

Novi's newest face on board

The City of Novi hired a patrol officer last week, placing a new face in the community

By Victoria Sadiocha
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Police Department welcomed its newest officer last week as part of the city's plan to hire three officers early this year.

GETTING THE OFFICERS

The Novi Police Department received unanimous approval to hire three new officers in 2003 by members of the city council late last year.

The approval to hire will cost Novi \$112,000 from the budgeted amount of \$137,000.

The budgeted amount of \$137,000 was originally allocated as the match to a COPS Universal Hiring grant allowing the city to hire additional officers in 2002.

After the city received notification Novi's grant application was turned down, the alternate plan to use the match funds for hiring the three new officers in 2003 was adopted.

Two additional applicants are currently in the police department's hiring process and if further checks and examines yield positive results, their names will be announced by the end of the month.

Jeremy Stempien is the department's freshest face coming to the city after working two-and-a-half years as a patrol officer for the City of Detroit Police Department.

Stempien worked for the 1st Precinct Gating Operations, handling police runs for the city's casinos.

"It provided good experience, and I think it turned me into a well-rounded officer," Stempien said. "Instead of being just backed up with runs all night, it gave me more community policing experience."

Novi Police Department Lt. Tim McNamara said one of the reasons the department was attracted to Stempien is his experience showing he is capable of taking on many roles, including community policing.

"We expect our officers to wear a million different hats," McNamara said. "There are a lot of slices of the pie to being a Novi Police officer, and he (Stempien) has many of them."

Along with his patrol experience, Stempien received a bachelor's degree in interpersonal and public communications from Central Michigan University and intends on returning to school to pursue another bachelor's degree followed by a master's degree in criminal justice.

While a student at Central Michigan, Stempien was also a



Novi Police Department Lt. Tim McNamara, left, welcome new officer Jeremy Stempien as Field Training Officer Kevin Rhea (a five-year Novi PD veteran) looks on Monday morning.

defensive lineman and served as co-captain of the university's football team.

"He's just a well-rounded guy," McNamara said. "This man has a lot of character."

Novi Police Chief Douglas Shaeffer also praised the department's newly-added officer.

"He is a very bright individual and interacts very well with others," Shaeffer said.

As part of the department's process, Stempien as well as all new officers will go through a field training officer program before beginning a one-year probationary period.

The training period involves four phases encompassing what it means to be a police officer for the City of Novi.

At the end of the training process, all new officers go through a shadow phase with their first field training officers, demonstrating they have comprehended the principles of their training.

The training process generally takes about 18 weeks. "Some officers take a little longer," McNamara said. "Some officers don't grab the concepts

right away or sometimes it is the training officer."

McNamara said there is no doubt Jeremy is going to make it.

"When he is done with his phases, he should have a good idea of what it means to be a Novi officer," McNamara said.

Stempien's current field training officer, Kevin Rhea, said Stempien is doing a great job.

"It is one of the most advanced and premier police agencies in Michigan in my opinion," Stempien said. "I don't think my grin could have been bigger when the chief shook my hand."

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

Reward increases in Wixom shooting of FCT employee

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

The reward for information leading to the killer of Eric Darnell Barnes has been bumped up a grade and Wixom police think they're close to putting a name to the 21-year-old Detroit's murderer.

"We have some real strong suspects," offered Wixom Police Detective Jim Osborne.

Late Jan. 9 a team of 10 officers from the West Oakland County Major Crimes Task Force, along with a half dozen Detroit police, conducted a raid in Detroit and arrested a 28-year-old Detroit man on outstanding misdemeanor warrants and a 26-year-old Detroit woman on a felony warrant.

Osborne said after questioning, Jukunda Griffin was turned over to Detroit Police on an outstanding felony warrant for arson. Kevin Leon Russell was released to his lawyer. Russell was being sought by police in Detroit on a disorderly conduct warrant and by Hamtramck police on a contempt of court warrant.

Barnes was found dead in his car in the parking lot of Forest City Technologies from a single gunshot to the head Dec. 17. His dinner was still warm.

The dead man's employer, a Wellington, Ohio-based auto parts maker, offered a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of his killer Dec. 27. Crime Stoppers, said Osborne, boosted that by \$1,000 Jan. 6.

"We've gotten a lot of calls," said Osborne. "Unfortunately, none of them have been strategic." However, he added, "We have a suspect. The pieces are falling together, we just need more before we can go to the prosecuting attorney."

According to Osborne, investigators' prime suspect, "knows he's a suspect; he feels the heat." Investigators are hoping the increased reward will turn up the lead that much more. "There is a history here," said Osborne, declining to elaborate.

In the hours following the discovery of Barnes' body, detectives assigned to the West Oakland County Major Crimes Task Force fanned out along Wixom Road gathering videotapes from businesses with surveillance systems between Pontiac Trail and the expressway, hoping to catch a glimpse of a vehicle that could be tied to a suspect. Osborne said he's even contacted NASA in hopes that satellite imagery might be available. "It's a long shot," he conceded, "but it's

worth a try."

Osborne said he's even had a local psychic stop by the Wixom Police Department to offer her services. He added that investigators had discovered that another psychic in Detroit had recently told Barnes that "he would be killed and that he would not see the holidays."

In the weeks since Barnes' death, the investigative team has dwindled from 24 to eight officers. Osborne said that's in part because the surrounding communities have cases of their own to be investigated and in part because not as many detectives are needed now.

"We have very high hopes of solving this case," he said. "We've done a lot of polygraphs. The people we thought would pass the polygraph did and the people we thought would not did not."

Anyone with information regarding the Barnes' killing can contact the Wixom Police Department at (248) 624-0884; the detectives' office at the Wixom Police Department at (248) 624-0883 or Crime Stoppers at 800-SPEAK UP.

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

Police Report

Black bag

A Novi woman found a black bag she keeps in her car missing after she tried to retrieve her work ID and the bag was gone. The woman living in the 1300 block of Marjula told police she had left the tote bag in the back seat of her locked vehicle at her home about 6 p.m. on Jan. 6. She returned to her vehicle the next morning to drive to work. After arriving in the parking lot of her employment, she reached for the bag and found it wasn't there. There was no damage to the vehicle. The woman did show police a set of footprints around where the vehicle was parked. Police believed the prints looked like they came from a pair of men's size 10 boots. The woman also told police she noticed a dark color Ford pickup sitting at the corner of Forbodee and Marjula about 10:30 p.m. the night the bag was taken. She lost identification, credit cards and two rings. One of

the rings missing belonged to her grandmother.

Speeding and drinking

A Novi police officer was patrolling Interstate 96 when a speeding, swerving car right in front of him caught his attention in a big way. The officer was patrolling I-96 on Jan. 5 at about 1:32 a.m. east of Novi Road when he noticed the vehicle drift to left, continually crossing into the adjacent lane nearby striking another vehicle while traveling about 83 mph. After the traffic stop was initiated, the 23-year-old Dearborn Heights resident said he knew he was speeding and he was coming from the bar and just wanted to get home. According to the report, the man said he had about four or five Coors a few hours earlier. During field sobriety tasks, the driver was asked to count from 72 to 50. The driver counted from 72 to

66, skipping 70 and then asked again what he was supposed to count down from. He blew a .119 and was arrested by police.

Unattended purse

A Farmington Hills resident learned never to leave a purse in a restaurant unattended the hard way last week. The 16-year-old female told Novi police she was at Denny's restaurant on Novi Road on Jan. 11 at about 8:30 a.m. when she left her purse to use the bathroom, leaving her purse behind. The female said when she returned, the purse was gone. According to the report, she checked with restaurant employees, but her purse was not turned in. She also searched the garbage cans in the area, finding nothing. The purse contained cash, a cell phone, personal checks and other miscellaneous items.

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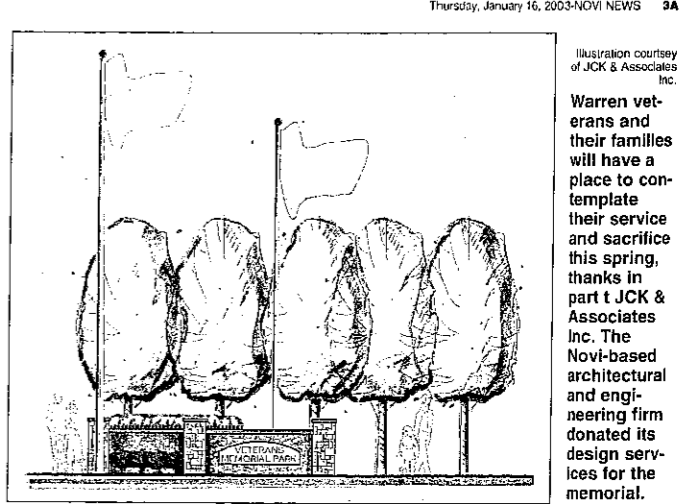


Illustration courtesy of JCK & Associates, Inc. Warren veterans and their families will have a place to contemplate their service and sacrifice this spring, thanks in part to JCK & Associates Inc. The Novi-based architectural and engineering firm donated its design services for the memorial.

Novi firm designs Warren Veterans' Park

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Adam Pew, a young architectural designer at Novi's JCK & Associates, Inc. is looking forward to spending at least part of this coming Memorial Day in Warren.

That's because he's the creative talent behind what will become a space for the residents of Michigan's third largest city to honor the service and sacrifice of their veterans.

For years the Macomb County community has had several small memorials scattered around its nondescript city hall building across the street from the General Motors Corp Tech Center.

Doug Necci, the firm's vice president and director of architectural services, said he learned of Warren's desire for a fitting veterans' memorial while working on the renovation of the city's old 1949 high school into a community center. The \$25 million project, which began four years ago, said Necci, will include "the largest indoor water slide in North America," when it opens to the public Jan. 20. He said the project, which included demolishing and rebuilding 40,000 square feet of the 160,000-square-foot building, features a library, historical museum and meeting spaces for community groups in addition to the aquatic center.

Necci said the firm also is looking to bid on Warren's plans to replace aging city hall building on Van Dyke with a new City Hall/Library complex in the next

three years. Necci initial plans call for the new facility to be built behind the existing one, followed by the demolition of the old city hall.

That meant the existing World War II, Korean and Vietnam memorials on city hall grounds had to find new homes.

Warren city officials decided to move the small memorials to Veterans Memorial Park at the corner of Campbell and Martin roads. The park has been there for years but it had no actual veteran's memorial.

Now it will have a 75-square-foot space enclosed by trees and a low wall. Inside, along with the three city hall memorials, there will be plaques honoring the five branches of the military, three 45-foot flag poles, a remembrance plaque for the victims of 9/11 and a path paved with engraved bricks.

Pew said it was a challenge working with the committee of Warren veterans groups, trying to meld all their ideas and desires into a whole. Still, he said, these guys were a great pleasure to work with.

While not a veteran himself, Pew said, "My grandfather served in Korea, my great grandfather served in World War II; I had an uncle in Vietnam, a cousin in Desert Storm and another cousin who may be going to Iraq."

He said he started out with five concepts, and even after the veterans committee settled on one, "we revised it five times!" One of the problems was that one of the memorials at Warren City Hall

was a loose tree with a commemorative marker beside it.

"We could have moved (the tree) but it would have cost a fortune and the tree probably would have died," he said. So instead they'll plant several new locust trees at the new site. Another problem was a plaque on a masonry wall. That will have to be recreated.

All in all, said Pew, "it really came together." He said Warren residents will now have a space for veterans remembrances as well as a place where people can sit and think.

Necci noted that JCK's architectural department was an outgrowth of the firm's work with Novi's building and planning department. However, he added most Novi residents have no idea the firm does architectural work since it did not work inside the city to avoid conflict of interest issues.

However, with recent moves by Novi city officials to spread its work to a broader circle of outside contractors, Necci said the department has gained importance in the firm.

Warren city officials have formed a committee to raise the estimated \$130,000 it will take to complete Pew's design.

"It's going to be great to see all those vets out there," said Pew.

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

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City puts Chilly Willy Festival on ice this year

■ The annual event will be back next year, bigger and better

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Novi's annual Chilly Willy Festival is taking a break this year, but will be back next year enhanced with more cold-weather fun.

"What we wanted to do this year was step back, reevaluate and come back next year with the event in an enhanced format for the community," said Randy Auler, director of Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

The reason for the break resulted from the decline of activities included in the festival from years

in the past, resident input included in the department's focus group study, the department's commitment to bring city events to the next level and, first and foremost, to foster greater citizen involvement.

Examples of the department's community event endeavor include last year's overhaul of Novi's holiday festival and Memorial Day parade.

Both events were more grand as a result of greater community involvement.

"Ringing in the Holidays" was the city's new and improved holiday festival attracting more than 2,000 people to enjoy new additions such as an electric light parade, Kris Kringle Walk Shop and horse and carriage rides.

Jack Lewis, deputy director of Novi Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department, was involved with the winter festival from its inception more than 10 years ago.

"When we first started to put it together, Walled Lake used to have a winter carnival," Lewis said.

The deputy director said Walled Lake's festival used to incorporate outdoor fun like snowmobile races, ice skating and fishing.

"I always wanted something similar to that," Lewis said.

And that is how the Novi Chilly Willy Festival came about.

"It was supposed to be an outside event," Lewis said.

In the beginning, Novi's cold-weather festival offered a fishing contest, ice skating and a snow softball game, but Lewis said warmer winters eventually brought the event inside.

Lewis said as years went by, the Chilly Willy Festival changed into a chili tasting contest with some ice sculptures inside of the Novi Civic Center.

"That wasn't the original intent," he said.

Auler said the plan now is to

visit other winter festivals in the area, including the Plymouth Ice Spectacular, and combine staff observations with resident input and department goals.

"We will come back with it next year with a new spirit," he said.

Wille Evans, executive sous chef of the Whole Nine Yards, was disappointed to hear the news.

For the past three years Evans has participated in the chili-tasting contest and last year swept the competition winning both the people's choice and judges' pick for first place.

"I guess they are scared of the competition and they don't want me to win it again," Evans joked after learning the festival would be canceled this year. "They might as well give me the trophy now."

Evans reminds all Novi residents they may still enjoy a bowl full of his award-winning chili by



Ice-carver Mike Messing works on creating a fish out of a block of ice during Saturday's Chilly Willy Festival in Novi.

visiting the Whole Nine Yards inside Novi's Double Tree Hotel.

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

Hot dogs hit Novi

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Novi is going to the dogs, literally.

More than 2,000 dogs, ranging from the pedestrian cocker spaniel to the exotic kai-ken from Japan, are expected to flood into the Novi Expo Center Jan. 17-19 for the Livingston County Kennel Club and Oakland Kennel Club shows.

While it's one weekend of everything dog, it's actually three shows. The Livingston County Kennel Club will hold back-to-back shows Jan. 17 and 18, followed by the Oakland Kennel Club show on Jan. 19.

Deerfield Township resident Bill Gidday, who heads up the Livingston group, explained that under American Kennel Club rules, each kennel club is allowed two shows a year. He said his group used to put on a summer show in Fowlerville, but the show outgrew the venue and now they do two shows back-to-back at the Novi Expo Center.

Don Leonard, who heads up the Oakland Kennel Club, said his group held its both its shows at the Novi Expo Center, but it held its second show in November.

Leonard and Gidday said their shows will attract exhibitors from at least 20 states, Canada, and while exhibitors will be coming from as far away as California, some will be coming from right here in Novi and Northville, including Michelle Asher and Amanda Cook.

Asher is a dog groomer from Novi who'll be showing Jack Russell terriers, the breed made famous by the television show "Frasier."

"They are just neat dogs," said Asher, who has shown dogs off and on for a quarter century. "They have great personalities. They are the smartest dogs I've ever owned."

Asher will be showing Fox Valley Glowing Embers, known as Emmy around the house. Emmy, who turned one-year-old on the 14th, has won 11 of the 15 shows she's entered and established championship status. Emmy's aunt, owned by an Illinois breeder, is the top rated Jack Russell terrier in the country, noted Asher.

Cook's two Bernese mountain dogs are also champions. The 12-year-old Northville girl will be showing animals that weigh nearly



Novi resident Michelle Asher gets a kiss from her Jack Russell terrier "Ch. Fox Valley Glowing Embers" who will be showcased at this weekend's Livingston Co. Kennel Club dog show at the Novi Expo Center. "Emmy" is one year old.

as much or more than she does.

Cook's mother, Carla, said that when they first started competing two years ago, friends suggested, "A little girl and big working dogs, that's not a good mix, but Amanda was adamant. She does all the handling and training herself."

Cook will be competing in the junior handler division.

Bernese mountain dogs are used in Denmark to pull milk carts. Carla Cook said the breed was developed in Switzerland and said the dogs are similar in size and build to Saint Bernards.

"People often mistake them for Bernies," she said.

According to Gidday, the Cook's animals won't even be the most usual at the show. That would be one of the 11 rare breeds expected to be shown at Gidday's Federation of Rare Breeds show between held Jan. 17, 18 along with the Livingston County Kennel Club show.

"There are more than 400 breeds around the world and the AKC only recognizes about 170," he noted, adding that number is increasing.

Gidday and his wife raise bolognese, the royal dog of Italy, and

Library Lines

Novi Public Library

Hours

The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. We are located at 45245 W. 10 Mile Road, just east of Taft. For more information, call (248) 349-0720.

Homework help

Learn to use the library's materials and find the best online resources to answer your homework questions on Tuesday, January 28, from 4-5 p.m. or Wednesday, January 29, from 7-8 p.m. The sessions are for students in elementary or middle school and their parents.

Internet practice lab for seniors

Practice makes perfect! Join us for an opportunity to practice any of the skills you've learned in our Internet classes on Thursday, January 23, from 1-3 p.m.

Holiday closing

The library will be closed Monday, January 20, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Using the library catalog on the Web

We'll cover author, title, subject, and keyword searches on Thursday, January 30, from 7-9 p.m. You'll learn how to set your search results to items in our library and/or to specific types of media, such as videos or audiobooks. The session will include hands-on practice.

Advance registration is required; please call the library to register.

Tot Tim

Children ages 12-24 months are invited to join us for a half hour of stories, songs, and games on Saturday, January 18, at 11 a.m. Registration is not required, but space is limited, so toddlers and caregivers only, please.

Holiday closing

The library will be closed Monday, January 20, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Internet practice lab for seniors

Practice makes perfect! Join us for an opportunity to practice any of the skills you've learned in our Internet classes on Thursday, January 23, from 1-3 p.m.

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

Dr. James E. Remski

Dr. James Remski died January 7, 2003 at Providence Hospital, Southfield. He was 76.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara; three children, Marie (Rick) Carleige, Daniel (Gina) and Laura (Brian Mann) Kelle; four grandchildren, Jamie, Kenny, Emmanuel, and Evan; one brother, Casmier (Regina) Pietron; and two sisters, Frances Hobbs and Rose Bishop.

A funeral service was held January 13 at Holy Family Church, Novi. Interment will be at Oakland Hills Cemetery, Novi.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or Karmanos Cancer Foundation.

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

Teresa McMahon

Teresa McMahon of Novi died January 6, 2003 at Providence Hospital, Southfield. She was 66.

Survivors include her husband, Gerald; three children, Gerald, Kevin (Lisa) and Eileen; one grandchild, Baby McMahon; and one sister, Kitty Lynch.

A funeral service was held January 10, 2003 at Holy Family Church, Novi.

Memorials may be made to the Hospice of Michigan.

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

Calendar of Events

Mentors Plus Training/Orientation
DATE: Saturdays, January 18 and February 15.
TIME: 9 a.m.
LOCATION: Oakland County Courthouse, 1300 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac.
DETAILS: A&A Mentors Plus volunteer, only a few hours of your time each month will help a young person in your community. Be a positive adult role model for someone 5 to 16 years old.
PHONE: Oakland County Youth Assistance, (248) 858-0841.

46 Annual Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
DATE: Monday, January 20, 2003.
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Walled Lake Central High School, 1600 Oakley Park Rd.
DETAILS: Potluck dinner, followed by keynote speaker, Mr. Huel Perkins, FOX 2 News anchor, "Living the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."
PHONE: Alec Bender, (248) 950-4200.

Self-defense techniques for women
DATE: Monday, Jan. 20.
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Wyndham Garden Hotel in Novi

DETAILS: Nick Collin from the Dragon Academy of Martial Arts will instruct this informative demonstration for the American Business Women's Association. Cost is \$16, which includes full dinner.
PHONE: Chris Struve at (248) 269-2035 or by e-mail at Christina.struve@huntington.com for reservations.

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce membership luncheon
DATE: Tuesday, January 21, 2003.
LOCATION: El Dorado Country Club, 2869 N. Pontiac Trail, Commerce Twp.
TIME: 11:30 a.m.-reception, noon-lunch.
DETAILS: This is the annual membership luncheon, installation of officers and awards presentation.
PHONE: Chamber office (248) 624-2826.

Quick Date
DATE: Tuesday, Jan. 21
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: 5th Avenue Ballroom, 25750 Novi Road, Novi
DETAILS: Meet 10-15 new people for five minutes each. It's fast-paced, fun and exciting! Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$40.
PHONE: Call (517) 553-0673 or www.quickdateinfo.com.

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce "Heart of the Lakes Mystery Gala"
DATE: Saturday, February 1, 2003.
LOCATION: El Dorado Country Club, 2869 N. Pontiac Trail, Commerce Twp.
TIME: 7 p.m.
DETAILS: Tickets are \$35 per person. Buffet dinner, cash bar, dancing, live and silent auctions. Benefit to Cardiac Care Program at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital and Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce's community and business services.
PHONE: Chamber office (248) 624-2826.

Wine tasting
DATE: Friday, Feb. 7
TIME: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Wixom Community Center, 49015 Pontiac Trail
DETAILS: Looking for something different to do? Bring your friends for an enjoyable evening out. Merchant's Fine Wine will bring samplings of fine wines along with cheeses from around the world, complimented by a wonderful selection of homemade breads, assorted

crackers and fruits. Wines from Tuscany, Piedmont and Veneto will be featured for the Italian lover in all of us. Wine orders may be placed through Merchant's Fine Wine. Must Pre-Register.
PHONE: Parks and Recreation (248) 624-2850 for more information or check the Web at www.cityofwixom.com.

Secretary of State Mobile Unit visit
DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 11 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Wed., Feb. 12 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Wixom Community Center parking lot, 49015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
DETAILS: Is it time to renew your driver's license, state ID card, license plate tabs or want to register to vote? No need to drive far! Mobil Unit will provide every service that you can do at a branch office. Check or cash only.
PHONE: (248) 624-2850

ON-GOING

Blues Series
DATE: Thursdays
LOCATION: The Boathouse, 142 Walled Lake Dr., Walled Lake
TIME: 8 p.m.

DETAILS: On-going blues series includes Sacia Jan. 16; Brett Lucas, Jan. 23; and Eric Noden, Jan. 30.
PHONE: (248) 669-1441

Oakland County Health Division Expanded Parent Classes
DATE: ongoing series
LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple, Walled Lake
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
DETAILS: Classes will be taught by Public Health Nurses. Topics will include childbirth preparation, labor and delivery, care of the newborn baby, breastfeeding, bottle-feeding, information about keeping children safe, and caring for them when they are ill. Cost is \$25.00.
PHONE: (248) 858-4003, or (888) 350-0900 ext. 84003

Oakland County Health Division breastfeeding support sessions
DATE: ongoing series
LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple, Walled Lake
DETAILS: Information covered includes pumping, solving common problems associated with breastfeeding, taking care of mom, growth and development of

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Kindergarten: Full- or half-day?

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Here's the burning question on many people's minds in the Novi Community School District: what is the future of the district's kindergarten program?

This issue has gotten so big that parents throughout the district have started to flood the board of education meetings and voicing their opinions, leading the board to put out a survey which has descriptions of present kindergarten programs and possible options.

"Right now you have a traditional program in all the schools except for Deerfield, and that's what we try to explain on the survey," Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, Rita Traynor said. "The half-day traditional program is the way it has always been in this state. However, in the last couple years, more people have gone more to full-time. When we created Deerfield, our committee's feeling was a full-time study group should be offered as an option."

The survey states, "The Novi Board of Education is presently reviewing the kindergarten options and offerings for the upcoming school year. Feedback is needed from those parents who will be registering kindergarten students for the 2003-04 school year. To be eligible for enrollment for the 2003-04 school year, students must be five years old by December 1, 2003."

According to Traynor, all the schools in the district were flooded with these surveys. Parents who did not receive one could call the Educational Services Building at (248) 449-1700, but all the principals were told to send one home to every child.

"We placed these surveys at the different schools," Traynor said. "The stereotype is, parents are sending the children to day care and that's not what the extended day option is. There are people that would say the option of a full day would be great to have at every school. However, the board's job is to do as much as it can within the budget."

Traynor said that Deerfield is a magnet school, so from the begin-

THE OPTIONS

There has been considerable interest voiced in expanding the full-day kindergarten program beyond that which is currently offered solely at Deerfield Elementary. Because of budgetary concerns, the district cannot expand a full-day kindergarten program on a non-fee basis for all of its kindergarten students. Among the options the board of education is currently considering are:

1. Adding one class of full-day kindergarten at each of the elementary schools (other than Deerfield) on a non-fee basis, offered to interested students under a lottery system; and
2. Implementing a district-wide extended-day optional program which is fee based at all five elementary schools.

In order to make an informed decision on this matter, the district is trying to determine, as best as possible, what the actual demand would be for the options being considered.

The two present kindergarten programs are the half-day traditional program, which is offered at all the elementary schools but Deerfield, and the full-time kindergarten program at Deerfield. A possible option is the extended day option for kindergarten students.

The half-day traditional kindergarten program teaches the State's core curriculum which includes language arts, math, social studies and science.

The program integrates art, music, physical education and Spanish on a weekly basis and is taught by a certified teacher (non-fee, five days per week, 4:45 to 5:30 p.m., three hours, no lunch).

The full-time kindergarten program teaches the State's core curriculum which includes language arts, math, social studies and science. It provides an extension of time to fit student needs for the subjects and activities provided in the traditional half-day kindergarten (non-fee, five days per week, 6 hours 46 minutes, includes lunch time).

The extended day option for kindergarten students would be fee-based for 1/2 of each day, five days per week. The program would complement the traditional half-day kindergarten, with emphasis on an extension of curriculum to fit student needs. The program will be taught by a certified teacher all day, with a paraprofessional included during the fee-based time. The State's core curriculum will be taught (as stated above). Art, music, physical education and Spanish will be integrated on a weekly basis. Note: The fee-based program must be licensed by the State, and, therefore, a paraprofessional is required to cover the number of students in the classroom (fee-based, five days per week, 6 hours 46 minutes, includes lunch time).

There are a lot of factors that the board of education must examine," Traynor added. "The budget is a major factor. With the current budget, it doesn't seem feasible, and that's what the board has to wrestle with. Do they maintain the budget just as Mr. (Jim) Koster, assistant superintendent of Business and Finance) is proposing it, or in the future, would they look at something like their fund equity?"

Traynor said some parents feel it's been a deep inquiry if they can't get into Deerfield and they want their child to have their full-day program. There is not another option for them because the district does not have it any place else.

"The committee felt as long as there was space at every school, they would offer it," said Traynor. "It appears that there would be space, and of course you would have to maintain the class size too. It would mean a little bit of an adjustment because right now we have half-day kindergarten and at

Novi senior makes a difference by donating to Toys for Tots

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Toys for Tots received a special donation just before Christmas, as Brad Steele, a senior at Novi High School, gave four brand new bicycles and some Hot Wheels Matchbox Cars so kids less fortunate than him could enjoy the holiday as well.

Steele woke up early on the day after Thanksgiving and went to Wal-Mart with his father after seeing an advertisement for bicycles. "There was a lot of sales that day and the ad was for cheaper bikes than usual, so my dad and I bought the bikes from there," he said.

Steele believes that if people who live in Novi have the means to donate around the holidays, they should. "My dad and I always try to donate every year," he said. "We figure a lot of people in Novi can, but not everyone does, so we do."

Steele and his father have donated different toys in the past, but the bicycles were their biggest donation. Usually they just go to the toy sections and pick out different things they think the little kids would enjoy, like Barbies, Leggos, race cars and other similar items.

"I packed the bikes into the van, and after school one day I had to use the help from one of my teachers to take them to the loading dock," he said. "From there I had some kids help me roll them down to the library. It makes me feel a little bit better just to know that I could make at least four kids Christmases a little better than they would have been if I hadn't donated them."

Steele said he would like to see more high school students like himself donating toys around the holidays. "I think more kids in the area could be donating, but they just forget to or they don't think about it or don't see who they could be helping," he said. "Most people have many childhood memories from Christmas, so if you could buy just a few things to make a few kids Christmases that much better, they would have better memories of their childhood than they would otherwise. I plan on donating something every year."

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net.

Novi High School Resource Officer Jerrod Hart displays the automated external defibrillator that the school received from The Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation.

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Novi High School Resource Officer Jerrod Hart displays the automated external defibrillator that the school received from The Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation.

Novi High senior Brad Steele donated four brand new bicycles to Toys for Tots for the holidays.

Steele said he would like to see more high school students like himself donating toys around the holidays. "I think more kids in the area could be donating, but they just forget to or they don't think about it or don't see who they could be helping," he said.

"Basically when someone goes into cardiac arrest, meaning their heart stops beating, we have about three to five minutes, like a window, to save them," he said. "They need to have some critical help. They need to have CPR and a defibrillator is the second part of a chain in the life-saving process if someone goes into cardiac arrest. We can hook it up to someone and it will advise us if that person needs to be shocked or not and it will administer that shock if necessary. It will give more than one if necessary as well. It's extremely important to have a very quick response when they go into cardiac arrest with CPR and a defibrillator."

According to Hart, last June, police officers saved someone on the road with a defibrillator. "I know that gentleman now and knew him before the incident, and those officers were able to bring him back," he said. "Without that defibrillator, who knows what would have happened. He was dead when the officers were there. He was gone."

Hart believes that supplying defibrillators is something that is essential to the school because of all the sporting events and plays that go on there.

"There are all kinds of things going on with the kids here on the weekends and after school," he said. "It's very important, not only for our kids, but our spectators and our staff to have this life-saving piece of equipment here on our campus. It's another tool in our toolbox to help the kids out and also any visitor to the school."

Every two years the police department goes through a required certification process, but Hart's staff goes through it every year just to stay on top of the issue. Hart said that the machine is very fool proof. There are instructions inside it that show how to use it and it will not shock someone if it senses any type of heartbeat. The down side is, an AED can't be used on any children around eight years old or younger because it gives them too much of a jolt.

"I'm sure the technology is coming where you can punch in an age or weight for that problem," Hart said. "In an eight hour day we went through the CPR first aid and the defibrillator training. It's all part of the CPR class. I encourage everyone to go through it."

Those interested in helping the Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation can send a check to 201 W. Big Beaver Road, suite 1030, Troy, MI 48064. Every dollar donated is spent on either purchasing AED's or training. "We pay for training of up to five people," Gillary said. "It costs about \$175 to train five people."

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Novi High School Resource Officer Jerrod Hart displays the automated external defibrillator that the school received from The Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation.

Novi High School adds defibrillator to its building

Thanks to The Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation, Novi High has a life-saving machine to use

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Novi High was one of 135 high schools in the state of Michigan that was benefited when it received a defibrillator from The Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation last school year. According to Randall Gillary, Kimberly Anne's father, the foundation is working to place defibrillators in every school in Michigan.

"We started the foundation when Kim died of cardiac arrest at Groves High in 2000," Gillary said. "There wasn't a defibrillator accessible and they took her to Beaumont Hospital, but she never regained consciousness. They took her off life support two days later."

Gillary established the foundation to donate an AED, or an automated external defibrillator, to every high school in Michigan and to advocate cardiac screening and testing of all high school athletes. So far the foundation has raised over \$405,000 and has donated over 150 AED's.

"We generally donate one to a high school, but I believe that everyone should have two or three," Gillary said. "The one that we donate raises the issue. It creates the effect that by donating it, the schools will recognize the need for it. Most of our donations come from private individuals."

When Novi School Resource Officer Jerrod Hart was informed of this, he applied for the grant. "We were able to obtain one defibrillator from the Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation and that was received at the beginning of last school year," he said. "Everyone was very happy to receive this grant, from the staff to the students. The defibrillator is hanging on the wall down by the athletic department near the athletic trainers. It's kind of a central location right now and I think that the hope is we can obtain more as the school gets bigger. If you go to airports now, or if you go to Providence Hospital, or City Hall, you will find them all over the place. Our police cars have them too."

Hart said that each machine runs about three to five thousand dollars, but an insurance company is going to pay out a couple hundred thousand dollars in life insurance policies, so it's very cheap and it could help bring someone's loved one back to them.

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net.

Walled Lake Schools Briefs

King celebration
Walled Lake announces the fourth annual celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 20 at Walled Lake Central High School, 1600 Oakley Park Road. This year's theme will be "Celebrate Diversity-Crete Unity."
The food, fun and festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a potluck dinner, followed by Mr. Huel Perkins, FOX 2 News anchor, who'll give this year's keynote address on, "Living the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."
For more information contact Alec Bender at (248) 956-4200.

Safety Town pays off
Two boys, ages 4 and 6, called 911 for their mother after she complained of chest pains. Luke and Jake Taylor of Walled Lake told the 911 operator where they lived and an ambulance was dispatched immediately.
The boys knew exactly what to do in this emergency situation thanks to the lessons they learned in Walled Lake Safety Town, a program provided through Walled Lake Consolidated Schools. Joan Saar, director of Walled Lake Safety Town said, "The important thing was that the boys knew what to do and were very calm about doing it."
Walled Lake Mayor William T. Roberts recognized the Taylor boys Jan. 7 at the Walled Lake City Council meeting with an award for their heroic act.
Walled Lake Safety Town is a program for 4-to-6-year olds and teaches concepts such as fire safety, bike safety, and calling 911. The two-week summer program provides children opportunities to learn how to stop at stop signs, look both ways before crossing a street, and wave people to pass when it's safe. They use a simulator to practice calling 911 and speak with adults on another line. Instructors stress the importance of knowing safe places to go, safe people to talk to and to be aware of their environment.

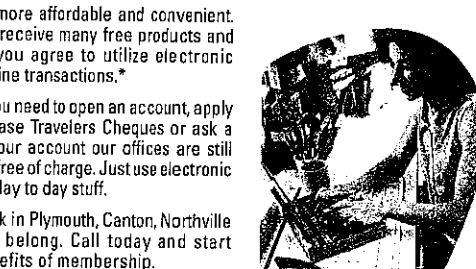

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On Campus

The following Novi residents were named to the Dean's List at Schoolcraft College for fall 2002 semester:

Nelli Ghidella Altanin, Bryan Alan Beeler, Sherry Kay Bellis, Kathryn Grace Bellor, Mark Jason Budd, Hubert Yee-Kwan Chan, Ashley Nicole Connell, Ashley Claude Earl, Melissa Anne Farr, Michael Roman Fournier, Sue Ann Gibb, Sarah Anne Hawthorn, Nathaniel James Hay, Debra Lynn Hirschfield, Tami Ann Howard, Gwen Ann Jacques, Bryce Wayne Kiddler, Juhoon Lee, Valerie Liebke, Evan Thomas McAlpine, Michele Karen Nance, Kathleen Louise O'Connell, Liliann Orsico, Shannon M. Parker, Robert Anthony Rich, Betty J. Seach, Robert William Senechal, Guy William Shaw, Anna Marie Swift, Rajsherre Thakore, Nicole Lynn Thomas, Ashley Ann Walicki, Pamela Lynn Wilkes and Lei Chen Wu.

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State of the City

Novi Mayor Richard J. Clark's State of the City address, as presented Jan. 13 at the Civic Center

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to begin my remarks tonight by extending a special welcome to our Congressman Thaddeus McCotter, Nancy Cassis our State Senator, Craig DeRoche our State Representative, Dr. Emmett Lippe, Superintendent of Novi schools, members of the judiciary of the 52nd District Court 1st Division - Robert Brady and former State Rep. Bill Bullard. Also a special welcome to Lou Martin, President of the Novi Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Commerce members, my fellow colleagues on City Council: Mayor Pro Tem Michelle Bononi, and Council Members Kim Capello, Lou Corliss, David Landry, Laura Lorenzoni and Max Sanghvi, citizens of Novi, and other guests.

What to do when the going gets tough... Once again we come together to review where we have been and where we are going as a community. A year ago we spoke of the tremendous challenges that we faced, which in a sense are a microcosm of what we faced as a nation.

How have we met those challenges? How have we measured up? Have we turned those challenges into opportunities? Let us review briefly the year that has passed to see where we stand.

Education
Once again, we must begin with education. The success of any community in both the short- and long-term depends on the quality of the education it provides its students.

It is those students who are our future - they are the future leaders, the entrepreneurs, the doctors, nurses and educators of tomorrow. The stronger they are equipped to meet the challenges of the 21st century, the stronger we will be as a community to meet those challenges.

Novi has been blessed with educational systems within our borders that are, as I have said before, the crown jewels of our community. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Dr. Emmett Lippe, his administrative staff, teachers, parents and a dedicated school board, we have in our community one of the finest public school systems in the state and nation.

This past year, an agreement was reached as a result of efforts of the Novi School System, the City administration, library representatives and citizen representatives to come up with a plan that allowed for expansion of the existing high school, thereby avoiding the necessity to build a second high school and saving additional taxes from being imposed.

In addition, Novi is on the verge of having one of the finest private schools for the education of young people in the country with the addition of Detroit Catholic Central to our community. When Catholic Central's new campus is completed, it will represent an investment in this community of approximately 30 million dollars.

I know I join with my fellow council members and the City administration in welcoming Fr. Elmer, President of Catholic Central, his staff and colleagues to our community and look forward to a ground-breaking this year.

from Beck Road east to the CSX Bridge. We have been promised that by March this eyesore and impediment to progress along Grand River Avenue will be gone and replaced by years end so that improvements can continue east to Novi Road.

The intersection at Grand River Avenue and Novi Road is also slated for improvements. Ten Mile and Meadowbrook Roads and Ten Mile and Cranbrook Roads intersection improvements have also been completed which include new light signals to improve public safety.

Road and Bike Path repairs have continued at a significant pace throughout the city and will continue at that pace in 2003. In 2003 the 12 Mile Road gap which began in 2002, completing 12 Mile Road as a boulevard from Novi Road and further westward is targeted for completion.

The Beck Road interchange will be moving forward this year, building on the work already done with an opening to traffic anticipated in late 2004. The City has implemented a winter maintenance agreement that will allow us to more timely respond to winter road emergencies than when these were county responsibilities.

A special thanks to Benny McCusker and staff in his efforts to make Novi's Department of Public Works one of the finest in the State of Michigan.

Planning Department
In January of last year, an Integrated Plan Review Center was opened that will save the city taxpayer dollars that previously were spent for outside consultants while moving plans through the planning process in an expeditious fashion and ensuring compliance with city ordinances and regulations.

In 2002, 52 site plans were approved. In May of 2002, the City Council approved a Storm Water Management Ordinance that is vital to the protection of our community and the quality of life in any community.

The Stormwater Management and Watershed Stewardship Committee composed of citizen representatives and council representation are to be commended for their efforts in this regard.

A special thanks to David Evancore for his continuing efforts as Planning Director and to everyone associated with reviewing plans and monitoring our extremely fast-paced growth in the City of Novi.



All in all, Novi has done an outstanding job in meeting the challenges presented to us in the past year and since September 11, 2001. However, much remains to be done. We cannot rest on the laurels of past performances. We live in a changing economy and a changing world. The successes we have achieved in this last year are the direct result of the efforts and the dedication of the City administration and staff and the efforts of all of my colleagues on this podium tonight.

Richard Clark
City of Novi mayor

heart attack while driving in the city. In keeping with this community's commitment to citizen involvement, two citizens, Louis Golenatis and Lindsey Latka, were instrumental and key in the capture of a bank robber in this community and as a result of this effort, several other robbers in the metropolitan area were solved.

As I have said in the past, quality communities do not just happen. They exist because people care and this is but one example of that caring citizen. In December of last year, city council approved the addition of three additional police officers to meet the growing needs of our community for additional police services.

The department continues to operate the Citizen Police Academy for Novi residents and a new neighborhood speed watch program was initiated to ensure the safety of citizens in our neighborhoods and to remind drivers to drive safely.

Parks, Recreation & Forestry
Under the outstanding leadership of Director Randy Auler, the City of Novi has made tremendous strides. A strategic action plan has been advanced by way of a study involving all segments of the community to determine the future needs of Novi and to respond appropriately.

In the past year, the recreation department has sponsored numerous adult recreational activities including 80 softball teams, 15 volleyball teams, 15 basketball teams and Camp Lakeshore has provided summer camp opportunities to more than 400 children who otherwise would not have been able to benefit from those services.

In the past year, Jaguar's new dealership opened, as well as two new restaurants located at Fountain Walk - Carrabba's Italian Restaurant and Jake's Fish House.

In the OST area of our city, Magna and Owens Corning have made a substantial commitment to our community. Both of these corporations are leaders in the automotive field. They recognize the importance of being in Novi.

In addition, in 2002 the new Expo Center was given approval, which when up and running will inject approximately 200 million dollars into the local and regional economies.

This project has a great deal to do with the State of Michigan's willingness to move their time table up and provide improvements of the two new I-96 interchanges at Beck and Wixom Roads and the Oakland County's cooperation in the first phase that is now completed of the Grand River Avenue widening from Wixom Road to Beck Road to a five-lane highway before the interchange work began.

Veterans
In 2002, Novi once again had the opportunity to say thank you to its veterans - the men and women of our armed forces whose sacrifices ensure that the lamp of liberty continues to burn bright.

In 2002, we said a long overdue thank you to our Vietnam Veterans who up until then were our forgotten heroes. In 2003, Novi plans to recognize those Cold War veterans who from 1945 through the fall of the Soviet Union ensured that freedom prevailed both for America and its allies.

Let us not forget those men and women of our armed forces who now stand in harms way and who soon may be committed to combat to ensure that the world will never again allow the likes of a new Hitler to rise up and become ever more powerful and dangerous. Let us keep these young men and women both in our thoughts and prayers.

Neighborhood Services
Under the direction of Cindy Uglov, our Neighborhood Services Coordinator, and code compliance officers, an excellent job was done this past year. Our sign ordinance is vigorously enforced as I'm sure all of my colleagues who have ran for office can attest and abandoned and dangerous buildings are either rehabilitated or appropriate steps are taken to remove them from our community.

Helpful publications are made available to residents and once again our Neighborhood Services Coordinator stands ready to make presentations to homeowner groups on timely subjects.

The past year, the City of Novi sponsored a Fall for Novi, giving citizens an opportunity to interact with city departments as well as local community and civic groups.

This program was well received with several hundred people in attendance and will be repeated in years to come.

Again, this month, in helping with its commitment to Citizens First, Neighborhood Services will recognize leaders of homeowner's associations at a leadership breakfast.

Human Resources
In the area of Human Resources, Tia Gronlund-Fox continues to do an outstanding job in finding and placing exceptional individuals in key positions. Her zeal for implementing the new service pin recognition program for employees is deeply appreciated.

The Novi Theatre has offered opportunities to perform and showcase one's talent to old and young alike. In the past year, more than 820 individuals, participants, staff and volunteers participated in nine productions with more than 7,000 residents attending these performances.

We have an outstanding theater director in Linda Wickert who brings outstanding opportunities to those in the arts. Also in December, the city initiated "Ring in the Holidays" with an electric-light parade, bell ringers, two choirs, crafters, children's craft areas, Santa visits and sleigh rides as well as food provided to all of the people who came out well in excess of 2,000 people through the generosity of local restaurants.

Sandstone Settlement
Any review of the past year would not be complete without mentioning Sandstone. I can report to you, the long nightmare is almost over. The judgment against the City that had grown to almost 75 million dollars with interest greater than three annual budgets for this community has been resolved.

No additional taxes needed to be imposed and remediation of the land Sandstone received in this settlement is proceeding accordingly. Almost two-thirds of that cost has been covered by Novi's share of Oakland County's Environmental Infrastructure Revolving Fund.

Community Relations
We have continued to strive to keep open lines of communication and provide our citizens with as much information as possible.

ENTERTAINMENT

Sam Eggleston, 248-349-1700

Thursday, January 16, 2003

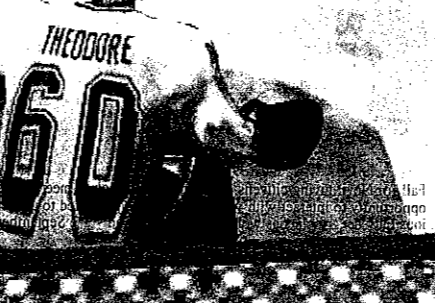
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With 989's Face Off 2003, you get to run the rink

By Sam Eggleston
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Tired of Curtis Joseph hogging time in the goal? So am I, and now there's something I can do about it.

I can change that with a simple press of a button - on my Playstation II controller, that is. 989 Studios has put the power in my hands with NHL Faceoff 2003. This game is pretty sweet, especially when it comes down to the look of the players. I, of course, have taken to the role of controlling the Detroit Red Wings in this game, and I don't even have to look at their jerseys during the between-play sequences to tell you who they



989 Studio's NHL Face Off 2003 has nice graphics, and a new and improved cede ability to fake out the goalie.

are. Even Chris Chelios' nose is busted and crooked, just like in real life.

The arenas are well rendered as well. Joe Louis Arena has each and every banner hanging, as does New York, Dallas and Colorado (those that I really paid attention to) and I'm sure the others follow that lead.

Now, the realism in this game is pretty sweet. The puck bounces about like it should, digging off the bar or whacking into the pads of the goalie. Hit a guy with a sweet hip-check and watch him skid across the ice, out of control. Crowds boo and cheer with the hits, the goals, the saves and the calls by the referees.

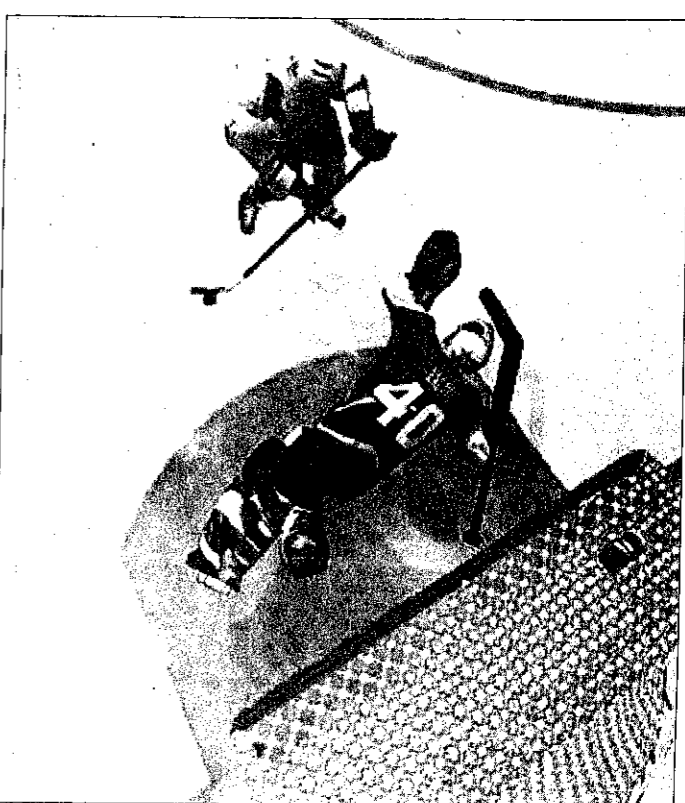
Faceoff 2003 has everything you could want from an ice hockey game. Sweet controls makes it nice and easy to control the players throughout the game. Too many hockey games have an obsession with physics, and your players end up spinning out of control because, if you're anything like me, you can't skate like a professional. That's their job. When I pick up a game like Faceoff 2003, I want the game to be easy to control. 989 Studios brings that to me and so much more.

I've also come to enjoy the career mode. Tired of Cgo? I was. I made a pretty sweet trade with him to the Rangers just so I could get good old Manny Legace between the posts - he's a great goalie anyway. Not only can you play a single season, you take over the role of general manager over 10 years while dealing with free agents, drafts, retirement and trades.

This game also brings you great animation from every player on the ice, with goalies even making diving saves and actually saving with both their glove and their stick hands. There are a ton of awards to win, besides the coveted Stanley Cup (which I won in a single weekend by burning my eyes out of my head playing an entire season).

Now as with every game, NHL Faceoff 2003 isn't perfect. In fact, until I adjusted the difficulty of the game, I was winning most of them by 10 or more goals. The other thing I found was that when a line switches, there is sometimes (though very, very rarely) a small delay in getting the second line onto the ice, leaving a small gap in the action as you or your opponent skates up and down the ice without making any way of opposition.

That's really the only downside to the game as the action is fast, the graphics are good and the controls are easy to learn. In fact, one of the best things to learn in this game is the deke moves, which allow you to come on goal at full speed during a break away and fake your way to a sweet goal. Once you do that, and score any goal or make a great save, there are some really nice multi-angle replays of the play.



989 Studio's NHL Face Off 2003's goalies can sometimes make saves while standing on their heads. Now that's what's called good goaltending.

Besides career mode, there are also modes for practice, exhibition, season, tournament and shootout. Oh yeah, and you can make your own player too. Sam Eggleston is a heck of a defender, but please don't ask him to shoot. He's just that good. It also helped that he made his own goalie, his own center and his own defensive line. Then, after setting up his miracle team, he forced me to

play as Florida and kicked me around the ice like I was in Pee Wee hockey. Lucky for me, I'll have the opportunity to get some practice time in on this one, and then I'll ask for a rematch.

Sam Eggleston is the entertainment writer for the Novi News and the Northville Record. Comments can be directed to seggleston@nl.honcom.net or (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

Just forget it Just Married is a sad example of comedy

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

"Just Married" brought enough people to the theaters over the weekend to topple "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers," but the question is why?

The PG-13 rated movie for sexual content, some crude humor and a brief drug reference is about as enjoyable as having your wisdom teeth pulled out by a caverman.

The film stars Ashton Kutcher and Britney Murphy in a sad example that poor writing, canned laughter and no imagination will produce a box-office hit.

"Just Married" begins with an introduction to Sarah McTerny, played by Murphy, and Tom Leezak, played by Kutcher, as they part ways angrily after returning from their honeymoon.

Tom is a Beverly Hills, Wesley College graduate, daughter of the part owner of the Lakers and the Dodgers, and is used to having the best of the best.

On the other hand, Tom is a bumbling doofus from a blue-collar family who works as a spot traffic reporter on the graveyard shift every other weekend when the regular guy is sick at KMR radio station.

After their airport parting, Sarah returns to her daddy's gated mansion and Tom returns to his "Animal House" looking loft.

It is when Tom returns to work that he starts having flashbacks, and flashbacks with flashbacks, spanning from the day the couple met to his self-proclaimed botched proposal to their wedding to finally their everything-goes-wrong honeymoon.

Some of the happenings making their honeymoon so miserable include blowing out the wiring of a French Castle when trying to plug in an American auto device, driving their car into a snowbank, meeting up with a flannel hotel hostess and ending up in jail.



Cute couple, hey? Too bad their honeymoon turns into a wreck in Just Married.

The Robert Simonds Production for Twentieth Century Fox movie relied only on physical pranks, missing any type of witty or meaning dialog.

The Robert Simonds type of witty or meaning dialog. The one-hour and 35-minute film was directed by Shawn Simonds of "The Wedding Singer" and produced by Lewy of "Big Fat Liar," written

Screen Beat

By Brian Rimmer
THE MOVIE INSIDER

Coming to theaters this weekend is the twisted romantic comedy "A Guy Thing" starring Jason Lee as Paul Morse, a good, honest guy. When his friends throw him a wild bachelor party, he just wants to keep his conscience clean, which is why he's shocked when he wakes up in bed with a beautiful girl named Becca (Julia Stiles) and can't remember the night before.

She also happens to be his fiancée's (Selma Blair) cousin. Desperate to keep his fiancée from finding out he tells her a minuscule lie, that turns into a large web of lies. "A Guy Thing" is a MGM/UA release and rated PG-13 for language, crude humor, some sexual content and drug references.

Culture-class comedy about two clueless New York boyfriend friends (Anthony Anderson and Jerry O'Connell) who fall into the mob's hands and are forced to deliver \$100,000 to Australia, only to lose the cash to a kangaroo. With the help of a wildlife researcher (Estelle Warren), the two bumbling heroes set out to kick some punch. "Kangaroo Jack" is a Warner Bros. release and rated PG for language, crude humor, sensuality and violence.

Goofy action/comedy "National Security" follows a young rookie security guard, Earl Montgomery, (Martin Lawrence) who is forced to team up with ex-cop Hand Rafferty (Steve Zahn) as they seek the men who are out to kill them both, and unravel a smuggling operation. "National Security" is a Sony Pictures release and rated PG-13 for violence, language and some sensuality.

In theaters next week Horror thriller "Darkness Falls" (R) and door-to-door vacuum cleaners wage war in "Super Sucker" (R).

For more information, please log on to The Movie Insider at www.themovieinsider.com. Please direct any questions, comments, and/or feedback to brian@themovieinsider.com.

Sam Eggleston, 248-349-1700

Thursday, January 16, 2003

Food For Thought

In this hectic world it is important to find shortcuts to allow more time with friends and family, not to mention time for ourselves. One-dish meals are attractive for all of the obvious reasons and then some. Many families must have two breadwinners to make ends meet. One-parent households are common, and as a result time is limited for cooking. One-dish meals have the advantage of easy cleanup, are great tasting, offer nourishment and they're easy on the check-book.



Chef Mary Brady

There are a few fundamental rules - protein, starch, greens and/or fruit, minimal utensils and time. The object is to streamline cooking to allow for enjoyable, leisurely meals. It is important that when families sit down to eat together that quality time be spent. One-dish meals get back to basic, homey fare. They can be simple or elegant enough for company. As a general rule they are much more reasonable and nutritious than a frozen entree or trip to the corner fast food chain.

The options are incredibly varied and range from soup, salad, casserole, sandwiches, pizza, pasta and stew. Assorted cooking methods and utensils may be employed; crock pots, pressure cookers, woks, microwaves and ovens.

When planning a one-dish meal choose as many fresh ingredients as possible. Although convenience foods are an important part of saving time, they are often expensive for what you get. For instance, a two-pound bag of white rice is one-fifth the cost of boxed rice mix. Another point to keep in

mind is the additives and high salt content of prepared foods. There is a place for prepared foods and it is wise to have some on hand, but spend a few extra minutes when shopping to read labels and compare prices.

I like to plan my meals for a week and then go grocery shopping. The fewer trips to the store and less time I wait in the happy I am.

Most fruits and vegetables will last at least a week if stored properly. Celery, onions, carrots and peppers are staples in my crispers. Ground turkey or beef, a chicken, soup, fish bones and reasonable cuts of meat that can be slow cooked stock the refrigerator and freezer. Dried beans, (kidney, black, and northern), rice, different pastas, tuna and good quality tomatoes fill the pantry.

Watch for bargains. Recently, uncooked turkey breast was on sale, and after pulling out my handi wallet calculator, I found it to be half the price of lunch-cum-meat. A turkey requires little attention while cooking, is much more nutritious than prepared meats, supplies a soup carcass and is a treat in the lunch box. I bought two. The

moral of the story is pre-plan, save money, time and supply a high quality nutritional meal. After the grocery trip has been handled, the other half of the war is to be waged. The cooking! It is so important to be organized. If you are making extra chili, pre-soak the beans overnight. Make extra and freeze for a future meal. Determine what will be served as an accompaniment. Homemade cornbread and a simple green salad would round out the meal. Try fresh fruit salad with a dab of yogurt for dessert.

Have the proper utensils. If soups are a favorite, have an appropriate sized stock pot. It can double as a pasta cooker. Casserole dishes are invaluable. Pull out the crock-pot that is stored and start to use it again.

Pressure cooking is seeing a revival, and justly so. If you're considering purchasing pots and pans, choose sizes suitable to your family size and favored cooking styles. A large wok doubles as a steamer when a large canned tomatoes, crushed 1 teaspoon each oregano, basil, thyme Salt and pepper to taste 1 cup Parmesan cheese, preferably freshly grated

An excellent source of recipes I've found is the book titled, "365 Easy One-Dish Meals" by Natalie Haughton. It is available at Border's book-stores. So fill the pot and unwind, dinner is taking care of itself.

Mary Brady is a certified executive chef and co-owner of Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro in the Novi Town Center. If you have culinary questions or comments for chef Mary Brady, you can contact her via e-mail at djbistro@aol.com.

RECIPE

Recipe provided by chef Mary Brady of Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro.

Eggplant Parnesan

2 medium eggplants washed, stem end removed
2 eggs or 3 egg whites mixed with 1 cup water
1 cup Italian bread crumbs, purchased or homemade
1 large canned tomatoes, crushed
1 teaspoon each oregano, basil, thyme
Salt and pepper to taste
1 cup Parmesan cheese, preferably freshly grated

Slice eggplant lengthwise into 1 inch slices. Dip in egg white, and then the bread crumbs. Broil on a cookie sheet until crisp and brown on both sides. Mix tomatoes and spices. Taste and adjust seasonings. Layer eggplant to cover bottom of casserole, sprinkle with Parmesan cheese and cover with sauce. Continue layering until ingredients are used. Finish with any remaining sauce. Cover and bake for one hour at 350 degrees. Serves four.

Note: A Caesar salad and garlic toast are possible accompaniments. The only fat in this recipe is from the cheese and that is minimal. Approximate preparation time is twenty minutes.

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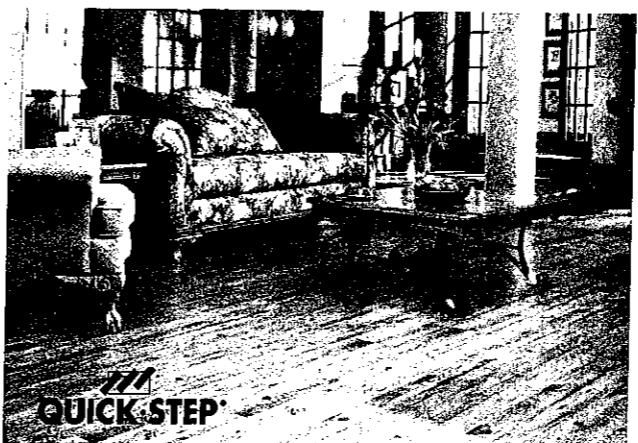
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ENTERTAINMENT

Sam Eggleston, 248-349-1700

Super Sucker not for the young

By Sam Eggleston
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Let's start off by saying that this movie was better than "Escanaba In Da Moonlight," which was Purple Rose Production's first attempt at a comedy.

"Super Sucker" is the story of two rival vacuum cleaner salesmen that have went against each other in contest after contest to see who was the better man.

Time and time again, their competitions lead to injury and arrest once the winner is announced. Finally, the president of the Super Sucker vacuum company fires it, and demands a final contest to see who it is that would sell to all of Johnson City, Michigan.

The contest is a simple one— whoever sells the most Super Suckers will have full rights to sell to the entire city. There's only one catch though, Fred Barlow, played by Jeff Daniels, hasn't been doing so well against his rival, Wiaslow

Schaneblt, played by Harve Presnell.

Old Barlow is pretty much getting his clock cleaned until he hires on a new salesman with the spunk and attitude of his days long past. This, and the discovery of a long lost attachment known only as "The Housemaker's Little Helper" help boost his sales.

The only problem that comes to bear with this movie is the eventual plot developments. It's not that the movie is done in bad taste, or pushes the envelope. It's just that—well, you don't want to bring your kids to this movie.

The "R" rating is enough to let most parents know that this isn't for anyone under the age of 16, but let's just say that even if your 13 year old really, really wants to see it for their birthday, the answer should still be "no."

Sexual references abound throughout the film, and parents who make a habit of shielding their kids' eyes in the dirty parts of a movie will probably work up a sweat in "Super Sucker."

But, and no doubt you guessed this already, problems soon arise for Barlow and his gang as sales go through the roof.

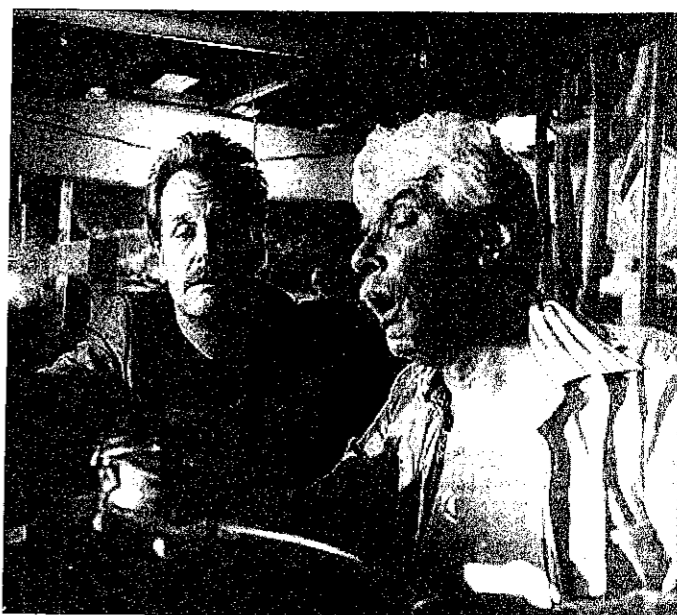
The movie brings back a lot of familiar faces from "Escanaba In Da Moonlight," but this time they are much, much better than before. Though in no way does this match up with the great comedies of all time, or even some of the funnier roles Daniels has found himself in, it does make up for the horrid first attempt (film by Purple Rose Productions).

You catch yourself laughing throughout the movie, even when a poor innocent cut finds himself the victim of new salesman Howard Butterworth's (Matt Lescher) first pitch attempt.

Another funny scene finds Super Sucker vacuum national spokesperson Dawn Wells making comments about Mary Ann, who she played, and Ginger from the "Gilligan's Island" series.

The entire film, which is due to come out Jan. 24 at Novi's Imagine Theater as well as 124 others across six states in the Midwest, was filmed in Jackson, Michigan.

It's funny enough to spend a few bucks to go and watch if you're a fan of Jeff Daniels or Purple Rose Productions. The biggest thing I can say in support



Jeff Daniels, as Fred Barlow, looks over the original "Homemaker's Little Helper" before producing his own version.

of going to the theater to watch this is that the more who go and watch it, the better the production company will do in profits and the more films they will not doubt make. Daniels and his gang are committed to filming in

Michigan, and that can only be a good thing.

Photo Courtesy of PURPLE ROSE PRODUCTIONS



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It's Senator Cassis now at the Capitol

continued from front

encouraging investment by businesses. Meanwhile, California Gov. Gray Davis is asking his state's legislature for an \$8.3 billion tax hike in a state where the sales tax is already 7.5 percent.

Here in Michigan, the state is forecasting a \$1.5 to \$2 billion shortfall. On Tuesday, the Legislature embarked on its Revenue Estimating Consensus Conference where the Senate, House and Treasury, with the help of University of Michigan economists, began designing a foundation for funding the 2003-2004 budget. Despite the concerns, Cassis remains hopeful that Michigan's downturn will be shallow and short-lived. She points to economists' outlooks published in the *Wall Street Journal* that show Michigan and the nation as a whole rebounding better than earlier expected.

"That's our sense that the economy is growing, but it's growing at a slower rate," Cassis said.

As chair of both the Senate Finance Committee and the Senate Republican Policy Committee, Cassis will play a significant role on economic proposals before they reach the floor for a vote.

She said her goal is to encourage policies and promote ideas that will help business, industry and investment recharge sluggish economic growth. And for many constituents, it's the standard Republican policy.

"Remove restrictions where we can, and facilitate business attraction to the state is all important," she said. "We're building on the achievements over the past 10 or 12 years."

Cassis argues that Michigan has weathered the recession better than much of the nation because the Engler administration, especially, worked to encourage a more diverse economy. Though Michigan is dependent on the auto industry, it's less so than it was a

decade or more ago. Continued support for the Automation Alley and the Bio-Science Corridor and other diverse industries will help Michigan's economy expand and to become less prone to dips in employment and consumer and business spending.

And that leads to more tax revenue for the state.

"We've worked hard to get to this point," Cassis said. "The policies and structures are in place to keep Michigan's economy moving forward."

Big plate

Though the economy has taken center stage for more than a year, Cassis' duties are more varied than that of an elected economist. She will serve as vice chair of the Senate Education Committee, and education is an area where she has some expertise. She is a former school teacher and school psychologist who earned a master's and an education specialist degree from the University of Michigan.

She serves on the Technology and Energy Committee. Here, too, she has experience after serving on the House's version of the committee for six years. As well, Cassis is a member of the Government Operations Committee, which will review, consent and advise on appointments made by Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

Though Cassis welcomes technological advances and the means to attract them to Michigan, and though she has strong views on supporting education, there remains an underlying theme - revenue is needed. And deciding where to spend the state's money will be the most complicated issue.

"That will dominate much of the first six months," she said.

Sam Black is an editor for *Hometown Newspapers*. Reach him at 248-437-2011 or at sblack@ht.homecomm.net.

DeRoche begins freshman tenure

continued from front

them," Johnson said. "Craig and his new colleagues are already getting involved and making sure their voice is heard in the process."

DeRoche said he has been very enthusiastic about his new duties and responsibilities since being sworn in Jan. 8.

DeRoche was accompanied at the ceremony in Lansing by his wife, Stacey, and 21-month-old daughter, Carley.

"I am very excited about the upcoming session, and I look forward to serving the residents of Novi," he said. "Representing the voice of our neighbors in Lansing is what this process is all about."

DeRoche's contact info is: 887 House Office Building, PO Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514, (517) 373-0827, Fax: (517) 373-5873; craigderoche@house.mi.gov.

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



Courtesy photo

State Rep. Craig DeRoche, R-Novi, today took the ceremonial oath of office at the Capitol. The oath was performed by Michigan Supreme Court Justice Stephen Markman. Joining the freshman representative are his wife, Stacey, and 21-month-old daughter Carley.

Novi School Board considers \$1.4 million deficit challenges

continued from front

suggested:

- eliminate instructional field trips;
- eliminate new uniforms for sporting events and band;
- eliminate Novi Meadows fifth grade camp;
- eliminate late buses and after school buses;
- eliminate exploratory languages;
- reduce K-4 Spanish;
- eliminate elementary para-techs;
- reduce A.P. Classes; and
- eliminate all day kindergarten at Deerfield.

"None of those cuts are set in stone right now," Koster said. "They are just examples that we have to review. There are a few options we have. We could reduce fund equity or increase the student population. We could also consider a schools of choice program in Novi."

A school of choice program takes in students from other school districts and the more aid it will receive from the state. It's for parents who want their children in other districts than the one they live in for whatever reason.

Koster said that since there will most likely be no increase in state aid for the next two years, and the district already has a deficit of \$1.4 million, some changes will need to be made.

The district's total receipts figure is \$62.2 million, which consists of local, state, intermediate and federal sources and other. The total disbursements figure is \$63.6 million, which consists of salaries and benefits and operational expenses. Basically, this means that the Novi School District is spending more than it is receiving.

"We are at the mercy of the state

of Michigan," Koster said. "We must maintain an excellent program and be financially stable at the same time."

Koster read off a list programs and services that the board must review all of them to determine which, if any, will need to be cut. He said that 37 reductions of activities would total the deficit of \$1.4 million.

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the *Novi News*. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net.

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High flying 'Cats

Dive team sweeps at invitational

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats boys swimming and diving team showed that they are serious contenders no matter what pool they are swimming in.

In the West Bloomfield Lakers 2003 Boys' Swimming and Diving Invitational, the Wildcats had a marvelous showing and came away with second place, collecting 237 points — just shy of winning team

Novi Boys' Swimming and Diving

North Farmington's 240. Host squad West Bloomfield collected 138 points, which was good for third place, while Troy Athens had 101, Monroe notched 90 and Livonia Churchill was slammed, collecting only 42 points on the day.

The meet was held different than most, with heats finding one swimmer or team from each school participating. Points and places were kept for each heat in each event, thus giving the teams such high points for final tallies. Essentially, the fourth swimmer on a team in a given event can score as many points as the best swimmer in that same event.

The highlights of the meet for Novi were Dan Bassett's performance in the diving event, collecting 403.65 points for first place in the top heat, as well as Scott Reimann's 367.70 points for first in the second heat. Chris Alberty swept for the 'Cats, taking first in the third heat of diving with 158.25 points.

In the 400 freestyle relay, the Wildcats took first in three heats, with the best time coming off at 3:25.69.

In the 100 yard backstroke, Derick O'Branovic took first for the 'Cats in a time of 1:06.42. In the 100 free, Matt Swift was first in his heat with a time of 54.01, while Ian Robertson was first in his with a final time of 49.53. Robertson had a nice swim in the 50 free as well, taking first with a time of 22.60 to better his state meet cut. His time in the 100 free also bettered his position in the state finals.

The 100 butterfly found John Wang taking the top spot of his run, collecting a time of 1:07.03, while Jack Tyler won his race with a 54.87, which qualified him for the state meet.

In the 200 yard freestyle relay, the Wildcats were able to win two heats, with the best time between the two coming in at 1:34.82. Another first-place finish came to a team in the 200 medley relay as they finished in the top spot of their heat in a time of 1:58.80.

Over 50-percent of the swim-



Novi Diver Dan Bassett competes during a January meet at Plymouth Salem High School. Bassett was one of the divers who recently swept the West Bloomfield Invitational, a meet that the Wildcats took second place in and had over half of the team achieve personal best times.

Photo by John Heider

mers on the team collected personal records in the meet, showing just what a good meet against good competition can do for such a dedicated team.

In a meet earlier in the week, the Wildcats had good performances as they took on Plymouth Salem, a meet they lost 100-86 against one of the best teams in

the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Robertson took firsts in the 200 IM (2:04.96) and the 100 fly (55.34), while Bassett was first in diving with 228.75 points and Reimann was second with 227.70.

The 400 free relay team of Tyler, Nick Wright, senior Matt

Shafer and Robertson was first in a final time of 3:29.15.

Tyler improved his standing in the 500 freestyle for the state finals meet to be held later this year with his final time of this meet, which was good for second place with a time of 5:00.8. He was second behind a Salem victory in a time of 4:59.71.

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

Novi's sizzling seniors

If you want to watch three amazing seniors play some of the best basketball in the entire area, you better head over to Novi tomorrow night.

The Wildcats, led by coach Pat Schluter, will be playing host to the Hartland Eagles at 7 p.m. as they take to the court in hopes of notching yet another Kensington Valley Conference victory.



Sam Eggleston

Now, there are three players that have the ability to change the tempo of the contest — no matter who the Wildcats happen to be playing.

The most notable of the trio is Matt Emmenecker. Having been a potent scorer since he was in diapers, Emmenecker just has the natural talent to drive and score, or sit back on the key and score, or hit the three-pointer for the score, or score from the free-throw line, or score from the five-foot jumper, or the lay-up or — never mind. Let's just say that if Emmenecker's on the court, he's going to score in double digits. So a team says they'll just double team him? Oh yeah, he passes too.

And on the receiving end of those passes are Chase Chandler and Chris Lewis. Take these guys and look at their statistics for a moment. Chandler is one of those players that one can expect to see a double-double out of for every contest. He's in on rebounds, steals, assists, blocks and, of course, he scores. Lewis is the kind of player that can do it all. He has very solid rebounding skills, a shot to die for and comes up on the defense like a dark cloud on the horizon. When he's in the game, they just know it's going to rain points for Novi.

You just have to love having a team that has the seniors with the experience, the ability and the dedication it takes to be leaders on and off the court. Each one of them is quite capable of being a star in numerous athletic arenas, and their ability to play practically any position on the floor shows the type of versatility that they possess.

Don't get me wrong (and don't send a letter, please), because there are other players on the team. Players like Brad Simpson and Brad Chandler — juniors who know their roles in the game and are willing to play them. Once again, you have on your hands the idea of multi-talented athletes. Almost every player on the Novi bench is a player on another squad in one capacity or another. The pure athleticism on this squad just bodes well for the future of the program as well as what may lie ahead for this group of defending district champions.

But Hartland isn't going to fall over and throw their hands in the air as Novi cruises by for the uncontested score. Instead, this will probably prove to be a fun Kensington Valley Conference game with a lot of fun scoring and fast-paced play.

Of course, I'm going to venture out on a limb and guess that the Wildcats will come away with the victory, defeating the Eagles in classic Novi style as Emmenecker, Lewis and Chandler all manage to get into the double digits yet again.

Novi 68, Hartland 44

Novi off on right foot with tough wins

By Michael Zerkich
SPECIAL WRITER

It looks to be obvious that the Novi Wildcats volleyball team is on the right track for the 2003-03 season.

It has already been a year of close matches for them, but the girls are on course for a great season. Novi's record stands now at 12-9 overall and a perfect 2-0 in the rugged KVC.

Novi beat a perennially tough Brighton squad in three grueling games, 17-15, 15-2, 15-13 on Jan. 9 in a Kensington Valley

Conference match-up.

Novi coach Julie Fisette was spent after this win.

"To say the least, the match was a barnburner," Fisette said. "We had Andrea Borashko being the star of the evening with six kills and other players doing terrific jobs as well so that we could go on for the win."

Jan. 4 found the Novi Wildcats lasting through the quarterfinals of the Northwood Invitational Tournament.

It was a tough day at Northwood. In the first pool

Novi played very well, beating Farwell and Warren Cousino but losing to Davison. That was good enough to qualify the Wildcats second place to advance to the next of pool competition where they faced a mighty Lansing Catholic Central and beat them. Finally, the day ended for Novi with their second loss when they were defeated by Lahser in the quarterfinals.

There were many individual bright spots for Novi. Crystal Corte had five kills against Farwell, seven more

against Cousino, eight against LCC, and four against Lahser for a tournament total of 24 for the day.

Tina Hildreth contributed four kills and five blocks in the Cousino win while teammate Amanda Toffoli didn't miss a serve for the entire tournament with 33 straight good services.

Angie Schmitt added four aces and four kills against Farwell and another five kills against Davison.

Shannon Shrader retrieved six digs against LCC, another four digs against Cousino, and

finished with seven more digs against Lahser. Kim Zarczynski lent seven kills against two opponents for the day.

The Wildcat's next game is Thursday at Pinckney and return home January 23 against KVC opponent South Lyon.

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

GAME OF THE WEEK



**Novi
Wildcats
Basketball**

Those winning ways

Charged Wildcats still winning on court

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats are definitely proving you don't have to be a lion to be king of the jungle.

The 'Cats took it to the South Lyon Lions January 10 in a Kensington Valley

Novi Boys' Basketball

Conference match-up and walked away with a convincing 55-37 victory. Just three days prior, the Novi captives triumphed over the improving Plymouth Canton Chiefs 70-57.

Against the Lions, the Novi squad followed the lead of Matt Emmenacker as he purred in 17 points while Chase Chandler was runner-up for totals with 13.

The 'Cats didn't have too much of a struggle on their hands when they hoisted South Lyon, and walked into the locker room after having scored 30 points in the first half alone.

The true challenge came against the Canton Chiefs, who are a rising star in the Western Lakes Activities Association at this point.

The Wildcats were able to hold an eight-point lead in the first quarter and kept chipping away until they scooted home with a 70-57 victory tucked under their belts.

The Novi Wildcats were well aware of the inside presence the Chiefs had, as the Canton post players Steve Thornton and Brad Waidman combined for 34 points against Northville the week prior — Novi held them to 14.

The biggest difference in the game was no doubt at the free-throw line. The 'Cats hit 21-of-30 from the stripe for 69.3-percent conversion. Canton, on the other hand, was only 4-of-6, showing just how bad fouls can hurt you.

The Wildcats led by eight after one quarter, going up 19-11 after hitting 7-of-7 from the charity line. The advantage climbed to 32-22 by the half after Chris Lewis buried two three-pointers in the second half. And by the end of the third, the 'Cats only held a 56-43 lead at that point.

Emmenacker once again led the way for Novi, pouring in an impressive 22 points in the contest. Lewis added 20 in a great performance, while Brad Simpson climbed onto the leader board with 18 points on the night.

Canton's D. J. Bridges paced the Chiefs with 20 points, being the only Canton player to score in double digits on the night.



Novi's Mike Hart, a forward, pump fakes and gets his South Lyon defender in the air during last Friday night's home game. The 'Cats only have one loss on the season to this point, and are looking to keep that rolling as they take on the Hartland Eagles tomorrow at 7 p.m. at Novi High School.

The Wildcats will return to action when they play host to the Hartland Eagles tomorrow at 7 p.m. in a Kensington Valley Conference match-up. January 21 finds the 'Cats at home once

again, this time against Ypsilanti Lincoln, before they take a road-trip to Millford to take on the Mavericks in another KVC showdown January 24.

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

UPCOMING NOVI SPORTS EVENTS

Basketball			
17	Hartland	5:30	H
21	Ypsilanti Lincoln	5:30	H
24	Millford	5:30	A
Volleyball			
16	Pinkney	6	A
18	Walton Lake Invite JV	9 a.m.	A
	Madonna Invite Fresh	noon	H
25	Novi Invite	8:30 a.m.	A
	South Lyon Invite JV	9 a.m.	A
	Walton Lake Invite Fresh	9 a.m.	A
Swimming and Diving			
21	W.L. Western	7	A
28	Saline	7	H
Hockey			
23	Brighton	7	A
29	South Lyon	6	H
Figure Skating			
18	Ice Cube	3	A
25	Artie Edga	TBA	A
Pom Pon			
25	MHSAA Regionals	TBA	A
Cheer			
18	Novi Invite	9 a.m.	H
25	Oakland/Macomb	TBA	A
Gymnastics			
16	W.L. Central	7	A
18	Hartland Invite	TBA	A
23	Brighton	7	H
25	Farmington Invite	TBA	A
Wrestling			
17	Brighton Tri	5:30	A
18	C.C. Super Duals-V	10 a.m.	A
	Bay City Central-JV	10 a.m.	A
	Garden City-JV	10 a.m.	A
24	KVC Tri Meet	5:30	H

Editor's Note: All dates are January and all times are p.m. unless noted.

Cheerleaders earn third place finish

By Michael Zerkich
SPECIAL WRITER

Not a bad showing, though these 'Cats feel they can do better.

Last weekend's pre-KVC Meet held at Howell High School final results saw Novi's cheerleading team finishing third in a six-team field. With four panel judges' scores (guest meets there are only three panel officials), Hartland came up on top with 896 points, Brighton at 848.5, Novi collected 821, Howell managed 734.5, Millford carved out 628.5 points and Lakeland finished with a 603.

Referring to the pre-KVC meet, Novi Coach Amy Dony's saw some challenges for upcoming practices.

"I felt that my team had performed this cheer better at their first meet back in December," Dony said of round one action. "They did not have as much power behind their motions as I would have liked. We had set this cheer on the back burner since the CCCAM meet so that we could work more on our round three. In most areas, our scores went from nine and 10 to seven and eight. It appears as if we neglected it slightly too much. We will work on polishing it back to perfection for next weekend."

Dony noted that she was happy with the way round two worked for the Wildcats, as well as the judging in the round.

"The judging in (round two) was quite consistent," Dony said. "From three of the four officials we received overall scores of 65. We had made no changes to this cheer since December, as far as material goes. However, I did replace two stunts that were struggling with the handspinning and walkover skills. I am hoping that, eventually, we can build their confidence in these areas and add them back into the cheer."

Cheer Dony's still sees this year's Novi Compositional Cheer Team will be in contention for a great run for the state title but she says there is work to be done first.

"By February 1, it is our goal to raise the number of girls in our round two to 12 from 10," she said. "If we make this change we can also add athletes to our round three. I am hoping that this change will help strengthen the third round."

"In round three, I will be honest, I was hoping for a small miracle," she added. "We had only practiced our



The Novi Cheerleaders perform for a crowd at Novi High School.

round three in its complete form about six times before Saturday. The cheer has come together nicely and is impressive to watch, however, the girls just do not have the physical stamina built up to make this cheer strong all the way until the end. I believe that with about two more weeks of conditioning and practice

this cheer will be dynamic."

"Overall, after round one I saw that we had been outside," Dony said. "We won't let this happen again. By the next KVC meet on February 1, I predict that we will

And don't miss...

This Saturday's Competitive Cheerleading event featuring teams from all across Michigan. A total of 42 teams will gather bringing their junior high and freshmen into competition beginning at 9 a.m. with varsity and JV starting at approximately 12:30. All event throughout the day can be seen with one \$4.00 admission.

Some of the best teams in the state will be performing with last year's Class A State Champ for 2002 Rochester leading the way. Excellent teams last year's Class A state runner up Grandville, and other top teams like Hartland, Jenison, Chesaning (2002 Class B runner up), and, of course, our own very competitive Novi squad will all be there.

Novi Cheerleading Coach Amy Dony added her excited statement.

"It should be a great event with high stakes. I promise, you will be wowed by the talent."

It's a day-long event for \$4.00 with concessions and t-shirt sales (\$20 long sleeve) to carry you through the entire day of competition. You can't beat the price and the entire family will be the "give me an W, an I, a NN and an ER!"

inched even closer to Brighton and Hartland and possibly overcame one or both."

"If you know Dony, she adds the Wildcats will be there fighting for a state championship at the end of the season is not just talk. Her team maybe on the brink of going for it and an ER!"

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Trade pays off

Whalers' trade pays off in first game with win

Newly-acquired center Chris Thorburn proved to be a positive addition to the Whalers program as they skated against and defeated the Windsor Spitfires Saturday.

The Whalers went on to defeat the Spits 4-2 at Plymouth's Compuware Arena, giving them a 26-7-7-1 record in the Ontario Hockey League, first in the West Division, Windsor is 25-14-2-1.

Thorburn's first goal as a Whaler came at 12:11 of the first period. For Thorburn, acquired last week in a trade with Saginaw, it was his 20th of the season. Martin Cizek and David Liffiton assisted.

Chad LaRose made it 2-0 1:33 into the second period (Cole Jarrett and goalie Paul Drew assisting), but five minutes later Windsor got on the board with a power-play goal from Rob Hennigar. Plymouth countered with a power-play score from Karl Stewart, who took a pass from LaRose and scored to make it

3-1 at 11:02 of the second period.

LaRose's second goal of the game at 16:51 of the third period (from Ryan Ramsay and Stewart) increased the Whalers' lead to 4-1. A second power-play goal by Hennigar late in the game narrowed the gap, but it wasn't enough for Windsor.

Whalers make trade

The Whalers sent right wing Taylor Raszka, a native of Petersburg and the Whalers' number one choice in the Ontario Hockey League's entry draft last spring, to the Saginaw Spirit for center Chris Thorburn and the Oshawa Generals' second-round draft pick this year.

In terms of production, this deal would seem rather lopsided. Thorburn is 6-foot-3, 218 pounds and scored 19 goals and assisted on 38 others (57 points) for the Spirit;

he was their leading scorer. Raszka, a 6-1, 175-pound right wing, had limited playing time, with three goals and four assists in 34 games.

The reason for the Spirit to make the trade: Raszka is 16-years-old and in his first OHL season. Thorburn is 19; he'll turn 20 in June. He will play this season and could conceivably play next year as an over-ager (if he does, the Whalers will surrender a conditional fifth-round draft choice next season).

Thorburn was drafted by the Buffalo Sabres in the third round in 2001. In his last two seasons with the North Bay Centennials (who have since become the Saginaw Spirit), he scored 37 goals and assisted on 75 others.

Whalers 3, Knights 3

The Whalers had a lead against London — but they just couldn't

hold on to it. Plymouth bounced back from a 2-0 deficit with a pair of short-handed goals in the second period, then went ahead 3-2 on a power-play goal by Chad LaRose just 17 seconds into the third period (David Liffiton assisted).

The Knights earned a 3-3 draw with a goal by Kyle Piwowarczyk with 8:57 remaining, the Whalers second-straight tie.

London had the early lead on first-period goals by Matt Weir and Dennis Wideman. Plymouth closed the gap to 2-1 on Jonas Fiedler's unassisted short-handed goal at 13:40 of the second period, then tied it 13 seconds later on Tim Sestilo's score (from Sean Thompson). Both Whaler goals came with Jimmy Gagnon in the penalty box for charging.

Paul Drew stopped 32 shots in goal for Plymouth. Gerald Coleman had 34 saves for the Knights.

WL gymnasts working hard at being so good

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's not easy to take on some of the roughest teams in the area — especially when you're at their house.

The Walled Lake Gymnastics team entered into the Troy Athens Invitational to face some of the best talent in the metro area and came away with third place.

The squad, coached by Jennifer Hart, collected 133.95 points with their efforts. Host squad Troy Athens was first in the invitational competition while Livonia took second place with their abilities.

In the vault portion of the events, Stephanie Schmalz took fifth in division one with a score of 8.6, while Lindsay Brown was ninth in division two with an 8.45. Genna Borg, Amy Gursky and Sarah Chrzanowski were all tied for 10th in the second division with an 8.4.

In the bars event, Schmalz once again found herself in fifth place

with a score of 8.15 in division one, while division two found Brown in first with an impressive 8.75. Gursky collected a fourth-place finish in the second division with an 8.3, while Borg and Chrzanowski were fifth with 8.1.

The balance beam found the Walled Lake gymnasts kicking it up another notch as Schmalz took seventh in division one with a 7.85. Borg managed a first-place finish in division two with an 8.8, while Brown was sixth with 8.25 and Gursky took ninth with an 8.0.

Borg also collected a fourth-place spot in the floor exercise in division two with an 8.7, while Gursky took sixth with an 8.55.

For all-around honors, Borg was third in division two with a total of 34.00 points, Brown was fourth with 33.70 and Gursky was seventh with a 33.25.

The gymnasts will return to action when they host Northville/Novi today at 7 p.m.

Lions ambush Novi

Unsuspecting Wildcats get beat in KVC

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

No doubt, this wasn't one of the Novi wrestling team's New Year's resolutions.

The 'Cats started off the Kensington Valley Conference stretch of their schedule in a tough way, falling to the South Lyon Lions 45-29 January 10.

"We lost to South Lyon Friday in a very poor performance by us," Novi coach Brad Huss said. "We need to be improved in a hurry as we go into the remainder of the KVC, or this is going to be a long, disappointing season."

The thing that really seemed to bother Huss was the way his squad had been steadily improving up to the holiday break — and now seems to have lost most of that.

"We were improving before Christmas break, but we took a big step back," he said. "We need to refocus our efforts and dedicate

ourselves to doing a much better job than we did on Friday."

In the South Lyon match, the Wildcats were able to pull out five victories while the rest went in the favor of their rivals.

In the 103-pound weight class, Jason Sierra was able to collect a pin against Chris Mauney in three minutes, 12 seconds.

Craig Hearn continued his excellent wrestling with another pin, this one coming against Tim Tice in 1:34 in the 112 division.

In the 130-pound division, Alex Baum collected a pin against Alex Chandler in just under two minutes, while Matt Jezziro continued to improve as he notched a pin of his own in the 189 against Dan Gelmin. His time for the pin was 3:16.

This is a familiar stat: Josh Churella earned a pin in the 140-pound weight class in 1:08 as he took down Brandon Marken for yet another victory.

The Lions were no pushovers though. Josh Haron (275), Shawn LaChance (125), Cody McDaniels (152) and Jake Williamson (140) all placed at the Oakland County meet last month. In addition, Jim Rhoad has become a force for the Lions since having moved down in the lineup to the 189-pound weight division. All of them got pins to account for 27 team points.

Huss noted that he knows his team is better than just five wins in a single meet. They've proved it in the past and he knows they can prove it again.

"We can be a good team, but the guys need to step up and push themselves to be the best that they are capable of," he said.

The Wildcats will return to action when they face Hartland and Brighton tomorrow at Brighton High School before taking on a slew of talent the following day in the Detroit Catholic Central Super Duals.

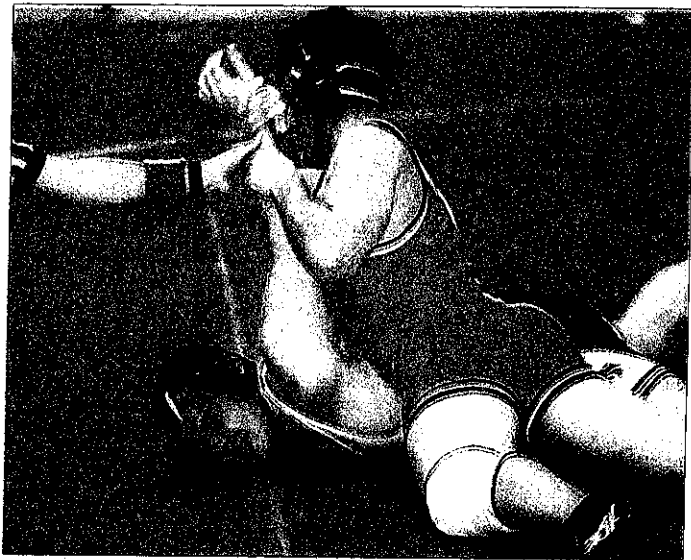


Photo by John Heider

The Northville wrestlers have been stepping up to the top of their game since losing to Novi early in the season. Here, two 215-pound wrestlers are looking to see who is going to walk away the victory.

'Cats mercy Pinkney Pirates

10-goal rule finds KVC opponents leaving early

By Ryan Edwards
SPECIAL WRITER

Shutdown and shutout — those two words best describe the way the Pinkney Pirates felt when they left Novi Ice Arena Jan. 8.

Nine different Wildcats lit the lamp in this contest, and Trent Sisson earned his first shutout of the season as Novi sunk the Pirates' ship. The white flags came out with 3:22 remaining in the game, as Novi notched a 10-0 mercy of their KVC opponent.

Less than a minute before Jordan Collins scored his second of the season, a goal that would eventually prove to be the game-winner for Novi, Pinkney's goaltender made the save of the year so far. Novi was on the powerplay and the Pirates were trying to clear the zone, but Jared Perras negated the attempt at the blue line and found teammate Robert Vulaj wide open on the opposite side of the ice.

Vulaj was just inside the face-off circle on the goalie's stick side, where he had over half of an empty net to look at. The Pinkney goalie slid across the crease to face Vulaj just as he sniped an absolute rocket towards the far, top corner. What may have been the best shot by any Wildcat on the night, turned into the best save by far. With all

of the goalie's momentum carrying him towards the nearside of the goal, he was able to make a lightning quick, magical glove-save on Vulaj's shot.

Luckily for Novi, it would be one of the few Wildcat shots he would save all night, and Collins and the 'Cats would capitalize on the powerplay opportunity mere seconds after the glove save to give Novi a 1-0 lead at the end of the first period.

The second period was the beginning of the end for Pinkney, as Novi would score nine goals in a 25-minute span stretching between the second and third periods. Dan Hunter scored his second goal of the season 1:52 into the period when he circled in front of the goal and buried the puck into the back of the net.

Two minutes later, at 2:54, Vulaj found John Murray around the goal line. He deked past one defender before scoring his fifth goal of the season.

At 8:35, Jon Jannsens made good on a second chance opportunity that doesn't come too often in sports or life. Jannsens fanned on what looked to be a great one-timer, but just when it seemed all was lost, Jannsens fooled everybody, especially the goaltender, by sliding one past him for his first goal of the season.

At 9:46, Brett Jaussi proved that it never hurts to get a little lucky. He just flipped the puck towards the goal from the blue line and it dipped and dunked its way under the goalie's leg and into the back of the net. The goal was the first of two on the night for Jaussi and gave Novi a 5-0 lead heading into the second intermission.

The Wildcats manhandled the Pirates in the third period, scoring five goals in exactly 10 minutes before mercifully sending them home on the 10-goal mercy rule.

Mario DeGrazia scored his first goal of the season in marvelous fashion, stealing the puck from one Pirate, then putting the puck through another's legs, before wristing a shot past the goaltender. A minute later, Chaz Bulbuk broke a personal four-game dry streak when he sniped a shot from the left face-off circle to the far bottom corner of the goal, dinging it in off the post. The goal was Bulbuk's 12th of the season and was assisted by Mark Eberline and Perras.

At 5:06 in the final period, Brett Jaussi made a great move past some defenders, deked the goalie and put it under his legs for his second score of the night, and his fourth on the season. He was assisted by DeGrazia.

Co-captain Garet Malott

scored his first goal of the season at 9:45 on a 4-on-4 situation. The goal was assisted by Ryan Dixon and Ray Kennedy. When Mark Eberline scored Novi's 10th and final goal of the night with 3:22 remaining in the third, it didn't have quite the excitement of a sudden-death overtime score, but it put the Pirates out of their misery just as well. The goal was Eberline's fifth of the season and was assisted on by DeGrazia, giving Novi a 10-0 victory.

Aside from the onslaught of goals the Wildcats scored, Sisson also made a couple of clutch saves, including a big one on a breakout in the second period, and he was supported by a dominant Novi defense.

The win put Novi at .500 for the season overall as they sit at 5-5-3, while raising their conference record to 2-2-1. The Wildcats head to Brighton Jan. 23 for a Kensington Valley Conference match-up with the Bulldogs before welcoming South Lyon to Novi Ice Arena Jan. 29.

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

Novi Underclassmen

JV competitive cheer 2nd place in KVC event

The Novi junior varsity competitive cheer team finished in second place in last Saturday's Kensington Valley Conference (KVC) event at Howell. The scores from this KVC competition will be combined with the KVC competition scores in Hartland on Feb. 1 to determine the 2003 KVC champion.

The Wildcat JV team finished with a total score of 741.50 (three rounds). Brighton's JV won the competition with a combined score of 799.50. Hartland was third (622 points), Howell was fourth (593), Lakeland was fifth (504.5) and Milford was sixth (446.5).

Freshman volleyball

Overall: 1-6-1; KVC: 0-2

Novi's freshman volleyball team lost a close match to Brighton last Thursday, 11-15, 7-15, 19-25. Heather McManaman led the team in serving, scoring eight straight points in the first game. Meredith Farrugia and Audrey Smith paced the Wildcats in attacking.

Freshman basketball

Overall: 4-3; KVC: 3-1

The Novi freshman basketball team broke its three-game losing streak last Friday with a narrow 37-36 victory over South Lyon. Steve Gillam led the Wildcats with 10 points, four rebounds and three

steals. Sean White came off the bench in the final quarter and sank four big free throws — the last two were made with less than 30 seconds left to pull out the victory. He had six points and six rebounds. Steve Fannon also contributed with 10 boards and three blocks.

Three days earlier, the Wildcat freshmen lost a non-league home game to Canton by three points, 51-48. Novi was led by Todd Janer with 14 points. Steve Gillam added nine points and four rebounds. Craig Lawler scored eight points.

JV basketball

Overall: 4-3; KVC: 2-2

The Novi junior varsity basketball team was outscored by 13 points in the second half and lost to rival South Lyon, 53-40, last Friday at Novi. The game was tied at halftime. Mark Moore led the Wildcats in scoring with 16 points.

Three days earlier, Novi edged Canton, 42-39. Coach Bill Kelp said his squad played its best game of the young season against the Chiefs. Mark Moore led the Wildcats with 12 points. Jordan Pustover added 10 points and hit some key free throws down the stretch.

One week earlier, Novi beat a tough Brighton squad, 39-38. Freshman A.W. Stanek hit a free throw with three seconds left in the game to seal the win. Bret Coeke led the Wildcats with 11 points, including a trio of three-point baskets. Mark Moore added 10 points.

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 Beverlin, a pitcher for the Cleveland Indians, and Larry Foala, a professional player for Detroit and New York.

The pitching camps run Jan.

11-Feb. 2 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 totalballwixom@aol.com, or check out the Web site at www.eteamz.com/totalbaseball.

AAU Basketball tryouts

The Western Wayne Wildcats 2003 Northville AAU Girls Basketball team will be holding

tryouts for the upcoming season for 11-year-olds on Jan. 17, 6:30-8 p.m. at Northville Community Center.

If you have any questions regarding the Western Wayne Wildcats AAU Basketball teams, call Kim Fiscus at (248) 380-9496 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

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

players, the Toledo Mudhens manager, former professional pitchers and college/HS coaches. Pitching, hitting and fielding are the lessons available and are by appointment only. The fees for the lessons start at \$35 per 1/2 hour or five private lessons for \$160.

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

Rec Basketball Registrations

The Northville Parks and

Recreation department is accepting final registrations for its Winter Youth Basketball Season. Several openings remain for sixth-through-eighth grade girls, eighth- and ninth-grade boys and 10th- through 12th-grade boys leagues. A waiting list has been initiated for the ninth-through 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 Jan. 18 and ending March 22. Teams will practice one or two times per week beginning Jan. 6 through

March 17.

Youth Free Throw Contest

All boys and girls ages 10-14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2003 Knights of Columbus free throw championship. The local competition for Council 11811 will be held Sunday, Jan. 19 from 2-5 p.m. at Holy Family Church Gym in Novi. The church is located at 24505 Meadowbrook Road, one-quarter mile north of 10 Mile Road.

For more information or to obtain an entry form, contact Ted Mech at (248) 478-1132.