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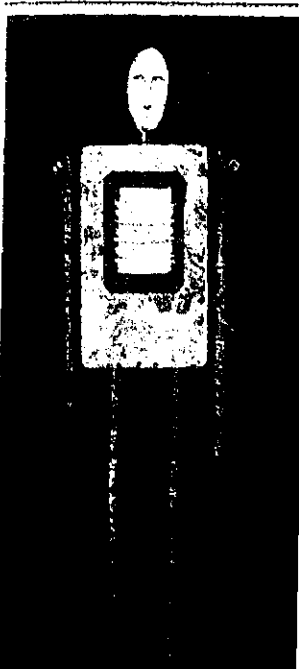
Volume 49 Number 15

Novi, Michigan

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Look inside for your
GREEN SHEET
Classifieds
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INSIDE



Calendar of Events

Find out what's happening in the Novi area. Like the Sugarloaf Art Fair April 19-21. Now in its eighth year, the Novi Expo Center show features the works of 350 art, like this two-foot tall sculpture (above) by Rebecca Grace Jones.

— Page 4A



Curves for Women

Co-owners Jo Ann Steuwe (pictured below) and Jan Jones have opened a new Walled Lake fitness facility specifically for women.

— Page 13A

SPORTS

Runnin' Wild!

Distance runners are expected to lead the way for the Wildcats boys track and field squad this year. Coach Robert Smith and crew will make a run for the Kensington Valley Conference title and beyond.

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Vic's Market "back on the block"

Deal to purchase market dies after two parties unable to agree on price

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

After seven months of negotiations, a Canton grocer tabled talks to purchase the now vacant Vic's World Class Market in Novi.

"When we last left it, it was kind of off the table," said John Pardington, owner of Holiday Market in Canton. "We're still open and looking for other opportunities, but at this point I think that one is pretty much done."

Pardington, who announced in February he had been talking with Vic's owner Vic Ventimiglia since August, said agreeing on a price

was pretty much the deal killer.

"It is disappointing," Ventimiglia said. "It would have been a good spot for them, but it is their loss not ours."

Ventimiglia said the once heavily attended downtown development anchor "is now back on the block" and hopefully will have some bites soon. The market owner said there are no offers on the table at the present time.

The news wasn't something Nabil and Rana Matar were happy to hear. The joint owners of Fatoosh Mediterranean Cuisine said their business plummeted when Vic's cleared out.

The Matars said because their second-floor cattery overlooks the market, and because there was an entrance into the restaurant from Vic's, many people thought they were closed too.

The looming vacancy is not a great concern to employees at Lifestyles Hotspring Spas - a store in the Vic's World Class Market complex.

"We don't have the browsers like we used to, but its vacancy doesn't affect those that have set out to buy," said Keri Hosmeister, Lifestyles Hotspring Spas employee.

Hosmeister said the store's sales

figures have remained solid despite Vic's closing.

Novi developer and Novi Chamber of Commerce member Jonathan Brateman feels although a portion of Novi's downtown destination sits empty, it is more of a glass-half-full scenario than a glass-half-empty one.

"I think there is a great opportunity for a substantive retail to come to our community," Brateman said.

The owner of Jonathan Brateman Properties, Inc. also pointed out that business deals of this magnitude take time.

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Computer heaven

Viadimir Agafnov of Ikon Technologies sets up some high-definition video monitors at the start of last weekend's Computer Show at the Novi Expo Center. Thousands strolled around the expo center for bargains on laptops, computer systems, printers, DVD drives, cables and the like. Seminars were available on how to get the most out of computer systems, printers, digital cameras, flatbed scanners and Web sites.



Photo by John Heider

City of Novi named in million dollar suit

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

A local attorney filed a million dollar lawsuit against the City of Novi last month, stating that officials failed to follow their own interpretations of Novi's zoning ordinances and that members of the city council made an illegal advisement adversely affecting his clients.

Novi attorney James J. Harrington, III, filed the complaint March 26 in Oakland County Circuit Court after an ongoing debate over a 6-foot berm proved fruitless for Novi property owners Karl Wizinsky and Marcia Boynton. "It is really quite simple," Harrington said in explanation of what the lawsuit is all about.

Harrington, a former two-time Novi Zoning Board of Appeals elected chair, said because of zoning ordinance interpretations, the Wizinsky's are entitled to a 6-foot berm at the back of their property

line, measured from the first floor level of their home, to separate their property from a new development scheduled to house a Target store at Wixom Road and Grand River Avenue.

And because of interference by members of the Novi City Council, they may never see that berm, he said.

The Wizinsky's are additionally seeking monetary damages of about \$1.4 million to allow construction of a wall on their property to provide screening they believe the ordinance would have required. Harrington said the million-dollar price was derived from preliminary estimates and is attributed to the changes in elevation from the first floor level of their house to various portions of the property line.

Problems began for Harrington's clients after the commercial development site plan, approved by the Novi Planning Commission, did not provide for a 6-foot berm the entire

"The directive of city council to the ZBA to rescind its own decision was beyond the power and authority of city council."

James J. Harrington, III
Attorney

length of the common property line, measured from the first floor level of the adjacent Wizinsky home.

"The Novi city staff has previously interpreted the zoning ordinance to require this measure from a first

floor of an adjacent residence because varying topography could defeat the purpose of a berm if simply measured from a boundary line," Harrington said.

The Wizinsky's filed an appeal of the planning commission site plan with the Zoning Board of Appeals. Their attorney said on Jan. 8 that members of the board of appeals found the couple had "standing" and were "aggrieved persons" before requesting additional information from the Planning Commission because the ordinance was ambiguous.

However, on Jan. 28, the Novi City Council directed the Zoning Board of Appeals to rescind its decision, Harrington said.

The attorney said he feels members of the council may have believed because the original berm decision was part of a previous consent judgment involving the city, their hands were tied and

continued on 18

Students will pay fee for driver's ed

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

On the road to meeting its \$800,000 budget deficit for next year, Novi Schools' put the district's summer driver education program on its cutback list. It looked as if Novi's newest drivers would all have to seek private lessons elsewhere.

This year, the district would have to get creative to keep the program alive.

"We have always tried to save (the driver education) program and hold on to it as long as we possibly can," said Novi Board of Education president Carol Elfring. "It is a good program."

continued on 1B

WALKING FOR A CAUSE

Avon Breast Cancer Walk scheduled for May 31-June 2

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Combining friendship and recreation, two area women are teaming up and hitting the streets in an effort to raise money for the battle against breast cancer.

Novi resident Bridgette Collins and Wixom resident Michelle Bovie will be participating in the Avon Breast Cancer Three-Day Michigan Breast Cancer Walk May 31-June 2.

Both women will walk 20 miles a day, beginning in Ann Arbor and finishing in Detroit.

Walking side-by-side is nothing new to the friends and coworkers. The teammates participated in the

Traverse City Bayshore Marathon last year, traversing 26.2 miles in five-and-a-half hours.

"This (the Avon walk) is by no means a race," Collins said. Bovie originally learned of the walk in October after seeing an advertisement on TV.

"Then she made the mistake of calling me," Collins said.

Collins' interest was immediate after experiencing the loss of her 62-year-old grandmother to breast cancer and welcomed the opportunity to walk in her honor. "My grandfather thinks it is so great," she said.

The dental hygienists at Sachs Family Dentistry said they are beginning to train for the walk now.

"We plan on doing back-to-back long walks," Bovie said.

Collins said the training isn't painful though because both women enjoy each other's company.

"It is exercise and we enjoy it," Collins said.

The first day of the walk will begin at 7 a.m. with opening ceremonies. After that, the 35-year-old duo is planning on early morning start times.

"They did mention if you are not an early morning riser then you better bring an alarm clock," Bovie said. "So I think we'll be bringing an alarm clock."

Both ladies are especially excited because part of the walk goes through Dearborn where they will see friends and patients from their Dearborn dental office line the streets as they walk through town.

Collins said their boss, Robert Sachs, has been a tremendous source of support.

"At meetings, people have said the walk is a life-changing event."

continued on 18



Photo by John Heider

Bridgette Collins, right, and friend Michelle Bovie will be participating in the Avon Walk in late May for breast cancer awareness and prevention.

NAN lifts ban

Civil rights group pulls its advisory against Novi

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

After receiving a satisfying response from Novi officials, representatives of a civil rights activist group lifted a previously-issued travel advisory warning blacks to avoid driving or shopping in the city.

Michigan leader of the National Action Network, Rev. Horace Sheffield III, lifted the ban March 28 during a press conference at the Novi Civic Center, citing a timely, cooperative response by city officials as the primary reason.

Sheffield said he was pleased the police department immediately researched the number of tickets issued to black motorists.

The local leader of the group nationally headed by the Rev. Al Sharpton explained communication difficulties were part of the reason why the advisory was issued in the first place.

"They were placed under advisory because of our inability to meet with them," Sheffield said.

City of Novi Chief Operating Officer Craig Klaver said representatives from the network had come to Novi's city unannounced, asking to meet with the mayor or city manager.

Klaver explained to the group members that the mayor was not a full-time employee of the city and therefore was not present at the 10 Mile Road location, and that the city manager was out of his office.

Klaver said he spoke to them and arranged for the representatives to meet with Tia Gronlund-Fox, the city's director of human resources.

"Their original concerns were employment," Klaver said as to why they were introduced to Gronlund-Fox.

"They felt because we did not offer the mayor or manager originally, that we were not being cooperative, but it all worked out well," Klaver said.

A March 27 meeting between Sheffield, other network representatives and city officials helped clear the confusion.

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Calendar of Events

Container Gardening with Roses

DATE: Friday, April 5
LOCATION: Novi Community Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile
TIME: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Seminar with Joe Rarus, an American Rose Society consulting rosarian; a silent auction will also be held; free and open to the public; social hour, pastries and coffee served.
PHONE: Pat, (248) 449-4626

The Jesus Film

DATE: April 7, 14 and 21
LOCATION: Lakes Baptist Church, 309 Decker Rd., Walled Lake
TIME: 6 p.m.
DETAILS: The life of Christ presented on film.
PHONE: Don Magee, (248) 624-2900

You and Your Aging Parent

DATE: Tuesday, April 9
LOCATION: Farmington Hills William Cosick Activity Center, 28600 Eleven Mile Rd., Farmington Hills
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
DETAILS: Class series to help one manage life as a caregiver; held every Tuesday throughout April; open to public for charge of \$10 per family.
PHONE: (248) 473-1830

Rummage Sale

DATE: Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Congregational Church, 21355 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi
TIME: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
DETAILS: Offered by the church's Women's

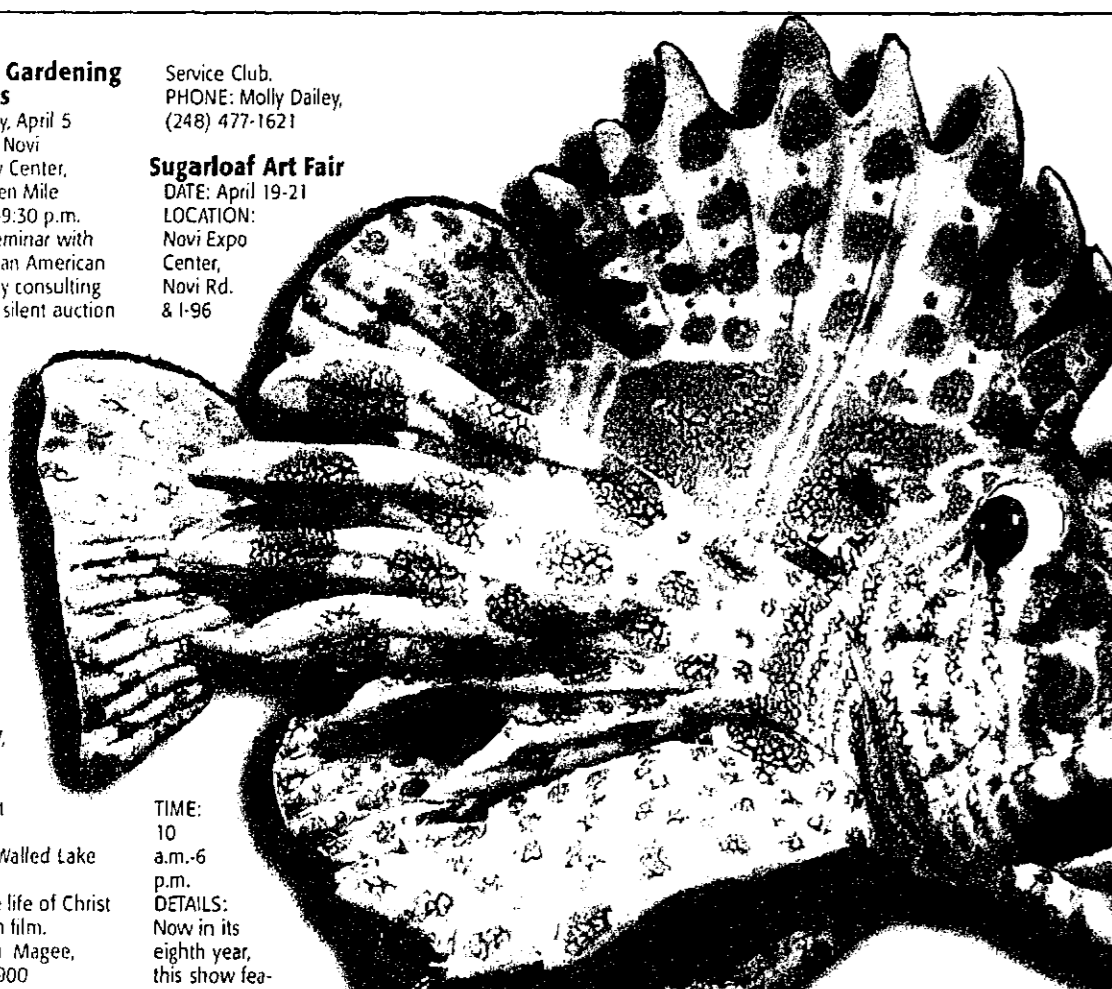
Service Club

PHONE: Molly Dailey, (248) 477-1621

Sugarloaf Art Fair

DATE: April 19-21
LOCATION: Novi Expo Center, Novi Rd., Novi Rd., 4-196

Alan and Rosemary Bennett's "Lion Fish" (left) is not only a whimsical wall hanging but a true work of art. You'll find many other such works of art among the sculptures, jewelry and fine art offered at the Eighth Annual Sugarloaf Art Fair, April 19-21.



through biblical history.
PHONE: Faith McCloy, (248) 380-0286

10th Annual Charity Auction

DATE: Saturday, April 27
LOCATION: Novi Hilton Hotel
TIME: The doors open at 6 p.m. with silent auction followed by an elegant dinner at 7:30 p.m.
DETAILS: The Novi Chamber of Commerce's premier event of the year, "A Night to Remember," sponsored by Time Warner Cable and Providence Hospital & Medical Center. Tickets are \$65 per person. PHONE: (248) 349-3743 or visit the Web at www.novitchamber.com

Walk Thru the Bible

DATE: Saturday, April 20
LOCATION: Lakes Baptist Church, 309 Decker Rd., Walled Lake
TIME: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
DETAILS: A unique seminar that will assist one in seeing how the pieces of the Bible fit together.
PHONE: Please call Cindy Hammond at (248) 624-3048 to reserve materials.

Women's Retreat

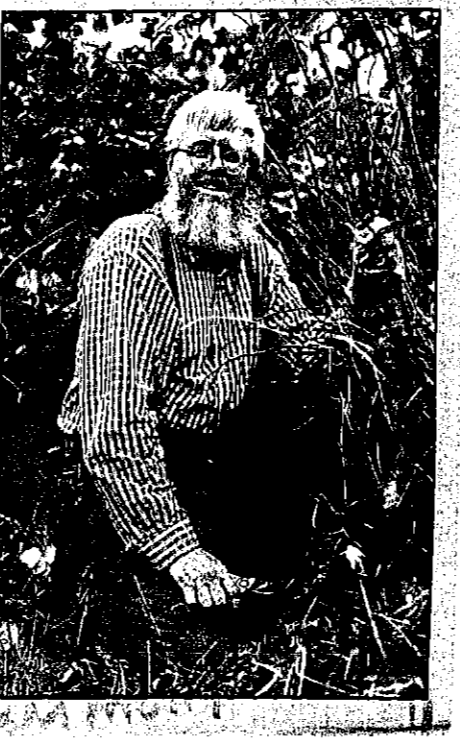
DATE: Saturday, April 27
LOCATION: First United Methodist Church of Northville
TIME: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in the chapel
DETAILS: An opportunity for women to gather for a day of making choices, discovery, and learning

Spring Home and Garden Show

DATE: April 4-7
LOCATION: Novi Expo Center, Novi Rd. & I-96
TIME: Thursday & Friday, 2-10 p.m.; Saturday, 10-10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
DETAILS: Sixth annual show featuring products and services for the home and garden, presented by the non-profit Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan. Cost is \$6 for adults; \$5 for seniors; free for children 12 and under.
PHONE: (248) 862-1019 or www.builders.org

Roger B. Swain (pictured below), host of PBS-TV's popular horticulture show "The Victory Garden," will share his gardening insights at the Spring Home & Garden Show April 4-7 at the Novi Expo Center.

"The man with the red suspenders," as he is known to millions of viewers who have watched him on the PBS show for 16 years, can be seen at the show Thursday and Friday at 3, 5 and 7 p.m.; Saturday at noon, 2, 5 and 7 p.m.; and Sunday at noon, 2 and 4 p.m.
Biologist, gardener, writer and storyteller, Swain was born and raised outside of Boston. He received his doctorate on the natural history of ants in tropical forests, from Harvard University. Shortly thereafter, he became the science editor of Horticulture magazine, a position he has held ever since. Swain, a resident of New Hampshire, is the author of five books: "Earthly Pleasures," "Field Days," "The Practical Gardener," "Saving Graces," and "Groundwork." He received the 1992 American Horticultural Society Award for writing and "The Massachusetts Horticultural Society Gold Medal in 1996 for 'his power to inspire others'."



Finally, more space for Commerce church

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER

Church members at Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church in Commerce Township have more room to move around as a result of a new Fellowship Hall that will be dedicated April 14.

It took nine months for the 6,000-square-foot building to be completed. However, it took church leaders and members four years to plan the needed expansion.

The congregation will celebrate the long anticipated expansion with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 11:15 a.m. after the 10 a.m. service. Once the ribbon is cut, members will head off to enjoy their new space by dining in the new addition.

The addition includes meeting space as well as separate movable rooms for Sunday school worship. A fully equipped stainless steel kitchen was included in the design plans.

According to Linda Reiche, a Fellowship Committee member involved in the expansion process, all meals were previously warmed up but never cooked in the church. Now meals can be prepared from

scratch in the kitchen. Vicky Williston, also a member of the committee, the "disappearing walls" are ideal for the approximately seven classrooms, yet it can be made open for church weddings and other programs.

The Rev. Roy Langset said the new space was greatly needed. "We needed program space for the church. We never had program space for Sunday school, youth groups and our senior programs."

The project was made possible by the hard work and donations of church members, who raised \$500,000 to construct the addition, he said.

Committee members contributed their ideas to make the addition become a reality. "There was so much input as to what would go into the building to make it the most fully functional," Williston said.

Their ideas have come to fruition. "There's a lot more storage space," she said. Church choir members also have more room to harmonize. "We have two hand bell choirs, a children's chime choir, adult choir and a youth choir," said Cheryl

Bubolz, music director. "Now we have a room large enough to accommodate our rehearsal schedules. Before the room was much more limited."

Williston hopes more people will visit the church now that there is more space for them.

"We think more people will be encouraged to come with the new construction," Williston said. "It will lend us more programs and things to offer to attract the community."

The Rev. Ruth Overdier is delighted the construction is completed. However, she understands that it took a lot of people to make it happen. "Our new extended space has come from the vision and commitment of our people," Overdier said. "Many minds and hearts have been involved in this venture. Now our expanded facility will provide us with greater opportunity to reach out to the community around us. We want to share our joy."

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



Pastor Roy Langset, right, and Vicky Williston, Fellowship Committee member, will soon officially welcome people to the new addition to their church, this large meeting room and Sunday School building at Shepherds of the Lakes Lutheran Church.

"Our new extended space has come from the vision and commitment of our people. Many minds and hearts have been involved in this venture. Now our expanded facility will provide us with greater opportunity to reach out to the community around us. We want to share our joy."

The Rev. Ruth Overdier
Shepherds of the Lakes Lutheran Church

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Obituary

Daniel Robert Velthoven

Daniel Robert Velthoven, 59, of Pinkney, died Mar. 25 in Ann Arbor, Mich. He was born Aug. 23, 1942 in Detroit to William Velthoven and Eugenia (Jablonski) Velthoven.

Antoinette Velthoven of Belleville

Antoinette Velthoven of Belleville, Mich., died Mar. 25 in Ann Arbor, Mich. She was born Aug. 23, 1942 in Detroit to William Velthoven and Eugenia (Jablonski) Velthoven.

Students stay up all night for cancer victims

By Angelo Parlove STAFF WRITER

Novi High School hosted its second annual "lock-in" last week with students raising money for Michigan children with cancer.

The high school student council sponsored "Wake-A-Thon 2002," where students stayed overnight in their school March 22, entertaining themselves until the crack of dawn the following morning.

The kids seemed to have a great time, said Novi High School senior student council member Mike Hendricks. "There was something for everyone to do."

Providence Hospital in Novi. "The evening went well," Harsha-Strong said.

"We chose TACC because the students would be closer to the money and see how it would affect local people."

"We chose TACC because the students would be closer to the money and see how it would affect local people."

Mike Hendricks Senior Novi High School Student Council Member

Area seniors fool around at City's holiday luncheon

By Victoria Sadlocha STAFF WRITER

Mismatched shoes, inside-out pants and backwards tops were the clothing items of choice at Monday's Novi Senior Center luncheon.

No, the more 60 attendees did not get dressed in the dark, but rather were in the mood to celebrate April Fools' Day.

In addition to silly stories and prizes, all the nonsensical parlers enjoyed a noon lunch of chicken, potato salad, baked beans, rolls, apple pie and beverages.

"You have to act up once in awhile," said participant Marie Cross. "It is a lot of fun," said Kathy Crawford, Novi's special recreation coordinator.



Proudly displaying their mis-matched and inside-out fashions for Monday's April Fool's Luncheon at the Novi Senior Center are: Dixie Cushell, Maryann Weber, Lorene Wahoski, and Edward and Loretta Heaphy.

CHURCH DIRECTORY For information regarding rates call The Northville Record or Novi News (248)349-1700

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER

"Civil War Bob" Zaetta addresses a group of Novi Woods Elementary School students last Thursday morning about life in the Union Army during the Civil War. Zaetta came equipped with most of the gear a typical soldier would carry, explained them all, and even related how the bayonet he's attaching to his musket, was used more as a candle holder than for combat by infantrymen.

Bringing the past to life

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

Novi third-grader Patrick Budesky's report on the Revolutionary War grew from mere words on paper to a living and breathing piece of American history March 11, 2002.

To top his class research project on the American Revolution and his parents' Revolutionary War enthusiasm, dressed in authentic colonial garb and brought a taste of the Continental 10th Virginia Regiment to Last Gibbs third-grade class at Village Oaks Elementary in Novi.

The third-graders sat wide-eyed in their desks as Budesky, dressed as a Revolutionary War farmer's boy, recounted the early American history to his fellow classmates.

"The Revolutionary War is where we won our independence," Budesky said. "We won our rights."

The 10th Virginia Regiment was a settlement of legendary early American militia men and soldiers who traveled across the eastern part of the U.S. with their families, battling the British armies for their country's freedom.

The historical reenactment introduced students to traditional colonial war and weaponry, including a

musket and bayonet and an authentic six-pound iron cannonball. Furthermore, students got to see common, late 18th-century household items, such as bees wax candle molds and ink quills.

"We try to adhere to that time frame of history," said Budesky's mother, Elizabeth Budesky, who researches the clothing and other items in documented historical writings for accuracy.

The third-graders eagerly passed the iron cannonball from desk to desk.

"We want to show the students about history in a more tangible way other than books," said Elizabeth, securing the single cartridge of a soldier's rifle in the Revolutionary War. "We want them to understand how our freedom was won."

The Budesky family has traveled across the U.S. and Canada to reenact the warlike scenes from America's past, including a trip to Trenton, N.J., last December for a real-life crossing of the Delaware River.

"We want to inspire curiosity to explore deeper into our past," said Budesky's father, Kenneth Budesky.

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

Magazine gives middle schoolers an opportunity for their Musings

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

Eighth-grader Amanda Roy's poem "I Am the Author" opens the pages of her school's new literary magazine.

"I try to move at a fast, fast pace. I hope, I want, I cry, someday I can say I am the author," Roy wrote on the magazine's first page, capturing in words the creative ambitions behind her classmates' literary pursuits.

In March, the Novi Middle School published "Musings," a 34-page literary magazine filled with the poems, short stories and artwork of Novi's seventh- and eighth-grade students.

"This offers kids an opportunity to be published and start to view themselves as real and accomplished writers," said Beth Little, Novi Middle School teacher and literary magazine faculty advisor. "And some have significant things to say."

On Campus

LOCAL STUDENT COMPLETES STUDENT TEACHING

Alhion College student Andrea M. Burger returns to K-12 studies this semester. This time as a teacher rather than a student. Burger is in the process of completing the student teaching requirement for the education program by teaching at Hanover-Bornton High School.

MICHIGAN TECH STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES
Scott A. Schaffer of Novi received a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering and Brandon Moutier Charlesky of Walled Lake earned a bachelor of science in computer science at the midyear commencement ceremonies at Michigan Tech University in December.

NOVI COLLEGIATE JOINS BETA THETA PI FRATERNITY
Paul Matter, son of Charles and Jeanne Matter of Novi, has been invited into Beta Theta Pi by the chapter at Central Michigan University. He is a graduate of Novi High School.

Beta Theta Pi, which was founded in 1839 at Miami (Ohio) University, is dedicated to scholarship, brotherhood and community service. The fraternity has more than 118,000 members, including over 7,200 collegians on 135 campuses in Canada and the United States.

The Man
By Jacob Huntley, Novi Middle School student

Old and feeble.
Toothless and blind.
Old and wrinkled.
Aged through time.
A green jacket and a red hat.
Cover his true being.
Smiling.
Always there.
I am the man smiling for the camera.
Old, but not weak.
Earning and living.
Always living.
Enjoying life to the fullest spending his last days.
In peace and harmony.
Helping not hurting.
Conquering himself.
Ready to be accepted.
Loving everything.
Old and strong.

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and TopCoder Collegiate Challenge tournament, being held April 19-20 at the University Park Hotel @MIT in Cambridge, Mass.

The tournament has a total prize purse of \$150,000, with the winner receiving \$100,000.

Sirgedas, a Novi resident and graduate student in Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, entered the tournament as the top-seed in the Midwest, and won the Midwest Region Championship during the Regional Finals March 13. Sirgedas has been a member of TopCoder since September 2001, and has won a total of \$4,725 in the midyear commencement ceremonies at Michigan Tech University in December.

TOM SIRGEDAS ADVANCES TO \$150,000 SUN MICROSYSTEMS AND TOPCODER COLLEGIATE CHALLENGE
Tom Sirgedas is one of 16 finalists who has advanced to the championship rounds of the upcoming 2002 Sun Microsystems and TopCoder Collegiate Challenge tournament, being held April 19-20 at the University Park Hotel @MIT in Cambridge, Mass.

Sirgedas advanced to the championship rounds based on his scoring in a series of online elimination rounds, which began with a field of 512 competitors on Feb. 19. Regional Champions had the highest point totals during the Regional Finals, held on March 13, and earned \$5,000. The "wild-card" advanced finished with the next 12 highest point totals, regardless of region.

Novi grad Joe Meyer crosses borders and cultures

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

When Joe Meyer left for East Africa over a year ago, the 1995 Novi High School graduate had three goals driving his two-year departure from his family and American lifestyle.

Meyer wanted to help the young women of Tanzania — where less than 5 percent of women attend secondary schools — to be independent and self-confident, bring awareness to the escalating AIDS epidemic in the African region and teach others to develop the mind, body and spirit to lead a healthy life.

"The Novi graduate had his work cut out for him. In September 2000, Meyer — the son of Novi residents Michael and Margaret Meyer — traveled to East Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer to teach trigonometry and calculus at the Msalatio Secondary School in Dodoma, Tanzania.

The joy of life through the vibrant images of dancers. The African batik arrived last week and now hangs in the Novi High School media center.

Meyer, a graduate of Kettering University in Flint, will end his two-year duty as a volunteer in the Peace Corps in December 2003. "There is so only so much you can do to change the world," said Meyer's father. "My son's hope is to encourage other high school students to consider giving two years to this experience."

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

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Michael Meyer
Joe's Father

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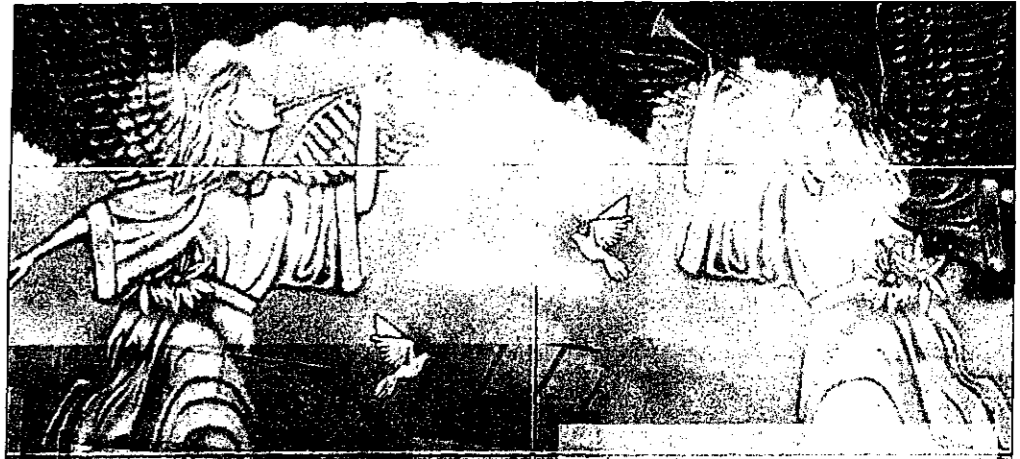
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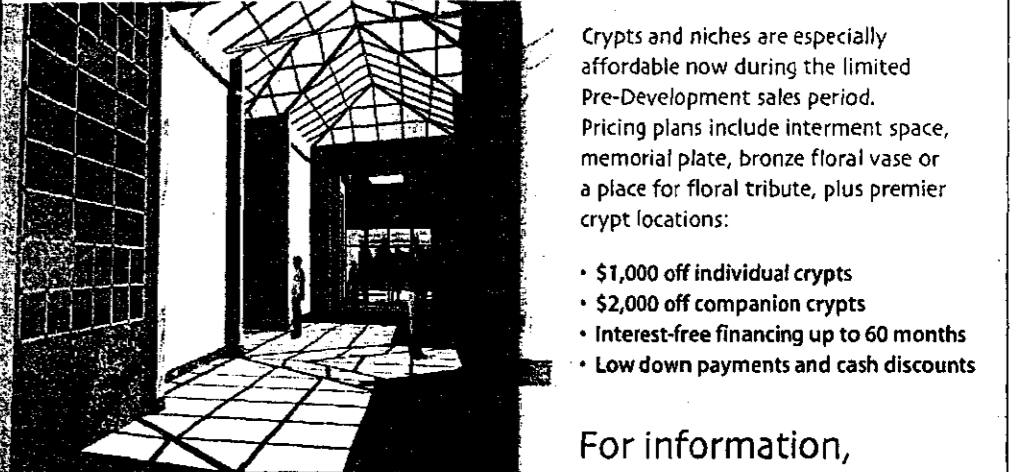
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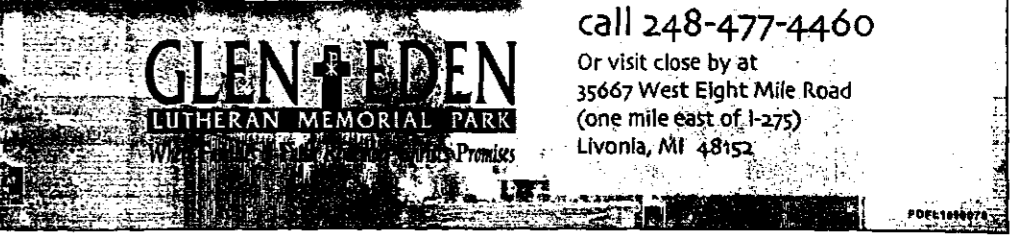
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NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS

The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for Kawasaki Mule Model 2520 according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Bid packages are available at the Office of the Purchasing Director.

Sealed bids will be received until 4:00 P.M. prevailing eastern time, Thursday, April 11, 2002, at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:
CITY OF NOVI
CAROL J. KALINOVIC, PURCHASING DIRECTOR
45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48375-3024

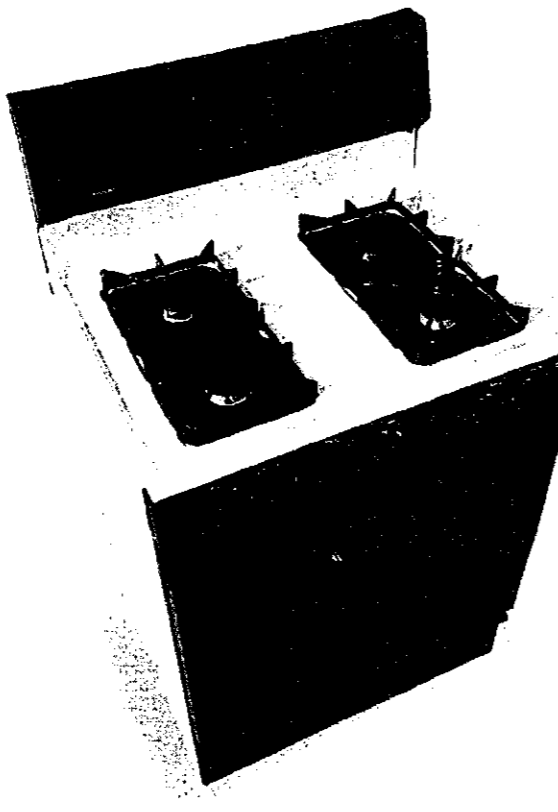
NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS

The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for 2002 Street Tree Planting according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Bid packages are available at the Office of the Purchasing Director.

Sealed bids will be received until 3:00 P.M. prevailing eastern time, Thursday, April 11, 2002, at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:
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Engagements



Pelletier-Bohm



Calandro-Tyll



Colgrove-Barrons

John and Cathy Pelletier of Novi announce the engagement of their daughter, Angela, to Chris Bohm, son of Chris and Mary Lou Bohm of South Lyon.

The bride-elect is a 1996 graduate of Novi High School and a 2000 graduate of Michigan State University with a degree in mechanical engineering. She is currently working for Daimler Chrysler as a product engineer.

The groom-elect is a 1996 graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School and a 2000 graduate of Michigan State University with a degree in history and education. He is currently working for the Lake Orion Community School as an elementary school teacher. A June wedding is planned.

John and Peggy Calandro of Novi announce the engagement of their daughter Kristin to Paul Tyll, son of Ed and Joyce Chmel of Novi and Arthur and Colleen Tyll of Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

The bride-elect graduated from Novi High School in 1998 and is currently attending University of Michigan. The groom-elect also graduated from Novi High School in 1998 and is also currently attending University of Michigan. A June wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Colgrove of Howell and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Barrons of Novi announce the engagement of their children, Amy Michelle Colgrove and Jesse Ray Barrons.

The bride-elect is a 1992 graduate of Novi High School and Eastern Michigan University in 1995 and 2002. A former vice president of Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, Jesse has been a manager for Papa Romano's for 12 years and is a licensed Realtor with Red Carpet Real Estate in Novi. The groom-elect is currently a substitute teacher for the Walled Lake Schools. A June wedding is planned.

Graham and Jimene Astley of Novi announce the engagement of their daughter Christina to Brad Wright, son of Susan Wright of Wyandotte.

The bride-elect is a 1997 graduate of Novi High School. She attended Eastern Michigan University and is employed by Rock Financial as a mortgage banker.

The groom-elect is a 1996 graduate of Roosevelt High School. He attended Washtenaw Community College and is employed by Sheehan Painting in Plymouth. A June wedding is planned.

Chorba-Smith

Carl Chorba of Pittsburgh, Pa. and Carol Chorba of Scranton, Pa. announce the engagement of their daughter, Amanda, to Joshua Smith, son of Stephen and Sandra Smith.

The bride-elect is a 1995 graduate of Novi High School and a 1999 graduate of the University of Michigan. She is the manager of a Novi's Store.

The groom-elect is a 1991 graduate of Uria High School and a 1997 graduate of the University of Michigan. He is currently in medical school at the University of Michigan. A June 22 wedding is planned.

Bjerke-Kucera

Lee and Marie Bjerke of Novi announce the engagement of their daughter Erin to Shawn Kucera, son of Robert and Judy Kucera of Portage, Mich.

The bride-elect is a 1995 graduate of Novi High School and a 1999 graduate of Eastern Michigan University. She is the girls and boys assistant swim coach at Loy Norwic High School in Kalamazoo and is a substitute teacher in the Portage Public Schools.

The groom-elect is a 1988 graduate of Portage Central High School and is a computer technician for R. & L. Hobbies. A June wedding is planned.

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Specialty toy retailer opens in Town Center

An area specialty toy retailer, Your Toybox, is now open in Novi Town Center. Owner Bruce Weiner says he moved his business from Rochester Hills when a new location in Novi Town Center became available offering him twice as much space.

There is a real need for a specialty toy store in the Novi area since two have recently closed," said Weiner. "It was difficult to leave my loyal customers behind, but he hopes to serve Novi with an even larger selection of the finest toys available."

In an era of large toy megachains, Weiner's store is a success due to its creative and unusual selection. He also feels an emphasis on customer service is what sets him apart.

Our staff specializes in assisting customers with choosing toys which are age appropriate, fun and interesting to children," Weiner explained. "If we don't have what you are looking for, we will either try to get it for you or help you locate it."

The new Your Toybox offers toys for babies and children through adults. The store is designed to make toy shopping easy and enjoyable. Merchandise is divided into categories such as manipulative toys, arts, crafts,

science, dolls, games and puzzles.

Our staff specializes in assisting customers with choosing toys which are age appropriate, fun and interesting to children," Weiner explained. "If we don't have what you are looking for, we will either try to get it for you or help you locate it."

Your Toybox is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. It is located in the northwest corner of the Town Center in the space previously occupied by White Rabbit Toys. For more information, call 248-449-6000.

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Go straight into summer with Curves for Women

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER



Curves for Women is about to open up in Walled Lake, just in time to get area residents looking good for summer.

The fitness facility franchise, located in the Maple Plaza, will open April 8. It is designed with women's fitness and health in mind. The equipment offers a full workout, complete with warm-up, aerobic exercise, strength training, cool down and stretching.

Clients will experience a 30-minute workout without getting bored by changing exercise equipment every 30 seconds. They also listen to upbeat music while getting toned.

Owners Jan Jones and JoAnn Steuwe, who are also area real estate agents, decided to buy the franchise after they experienced Curves for Women themselves.

They joined numerous fitness centers over the years but they never felt they were getting adequate treatment until they joined Curves. It was there they learned how to exercise appropriately.

The eight different machines are designed to tone and firm specific areas of the body, Jones said. It also creates aerobic exercise for better cardiovascular health and it increases blood flow and heart rate.

"When you're done with your 30 minutes, it doesn't seem like a lot of time but you really feel it," Jones said. "For the rest of the day, you will have energy."

Jones said the program works well for women.

The program was designed specifically for women and our specific muscle groups," Jones said. "There's no weights involved, so it won't build hydraulic muscle mass. It will just firm and tone."

They also felt more comfortable exercising with mostly women.

"When I was working out with men, I felt I had to make myself presentable to work out," Jones said.

Walled Lake's Curves for Women owners Jo Ann Steuwe, right, and Jan Jones, start some aerobic activities on the between-station platforms at their West Maple location last week.

But working out with women is so much more of a comfortable atmosphere," Jones said.

Steuwe said the best part about joining the fitness center was taking control of her weight.

"I started a year and a half ago in Plymouth-Canton. The first month I lost six inches," she said. "I couldn't believe it. I was so impressed."

Jones said fitness is made easy since clients are weighed and measured once a month so they can see their success.

"There's a wonderful computer software program that keeps track of everyone's attendance, statistics

like their weight and measurements," Jones said.

The franchise is growing, she said.

"There is one Curves for every four McDonald's, and Curves has only been around for seven years," Jones said.

The fitness center will be open from 8 a.m. until noon and 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. Saturday.

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

Finding real-world results in the classroom

Over three dozen Novi High School students competed in the Distributive Education Club of America (DECA) State Competition at the Dearborn Hyatt March 8-10 with the top competitors headed for a national square-off in April.

The 38 Novi students used their marketing and business knowledge to compete in role-playing situations. DECA Quiz Bowl and written contests that focus on improving customer service for existing Novi businesses.

"DECA brings a real-world perspective to what the students learn in the marketing classroom," said Jodi Forsier, Novi High School DECA faculty advisor.

DECA is an association of marketing students that aims to develop future leaders in marketing and management.

Eleven Novi High School students qualified for the DECA National Competition in Salt Lake City, Utah, April 19-24.

headed to the nationals: Matt Haggerty, Jeff Wallen, Derek Cole, Mike Vehlwald, Sara Goodman, Ed Santos, Amy Auletto, Jake Piger, Neil Rao, Judy Lai and Meghan Vodka.

"This is largest team yet to advance, and we hope to continue the growth of the program," Forsier said.

Over 180,000 students and faculty advisors in secondary and post-secondary schools across the U.S. and Canada are DECA members.

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Wixom area company signs up for China trade mission

Wixom-based Showtech Presentation Systems has signed up for a May trade mission to China. Participants will be traveling to Beijing, Shanghai and Suzhou May 5-17 as part of Automation Alley's Small Business Export Initiative, a partnership with the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Showtech is an audio/visual systems integrator providing audio, video and IT based presentation and communications systems to companies worldwide. Companies rely on Showtech for expert installation and support of video walls, L-E-D display systems and sound reinforcement systems, just to name a few. Showtech is also an audio/visual rental and staging company that provides presentation equipment and technicians for meetings and events. President and CEO Kirk Reinert will participate in the trade mission.

The corporate sponsors of the China trade mission are Butzel Long, Comerica Bank and Moore Stephens Doeren Mayhew. Butzel Long is one of the state's leading law firms, with seven offices in Michigan and Florida. Comerica Bank is among the 20 largest banking companies in the U.S., serving Michigan and 22 other states. Moore Stephens

Doeren Mayhew is a Troy-based accounting firm that is an independently owned and operated member of Moore Stephens North America, Inc. Oakland University is a strategic partner of Automation Alley in the China trade mission. Gary D. Russi, president of Oakland University, says one of the trip's main objectives is to encourage partnerships in education with China. Currently, Oakland University has educational partners in Austria, Jamaica and New Zealand.

Automation Alley's Small Business Export Initiative is utilizing a \$400,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce to initiate a series of trade missions for area firms, led by international trade specialists. These visits are designed to introduce participating businesses to pre-qualified foreign companies to help establish strategic alliances or joint venture opportunities. Trips to Germany and Mexico are planned in 2003. A September 2001 trade mission to Dusseldorf, Germany resulted in approximately

\$2 million in business for 11 local companies. The Automation Alley Small Business Export Initiative is a program in partnership with the U.S. Department of Commerce to help area companies develop growth opportunities through global partnering. The program includes low trade missions to foreign markets through 2003 and is focused on small and medium sized firms which produce or distribute items with at least 51 percent U.S. content or value.

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Making pizza the old-fashioned way

By Annette Jaworski CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you're tired of the 'usual chain food, Dan Sheehan welcomes you to pull up a chair and enjoy some of the best pizza in the Northville area at Mother's Pizzeria. Get your taste buds ready, because Dan Sheehan has spent a lifetime making pizza, starting when he was 8-years-old with his father in downtown Northville. "My dad made sure we learned," said Sheehan after working his way up from dishwasher to manager and finally owning his own restaurant. And through nearly 30 years in the business, he considers himself a pizza connoisseur. It's a favorite food of his to this day. And it's the pride and joy of his restaurant. "Our pizza is made the old fashioned way. Like the sauce, it's from my dad's and my brother's sauce and I added my own touch. It definitely has flavor,"

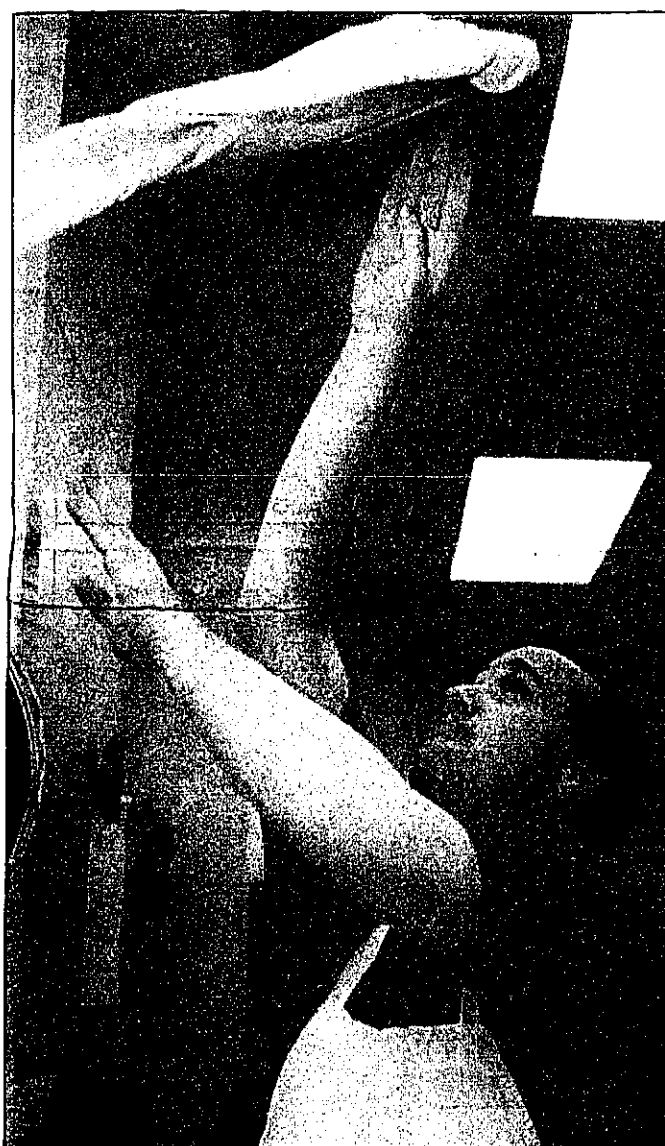
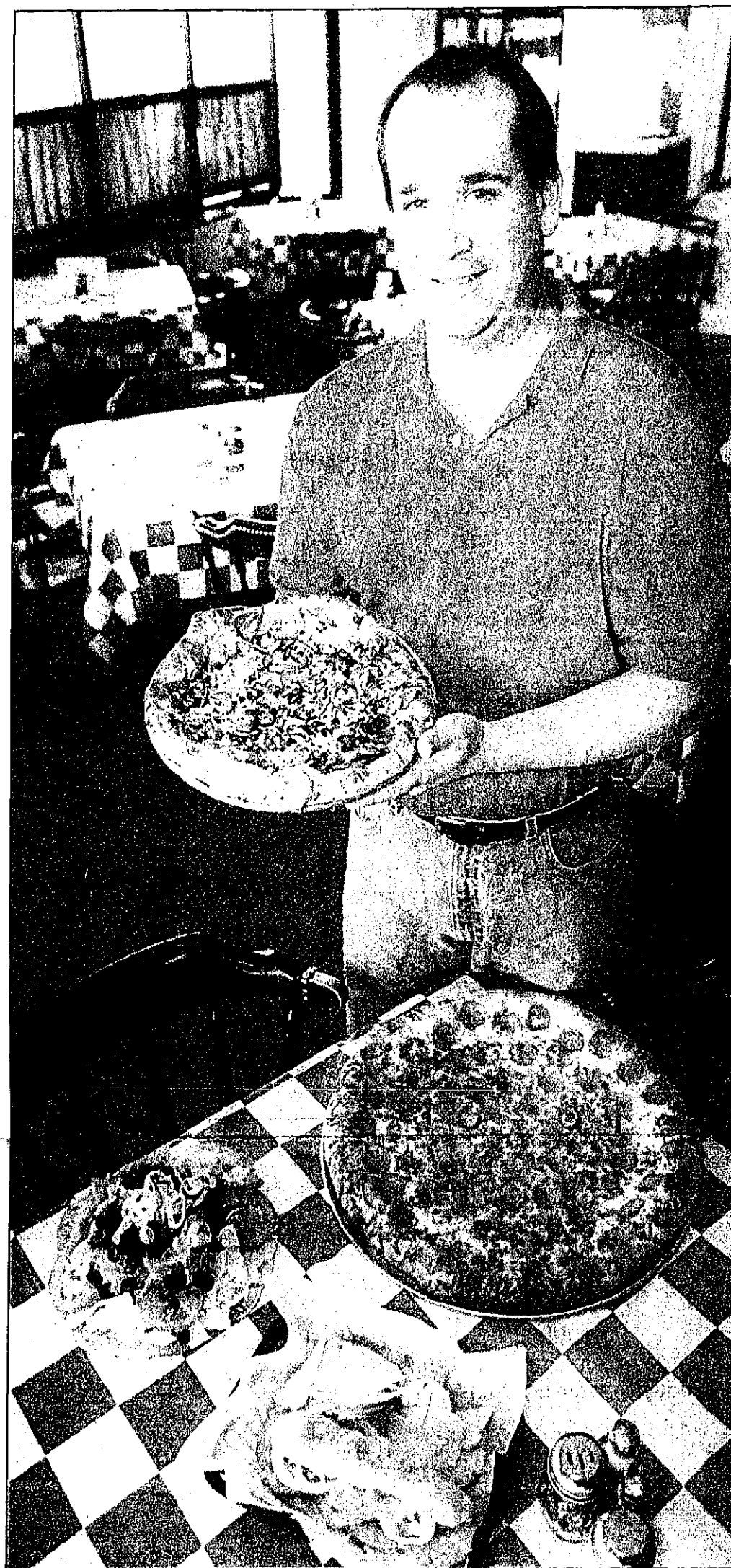
MOTHER'S PIZZERIA

Mother's Pizzeria is located at 44675 Five Mile Road, west of Sheldon and east of Beek road. (734) 207-8925 or fax (734) 207-8927. They're open Monday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

said Dan Sheehan. The deep dish is a true deep dish, not just a round baked in a square pan. It's so thick, he lets customers that it will take from 20-30 minutes to bake. Some of their classic signature pizzas include the special, with cheese, pepperoni, ham, mushroom, green pepper and onions, and the works with eight delicious items. Several others offer great flavor and a vegetarian approach. The popular Margarita has cheese, fresh tomato, baked garlic, olive

oil and basil. They're not out to compete with chains. Their main goal is to serve exceptional food with consistency in product. "We give you the quality you're looking for," he said. "And if you're not in the mood for pizza, there's pasta, salads, Calzones, sub sandwiches, Panini's, wrapped sandwiches, chicken fingers or Buffalo wings. Along with serving quality pizza, Sheehan realized there was a need in the area for a sit down and eat pizza parlor where families could relax. With the nearby sports complex and Northville High School it makes a perfect place to stop after practice or the game.

"We decided to make an old fashioned kind of pizza parlor," said Sheehan. This way mom and dad can find something they enjoy eating as well as the kids. Teams can enjoy the atmosphere, since there's room for about 75 people. And when it comes to the restaurant, Mother's Pizzeria is a family tradition with input from many members of the Sheehan family, from the training he received from his dad to recipes from brother, Tom, who still stops by once a week. There's business advice and direction from brother, Tim. Brother Terry traveled from Florida to help get the business off the ground. "He's (Terry) the other pizza man. He's the one that helped me put it together," said Sheehan. And there's his wife, Tina, who the restaurant is named after. There's even a sandwich named after her, the Mama Christina wrap, with chicken, onion, green pepper, cheese and pizza sauce. They'll soon be introducing a new menu including their new barbecue rib dinners by the full or half slab. They'll offer daily specials, like Monday is buy one, get one free pizza for personal or medium size pizza. Tuesday is Calzone or "Pizza Sandwich" Day, buy a cheese Calzone and get three items free and Wednesday is \$5 pizza day for a medium pepperoni only. Thursday get your taste buds ready for Buffalo wings, served on the buffet, or free six-wing order, with any medium or large pizza. On Friday enjoy the buffet by dining in on pizzas, soup and salad at lunch and dinner. Saturday is party day, dine in or take out with \$1 off buffet, pizzas and subs. Sundays enjoy the ribs with \$9 off a half slab and \$3 off a full slab. Beer and wine will soon be offered on the menu. Mother's is happy to lend a helping hand with your next event by catering, with rolled sandwiches, ribs, lasagna, salad, breadsticks and mostaccioli, and of course their exceptional pizza.



Dan Sheehan tosses a pizza pie in the air at Mother's Pizzeria on Five Mile Road.

Dan Sheehan shows off the fare at his Mother's Pizzeria location on Five Mile Road including pizza, submarine sandwiches, and antipasto salad.

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Consider all other options before receiving a debt consolidating loan

By Lori Z. Bahnmuller

Debt consolidation can be a powerful tool toward personal fiscal recovery—assuming the loan interest rate and terms lessen the path to financial health.

Unfortunately, what many don't realize are the true costs that go into that "one low monthly payment." Along with higher interest rates, many debt consolidators roll monthly fees into the cost of the loan—usually about 10 percent. Several such finance companies have also earned a reputation with creditors as "the lender of the last resort," and as such, can leave an unsightly blemish on a consumer credit report.

For those consumers contemplating debt consolidation, consider your options before accepting what may ultimately take a greater share of your wallet.

The authors of MSN Money offer the following smart money alternatives to debt consolidation loans: • Take out a home equity loan. If you own a home, a home equity loan has the advantage of carrying a fairly low interest rate and the interest you pay is tax-deductible. Most fixed-rate loans carry a 15-year term and require the borrowers pay an origination fee of \$75 to several hundred dollars, plus the cost of an appraisal and title insurance.

• Do a "cash-out" refinancing. Another option for those with home equity is refinancing your property for greater than the amount you owe and using the extra cash to pay off debt.

• Refinance your car. Most people don't think of it, but it is a secured loan and you can borrow against the equity. • Get a personal loan. If you have reasonably undamaged credit, you may qualify for an unsecured loan. Credit unions typically offer lower rates than other financial institutions.

• Negotiate better terms. You can do this for yourself easily. Just call your credit card company and request a better rate. Many customer service representatives are authorized to reduce rates right there on the phone. If you've been solicited recently by a competing card issuer, especially if they're pitching a better rate, use that information to plead your case.

• Another alternative: Or you can get help from an organization like GreenPath Debt Solutions, formerly Consumer Credit Counseling Services. GreenPath has branches throughout the country; they are a non-profit, community organization that provides free and confidential debt management advice to anyone who needs it. You can even consult with them

over the phone. Like other debt consolidators, GreenPath is paid by creditors, so it's in their best interest to work out a repayment plan rather than advise you to declare bankruptcy.

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Ban: Civil rights group lifts Novi advisory

continued from front

"We've made an agreement for them to work with us," Sheffield said.

Sheffield said the agreement includes sitting down on a regular basis with Klaver to address all issues that may come up.

"We've made them a commitment to make them aware of any job opportunities," Klaver said.

Sheffield also stated he is pleased Novi officials agreed to facilitate further talks with Twelve Oaks Mall and the Novi Expo Center.

Along with his original complaints that the Novi Police Department racially profiled black motorists and the city did not hire black employees, Sheffield maintained black shoppers were unfairly monitored at Novi malls and accused the Novi Expo Center for unfair hiring practices.

Both the president of the Novi Expo Center and the general manager of Twelve Oaks Mall have denied any wrongdoing.

The first accusation removed by the network was against the Novi Police Department after Novi

Police Chief Douglas Schaeffer turned results from a 60-day traffic analysis over to the network only days after the advisory was announced.

The analysis showed only 5 percent of tickets issued this year have been to African Americans.

City officials were exonerated a week later.

Overall, Klaver said the city is very satisfied with the relationship which has now developed between officials and network members.

"We are very proud they are going to use our response time as a model," Klaver said.

Klaver explained Sheffield told city officials he plans to hold future cities accused of racial injustices to the response time standards set by Novi.

The initial advisory was issued two weeks ago and also listed Flint and Warren as cities to avoid.

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

What is NAN?

The National Action Network (NAN), founded in 1991 by Rev. Al Sharpton, is a civil rights organization whose mission is to be the voice of empowerment for the disenfranchised throughout America. NAN offers a committed national advocacy network of activists, volunteers and religious leaders guided by the non-violent civil protest doctrines of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that speak against racism, bigotry and bias. NAN encompasses the vision of Rev. Sharpton by networking in action with individuals, groups and organizations throughout the nation.

Source: The National Action Network

Fee: Driver's ed will now cost

continued from front

James Koster, Novi Schools assistant superintendent, offered a solution to the problem.

"To have a neutral effect on the budget, we can charge a fee," Koster told the Novi Board of Education at their regular meeting March 21. "Driver education could continue on, and a fee would recoup the losses."

The board of education immediately rallied around the idea, discussing appropriate fees for the program.

"I am very glad that we are discussing to continue the driver education program in Novi," said Novi Board of Education Treasurer Julie Abrams.

The board wasted no time and snapped into official action that same evening, unanimously approving (secretary John Streit was absent) to charge \$279 per student for the 2002 summer driver education program.

The school board believes the \$279 price will meet all program costs and still be competitive with other private companies in Oakland County. By comparison, here's

"It's great that we can provide the service and still be fiscally responsible... We have the best of both worlds."

Ann Newton
Novi Board of Education Trustee

what a few area companies charge: ABC Driving School, Farmington, \$289; A & A Driving School, Plymouth, \$289; Sears Authorized Driving School, Novi, \$299.

"It's great that we can provide the service and still be fiscally responsible," said Ann Newton, Novi Board of Education trustee. "We have the best of both worlds."

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

Challenge: Car dealer donates

continued from 15

have seen.

Some reports from teachers include stories about not only a reduction in teasing, but also students who have taken the initiative to stop other kids from teasing someone.

There will be about 400 kids attending the April dates. Parents, clergy and other adults will also be involved.

Nationwide, the Challenge Day program has touched more than three-quarters of a million teens and adults since 1987.

The program has received numerous awards from the juvenile justice system, government officials and many school districts and cities.

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

"It really puts the students through a lot. It is a transformation day. I think when our kids come back, other kids have seen a change in them. It is a wake-up call."

Milan Obrenovich
Novi Middle School Principal

Lawsuit: Two property owners file million dollar suit against City of Novi

continued from front

members of the zoning board had no authority to consider the matter.

"While the members of the ZBA are appointed by council, under state law their decisions can only be reviewed in Circuit Court," Harrington said. "The directive of city council to the ZBA to rescind its own decision was beyond the power and authority of city council."

"We have not met with the ZBA," said Louis Csordas, member of the Novi City Council.

Csordas said he really can speak only for himself, but he does not believe any member of the city council instructed the zoning board of appeals to do anything in that matter.

The council member also said he believed the Wizinsky's has asked for a 6-foot wall on top of the 6-foot berm which took the blockade to a prohibited height.

Novi Mayor Richard J. Clark

said he respects the right of the Wizinsky's to file a lawsuit and believes "this is a difficult one because they (Circuit Court judges) will have to review their own judgment."

The already-agreed-upon consent judgment that this all stems from involved the City of Novi and developers who charged the city with violating the law by refusing to rezone the future Target site property from light industrial to retail uses. The consent judgment was the result of the out-of-court

settlement and was entered before the planning commission approved the site plan.

"We were totally ignored throughout the other lawsuit," the couple said. "The city settled this case without ever picking up the telephone and calling us, much less asking how we felt about semi-trailer trucks 50 feet from our property line."

Harrington said the Wizinskys are extremely concerned the actual top of the berm at the trucking entrance off Wixom Road will be

exactly level with the first floor of their home.

The Wizinskys feel they need the berm built from the first level of their home to shield them from noise, dust and other inconveniences.

The Novi family moved into their home on the 11-acre Wixom Road in 1986.

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

Walk: Friends join forces in fight against breast cancer

continued from front

Collins said.

In order to participate, both women need to reach \$1,900 in sponsorships, even though the average raised by each participant is usually around \$3,000.

Both walkers have received some sponsorships, but still need more to reach the participant level.

Bowie thanks her contributors, including Craigie Paint Smart Studio, Carbide's Motoworld, The Bagel Station, Papa Romanos of Wixom, Beresh Jewelers and Made in the U.S.A. residential cleaning service.

Collins has secured sponsorships from Novi attorney David Kramer, realtor Jamey Kramer, Dr. Dledre Wickham and Dr. James Ross.

Ross said he has known Collins for many years through friends, family and the dental community.

"She always seems to have something going," he said.

The Novi dentist said he is very impressed with her endeavor and whether it be little league or some type of other event, he always like to do nice things and for the community.

The Avon Breast Cancer Three-Day Walk fundraiser was launched in 1998. All of the net proceeds from the event support breast cancer organizations nationwide.

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

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Wildcat boys track looking very strong



Distance runners may lead way to victories

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Even with the loss of their top four point scorers last season, the Novi Wildcats boys' track and field team will be looking strong in the Kensington Valley Conference and beyond.

Following the lead of stellar athletes like Tim Moore, Scott Kortlandt, Matt Emmenecker, Jamie Schram and Dan St. Clair, the Wildcats will be looking to score just as many points as they did last season — just in a wider variety of events.

"Last year we were a little spotty scoring points in skilled events," Nov Coach Robert Smith said. "This year I think events like discuss, high jump, long jump and hurdles are going to score points for us on a regular basis."

The Wildcats will look to athletes like St. Clair, who broke the school discuss record last season and is already throwing into the 140-foot mark in preseason while senior Schram, coming off a great basketball season, has shown marked improvement over last season already. Schram, along with Mike Hendricks, is part of a one-two punch in the shot put as well.

"That is sort of our plan of attack," Smith said. "We want to get a couple events where we are scoring second and third as well as first. That is really critical in high school track."

"Last year we were a little spotty scoring points in skilled events. This year I think events like discuss, high jump, long jump and hurdles are going to score points for us on a regular basis."

Robert Smith
Boy's Track Coach

Emmenecker will be leading the way for the Wildcats as a 6-foot-3 high jumper along with Adam Noble and Eric Van Tassel. St. Clair and Eric Schleuder will be leading the pack in the long jump — both are 20-foot jumpers.

"Twenty feet is really a benchmark of quality," Smith said. "If you get into the 20s, you start getting the points racking up."

Kortlandt will be strutting his stuff in the hurdles as one of the top

Continued on 2

Before they began their one-week spring break, members of Nov High's boys track team hits oval for some laps last Thursday afternoon. Many local teams had their first competitions cancelled last week due to cold weather.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Girls soccer returns everyone from last year's team

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Nov High School girls soccer team will be coming back this season sporting every single player from last year — that's right, every single one.

The 'Cats, led by soccer helm Brian O'Leary, started two juniors, five sophomores and four freshmen last season.

"Needless to say, our expectations are higher than they were at the beginning of last year," O'Leary said. "Last year we basically beat every one we should have beat, and lost to

the others." The Wildcats fell to Northville 5-1, Canton 6-0, and Brighton 7-1 and 5-1. This year, the Wildcats hope to rectify that situation.

"In other words, we didn't even compete with the top-ranking teams in the state," O'Leary said. "That is our main goal this year, to compete with Brighton for first place in the KVC and to compete with the teams on our non-league schedule (Canton, Northville, Church Hill and Ann Arbor Huron). We may not be able to beat these teams yet, but when these games are over we want the other team to feel that we gave

them all they could handle."

Returning to the Wildcat lineup will be Maureen Pawlak, who scored 33 goals and collected 16 assists as a freshman, and Nikki Hermann, who notched 27 goals and 19 assists as a freshman. Seniors Tina Fennelly and Karrie Smith are the team captains and, according to O'Leary, provide great leadership in the midfield. Junior Kerri Timar, who was injured most of last season with a bad back, is healthy again and, if she can stay healthy, will give a boost to the Wildcat defensive midfield.

"I also have three juniors that

started every game last year on defense as sophomores," O'Leary said. "They are Nina Schmitt, Katie Ales and Lisa Checcobelli. Junior Kellie Pfeiffer returns as the starting goalie and has shown lots of improvement since the beginning of last season."

O'Leary noted that the Wildcats also picked up four freshmen who will be capable of contributing to the team this season — forward Kristi Timar, midfielders Chelsea Attyeh and Sarah Schmitt and defender Kelly Hebert. Rounding out the remainder of the team is junior midfielder Kelly McMann

and Lindsey Crofoot, senior midfielder Meg Ggurich and sophomore midfielder Jaimie Harden. Senior defender Christie Jewell will be a valuable asset to the team this season as will sophomore goalie Amanda Church.

"Overall we are a lot deeper than we were last year," O'Leary said. "This can be good and this can be bad. It allows us to play more aggressive all over the field and not worry about wearing down, but some girls who played all the time last year may now have to share some minutes."

O'Leary noted that the girls who

have the most experience, especially in the big games, will be very valuable once they realize the importance of being very, very aggressive and substituting.

"I feel these girls are the key," he said. "If they realize that we are a better team by playing more aggressive and subbing more, I believe we can improve on last year's 12-5-1 record."

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.

Boys track loaded with athletes

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Out of all of the Nov High School teams that will be taking to the field of play this spring, I am pretty sure that the boys track and field team will be bringing with it the most athletes.

Not that they have the most superior numbers, which they probably do, but it seems to me that they have the most athletes. Nov High track and field coach Robert Smith and I had a nice chat about what the Wildcats had to offer, and the pure number of athletes was staggering.

Yeah, the track team lost four All-Americans — yes, four of them — but I don't think that is going to have as devastating results as it would seem. With the loss of such athletes, many teams would just fold down and whimper about a rebuilding year. Not Smith and his Wildcats. Instead, he turned to athletes like Tim Moore, Scott Kortlandt, Jamie Schram, Matt Emmenecker and many others to

set the example this season and continue the tradition of top-notch Nov sports.

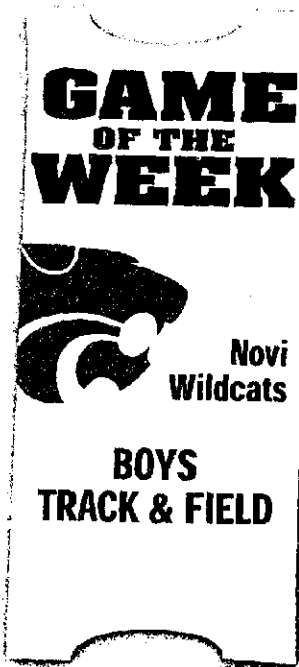
These guys are tremendously good at sports, which is saying a lot considering the sheer number of students who play sports at Nov High School.

Kortlandt played football and wrestled this season, and was very, very good at both before signing on with the baseball and track teams for this spring. Moore, if you didn't already know, dominated the cross country circuit in the United States this season, staying undefeated until his run with the best of the best in Ireland for the World Cross Country Championships.

Schram tightened his muscles down and showed his abilities this season in basketball, along with Matt Emmenecker, as the Wildcats went on to win the district tournament championship game for the first time since Nov became a Class A high school.

An athlete, by my definition, is

Continued on 2



Napier is good fit at Novi

By Sara-Beth O'Connor
SPECIAL WRITER

Senior Fred Napier moved to Michigan three years ago during his sophomore year. In his short time at Nov High School he has managed to obtain varsity status in three sports (football, hockey and lacrosse), gotten a job and has made an impression on his peers.

As one of the 14 seniors on the lacrosse team, Napier will be playing midfield. He won't get many stats, but being a midfielder is very important for the team. He'll be on the field for two minutes, running back and forth offensively and defensively, take a break, and going back on the field again.

Napier said the team will be successful this year due to many returning seniors. Being fairly new to the sport of lacrosse, Napier mainly joined the team to keep in shape for hockey and to be with friends. These friends are the ones he played football with.

This past fall Napier was a running back for the Wildcats football team. An injury to his knee kept him from having the season he wanted.

"I blew out my knee and never thought I could run again," said Napier.

With the support of his father, Russell Napier, he was able to run again after four weeks of physical therapy.

"He told me never to give up or lower my standards," said Napier of his father.

This standard will follow Napier to college, where he plans on playing football. Right now Napier is deciding between Central, Western, University of Georgia or Georgia Tech. He will be majoring in engineering.

"My great uncle was in it [engineering]," said Napier. "He worked for Cadillac."

Before graduation Napier will continue to work at the Novi Ice Arena and pro shop and hang out

with friends. His favorite high school memory is a Valentine's Day party he went to his sophomore year. That was the most he would elaborate on the subject, saying he had a good time.

Another memory Napier will have of Nov High School is the Prom Fashion show. Napier was the first out on the runway to model his white tux and the crowd loved it.

Napier has learned many lessons from moving to different cities and meeting many people.

"I've become more outgoing and I have a more open mind," said Napier. "I realized what's important in life is what you think about yourself, not what others think of you."

Sara-Beth O'Connor is an intern for the Northville Record, Novi News and the Lake Area Times. Comments can be directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

Novi gymnasts headed for Junior Olympics

By Brian Doyle
SPECIAL WRITER

Within the Sports Club of Novi, a group of five girls has made big news by accomplishing a very impressive feat.

Kristian Brooks, Katie Green, Rachelle Hadley, Renee Hadley and Kathryn Schalek all qualified for the Junior Olympics in rhythmic gymnastics next month in Houston, Texas. The gymnasts had to make their way through a series of invitational and state competitions while receiving a qualifying score to move on.

Finally, each girl had to place within the top six in their region.

"They are a very, very talented group of girls," said coach Jennifer Buckley.

The Sports Club of Novi will bring five girls to the Junior Olympics to form a team with seven other gymnasts from Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin.

Rhythmic gymnastics differs from traditional gymnastics greatly. "It's dance based," Buckley said. The competitors must complete a routine in hoop, ribbon, clubs and on the floor with no props. The scores from all the events are added up to determine their place. In every routine, the

gymnast must fulfill requirements. The athlete must manage to cover all of the floor, complete leaps and turns, demonstrate flexibility and, according to Buckley, do this all while they're looking like they are having a good time.

The girls started training last summer for the competition season which began in January. The team practices for three hours Tuesday and Thursday and four hours Saturday and Sunday. All of the girls must make sacrifices of their time and energy to come to practice. Brooks travels over an hour to come to Novi for each practice.

"I like performing," said Brooks, 12, about her favorite part of gymnastics.

All of her Novi teammates echoed her remarks. Fourteen-year-old Renee Hadley said, "I love it, it's my life."

Her sister, Rachelle Hadley, 11, recognized what it took for all the girls to make it so far.

"It took a lot of hard work and staying really focused on doing your best," she said.

Most of the girls started gymnastics when they were very young.



Photo by BRIAN DOYLE

Continued on 4 This area looks to be well represented at the Junior Olympics.

Eyes to the sky...

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

A Central Viking prepares to serve to visiting Northville during a February volleyball game. The Vikings had a very successful season under the leadership of the late Mike Lindstrom, who will be missed by all at Walled Lake Central as well as the schools that played them. Under the guidance of Lindstrom, the Vikings enjoyed tremendous success — traveling to the Final Four two times and winning 12 consecutive district titles. This year, Central finished 18-9 overall, placed fourth in the WLAA and again won a district title. Lindstrom is survived by his wife, Pat, and sons Bryan, a sophomore at Central Michigan University, and Eric, a senior at Walled Lake Central. Donations can be made to the WLC Scholarship fund in Lindstrom's name or to the American Diabetes Association. A memorial fund for Lindstrom's family has also been set up by the Central volleyball coaches and families — donations may be sent to 3320 Edgewood Park Drive, Commerce, Michigan, 48382.



WLC baseball ready to go

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Walled Lake Central Vikings baseball team, coming off a 5-21 record last season, is hoping to see marked improvement for the 2002 season.

The Vikings, coached by Mark Kowiczkyk, lost a lot of seniors two seasons ago and not only had trouble making up for the loss, but trouble keeping the team afloat as well.

"There were just too many errors in too many games," Kowiczkyk said. "There were a lot of games that we were in but lost because of the number of errors we committed."

Coming back this season will be Ryan Trailer, a three-year varsity letter winner on the baseball team, as well as 6-foot-2, 200 pound Steve Rabish.

"Both pitchers can throw in the low to mid-80s," Kowiczkyk said.

He added that the Vikings also have another ace up their sleeve this season.

"We have four left-handed pitchers to use this season," Kowiczkyk said. "As far as pitchers go, we are a lot more solid than we were last year."

The Vikings will also have a solid outfield, but will be looking

to rebuild their infield.

"We lost practically the whole infield from last year," Kowiczkyk said.

As far as the outfield goes, returning stars are Matt Picciano and Chris Rambow — both seniors.

Walled Lake Central Baseball preview

The game plan for the Vikings at this point in the season is to be competitive through a balance of top-shelf pitching and solid sticks on the offensive end.

"For us, we should be competitive in the league with our pitching staff," Kowiczkyk said. "All we have to do is develop our middle field and I think we will have a chance at beating just about anyone in the league."

The main goal for the Vikings is to cut down on their errors this season.

"Errors devastated a lot of our games," Kowiczkyk said. "We are going to have to do that and stay focused to be competitive in the league. It is going to be tough (to win the league), Harrison and Stevenson are going to be tough, but who knows."

The Vikings will also have

teams like the Kensington Valley Conference's Novi to contend with this season.

"They are just so solid," Kowiczkyk said. "They are coached extremely well and their hitting is just phenomenal."

Besides the Novi Wildcats, Farmington Hills Harrison will be a team to compete with in their last year in the WLAA as will Westland John Glenn.

"The WLAA is just so tough," Kowiczkyk said. "There are so many talented individuals in the league and just because of that we will have to maintain our focus through the end of the season. We have to take out goals and remain focused."

Kowiczkyk said that he doesn't count his team out of the league running — but he also noted he doesn't count anyone out.

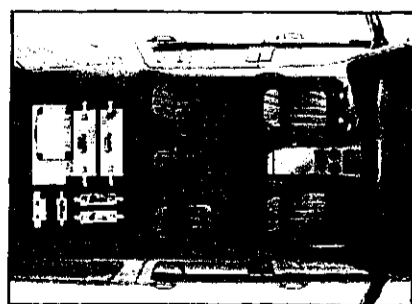
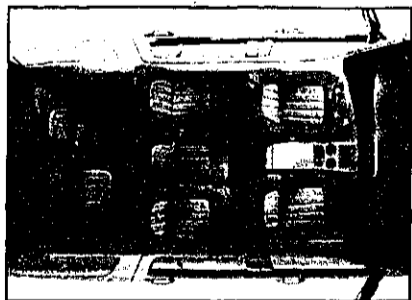
"I think any team in this league can beat any other team on any given day," he said. "This league is full of incredible talent from (Harrison's) Drew Stanton down. We are going to have to be ready to play every day."

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 seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.



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