays unbeaten Grappler wins states

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

State Champion once again. Novi Wildcat wrestler Josh Churella showed why he is undefeated in two seasons as he maintained his 46-0 unbeaten streak with a 10-6 win over last year's state champ in the 125-pound weight class — Utica's Brad Cusumano — for the state crown.

"I knew all my heart and dedication was going to break him," Churella said of being beging 4-2 in the final period.

Churella came from behind and outscored Cusumano in the final period, 8-2, in the championship tilt at the Palace of Auburn Hills. Churella, who is only a junior at Novi High School, also won the state title last year in the 103-pound weight class and was undefeated last season.

Overall, it was a great showing for all of the Novi Wildcat's involved. Vince Slovan took second place in the 171-pound weight class after falling to Traverse City's John Ostlund. Craig Hearn took third in the 103-pound weight class while J. R. Muldoon took fourth in the 140-pound category to help the Wildcats on to their fourth medal of the individual tournament.

The winning road for the Wildcats was a long and hard

"I knew all my heart and dedication was going to break him."

Josh Churella
Novi Wrestler

one. Slovan had the daunting task of beating Davison's Casey Streeter, who came into the contest boasting a 55-1 record. Slovan, who was 37-9 on the season, collected an 8-4 win.

Churella pinned Livonia Churchill's Brian Clement to continue his undefeated streak.

Hearn and Muldoon fell in the tournament, but continued on to claim medals for the Wildcats in the final round. Hearn lost to Davison's Paul Donohoe while Muldoon dropped his match to Troy's Nick Best.

All four of the Novi wrestlers notched wins in the first round of the state individual finals. Hearn and Slovan both notched pins for their victories while Muldoon and Churella outscored their opponents.

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.

Hockey falls to Grosse Pointe

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats hockey season came to a shuddering halt as they fell in the Michigan State Athletic Association semi-final playoff game.

The 'Cats, led by coach Dan Phelps, fell to the Grosse Pointe North Norsemen 4-2 in a game that pitched the number one ranked Wildcats against the number two ranked team. Just two days prior, the Wildcats hand their hands full with the Okemos Chieftains, but skated away with the overtime victory 4-3.

The Wildcats, who had defeated Grosse Pointe North in the final game of the regular season, were in their third trip beyond the Regional Tournament in the program's four years, but could not hold n to top the Norsemen in the post-season tilt.

Novi followed the lead of junior Brian Jaussi for it's first score of the night, collecting the goal off assistance from Adam Haberman and Chaz Bulbuk halfway through

the second period. That wasn't enough to hold off the Grosse Pointe skaters, even with talented sophomore goalie Dan Morrison guarding the net.

The Norsemen came back strong later in the second period, collecting three goals to take a 3-1 lead.

As it had been through the entire hockey season, the Novi Wildcats came on strong in the third period. Robby Overfield came in strong against the Norsemen's net in the third period, firing a tough slap shot that rebounded off the goalie to Bulbuk, who quickly took advantage and tacked on the second Novi score of the night.

In an attempt to get the advantage over the Norsemen, the Wildcats pulled Morrison for the extra attacker on the ice. The Grosse Pointe defenders held strong and their offense quickly took advantage of the unguarded goal and sealed the game at 4-2 with an open-netter to cap the scoring for both teams.

The Wildcats ended the season

Continued on 5

District Champions! Schluter and the boys win first since 1978

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Yes! The Novi Wildcats boys basketball team had something to cheer about March 8 after they defeated the Livonia Stevenson Spartans 52-49 in the District Tournament to capture the schools first boys basketball District crown since 1978. Just two days prior, the Wildcats topped their cross-town rivals, the Northville Mustangs, for the third time this season, beating them 59-40 to earn their match up against the Spartans after blasting Livonia Churchill 84-46 in the tournament opener.

"It was a great feeling for this team and for this school," Novi coach Pat Schluter said of winning the District Tournament, the school's first since becoming Class A and the team's first since 1978 when they were under the guidance of Ron Fluter. "It was a great feeling. I believe on of the best parts of the entire thing was getting to watch our four seniors go out and accept the trophy."

The Wildcats knew they would have their hands full against the top-rated Spartans, who defeated the District-favorite Plymouth Salem by one point to get a shot at the title. The cagers put on a title-winning performance as they outshot the Livonia Stevenson squad 24-16 in the first half, but had to hold on as the Spartans came back strong in the final two quarters.

The first season that Schluter had as a head coach was the first time in eight years when the Wildcats won a game. Since then, the 'Cats have gone on to make appearances in three District finals games before finally winning the big one against Stevenson.

"The celebration after the game was something to see," Schluter said. "The kids were jumping up and down and yelling. It was great to see for both this team and this school. I am just happy that we won it."

The Wildcats followed the lead of Matt Emmenecker, who put in 16 points, while senior center Jamie Schram added 14 points and 10 rebounds in the winning effort.

"Matt really played well," Schluter said. "He hit some really big shots for us through the whole game. Junior Shaun Dicken had a great night, though he only had nine points. He did a great job on defense and really helped make the difference."

One of the biggest keys in the game was Novi's defense. They knew that they had already lost once this season to Stevenson on the Spartan's court and they weren't about to let it happen again.

"Our defense was huge," Schluter said. "We held Stevenson to 49 points on their own court. We knew going into this game that we were the underdogs because we had lost to them once before and we were on their home court."

Novi 59, Northville 40
Some sports analysts say that one of the toughest things to do in competitive athletics is to defeat a team



Photo by John Heider

Novi varsity basketball coach Pat Schluter motions for his players to get their hands up on

three times in one season. Schluter thought the same thing in the beginning of the season after the Wildcats had a scrap with the Northville Mustangs. He had predicted that there would be a good chance that the two teams would face each other in the playoffs as well — he was right.

What Schluter didn't predict was that each time the two teams faced each other, the Wildcats would just keep getting better and better, this time simply blowing their opponents out on their way to the District title contest.

"We knew they would play zone," Schluter said. "They had a week to prepare for us and they were out

scouting us for a couple of weeks." The biggest surprise of the night for the Northville Mustangs was the shooting of Chase Chandler.

"I told him to go out and shoot," Schluter said of Chandler. "I knew they wouldn't be thinking of him shooting so I told him before the game to shoot if he was open."

The Wildcats led the contest 28-18 after two quarters of play and added another 31 points in the second half to seal the victory. Schram led the Wildcats with 18 points.

Novi 84, Churchill 46
The Novi Wildcats took to the

task of disposing of Livonia Churchill like it was their mission in life as they simply swept the Chargers to the side in the opening round of the District tournament March 4.

The 'Cats followed the lead of Emmenecker, who poured in 16 points, while Schram and Shaun Dicken added 15 points apiece for the win.

The Wildcats took a 10-point, 20-10, lead after one quarter of play and didn't bother to look back as they scored another 25 points to the 11 of Churchill for a devastating 45-21 halftime lead before dominating the rest of the contest and ensuring the victory.

Continued on 2

Wild 'Stangs take second to Rochester Adams

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Last season, the Northville-Novu Wild Stangs gymnastics team upset the favored Rochester Adams squad to win the state championship title -- this season, the Wild Stangs didn't win the crown, but they sure had

Rochester Adams on pins and needles.

The Wild Stangs, led by coach Lindsay Schultz, took second place in the state finals competition held at Rockford High School with a final score of 144.575. The squad took second only to the highly touted Rochester Adams gymnasts, who notched the title victo-

ry with a final of 147.2.

The championship tilt found the Wild Stangs just over a point behind the squad from Rochester Adams heading into the beam competition. The Northville-Novu gymnasts found that they just couldn't keep up with the Rochester Adams team, but put on a good show for their friends, fam-

ily and fans in attendance.

Stellar junior Jennifer Sturgis finished with a 9.4 in the vault event for a fifth place tie while senior Lindsay Carlson tied for 10th on the bars with a final score of 9.125.

Sturgis and up-and-coming sophomore Sara Wilchowski tied for seventh place on the beam with

a final score of 9.3 while Sturgis went on to tie for fourth place in the floor exercise with a final score of 9.3.

Sturgis ended the night with a fourth-place overall finish, compiling a total of 36.950 in the Division I competition to help the Wild Stangs to their second place finish. This season showed a marked

improvement for the Wild Stangs, who started out at a dismal pace of 0-2 before kicking their competitors up a notch and collecting win after win.

Though they will surely be missed, the loss of seniors Carlson and Andrea Ledbetter is a huge

Continued on 2

Try to look back at these years and smile

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

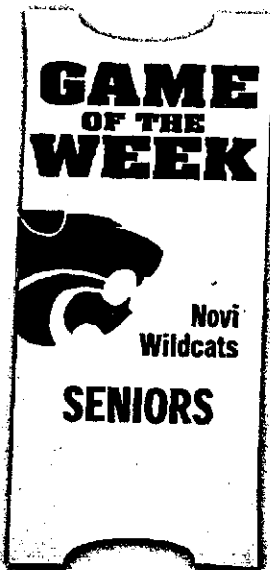
For seniors, this can start to be one of the toughest times of the year. I know for me it was a signal to how it was all about to end.

It is about this time of year that many seniors in high school start to realize that they are going to be taking to the field, or the court or the rink for the last time in their athletic careers. Yeah, some may go on to play at the collegiate level and others may go on to play club or recreation-

al league sports — but for many of today's senior athletes, this is the beginning of the end.

With one more season to go before school lets out and the seniors have to start looking ahead to college instead of preparing for next season, many begin to wonder if they could have tried a bit harder or ran a bit longer in practice, games and the off season. The truth is, each of us could have probably given just a little more on a particular play or during prac-

Continued on 5



Volleyball falls in District tourney

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It is always tough to swallow two losses in a row, especially when it cost a team the conference title.

The Novi Wildcats girls volleyball team had a tough time dealing with their two consecutive Kensington Valley Conference losses and it showed as they went on to fall to Walled Lake Central in the first round of the District playoffs. The 'Cats, coached by Julie Fissette, fell to Central in three games, 15-6, 12-15, 15-10, after losing to Pinckney 16-14, 15-13 and

falling to Milford 15-7, 15-10, in their final two regular season games.

"I really think that if we would have beat Walled Lake Central that we would have won the Districts," Fissette said. "After we lost to Pinckney, the girls were a little shocked. That seemed to carry over to our game against Milford."

The District tournament match up against the Vikings proved to be too much for the once KVC undefeated Wildcats. The combination of struggling through their final two games in addition to taking on one of the top-rated volleyball teams in their District

tournament was enough to end the Novi season.

"They are a very tough team," Fissette said of WLC. "We knew that we were going to have to have a good game against them if we expected to win."

In the end, errors proved to be the Novi undoing.

"We passed horribly and we served horribly," Fissette said. "We didn't block very well against them either."

The loss to the Vikings wasn't the one that stung the most, even though it was the one that sent the Wildcats home for the

Continued on 5

Gorman headed for the football All-Star game

By Brian Doyle
SPECIAL WRITER

Matt Gorman will be representing Novi High School in the 2002 Michigan High School Athletic Association's East-West All-Star football game at the University of Michigan Aug. 2. This is not only an honor for Matt Gorman and Novi High School, but also a testament to the abilities of Novi athletes.

Matt Gorman was selected to take part in the 2002 Michigan High School East-West All-Star football game. Gorman, along with 83 other athletes will take part in the game on August 2 at Michigan Stadium. He was notified by mail that he had been selected to play in the prestigious game and so was Novi head coach Tab Kelleppour.

"I'm very excited to make the team," Gorman said. "The other players will report to Michigan State University a week before the game and have practices to prepare for the game. Only one player from each team can be selected so 84 different schools will be represented. The game will be held at Michigan Stadium on the University of Michigan campus. Playing at the Big House will be a thrill for Gorman who is a Wolverines fan."

"I've been a Michigan fan my whole life," Gorman said.

Gorman will be competing on the east team and will play with and against the top seniors from Michigan. Each team has 42 players and only the top seniors are invited to play in the game. These players selected their school uniforms to wear the color of the uniforms and shoes that they are provided with.

While the game is an honor just to make the team, the game is still

very important. "I hope to have fun," Gorman said. "But it is competitive too." The top players in the state will be at the game including Farmington Hills Harrison's Drew Stanton and Ulen Eisenhower's Joe DiGiorgio as well as other players.

"You always here these names and finally I get to go and meet

them and play them," Gorman said. "The level of competition will be high with only the premier players participating in the game." "It's going to be a challenge to go up against all the best players in the state," Gorman said and is very eager to play in the game.

Family and friends of Gorman and other players as well as high school football fans in general will be attending the game.

Gorman has already been named to the Detroit News Class A All-State first team and All-North first team, and to the Detroit Free Press All-North first team, and many others. Gorman still is unsure where he wants to attend college and is looking at Bowling Green State University, Northwood University, and Albion College to play football. At Albion, Gorman could play football and baseball.

Currently Gorman is looking forward to the high level of competition and meeting some of the other top players in the state. Playing on Michigan's grass will be fun for him, as will the game against the best in the state.

Gorman said, "I'm looking forward to competing."

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

Next Level Athletes

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Next Level Athletes portion of the sports section is dedicated to the men and women of this area who have taken the next step in their athletic careers. It is here we are able to applaud them for their efforts and their success in the sports they love.

Karen Fischer, Senior, Hope College — Karen Fischer, a former Northville High School athlete, led the Hope College Flying Dutch in the three-meter (6) diving competition with a season-best of 227.45 points as well as being the team leader in the three-meter (11) diving competition with a season-best score of 374.15.

Lauren Yagella, Freshman, Kalamazoo College — Lauren Yagella, a Northville resident who graduated from Farmington Hills Mercy, finished fifth in the 1,650 yard freestyle with a time of 18 minutes, 59.49 seconds in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association Championships. Yagella also took sixth in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 1:02.41 and fourth in the 500 free with a time of 5:20.80.

Lindsey Vermillion, Freshman, Northern Michigan University — Lindsey Vermillion, a Novi graduate, finished fourth in the 1,650 freestyle with a time of 18:18.24 while participating in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference swimming and diving championships held at the University of Indianapolis. Vermillion and her fellow women Wildcat tankers took NMU's fifth-straight GLIAC women's title. Vermillion also placed 10th in the 1000 free (10:57.88) and seventh in the 500 free (5:18.44).

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

Gymnastics second in the state

Continued from 1

difference to the loss of seven seniors the Wild Stangs faced this season. The crew is no doubt waiting to find out if Sturgis will be back for another season with the Northville-Novu gymnastics team or if she will decide to go the route of elite gymnastics. Sophomore Wilchowski should be back again next season and, along with the other young talent the squad had this season, promises an interesting and exciting, as well as competitive, season for next year.

Other area community teams that participated in the state finals meet included Tri-Farmington,

taking fifth with 143.325, Brighton, seventh with 141.15, Plymouth, eighth with 140.825, Hartland, 10th with 139.750, and Livonia, 12th with a final of 135.575. Hartland's Abbey Korchnak tied for fifth in the vault event with 9.4 points while Brighton's Jenn Dion took seventh with a 9.375 and Tri-Farmington's Chelsea Keesling tied for ninth with 9.3 points. Tri-Farmington's Sara Houchins tied for sixth on the uneven bars with a total of 9.150 points while

Keesling tied for 10th with 9.125 points. The balance beam found Houchins taking second place with 9.5 points while Keesling was 10th with 9.150. The floor exercise ended with Keesling tying for fourth with 9.3 points and Houchins taking sixth with 9.275. Houchins was fifth all-around in the final competition with a total of 36.925 points while Keesling tied for seventh with 36.875.

Wild Stangs



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Community Events

• THIS WEEK •
WHAT: Free home-buying seminar
DATE: March 9
LOCATION: Pioneer Mortgage (42400 Nine Mile)
TIME: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: The registration-required event will teach participants about financing, tax benefits and the home purchase process.
PHONE: (248) 347-3050, ext. 239

WHAT: Novi Cooperative Preschool open house
DATE: March 9
TIME: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi United Methodist Church
DETAILS: School is open to children ages three and four. Non-members of the co-op will be eligible to join.

WHAT: "Amazing Woman" day
DATE: March 9
LOCATION: Borders Books (43075 Present Blvd.)
TIME: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
DETAILS: Inspiring female authors, coaches and experts will be making personal appearances at Borders, including Marian Nelson,

Monique Rider, Robin Harris and Debi Weinstein.
PHONE: (248) 347-4643

WHAT: Novi Youth Assistance Bowl-A-Thon
DATE: March 9
LOCATION: Novi Bowl (21700 Novi Road)
TIME: 1 p.m.
DETAILS: Charity event assists Novi Youth Assistance. Free shoe rental and refreshments will be offered.
PHONE: (248) 347-0410

WHAT: Free Estate Planning For Young Families Seminar
DATE: March 11
TIME: 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center 45175 Ten Mile

DETAILS: Attorney explains how to take care of your family through will, trust, and other estate planning vehicles, plus information on the various college savings options
PHONE: (734) 358-2784

WHAT: Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency free food distribution
DATE: March 12
LOCATION: Novi Senior Center at Meadowbrook Commons (25075 Meadowbrook)
TIME: 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
DETAILS: All persons who are income-eligible and not registered for food distribution may do so by bringing Social Security cards for all household members, verification of household income and photo ID.

PHONE: (248) 209-2658

WHAT: "Women Poets Look At Relationships" seminar
DATE: March 12
LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church (24505 Meadowbrook Road)
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
DETAILS: An evening of reading and hearing poems that capture the essence of what it means to be a wife, mother, daughter friend and grandmother. Non-poetry types are welcome.
PHONE: (248) 661-4366

WHAT: Auditions for Novi Theatres "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe"
DATE: March 11, 13
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center (45175 Ten Mile Road)
TIME: 4 p.m.
DETAILS: The play itself is slated for May 17-19. Youths ages 7 to 14 are eligible to audition.
PHONE: (248) 347-0400

• LOOKING AHEAD •
WHAT: American Business Women's Association "Network While Golfing" seminar
DATE: March 18
LOCATION: Wyndham Garden Hotel (42100 Crescent Blvd.)
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
DETAILS: The seminar, hosted by PGA member Chuck Stevens, will teach golf skills and how to network with others while playing the game. Pre-registration is required by March 11.
PHONE: (248-676-0303)



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STAR FAIRLANE	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE	SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING
STAR SOUTHFIELD	STAR TAYLOR	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS
STAR RIVER	STAR PALLADIUM 12	UA COMMERCE STADIUM 14
		UA WEST RIVER



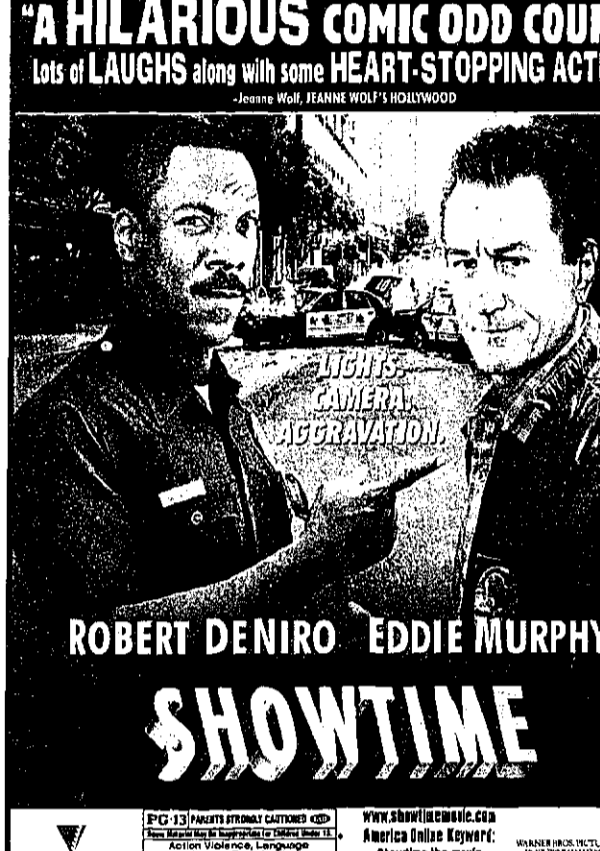
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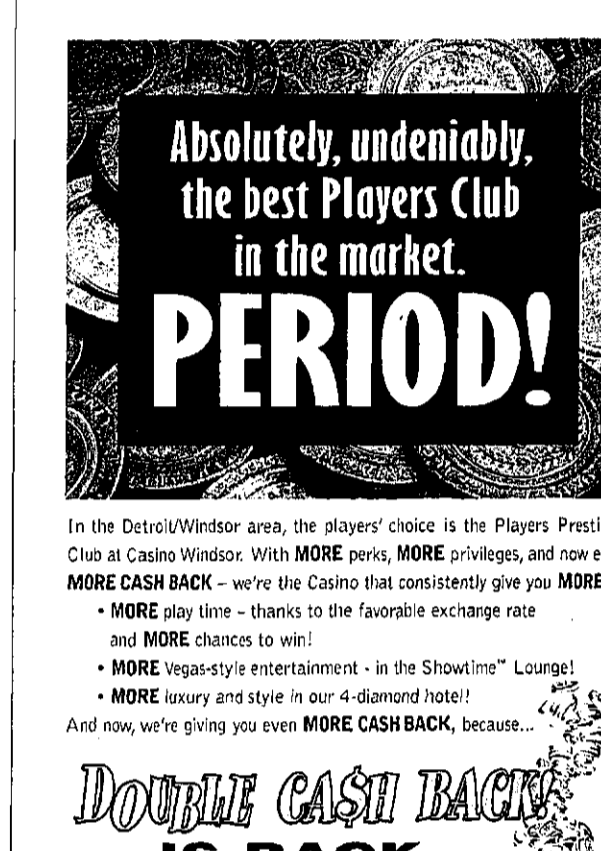
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Looking for spring activities? Join Knights rugby club

Continued from 6

exceeds them. The truth be told, rugby has more reported injuries per season than most other sports. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Injury Information Clearinghouse, rugby had a reported 8,391 reported injuries from the club level through the professional ranks while football reported 355,247 injuries and wrestling has 43,917. The most dangerous sports, when it comes to injuries, are basketball, with 631,186 reported injuries in a year, and bicycling, which reported 372,621. In-line skating reported

110,783 injuries and soccer, the latter of rugby, collected 109,734 injury reports in a season.

Some other misconceptions about rugby is the roughness the sport brings to the playing field. Is it a game for gentlemen played by amateurs or is it a game for ruffians played by gentlemen?

"It is a game where the referee is always addressed as sir and after every match the players fully shake hands," Cornell said. "We still have the traditional third hand where the host team provides drinks and something to eat while the players socialize. That has always been a rugby tradition and we carry it down to

this level as well."

Legend has it that rugby originated at Rugby School (hence the name) in England, when one of the pupils, William Webb Ellis, picked up the ball during a game of soccer in 1823 and ran with it. Ellis' deed is commemorated by a stone on the Rugby school grounds with the inscription "This stone commemorates the exploit of William Webb Ellis who with a fine disregard for the rules of football, as played in his time, first took the ball in his arms and ran with it, thus originating the distinctive features of the rugby game, A.D. 1823."

The Knights are always interested in getting an increased

number on their rosters. Cornell and company are always available Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays at Meads Mill School from 4:30-6 p.m. while they are out practicing. Anyone interested in joining the team can show up to practice or contact Coach Cornell at (313) 864-9086.

"We are always looking for players," Cornell said. "We take them now through the end of the season. It can help football players stay in shape for the season in the fall and it helps wrestlers learn the advantages of leverage. We don't conflict with the other seasons either."

Burtis going to Saginaw Valley

Continued from 6

ter at the state meet.

"I had a couple of injuries that held me back," Burtis said. When he's not playing sports, Burtis enjoys playing sports video games, hanging out with friends, and having.

"I love looking," he said.

Burtis likes to hang out with fellow football player Mike Larges and Jeff Koenig. Brandon Combs and Jeff Parnell with friends, Burtis likes to watch

movies. He noted that Steven Segal is one of his favorite actors along with Julia Roberts. Burtis also enjoys being with his girlfriend at four months, Rachel Vuk.

Burtis' favorite food is his mom's cheese potatoes and his favorite restaurant is J. Alexander's.

Burtis noted that his favorite athlete is Michael Jordan.

"He's proven that he's the best player there is in any sport," he said. "It doesn't matter how many times he goes away he

always comes back on the top of the league."

Currently, Burtis plans on trying out for the baseball team and working to become a better football player.

Burtis said, "I'm constantly trying to make myself better."

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

Three seniors depart hoops team

Continued from 6

how the season went.

"I'm really proud to see what our team did this year," Wilcox said. Baird said that he enjoyed the guys that he was around and the love of basketball they all shared.

Morris said, "I had fun and that's all that matters."

All three seniors are looking to continue their education at a higher level next year. Morris is unsure of whether he will go to a small school, like DePue or Olivet, and play basketball and football or attend a larger university.

"I'm keeping it up in the air, I might go to a small school," Morris said and noted that he wants to major in communications and has aspirations of one day becoming a broadcaster.

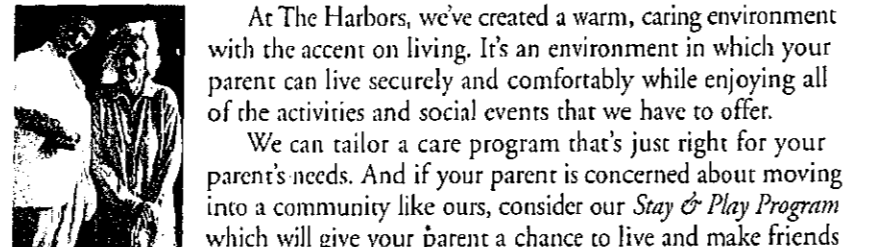
Wilcox has his schools narrowed down to two, the prestigious Brown

University and the University of Idaho. Island where he wants to become an engineer. Wilcox will also attempt to play athletes at the next level and said he will try out wherever he goes.

Baird has his mind made up and will attend Western Michigan University to major in flight science aviation and become a pilot. All three of the players feel they have learned a lot from this season.

"It's perseverance," Baird said. "We were losing in the beginning but we finally got everything clicking."

Baird missed last season because of an injury to his knee and was unable to try out. Morris will also take away more than basketball experience through the season, he said. "Sports allow




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Spikers lose to KVC rivals



Novi's Carmen Simkins takes a faceoff against Lakeland at the Novi Ice Arena in late November.

Icers lose in semis

Continued from 1

With an impressive 23-4-2 final record, going 13-1-0 in the Kennington Valley Conference for a share of the league title.

Novi 4, Okemos 3, OT

The Novi Wildcats found a hearty challenge when they took to the ice at Summit Arena in Lansing March 6. The "Cats looked to the lead of senior Overfield, who put in the winning goal off a pass from Bulbuk by coming from behind the net and scoring the goal by finding the uncovered corner to seal the victory for the Novi skaters.

The Wildcats had to make a come-from-behind attempt to top the Chieftains after falling behind 3-2 after two periods of play. The first Novi goal came as Robert Vataj notched a score with 13:54 remaining in the first period before the Okemos

Spikers lose to KVC rivals

Continued from 1

rest of the year. The loss to Pinckney was enough of a sting to cause the Wildcats to flinch — instead of playing Milford knowing that they were going to be the KVC champs, the Wildcat girls were playing Milford in hopes of tying for the conference crown.

"We had a very good win over against Pinckney," Fisetle said. "It was a tough loss. They are all tough losses."

The game against Milford, just two days after, was almost more than the Wildcats could handle. The Wildcats made sure that they were going to have true home-court advantage as they admitted each Novi student into the game for only a dollar in hopes of increasing the size of their fan base.

"It was the biggest turnout ever for a Novi volleyball game," Fisetle said. "It was loud in that gym. There was music and cheering and it was very exciting."

The Milford Redskins came prepared for the Novi's strategy and brought a instead of fans to the game to help even out the score. In the end, it was Milford walking away with the victory and ended the Novi regular season with a loss.

"It was a tough loss," Fisetle said. "Especially for our three seniors."

Sports shorts

Boys Spring Recreational Basketball Leagues Forming

The Northville Parks and Recreation Department is accepting player registrations for its spring 2002 Boys Youth Basketball Programs (eighth and ninth grade boys in one league, 10th through 12th grade boys in another).

Registration will be processed through March 22nd or until the leagues fill (a 10 dollar late fee will be assessed for all registrations after March 22).

Each league will participate in an eight game schedule, April 13-June 1. The team practices will begin April 8 for two hours per week through May 30.

Adult coaches are needed for these youth basketball programs.

If interested or for more information, contact Dave DeMatteis at (248) 348-0203, ext. 1405.

Catholic Youth Organization Football Meeting

The Our Lady of Good Counsel football program is holding an organizational and informational meeting.

All boys, grades third through eighth for the 2002-03 school year, and their parents should attend.

The meeting will be held Thursday, April 11 at 7 p.m. at the Our Lady of Good Counsel gym located at 1062 Church Street in Plymouth.

Boys who are members of the following parishes are eligible to play at OLCG: Our Lady of Good Counsel, Our Lady of Victory, St. Mary of Wayne, St. Richard, St. Thomas A'Beckett, Divine Savior, Resurrection, St. James, St. John Neumann, St. Kenneth and Holy Family of Novi.

If interested or have any questions, please contact Mike Givis at home, (734) 454-0847, or at work (734) 427-6270.

These are the years that can't be relived

Continued from 1

throughout our athletic careers — but it is too late to go back and change that now. Today's seniors, and the ones that have come and gone, have to realize that it doesn't matter if they could have given that little more at one point or another — even if they did, would it have changed the outcome of the game? Probably not. What seniors have to look at is the amount of memories they made throughout the season. Maybe this year marked the last season for a particular Novi athlete team throughout the history of the school.

What I hope for each and every one who does look back on these days is that they look back and find something to smile about. I would hate to know that, an athlete looks back and only sees the times they messed up, or the times their team lost. That would be a shame, especially with everything that is positive they could be looking back on.

Maybe it was that great check in hockey to send a Northville player sliding across the ice on his back, or maybe it was a great block against Walled Lake Central's volleyball team and maybe it was winning the District title in basketball.

To the seniors of Novi High School athletes, thank you for allowing me to be a part of those memories and I hope you have many more to come in the following season.

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Burtis signs letter to SVSU

By Brian Doyle
SPECIAL WRITER

Walled Lake Western Senior Brandon Burtis signed his letter of intent to play football for Saginaw Valley State University last month.

The 6' 3", 280 lbs. Burtis will play on the offensive line for the cardinals next year. Burtis had a tough choice to make between attending Saginaw Valley State University, or Grand Valley State University.

"I wanted to play for a winner," Burtis said.

Both Grand Valley and Saginaw Valley made it to the NCAA Division II Northeast regional final where Grand Valley just edged out Saginaw Valley, 33-30, on their way to the NCAA Division II Championship game. However, Burtis found that Saginaw Valley State University was the choice for him.

"When I got there I felt a strong family environment that I would be a part of and that I had a legitimate shot of playing next year," Burtis said.

On February 6, Burtis and 25 other athletes signed National Letters of Intent to play football for Saginaw Valley next year.

Saginaw Valley head coach Randy Awrey said, "I'm extremely impressed with this years recruiting class," in a press release last month.

Next year, Burtis will receive a scholarship and financial aid package that will basically cover the full cost of attending the university. Burtis plans to major in education and become a teacher, preferably in History and a football coach.

Burtis has been playing football since the seventh grade when he started playing because his dad used to play. According to Burtis, his parents, Bob and Angie have been very supportive in all of his athletics. Burtis has prided himself on improving every year to reach his maximum potential.

"I'm really dedicated to the sports," he said.

Burtis loves football, partially because of the preparation for life, and partially because of the basic instinct mentality.

"You learn a lot in football you'll use later in life," Burtis said, "You learn a lot of leadership qualities."

However, Burtis also said, "It's like controlled violence," and he enjoys that aspect of the game as well.

Burtis is also on the high school wrestling team and competed at the state competition this weekend. In his first year at the varsity level he had a 35-15 record. He had a strong season but wished he could've done bet-

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WLC hoops say good-bye to three

By Brian Doyle
SPECIAL WRITER

Although the Walled Lake Central Vikings basketball team may have been young, it had three seniors with many strong qualities that each brought to the table.

Maxx Morris, Erik Wilcox and Jarius Baird each helped their team in their own individual way. Morris and Wilcox were the only returning seniors, and Morris was the only returning starter this year.

Wilcox stepped into a startling roll and did very well for the Vikings. Baird, in his first year on varsity, added a positive attitude and made contributions to the team that aren't visible in statistics.

"He had a positive attitude the whole year," Wilcox said. Baird had a good time this season and enjoyed himself.

"It was one of the most fun seasons I've ever had," Baird said. He was impressed by the way the other two seniors led the team.

"We had great senior leadership

by Erik and Maxx," he said. Morris brought a lot of experience from the previous year and was a key player on the team that had great success last year.

"It was tough going from 22-2 last year to our record this year," Morris said. However, neither Morris nor the rest of the team gave up on anything. The team had a very slow start, but then got back into the thick of things to win their division. The seniors were a big part of this.

"The seniors led quietly by example," Baird said. The team turned their season around and showed that they could play at a higher level.

"They had this resilience about them. Nothing bothered them," said Walled Lake Central head coach Bob Shoemaker of the team.

"The season showed how we progressed," Morris said.

All three seniors, though they obviously wished for a better record, seemed to be satisfied with

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WLC loses tough one

Cassise, Vikings can't top KVC's Brighton

By Brian Doyle
SPECIAL WRITER

In a valiant effort, the Walled Lake Central Vikings basketball team closed out their season with a close loss to the Brighton Bulldogs, 54-51.

The game was tight all the way through. Brighton took an early three point lead at the end of the first quarter 15-12.

"My biggest concern was that they would run away from us after we had been playing so well," Walled Lake Central head coach Bob Shoemaker said.

The Vikings were determined to keep that from happening and rallied back in the second quarter to go into the half only down by one, 27-26.

"The first half was the best basketball we've played all year," Senior Erik Wilcox said.

The Vikings held tough the rest of the way and went into the final quarter down by one point again.

"I thought we played the best game of our season," Wilcox said.

In the end, Brighton's play was able to barely top the Vikings by three. A large part of the difference may have been that Brighton shot 28 free throws in the game and the Vikings only shot seven.

Brandon Cassise, who led the league in scoring, scored 24 and had 4 assists for the Vikings.

"Cassise made some great passes," Wilcox said.

Maxx Morris also had a successful night. He had a double double on the night with 10 points and 13 rebounds.

"As the season went on, he got better," Shoemaker said.

Wilcox also played very well. He had the responsibility of Brighton's Chris Grimm. Grimm scored 21, which was a defensive success for the Vikings.

"Erik played a tremendous game against him," Shoemaker said. Wilcox had help sometimes in defending Grimm who ended up being Brighton's leading scorer.

"We had two guys on him as much as possible," Wilcox said. "We played really well against him."

Walled Lake Central was a young team this year and finished the season with a 7-14 record.

"I'm proud of what the kids accomplished despite their record," Shoemaker said.

The team's record is deceiving as the team was co-champion of their division.

The Vikings began the season 0-7 but really stepped up their play from that point on. They went 7-7 from that point on with 6 of those losses coming by ten or less.

"We were coming up big in big games," Shoemaker said.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Central's Lemmie Plummer, left, and Steve Rabish try to defend against Western's Adam Muehl in a January contest at Walled Lake Western.

The team made a complete turn around after those first seven games and stepped up their play in a big way.

"If you look at us in the first seven games and the last seven, you can't believe it's the same

team," Shoemaker said.

Although the teams record left something to be desired, the squad played hard in every game and almost upset a strong Brighton team.

Shoemaker said, "There were

many times where they could have folded. They had toughness even when things got down."

Brian Doyle is an intern for the Novi News. Comments can be directed to the sports department.

All-Western Lakes Activities Association

ALL-WLAA HOCKEY TEAMS
WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSN.
ALL-CONFERENCE HOCKEY TEAM

Forwards: Tim Hillebrand, senior, Northville; Mark Nagel, junior, Plymouth Salem; Brad Heraghty, senior, Farmington Unified; Defense: Adam Jakubowski, senior, Livonia Churchill; Jason Robinson, senior, Livonia Franklin; Matt Krug, junior, Churchill; Josh Lutzman, senior, Livonia Stevenson; Goalie: Jake Archer, senior, Churchill.

Coach of the Year: Pete Mazzoni, Churchill.

ALL-WESTERN DIVISION

Forwards: Brian Grant, senior, Churchill; Andy Garbutt, senior, Franklin; Ryan McCabe, senior, Plymouth Canton; Jason Engelland, senior, Northville; Defense: Scott Sparks, junior, Franklin; Adam Zobl, senior, Northville; Goalie: Kyle Susewitz, senior, Franklin.

Coach of the Year: Terry Jobbitt, Franklin.

ALL-LAKES DIVISION

Forwards: Kevin Wilson, senior, Salem; Keith Hay, junior, Farmington; Adam Miller, junior, Stevenson; Brian Shekell, junior, Stevenson; Defense: Matt Calus, senior, Stevenson; Brian Francis, sophomore, Walled Lake Central; Jeff Tosolan, junior, Farmington; Goalie: Gabe Villarruel, senior, Stevenson.

Coach of the Year: Fred Feller, Salem.

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Jim Krygowski, Aaron Jakubowski, Adam Wysocki, John Maley, Ryan Wischmeyer; Salem: John Schultz, Andy Thackaberry, Brad Proodian, Steve Jacobs, Bryan Young, Aaron Cheesman; Stevenson: Pat Norton, Brian Stevens, Josh Dun, Jonny O'Neill; Farmington: Brett Laird, Matt Lee, Marc Rauth, Mike Hand; Northville: Nick Strauch, Ryan Hohl, Dave Stewart, Adam Dilley; Franklin: Adam Bierley, Corey Garbutt, Ross Robert, Corey Clearman, Dave McCall; Canton: Mike Carson, David Bak, W.L. Central: Brian Francis, Andy Naylor, James Kerbawy, Adam Griffin; Walled Lake Western: Alan Shamoun.

ALL-WLAA VOLLEYBALL

WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSN.
ALL-CONFERENCE VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Randin Brown, senior, Farmington
Kathleen Knutson, senior, Westland Glenn
Beth Bushey, senior, Liv. Churchill
Meghan Callahan, senior, N. Farmington
Katie Rademacher, junior, W.L. Central
MaryLou Liebaw, senior, Ply. Salem
Katie Good, senior, Ply. Salem

ALL-WESTERN DIVISION TEAM

Lauren Temple, junior, Northville
Maggie Conderi, junior, Farm. Harrison
Susan Duncan, senior, Liv. Churchill
Heather Munn, senior, Liv. Churchill
Danielle Bongero, senior, W.L. Western
Cindy Rotramel, junior, Ply. Canton
Kristen Lake, junior, Ply. Canton

ALL-LAKES DIVISION TEAM

Kelsey Cross, junior, W.L. Central
Amy Rathsburg, senior, W.L. Central
Meghan Young, senior, Farmington
Deanna Gauer, junior, Farmington
Ashley Dettore, senior, Liv. Stevenson
Kelly Jaskot, senior, Ply. Salem
Jordan Falcusan, sophomore, Ply. Salem

HONORABLE MENTIONS

W.L. Central: Stephanie Koslowski, Allison Summerhill, Kansas Raby; Stevenson: Ashley Janaulis, Allecia Davis; North Farmington: Melissa Traczyk, Michele Boothroyd, Lisa St. Charles; John Glenn: Kari McLeod, Elise Froehly; Farmington: Julie Kimmel, Jessica Janowicz, Kelsey Giusbert, Chelsea Kresky, Jocelyn Atkins; Salem: Nicole Genrich, Maggie Tudor, Mandy Bradley, Tiffani Erickson, Maggie Jones; Churchill: Sarah Phillips, Leslie Ligeski, Sallie Kuratko, Sheila Gillies; W.L. Western: Courtney Dye, Megan Sorenson, Becky Whittle; Franklin: Elyse Pachota, Lisa Slack, Janice Hudry; Harrison: Alex Cicer, Diana Platt, Latoya Burrell; Canton: Courtney Jarman, Stephanie Johnson, Jenie Crudele; Northville: Cymbre Jaskot, Emily Ott, Jenna Slack.

Rugby Club looking for a few hard-nosed players

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Northville Knights Rugby Club is about to kick off another successful season and are looking for a few good players.

The Northville Knights Rugby Club, which is made up of high school-level players from the freshman through the senior grade level, is heading into its fifth season at full speed under the guidance of coach Ron Cornell. The Knights, made up of players from Novi, Northville and the Lakes area, will be looking to ruck and scrum their way to the state championship game again this season — but the difference from this year compared to years past is they plan on winning the title instead of falling in the title game.

"In three out of the last four years Northville has reached the state championships only to lose to Grand Rapids Catholic Central," Cornell said. "The first year we lost 32-10, then 20-0 and last year 10-0. We keep getting closer and closer."

Over the last two seasons, the Knights have collected a 25-5 record, with two losses being to

Grand Rapids Catholic Central, one to Brighton and one to an out-of-state team. There is no doubt in Cornell's mind that the Knights will be looking to continue their winning tradition alive and well. Cornell, who is a former rugger with the Detroit Tradesmen Rugby Club as well as the club's former president, undertook the project of coaching the Northville Knights in 1998 and brought the squad to the playoffs in all of its first four full seasons.

The 2002 season, which runs from April 10 through the state championship game towards the end of May. As of right now, the rugby team has two home game penciled in on their schedule, but the schedule is far from etched in stone.

"The season begins a week after spring break, which lands right around April 10 this season," Cornell said. "We have one match ever Wednesday and we also have two round-robin tournaments penciled in."

As Northville/Novi's own rugby club, the crew is no doubt looking to playing in Northville instead of traveling to Southfield to play on the Tradesmen's home turf.

"Last year the school system allowed us to use the Hillside football field," Cornell said. "We are hoping they will let us use some space again this year. We had the best attendance when we played at Hillside last year. It does these guys some good to get recognition from their hometown fans."

The teams in the East-side of the state, where Northville plays, include Brighton, Washtenaw, Berkley, Dearborn and Howell. The teams in the West include Forrest Hills, Grand Haven, Battle Creek and two teams in Rockford. Traverse City, St. Joes in Richmond and Livonia look to be new teams starting up for this season.

One of the problems the Knights face is the lack of numbers — though those numbers have been increasing from year to year.

"There are a lot of misconceptions about this game," Cornell said about the problems in recruiting the team faces.

Many people are led to believe that rugby is a sport that not only equals the roughness of football and wrestling, but to play on the Tradesmen's home turf.

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