



Novi News

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50¢

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2002

In this issue, the Novi News takes a look back at the year 2002, from January through June. Next week we'll present July through December as well as a sports wrapup. Reports were compiled by staff writers Victoria Sadocha, Phil Foley and Ramez Khuri.

City of Novi

January

Gag Order: Per a consent judgment, 52-1 District Court Judge Brian MacKenzie ordered all parties involved in the ongoing Main Street lawsuit to avoid discussing the case in public. The motion, resulting in the order, was filed by Evergreen III and part owner and managing partner James Chen. According to documents, the motion was filed to ensure the plaintiff's parties would have a right to a fair and impartial trial.

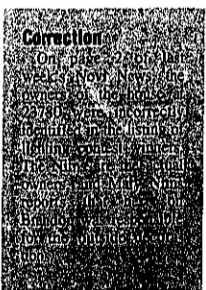
Historical Society Honored: The Novi Historical Society was recognized for its efforts to bring a greater understanding of the Korean War to interested Novi residents. The announcement came from Librarian of Congress James H. Billington as he declared the group's Korean War Oral History project as an official partner of its National Veterans History Project. The society's Korean War project was one of 100 partners in 38 states granted the recognition and the only partner project in Michigan.

Rumors Begin: City officials announced they would begin to see where the new fire station and training center project actually was. City Manager Richard Helwig announced the week of Jan. 10 that the project was not on target as far as the May 1 completion date. Helwig said officials would be meeting with Greystone Construction's James Chen to discuss the delay. Preliminary investigations by an outside contractor revealed Greystone construction may be in financial trouble, which turned out to be true.

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Slain Wixom worker "targeted"

Police say murder was most probably not random act

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Eric Damell Barnes, a 21-year-old Detroit man, was sitting in his Ford Taurus eating his dinner outside Wixom's Forest City Technology Dec. 17 when someone fired a single gunshot through the window, hitting him in the head and killing him.

So far, said Wixom Police Detective Jim Osborne, the 30-member Western Oakland County Major Crime Team has inter-

viewed more than 40 people. He noted that Forest City Technology alone employs 94 people.

Forest City Technology, said Osborne, manufactures fasteners for the auto industry. He said Barnes had worked there three years as a machine operator, adding that company spokesmen told investigators that Barnes was "a good employee and seemed to be well liked."

Osborne said Barnes worked the 11 p.m.-7 a.m. shift at the plant and was in the habit of coming in early and eating his dinner in his car.

Osborne said evidence at the scene indicated Barnes had been shot at close range. A press release from the Wixom Police Department stated that following initial interviews, investigators have "concluded that his

crime was most probably not a random act of violence or a robbery."

"They targeted him," said Osborne.

Barnes was found by a co-worker about 10 p.m., apparently moments after being gunned down, said Osborne. "A few moments earlier and it's possible he could have seen everything, but that's what timing's all about," said the detective.

Osborne said Barnes' car was parked next to the building in a parking lot that was "lit up like the sun." Forest City Technology is in an industrial park at 30811 Century.

So far, said Osborne, Wixom police haven't found anyone who saw anything. He said it's "extremely noisy" inside Forest City Technology. "You could set

off a bomb outside and nobody would hear it," he said.

Osborne and Novi Police Department Detective Dennis Jelley, along with detectives from surrounding communities, are now going through the laborious process of interviewing everyone who works at the plant along with all the Detroit man's friends and relatives.

"If there's anyone connected with this man, we want to talk to them," said Osborne. Anyone with any information about the Barnes killing can call the Wixom Police Tip-Line at (248) 624-0884 or the detective's office at the Wixom Police Department at (248) 624-0883.

Barnes was the first person murdered in Wixom since Gerald Atkins stormed the Wixom Ford Assembly Plant in 1997, killing

the assistant plant manager and wounding four others, including two local police officers. Atkins, said Osborne, is currently serving life without parole for the slaying.

Following the 1997 Ford plant shooting two Wixom police officers, Det. Marty Harp and Officer Gary Hamlin, chased Atkins through the plant before cornering him in what became a day-long stand-off as hundreds of police from nearby communities surrounded the plant. Harp and Hamlin were eventually presented the police medal of honor by President Clinton during ceremonies at the White House.

Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 108 or at pfoley@ht.homecomm.net.

Pumping station feels effects of Sept. 11th

Planning Commission strips away landscaping

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

The Detroit Water and Sewer Department's pumping station under construction on 14 Mile road between M-5 and Haggerty Road on Novi's border with Commerce Township will be safer, if less attractive, as a result of Novi Planning Commission action.

Commission members voted unanimously Dec. 18 to allow the utility which supplies much of the city with its water to strip away much of the landscaping commission members required when the project was approved last year.

"Following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, a lot of things changed," Lee Mault, a manager with the project's lead contractor, Tetratech, told commission members.

He said the need to tighten security at the unmanned pumping station in Novi, as well as other Detroit Water and Sewer facilities, required extensive changes to the landscaping.

Originally, the planning commission had required a vinyl-clad security fence and extensive landscaping to obscure its view from surrounding office properties.

Mault told commission members that the new security requirements for the pumping station call for a 10-foot clear zone along its perimeter fence.

"What we brought to you before clearly has to change drastically," said Mault. "We feel bad about not being able to put in more trees, but what can we do?"

Commission member David Ruyle suggested the utility add barbed wire to the top of their security fence and contact the adjacent Commerce Township Police Department.

Norman Stangis told commission members his company, Motor City Electronics, will be installing video cameras along with infrared and microwave detection units, along with something known as a shaker system, which can detect the difference between the wind blowing through the chain link fence and someone trying to climb it. Stangis said all the equipment will be monitored by the Detroit Water and Sewer Department's main office.

The utility's contractors are completing a 10 million gallon storage facility with a 15,000-square-foot unmanned pumping station.

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Photo by John Heider

And the winner is...

Rodney Falsettl is joined by his children Mikaela, 8, and Isabella, 4, by their families' first-place, award-winning Christmas lawn decorations last Wednesday night. The Falsettl's, who live in the Walden Woods subdivision, were noted for their decorations by the City Homeowners Association.

Episcopal priest plans to grow Novi church

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Novi's Church of the Holy Cross is the city's "best kept secret," according to its new priest-in-charge, the Rev. Karen Henry.

A graduate of Union Theological Seminary and The General Theological Seminary, both in New York City, Rev. Henry has been an Episcopal priest for more than a decade.

The soft-spoken Bronx native was recruited to take over at Holy Cross in April during a clergy leadership project. After almost 40 years as a mission church,

the Episcopal Church's Diocese of Michigan has decided to "strategically redevelop" the church.

In the simplest terms, that means grow or close. Currently the church has about 120 members who meet in a sanctuary not much bigger than some of the great rooms found in some of Novi's more upscale homes.

Henry noted that Holy Cross held its first service in its current building on Christmas Eve 1966. "I think the story of our church is the story of the little engine that could," said Henry. "I really believe we can grow."

Holy Cross parishioners had already put together plans for a 200-seat church on their more than 10-acre site that would dwarf the existing sanctuary. Rev. Henry said she believes Holy Cross should plan to more than double that.

"The thing that's rather astounding to me," said Rev. Henry, "of my membership, the majority of the people aren't from Novi. They come in from places like Livonia, Walled Lake, Farmington Hills - of course, which isn't that far away, but the actual number of Novi addresses on my mailing lists is a small percentage."

With a population in the city of more than 50,000 to draw from, Holy Cross has a tremendous potential for growth. Rev. Henry said she's looking to see anyone of faith, not just people who grew up in an Episcopal home.

"Most people don't understand what the Episcopal Church stands for, what their tradition and history has been and how we are such a wonderful, inclusive faith community," she said. "We're a thinking person's church. We don't dictate what people need to think about certain issues. We're very open to saying we have tradition and scripture and reason. That's our three-legged Anglican stool and to that in the 21st century we've added experience. What's your experience of God?"

Although Rev. Henry is the first woman to lead Holy Cross' congregation, she

doesn't believe that's relevant. "That's really a lot of hoopla that's passé," she said. "There are certain things that I do differently. That's just all part of the ground breaking. Most people don't make an issue of it. They just say, 'A priest is a priest.'"

She said the significant thing is the challenge of growing the community.

Prior to coming to Novi, Rev. Henry was Dean of Central Westchester in New York, where she oversaw 12 parishes. "That's where the call of God really does come in," she explained. "I fell in love with the people who were here. I was so impressed. There's a statement that we use in the church - 'A church without a mission is a dead church.'"

Holy Cross, observed Rev. Henry, is very much alive. She said the congregation is heavily involved with the Crossroads Soup Kitchen in Detroit and several other mission outreach programs. She said one parishioner is even studying to be a nurse in order to better serve the church's medical mission work in Haiti.

Rev. Henry comes to Novi with her husband, the Rev. John W. Henry II, who is also an ordained Episcopal priest, and joins the Rev. Frederic Brunson, who has agreed to stay on as a part-time priest.

Located at 46200 West 10 Mile, Holy Cross has Sunday services at 7:45 and 11 a.m. Rev. Henry can be reached at (248) 349-1175 or by e-mail at holycrossnovi@hotmail.com. The church also has its own Web site, www.churchoftheholycross.com.

"One of the reasons I had said yes," recalled Rev. Henry, "is I had read a quote, and unfortunately I can't recall who said it, but it was, 'If you're going to put your heart to something make sure that it's so impossible that if God were not in it, you would surely fail,' and that's where I am."

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Photo by John Heider

Pastor Karen Henry has recently joined Novi's Holy Cross church as the Priest in Charge.

"FOR TOO LONG OUR CULTURE HAS SAID, 'IF IT FEELS GOOD, DO IT.' NOW, WE WANT TO BE A NATION THAT SERVES IDEALS LARGER THAN SELF. WE'VE BEEN OFFERING A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY, AND WE MUST NOT LET THIS MOMENT PASS. MY CALL IS FOR EVERY AMERICAN TO COMMIT TO THE SERVICE OF YOUR NEIGHBORS AND YOUR NATION. BY DOING THIS, WE SUSTAIN AND EXTEND THE BEST THAT HAS EMERGED IN AMERICA!"

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Table 1. Number of Patients with the Most Common Adverse Events

Adverse Event	ARIMIDEX (n=1000)	Tamoxifen (n=1000)	Relative Risk (95% CI)
Hot flashes	350	380	0.92 (0.82, 1.03)
Vaginal bleeding	150	180	0.83 (0.73, 0.94)
Regional diarrhea	120	150	0.80 (0.70, 0.91)
Blood clots	80	100	0.80 (0.68, 0.94)
Strokes	60	80	0.75 (0.58, 0.97)
Uterine cancer	40	60	0.67 (0.48, 0.92)
Joint problems	180	150	1.20 (1.08, 1.33)
Fractures	160	140	1.14 (1.02, 1.27)
Spine fractures	100	80	1.25 (1.08, 1.44)
Hip fractures	80	70	1.14 (0.98, 1.32)
Eye fractures	60	50	1.20 (1.02, 1.41)

Table 2. Adverse Events Associated with the Most Common Adverse Events

Adverse Event	ARIMIDEX (n=1000)	Tamoxifen (n=1000)	Relative Risk (95% CI)
Hot flashes	350	380	0.92 (0.82, 1.03)
Vaginal bleeding	150	180	0.83 (0.73, 0.94)
Regional diarrhea	120	150	0.80 (0.70, 0.91)
Blood clots	80	100	0.80 (0.68, 0.94)
Strokes	60	80	0.75 (0.58, 0.97)
Uterine cancer	40	60	0.67 (0.48, 0.92)
Joint problems	180	150	1.20 (1.08, 1.33)
Fractures	160	140	1.14 (1.02, 1.27)
Spine fractures	100	80	1.25 (1.08, 1.44)
Hip fractures	80	70	1.14 (0.98, 1.32)
Eye fractures	60	50	1.20 (1.02, 1.41)

City of Novi

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Gateway ordinance: During a Jan. 3 special Novi City Council meeting, members requested to table the city's Gateway ordinance. While some members didn't have problems with ordinance wording, others wanted more restrictions of what could or could not be built in the Meadowbrook Road corridor. Developers showed frustration with the lack of action. During the meeting, Mayor Richard Clark urged all members to participate in the spirit of cooperation and be ready to vote the next time the ordinance was on the agenda.

Lawsuit settled: The lawsuit between 10 Main Street Businesses and James Chen's Evergreen III was reduced to nine after Real Estate One, Inc. signed a dismissal in 521 District Court in January. According to court documents, Real Estate One owed Evergreen III \$15,212 in maintenance fees. Representatives from Real Estate One and the corporation's attorney declined comment.

Parkland removed: During Novi's Jan. 9 Planning Commission meeting, members unanimously voted to reclassify about 95 acres of North Novi Park as the city's master plan. The decision to amend the Master Plan removing the park land designation of the acreage was the last barrier preventing the sale of park land to Sandstone

Associates in an effort to settle the \$70 million lawsuit.

Mayor address: In a Novi first, Mayor Richard Clark gave the 2001 State of the City address in a public forum instead of the usual Novi Chamber of Commerce luncheon. "Challenges Met, Opportunities Seized" was the title of the Jan. 14 address, and Mayor Clark pointed out the city's strengths in the prior year. Clark spoke for about one hour to the near 100-person crowd gathered in the Novi Civic Center. Clark verbally applauded the city's education system, public safety officials, economic health, substantial growth, hundreds of volunteers and he saluted those involved in the Sept. 11 tragedy.

Chill winner: Whole Nine Yards took all honors on Jan. 19 at the city's annual Chilly Willy Winter Festival. The restaurant located in the Double Tree Hotel won both the first place award and the people's choice award.

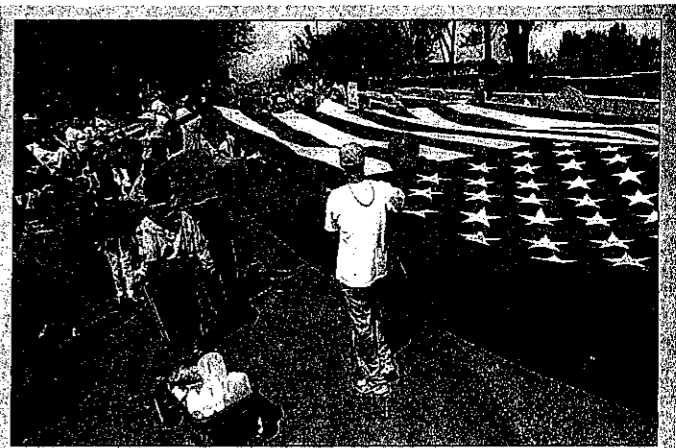
Mitchell property: During the beginning of February, it was confirmed a portion of North Novi Park once acquired by condemnation would be sold to Sandstone Associates as part of the \$70 million lawsuit settlement deal. In 2001, Oakland County Circuit Judge John McDonald ruled the sale of the 40 acres of park land once owned by Paul and Marianna Mitchell could be sold even though it was acquired by condemnation in 1994 by the city for the purpose of having a Novi

Legal threat: Members of the Michigan Coalition for Responsible Gun Owners threatened to sue the city if Novi adopted a new gun control ordinance banning weapons in city buildings. Members of the coalition said local units of government are prohibited from imposing restrictions on concealed weapon holder's rights. The ordinance did not return before council in 2002.

Contract canceled: During the second week of February, city officials dismissed James Chen's Greystone Construction as the general contractor for the city's new Fire Station No. 4 and Training Center. Officials and the bonding company responsible in case Chen defaulted on the project said they would need to seek a replacement for the \$1.9 million, Wixom and 10 Mile roads project.

Savy Sailor: Scott Cratty waited 113 days and traveled 18 hours by plane to be with his volunteer at the City of Novi Daddy-Daughter dance. The Petty Officer 2nd Class with the U.S. Navy Reserves traveled from Sicily to take his daughter to the February dance after being called into action after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Almost done: On Feb. 23 during a special city council meeting, members of council voted 6-to-1 in favor of an agreement in principle to bring the \$70 million Sandstone lawsuit to an end. The preliminary settlement agreement was approved pending the receipt and acceptance of outstanding exhibits.



Bearers of the American Flag rotate Old Glory during the Memorial Day parade in Novi.

March

Time limit: Members of the Novi City Council voted in March 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 council was not welcomed by Novi Mayor Richard Clark. Clark was one of the voters standing a vote with the other nay coming from Novi City Councilman David Landry. Clark maintained restricting speech length is against the spirit of first-

With some exceptions, the time limit was not enforced during the remainder of 2002.

Novi rebuts allegations: A quick response by members of the Novi Police Department countering allegations made by the Rev. Al Sharpton, said the city unfairly targets black motorists. Days after the travel advisory was issued by the NAN's Michigan Chapter telling blacks to avoid the city, Novi Police Chief Douglas Shaffer ordered an instant ticket audit analysis of all traffic tickets issued since Jan. 1, showing 5 percent of all tickets were issued to African Americans.

reviewed the city's complaint log for the past several years, finding only one complaint of racial profiling which was later withdrawn by the complainant. The Rev. Horace Sheffield II, leader of the Michigan Chapter of the civil rights group nationally led by the Rev. Al Sharpton, said publicly he was pleased with the police department's response. The group lifted the ban March 28 during a press conference held at the Novi Civic Center.

Another lawsuit: A local attorney filed a million dollar lawsuit against the City of Novi, stating the voice of each resident first-

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City of Novi

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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 six-foot beam proved fruitless for Novi property owners Karl Witzinsky and Marcia Boynton. The argument circles around whether the beam at the back of the Witzinsky's property line should be measured from the first floor level of their home or ground level. The beam was ordered to separate the Novi family's home from the new Target store at Wixom Road and Grand River Avenue.

April

Mediation Program: The City of Novi offered residents a unique opportunity in the spring to help solve ongoing issues before nagging legal costs and time-consuming courtroom battles incurred. Through the Oakland Mediation Center, city officials sponsored free training for qualified area residents interested in becoming mediators in the recently announced City of Novi Mediation Program. The 40-hour mediator training workshop empowered the participating volunteers with the necessary tools needed to solve others' disputes.

Settlement agreement: After an executive session of the city



Helen Lama, '03, left, and Marguerite Knight, '00, both talked about passing a hundred years in at Novi's Grand Court retirement community.

council held April 23, members of the council unanimously voted to adopt a resolution approving an agreement for entry of consent judgment in Oakland County Circuit Court and to forward the proposal to Sandstone in one week. City of Novi officials received an extra incentive to bring settlement talks with Sandstone to a close after a date was set by the Michigan Supreme Court of Appeals to hear oral arguments in the developer and the city of Novi matter. Although the hearing date was set for July 9, the court said it would not accept motions relating to the case after June 25.

Arbor Day: Members of the Novi community joined together Saturday with shovels in hand to celebrate Arbor Day. The April 27 event brought together children, adults and city officials for a time of observation and merriment in Novi's Community Sports Park. More than 300 trees were planted at the park during the event and throughout the week by several area Boy and Girl Scout troops in honor of the April 26 holiday.

May

Expo Overview: One of Novi's most recently created zoning ordinance will apply to the potential site of the new Novi Expo Center after approval was given at a meeting of the Novi City Council. The program celebrating its 13th anniversary pairs an area member of the Novi Senior Center with a first-grade student from Novi's Orchard Hills Elementary forming lasting bonds. The Novi Pen Pal Exchange Program has had about 550 students and 600 senior participants since its inception.

Millage stagnates: Members of the Novi City Council adopted Novi's \$23 million budget May 20, revealing the city's millage rate will stay the same. For the city's 2002-2003 fiscal year beginning July 1, the millage will remain at 10.5416, the same as fiscal year 2001-2002. As a result, some property owners will not see an increase in their property tax bills resulting from city operations.

Water rates increase: City officials confirmed on May 20 water and sewer rates will increase for Novi water customers for bills rendered after Aug. 1. Officials said consumers with a current water bill of \$300 per year would see an increase passed on to them of about \$40 resulting in a \$340 annual bill. City officials said the increase was strictly a pass-through charge of the higher rate the city was receiving

battle between downtown shop proprietors and their landlords. On May 2, Evergreen III's attorney filed a motion for entry of judgment for possession by default against Kitchens By Design against the owner did not pay his April rent. Kitchens By Design attorney Kim Cappello said the owner did try to make a payment, however no one was in the on-site management office.

Memorial Day: May 27 marked a special day for the City of Novi. Not only did the city streets fill with bands, floats and American flags, but the special Memorial Day parade and celebration began a period of remembrance and appreciation for those serving our country. Crowds of viewers lined the streets watching the City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Memorial Day Committee and Lions Club parade began at the Town Center entrance and wind its way to the Novi Civic Center. More than 25 groups represented and remembered those dying to serve our nation.

Seniors meet pals: After close to 10 months of corresponding through letters and notes, members of the city's Pen Pal Exchange Program met face-to-face for the very first time. The exciting and anticipatory event paired the seniors and their petite friends during a special luncheon May 15 at the Novi Senior Center in Meadowbrook Commons. The program celebrating its 13th anniversary pairs an area member of the Novi Senior Center with a first-grade student from Novi's Orchard Hills Elementary forming lasting bonds. The Novi Pen Pal Exchange Program has had about 550 students and 600 senior participants since its inception.

Young recognized: Many of the city's most giving teens were honored May 6 for their commitment and dedication to make Novi a better place. During the Monday night Novi Youth Assistance Youth Recognition Awards, 33 young adults received recognition and congratulations for achieving the goals of the Novi Youth Assistance Program. More than 90 attendees attended the Civic Center event, honoring the award recipients for their commitment to volunteer countless hours per week to area organizations, including nursing homes, to other young adults in the community and many other causes.

More Main Street: Whether one owns a home or not is one of the latest controversies springing up in an on-going courtroom

and no other mark-up was attached. The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department proposed a 14.6-percent increase in the wholesale water rate it charges Novi.

June

Main Street lawsuits increase: The number of lawsuits involving Novi's downtown businesses reached double-digits after the owners of Fatoush Mediterranean Cuisine joined the list of discontented Main Street business owners. Nabil and Rana Matar's list of reasons why they filed a lawsuit against their landlord is long, but mainly centers around the now empty Vic's World Class Market the eatery overlooks. The \$25,000 lawsuit centers around what they feel is a breach of covenant of quiet enjoyment between the restaurant and landlord - Lena Properties. Luna Properties originally filed a complaint of non-payment of rent against Fatoush beginning the legal battle.

Lawsuit settled: Fatoush closes: A settlement reached between the owners of Fatoush Mediterranean Cuisine and their landlord set the restaurant packing at the end of June, leaving another vacancy in Novi's downtown. The June 7 settlement between Fatoush and Lena Properties involved an agreement by Fatoush to waive any back money owed-in return for Fatoush's promise to move out by June 23. The Matar's said their business began going sour after Vic's World Class Market vacated the area the restaurant once overlooked and relied on as part of the unique eatery's ambience.

Lights, Camera, Action: On June 18, the Novi Public Library invited area residents to take a look at the Vietnam War era in a



Fatoush Mediterranean Cuisine joined the list of Main Street business owners who filed lawsuits against their landlord. Shown is Rana Matar, who co-owned the eatery with her husband, Nabil.

compelling way. The program titled "What Films Teach Us About Us" looked at the era through the lens of a camera with guest speaker Eliot Wilhelm of The Detroit Institute of Arts Detroit Film Theatre. The program offered attendees an interactive opportunity to discuss how the films of the '60s and '70s represented society's view on the war with the film festival.

Settlement signed: All the signatures are on the dotted line, ending the \$72-million lawsuit looming over the city of Novi for several years brought on by Sandstone Associates Limited Partnership. After receiving approval by representatives of the city and Sandstone on June 25, the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled and granted the joint motion to have the matter returned to Oakland County Circuit Court where the settlement judgment was ultimately entered.

Police & Fire

February

Fatal Crash: Clarence W. Rotermund of Novi died in a head-on collision Feb. 23 at about 8:15 a.m. when the vehicle he was traveling in was hit on southbound Interstate 275, north of Seven Mile Road in Livonia. Also killed in the crash was 24-year-old Bethany German of Lincoln Park. Witnesses said German crossed all lanes of traffic, crossing the median and drove into oncoming traffic before hitting the 80-year-old man.

Novi Crash: A Brighton man was killed in a Novi accident the morning of Feb. 26 four days before he was supposed to celebrate his 30th birthday. Michigan State Troopers said Zhen Yuan Ren was traveling westbound on Interstate 96 west of Novi Road when he lost control of his car as he tried to change lanes. The troopers said speed played a major role along with winter weather during.

March

Assault and robbery: Four Novi men were arrested and arraigned after being tracked down by a Novi Police K-9 for their alleged involvement in a city crime. The incident occurred on March 12 at about 11:45 p.m. when a 56-year-old pizza delivery man was robbed and beaten by four Novi males, police said. Nineteen-year-old Earl Wise, 18-year-old Steven Fisher, 18-year-old Curtis Paul and 19-year-old Philip Custman all of Novi were arraigned March 14 and charged with conspiracy to commit an unarmed robbery and committing an unarmed robbery.

Video store robbed: On Friday, June 14 at about 12:35 p.m., a knife-wielding man robbed a local video store, police said. The only person in the store, a 30-year-old female employee, was not injured. The male suspect entered Home Video on Beck Road and stole about \$300 before cutting the store's phone lines and fleeing through the back of the plaza. The suspect is described as an Asian or possible part Mexican male about 22 to 26 years old with medium length dark hair and 5'7" in height.

May

Mervyn's assault: A Farmington Hills woman was arrested by Novi police after allegedly trying to rob a Novi woman in the parking lot of Mervyn's. The victim told police she was in the parking lot on March 16 at 3:15 p.m. when a woman later identified as Angel Gonzalez-Zucker told her to give up her wallet and keys. Although it was reported the woman said she had a gun, no weapon was found. The victim called police on her cell phone and the suspect was arrested in the Town Center parking lot. After being arrested Gonzalez-Zucker told officers she had taken four Valium's and didn't know what she was doing.

April

Novi Dispatchers: The Novi Police Department's dispatch team was honored in April for a job well done. The staff of 17, including four shift leaders and two trainees, was saluted for their exemplary job of being in charge of the city's and some surrounding community's incoming calls, including multiple lines of fire, police, 911 and non-emergency. Other duties done by the city's finest while on their 12-hour shifts were also applauded including monitoring the station's building cells, interview room, booking area, lobby, parking lot and other areas via a security system monitoring system while running property and personal checks on the department's dedicated fiber computer system.

New purchase: The Novi Police Department acquired 17 automatic external defibrillators in April for use by the police vehicles, police headquarters, city hall and other city owned facilities. The small, portable devices used to help victims in cardiac arrest, will allow officers to effectively and accurately determine if a person requires intervention and to administer the shock intended to restore the heart to a regular beat. The intent of the AED program is to ensure a person in cardiac arrest receives help as soon as possible. The defibrillators were purchased for \$45,000 from the city's general fund.

June

Two dead bodies: Two bodies found dead in June were ruled suicides by Novi police. The unrelated incidents brought police to separate locations after calls came in reporting the discovery of the deceased men. The first call came in at about 6:40 a.m. on June 5. Employees arriving for work found a 23-year-old Novi male dead in the 24000 block of Catherine Industrial Road. The man was found hanging from a barrier surrounding a dumpster, police said. The second body was found at about 10:15 a.m. on June 7 in the woods south of 10 Mile Road and west of Wixom Road. Police said a tree cutter was working in the area when he found a man lying in the back of a pickup truck. Police said the 47-year-old Novi resident died from a self-inflicted gun shot wound to the head. A suicide letter was found in the vehicle. The man was reported missing by his wife on June 3.

Car theft: On Saturday, May 25 at about 7:33 p.m., a Novi officer was called to the Novi Square parking lot to investigate a car theft. Upon arrival at the Pontiac Trail at West Park and Beck Road location, a 30-year-old Wixom man told police he saw an unknown male trying to steal his truck when he decided to do something about it. The man ran to his truck, jumped halfway into the driver's window and began to struggle with the suspected thief. The driver swerved the car into another vehicle, injuring the car owner. The truck was later found, but the suspect remains on the loose.



Work continues last Friday afternoon by Detroit-Edeon personnel to place a utility line underneath Twelve Mile Road at Novi Road. The busy intersection was closed to allow safe completion of road improvements.

Business

February

Goodbye Vic's: Vic's World Class Market closed its doors to the public Feb. 8 sending the city scrambling to collect outstanding taxes, leaving long-time customers perplexed and placing another black mark across Novi's downtown development. The specialty grocery store opened about eight years prior by Vic Ventimiglia as one of the anchors of Novi's downtown development.

Trading stopped: The doors to Future Wise Trading Group and Commodities Consultants International were closed on Feb. 6 after suspicions surfaced that the owner of the Novi business was providing false and misleading information to investors. The National Futures Association ceased the operations of the office located in the Crystal Glen Office Center leaving investors wondering what will happen to their money. The complaint stated the firm took at least \$2.9 million from about 60 people across the United States.

Bummed Bistros: On Feb. 25, members of the Novi City Council gave representatives of the Novi Bistros one week to take

care of cash deficiencies before they would receive a liquor license approval. The establishment's owners owed \$6,650 in personal property taxes to Oakland County and about \$3,600 to the city for water. Since that time, all payments were received and the restaurant received its license. The doors to the bistro have not been opened since.

Happy Sushi: Happy Sushi Japanese restaurant opened its doors Feb. 9, serving fresh and delectable treats to all walking in the door. The reasonably-priced eatery was opened by 38-year-old Kyo "Kevin" Chang former chef of Benihana Japanese Steakhouse and "Cherry Blossom. With his great charm and personality, Chang brings a truly unique and enjoyable dining establishment to the 10 Mile and Meadowbrook roads shopping plaza.

March

No mart: Novi's blue light will shine no more after Knight executives announced on March 8 the West Oaks store would be closing. Knight executives said the Novi closing would eliminate about 75 jobs. The \$37 billion company announced its decision to file for

Chapter 11 protection in January beginning a restructuring process.

Buffalo Wild Wings: Buffalo Wild Wings Grill and Bar announced in March it would be opening its doors soon to patrons of Novi's Fountain Walk Development. The 6,815 square-foot eatery focuses primarily on Buffalo, New York style chicken wings spun in one of the restaurant's 12 signature sauces. Other notable aspects of the now-open eatery include a spacious bar area, many large-screen TVs for sports viewing, video games and a national, interactive trivia game. The now-open grill and bar has also been welcomed by many Novi families as an enjoyable place to have a beer or a casual meal with the kids.

Marty Feldman Chevrolet: Thanks to a sizable donation by Marty Feldman Chevrolet, a highly-respected and life-changing event returned to Novi High School. Marty Feldman, executive manager of the Novi car dealership, presented middle school officials with a \$4,000 check during a March 26 assembly at the school for the sale of proceeds of folding its "Challenge" Day

continued on 6

Thank You
To the many individuals and organizations whose donations to Novi Public Library have commemorated special people, events and interests. Our community is richer because of your gifts.

Blues: Patrick and Barbara Nothing Like It in the Kazma; Notes From a Small & Jack and Betty Wasson; A Sheep; The Billy Kahle; Builder of Detroit Children's Special Places; More, Dutch in Michigan, in Michigan; Retrieving Reuther Brothers; Great Lakes Region; Willie "Waffle" the Wanderer; Oakland Chapter Behavioral Intervention for Young Children with Autism, Autism and PDD; The Child in the Rain; Facing Autism, Child; Novi Girls Scout; Waffle; Harry Potter and Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone; Carol Johnson; A Thousand Country Roads; Morgan Krupic; Four Children's Picture Books; Mike & Judy Cordon; Look Away: A History of the Confederate States of America; Betty Rankin; Adult Non-Fiction; Adult Non-Fiction; Dick and Peg Whitney; The Genealogist's Question & Answer Book; The Simon Family; If You're Happy and You Know It; Bob the Builder; Soap Saves the Day; Bob the Builder; Bob's Birthday; Bob the Builder; Wendy Helps Out; Richard and Marilyn Antonio; Perfect: The Inside Story of Baseball's Sixteen Perfect Games; Jeffrey, Medicine, David and Stephanie Lux; Ghost Soldiers: The Forgotten Epic Story of World War II's Most Dramatic Mission; The Friends of Novi Public Library; Franklin: The Essential Founding Father; John Chambers; The September 11 Photo Project; Porsche Panorama; Adele Robbins; A Tree Grows in Brooklyn; Jerry and Carol Bauer; Comfort Me With Apples; The Cross Country Quilters; Walking the Bible: A Journey by Land Through the Five Books of Moses; Kathleen Mutch; Frontier Metropolis: Picturing Early Detroit, 1701-1838; Amy Mautson; The Life and Wisdom of Queen Frontiers; Novi Public Library Staff; When Evening Comes: The Education of a Hospice Volunteer; Mr. & Mrs. James McLean; Crusting Alaska; Betty Lang; Prop Care of Sheffeld Sheepdogs; Richard and Doreen McGuire; Garden Makeovers: The Complete Guide to Renovating Your Garden; Novi Public Library Staff; Reader's Digest Complete Photography Manual; Anne, Judy, Liz, Pat and Rhoda Jones; Bird by Bird: Instructions on Writing and Life; Art of Non-Fiction; Operating Instructions: A Journey of My Son's First Year; Cub Scout Troop # 50; Fifty Children's Books; The Berenstain Family; Parachute; Youth Programming Materials; The Gilman Family; Youth Fiction; Andrew Moch; Young Adults; William Decks; Monetary; S. R. Patel; Monetary; Jeffrey and Madeline Lux; Adult Non-Fiction; Pauline Droschel; Adult Non-Fiction; Novi Public Library Patron; American Cheerleader Magazine; Jehovah's Witness; Awake, The Watch Tower; John R. Porter; Better Investing; Casterline Funeral Home; Brides, Entrepreneur; Four Wheeler; Food and Wine; Golf Tips; Outdoor Photographer; Novi Public Library Patron; Building Business and Apartment Management; Novi Public Library Patron; Corp; Rosemarie Denton; Creed; National Right to Life News; Right to Life; Lifesavers of Metro Detroit; Church of Scientology; Freedom; Tom Harrigan; Ideas on Liberty; Novi Chess Club; Michigan Chess; Kinship Spirits; Network; Novi Public Library Patron; Positive; Delroy; Subway; Ten Mile Road; Novi; RCM-Recumbent Cyclist News; Roller Coaster; Letitia Roder; Victoria; Novi Public Library Patron; Washington Report on Middle East Affairs; Marion Schneider; Writers Digest.

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THE SANTA CLAUS 2 (G)

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Name of School District) Novi Community School District invites qualified contractors, including MBE/WBE/SBE firms, to submit proposals/bids for the above referenced project for the following Bid Categories):

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On behalf of Novi Community School District (NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT), Elkin Skanska Inc., 30445 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 250 Farmington Hills, MI 48333 (LOCATION), Attention: Chris Bocher (NAME), until the stipulated bid opening date and time. Bids received after the stipulated date and time will not be considered and will be returned unopened. Bids will be opened at a public meeting to be convened at 3:30 PM (TIME) on Monday, January 6, 2003 (DATE) at Novi Community School District, Education Services Building (LOCATION), 25345 Tart Road, Novi, MI 48274. Bids must be clearly marked with the project name and bid category name.

All interested bidders may obtain copies of the drawings and specifications from Elkin Skanska Inc. upon request and upon providing a bid deposit of \$50.00 (AMOUNT OF DEPOSIT REQUIRED), Elkin Skanska Inc. will return all bid deposits to contractor(s) after bid opening and when bid documents are returned to Elkin Skanska Inc. in good condition.

A minimum of 5% bid security, either in the form of a Bid Bond or Cashiers' Check payable to Novi Community School District (SCHOOL DISTRICT) and Elkin Skanska Inc. as dual obligees. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Michigan and be listed in the Federal Register or have an AM Best Rating of B+ or better.

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Photo by John Heister

Shoppers with carts full of discounted merchandise hustle out of Novi's Kmart on its last official day of business.

Business

continued from 5

Program. Challenge day is an intense, all-day program designed to increase personal power and self-esteem to turn peer pressure into positive peer support and eliminate teasing and oppression in the school system and the community.

April

Deal breaker: After seven months of negotiations, a Canton gover tabled talks in April to purchase the vacant Vic's World Class Market in Novi. John Partridge, owner of Holiday Market in Canton, announced in February he had been talking with Vic's owner Vic Ventimiglia since August. The Canton market owner said agreeing on a price was the deal breaker.

May

World Class Market: Cost Plus World Market opened its doors to the public in May, bringing treasurers from all over the world to the City of Novi. The 18,000-square-foot emporium located in the Fountain Walk development is best known for importing the merchandise of 50 countries into one spacious location. The store offers a variety of interesting, cost-conscious merchandise to fill any room in a house such as furniture, lamps, vases, bath products, dishes, vases, prints, mirrors, pillows and rugs. There is also the food and beverage section. The market's selection of nonperishable food items and beverages is as varied and cosmopolitan as its home decor offerings.

OC Automotive: Owens Corning opened its 57,000-square-foot Automotive Solutions Center in Novi's Beck West Corporate Park May 30, strength-

People

Bill Bullard: State Sen. Bill Bullard (R-Highland), officially announced at the beginning of the year he would run for District 2 Oakland County Commission race. Bullard said his decision to run came after about a year of consideration. Bullard was prevented from seeking another term as state senator due to term-limit restrictions.

Dana Gannon: Former Novi High School graduate Dana Gannon displayed her naturalism-philosophy based sculptures for the first time in 2002. The Bay city art gallery premier featured about 25 of Gannon's original works. The 29-year-old New Jersey resident attended University of Michigan and received a graduate degree from the New York Academy of Arts.

Turch Runners: Many Novi residents were specially chosen to participate in the Metropolitan Detroit area leg of the 2002 Winter Olympics torch run. Those chosen out of many submissions included Lori Breen, Pete Langenhorst, Janis Priebe, Amy Harland and Lisa Simons. All runners overcame great diversity and exhibited tremendous personal characteristics to win the honor.

Craig DeRoche: Novi City Councilman Craig DeRoche announced during the week of Jan. 17 he would be seeking a seat in the Michigan House of Representatives. DeRoche said he decided to run for the seat because the city in the 38th District are not getting as much support from the state as they should. After winning the election, DeRoche announced on Monday, Nov. 25, he would be resigning from council the middle of December. The recently-elected 38th District State Representative said he will take a seat at the council's bench for the last time Dec. 16. DeRoche said although he has mixed feelings toward leaving the council, he is looking forward to the work he'll be doing at the state. What the city councilman said he won't miss is city meetings lasting until 2 a.m.

Nancy Cassis: On Jan. 21, State Rep. Nancy Cassis (R-Nowi) announced she would be running for state senator in the November general election. Cassis was elected to the House in 1996 and term-limited restric-

tions prohibit her from seeking another term. She defeats Sean Cusdon in the general election.

Two Centurions: Two Novi residents collectively celebrated 203 years of life at Grand Court Independent and Assisted Retirement Home. The special January birthday party observed the Jan. 17 birthday of 103-year-old Helen Lama and the Jan. 19 birthday of 100-year-old Marguerite Knight.

Vic Ventimiglia: One week after closing the doors to his business in February, Vic Ventimiglia blamed James Chen and The City of Novi for his store's demise. The owner of Vic's World Class Market said the reason he lost about \$5.5 million and 40 employees was Chen's failure to finish the Main Street project and because the city scared away tenants, allowed too many other shopping developments to be built in the area and nipping. Novi City Councilwoman Laura Lorenzo said she did not feel the city was to blame for Vic's demise.

Bob Pivko: Novi Community School District Superintendent Bob Pivko died Feb. 2 in Hilton Head, S.C., resulting from a heart attack. He was 61 years old. Pivko served the Novi school district as its superintendent for 12 years, guiding it from its technological roots from 1980 to 1992.

Matt Quinn: Former Novi Mayor Matthew Quinn announced in March he would be running for the newly created seat behind the \$2-1 District Court bench. Quinn said his experience on all sides of the court room, commitment to the community and managerial skills make him qualified for judgeship. Quinn was elected mayor of Novi in 1987 and has lived in Novi for 24 years. His attorney did not earn enough votes in the August primary to earn a place on the Nov. 5 ballot. Milford attorney Robert Bondy won the election in November and will serve as the newest judge in the Novi courtroom.

Nancy McClain: Nancy McClain, the City of Novi engineer, received the Outstanding Engineer in Government award from the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers at the Feb. 23 in the Frederik Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids. McClain said she knew she had been nominated by her fellow board members of the society, but



Photo by John Heister

Novi's Outstanding Citizen of the Year Patricia Webb, right, received a proclamation from the State of Michigan from Representative Nancy Cassis.

did not think she would be chosen the winner. The Civil Engineer was hired by the city in August, filling a position created to reduce Novi's reliance on outside subcontractors. McClain was hired by the city in August 2001.

Bridgette Collins and Michelle Bone: Combining friendship and recreation, Novi resident Bridgette Collins and Wisconsin resident Michelle Bone teamed up and hit the streets to raise money for the battle against breast cancer. The friends and coworkers participated in the Avon Breast Cancer Three-Day Michigan Breast Cancer Walk May 31 through June 2. Both women walked 20 miles a day, beginning in Ann Arbor and finishing in Detroit.

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People

continued from 6

stresses a no-pressure sales atmosphere, offers instruction and a rare no expiration return date along with his expertise and genuine care.

Blair Bowman: Novi Expo Center Blair Bowman asserted in April that a recent lawsuit filed by his landlord is patently false and ignores a prior agreement between both parties. Bowman said the lawsuit filed by the Adell Brother's Children's Trust on March 7 in Oakland County Circuit Court basically claims he never informed the landlord of his possible intention to relocate the center when prior court documents show he did. The trust also alleges Bowman did not honor his side of a deal to construct a hotel at the existing Expo center site, which Bowman said is absolutely false.

Brigitte and Nancy Larson: After years of community support and exceptional customer service, Novi business owners Brigit and Nancy Larson hit another community home run. The owners of Larson Jewelry Design located on Main Street in the city's downtown, announced in December they would be holding a silent auction benefiting The Novi man. Novi police officers Steven Balog and Craig Chismar were used one of the department's new Automatic External Defibrillators on June 24 at about 1:30 a.m. to save the life of a man driving a small pickup truck involved in a crash. The officers saw the small truck drift off the road,

careen through a parking lot and crash into a brick wall in the lot of Dr. Spillane's dental office, police said. The man was unresponsive and not breathing when the officers arrived. After utilizing the new machine, the man responded and began breathing again on his own. Both officers were issued an award by the mayor for their heroic efforts.

Mayor Clark: Illness was the reason Novi Mayor Richard Clark missed both regular city council meetings in October, said Novi City Councilman Louis Cordas. In the interim, Mayor Pro-Tem Michelle Bonnet led the city's meetings. Clark was absent from the public eye in the spring 2001, missing meetings and Pontiac's mayoral exchange day as a result of some tests he had done.

Robb and Nancy Larson: After years of community support and exceptional customer service, Novi business owners Brigit and Nancy Larson hit another community home run. The owners of Larson Jewelry Design located on Main Street in the city's downtown, announced in December they would be holding a silent auction benefiting The Novi man. Novi police officers Steven Balog and Craig Chismar were used one of the department's new Automatic External Defibrillators on June 24 at about 1:30 a.m. to save the life of a man driving a small pickup truck involved in a crash. The officers saw the small truck drift off the road,

Melissa Bedetti: Skating Club of Novi member Melissa Bedetti placed third in the Eastern Great Lakes Regionals competition, earning her and her figure skating partner an opportunity to travel to Lake Placid in December to compete in the 2003 U.S. Junior Figure Skating Championship. Upon arrival, the 12-year-old skater and pairs partner, 14-year-old Rusty Kelly from the Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club, would compete against 36 other pairs teams at the juvenile level in their upcoming competition.

Rasbetti Family: The Rasbetti family residing at 2566 the Lane in Novi's Wilder Woods subdivision was awarded first place in the city's 2002 Holiday Lighting Contest. The home was chosen the winner out of about 25 finalists for the first place honor in the event sponsored by The City of Novi Homeowners Association. Judge Ron Boron said the Rasbetti home was chosen because of its spirited and thorough use of lights, decorating not only the front of the house but the sides and back too. Rodney Falsetti said he used about five to six thousand lights and it took him a couple weeks. The family's main inspiration? Their two young Christmas-light loving daughters.

Novi Schools



Outstanding Novi Student of the Year, Sarah Holt

January

While January may be the beginning of the year for the rest of us, for the education community it's the middle of their and the start of 2002 found 11 teacher-interns from Michigan State University deep into their learning experience at Novi's Deerfield Elementary. The elementary school benefited from MSU's rare intern program, which requires graduates to spend a year student teaching and taking master's classes, while the future teachers get a close-up look at Deerfield's progressive teaching programs.

Over an entire year, you really see the kids grow," observed Joyce Sandle, a Spartan alumna from Northville. Over at the high school, the FIRST Robotics team was beginning its march to Orlando. However, the team didn't have far to go for the kick-off of the state competition. It was held Jan. 5 at the Novi Expo Center.

Created a decade ago by New Hampshire inventor and businessman Dean Kamin, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) competitions try to generate the same level of excitement among students for doing well in math and science that is found among winning teams at sports tournaments. Novi High students turned their creativity toward helping others Jan. 7 when they raised more than \$300 for Michigan youngsters attending the Great Lakes Barn Camp. "We try to do new things to get people involved in the community," said Justin Ching, executive board secretary for the Novi High School Student Council.

Ringling in the New Year, Novi high schoolers set a school record with more than 60 students volunteering to help the Farmington Salvation Army's kente program.

Salvation Army officials reported that two sophomores, Brennan Queeneyville and Dan Ping, each logged 42 hours over a 15-day period, helping to raise more than \$137,000.

Spurred on by a rash of school shootings across the country, Novi's school board unveiled a Crisis Prevention and Management Plan. "We want to prevent what's happening, not respond to it," said Robert Schram, Novi's executive director of personnel. The plan went far beyond the traditional fire and tornado drills.

Money started to become an issue mid-month with adults as school officials began to fret over how the district would be affected by the sagging economy. Assistant Superintendent James Koster warned school board members. "The government is not immune to economic crisis. Novi Public Schools is not immune."

It was a worry that would follow the school the rest of year. January also saw Novi Meadows mark the 15th anniversary of its reading program which encourages fifth and sixth grade students to read by giving away books.

The district became a slightly more PC place at the end of the month when the board awarded a \$4.1 million contract to the Dell Computer Company to replace the district's Apple computers with

continued on 6

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Novi Schools

continued from 9

students by starting a petition drive calling for the hiring of more para-professionals. "We are hoping there's enough support in the district to help the board of education make some changes and tax-dollar allocations for the half-day programs," she said. Burke invested that half-day programs for four out of five Novi kindergartners was unfair.

The National Youth Leadership Council recognized Liz Falba for her efforts in encouraging Novi High School students to pursue their career goals.

The Congressional Youth Leadership Council recognized Kathleen Scullen efforts to engage students in extracurricular activities.

Novi High School's Symphony Band and Wind Ensemble blew their own horns at the Michigan School Bands and Orchestra State Band Festival at Novi High School April 27 and got to keep a couple of trophies. Each group claimed a first division rating. "The kids sounded wonderful. They worked really hard and it paid off," said parent Claudia Willing.

Hundreds of Novi students descended on Livonia's Burton Manor mid-month for the prom. "When I walked in the room," declared sophomore Danielle Fennelly, "we were like, 'That is so awesome!'"

Don't get in an argument with Bessie Song, one of eight Novi High School students who went to the Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association state Forensic Finals in Marquette May 3-4. She brought home a first-place trophy for persuasive speaking.

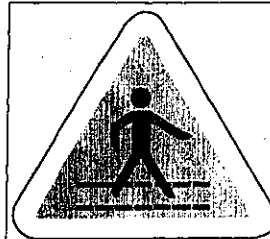
Debbie Levy's eighth grade class at Novi Middle School knit scarves for HAVEN, a Pontiac shelter for abused women and children.

Novi's coop students held a breakfast honoring businesses that participated in the program. Big Boy restaurant, which has participated in the program for four years, won Employer of the Year.

The school board approved plans to spend the \$75 million in technology upgrade funds voters approved the previous June. It took nearly a year to sort through all the proposals.



Novi High School student Teresa Dwyer sports a patriotic cap during the school's fundraiser Hat Day to benefit the Great Lakes Burn Camp.



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show off their cars at a student car show May 17.

WOVI, the student-run radio station at Novi High School,

earned four awards from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters.

Wildcat Roar, the student newspaper, followed up with 21 awards, more than any other Division One School at the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association Spring Conference.

George Kortlandt won a third four-year term on the Novi School Board when no one filed to run against him.

Former Novi school teacher Mary Knauer visited Orchard Hills Elementary School to tell first graders there what life is like in Yurac Yacu, Peru, an Amazon River village the school had adopted earlier in the year as part of a Detroit Zoo program.

The School Board handed out \$50,000 in awards to graduating seniors at the school's Seniors Honors Convocation at the Novi Expo Center.

Novi High student Chris Sandberg was preparing to head for the Big Apple after being named one of seven national winners in the 2002 Young Playwrights Festival National Playwriting Competition.

With the close of the school year, Superintendent Emmett Lippe got his "report card" from the school board. Declared board president Bruce Bagdady, "Excellence and ability is expected and that's what we have."

Tiffany Kelly was on the move too, only she was headed for Shiga, Japan, as part of a student exchange program.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity," the Novi High student said.

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Quotables

2002

"We are never going to satisfy every business and every member of the council. You cannot please everyone all of the time."

Richard Clark
Novi mayor after the decision to table voting on the Gateway ordinance.

"This area is a regional destination spot and it deserves additional consideration for the unique demands of the district."

Craig DeRoche
Novi City Councilman after announcing he would run for State Rep.

"The secret is lots of beer."

Willie Evans
Executive sous chef of Whole Nine Yards at the Chevy Willy Festival after winning first place in the chili cook-off.

"We're sure the city wouldn't want to lose another lawsuit."

Ross Dykman
Executive director of the Michigan Coalition for Responsible Gun Owners

"That is why I call it Happy Sushi. Some people tell me I have a happy face, and I give many choices to my customers."

Kuo Cheng
owner of Happy Sushi restaurant

"Since I've handled a majority of cases on both sides, no one can really pull the wool over my eyes. There are not many tricks attorneys can pull on me."

Matthew Guinn
After announcing he would be running for judge.

"We feel very fortunate to have her as a member of our team. She's been doing a fine job."

Richard Helwig
Novi city manager speaking of city engineer Nancy McClain.

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

Vic Ventimiglia
While discussing the collapsed deal for Holiday market to move into the former Vic's World Class Market space.

"These kids are our future and our business. My dad is a real mush-pot when it comes to kids, and we want to make sure there is no violence especially after Sept. 11."

Marla Feldman
Executive manager of Marty Feldman Chevrolet after making a sizable donation to the middle school's Challenge Day Program.

"Nothing is the same. It is different everyday. You never know when something is going to happen."

Tom Viers
Novi Police Department dispatcher of his job.

"The trees are in a declining state. They're dying actually."

Slove Printz
Novi city forester about the epidemic on Novi's Ash trees

"Last year, I spoke of a year of change and challenges. Little did any of us know how great those changes and challenges would be."

Richard Clark
Novi mayor during the State of the City address.

"Looking around this room, I'm very confident about the future."

Clay Pearson
Novi assistant city manager during the Novi Youth Assistance Youth Recognition Awards.

"Thank you for the contribution you've made to the city and for your professionalism. Your review from my standpoint would be outstanding."

Louis Csordas
Novi City Councilman to Maryanne Cornelius during her August performance review.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to Rick Helwig that we can never repay."

Richard Clark
Novi City mayor to Richard Helwig during his August performance review.

"All the feedback that we have received has been great. People loved the fact it was in a downtown environment."

Jane Thomas
Music & Motor Fest festival manager

"The safe side of the debate is to make the modifications and that is what we chose to do. It was easy to do and relatively inexpensive."

Douglas Sheaffer
Novi police chief regarding the Crown Vic controversy.

"The center is still in transition, but making a lot of progress. We're not making hamburgers at a fast food joint."

Clay Pearson
Novi assistant city manager regarding attacks against Novi's Plan Review Department.

"I'm feeling wonderful. It's great to have the support of this new district. We've taken the 15th by storm."

Nancy Cassis
State Rep. on the night of the Nov. 5 election.

"This just flies in the face of everything we have tried to accomplish in the community."

Richard Clark
Novi mayor after learning some members of the Novi City Council were thinking about being less than cooperative with the city's school district.

"I wish the council best of luck getting their meetings done on a timely basis, but past history shows that is very unlikely."

Craig DeRoche
Novi City Councilman when discussing his feelings regarding leaving his city position.

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

Richard Clark
Novi mayor after opposing time-limit restrictions imposed on residents speaking before members of council.

"Quality communities do not just happen. Quality communities are planned."

Richard Clark
Novi mayor in January.

"I've been a Mac fan for about 10 years. This is the closest location to me, and I just wanted to be a part of it. Apparently, they're supposed to be the Gap of the computer stores."

Aryeh Selekman
University of Michigan student while waiting in line to enter the new Novi Apple store.

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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.



Photo by John Hilde
Amy Marshall, of Oak Creek, Wis., poses for a black and white portrait from her English Springer Spaniel, Hanna at the Livingston County Kennel Club Dog Show at the Novi Expo Center.

Lakes Area Times - Community

March
A lost pigeon from Vancouver, Canada was found in poor health by a Walled Lake couple. They took it to Walled Lake Veterinary Hospital, where it was nursed back to health.

April
Walled Lake residents held a public meeting to voice their opinions about the permanent closure of Wellsboro Road off of Pontiac Trail. The road was closed in June to make room for the new CVS pharmacy at the corner of Pontiac Trail and West Maple Road.

The first ever Mother's Day Off in Walled Lake was scheduled for May 11, the day before Mother's Day. Every mother had her day as local merchants pampered ladies with special deals, seminars and pre-purchased gift certificates that can be used in participating businesses throughout the city.

The event highlighted local businesses while providing women with a great time. About 30 businesses planned to participate in Mother's Day Off. Women had the opportunity to use gift certificates that were given to them by their family or friends at participating stores, which had a big blue bow on the outside.

Gift certificates were sold at the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce in Walled Lake, the Walled Lake DDA, All For Walls, National City Bank in Walled Lake and the Walled Lake City Hall. Some businesses offered special speakers on different topics. Other businesses offered a free dessert or other give-aways for mothers on a day off mission.

Mothers didn't have to worry about watching their children because Tutor Time in Walled Lake planned to do it for them. The care service was free, just as long as they brought in a receipt that they purchased an item in town.

Women were also able to explore female health issues at the Women's Health Awareness Center, which was set up in the historic Stone Crest building. Mel

Rent was also on hand to take women's blood pressure and other health-related offerings and a chiropractor talked to women about chiropractic needs. They were also able to pick up brochures on health topics.

May
Wixom residents got the chance to celebrate the city's forefathers as they embraced yesterday at the first ever Founders' Day Celebration, which took place from 11:45 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday, May 18 outside at the Gibson House, 49805 Pontiac Trail.

Residents were able to learn how the town was settled and why people decided to move to Wixom long ago. There were plenty of activities for everyone as they got a history lesson.

They day started out with Mayor Michael McDonald kicking off the event with opening ceremonies. There were string bands, puppet shows, an old time street theater, a petting farm, an antique and classic car display as well as train rides.

There was a blacksmith demonstration, a big wheel bike, a sheep shearing demonstration, a steam tractor display and other historic displays and activities. Residents were also able to take tours inside the historic Gibson House.

The Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce for the 25th Annual Scramble Golf Outing to benefit both parties. The June 3 outing at Mystic Creek Golf Club in Milford wasn't just designed for Chamber Members and firefighters, instead they wanted to swing clubs with all golfers who wanted to participate. The shotgun start began at 10:30 a.m. and dinner was also available

for an additional charge. The outing included 18 holes of golf and cart, beverage tickets and lunch. There was also a silent auction, prizes and awards for first place women's, men's and mixed teams. Golfers who hit the longest drive, straightest drive and closest to the pin also won awards.

More than 20 sheep lost their coats as onlookers celebrated the First Annual Founders' Day Celebration. The May 18 event, held from 11:45 to 3 p.m. at the historic Gibson House, was a good time for everyone who attended. Residents were able to take a look at antique cars and an antique big wheel bicycle. They were also able to ride a train, watch a barber-shop quartet, listen to story tellers, watch a puppet show and a blacksmith demonstration. They took tours of the historic Gibson home and looked at displays of pictures and other Wixom memorabilia.

June
Walled Lake residents had a chance to tap their feet to timeless melodies as the 2002 Summer Concert Series began. The 7:30 p.m., June 24 Skee Bros. concert, held at Walled Lake Villa, kicked off the eight free Monday night concerts sponsored by Walled Lake Parks and Recreation.

The West Oakland Corridor Steering Committee held meetings for Wixom residents to discuss alternate road plans to a highway running through their backyards on March 5 and 6. In September, the

Lakes Area Times - City

January
Wixom council members and water officials debated a water payment issue and raised the question of how to charge residents for wastewater that goes into the sewer. Residents had always been charged a standard rate of \$29.77 per quarter, but in anticipation of Detroit Water, officials earlier in the year began charging by how much water and wastewater residents were using. Residents were upset and vocal about their water and wastewater bills that were costing hundreds of dollars in the summer, which prompted Mayor Michael McDonald to rethink the payment rate plans for sewer usage created earlier in the year.

Main Street Oakland County was pleased with Walled Lake for its first year's progress in the Main Street Oakland County program. Russell Lewis, principal planner for the Main Street Oakland County program, said the project is centered around historical preservation and economic development. Downtown Development Authority members and city officials worked to achieve the program's four-point approach to achieving both of those goals.

February
The West Oakland Corridor Steering Committee held meetings for Wixom residents to discuss alternate road plans to a highway running through their backyards on March 5 and 6. In September, the

revealed plans to put the question to an election this fall. Whether it will appear as one ballot question or two is still a matter of debate.

March
Consultants were selected to perform a market analysis of Walled Lake's downtown district to find out the major marketing area of those who shop in the city. Another explain what the consultants was to cause people to shop locally. It will also examine the city's strengths and weaknesses and what problems people face while shopping in the city. Therefore, leaders will be able to come up with an appropriate plan of action.

Walled Lake began giving residents the opportunity to pay their taxes online at the end of January. Official Payments, the service that offers online payments, charges \$3 for payments zero to 99. Therefore, if a tax payment was \$2,500, it would cost the resident an additional \$88 for the convenience of using the service. However, if they were to pay taxes the day after deadline, it would cost them an additional \$104. The city does not pay out money for the service, nor does the city take in money from people using it.

Wixom council members decided by a five-to-one vote to have unrestricted turn lanes on Pontiac Trail when the Wixom Road extension is completed. The extension, also known as the Johnson Wire Extension, will allow North Wixom Road and South Wixom Road to meet without a traffic light.

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NOVI SPORTS

novinews.com Thursday, December 26, 2002

Through their fingers

'Cats drop two oh-so-close games

By Ryan Edwards
SPECIAL WRITER

The Novi hockey team found a way to make every lead unsettling and every fan uneasy in their play this past week. They must've been in the Christmas spirit, because they were giving away two-goal leads like they were stocking stuffers. The only positive thing they can take out of it is that they didn't lose either of the two games they played, tying Hartland 6-6 and Brother Rice 3-3.

HARTLAND
The Hartland game was a must-win as the Wildcats entered the game 0-2 in the KVC. Novi locked well aware of that fact and of the urgency for them to win a KVC game as they stormed out of the gates in the first period. They dominated the play for the first six minutes of the game, jumping out to a 2-0 advantage. It looked as if they were just getting started.

Ryan Dixon lit the lamp first for the Wildcats, scoring at the 1:46 mark of the first period, following a beautiful deflection. The goal was Dixon's first of the year and to a 2-0 advantage. It looked as if they were just getting started.

Ryan Dixon lit the lamp first for the Wildcats, scoring at the 1:46 mark of the first period, following a beautiful deflection. The goal was Dixon's first of the year and to a 2-0 advantage. It looked as if they were just getting started.

The play went back and forth a lot for the rest of the period, until Jared Perras dismantled a two-one rush by Hartland. That gave Novi some momentum. Vulaj began skating circles around Hartland defenders, possessing the puck in their zone by himself for a ridiculous amount of time.



Novi's Ryan Dixon winds up for a slapshot during a game last Thursday night at the Kensington Ice House against South Lyon.

BROTHER RICE
Novi visited the Viking Ice Arena last Saturday in a non-league match-up with Brother Rice. The Wildcats looked to get back to .500 if they could pull out a victory.

From Sisson got the start in goal for Novi in hopes of a little more help from his defensemen, then Morrison received in their last game. Aside from Novi defenders being overpowered in front of the goal, and allowing Brother Rice to get a good position and set up shop in the goalie crease, the defense

played much better. They didn't make as many mental errors, and junior defenseman Eric Cunningham stepped up his game to help out Jordan Collins, whose been shouldering a lot of minutes.

Novi also got out to another quick lead, going up 2-0 less than four minutes into the contest. Jared Perras got things started as he scored his third goal of the season on the powerplay with a shot from the point. Perras' goal came at 1:40 of the first period and was assisted by Chaz Bulbuk and John Murray.

Santa Claus is always watching — and is very, very real

Dear Editor—
I am 9 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon
(A letter to editor Francis P. Church of The New York Sun, published in 1897.)

Many of you know the answer that Francis P. Church gave this little girl over 100 years ago, but for those who don't, I'll remind you: Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. When I was in second grade, one of my best friends, Alan Haynes, was of the Jehovah's Witness religion. He was never allowed to participate in our holiday celebrations, no one knew his birthday and he pretty much watched the rest of us snacked on cookies and exchanged little gifts or cards. One day, close to Christmas, Alan asked Alan why he didn't join us — why didn't he celebrate Christmas like everyone else and how come he never told us about the gifts that Santa Claus brought him.

There's no such thing as a Santa Claus," he said. I remember that that moment oh-so-very clear even to this day. I guess you could call it a turning point in my life. Yeah, you always heard the rumblings from the older kids as they talked about catching their parents putting their gifts under the tree and such, but when I asked my mom and dad about those comments, they simply said that Santa couldn't do everything for everyone, so sometimes he just dropped off the gifts and let the parents put them away. Simple enough explanation and one that I took as gospel at that age.

But, this was different. Here sat a child of my own age — my best friend and son for years to follow — telling me that his parents sat him down and explained to him that there wasn't nor ever was a Santa Claus. How could I ignore such blatant facts given to me by one of my most trusted companions? I don't think I ever viewed the holiday the same after that and I just resigned myself to the fact that there was indeed no Saint Nick and no flying reindeer.

Before any parents pick up the phone and call me to complain about this, and for those children who are, for some reason or another, reading this column, let me say something first — I was wrong, Alan was

wrong. Alan's parents were wrong and everyone who has ever said there is no such thing as Santa Claus is wrong. It took me too many years to realize it, but now that I do, I'd like to help you realize it too.

Though I've never seen Santa stuffing gifts under my tree on Christmas Eve, and I've never had the opportunity to see reindeer take to the skies, I have to say that I am an honest-to-goodness believer in the jolly elf. I guess you can call it a hunch, or a feeling. Does he know when I've been bad or good? You bet, and that's why I try my hardest to be good for goodness sake.

hometownnewspapers.net

Sam Eggleston, Editor 248-349-1700

seggleston@ht.homecomm.net

NOVI SPORTS A¹⁴

Wildcats slap 'Stangs' 'Cats split week games Dual meet competition starts off right Lakeland nips Novi again, but WLC can't

By Michael Zerlich
SPECIAL WRITER

Novi opened its dual meet competition with a strong showing against non-league but tough rival Northville Mustangs.

The Wildcats of Novi scored a double win of 15-6 in the opener followed by a 15-8 decision to close out the match.

The 15-6 win went smoothly for the 'Cats pounced on the Mustangs with excellent serving and several kills along the net.

The second game, ending 15-8, was tighter than the score showed. The two teams battled for almost ten minutes 2-2 with neither team able to punch home a point. Northville finally managed one two-point lead at 2-4 before Novi caught fire scoring 8 straight points. Although the Mustangs man-

aged to close within 4 points at 11-7 that was as close as they would come for the rest of the evening.

Novi's next challenger is a conference match-up at Lakeland on December 18 and a Saline Invitational on January 4. Then the team returns home for a tough match-up with Brighton on January 9.

Another note, the Novi JV girls volleyball team scored a 1st place in the conciliation round at the Saline Invitational on December 14.

Novi Volleyball

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

Correction: Gabi Frask and Samantha Stricker's names were misspelled in last week's article about the South Lyon Invitational. Also, Shannon Struder led the team in digs. The Novi News regrets the error.



Angie Schmitt
Volleyball Honors: First four year veteran in school history; As sophomore was an honorable mention all-conference; As junior 2nd team all-conference and all-region; honorable mention; Governor Will-to-Win recipient

Non-sports Interests: Loves shopping, hanging out with friends, and family functions

Favorite Book: TeenyBop (a business class book)

Favorite Food: Green apples
Favorite TV Show: Everwood
Favorite Classes: Business and biology

Career Thoughts: Would like to work in an area that would combine her business savvy with her interest in biology

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Matt, Matt, Matt - what are we going to do about you?

One thing is for sure, Matt Emmenecker's opponents sure wish they could answer that question. The leading scorer on the Wildcats basketball team up to this point, Emmenecker added to his already impressive season totals as the Novi cagers split their games for the week, falling to the ever-persistent Lakeland Eagles 50-44 December 18 before slapping the Walled Lake Central Vikings with a 73-21 loss just three days later.

Against the Vikings, the Wildcats simply showed the scoring as Emmenecker collected 24 points while fellow stellar senior Chris Lewis added another 15.

The first quarter set the pace for the 'Cats as they col-

lected 25 points to Walled Lake Central's 11. From there it just continued to be a game dominated by Novi in all aspects. At the half, the Wildcats upped the ante 40-20 before the end of the third quarter found them resting comfortably at 61-30.

Junior point guard Brandon Casside led the Vikings with a 10 point game, marking the only Walled Lake Central player to climb into the double digits for the game.

The 'Cats, who climbed to 3-1 on the season, were able to cheer their junior varsity squad to victory in the early game of the night as the young Wildcats slammed their Viking opponents 60-45 in the contest as they ran away with the win.

Against the Lakeland Eagles, the Wildcats found themselves falling 50-44 at Lakeland High School, marking the third straight year the Novi cagers have taken a loss against the

Eagles on their own court.

As with every Lakeland/Novi contest, it was a close one from start to finish. The Wildcats found themselves in a fairly favorable position at the half, trailing by only two points before the Eagles were able to squeak out three more points in their advantage by the close of the third. The final quarter was by far the most intense for the Wildcats, as well as the Eagles. Novi managed to keep the game close as their Kensington Valley Conference rivals outscored them by only a single point in the final period of the contest.

The Wildcats were once again led by Emmenecker as he put up 15 points in the losing effort. Both Lewis and fellow senior Chase Chandler added 13 in the loss.

The JV team also took a loss in the contest against the Eagles, falling 51-44 in a very tight game.

New coach, but Central Vikings still losing

By Michael Zerlich
HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

This is, quite possibly, not the year of the Vikings.

The Walled Lake Central Vikings basketball team was under new guidance when they took on and fell to the Novi Wildcats Dec. 20 at Novi High School.

Former Junior Varsity coach Andy Teberian was at the helm as the Vikings stomped the struggling Vikings 73-41 just days after coach Bob Shoemaker resigned abruptly, stating that his duties outside of the Central basketball program interfered with the amount of focus that the team needed.

Besides having coached the Vikings, Shoemaker also serves as the basketball, baseball and cross country coach at Jewish Academy, a school of just over 100 students in West Bloomfield. He is also the athletic director and dean of discipline at the school.

Shoemaker will no doubt be missed, as he holds a 422-197 career record as a basketball coach.

Teberian's debut was one that could have used a bit more boost as the Vikings found themselves on the wrong end of a scoring streak as Matt Emmenecker poured in 24 points for Novi and Chris Lewis added 15 more. High scorer for the Vikings was Casside, with 10.

Two losses

Losing your first two basketball games of the year is bad unless you're the Vikings of Walled Lake Central. History has shown that this time takes a few losses under their chin to be a winner later in the year and this team is no different.

Last week the Vikings fell to 0 and 2 in non-league competition against Milford at home and East Lansing on the road.

Former Vikings Coach Bob (Shoe) Shoemaker has seen it all before.

"It takes several games every year to get the guys leaning our system

which uses allot of plays. This year is no different. I believe we're in the right direction and pleased with our progress."

The Milford match-up was a hotly contested game for being the first game of the year for both clubs. In the end Milford prevailed with a 54 to 53 squeaker.

The Vikings received balanced scoring with 10 points efforts from Brandon Casside, Nick Van Dike, and David Worthy. Lemmie Plummer added 9 more for Walled Lake Central.

Later that week the Vikings traveled to East Lansing to post a lose

with a final score of 77 to 56. East Lansing lead all the way with five of its players in double figures. WLC was led by guard Brandon Casside's 22 points with Justin Goitz adding 14 more.

Waterford Mott

Walled Lake Central's basketball team found out in a losing effort that there are some special players out there. On December 17 at home WLC lost its third straight to start the season at home against Waterford Mott (3-0) 63 to 46 in a non-conference contest.

Basketball is a five man sport. However, Mott's Jeff Jayson came close to making it a one man show.

"We couldn't stop him with a blow torch," Shoemaker of the Central's said seriously. "The guy (Jayson) had a great game. He has a great shot. He can grab it from anywhere and he makes his team play better as a group. We had no answer for him because when we took the outside away from him then his passing still found the open guy down low."

Point in fact, in the first quarter the entire Mott team, other than Jayson, shot 1 for 9 from the field.

Meanwhile, Jayson shot 4 for 4 and made one free throw. Despite heavy defensive pressure from a rotating crew of Vikings Jayson continued into the 2nd quarter with shooting 4 of 5 from the field leading his team to a 33 to 20 half time lead.

All told, Jeff Jayson totaled 33 points for the night. For Central, Casside had a team leading 17 points while two others joined him in double figures as Brad Burkhart 11 and Jeff Mahoney had 10.

"Our kids are playing better," Shoemaker reflected. "This is our first game with three of our guys in double figures."



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Sports Shorts

Jeff Jones Pitching and Hitting Camp

Total Baseball will be offering a hitting and pitching camp hosted by Jeff Jones with special appearances by Detroit Tigers catcher Brandon Inge. This camp features over 25 different instructors, including Jeff Jones—a 26 year professional baseball veteran with the last 15 years being spent as the Detroit tigers pitching coach. Also to teach will be Jason Beverin, a pitcher for the Cleveland Indians, and Larry Feola, a professional player for Detroit and New York!

The Pitching camps run Jan. 11-Feb. 2, 2003 on Saturdays from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and Sundays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.

Hitting camps will be Saturdays from 12:30-2:30 p.m. and Sundays from 2-4 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Camp fees are \$195 each or \$350 for both. For more information, call (248) 668-0166 or e-mail totalbaseball@aol.com, or check out the Web site at www.eteamz.com/totalbaseball.

Total Baseball Holiday Baseball Camp

Total Baseball's Holiday Baseball Camp will feature professional instruction from Jason Beverin (Cleveland Indians) and Lee Bjerke (Michigan High School Coach) Hall of Fame Member) as well as other former professional players and college coaches.

Hitting, pitching, fielding, base running and more will be covered in this fundamental camp. Participants will be put on the real turf for arm speed.

The camp will run Dec. 26-28 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Total Baseball, located at 30990 Wixom Road in Wixom. The cost of the camp is \$130 per player with a \$10 discount for a second child and is open to players ages seven to 17. Space is limited, so register now.

For more information, call (248) 668-0166 or e-mail totalbaseball@aol.com, or check out the Web site at www.eteamz.com/totalbaseball.

Baseball/Softball Hitting Leagues

Total Baseball's Indoor Hitting Leagues will have four players per team to hit off batting machines in a point-awarded one-hour game. Awards will be given to the champions and to the best hitter.

The league will run from Jan. 4-Feb. 8, 2003.

For the boys' baseball and girls' softball, the leagues will run as follows: 13 and under, Saturdays from 9-11 a.m.; high school players, Sundays from 6-9 p.m.

The cost of the league is \$35 per individual/\$120 per team with four players on a team. Games will be held at Total Baseball, located at 30990 Wixom Road in Wixom. For more information or to register, call (248) 668-0166.

Rec Basketball Registrations

The Northville Parks and Recreation department is accepting final registrations for its Winter Youth Basketball Season. Several openings remain in the 6th-8th grade girls, 8th-9th grade boys and 10th-12th grade boys leagues. A waiting list has been initiated for the 9th-12th grade girls league. If enough girls register for the league waiting list, an additional team will be formed.

All leagues will play a 10 game schedule, primarily on Saturdays beginning January 18 and ending March 22, 2003. Teams will practice one or two times per week beginning Jan. 6 through March 17.

Softball/Baseball Private Lessons and Training

Total Baseball will help players, ages 6-18, improve their game. Instructors include Oakland University Coaching Staff, Big 10 MAC All-Conference softball/baseball manager, the Toledo Mudhens Manager, former professional players and college/HS coaches.

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Lakes Area Times - City

continued from 12

out a right turn interruption at Pentate Trail.

Most of the project, about \$88.1 million, will be funded with state and federal funds. However, Wixom officials will be responsible for obtaining \$1.7 million in funds.

The Walled Lake Parks and Recreation annual Easter Egg Hunt was held at Sims Park on March 30. Children were able to fill up their Easter baskets with plastic eggs filled with candy.

Walled Lake's Cathy Metevia was awarded the prominent designation of Certified Municipal Clerk, which only 197 city clerks in Michigan have earned.

Metevia had to have the experience, education and service to the community to be awarded the certification. She obtained it through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks program at Michigan State University with the Department of Resource Development.

Walled Lake officials have found a new way to expedite the processing of interim court bond checks to those who have made unlawful blunders.

Police departments, including the Walled Lake Police Department, accepted interim bond money for the Michigan courts as standard practice. However, the department needed Mayor William Roberts or Mayor Pro-Tem Diane Carter to come into the police department to sign it. This made it easier for city and police staff to handle bond money taken in if they do not have to call the pair from city council to come in.

April

Wixom officials applied for a grant through the Department of Natural Resources to complete phase two of the Wixom Habitat. It is to fund 1.5 miles of boardwalk and wood-ship trail, which are continuations of the nature trail and boardwalk that was completed in phase one.

The Wixom Habitat, which is part of a 400-acre retention pond, runs along Wixom Road near Potter Road. It is designed to capture the city's runoff water and eventually runs into the Huron River.

A development agreement for a new Walled Lake CVS came one step closer, despite a few minor setbacks. Company officials said

project will have a traditional flat roof design and incorporate other classic looks.

June

After nearly nine years of service, Tracy White Conlon resigned as Walled Lake Downtown Development Authority's Main Street manager. Board members approved her resignation during a board meeting May 21.

She was given the option to leave her current position or take on a new position with the DDA with added responsibilities. Conlon's husband works on the other side of the metropolitan area, making it difficult for her to drive the distance to Walled Lake after relocating.

As Main Street manager, Conlon was responsible for recruiting and promoting new businesses in the city. She was also instrumental in getting Walled Lake accepted into the Main Street Oakland County program. She was later equally responsible for organizing committees and getting the program off the ground.

Wixom council members decided to wait to determine a size and price for the new Department of Public Works building that residents voted for in a 1999 bond

issue. Officials decided to wait to a future council meeting to approve a 26,913-square-foot building for \$1.62 million or a 22,498-square-foot building for \$1.545 million. Voters approved the cost of the building to go no further than \$1.9 million for a 22,500-square-foot structure.

Michael Dornan, City Manager, said the \$1.62 million construction project would give residents and the workers who will be using the building, more for their money. He pointed out that it would cost more money to add square footage in the future, therefore, it would have been more cost effective to build a larger building at the time. He felt that the city did not have to spend up to the \$1.9 million that voters approved.

Ron Nordstrom, council member, said the building would be the last major construction the city needs for a long time. He said he believes the building should be the right size for the department's purposes. He also pointed out that construction jobs are bidding out, therefore, he feels the city may be able to get a better price.

Richard Ziegler, council member, said he would not approve a cost for any size until there was significant documentation to determine what exactly the DPW needs for workspace. Kevin Hinkley, council member, agreed.

Mayor Michael McDonald said he also would look at how much it would cost to heat and light the building.

The Walled Lake Downtown Development Authority accepted applications for managing director to replace the Main Street Manager position vacated by Tracy Conlon a month earlier.

Conlon's job with the DDA took on several different titles and duties. She chose not to apply for the new position. The position called for someone who should have education and/or experience in "planning, economic development, retailing, marketing, design, volunteer or non-profit management and small business retention and recruitment. It also called for someone who is extremely motivated with excellent verbal and written communication skills.

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

There's no need to relocate when you can remodel

REMODELING REMEDIES

Remodeling Remedies specializes in additions, kitchen, bath and basement remodels. Owner Gary Hess and marketing director and estimator Jim Faydenko are licensed remodelers with over 30 years combined experience in the field. For additional information contact Remodeling Remedies at (248) 486-7494 or toll free (866) 226-9080.

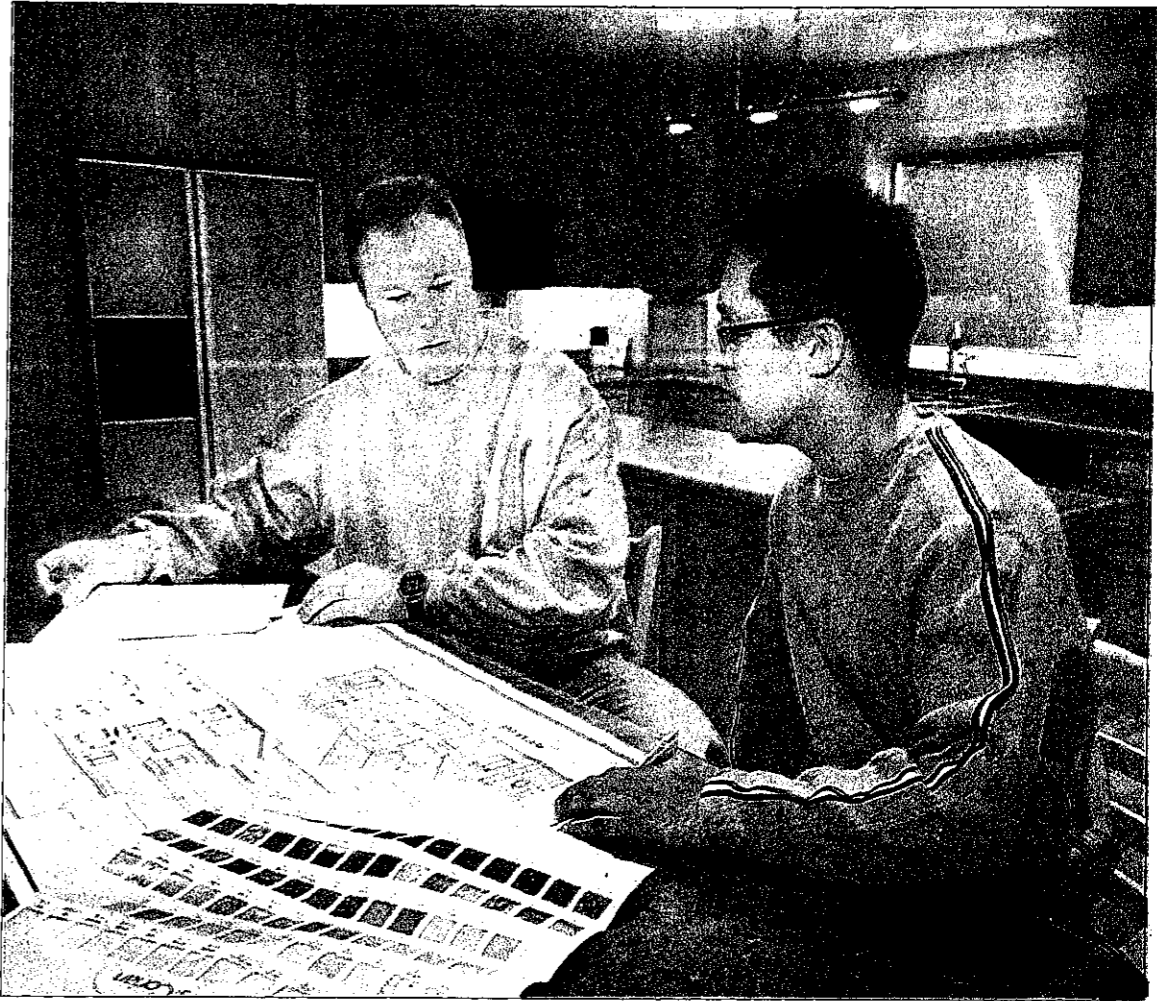
Gary Hess, licensed builder and owner of Remodeling Remedies, says that short of buying a new house, remodeling is the only option for those who wish to add additional living space, an extra bathroom or update a kitchen in their current home. An added advantage to remodeling is the family doesn't have to relocate.

"People often opt for remodeling because they like their neighborhood and they don't want to move," Hess said. "They like their neighbors and the friends they've made in the area."

For the most part, they're going to get a good return on the project as well. According to "Remodeling Magazine," based on Realtor information, a 16- by 20-foot family room addition with a job cost of \$55,000 could recoup as much as \$40,000 at the time of sale.

But, those figures can only ring true if the remodel was done right. That's where Hess says his business comes in to play. Remodeling Remedies is a source of pride for Hess. He's built his business solely on reputation. Reputation for getting the job done right, on time and within budget.

Hess started Remodeling Remedies 13 years ago. He's been in the construction business for about 15 years and believes in providing customers with good quality workmanship.



(L-R) Jim Faydenko (left) and Gary Hess go over house plans at their Remodeling Remedies office at 6760 Pontiac Trail in Salem Twp.

"We don't take any shortcuts," he said. "I worked a long time with no advertising. I've built my business through word-of-mouth. I don't think I've ever left a job site where the client wasn't fully pleased with the work."

Jim Faydenko, marketing director and estimator for Remodeling Remedies, says the company's focus is to provide clients with quality service at a reasonable price.

"I believe in the quality and service, the way we manage the job site. It's worth the value and we do a good job at that and want to make sure people understand

that," he said. "We know we're not going to be the lowest bidder. I will never be the lowest bidder. I don't want to be the lowest bidder. Typically we're right in the middle."

From the time Remodeling Remedies takes that first call for a job estimate to seeing it through to completion, clients can feel secure in knowing that they are receiving a high standard of professional service.

Once the initial call is received, Faydenko makes contact with the client to arrange a convenient time for a walk through of the proposed project. From there he begins to gather information from the potential client; information that is used

to build a written estimate report.

"Clients are given a very detailed written estimate broken down in categories such as demolition, plumbing, electrical and so on. Once our crew begins work they turn in detailed time sheets so we know our costs and we know that we're hitting our mark, that we need to hit. If not, we adjust them."

"A perfect example is drywall. These guys are great at drywall," he said. "Drywall is an art. It's not easy to do it right and to make it last - but they're very good at it - and over time our prices in the drywall category have actually decreased because we're more efficient at

it. So we adjust our prices, accordingly to be competitive."

Faydenko also handles the design aspects of the project presenting clients with a 3-D computer graphic printout of the proposed results.

Remodeling Remedies passes its builder discount on to its clients as well - "so they're going to receive better value," Faydenko said. "Plus we carry a one-year warranty on all materials and work that we provide."

Hess and Faydenko work solely with dependable, quality subcontractors that have established a proven record of getting the job done right when it comes to handling such items as electrical, heating or plumbing.

and at the end of the day construction is swept up and tools are put to the side. Crews arrive on time daily and put in a full day's work and questions are answered promptly. Hess and Faydenko are responsive to their clients concerns.

"The quality, the service - that means something to us," Faydenko said. "People appreciate good service and good quality people who say we're going to do it - and finish on time and on budget. We think that is important. And if that means something to a homeowner then we're the company for them."

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HINES PARK

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<p>NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY</p> <p>4130 5th St. N., Northville, MI 48861</p> <p>Sundays: 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 7:00 pm</p> <p>Phone: 349-2245</p>	<p>OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH</p> <p>710 S. Main St., Northville, MI 48861</p> <p>Sundays: 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 7:00 pm</p> <p>Phone: 349-2245</p>
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<p>FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</p> <p>4400 W. 10 Mile, Northville, MI 48861</p> <p>Sundays: 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 7:00 pm</p> <p>Phone: 349-2245</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</p> <p>217 N. Main St., Northville, MI 48861</p> <p>Sundays: 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 7:00 pm</p> <p>Phone: 349-2245</p>
<p>ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH</p> <p>4430 5th St., Northville, MI 48861</p> <p>Sundays: 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 7:00 pm</p> <p>Phone: 349-2245</p>	<p>OAK POINTE CHURCH</p> <p>Northville High School on 8 Mile</p> <p>Sundays: 9:30 am, and 11:00 am</p> <p>Phone: 349-2245</p>
<p>CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY</p> <p>2626 Macomb Rd., N. of 8 & 1/2 Mile</p> <p>Morning: 8:45 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am</p> <p>Phone: 349-2245</p>	<p>CHURCH OF TODAY WEST (Unity)</p> <p>New Location: Meadowbrook Cemetery South - North (South of 13 Mile on Meadowbrook Road)</p> <p>Sundays: 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 7:00 pm</p> <p>Phone: 349-2245</p>
<p>WORLDWIDE HARVEST CHURCH</p> <p>"A Place to Grow"</p> <p>3030 E. Main St., Northville, MI 48861</p> <p>Sundays: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 11:00 am</p> <p>Phone: 349-2245</p>	<p>CHURCH DIRECTORY</p> <p>For information regarding rates for church directory call The Northville Record or Now News (248) 349-1700</p>

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Your Church Could Be Here!

Your money matters

Avoid the after-Christmas blues: Ask about the return policy BEFORE you buy the gift

Congratulations! Christmas is still days away and already, your shopping is done, the gifts are wrapped, the tree has been expertly decorated, the packages have been mailed, the cookies are baked, the Christmas cards have been sent, and you—whose the holidays wouldn't get the best of you this year—are feeling very, very smug.

After all, you researched the best deals, bagged some nice gifts, and, most importantly, resisted the temptation to blow your holiday budget.

You have Christmas wrapped around your little finger. Not so fast, super shopper. Have you thought about those refunds and returns? Stores are not bound by Michigan law to refund or exchange retail purchases, unless the product is defective or was mislabeled to you, the customer.

"November and December is a fun time filled with holiday shopping and cheerful attitudes," said Better Business Bureau of Eastern Michigan President Fred Hoffecker. "Then January comes around and the Better Business Bureau (BBB) is flooded with angry calls from consumers with frustrated attitudes about why they can't return or exchange their holiday gifts and purchases. Consumers need to ask at the time of purchase what a store's refund and exchange policies is

to avoid hassles and headaches down the road."

The BBB recommends asking the following questions before you make a purchase at a store or online.

- Does this merchant have a return policy? If so, what is it?
- Is this a "final sale" item?
- If I can return the item, is there a restocking fee?
- May I exchange the item for another like it?
- May I return the item and buy something else with a store credit?
- Will the store give me money back if I make a return?
- If the purchase is made under a written contract, how are the normal return privileges affected?
- What is the physical location I need to know to return

merchandise purchased online?

For additional information on refunds and exchange policies, call the BBB at (248) 644-9100 and ask for a free copy of the consumer guide, Shopping Topics: Refunds & Exchanges. Or visit online at www.easternmichigan.org.

If you shopped at a Target or Marshall Field's store here in Michigan this season, it's likely you were charged the correct price for your items. These stores fared the best in the Michigan Attorney General's Ninth Annual Holiday Scanner Survey, scoring a perfect 100 percent pricing accuracy rate. (The Sears store in the 12 Oaks Mall in Novi fared the worst with an 85.71 percent accuracy rate.)

The yearly survey was conducted in November. Investigators from the Attorney General's Office went undercover to shop 12 stores in Ingham, Eaton, Kent and Wayne counties. The stores, representing the J.C. Penny, Mervyns, Sears, Target and Marshall Field's national retail chains, showed an error rate of just 3.2 percent for the second consecutive year. In past years, error rates have been as high as 17 percent.

In all, the errors resulted in \$13.33 in overcharges and \$2.26 in undercharges.

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL), a statewide trade association representing Michigan credit unions. Send your financial

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Lakes Area Times - Schools

February

In an attempt to teach students at Walled Lake Elementary School who the Vikings were and how they lived, John Shaw, Walled Lake Elementary media specialist, and Renee Bow, media center para educator, turned the school library into a trip back to 1000 AD. They donned Viking wear along with Viking accents. The program ran from Feb. 18 until Feb. 22 so that all 458 students would get the chance to participate in the Viking experience. Shaw pointed out that the program was a success and the students will easily be able to retain what they learned about Vikings.

March

James Geisler, Walled Lake Consolidated Schools Superintendent, proposed joining a countywide schools of choice program in order to solve the school district's forecasted financial woes.

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.

Even though the district would bring in extra money, there would be a downside to implementing a countywide school of choice program. The students would be a permanent part of the district once they are accepted into the district. It would cause an overgrowth problem if the population explodes in the future.

Walled Lake Western high school students hosted a 20-hour volleyball marathon to benefit the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan. The event started on April 19 and ended on April 20. Each student was required to raise a minimum of \$100 to participate in the marathon.

Maureen Holohan toured area schools to give written pointers to students. She began her tour on March 15 at St. William's Catholic School in Walled Lake. Later that day she attended an assembly at Mary Helen Guest Elementary and she went to Clifford Smart Middle School on Monday.

Holohan, a self-published author, has written a seven Broadway Players book series about young female athletes. The series chronicles their sports life as well as the general perils of growing up.

Children's author Janie Lynn Panagopoulos brought her passion of history and her love for Michigan to Meadowbrook Elementary students. Her visit was her first stop on a tour of all Walled Lake Elementary Schools. It was made possible by elementary PTA members who sponsor an author visit in Walled Lake Schools every year.

April

As of April 4, only one candidate, incumbent Michael Karson, turned in a petition to run for the June 10 Walled Lake Consolidated School Board election.

Doug Ogonowski, automotive technology instructor at Walled Lake Western High School, was honored with the Teacher of the Year Award for the Walled Lake District at the April 4 school board meeting.

Health science students at Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southwest vied in health care-related competitions with Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) in Traverse City.

Students competed at the state level April 11-13 in everything from nurse aid skills and vital signs to best health care display. The winners competed at the national level in Anaheim, Ca. June 26-29.

The students had more than 40 topics to choose from to compete in at the state competition.

May

Giengary Elementary students got a writing lesson from a woman who makes her living creating poetry. Denise Rogers, author of "A Little Bit of Nonsense: A Wacky Poetry Collection," met with students in a school-wide assembly and later in individual class groups.

Rogers, a Huntington Woods mother, had children at the assembly dress up and act out the colorful characters in her poetry collection. She later explained to students how to create poetry with rhyme and rhythm as well as proper grammatical form. They then put their own creativity to the test.

Students who participated in the Walled Lake Living History Club at Walled Lake Central High School didn't just learn about history, they breathed it. The students dressed up as their forefathers and foremothers and re-enacted historical events or everyday life in Michigan during 1778. They did re-enactments for Walled Lake Elementary Students and with other re-enactors at other events.

The group, headed by math

teacher, Rob Osterman, made its own revolutionary era clothing that each member wore then they were living out history.

For the second year in a row, the Walled Lakes Academic Games Club is the Presidents National Champions in the National Academic Games League, Social Studies.

The 2002 National Academic Games League Championships were held April 21-25 at the 4-H Club Center in Eatonton, Georgia. The Walled Lake Academic Games Club was represented by five students from Clifford Smart Middle School: Bobby Bell, Mark Butler, Steven Olson, Tyler Strom and Corrie Weber, and two students from the Maria Montessori Center in Farmington Hills: Amarnpreet Jhita and Jasneet Jhita. Also assisting were three coaches, eight parents and one brother. There were 293 students from nine schools competing in the elementary division.

The team received a gold trophy and each team member received a gold medallion. The National Academic Games League also recognized outstanding individual performance as Mark Butler, with a perfect score in the second round of Presidents.

Students were honored for being the best they can be at the 15th Annual Lakes Area Youth Assistance Awards. The awards were handed out May 6 at the Richardson Center. Students were nominated by parents, teachers and counselors for their voluntary services that they performed.

Students were recognized for everything from donating their hair to the Locks of Love organization to just always being willing to volunteer for anything. A 12th grade Walled Lake Central student, Courtney Little, made her mark by always being helpful to everyone. She chaperoned for the special education field trips and was involved in the peer mentoring program. She organized the "Adopt A Family" program at Christmas and helped with the American Red Cross New York Relief effort.

Walled Lake robotics team students came home winners along with their robot, Audrey Six, which won second place at the FIRST National Robotics competition in Orlando, Fl.

The team, which is called the Walled Lake Monsters, is comprised of Walled Lake Western and Central students, who went to the final round at the national competition. The robotics competition, which had 292 competing student teams throughout the country, was held April 25-27. TRW, a Farmington Hills company, provided the engineering expertise for the Walled Lake Monsters robotics team to come out second place winners.

Students are selected to participate on the robotics team in September, however, they don't start working on the robot until January, which only gives them about six weeks to design and construct the robot.

The students met every Tuesday, Thursday and all day on Saturdays to get Audrey Six ready for competition. They competed at the regional level in March at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti and in Grand Rapids in April before going into the final round in Florida.

The robots are teamed up with another robot, which plays a sport game by remote control in order to eventually win top honors. Students hold the controls to make the robot move, to shoot and to score. Every year the students and their robots play a different game.

Thomas McConnell, Walled Lake Consolidated School Board member, has been devoted to mak-

ing the school district a better place for the past 10 years, however the Commerce Township resident was already involved with the Walled Lake schools before beginning his post on the school board. McConnell was Walled Lake Elementary School's PTA president for five years.

At the time of this article, McConnell wanted to make the district the best it can be for its children. The district has to overcome financial woes due to Proposal A, which was passed in 1994, that gives additional money to districts with much lower enrollments, therefore, school board members have to decide what programs and positions to cut in

order to balance the budget.

Michael Karson wanted to be re-elected at the June 10 school election so he could continue to help make the Walled Lake district a superior place for children to get an education. Karson has been a member of the school board with other members seeing issues that affect students and parents.

A debate concerning who will walk and who will ride the bus to school permeated the Walled Lake Consolidated School's budget talks and almost split the final vote before approval was ultimately given.

Residents voicing concern with the safety of their children filled the

meeting room on June 6, disputing language in the budget expanding the area of student walkers.

The 2002-03 adopted budget increases the distance requirement for walkers from seven-tenths of a mile to one mile for elementary and middle school students and to one-and-a-half miles for high-school students.

The increase was proposed to cost the district about \$100,000 in the upcoming fiscal year and more in future years.

Two Walled Lake Consolidated School teenagers calmed babies and educated children about American holidays in China after their CD of nursery songs hit Beijing in April. Their singing group, Harmony, was-

n't complete until Kim Titus, who was in ninth grade at Northern in the fall, joined Amanda MacKay and Amanda Meredith to record other albums for China and the United States.

Jim MacKay, manager of the girl group, said his daughter was already singing at racetracks throughout Michigan and Ohio. He thought his daughter needed partners and that's when Meredith joined the group.

Soon the girls started singing at malls and retirement homes. They were at a mall when John Gu, who was seeking talent to record American nursery songs for Beijing Tomorrow Oriental Technologies, heard them sing. He offered them a recording contract.

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Training at the next level

More young athletes turning to strength, speed conditioning

By Julie Marshall
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Colin Gallagher lifted a 95-pound bar off the ground and with a quick turn of the wrist, raised it to shoulder-level. At that same moment, his right leg stepped backward into a lunge.

His trainer, Brian Blackwell, counted his reps of this quick maneuver, called a split power clean. The motion, which taxes the glutes, upper legs, back and stomach to boot, is all about explosive power, his trainer said.

"That's good," Blackwell told his client after six reps on one side. Gallagher, varsity high school basketball player, is one of dozens of teenage athletes who Blackwell, a former University of Colorado athletic trainer, has trained in recent years.

Blackwell, a certified strength and conditioning specialist, was the university's head trainer for men's basketball, as well as assistant trainer for football from 1985 to 1990. Today, he has taken his experience to help mold the best young athletes with his speed, agility and strength training business called BigTime Athletic Development in Boulder, Colo.

Gallagher, 16, started training his freshman year to get bigger, he says, and step up to varsity level. He has since put on 25 pounds of lean muscle and quickened his step.

Blackwell's clients include teens who want to make the jump from junior high to high school athletes. Some want to make the varsity, others have their sights on a college scholarship.

Blackwell's routines are geared for basketball, football, volleyball, soccer, tennis, you name it. "They're all games of speed, he said, whether an athlete wants to explode away from a defender on the basketball court or leave them in the dust to catch a touchdown pass.

"I try to provide what kids need to take it to the next level, over and above what they are getting in their high schools," Blackwell said. "There is not one parent, coach or player who has not come up to me to say the same thing — they want more speed."

Blackwell's workouts are a blend of plyometrics — jumps to enhance fast, explosive power — weight training for strength, and field relay exercises for speed and agility.

Parents and coaches say it's important to find an edge in today's climate of competitive sports. They aren't worried about early burnout, they say, because they trust Blackwell's experience.

Observing teens coming into the University of Colorado's athletic program is what motivated Blackwell to start his business four years ago.

"I saw kids coming in as freshmen, girls and guys, who were so far behind upper classes," he said. "I knew these kids needed help to get to the next level."

Any player can have skill, Blackwell said. "But if you don't have the athletic ability to match up against an opponent, you won't be able to show your skill."



Jonathan Boto/Scrapps Howard News Service

KWONDO OR DON'T?

Weighing martial arts' dangers and benefits for children

By Debra Melani
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Marla Blum didn't see it coming. Another martial-arts student was delivering a powerful kick and the petite 11-year-old stepped right in the way.

Her arm was so swollen and blue that her father was sure it was broken. He took his youngest daughter to Denver's Children's Hospital, where it was diagnosed as just a deep bruise.

Some critics say incidents like these prove that martial arts aren't child's play. Kids shouldn't take part in a sport that poses such dangers to themselves and others around them, they say.

But martial-arts proponents counter that their sport is perfect for children, teaching discipline, respect, confidence, fitness, coordination and self-protection in a society rife with crime.

"All it did was make my daughter more determined to pay attention," says Robbie Blum, mother of Marla and Rachel Blum, 14. "It didn't change her desire to be doing taekwon do or my husband's desire for them to be doing it."

The Thornton, Colo., family began taking taekwon do almost three years ago so that the girls could protect themselves. The parents were concerned about child abductors and rapists, who often prey on young girls.

While Rachel says she likes the sport mostly because it's both a sport and an art — "It offers so many different things" — she says she likes feeling safer, too.

"The things about child abductions are pretty scary," she says. "I think, knowing what I know now, I would have a better chance if anyone ever tried to attack me." The first thing her instructor tells students to do, if possible, is run, she added.

Martial arts-related injuries are few relative to other sports injuries he sees, says Dr. Keith Battan, a Children's Hospital emergency physician. Anything that requires a helmet is more dangerous, and other popular youth sports — football, soccer, hockey — produce more emergency-room patients than martial arts do, he says.

Nearly 6 million Americans, most 17 or younger, practice a martial art, according to the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association.

The Consumer Federation of America Foundation, a non-profit research and education organization focused on child health and safety, does not condone the discipline for children because it's scored based on hits and can lead to eye and head injuries. The American Academy of Pediatrics has discouraged boxing for children for the same reasons.

But if parents want to enroll kids in a program, they should look for forms of martial arts more focused on health and character-building

than on fighting, weapons and life-threatening techniques, the foundation says. All sparring should be no-contact or light-contact and be supervised by adult experts, it says.

Melanie Badesch of Englewood, Colo., chose J.W. Kim's Tae Kwon Do for her girls. She has since joined her daughters in training and says the instructors have always been clear: Students are never to use taekwon do outside class unless they're being seriously threatened.

That emphasis must be carried home, Badesch says. "We tell our daughters, 'You practice, but not on your sister,'" she says.

While some martial-arts classes start kids as young as age 3, instructors should wait until students are 12 or 13 to focus on true self-defense skills, says Bradley Ross, a kempo, karate instructor for Colorado Athletic Clubs.

Sometimes parents come to him with kids who have slight behavior or aggression problems, and the structured discipline and emphasis on not hurting people turn them around, Ross says. Increased confidence also makes martial-arts students more likely to walk away from fights or not become targets of bullies or criminals, instructors say.

Both Blum and Badesch say the self-defense skills aren't the least of the benefits.

"I have two little girls in this society," Badesch says. "I'm glad they are learning to defend themselves."

Finding balance: Judo training teaches grappling, respect for others

By Kevin Williams
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Legs locked around his training partner's head, back half on the mat, Michael DeMarrias' contorted form looks somewhat strained.

But not as strained as Mark Stuemky, owner of said head, who looks downright uncomfortable.

The two are sharpening their skills at the Boulder (Colo.) Judo Training Center, a non-profit organization that provides judo instruction on a sliding fee scale.

The center was started a little over a year ago by 29-year-old Brian Olson, a two-time Olympian in the sport who's currently ranked third in the world.

"It's a martial art," Olson says of judo. "The discipline aspect, the confidence aspect, (it's) all there."

Not to mention the physical and mental conditioning that's part of the training.

Michael, 14, who won junior judo's Triple Crown in 2001, made the transition from his club to the center so he could learn from the best.

"He's very fortunate to have all this private instruction from an Olympian," says Michael's grandmother, Donna Davis, one of many family members who live and breathe the sport.

Tougher opponents will come, says Olson. "(He's) driven," Olson says, "very intense ... you can see it in his family."

During a training session,

Davis and Michael's mom, Dani, sit on the sidelines watching. At one point in the evening, Michael and his brother, Casey, 12, take turns throwing each other to the floor. Their sister, Nikole, 9, gets involved in the action on the mat.

The family commutes to Boulder from their home in Northglenn, Colo., three times a week. The three DeMarrias siblings are part of a group of roughly 15 kids with whom Olson works.

"Some people have the misconception that it's a mean, brutal sport," Davis says. "I had sons who played football (and) I don't think it's near as bad as that."

"You have to be thinking the whole time," Michael says. "It's like chess, you've

got to think your next move and his (the opponent's) next move, too."

But Olson emphasizes that judo is about more than just competition. It's about building character and achieving goals, and he hopes it carries over into other aspects of life.

"I want them to do well in school," Olson explains. "I'd rather them sit there and do their homework and get good grades than be on the mat."

And if he does make someone sit out during a training session to finish homework, he expects his decision to be accepted without complaint.

"This sport not only teaches respect, it teaches courtesy to others," Olson says. "We're very big on that."



Marty Calvano/Scrapps Howard News Service

Michael DeMarrias, right, 14, grapples with Mark Stuemky at the Boulder Judo Training Center on a recent evening. DeMarrias is one of the top junior judo athletes in the nation.

Vision for success

Many children have some visual problem that may thwart their academic work

By Mike Schwartz
THE RIVERSIDE, CALIF.
PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Two years ago Brian Lozano was failing second grade. The Moreno Valley, Calif., youngster had trouble reading and complained that his eyes stung a lot.

Brian's mother, Lidia, took him to a primary-care optometrist. A traditional wall-chart eye test determined Brian had normal distance vision. Still, he had to strain to see clearly close up.

Brian was prescribed glasses to "relax" his eyes. Yet his academic struggles continued despite developmental tests showing he was reading at a third-grade level.

"It was just hard to concentrate," recalls Brian, now 11. "Having bad grades was so frustrating."

Brian's predicament illustrates an all-too-common plight: More than 12.1 million American kids — one in four students and one in 20 pre-schoolers — have some form of vision problem that may thwart their academic success, according to Prevent Blindness America, a leading eye health and safety organization.

Common children's vision problems include strabismus (crossed or "wandering" eyes) and amblyopia ("lazy eye"), a brain dysfunction that causes blurry vision in one eye.

Early detection and correction is critical, because 80 percent of all learning is achieved visually during a child's first 12 years, according to the American Optometric Association.

What's more, vision problems can worsen if not detected and treated.

As many as six in 10 children diagnosed with learning disabilities have undetected vision problems causing much — if not all — of their academic angst.

"Good visual skills are imperative for classroom success," says Leslie Huscher, director of the Big Springs Educational Therapy Center and School in Riverside, Calif.

Children can have 20/20 eyesight, meaning normal distance vision, and still have vision problems, says Huscher, a special-education teacher for 18 years.

"There are tons of different visual skills affecting how you read and how you work," Huscher says. All must be in place to develop reading skills. If they aren't, learning will be a struggle. But that's only one sign of an undetected vision problem, she says.

The American Optometric Association encourages comprehensive eye exams at 6 months, 3 years, before entering kindergarten, then every two years through age 18. Yet a survey by the Vision Council of America found that only 6 percent of parents realize vision problems can lead to problems in school. Consequently, almost 80 percent of pre-school-age children have not had an eye exam.

Plus

HOME & GARDEN

Not just a building block, concrete becomes part of the decor

By Betsy Lehdorff
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Plain old concrete — the same material that goes into foundations and sidewalks — is showing up in home decor. Gray concrete can be tinted, textured, coated or glazed in hundreds of new ways to create unique floors, countertops, tables, fireplaces and sinks.

Color choices are almost endless, including watery blues, mottled earth tones, milky greens, china reds and porcelain white. Stone, metal, chunks of glass, even computer chips can also be worked into the surface, then ground down to a high shine. "It's not that highly polished look, like granite, where a crumb will call attention to itself," says architect Kathy Jones. Instead, concrete used in homes is more natural, with occasional color variations, pecks and imperfections adding character and depth to its surface.

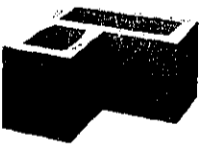
At her new home in Sedalia, Colo., Jones has put in black concrete floors that conceal hot-water pipes for radiant heating. Embedded in parts of the floor are see-through glass blocks that allow light to filter down to rooms below, she says.

In the kitchen, beige concrete countertops complement the maple cabinets. In the basement, a bar is topped with a white concrete slab embedded with bits of stained glass.

"It's durable," Jones says. "Wine comes right up, and it handles hot and cold pans without problems."

At Concrete Revolution in Denver, Allen Miller demonstrates how countertops and other fixtures are made. First, his carpenters build a mold in a fully equipped wood shop. Then the concrete is mixed with special tints, colored sand or custom aggregates and poured into the wood mold. Once cured and dried, the concrete piece is removed and finished by hand. Later it's sealed to create a shiny or matte surface.

"Concrete is softer in an ironic way," he says. "Sometimes it's more natural-looking than highly polished stone because it has natural variations."



Concrete considerations

Here are a few things you need to know if you're thinking about using concrete in your home:

- Concrete floors can be hard to install in existing homes. Consider them at the design stage if you're building a new home or an addition. An average floor requires up to 25 tons of concrete and takes 28 days to dry.

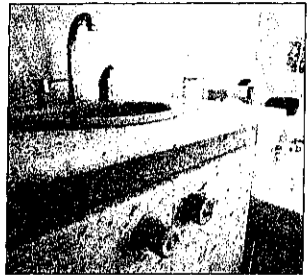
- Concrete floors and finishes work better in rooms that are casual rather than traditional. The durable material is perfect for a modernist kitchen or a teen-ager's game room.

- Although the material is inexpensive, installation is not. A kitchen countertop runs about \$1,500, depending on the size; a fireplace surround, \$1,200; a bathroom vanity around \$2,000. A textured, tinted and finished concrete floor is about \$16 a square-foot installed.

- Highly polished concrete floors can be slippery in bathrooms or patios when wet. Instead, consider textured floors or seal the surface with a coating to which grit has been added for grip.

—SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Waste not want not



The master bath, where the vanity is made with plastic, recycled from curbside waste, and the handles are lids from detergent bottles.



Architect Julie Herdt and Jeffrey Brown stand in the kitchen of their Boulder, Colo., home that was predominately built from recycled materials.

A Colorado couple built their dream home from recycled parts

By Betsy Lehdorff
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

In most households, worn jeans, empty soda cans, egg cartons and old newspapers are tossed out of the house to the trash can at the curb.

But Julie Herdt and Jeffrey Brown have brought these kinds of materials home, albeit in altered form, to create a \$900,000 residence for themselves in Boulder, Colo. They have insulated walls with a new product made of ground-up denim. They've covered walls and ceilings with a fiberboard made from old newspapers. They've sawed jumbo-size wooden cable spools into staircase railings and have plastered bathrooms with bits of plastic bottles.

They also heat and cool their house for less than \$60 a month, using a system buried 150 feet deep in the ground.

It's all because Herdt, an architect and assistant professor at the University of Colorado at Denver, hates waste. Her companion, Brown, is an expert on heating systems that are independent of fossil fuels.

"Fifteen years ago, when I was working on a lot of large-scale projects in Birmingham, Ala., ... the way materials were being used really started to bother me," Herdt says.

"I saw mahogany and marble being used — a lot of extravagant materials that were damaging the rain forest and damaging the Earth. It was just too easy to throw things out and start over when someone made a mistake."

So she went back to school at the Southern California Institute of Architecture to earn a master's degree and do some research. Some of her field work took place in Los Angeles alleys, where she found plenty of trash.

"I kept finding molded stereo packaging made out of cellulose," she says. "It was lightweight, and it was beautiful."

She pauses, having had plenty of practice talking to skeptics. "Imagine egg cartons," she says. "If you don't think they are beautiful, spend a little more time looking at them. You have this really simple structural system from very cheap materials — newspapers and cardboard."

Eventually Herdt put together a group and mentored the development of new building materials made from recycled or renewable sources. Her idea about egg cartons became a product called Gridcore, a lightweight panel that looks like a waffle and can be attached to walls instead of drywall.

The Boulder project began in 2001 after Herdt bought a tiny home on a 1/3-acre lot. Once the original home was taken apart and hauled away to be recycled, her contractor built the new foundation, walls and roof using beams from a 100-year-old boathouse to hold everything up. Then Herdt and Brown picked up their tools to help finish the interior.

These days, their home is filled with natural wood



In this living area, the tabletop is made with newspaper and soy glue.

tones, quirky touches of plastic and splashes of color from leftover paint collected at a recycling plant.

Against a backdrop of white walls covered with non-toxic paint, the linoleum and cork floors glow with honey tones. Red accents come from old doors on which the two have scribbled leftover paint and other colors. Red cushions, chairs and throw rugs also add a punch.

Elsewhere, Herdt plays with textures, covering an interior window with an old chain-link gate or stuffing glass marbles into the knotholes of exposed wood beams. She's even woven the sheared-off spines of old telephone books into the back of a bedroom rocking chair.

The couple's home also demonstrates alternative heating systems. A loop of pipe carries water 150 feet into the ground, where it's heated to 50 degrees by subterranean warmth.

Then a sun-powered heat pump brings the temperature to 70 degrees before the water is circulated through floor pipes, Brown says.

"We don't even have a gas line coming into the house," Herdt says.

"If you have to build one of these big homes that you'll be spending time in, at least show some environmental responsibility and use the mechanical systems that aren't fossil-fuel-dependent," Brown says. "At \$60 a month, crank up the thermostat. Who cares?"



Christmas decorating 101

Home & Garden Television

Decorating for the holidays is a wonderful way to express the joys of the season. Here are a few tips.

- Nothing says Christmas like the color red. Fill a clear glass with cranberries and top it off with a few white roses or tiles. Float cranberries and a few candles in a silver bowl or fill some small, stylish bowls with cranberries and place them throughout the house.

- All the ingredients for a festive centerpiece are waiting at the grocery store. Pick up some pears, pomegranates and apples. Arrange them in a bowl with a few pine cones and evergreen cuttings. Add a few ornaments for a bit more of a holiday touch.

- Family photos make wonderful personalized ornaments for the tree. Just take a favorite photo and buy a simple, lightweight frame or make one out of a postcard or corrugated cardboard. Slip in the photo and attach it to the tree with a ribbon.

- Family photos can make great wrapping paper, too. Gather a collection of photos, arrange them on a piece of paper and make color or black-and-white photocopies of the collage. Be sure to make enough copies to wrap all the presents.

- A grapevine wreath makes a perfect year-round welcome. For Christmas, dress it with ornaments and red ribbon. For New Year's Eve, add a touch of silver and gold.

- A bowl of ornaments makes a simple and stunning centerpiece or holiday accent for a tabletop or mantel. It's also a great way to use broken ornaments. Choose two or three colors of balls and arrange them in a decorative glass bowl or a weathered wooden bowl.

- To personalize a plain, inexpensive evergreen wreath, tack in small strips of dried flowers or wire on some favorite trinkets or keepsakes such as pieces of costume jewelry or small antique toys.

- To hang a wreath without causing unsightly marks or putting a hole in the middle of a door, tie a length of pretty ribbon around the wreath and then tack the ribbon to the top of the door.

- Use old socks to protect fragile ornaments and figurines when packing up the holiday decorations. Slip an item inside an old sock and roll it up.

Weeding out a good read

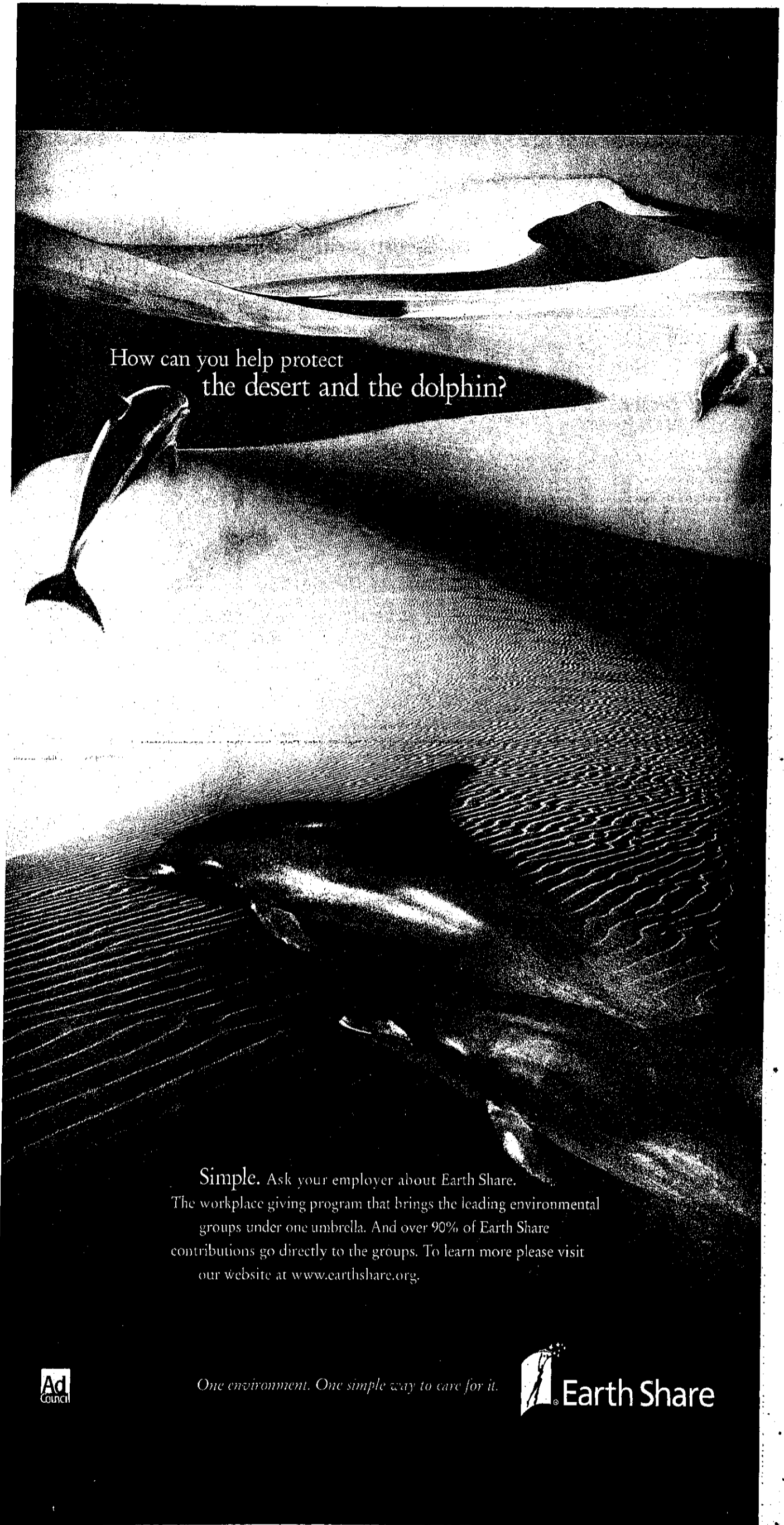
By Connie Nelson
MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL STAR TRIBUNE

"Is this a weed?" The question is invariably accompanied by a small, wilted, unidentifiable section of a plant. Without hesitation, I launch into my "What Is A Weed?" speech, a monologue about the Purpose of Plants, which is guaranteed to bore even the interested. Thank goodness somebody came up with an alternative.

Reader's Digest's new "Weeds, Friend or Foe," (\$24.95) takes a surprisingly fun approach to answering that perennial question. It covers all the bases — the life cycle of weeds, where they come from; even the pros and cons of weeds. And, yes, there are pros. The book includes the weeds that are edible, those that look lovely in a vase and those that are used in herbal remedies.

Much of the book is an extensive weed directory, which is alphabetized by botanical names, but also includes the common names. The directory has excellent photos and detailed descriptions of each weed, its uses and, of course, several ways to root it out.

This hardcover book is well-designed, well-written and considerably more interesting than my speech.



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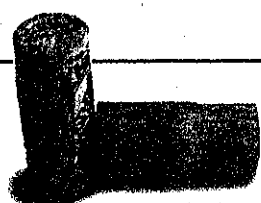
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WINE'S

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FOOD



The trouble with cork

Tainted wines, decreased supplies turn winemakers against tradition

By Janet Fletcher
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

It seals prized bottles of single-malt Scotch and acclaimed Tuscan extra virgin olive oils. But in the wine industry, a screw cap has long evoked Skid Row and the kind of product that delivers more alcohol than taste.

Now, in a move that may presage a wave, several prestigious wine producers have adopted the screw-cap closure, citing quality concerns with traditional cork. The plug of bark that has sealed fine wine bottles for more than 200 years is under attack, blamed for causing cork taint — a musty, moldy smell — in as many as one in 10 wines.

Earlier this summer, Randall Grahm of Bonny Doon Vineyard in Santa Cruz, Calif., announced that he would bottle his 80,000-case production of Ca' del Solo — popular red and white wines that retail for about \$10 — with screw caps.

"Corks are just not the best closure available now, and I want to do the best thing I can for the wine," says Grahm, who joins at least three dozen top Australian and New Zealand producers and a handful of domestic wineries in testing consumer acceptance for premium screw-cap wines.

If consumers don't flinch, many more winemakers say they'll follow suit.

The cork taint problem is not new, but winemakers have grown increasingly frustrated with cork producers' inability to solve it.

Others trace the trouble to increased demand for cork, prompted in part by large producers such as Gallo moving away from screw caps. The heavy demand has pressured suppliers into offering inferior cork, they say. Whatever the cause, no one disputes that natural cork — stamped from the stripped bark of the cork oak tree — is ruining an unacceptable amount of good wine.

Estimates range widely, but Debbie Zacharias, wine buyer at the San Francisco restaurant Bacar and a judge at the San Francisco International Wine Competition, estimates that 5 to 10 percent of the competition entries were cork-tainted this year.

The musty aroma of a "corked" wine comes from trichloroanisole (TCA), a naturally occurring compound that some noses can detect at three parts per trillion. At high levels, TCA can make a wine smell like wet newspaper; in more modest amounts, it robs the wine of fruit aromas and flavors, leaving it tasting uncharacteristically dull.

Although no one knows for sure how corks become contaminated with TCA, researchers have pinpointed some cork-processing techniques — stacking the stripped cork bark in the forest to cure, which encourages mold, and using chlorine bleach as a cork cleaner — as contributing to taint.

Winemakers considering a move to screw caps have two chief questions: How will consumers respond, and how will such wines age?

A comparative study of wine-bottle closures published in the Australian Journal of Grape and Wine Research lent support to what winemakers have long suspected — that screw caps are an excellent choice for wines typically drunk young, such as most white wines.

But what will happen to a Cabernet Sauvignon after 20 years in an airtight, screw-capped bottle? One thing is sure: it won't have cork taint. What's more, experts say, there's no reason to think the wine won't age.

Screw caps just need time, advocates say — time for consumers to grow accustomed to seeing them on fine wine, time for collectors to develop trust in their functionality. If and when that happens, cork may be relegated to bulletin boards.

By Carol Ness
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

Ever snicker at the people who sniff a glass of wine and go on about its "toasty nose" or "grassy notes" and then secretly wonder what they can tell that you can't?

You can. And no one's done more to make that possible than Ann Noble, retiring professor of wine at the University of California at Davis. Bright, funny and exacting, she's a sensory scientist who for 28 years has trained the noses of future California winemakers.

Noble's as far as you can get from a pinky-raised wine snob. She gets a kick out of telling you, "If you have a boring white wine at a party, add a piece of green pepper from the hors d'oeuvres. You'll have a more interesting wine, one like a Sauvignon Blanc."

She means it. Then she adds, delightedly: "Of course, people who are wine snobs think that's horrific."

What Noble has done is taught people a common language for describing wines.



Photo by John O'Hara / San Francisco Chronicle
Ann Noble, in her tasting and instruction lab. Students sit in this room with only the computer monitor and red light. Ann forwards them wines. In the dark they can not see the color and have to rely on their senses to smell and identify.

If she didn't actually invent the language, she systematized terms people were using and created the Wine Aroma Wheel as a handy guide.

Noble believes in the consumer as expert. The Wine Aroma Wheel and the sensory trainings she puts her students through aim to give people the tools — and the words — they need to decide for themselves what makes a good wine.

The wine aroma wheel is her best-known accomplishment, and the easiest way to get into what she's all about. It's a flat plastic disc, with pie slices in different colors. At the center are general terms — vegetative, fruity, floral, chemical. They're broken down into 87 specific smells at the edge, from blackberry to bell pepper to wet dog.

The point is to get people thinking about what they're tasting in a wine, about what they like — or hate.

"Don't say 'oak,' say 'toasty,'" Noble snaps during a smell-and-taste demo.

She doesn't suffer fools gladly. "Oak is too generic. It's like saying 'soy' at a soy sauce tasting. It doesn't say anything. You've got to rip it apart," she explains.

The demo is something she's done a zillion times over 28 years. She calls it "Kindergarten of the Nose."

Anyone can do it. She takes a bland jug wine, pours a bit into a dozen glasses and adds a flavor to each: a piece of bell pepper, a clove, squeeze of orange, vanilla extract, even canned asparagus. In her "toy chest," Noble collects things that can produce the aromas of wines, for better or worse — peach extract and oak chips, hunks of dog fur and leather.

Once she's created the separate aromas, she pours a glass of a varietal — say, a typical fruity, oaky California Chardonnay — and has you compare it to the samples. Bingo.

What you think of as oaky identifies itself as vanilla. Taste a Sauvignon Blanc and you'll tease out citrus and something green.

All of a sudden, you can describe your wine — as if you'd learned a foreign language. A typical class would use some 60 smells to evaluate red and white wines.

Noble loves those "Aha!" moments. "It's giving people the words, the keys to the kingdom, because most of them haven't been used to describing the aroma. They say, 'I don't know

"It's giving people the words, the keys to the kingdom, because most of them haven't been used to describing the aroma. They say, 'I don't know what I am smelling.'"

— Ann Noble, on teaching students to describe wine.

what I'm smelling," Noble says. Kindergarten of the Nose is "like teaching kids what a blue crayon is: You don't describe it. You show them blue."

Just don't taste a wine and tell her "that's good" or "I like it." That's judgment, not description, and it makes her bark.

Descriptive analysis is part of sensory science, which was initiated at UC Davis by legendary enologist Maynard Amerine.

Noble, who replaced him in 1974, took the concept and ran with it. Sensory had been used by the beer and food industries before, but not wine.

When she arrived at Davis, the school used a numerical scale to rate wine, the kind used by some influential wine critics but which Noble derides as the "Bo Derek 10 system." "It doesn't tell you anything about the wine," she says. "You might like it; I might not."

She made her students use descriptive analysis instead — a revolution at the time.

The Wine Aroma Wheel was an offshoot, and Noble didn't do anything with it until consumers started clamoring for copies of it. In the last two years alone, she's sent out an estimated 30,000 of the \$6 wheels and it's been translated into 30 languages.

"My goal is to make it obsolete," she says. "You don't need it because you can do it on your own."

Company unleashes corkscrew for a new generation of wine drinkers

By Angelica Pance
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

It's safe to say that most wine-lovers think it a noble and necessary cause: "to create the best corkscrew ever made."

Indeed. Lucky for us the task was taken on in the late 1990s by Charles Harari, product developer for Trudeau, a 113-year-old importer of "fancy goods" turned kitchenware supplier.

Harari hired industrial designer Claude Mauffret, analyzed more than 300 corkscrews and interviewed hundreds of sommeliers, waiters and wine connoisseurs. Three years and dozens of drafts and models later, the team introduced the Trulever

PRODUCT REVIEW

Corkscrew, touted by its makers as the latest and greatest tool of the trade in the world of wine.

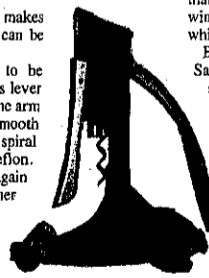
"It's no secret that so many corkscrews on the market today are simply reproductions and slight variations of the automatic-lever technology that was first introduced 20 years ago," Harari said.

The Trulever "solves many design challenges that other products on the marketplace have yet to even address — like comfort, simplicity and design aesthetic," Harari said of his product, which was awarded the gold medal at the Geneva International Invention Show.

To be sure, the Trulever design makes opening wine quite simple, and it can be used one-handed.

Mauffret designed the Trulever to be poised on the mouth of a bottle, its lever raised. The opener's polished chrome arm is then lowered and raised in one smooth motion, thanks to the Trulever's spiral shaft, which is coated in Teflon. Lowering and raising the arm again removes the cork from the opener entirely.

The Trulever retails for about \$80.



Bourbon works at the dinner table — truly, says expert

By Mike Dunne
SACRAMENTO BEE

Peggy Stevens spends her days sipping bourbon, but she's no barfly.

Stevens is the first female to be certified a "master bourbon taster" in Kentucky, where she works at the Labrot and Graham Distillery, tasting batches of its high-end specialty brand, Woodford Reserve, to determine if they're ready to be bottled and released. She also travels the country promoting Woodford Reserve.

Q: Bourbon with food — really?

A: Absolutely. Just look at bourbon as you look at your favorite wine. Every bourbon has its own flavor profile, which starts with the grain bill or mash bill, which is your percentages of grains used in making your bourbon. If it's heavy with rye, it will be a spicier bourbon. If it has a higher corn content, it will be a sweeter bourbon ...

Q: If you're going to have bourbon at the dinner table, should it be diluted?

A: It depends. Taste the bourbon in its pure form. If you decide you'd like it lighter, add a splash of water. That tends to bring out a lot of the fruitiness in it.

Q: What is bourbon, anyway?

A: You have to use at least 51 percent corn as your grain. The rest can be rye, malted barley and so forth. You only can use a barrel one time, and it must be a new charred white oak barrel. And you cannot distill it higher than 160 proof.

Q: What do you look for in a first-rate bourbon?

A: Complexity. Any time a bourbon can walk you around the flavor wheel — so you pick up nuances of spice, toast, fruit and sweetness — you have a premium bourbon. You don't want it one-sided. If it's all spice, it's not so much a great bourbon. You want a very harmonious balance, not too light or too heavy.

Q: Winemakers make a big deal about using French oak barrels to age their wines. Do the folks in

Kentucky use French, Yugoslavian, American or some other kind of oak for their barrels?

A: We source our white oak barrels from Tennessee and Kentucky. So much of the color and flavor in bourbon comes from the barrel. We toast and char the oak to caramelize the wood sugars, which give bourbon its beauty, a rich reddish-amber. The toasting also brings out the vanillin in the wood, giving the bourbon a vanilla nose and a bit of smokiness.

Q: Elijah Craig, a Baptist preacher, is credited with turning out the first true bourbon in 1789. Why would a Baptist preacher do a thing like that?

A: Very carefully. There are so many folklore stories about who really was the first person to create bourbon. The real answer is that nobody really