



Novi News

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Thursday, August 21, 2003

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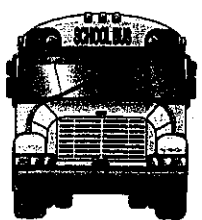
Volume 48 Number 13

Novi, Michigan

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INSIDE



Novi School Bus Schedule. Make sure your kids get on the right bus at the right time when the school year starts Aug. 25. — Pages 14-15A



Locks Of Love. Madalyn Kaltz, 15, sister of Novi's Head West salon's Natalie Kaltz, grimaces a little after owner Jeffrey West removes an eight inch-long chunk of hair for Locks Of Love. The salon is hosting a hair-drive on August 25th. — Page 18A

SPORTS

It's preview time. Football, tennis, golf, soccer, basketball... you name, Sam Eggleston's got it covered in our Fall Sports 2003 preview section. — B Section

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UNPLUGGED

BLACKOUT 2003

"The power will be back on tomorrow. This is just mass consumption at its finest... The lines are a testament to the American culture and the fear which is a byproduct of the 9-11 aftermath." — William Katz

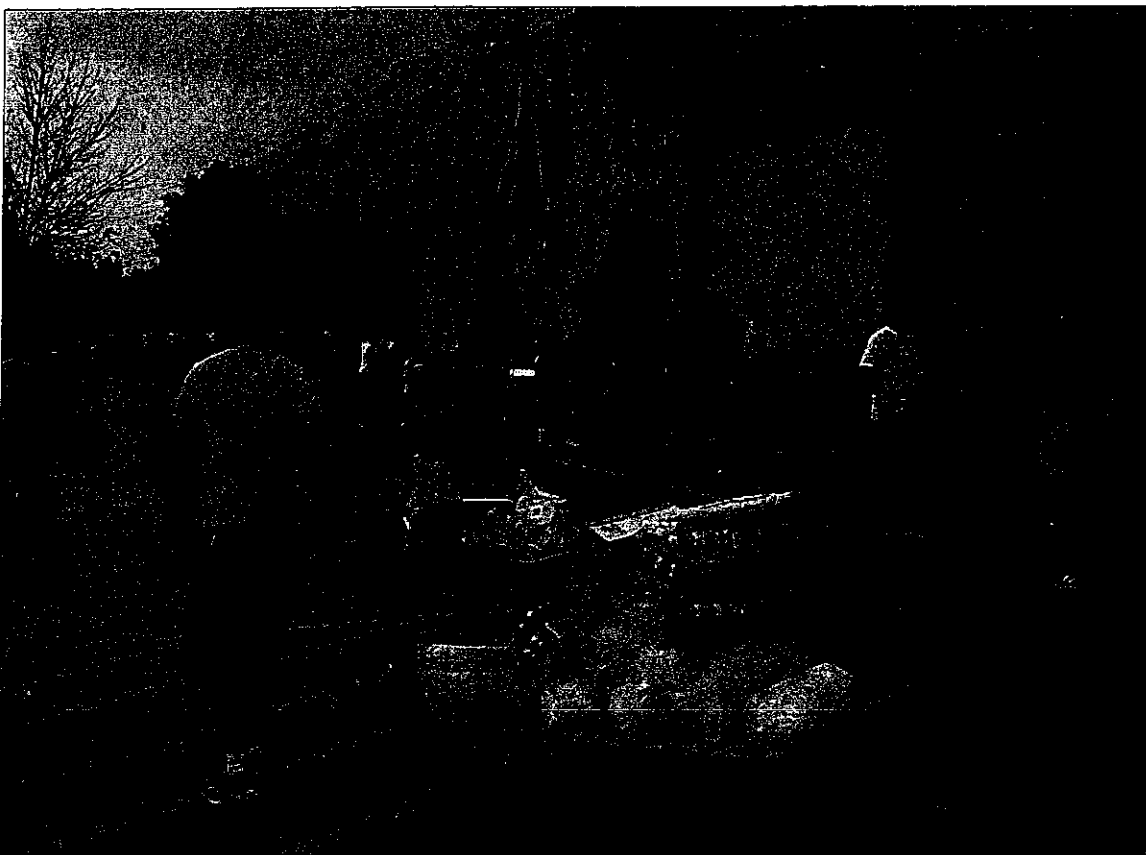


Photo by Cal Stone

Sam's Club employee William Katz wheels a cart of supplies for Farmington Hills resident Elaine Bouyer Friday morning.

Cities react to outage with remarkable calm

By Phil Foley STAFF WRITER

Calm. That was the most astounding feature of the Great Blackout of 2003 in Novi and nearby communities. While mixing together a soup of high temperatures, high humidity and darkness tends to create a brew guaranteed to aggravate ulcers at police and fire stations, law enforcement and emergency service works in Novi and surrounding areas reported a drop in workload over the week-

GOVERNMENT

end. Sitting in a darkened office late Friday, Walled Lake Police Capt. John Woychowski noted, "We've only had one small fender bender. When the lights are working, we usually get one an hour." Farther down Pontiac Trail, Wixom Police Chief Clarence Goodline said he had walked nearly two-thirds of a mile south of the Marathon gas station on

South Wixom Road chatting with motorists waiting in line for gas without finding anyone with an unkind word to say. "It's Post-911. People think differently," offered Novi Mayor Pro Tem Michelle Bononi. Noting that police and fire calls were down substantially, City Manager Rich Helwig said Novi's citizens were "just superb." Helwig noted that city Police Chief Doug Shaeffer had Novi's Emergency Operations Center up and running five minutes after the blackout hit the city.

Over the weekend city officials held eight meetings in the center, with Bononi standing in for Mayor Richard Clark and Assistant City Manager Clay Pearson standing in for Helwig. As luck would have it, both the mayor and city manager were out of town when the lights went out. "It was tough without electricity," said Bononi. She said city officials had considered establishing a curfew, but decided against it. The city's biggest initial con-

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Making the best out of a bad situation

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

They came for the necessities of life — water, ice, food, batteries, gasoline, disposable propane tanks or maybe even a place to stay. Businesses in the Northville/Novi area made the best of a bad situation Aug. 15 after the worst power outage in the nation's history tested people's patience and ingenuity.

BUSINESS

Although bottled water was available at fire stations and schools in the area, many residents came to the community well near the Waterwheel Health Club on South Main Street in Northville to fill their plastic containers. Ann Sanders and her daughter, Kris Dennard, came all the way from Detroit. "I've been coming here for 27 years," Sanders said. "We need a well like this in Detroit." Andrea Stupi of Livonia was also there to collect the needed liquid. "I knew about this well, but this is the first time I've needed it," she said. Water from the well is safe to drink, according to Shari Allen, city of Northville. "It's tested every three months," she said on Monday. David Cole, owner of Great Harvest Bread Company on Main Street in Northville, brought his bread out on the sidewalk to attract customers Aug. 15. "Whatever we don't sell, we're

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District, city team up to help citizens

Village Oaks, middle school converted into comfort stations

By Ramez Khuri STAFF WRITER

Freddy and Jason weren't the only dynamic duo pairing up last weekend. When the citizens of Novi needed it most, the city of Novi and the Novi Community School district combined their efforts to provide what they called comfort stations where people could obtain free bottled water, cool off in front of large, industrial fans and use port-a-

johns during the 2003 blackout. The stations were located at Novi Middle School and Village Oaks Elementary School starting on Thursday night and were open 24 hours a day until power was restored to the city. According to Novi Community Relations Manager Sheryl Walsh, when the power outage occurred, city officials gathered at the emergency operations center at the Novi Police Department for some brainstorming. "When we go into emergency mode, it's to maintain the safety of our community," she said. "We looked up what the needs would be for our community. Obviously with the heat, water was a major issue, sewer facilities were an issue and we started looking at

SCHOOLS

ways that we could provide those services to community members that needed it." It was obvious that large facilities were needed to provide those services, so Jim Koster, Novi Schools assistant superintendent of business and finance, was called in to help. "He came over to brainstorm at the emergency operations center with us," Walsh said. "We brainstormed where we could get generators from and what services we could provide. We looked at east end and west end locations, and we were also able to secure the Novi

Civic Center with a generator also." Ultimately, Village Oaks Elementary School was chosen as the east end location and Novi Middle School was chosen as the west end location. Walsh explained that Novi's large senior citizen population was the one that city officials worried about the most. "You worry about the heat in their homes," she said. "Also, if people called the police station in need of transportation, we could arrange that for somebody who needs to get to a comfort station." Word got out to Novi citizens about the comfort stations through flyers that were created

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Montaine Automotive Group advertisement featuring a car and the price \$237/mo.

Into the abyss
7:30 a.m.

When I left for work this morning, I wasn't sure what I was heading into. I watched the news the night before, and it appeared the power outage was, for the most part, from West Oakland County all the way to the east coast. A pocket in Lansing had been affected as well.

My 30-mile drive down a two-lane, MSO, to I-94 eastbound is business as usual. With the exception of a backed-up off-ramp in Ann Arbor, the rest of the ride to M14 east to Beck Road is normal. But then it changes.

The traffic signals are out, and vehicles are particularly cautious at each intersection. Traffic is very light, but it seems like everybody and their dogs are out walking as I come into downtown Northville. The parking lot is nearly empty; there are no cars on the street, and the only noticeable sounds are a siren here or there.

My colleagues - Chris Davis, editor of the Northville Record; Sam Eggleston, sports writer for the Record and the News; and Jennifer Walker, advertising executive for the News - are outside talking. We head inside to figure out our game plan for the day.

One of the first orders of business is to unplug our computers, copiers, etc. so when the power eventually does come back on, an electrical surge won't blow out any equipment.

We have one phone landline available. Everything else is dead. My publisher, Grace Perry, had reached me on the drive in on my cell phone and said that any writer who needs to access our server to write stories should come to our Howell office.

That's fine, but our stories aren't in Howell. For my staff, Novi is where it's happening, and it can't be covered via the phone. With nearly every business closed, my plan for us is a simple one: "Grab your camera, notepad and pen, get in your car and head into the city. Every single person you meet today is going to have a story to tell. Get as many as you can."

Come back to the city
12:30 p.m.

I head north on Novi Road with the intentions of Main Street being my first target. But a small crowd of about a dozen outside the Walgreen pharmacy at Ten Mile can't wait but catch my attention. I swing my car into the parking lot, hop out and begin talking to folks.

"This is bringing out the best in everybody," says Ron Drafiu. He's on a bicycle, as are his 9-year-old daughter, Theresa, and 12-year-old son, Ben. They're pedaling around town, curious to see what's happening. Like thousands, perhaps millions, of other individuals, Ron isn't working because the auto company that employs him is powerless.

Ron informs me that his local Walgreens is letting customers in one at a time to purchase basic necessities. "They're even giving out bottled water to everyone who's waiting," he says. "And they just gave a senior citizen medication for free."

Like most, the Drafius are making the best out of a bad situation. In their Janesstown Green subdivision home the night before, they welcomed over their new neighbors.

Most of the rest of the employees know about the decision to stay closed after the outage, says Lynda. "We need everything down, unplug the ice bin and turn everything off," she says. "We been through a few of these (outages), and we usually wait a little longer before closing."

Lynda says that when she couldn't get a hold of Detroit Edison to find out what was going on, she figured it was a little more serious than usual. And without power to run their vents and fans, there's no way to run a restaurant.

"Everything seems to be holding out good," she says of their freezer. "We've been staying out of there."

"They just moved here from Norway, and they don't have anything yet," says Ron. "We gave them a radio, flashlight and some candles. They came over and we grilled out."

Ron and his kids had just come over from the Civic Center, where he says more bottled water is being given out, and he had heard that one or two of the schools were set up as water distribution sites as well.

"Hey, you're in the news business," a man with a foreign accent says to me. "Have you heard when the power is coming back on?"



Maybe by Sunday night, or as late as next week," is a response that I find myself repeating over and over this day. The light sprinkles of rain that begin to fall offer more relief and comfort than my answer, I'm sure.

Lynda didn't know what was going to happen Saturday, when Red, Hot & Blue had "tons" of parties to cater.

"There's not enough food," she says. "I just hope they understand. If the power goes back on, we'll be here cooking and trying to catch up."

In a normal power outage, she says they'd at least be able to go to a grocery store and buy food to pull it off, but that's obviously out of the question with this outage.

Her plan is to contact those customers if and when the power is restored to see if they still want the service. With three caterings and four pickups, she estimates they could lose at least \$6,000 in business.

Another manager, Mike Boyle, comes in and jokingly asks if they could at least open the bar and drown some of their miseries.

"The taps won't work," deadpans Lynda. "And the beer would be warm."

So what's another outage? 10:55 a.m.

That's what time my watch says, but the tall, four-sided City of Novi clock at the corner of Main and Market streets is frozen at 4:07.

Sitting right by the clock are Patti Nelson and Larry Puffer, about the only individuals I see downtown right now. They're both general managers at the Mesquite Creek restaurant and they're waiting in case any employees come in to work.

"Our kitchen manager showed up and left," says Patti. Larry, who lives in Clarkston, says the power was still on at his house when he left this morning. But he and Patti are no strangers to outages.

"We're pretty used to losing power in this development," she says. "Yesterday, one of the guys at the Post Bar was on his cellphone talking to Beverly Hills and his power went out, so we knew it was something else."

Mesquite Creek had a few customers at that time, and the decision was soon made to shut it down. Again, without ventilation, even grilling is out of the question. "Our cooler is still pretty cool," says Patti. "The walk-in is at about 35 degrees and the freezer is still below freezing. We haven't opened either of them. The other refrigerated areas, what I've seen, everything else will have to be dumped."

Strange as it may seem, this outage could turn out to be less severe than the most recent one the folks at this restaurant endured. This past April, they were forced to bring in a huge semi-sized freezer that was used for a couple of weeks. Still, Patti realizes it could be worse.

"When the power went out yesterday, there were two ladies caught in that glass elevator right around the corner," she says. "The fire department had to come over and get them out - and one of the

The frozen stuff is solid, so I'm not worried about that. But our walk-in... we're obviously going to lose food - our whole dessert cooler, and half the stuff that got caught in our outside smoker."

There haven't been any physical alterations yet, says William, but some members were yelling at each other when it appeared the ice might be sold out. Fortunately, a couple more pallets of bags were located.

"The lines are a testament to how busy we are," says AL. "I've never seen anything like this."

After his UPS trucked pulls away, I realize that I should've snapped AL's picture. I follow him around the buildings to the east side of Novi Town Center where I see a woman sitting in a camp

Yes, homeowners were having a bear of a time struggling with the blackout. But what about travelers? If you were lucky enough that your flight landed before 4:07, that still didn't mean you were out of the woods.

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About 90 of his 153 rooms were occupied Thursday night. After 10 p.m., some of the guests had made the decision to head west toward Chicago in search of a hotel with power. For those that stayed, including the Michigan Milk Producers contingency, it wasn't all that bad.

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"Sir, I assure you that when the power comes back on, we will do everything we can for you," says Lenny.

The man walks away, shaking his head - not for lack of confidence in Lenny and his staff, by any means, but just at his own bad luck. "My daughter is getting married tomorrow," he's probably thinking, "and we get hit by the worst blackout in the history of North America."

"How you folks doing? I'm with the Novi News, and I'm just talking to people and seeing what's going on," I said. "Care to talk about what happened?"

"The husband, a large fellow dressed in white shorts and T-shirt, looks at his wife for a second, laughs, and says, 'Sure, why not.' His name is Sean Williams and he's from Danaville. That 2-year-old son, Mark, is in the back seat of her car fidgeting.

"Tension is high" 12:17 p.m.

All's quiet heading east on Grand River, passing through Meathookbook and heading toward Haggerty. Traffic is backing toward light in an area that's normally a driver's nightmare. I head north on Haggerty and notice quite a few vehicles at the Sam's Club store.

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"We're just taking care of business as it comes," says Li. Brad McFarlan. "We've had a few set-backs with phones, and our generator burned up. But we put in a temporary one. Fortunately, we haven't had anything major."

Brad says drivers have been "very good" about working their way through intersections. The worst time was right when the power went out, as rush hour hit and traffic increased.

Brad says the chief and assistant chief put in some long hours Thursday and Friday and finally went home to get some rest. Everything has been going smoothly. Many of the calls have been for alarms going off due to battery failure.

"We were concerned about low water pressure, but there have been no problems," says Brad. "So far, we haven't had to use any."

The only water being used is for bathing, and the firefighters are rationing that out to citizens who are stuck in a room and a brother and sister who are a brother and a sister. Although they won't reveal their names, they appear to be in their 40s and do say they live nearby.

"My mother died and her funeral is supposed to be tomorrow in Oak Park," says the woman, obviously upset but not hysterical. "We can't make a phone call to see what's going on. Our cell phone is dead too."

Half empty or half full? 2:25 p.m.

Twenty minutes. That's how long a 21-year-old Livonia woman has been parked at the Mobil gas station on the southwest corner of

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POWER

Brighton or bust
1:15 p.m.

"Pulling out of Novi Town Center and heading north on Novi Road, I spot a young couple pulling several bright red gas cans out of a car trunk in the Denny's restaurant parking lot. This will be interesting, I think.

"How you folks doing? I'm with the Novi News, and I'm just talking to people and seeing what's going on," I said. "Care to talk about what happened?"

"The husband, a large fellow dressed in white shorts and T-shirt, looks at his wife for a second, laughs, and says, 'Sure, why not.' His name is Sean Williams and he's from Danaville. That 2-year-old son, Mark, is in the back seat of her car fidgeting.

"Turns out Sean took off from their Southfield home when he heard on the radio that gasoline was available in Brighton. He didn't quite make it.

"My car just stopped on the freeway," he says. "I had to push it up the ramp."

And it being a fairly large Buick, I doubt that was an easy task even for someone as big as Sean.

He called his wife to help out. She picked him up and they went to Brighton, filled several gas cans at the BP station on Grand River and brought them back to Sean's car.

"We sat in our car 35 minutes and people were running out of gas in the line," says Sean. "I was so nervous. My initial plan was to get gas and then head to Howell to get a generator. He wasn't exactly sure of the store's name at first, but within a few seconds we had it figured out. I'll spare that owner the embarrassment of losing his store's name here.

"We called them last night, and the generators were \$550," says Sean. "Then, when we called them this morning, the price was \$1,800."

"We've got a pump pump at home," explains Davetta, "and our basement will be flooded."

When radio stations began announcing that Brighton and Flint are locations to purchase food and gas, you could almost hear the crowd booing to those areas.

"I'm in a hurry," but he does say the traffic has been pretty good.

"I've been with UPS 18 years," says AL. "I've never seen anything like this."

After his UPS trucked pulls away, I realize that I should've snapped AL's picture. I follow him around the buildings to the east side of Novi Town Center where I see a woman sitting in a camp

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Joker's wild
1:50 p.m.

Spirits are much higher a few hundred yards at the Verizon Wireless outlet where I notice an unusually high number of vehicles parked. I pull up just as a worker is closing one of their overhead doors and motions for me to go around to the front door.

Large windows let plenty of light into the front of the store, but about halfway back it's a little darker. It doesn't seem to phase the four employees sitting at a small table playing cards. In fact, they seem to be having a pretty good time after their corporate office told them to stay open.

"Actually, we're selling a whole load of cigarette adapters, or vehicle power chargers as they're now called," says Joyce Talbert, store manager.

She says nearly everybody's home phone is out, and many people with cellphones can't charge their phones using a regular wall outlet, hence the boom in "vpc" sales.

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You took charge and we felt so safe. I can't tell you what that's worth," says Colleen.

Right before I stop by, the power at Waltonwood has come back on for the 150 residents occupying 141 rooms.

Luckily, when the power went out Thursday, the staff had already prepared dinner. All they needed to do was switch to paper products and let their backup batteries power their lights.

Novi police, like Diane MacGregor, stop by frequently to make sure everything is fine with the seniors.

"The community is so supportive," says Colleen. "We have every resource imaginable available to us."

"...taking care of business" 2:20 p.m.

I leave and drive around the perimeter of Twelve Oaks Mall. Lights are on inside here and there, but there is no noticeable movement. Pulling out to on southbound Novi Road, I can see westbound I-96 traffic moving at a snail's pace while eastbound traffic is very light.

Fire Station #1 on Grand River is my next stop. The fire fighters are sure to have some stories to tell there. As I pull up, two of them run over to an emergency vehicle and speed off.

"We're just taking care of business as it comes," says Li. Brad McFarlan. "We've had a few set-backs with phones, and our generator burned up. But we put in a temporary one. Fortunately, we haven't had anything major."

Brad says drivers have been "very good" about working their way through intersections. The worst time was right when the power went out, as rush hour hit and traffic increased.

Brad says the chief and assistant chief put in some long hours Thursday and Friday and finally went home to get some rest. Everything has been going smoothly. Many of the calls have been for alarms going off due to battery failure.

"We were concerned about low water pressure, but there have been no problems," says Brad. "So far, we haven't had to use any."

The only water being used is for bathing, and the firefighters are rationing that out to citizens who are stuck in a room and a brother and sister who are a brother and a sister. Although they won't reveal their names, they appear to be in their 40s and do say they live nearby.

"My mother died and her funeral is supposed to be tomorrow in Oak Park," says the woman, obviously upset but not hysterical. "We can't make a phone call to see what's going on. Our cell phone is dead too."

Half empty or half full? 2:25 p.m.

Twenty minutes. That's how long a 21-year-old Livonia woman has been parked at the Mobil gas station on the southwest corner of

"This morning the residents, said

"We fed everyone breakfast this morning," says Lenny. "They had their meeting, and as they were leaving, they thanked us for going the extra mile to make sure everything was OK for them."

The hotel is equipped with an emergency generator that provides power for the EXIT lights, passenger elevators and computer systems. But that's little comfort to one man who exited the hotel lobby as I'm wrapping up my interview with Lenny. The man's daughter is getting married Saturday, with her reception at the Hotel Baromette.

Cities react to outage with remarkable calm

Continued from front page

area was water. Like 126 other communities in Southeast Michigan, Novi gets its water from the Detroit Water and Sewer Department. Minutes after the power failed, Novi Department of Public Works employees began observing a drop in water pressure.

Sheryl Walsh, Novi's community relations manager, said the city opened comfort stations at the Civic Center, Novi Middle School and Village Oaks Elementary School, offering bottled water. The city's Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry began delivering the first of 11,000 bottles of water to the comfort stations as well as senior citizens' homes around the city.

GOVERNMENT

In addition to having six community wells as back up to the Detroit Water and Sewer Department System, Novi's city has 1.5 million gallons of water storage for fire protection.

Novi Acting Fire Chief Jeffrey Yuchasz said his biggest concern over the weekend was that the lights would come back on, only to get knocked out again by a locally severe thunderstorm.

Yuchasz said he first realized there was a problem about 4:20 p.m. when a transformer blew on Loom Lake Road. That was followed in rapid succession by reports of blackouts and requesting traffic control assistance from the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, followed by the Oakland County Emergency Operations Center reporting that Pontiac was in the dark as well.

He said two of his paramedics were pre-call into service to help evacuate patients from Pontiac's North Oakland Medical Center, and the department set up a generator at the home of a child on a respirator. But other than that, it was fairly uneventful.

Wells until at least mid-week, just to be on the safe side.

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he laughed. "A little A/C and I'll be a happy guy."

Communication problems

In Walled Lake, Woychowski said he thought the reason people were so calm was that the blackout was so wide spread. He said his first indication of the extent of the blackout was when he noticed that all of the FM stations on the radio dial had gone off the air.

Moments later Walled Lake PD went off the air as well. Woychowski noted that while the cellphone tower that serves as the department's communications must have an emergency generator, the generator powered the cellphone equipment, but not the police department's transmitter.

Fortunately, one of Walled Lake's police officers is a former electrician and he was able to jury-rig power to the transmitter in about 20 minutes.

Novi also found itself with a communications problem Thursday night. With the lights out, most residents had neither television or radio service at home, making the city's cable system virtually useless.

Walsh said the city went door-to-door about 8:30 p.m., handing out stacks of flyers to homeowners' association presidents. Some residents, however, complained later that flyers ended up in their mailboxes where they didn't think to look because mail service was suspended.

Bononi, who once lived through a three-day blackout in New England, said Novi was fortunate that the event was as brief as it was. "If it had gone on longer, figuring out how to feed people would have been a real challenge," she said.

While no major incidents were reported in Novi, Wixom or Walled Lake during the blackout, officials in all three communities are planning staff meetings to discuss improving their emergency response.

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

Novi Police Chief Doug Shaeffer (left), Assistant City Manager Clay Pearson and Community Relations Manager Sheryl Walsh discuss the city's response to the largest power outage in the nation's history as other city employees man the phones in the background.

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"We've got \$4,000 worth of melted ice cream and spoiled milk plus at least a \$2,000 loss in sales so far," Canzano said.

"We're using a solar-powered calculator for our sales," he noted. "It's not going to be a break-even situation."

Canzano said ice, batteries, coffee and cold beverages were in demand.

"I wish we had a nudge ice machine and a magic coffee machine that operated without electricity," he said. "People came in late in the morning looking for coffee, which is usually an early-morning thing. I think a lot of people were hung over," Canzano said.

"And people kept coming in and asking, 'Can we get a Slurpee?'" Overall, shoppers were surprised and glad that the convenience store was open.

"People have been so grateful," Canzano said.

Gasoline was a hot ticket in the area Aug. 15, too, as cars lined up at area pumps. Motorists crowded into the Marquette station at the corner of Ten Mile and Meadowbrook roads the afternoon of Aug. 15 even though there was no power.

"People saw the power come on across the street at Farmer Jack and came over, but we don't have any power yet," said Kevin Sorel, owner of the busy station.

"And it takes about 20 minutes for the computers to start working once the power comes on," he added.

"They see the line, so they keep coming."

Drivers were also lined up around the corner at the Mobil gas station at Eight Mile and Tenth roads about 5 p.m. Aug. 15.

Power was restored to the Novi Ice Arena about 4 p.m. Aug. 15, but after 24 hours, a lot of melting took place. "Our ice has been extremely affected. We're trying to take care

of it right now," said an arena spokesperson late that afternoon.

Many restaurants were limited in what they could serve or closed due to a contaminated water supply. The McDonald's Restaurant at Twelve Oaks Mall was still closed the morning of Aug. 16. The one on Haggerty Road between Eight Mile and Nine Mile had only certain beverages available, and no coffee.

James Ray, a cook at The Starting Gate restaurant/bar in downtown Northville, was seen working on his generator the morning of Aug. 15.

"We've already written off the food. We're just making sure our electrical system still works so we can keep the lights on for cleaning," Ray said.

The Meijer Pharmacy at the corner of Eight Mile and Haggerty roads didn't have to close at all during the outage. And with rumors that some pharmacies were charging \$20 a bag for ice, residents were certainly glad when the water supply returned to normal.

"I've been trying to pull staff from other stores, but you can't get in touch with them. I would love for some people to come in," he said.

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Making the best out of a bad situation

Continued from front page

giving to the Gleaners [Community Food Bank] later tonight," Cole said.

"A lot of people are stopping just to socialize and ask questions. We're becoming electricity experts," he said. He planned to stay open until about 4 p.m.

Hiller's Market on Center Street in Northville was one of the few markets open throughout the 24-hour blackout with the use of generators.

"We were really busy early in the morning. We opened an hour early because there were people standing outside the door. We just couldn't turn them away," said Doug Nield, a manager at the market, on Aug. 15.

"We've had lots of calls about water. In fact, we sold about eight pallets of bottled water," Nield said. "Water, ice, batteries and ready-to-eat foods were top requests from consumers."

"We ran out of ice Friday morning, but we have had a few extra deliveries of bottled water," Nield said. "Lunch meats, hot dogs and barbecued foods were popular. People were buying food for a meal, not for a week."

"We sold out of all our generators, oil lamps, propane tanks and flashlights that we had batteries for," said Mike Cavenly, assistant manager of Brookside Hardware.

"We couldn't pump propane for customers since the pump requires electricity," he added. Managers closed the store close about 8:45 p.m. both Aug. 14 and Aug. 15 as darkness set.

Adrian Forester, a resident of Northville, shopped for batteries in the dark at Brookside.

"A lot of people are set up for this type of emergency," he said. "I

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District, City team up to help citizens

(Continued from front page)

Patrol Officers were about starting at 8:30 p.m. while knocking on doors and talking to the flyers. Novi residents Randall Rumpf and Bill were appreciative of the officers and took full advantage of the bottled water.

"The blackout has been a pain," said Rumpf, who lives in the area. "The house is hot and the toilets aren't working. I was kind of surprised that they were doing more reading than watching television."

SCHOOLS

Novi also used the middle school station. He lives in a condominium complex where the power was out and there are no air conditioning units.

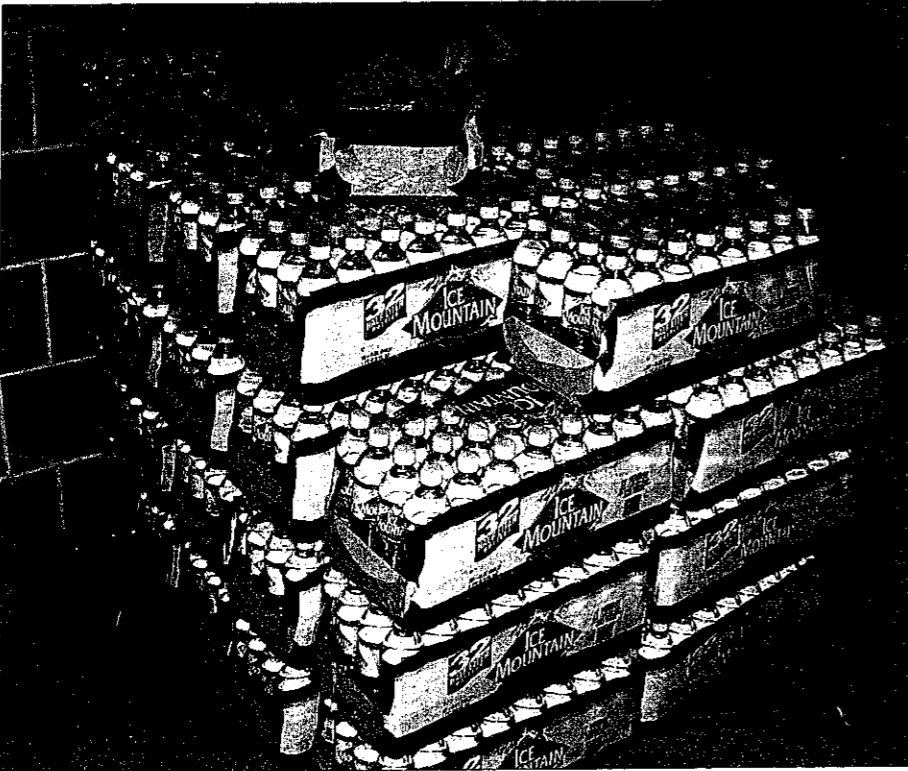
"I had my car locked in there," said Rumpf. "The complex helped me get around and get the door unlocked so I can get the car out. With the power out, the city sent around a generator over here to the middle school to power the rest facilities."

"I had that had picked up a generator and had it in the parking lot. I was able to recharge it and use it to power the rest facilities."

"I was just kind of coping with the power out and we're not sure what our plans will be for the rest of the night," said Rumpf. "I really wish everybody as everybody should try to have some bottled water, I think that's a good idea."

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"Mostly this blackout has affected work. The house is hotter than normal and it's going to get hotter. The toilets aren't working, and I was kind of surprised that happened so fast. Other than that, we are doing more reading than watching television."

Randall Rumpf
Novi resident

(Photo by Ramrez Khuri)
The Novi Middle School comfort station had an endless supply of bottled water that Novi citizens could obtain.

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Partygoers Gather In Novi To Find Out What The Buzz Is About

Fox Run Rolls Out the Red Carpet for its Premiere Celebration

Novi, MI—The spotlight was on Fox Run this month as Oakland County's new resort-style community hosted a spectacular Premiere Celebration. More than 500 guests walked the red carpet to preview the fantastic 52,000 square foot *Astor Clubhouse*. They were treated to delicacies created by Fox Run's own *Chef de Cuisine Terry Shuster*, and enjoyed live musical entertainment while touring the Clubhouse and the three new, decorated model floor plans.

Guests included the more than 60 pioneer community members (the stars of the show), local dignitaries and Erickson officials, plus more than 400 members of the

Standby Priority List—those waiting for an opportunity to reserve a new home at Fox Run.

I was honored to introduce a moving video highlighting the pioneers' year leading up to this momentous celebration. As the person lucky enough to bring the new community members' to this



(above) More than 500 community members, future residents and guests walked the red carpet from the ceremony tent to the Premiere of the 52,000 sq. ft. *Astor Clubhouse*. (right) Fox Run's Chef de Cuisine Terry Shuster delighted guests with his specialties.

"smarter way to live" in Oakland County, I was delighted to take part in the Ribbon Cutting ceremony officially opening the doors of the community.

After seeing Fox Run firsthand, many Standby guests were so impressed, they tried to reserve their apartment home on the spot! Such incredible demand has resulted in record-breaking reservation numbers at Fox Run as word spreads about this incomparable lifestyle of endless opportunities, excellent services and unmatched amenities.

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The Fox Run Premiere Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. (l. to r.) Clay Pearson, Asst. Manager City of Novi, Sharon Pearson—pioneer, U.S. Congressman Thaddeus McCotter, Mary Kay Ulrich—pioneer, Craig Erickson—Erickson Chief of Staff, Carolyn Ives—Campus Expert, Roy & Barbara Birmingham—pioneers, Jeff Ferguson—Erickson Pres. of Operations and Management, Mike McCormick—Executive Director of Fox Run, Barbara Given—pioneer. (Inset) Carolyn greets the many guests who she's introduced to this "smarter way to live."

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POLICE REPORT

Home burglarized

A 47-year-old Novi man told Officer Kristie Gruenwald at 3:33 p.m. Aug. 11 that his Miquelon Street residence was burglarized while he was at work. He said more than \$170 damage was done. There are suspects.

Identity stolen

A 32-year-old Novi man told Officer Kristie Gruenwald Aug. 11 that while doing a credit report check he discovered that someone had used his identity to open an Ameritech account between May 20 and June 20 1997, generating a bill of \$738.76.

Windmill tossed

A 46-year-old Novi woman told Officer Kevin Gilmore Aug. 11 that someone took a decorative windmill from the yard of her Arizona Street home and threw it through a storm window. She estimated damage at \$100.

Identity stolen II

A 25-year-old Novi man told Officer Kristie Gruenwald Aug. 12 that someone used his identity to open an Ameritech account in Detroit, generating a bill of \$3,942.86.

Shoplifter bagged

Officer Kristie Gruenwald charged a 23-year-old woman with retail theft after loss prevention officers at Marshall Fields told her the

woman tried to take \$423 worth of merchandise from the store without paying for it. They also told Officer Gruenwald that they recovered \$71.50 worth of items taken from New York & Company and \$12 worth of items taken from Bath & Bodyworks. Investigators later learned the woman was being sought on a Livingston County warrant charging her with failure to appear for an earlier misdemeanor warrant.

Mailbox mashed

A 54-year-old Novi woman reported Aug. 12 that someone smashed the mailbox at her home near 10 Mile Road and Cidermill Street. She estimated the damage at \$75.

Erratic driver

Officer Jason Meier stopped a 1993 Ford Explorer on I-96 near Novi Road after he observed it driving erratically at 2:26 a.m. Aug. 12. He charged the 18-year-old woman driving with operating under the influence of liquor after she failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .117. She was later released after posting a \$100 bond.

Warrant arrest

Officer Craig Felix stopped a Plymouth Breeze at 11:27 p.m. Aug. 13 after he clocked it traveling 58 mph in a 40 mph zone on Eight Mile Road near Meadowbrook. He took the 63-year-old Detroit man

driving into custody after he discovered the man was being sought by the Oakland County Sheriff's Office on an unspecified warrant. The man was released to sheriff's deputies.

Garage vandalized

A 42-year-old Novi man told Officer Steven Balog Aug. 17 that someone threw a brick at the garage door of his residence near Meadowbrook and 10 Mile roads. He estimated damage at \$500.

Alcohol arrest

Officer Jonathan Patton charged a 26-year-old Walled Lake woman with operating under the influence of liquor following a traffic stop near 10 Mile Road at 1:53 a.m. Aug. 14. The woman reportedly registered a blood alcohol content of .19. She was later released after posting a \$100 bond.

Slow down

Officer Jeremy Stempin stopped a 1998 Ford Contour at 2:04 a.m. Aug. 14 on Novi Road near Galway after he clocked it traveling 55 mph in a 40 mph zone. He charged the 22-year-old Canton woman driving with operating under the influence of liquor after she failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .18. She was later released after posting a \$100 bond.

Deck theft

Officer Louis Bigliardi Aug. 13 that someone stole two resin end tables and a clay pot, worth \$60, from the

Marijuana bust

Officer Brian Tillman charged a 23-year-old New Hudson man with violation of the controlled substance act and operating under the influence of liquor following a traffic stop on Novi Road near Flint Street at 12:31 a.m. Aug. 13. According to reports, the man failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .127. Officer Tillman said he recovered a small amount of marijuana and a moush clip from under the drivers seat during a search of the car.

Blinking light

Officer Jason Meier stopped a 2000 Chevrolet Impala after it ran a blinking red light on Meadowbrook at 9 Mile Road at 5:54 a.m. Aug. 13. He charged the driver, a 24-year-old Livonia woman, with operating under the influence of liquor after she failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .198. She was later released after posting a \$70 bond.

Not funny

A 24-year-old Novi man told Officer Andrew Hudechek that his

2003 Jeep Liberty had been stolen from his home near Hidden Cove and Longpoint Streets. While Officer Hudechek was taking his report, one of the man's friends called to say he'd taken the vehicle as a joke and was returning it.

A few

The driver of a 2000 Jeep told Officer Leonard Lowen following a traffic stop on Meadowbrook near I-96 that he'd had "a few" at JW's Bar. The 24-year-old Farmington Hills man was charged with operating under the influence of liquor after he failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .15. He was later released after posting a \$100 bond.

Too fast

Officer Brian Tillman charged a 24-year-old South Lyon man with operating under the influence of liquor after he reportedly clocked the man's Pontiac Grand Prix traveling 51 mph on a section of Novi Road posted for 40 mph. According to reports, the man registered a blood alcohol content of .16 after failing field sobriety tests. He was later released on a \$100 bond.

Car damaged

A 48-year-old Walled Lake woman told Officer Diane MacGregor Aug. 16 that someone attempted to burglarize her car while it was parked overnight at the Hotel Barometre on Novi Road. Aug. 14. She said the door frame was dented and the window seat torn.

Failed test

Officer Jason Meier stopped a 1998 Cadillac Seville on I-96 near Beck Road at 3:13 a.m. Aug. 17. He charged the driver, a 21-year-old Commerce Township man with operating under the influence of liquor after the man failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .13.

Tools taken

A 33-year-old Novi man told Officer Steven Balog Aug. 17 that someone broke into the garage of his LeBost Street residence overnight and took \$390 worth of power tools.

Erratic driving II

Officer Erick Zinser stopped a

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Meadowbrook Photo staff preserves precious memories

■ New one-stop shop houses, lab, studio, gives online service

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Jim Manetta, general manager of the new Meadowbrook Photo in Novi, has some sound advice for those who treasure their photographs: "Don't lose your memories to ink."

He explained that many people don't realize that photos printed on inexpensive photographic paper from low-resolution color printers can actually fade over time.

"They will fade to the point of becoming unrecognizable and can actually fade pretty quickly, depending on the quality of the ink and paper. We're going to have a 'memory cap' because of photos that were printed on ink jet printers," Manetta said.

That's why precious family photographs should be printed on high-quality photographic paper using a high-resolution printer.

"These photos will last 100 years or longer," Manetta said.

Meadowbrook Photo, located at 24300 Meadowbrook on the northeast corner of Meadowbrook and Ten Mile roads, formerly housed Timeless Photo & Imaging, which went out of business about a year ago.

"I was involved with Timeless Photo and was hired to stay when it

changed ownership and was renamed Meadowbrook Photo," Manetta said.

The new business is one of the first 10 nationally certified digital print processors in the nation. "We're also a member of the Independent Photo Imagers Association," Manetta said.

The former one-hour photo shop has expanded to include an in-store studio. The shop specializes in passport and immigration photographs for adults and children, including infants.

"Fading passport photos is a very exacting process," Manetta added. "Even Kinko's refers people to us."

Patrons may be able to obtain passport photos while they wait, depending on how busy the lab is at the time.

Meadowbrook Photo can also print posters and enlargements from 44 inches wide up to 100 feet long.

Recently, the shop took pictures of all of the Novi firefighters for their identification cards as well as a large composite photo that will hang on the fire station on Market Street in the Main Street, Novi area.

"We also do laminating, embroidery and photo transfer of images on clothing, mugs and mousenpads," Manetta said.

Patrons can bring in photographs and have them scanned. The shop staff digitize it so that it can be stored on a regular computer disk or CD, too.

"That's been a pretty popular service lately," Manetta said.

Although the store is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and has a 24-hour

drop box on the front of the store, most customers prefer to use the business' online service at <http://meadowbrookphoto.com>.

Other services the shop provides include event and portrait photography. "We'll even shoot pictures for class reunions on site," Manetta said. "We shoot a lot of portraits of area business people."

Since Meadowbrook Photo has a lab as well as a studio, turnaround time for photos is fast.

"We'll event do digital prints while you wait, depending on the quantity and what's going on that day," Manetta said.

The store also has a good working relationship with Meadowbrook Art Center just around the corner at 41200 Ten Mile Road in Novi.

"We try to work with the community on different fundraising activities, too," Manetta said.

Meadowbrook Photo is also one of the first labs in the country to offer online digital photo print processing, Manetta noted.

"We ship photos all over the U.S., to U.S. possessions, military bases and ships worldwide. Did you know that every U.S. military ship has a zip code?" he added. "We're always monitoring our online requests," Manetta said.

Manetta also suggests to those with digital cameras to set the resolution on their cameras to "high" rather than the "low" setting.

"If you set it on low resolution, you can take more pictures, but the quality is not nearly as good. Don't be penny wise but pound foolish," he said. "High resolution pictures are the best."

For more information about the



Cheryl and Jim Manetta talk in front of the lobby of their newly-refurbished Meadowbrook Camera shop on Meadowbrook Road in Novi. Much of the interior has been redone in the shop that used to sport the name 'Timeless Photo and Imaging'.

latest in photography services, call Meadowbrook Photo at (248) 919-3211 or check out the business' Web site at <http://meadowbrookphoto.com>.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pffleming@ht.homecomm.net.

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The winner is "Final Cut Video Services"

At the annual nationwide convention for Home Video Shops, Norm and Patty Sophia have recently been awarded two awards for "The Best Photo Keepsake Video" and "Most Improved Studio for 2002-03." Presented by HVS of Indianapolis, Ind., the training featured workshops on a host of subjects related to the video production business. Of particular importance was an eight-hour workshop on Final Cut Pro video editing software that Patty Sophia calls the "heart of our video production studio."

Located in Novi, Final Cut Video offers a wide variety of video services to individuals and businesses. "This training," says Sophia, "enables us to do better work, faster for our customers. It's really cutting edge software, and the NVSI training was intense and superb!"

Jason Stuart of Video Consultants, Inc. (Irvine, Calif.) who served as the instructor in Las Vegas, calls this newest release of Final Cut Pro, "the absolute finest software for video editing available anywhere for the Macintosh system today." The powerful program gives the video editor (like the Sophia's) the ability to do "nondestructive, nonlinear video editing just like the big TV studios do in a small business environment."

According to Patty Sophia, "I've been working with Final Cut Pro and the difference between television station quality and our final product is indistinguishable." In fact, a lot of TV stations are using the software in their edit bays.

The Sophia's started Final Cut Video Services in the Spring of 2000 to offer unique and affordable custom video services that are hard to find in the metropolitan Detroit area. "We love working with families most," says Patty. "It's just a thrill to see their faces when they view their finished video."

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CLASS NOTES

Ramez Khuri, school reporter (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net

Budget agreement signing means good news for Novi's schools

■ Granholm supports \$6,700 basic foundation for students

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Jennifer Granholm recently signed a state budget agreement which she believes is perhaps the most pro-education budget in the history of this state. According to www.michigan.gov, the budget signing means that K-12 school aid will be protected in full. Michigan will begin to bridge the digital divide for middle school students, high school students will be able to rely on Merit scholarships and the youngest children will get a head start on their education because early childhood education will be preserved.

Granholm signed the state budget agreement which states that the \$6,700 basic foundation grant for students will stay in tact. The biggest hit, however, that the Novi Community School District took is in the adult education program, which took a 75-percent cut.

Despite that, Emmett Lippe, Superintendent for the Novi Community School District, is

happy with the new development. "We have been counting on the \$6,700 all year," he said. "Early on we were told that both the house and the Governor would be supporting the \$6,700. So, the bill that she signed just recently formalizes what we have been told all along and promised. I was glad to see it happen and it goes right in with what was projected in our budget. While we certainly would like to see an increase we certainly are happy that there hasn't been a decrease for this coming year."

Brian Whitson, director of governmental services for Oakland Schools is pleased as well. He explained that with the signing of the budget agreement, the school funding is going to be the same from the previous year. "I think the biggest thing is we protected some things we thought we were going to lose," he said. "Our funding is going to be the same as from the previous year. So, from that perspective we didn't lose anything. But I think specifically to Novi, they were at risk of losing some of their hold harmless money, which would have been roughly \$50 a student they could have lost. But they didn't. That would have been a big chunk."

The hold harmless millage brings the \$6,700 up to roughly \$8,000 per student, which the Novi Community School District could have easily lost. "That is a

substantial part of our budget," Lippe said. "That's a per student allocation that comes from our state. Without that, if we didn't have the \$6,700, we would just not be able to exist because that's the major portion of our revenue." Another aspect of the budget agreement that Granholm signed provides funding for school districts in Michigan to participate, if they so choose to, in a program that will put either a laptop computer or a Palm Pilot in every sixth grader's hand this fall. The opportunity will be there for that, but all the districts will have to determine if they can afford to do it or not. There is \$39 million in the budget for it and it's going to be a lease program for most likely four years and districts will have to pay some portion of the cost.

The agreement also affects the Merit Scholarship Award. Under the current law, high school students can receive up to \$2,500, which is paid out over two years in college, for a combination of MEAP tests and ACT scores. That's going to stay the same as opposed to making it a \$500 scholarship which is based on financial need.

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.



Photo by John Heider

Hot tunes
A line of trumpeters and other brass instruments lines up last Thursday morning in the humid, warm morning air at Novi High School practice for the marching band's upcoming season of half-time presentations.

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SCHOOL BRIEFS

Tentative teacher contract agreement reached

A tentative teacher contract agreement has been reached between the Novi Community School District and all of its teachers. According to Bob Schram, executive director of human resources, a full bargaining team meeting took place on Aug. 13 with the teachers association and both sides seem happy with the agreement.

"I'm not at liberty to divulge any of the terms because it's going through the gratification

Meeting in the dark

Despite the loss of power last Thursday, the Novi Community School District Board of Education held its regularly scheduled meeting at 7:30 p.m., albeit for only about three minutes. That was enough time, however, to approve teachers who are being recommended to be put under contract for the upcoming school year. Look for a feature on all the new Novi teachers in an upcoming edition of the Novi News.

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SCHOOL BRIEFS

Novi Co-Op hires Williams

Novi Co-Op Preschool will have a second extraordinary teacher this fall. Joan Williams will be joining Tracey Smith to pursue her passion of teaching children. Williams was the associate principal of Early Childhood Education at Our Lady of Sorrows School in Farmington since 1997 and has nearly 30 years of preschool teaching and administration experience.

When she decided to get back to teaching, Williams and the Novi Co-Op Preschool took advantage of the opportunity to get her on board.

Williams has an extensive background in early childhood education, including teaching, administration, and specialized training. She specializes in working with children with special needs, including children with autism, speech and language skills, and children with emotional and behavioral issues. She will be working in the summer of 1999, she represented the Archdiocese of Detroit in Early Childhood at the Ready To Learn Leadership Summit which is a call-to-action group dedicated to building awareness in the state of Michigan for quality childcare. She works with many college program directors to insure that early childhood education programs are preparing students who enter the field of early childhood education to be adequately trained.

"Different People... Common Ground"

Walled Lake Schools is hosting the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) to present a three-part dialogue series, "Different People... Common Ground," from 5:30 p.m.-9 p.m., Oct. 13, 20 and 27 at Walled Lake Central High School.

Alex Bender, Twin Beach Elementary principal and chair of the district diversity initiatives,

said the dialogue sessions are intended to examine personal beliefs and improve inter-group relations throughout our community. Parents, community members, staff members and those interested in open, honest dialogue on diversity issues are encouraged to attend. The sessions will be facilitated by consultants from NCCJ.

"Above all else, the 'Different People... Common Ground' dialogues give people from different perspectives and backgrounds the opportunity to see and understand that pieces of the human experience are common to us all, an important step in the process of building a more inclusive and respectful community," Bender said.

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Alex Bender, by calling (248) 956-4232. The cost of the three-part series is \$10 including dinner. You will be asked to complete a brief registration form prior to the first session.



Courtesy photo

Nice day for a car wash!

"The Novi High School junior varsity and Freshman Cheer Leader Squads held a car wash last Saturday and would like to thank all the community members that stopped by and supported their effort."

ON CAMPUS

Kirk Gabriel, Brent Pawlak and Stephen Schroyer, of Novi; Katherine Carlson and David Harrington of Walled Lake; and Jason Maes of Wyand are among the graduates of Michigan Technological University during spring 2003 commencement exercises.

Novi residents Kimberly Keller and Emily Williams were among the graduates of Central Michigan University during spring 2003 commencement exercises.

A number of area students, including Novi's Ronak Vashi, recently participated in the Explorations in Engineering Workshop at Michigan Tech University. This program allows middle- and high-school students to take part in a week-long investi-

gation of careers in engineering and science. Participants are able to experience informative sessions and discussions lead by educators, university faculty and practicing minority engineers. Each session includes a laboratory experience and a group engineering project and provides time to interact with role models and talented peers.

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Family Pack

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Cheese Creations, 16 oz.

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Civil War band heads to Jackson

5th Michigan Regiment to perform this weekend

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

If you're a Civil War buff and enjoy music, consider making a trip to Cascade Falls in Jackson, Mich., this weekend.

One of the largest Civil War reenactments in the Midwest is planned, with about 2,000 reenactors attending. The free event begins at 9 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Several local members of the 5th Michigan Regiment Band will perform in conjunction with two mock battles planned there.

The battles will include the Battle of Stone River on Saturday and the Attack at Chickasaw Bluff Sunday.

Carol Smith of Brighton, president of the band and former longtime resident of Novi, said band members traveled to Campbellsville, Ky., July 26-27, for the National Civil War Band Festival.

"Fourteen Civil War period bands were there from Pennsylvania, Georgia, Maryland, California, Texas, New Mexico, Illinois, Alabama, Kentucky, Wisconsin and Michigan," she said. "At the event in Jackson, they'll have a drill with the soldiers, a North and South encampment, and a civilians camp. Another area, special impressions, will have a person portraying President Abraham Lincoln and another portraying Gen. Ulysses Grant. Another

group called Suters will have items to sell. There will be about 50 to 55 Suters selling their wares," Smith said.

A nursing station, known as the Sanitary, will also be on hand in Jackson. Food vendors are also scheduled for both days. A dance is planned on Saturday night, and dancers must be dressed in period attire. A church service is set for 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

"A Civil War band should have about 18 musicians," Smith added.

"Some of the bands had as few as five, but one had 25 musicians." Two host bands were on hand at the Campbellsville event in July — the Old Town Brass Band from Huntsville, Ala., and the Saxton Cornet Band from Lexington, Ky. "Last November we were asked to apply for this particular event. They only took 12 bands. Each band played two concerts, and there was also a mass band concert the evening of July 26," Smith said.

The National Civil War Band Festival is scheduled every three years at the same location. Campbellsville University hosted the event.

Smith said she and her husband, Guy, have been involved in the band for many years. "Guy and I got involved in the band 1979 when we lived in Novi. Guy directs the band and plays bass saxhorn, which is comparable to the tuba. There are three types of saxhorns — an upright, a frontal and an over-the-shoulder," Smith said.

"Guy has an upright and an over-the-shoulder, and they're both antiques. The over-the-shoulder one has been traced to a Civil War musician from Wisconsin," she said.



Photo courtesy Carol Smith

Members of the 5th Michigan Regiment Band in Campbellsville, Ky., recently for the National Civil War Band Festival included front row, from left: Mickey Soller, Carol Bauer, Dave Zielke, Linda Kurtli, Carol Smith, president of the band, and Mary McFarland. Second row, from left, are Jason Vitez, Dan Rossi, Mary Davidson, Guy Smith, Gordon Seiler, Gene Kramer and Ronnie Kadykowski. Third row, from left: Jerry Bauer, Doug MacQueen, Carol MacQueen, Dick Hedman, Ann Gabbhart and John Kurtli. Fourth row, from left: Don McFarland, Bob Anderson and Jennie Ross.

"I am one of the support personnel, and I dress in the ladies period attire. I wear seven layers of clothing," she said. "I have 17 different outfits."

Participants must be dressed in period clothing to be a band member. "They even have to wear period eyeglasses and carry pocket watches — no wristwatches," she said.

"We have three components. A color guard is also part of each band. They carry the ribs, the national flag of the Civil War and

the brigade flag." The Fifth Michigan Regiment Band has 32 members from Michigan and Ohio.

Members from this area include Jerry and Carol Bauer of Novi; Gene Kramer of Northville; Linda and John Kurtli of Novi; Judy and Doug McQueen of Novi; Mickey and Gordon Seiler of Wixom; Dave and Deborah Zielke of Walled Lake and Robert Anderson of Novi.

"The band is patterned after a unit that actually came out of this area. They were mustered into

service Aug. 28, 1861, at what is now Historic Fort Wayne in Detroit," Smith said.

"We have a love of history and particularly music of this period. We would like to help educate people about the Civil War," she said.

"There were more songs written during the Civil War than any other war in our history," Smith added. Bands will present about five concerts each day in Jackson this weekend. CDs and audiotapes will also be available for sale. "Jackson's our biggest seller. Our

two new CDs were released July 3. Now we have four CDs."

"It's a free family outing, and we're a very compatible group. Guy reorchestrates all the music from our group. There's a lot of sharing that goes on."

For more information, visit the 5th Michigan Regiment Band Web site at www.m5th.org.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.home.com.net.

Heartfelt thanks from the Botsford Health Care Continuum to our heroes:

The employees, patients, families, community members, business partners and others who helped us meet the challenge of the power outage. We are grateful for your resourcefulness, commitment and goodwill.

A special thank-you to:

- ...Botsford General Hospital's plant technicians who shifted seamlessly to generator power when the lights went out, ensuring that patients' critical needs were met;
- ...members of the nursing staff who worked long hours under difficult conditions;
- ...the Sodexo Food Service and Environmental staff whose jobs were made even more difficult with no running water;
- ...the mothers of five babies born at the hospital while the power was off;
- ...the lab, pharmacy and x-ray staffs who made their systems work, even in the heat...

- ...the Central Services employees who normally sterilize equipment but prepared and delivered patient food trays and all other employees who offered to step in where needed;
- ...the staff of Botsford Commons Assisted Living and the Botsford Continuing Health Center who made residents as comfortable as possible while managing to find the resources for a community barbecue feast;
- ...our patients' families who not only stopped in to provide love and support but also cheerfully followed our request to visit briefly and not strain the limited resources...

- ...paramedics from the Community EMS facility in Zanesville, Ohio, who arrived with ambulances, bottled water and extra pairs of trained hands to help with the area emergency;
- ...the National Guard Unit from Grayling that arrived Friday afternoon with "a water-buffalo trailer" holding 500 gallons of much-needed H₂O;
- ...vendors, such as McKesson Medical-Surgical, that swiftly responded to our unusual requests and special needs without regard for "normal business hours";
- ...the Emergency Department staff who made sure that all members of the community continued to have access to health care services;
- ...our neighborhood Target store that donated 60 cases of bottled water;
- ...and countless others who helped to make a difference.

The power outage put Botsford Health Care Continuum to the test, and we stood up to this challenge. We are ready to handle emergencies and disasters for the community 24 hours a day, seven days a week, because at Botsford... It's not just what we do. It's how we do it.

28050 Grand River Avenue, Farmington Hills, MI 48336



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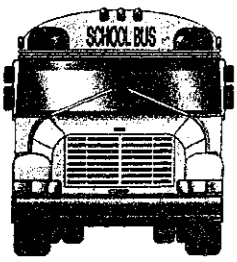
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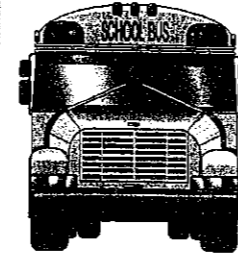
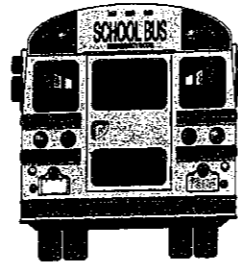
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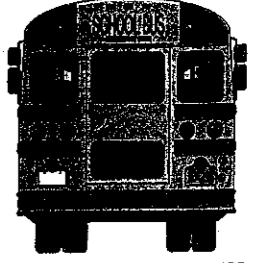
4770 GRAND RIVER NOVI, MI
CORNER OF BECK RD AND GRAND RIVER. (M-F 10A-7P) (SAT 10A-5P) (SUN BY APPT.)



NOVI SCHOOL DISTRICT 2003-04 BUS SCHEDULE



NOVI SCHOOL DISTRICT 2003-04 BUS SCHEDULE



Deerfield Elementary

BUS 1	POTOMAC & CONGRESS
BUS 2	FOUNTAIN PARK DR N & FOUNTAIN
BUS 3	JR BLVD & GORNAIDA ST
BUS 4	LOWERY ST & RUSTON BLVD
BUS 5	GORNAIDA ST & RUSTON BLVD
BUS 6	LINCOLN ST & HARRISON ST
BUS 7	4143 GLYME CT
BUS 8	4156 FAWN TR
BUS 9	4136 LLEWELYN DR
BUS 10	4146 LORAC LN
BUS 11	PELLSTON DR & GLEN HAVEN CIR
BUS 12	GLADWIN DR & GLEN HAVEN CIR
BUS 13	VERANDA DR & EMILY CT
BUS 14	2512 HICKORY GROVE DR
BUS 15	HARVEST DR & GREENING DR
BUS 16	ADW RD & ALCOHUM DR
BUS 17	SAGEBRUSH & CITATION
BUS 18	LOCURISHEN WAY & BOLLIER CT
BUS 19	COVESIDE CIR & LONG POINTE W
BUS 20	LONG POINTE WAY & BROKEN ST
BUS 21	2424 CAVENDISH AVE W
BUS 22	2250 CASCADE DR
BUS 23	2185 SIEGAL DR
BUS 24	22139 SHADYBROOK DR
BUS 25	22004 GREENTREE LN
BUS 26	21762 SHADYBROOK DR
BUS 27	SHADYBROOK DR & CLOVER LN
BUS 28	SUNRISE BLVD & LADENE LN
BUS 29	SUNRISE BLVD & MILL RD
BUS 30	22139 SHADYBROOK DR
BUS 31	22004 GREENTREE LN
BUS 32	21762 SHADYBROOK DR
BUS 33	SHADYBROOK DR & CLOVER LN
BUS 34	SUNRISE BLVD & LADENE LN
BUS 35	SUNRISE BLVD & MILL RD
BUS 36	22139 SHADYBROOK DR
BUS 37	22004 GREENTREE LN
BUS 38	21762 SHADYBROOK DR
BUS 39	SHADYBROOK DR & CLOVER LN
BUS 40	SUNRISE BLVD & LADENE LN
BUS 41	SUNRISE BLVD & MILL RD
BUS 42	22139 SHADYBROOK DR
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BUS 44	21762 SHADYBROOK DR
BUS 45	SHADYBROOK DR & CLOVER LN
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BUS 52	SUNRISE BLVD & LADENE LN
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BUS 96	22139 SHADYBROOK DR
BUS 97	22004 GREENTREE LN
BUS 98	21762 SHADYBROOK DR
BUS 99	SHADYBROOK DR & CLOVER LN
BUS 100	SUNRISE BLVD & LADENE LN

8.33	WAINWRIGHT ST & MARTIN ST	7.48	44300 11 MILE RD
8.33	13 MILE RD & MARTIN ST	7.50	25306 CLARK AVE
8.35	2325 AUSTIN DR	7.51	DURSON ST & CLARK AVE
8.36	180 PLEASANT COVE DR	7.51	STASSEN AVE & CLARK AVE
8.41	12 MILE RD & CARLTON WAY DR	7.53	TRESTLE & JUNCTION
BUS 97		7.54	TRESTLE & CREEK KING
BUS 5		7.54	25698 SHORLONE DR
8.34	CORDOBA DR & ARCADIA DR	7.36	WIXOM RD & ISLAND LAKE DR
8.36	CORDOBA DR & CHEYENNE DR	7.37	CRESTWOOD DR & GLENWOOD DR
8.36	LARAMIE DR & GLENHURST DR	7.38	ANCHORAGE CT & CRESTWOOD DR
8.37	GROVELAND & GLENHURST DR	7.39	25375 GLENWOOD DR
8.38	GLENWOOD & MULBERRY LN	7.41	45746 LEYLAND DR
8.38	25714 GROVELAND	7.44	49235 11 MILE RD
8.40	WOODRUFF DR & LOCHMOOR LN	7.51	25023 AVON CT
8.42	25910 ABBEY DR	7.52	
BUS 6		7.40	BROCKSHIRE ST & SUDBURY CT
8.31	43388 ASHURBY DR	7.41	21853 PICADILLY CIR
8.32	RIVERBRIDGE CT & ASHURBY DR	7.42	22132 PICADILLY CIR
8.33	43250 ASHURBY DR	7.43	22033 CHASE DR
8.34	41619 ASHURBY DR	7.44	MARTIN ST & 13 MILE RD
8.36	ASHURBY DR & DUNDEE DR	7.45	21805 CHASE DR
8.37	CHASE DR & OXFORD CT	7.46	21576 CHASE DR
8.38	DUNDEE DR & CHASE DR	7.47	CHASE DR & WHEATON LN
8.38	WHEATON LN & CHASE DR	7.48	21101 DUNDEE DR
8.39	21400 CHASE DR	7.49	42980 ASHURBY DR
BUS 8		7.41	MAIN STREET CLUBHOUSE
8.41	21682 CHASE DR	7.43	FOUNTAIN PARK CLUBHOUSE
8.42	CHASE DR & DUKESBURY CT	7.45	41483 GLYME CT
8.43	BROCKSHIRE ST & CHESTERFIELD	7.46	41902 SCARBOROUGH
8.44	21828 PICADILLY CIR	7.47	41087 SCARBOROUGH
8.45	22221 PICADILLY CIR	7.49	BETHANY WAY & BRENDA LN
BUS 9		7.39	INGRAM DR & CARRIAGE HILL
8.40	CHASE DR & TREAT CT	7.42	41249 COVENTRY DR
8.41	21682 CHASE DR	7.43	WHITCOMB RD & BEACON DR
8.42	CHASE DR & DUKESBURY CT	7.45	21636 PHILLIP DR
8.43	BROCKSHIRE ST & CHESTERFIELD	7.46	21922 SIEGAL DR
8.44	21828 PICADILLY CIR	7.47	22070 CASCADE DR
8.45	22221 PICADILLY CIR	7.49	MERIDIAN LN & S HEATHERBRAE
BUS 94		7.43	22745 MEADOWBROOK DR
8.40	CHASE DR & TREAT CT	7.42	41483 GLYME CT
8.41	21682 CHASE DR	7.43	44660 MANSFIELD DR
8.42	CHASE DR & DUKESBURY CT	7.45	22859 PENNANT RISE CT
8.43	BROCKSHIRE ST & CHESTERFIELD	7.46	22475 WINDRIDGE LN
8.44	21828 PICADILLY CIR	7.47	INGRAM DR & CARRIAGE HILL
8.45	22221 PICADILLY CIR	7.49	41249 COVENTRY DR
BUS 99		7.43	WHITCOMB RD & BEACON DR
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8.40	CHASE DR & TREAT CT	7.42	41483 GLYME CT
8.41	21682 CHASE DR	7.43	44660 MANSFIELD DR
8.42	CHASE DR & DUKESBURY CT	7.45	22859 PENNANT RISE CT
8.43	BROCKSHIRE ST & CHESTERFIELD	7.46	22475 WINDRIDGE LN
8.44	21828 PICADILLY CIR	7.47	INGRAM DR & CARRIAGE HILL
8.45	22221 PICADILLY CIR	7.49	41249 COVENTRY DR
BUS 99		7.43	WHITCOMB RD & BEACON DR
8.40	CHASE DR & TREAT CT	7.42	21636 PHILLIP DR
8.41	21682 CHASE DR	7.43	21922 SIEGAL DR
8.42	CHASE DR & DUKESBURY CT	7.45	22070 CASCADE DR
8.43	BROCKSHIRE ST & CHESTERFIELD	7.46	MERIDIAN LN & S HEATHERBRAE
8.44	21828 PICADILLY CIR	7.47	22745 MEADOWBROOK DR
8.45	22221 PICADILLY CIR	7.49	41483 GLYME CT
BUS 94		7.43	44660 MANSFIELD DR
8.40	CHASE DR & TREAT CT	7.42	22859 PENNANT RISE CT
8.41	21682 CHASE DR	7.43	22475 WINDRIDGE LN
8.42	CHASE DR & DUKESBURY CT	7.45	INGRAM DR & CARRIAGE HILL
8.43	BROCKSHIRE ST & CHESTERFIELD	7.46	41249 COVENTRY DR
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8.40	CHASE DR & TREAT CT	7.42	44660 MANSFIELD DR
8.41	21682 CHASE DR	7.43	22859 PENNANT

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 20A

Thursday, August 21, 2003

Oliver-Hatcher finishes call center building



Comcast's training and call center was completed by Oliver/Hatcher Construction of Wixom.

The ultra-high tech, \$20 million expansion of Comcast Corporation's Scio Township training and call center near Ann Arbor, the first of its kind for Comcast, has been completed by Oliver/Hatcher Construction of Wixom.

The design/build system of construction was used for the 68,000 square foot expansion, which incorporates the latest information technology, training and conference innovations as well as employee recreation, fitness and stress-relieving amenities.

"Our design-build system allowed us to complete the vital portions of the building in a short time frame to accommodate Comcast's rapid growth and need for this facility," said Paul Hatcher, president of Oliver/Hatcher Construction.

Construction innovations include an in-floor channel system for 280 miles of communication cabling, saving some \$200,000 in construction cost.

Both the exterior and interior of the facility have the look of a high tech machine, with silver ductwork and ventilation tubes inside and attractive, baked-on enamel aluminum panels covering all four exterior sides.

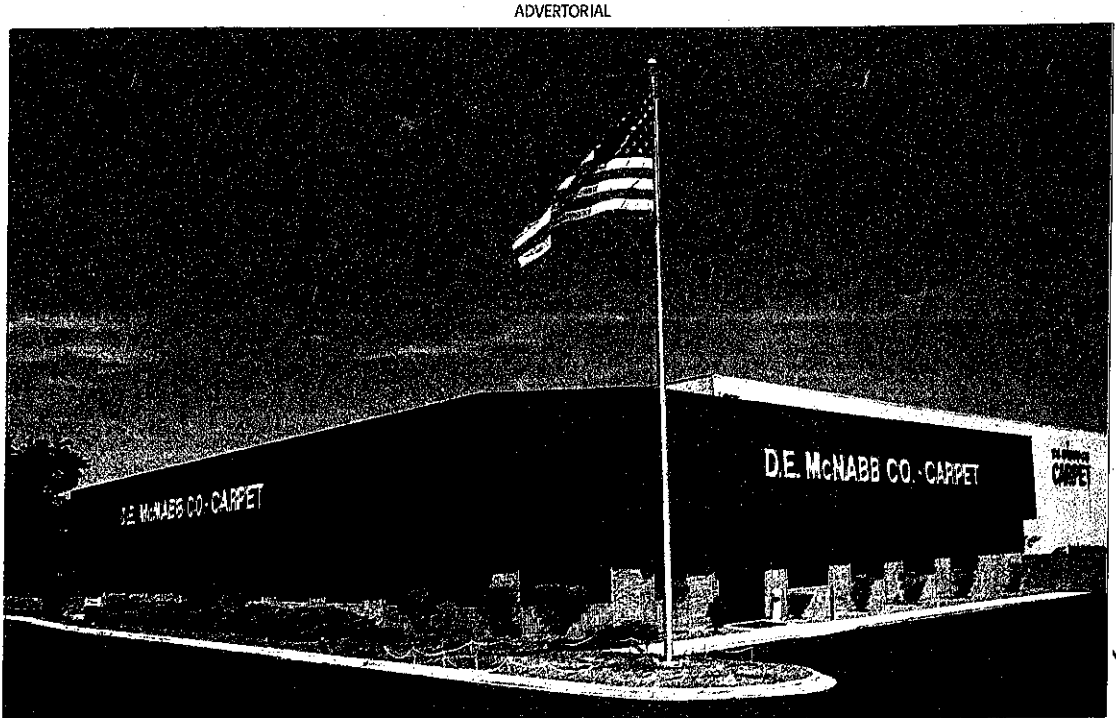
A total of 338 state-of-the-art work stations have six computers and can house up to four technicians each. They handle service calls on a 24-7 basis from high-speed internet subscribers of Comcast, the largest TV cable company in Michigan and the US.

The exhaustive array of communication devices allow a technician to duplicate exact problem situations of callers and correct virtually all of them on the first call.

Three training rooms can accommodate up to 60 technician trainees, each with their own computer capable of referencing all aspects of the Comcast systems.

To unwind from their intense cerebral work, employees can shoot basketball hoops, play foos ball and pinball and work out in the fitness room before and after work hours.

The design/build process allowed Oliver/Hatcher to assemble the outstanding team of technical, architectural, human dynamics and construction experts needed and to direct the overall sequencing of the project.



ADVERTORIAL

photo by HAL GOULD

The D.E. McNabb Carpet Company has renovated its Milford Showroom and is now ready to show its wares to the public

Magic carpet? Nope — it's McNabb

Milford retailer completes renovations to showroom; ready to show its stuff to customers

Start looking for a fresh look to a familiar face. A local landmark, The Donald E. McNabb Company, is updating its image with a newly-renovated interior, right down to the freshly-paved parking lot.

Even the name will be changed, to Donald E. McNabb Flooring Company, to reflect a new, more retail and customer-friendly direction, says Pete Staib, retail sales manager. It's also designed to emphasize the selection and variety of floor coverings available. Customers will find more than carpeting in their newly-remodeled showroom.

Many people think of McNabb's in Milford as a warehouse company with great deals by the roll from the auto shows. While that still remains true, customers are often pleasantly surprised at the incredible selection of high-quality floor coverings, including designer wools by Glen Eden or Axminster. And, of course, special and custom orders are welcome.

"They have all the styles you love, from tough kid-proof carpets to durable commercial or high-end luxury carpeting in every price range and color."

"We do everything from rental apartments to high-end homes. I've done \$100 jobs and \$50,000 jobs," said Pete Staib. "In any price range, we'll find a carpet."

McNabb's carries all of the latest trends in carpeting. In addition to carpets from all the major suppliers, including Shaw, Mohawk and Coronet, you'll also find quality wood floors, ceramics, laminates and vinyls.

In wood floors, they offer Mannington and Mohawk and various specialty woods from bamboo to exotic hardwoods. In vinyl, they carry a wide selection of Mannington, offering customers even more flooring

DETAILS

Visit their newly renovated and retail friendly showroom at 31250 South Milford Road in Milford. As part of their transformation, look for a new logo and freshly-updated exterior as well. Convenient shopping hours make it easy for busy customers to do their shopping after hours, evenings or even weekends. Hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Call (248) 437-8146 or 1-800-544-2016.

options.

Your shopping experience will be even more pleasurable in the newly-designed showroom, where you can look through a wide variety of carpets. Attractive displays and décor make the showroom even more inviting. The interior is light and airy with a contemporary twist. Inside you'll see exposed red brick walls, light oak trims and trendy track lighting.

When it comes to your home's décor, flooring plays an important part in brightening any room. It's a feature that can make an immediate impact in any room. And right now, there's no better time to purchase your carpet — for a limited time there's great financing deals, including zero down and no interest for 12 months.

There are hundreds of rolls in stock to choose from, plus, of course, the auto show carpets. In addition to their wide selection, Staib says their quality installation is backed by a lifetime warranty, which guarantees you'll be happy with their workmanship.



photo by HAL GOULD

Rolls of carpet at McNabb Carpet await delivery and installation.

"We have quality installers, and we back all of our work with our warranty. For the installation, we don't use sub contractors. We have a reliable staff that we can count on, day in and day out," he added.

McNabb's is a family owned company, which backs their sales and service with a local reputation of over 52 years in business. Their knowledgeable sales staff can point you in the right direction to get you the beautiful floor covering you need. They'll help you find the right flooring and the best value for your home.

The D.E. McNabb Flooring Company is located at the rapidly growing area of I-96 and Milford Roads, providing easy access to communities throughout both Oakland and Livingston counties and more. They're just minutes away from



photo by HAL GOULD

The name says it all: McNabb carpet is bigger and better than ever.

wherever you live. If your selection is in stock in the warehouse, you can take the carpet with you, with installation to follow soon after.

D.E. McNabb Flooring is part of the South Lyon Chamber of Commerce and received the South Lyon Herald's People's Choice award for carpet company in 2002.

GOT A BUSINESS BRIEF?

Got a business brief of local interest? Pass it along — we'd be happy to spread the word to area readers.

Send your information to:

Cal Stone
Editor - Novi News
104 W. Main Street
Northville MI 48167
PH: (248) 349-1700, ext 113
FAX: (248) 349-9832

Include a telephone number and contact name so we can contact you for additional information.

McNabb Carpet
New & Used Carpets
Professional Installation

31250 S. Milford Rd.
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Monday-Saturday
Sunday 12-5

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FALL SPORTS 2003

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Novi News

hometownlife.com

Thursday, August 21, 2003

WILDCATS

Clawing their way to the top

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

In all reality, Novi Wildcat boys' cross country coach Bob Smith should be salivating.

Over what? Well, his squad. The Wildcats are bringing 35 runners to the program in 2003, compared to the 25 that graced the roster last year. Coming back for the Wildcats are a slew of talented runners — including a harrier that could easily be considered one of the most premier runners in Michigan.

"The guys had a real nice summer," Smith said of his team's condition and preparation for the season. "I know they were all out there running and it's really exciting. I can't believe what a close field it is." Statistically speaking, junior Mark Moore is the top-runner on the squad this year and his performance at the state meet last year marks him as one of the top runners in the state for 2003.

But, the other Wildcats aren't about to let him get away with being the default leader for the squad.

Juniors Amol Huprikar and Spencer Ornes will be nipping at his heels as they look to keep a pack time of under a minute for Smith and their fellow 'Cats to admire. Seniors Eric Tingwall and Scott Bergeson will be right up there as well.

This year, Novi has seen one of the most remarkable improvements over a summer by one of their runners in senior Eric Joseph.

"Last year, his PR (personal record) was a 16:21," Smith noted. "This year, he came out with a 16:07. He's really taken his game to the next level and he's eyeing a potential All-State status."

Joseph came out of the gates in full stride and doesn't look like he plans on slowing down any — which is just going to push his squad to better themselves even more.

"Most schools end up with one or two guys in the front," Smith said. "We're going to have four or five in the front."

The captains on the team this year are Moore, Joseph, Preketes, Tingwall and Bergeson. They will be leading

a squad of young runners as they get in the hunt for some major Kensington Valley Conference competition.

The seniors on the team include Bergeson, Chris Brandis, Brad Dobryden, Joseph, Preketes, Darin Styles and Tingwall while the juniors are Huprikar, Moore, Justin Namm, Ornes, Nate Quay and Brad Spisich. Sophomores include Peter Andrews, Dan Bruder, Steve Fannon, Artun Kireali, Brad Larson, Kevin Lee, Riley Lokar, Andrew Macek, Chris Machisak, Brenden Neville, Andrew Park and Matt Thomas. Incoming freshman are Mike Beard, Pat Carroll, Jordan Dagslet, Ricky Manza, Alex Prasad, Abhishek Rao, Akira Shinomiya, Ben Vallerand, Scott Wagner and Mike Wheat.

"We are a very young team," Smith noted. "Young, but we're very experienced. This is a seasoned team and I think we're going to have an impact."

The Wildcats are hoping to be in the hunt for the KVC title this year as they are nearly every season. Their biggest foes, without a doubt, come in the form of Mavericks.

"The consensus across the state is that the state meet is Milford's to lose," Smith said. "It's really true, because on paper they are awesome."

But that doesn't mean Novi can't beat them.

"We scare the bejibbers out of them," Smith said. "They have to be ready when we run against them. For a long time, we were looking over our shoulders at who is coming up behind us, but now they are looking over theirs. They are tough, but you never know who is going to win."

The Wildcats are going to be eyeing a conference title from the word go.

"If we stay healthy, we have the potential to be knocking on the door for first place," Smith said. "We have to stay healthy, and that's the key."

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

Starting off on the right foot

The Novi Wildcats soccer team is gearing up for what might prove to be an interesting and exciting season under the guidance of coach Brian O'Leary.

Their first contest of the season, at least the one that counts towards the records, will be when the 'Cats take on the Churchill Chargers in Livonia tomorrow at 7 p.m.



Sam Eggleston tomorrow at 7 p.m.

I have to say that I am going to throw caution to the wind and declare the Wildcats winners in this particular contest. Livonia isn't known for top-notch soccer talent, though they do produce their fair share of competitive teams. It's just that I watched the 'Cats practice the other day and I have to say that I think Novi is going to prove to be too much for the Chargers to handle.

Though the offense is going to find the Chargers' defense a foe worth playing against, I think the Novi defense is, quite simply, going to dominate. And when a team has trouble finding the back of the net, it makes for a long night for their own defense as the ball ends up in their zone nearly the entire time.

Our defensive corps is led by Brad Simpson at defender and A.J. Glubzinski at goalie. Even taking the defensive squad out of the picture for the time being and I am confident Glubzinski is going to earn his first of many shutouts on the year. At practice, this kid was going airborne just to stop some casual kicks. He's serious about not getting the ball in the net and I am confident he'll come through for Novi.

Simpson, on the other hand, and his crew of defenders might not even let the ball get close to the net. They are the kind of players that are quick to take the ball away and don't like giving up much ground. I can't see Churchill really being able to put too much together against this defensive pressure, and that's one of the major reasons I am picking Novi to win.

Though the offense is going to get the glory of this particular victory, the defense, in my opinion, is going to win the game.

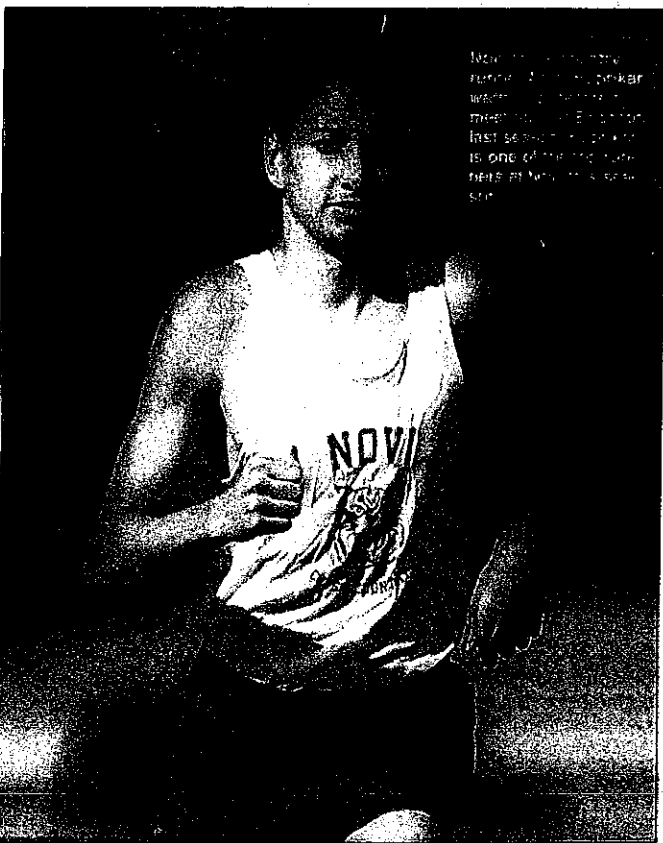
Being that this is my very first prediction of the season, I am hoping the Wildcat soccer team isn't going to let me down. They are quick-footed but slightly undersized compared to most teams out there, but I don't think they are going to let any variable in size change the outcome of this contest.

I am definitely sticking to my guns and calling out Novi all the way. O'Leary isn't about to allow a loss on the first game of the 2003 season, and I'm going to give them that extra push by putting them on the spot with this prediction.

So, Wildcat soccer players, don't let me down and earn that win.

Novi 3, Churchill 0

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



GIRLS AND BOYS CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULES

Aug. 20	Northville	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 4	Howell	4:30 p.m.
SEPT. 9	LAKELAND	4:30 P.M.
Sept. 16	Brighton HS	4:30 p.m.
SEPT. 23	SOUTH LYON	4:30 P.M.
Sept. 30	Hartland	4:30 p.m.
OCT. 7	MILFORD	4:30 P.M.
Oct. 11	Gabriel Richard Invite	2:25 p.m.
Oct. 20	KVC Championships	4:00 p.m.
Oct. 25	MHSAA Regional	TBA
Nov. 1	MHSAA Finals @ M.I.S.	TBA

Note: Bold dates indicate home contests.

GIRLS TENNIS SCHEDULE

Junior Varsity		
Aug. 28	Northville	4 p.m.
Sept. 9	Ann Arbor Huron	4 p.m.
SEPT. 10	HOWELL	4 P.M.
Sept. 13	Holly Doubles Invite	8:30 a.m.
Sept. 15	Lakeland	4 p.m.
SEPT. 17	BRIGHTON	4 P.M.
Sept. 22	South Lyon	4 p.m.
SEPT. 24	HARTLAND	4 P.M.
Sept. 29	Milford	4 p.m.
OCT. 1	PINCKNEY	4 P.M.
Varsity		
Aug. 18	Liz Hallman	8:15 a.m.
AUG. 28	NORTHVILLE	4 P.M.
SEPT. 3	ANN ARBOR HURON	4 P.M.
Sept. 6	Holly/Powers Invite	8 a.m.
SEPT. 10	HOWELL	4 P.M.
SEPT. 15	LAKELAND	4 P.M.
Sept. 17	Brighton	4 p.m.
SEPT. 22	SOUTH LYON	4 P.M.
Sept. 24	Hartland	4 p.m.
Sept. 35	Ann Arbor Pioneer	4 p.m.
SEPT. 29	MILFORD	4 P.M.
Oct. 1	Pinckney	4 p.m.
Oct. 4	KVC Championships	TBA
Oct. 7	KVC Championships (Rain)	TBA
Oct. 10	MHSAA Regional	TBA
Oct. 17-18	MHSAA Finals	TBA

Note: Bold dates indicate home contests.

Novi starting season off in positive fashion

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

One thing that has to make a coach's job that much easier is when he has a talented crew of seniors and juniors to pick from for his varsity squad.

That was the case for Novi's Jim Hanson this year as he went through the process of selecting the varsity squad for the 2003 Wildcats girls' tennis team.

The squad, which consists of seven seniors, seven juniors and two sophomores, looks as though it has exactly what it takes to win. In fact, Hanson and the gang tested that theory early as they went on to participate in the Novi/Farmington Hills Mercy/Grosse Pointe North Triangular Tournament Monday.

The tournament, which featured some of the toughest competition around in the perennial powerhouses of Mercy and Grosse Pointe North, gave the Wildcats something the measure themselves by. Most teams would have been satisfied just to score points against such potent opponents, but the Wildcats knew that they were not only better than the opposition they played, but they were the best team there.

The 'Cats proved that with a convincing 14 points to take first in the triangular tournament while Farmington Hills Mercy

scored nine points and Grosse Pointe earned one in their efforts.

The Novi squad had plenty of talent to work with as they are once again loaded to the gills with the likes of seniors Ashley Glover, Lauren Carosio, Anna Switzer, Colene Brockman and Laura Vaughn. Two other seniors that are in the mix this year in Pratyusha Devarakonda and Megan Hsu. Juniors on the squad this year include Emily Holt, who has been a staple with Novi, Amanda Cassidy, Kaylan Pustover, Lauren Thomas, Becky Thomson, Tiffany Lin and Stephanie Park. The two sophomores on the team are the returning Diana Ticu and newcomer Ayano Nakamura.

In the triangular tourney the 'Cats participated in, the one singles flight found the ever-persistent Glover beating Lauren Still of Grosse Pointe 6-3, 6-1 but falling to Mary Atallah of Mercy in a hard-fought match 3-6, 6-4, 6-0 to take second place. Carosio had the same results as she topped Grosse Pointe's Elizabeth Beals 6-0, 6-1 but fell 6-1, 6-1 to Mercy's Kali Blanchard to take second.

At third singles, Switzer got the best of both of her opponents, topping Lara Zade of Grosse Pointe 7-6 (1), 6-2 before beating Sarah Rudzinski 6-3, 6-3. Fourth singles found Nakamura topping

Mercy's Kerry Muldowney 6-2, 6-3 before she beat Katie Hanlon 6-2, 6-1 for the top spot.

In doubles action, Holt and Brockman won first flight honors as the topped Mercy 7-5, 6-2 and then beat North 6-1, 6-1 while their teammates Ticu and Vaughn combined to beat North 6-2, 6-2 and Mercy 7-5, 6-1 for first place. Third doubles found Cassidy and Pustover topping North 6-3, 6-3 before edging Mercy 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 for the flight victory, while Thomson and Thomas beat North 6-3, 6-1 and then blasted Mercy 6-1, 6-1 for the win. Five doubles found Lin and Park edging out Mercy 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 before falling to North 6-2, 6-3, while Devarakonda and Hsu lost to Mercy 6-2, 7-6 (1) in sixth doubles action.

The Wildcats are no doubt looking to head into the Kensington Valley Conference this year with their eyes on the title. But, in years past and this year too, Hanson will make sure the girls are focused on each upcoming meet and not looking ahead at what might be or what is coming up in the near future.

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

GAME OF THE WEEK

Novi Wildcats Soccer vs **Livonia Churchill**

Friday, August 25
7:00 p.m. at Livonia

'Cats are young, but ready to compete

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's never easy to watch seniors graduate — especially when seven of the nine who did were starters on your team.

Novi boys' soccer coach Brian O'Leary watched seven of his starters hit the road for higher education in May and now turns to his squad to see just who is planning on stepping up and filling those shoes.

"Our two biggest weaknesses are our lack of high school game experience and our size," O'Leary said. "Our strengths are our skills and our athleticism."

The Wildcats do have four seniors that know exactly what it takes to win. Defender Brad Simpson headlines a tough defensive corps that includes fellow senior Chris Fox, Midfielder Jon Sierra will be looking to lead his crew as will forward Matt Nickels.

The Wildcats will start their juniors in defender Niel Kocan, midfielder Jason Sierra and goalie A.J. Gubinski and the rest of the starting crew will be sophomores. Matt Chocorelli will be at forward while A.W. Stank and Matt Crawford will take position up at midfield. They Love is the lone starting sophomore at defense. The first two subs for the squad are also sophomores in midfielder/forward Todd Janner and forward Matt Simpson.

Rounding out the team are junior forward Jeremy Brodsky and senior forward Steve Dailey as well as midfielders Hiroki Yamada, who is a sophomore, junior Colin Coody and senior midfielders Ryan Stee and Colin Goldsmith.

On the defensive side of the ball will be sophomore Dan Beal, junior Ivan DeLaCruz and senior Jeff Lee. Backing up Gubinski's steady hands between the posts will be junior Jason Ballantyne.

The Wildcats have plenty of youth that brings a ton of enthusiasm to the squad this year. And, what that enthusiasm comes in the form of goals.

"Our main goal this year is to

SOCCER SCHEDULES		
JUNIOR VARSITY		
Aug. 22	Churchill	5:30 p.m.
AUG. 26	CANTON	5:30 P.M.
Aug. 28	Howell	5:30 p.m.
SEPT. 4	LAKELAND	5:30 P.M.
SEPT. 9	Brighton	5:30 P.M.
SEPT. 11	SOUTH LYON	5:30 P.M.
SEPT. 16	Hartland	5:30 p.m.
SEPT. 18	MILFORD	5:30 P.M.
SEPT. 23	Pinckney	5:30 p.m.
SEPT. 25	HOWELL	5:30 P.M.
Sept. 27	Saline	TBA
Sept. 28	Northville	10 a.m.
Sept. 30	Lakeland	5:30 p.m.
OCT. 2	BRIGHTON	5:30 P.M.
Oct. 7	South Lyon	5:30 p.m.
OCT. 9	HARTLAND	5:30 P.M.
OCT. 14	Milford	5:30 p.m.
OCT. 16	PINCKNEY	5:30 P.M.

Aug. 22	Churchill	7 p.m.
AUG. 26	CANTON	7 P.M.
Aug. 28	Howell	7 p.m.
SEPT. 4	LAKELAND	7 P.M.
SEPT. 9	Brighton	7 p.m.
SEPT. 11	SOUTH LYON	7 P.M.
SEPT. 16	Hartland	7 p.m.
SEPT. 18	MILFORD	7 P.M.
SEPT. 23	Pinckney	7 p.m.
SEPT. 25	HOWELL	7 P.M.
Sept. 27	Saline	TBA
Sept. 28	Northville	11:30 a.m.
Sept. 30	Lakeland	7 p.m.
OCT. 2	BRIGHTON	7 P.M.
Oct. 7	South Lyon	7 p.m.
OCT. 9	HARTLAND	7 P.M.
Oct. 14	Milford	7 p.m.
OCT. 16	PINCKNEY	7 P.M.
OCT. 20	MHSAA District	TBA

Bold games are home contests.

win the KVCC." O'Leary said. "The league is getting better and better every year. Last year, we split with Brighton, South Lyon and Howell. So, no longer is it a two-team league."

The Wildcats will open their season up against Livonia Churchill Friday when they visit the Chargers at 7 p.m. in a non-conference match-up. The next game following Churchill will be

against Plymouth Canton August 26 at 7 p.m. at Novi — a game where the Wildcats will be playing "an excellent team," according to O'Leary.

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



The Novi Wildcats were busy working on their good footwork abilities as they prepared for taking on Livonia Churchill in their first game of the season (see page B1 for related story).

Novi returns plenty of talent to state-title-defending squad

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's hard not to look at last year and compare for any squad starting up this fall, but for the Novi Wildcats golf team, it's probably even harder than most.

"The 'Cats, who are the defending state champions this year, come into 2004 not only loaded to the gills with a talented crew of seniors and a nice mix of juniors, but come in with a great philosophy."

"The thing I look at about last year is the experience more than anything else," golf coach Brad Huss said. "No matter how good your team is, you can never predict winning a state championship. So many things have to go absolutely perfect for you, especially with it being a two-day tournament."

And the top returning squad for the Wildcat linksters is well aware

that last year they only won the title by one stroke — a fact they not only remember, but take to heart. They are well aware of what it takes to win, and how little the difference is from first to second place.

"It's amazing," Huss said. "The best you can do is give yourself a good opportunity. If you make the best of it, then great. If you don't, then you work on the things you made mistakes with and go from there."

A name that everyone in the high school golfing community and fan base is going to remember is that of Brandon Cigna. The senior squad as a junior and added to his talent by playing all summer through various tournaments. Cigna comes in as the captain of the golf squad this year and could make the difference in many matches for the Wildcats.

"He's obvious a real catalyst for this team," Huss noted. "I'm confident that we can always rely on Brandon to do what is needed and to get the job done. This is his game, and he's good at it."

Joining Cigna will be fellow senior Eric Ayles — a four-year starter for Novi's golf team.

"He qualified for the state meet as an individual this year," Huss said. "He's a real solid, and a kid that you can count on to shoot in the 70s at a tournament."

Mark Eberline is back as well for the 'Cats. Last season, Eberline snuck in his score as the fourth man during the second day of the state meet — a score that helped the 'Cats secure the title.

Brett Jaussi is back too, but this year is looking to step out of the six-linking man position on the squad and right into a major scoring role. His score counted 14 times last season, but he was just short

of being a member of the state finals crew.

R.J. Makoski will be breaking into the line-up this year as a junior. Last year's squad was so talented, Makoski found himself sitting idly while the others went off to play in varsity matches. He's not going to let that happen again as he has worked on his game throughout the off-season and came out strong for Novi at their Traverse City Tournament with the second-best score on the second day.

"I'm really excited about the team this year as well as the line-up," Huss said. "We have a lot of potential, and I'm looking forward to seeing what these kids can do."

Vying for the sixth-man spot on the squad for each match as well as other positions if they were to open are a slew of top players. Seniors James Peurach,

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

GOLF SCHEDULE		
Aug. 18	H. Valley @ Prestwick	TBA
Aug. 19	Pre-KVC	9 a.m.
Sept. 9	Howell	3:30 p.m.
SEPT. 11	LAKELAND	3:30 P.M.
Sept. 16	Brighton	3:30 p.m.
SEPT. 18	SOUTH LYON	3:30 P.M.
SEPT. 23	Hartland	3:30 p.m.
SEPT. 25	MILFORD	3:30 P.M.
Sept. 26	Hartland Invite @ Durham	8 a.m.
Sept. 29	Oakland County	9 a.m.
Sept. 30	Pinckney	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 7	Post-KVC	9 a.m.
Oct. 10	MHSAA Regional	TBA
Oct. 17-18	MHSAA Finals	TBA

Bold games are home contests.

Now that's how you open a season

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The defending state-champion Novi Wildcats took a little trip up to Traverse City to showcase their talents against some of the top teams in Michigan last week.

The squad, which is coached by Brad Huss, took 10th out of 24 teams which included the state champions at Division I, Division II and Division III as well as what Huss thought was a field that consisted of the top-10 teams in the state.

"It's the best tournament in the

state, outside of the state meet," he said. "The kids played well. We went up against the cream of the crop and finished 10th. I'm proud of that, especially the way it was a totally different experience for them."

The change in venues and climate must not have bothered the Wildcats too much. On the first day, playing a tough course called The Wolverine, the Novi linksters collected a total of 310 as Brandon Cigna led the charge with a 73 — one over par. Mark Eberline, Brett Jaussi and Mike Martinez each scored a 79 in the

second day found the Wildcats taking on an even tougher course at High Point. There, the greens were much faster and there was much more in the way of difficult courses.

"It made The Wolverine look easy," Huss said.

Cigna led the Wildcats once again, this time shooting a 75 on the day while R.J. Makoski collected a 79. Jaussi shot an 82 and Eric Ayles recorded an 84.

Cigna earned a place on the tournament team after finishing fifth overall.

'Cats learning new program

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

With a new program and a new coach leading the squad, the Novi Wildcats girls' basketball team is going to be looking for one thing — improvement.

From the start of the season to the end of it, first-year girls' head coach Bill Kelp said that he only expects to see marked improvement from his squad — everything in between is just icing on the cake.

"With everything being new and a new system and terminology, it's going to slow down what we are trying to do," Kelp said. "Basically, we're starting from scratch. It's going to be kind of tough with everything being new. We want them to learn what they can and have a good experience."

As a coach, Kelp is looking to see his girls grow.

"My main goal is just to get better as the season goes on," he said, and then added that he would understand the choppy waters of the early weeks. "I don't want us to struggle early and I really hope we don't, but we will have to get better and better as we adapt. I thought we would struggle in the summer, but we didn't. So, now I'd like to build off the foundation of the summer and keep that going."

The squad has senior leadership to turn to in their three seniors. Becky Gasiorok, Alison Graulich and Kira Zurezyrski are the team's captains this year.

"I really think Becky is going to be a good leader," Kelp noted. "She's a kind of my connection to the team. When the power went out, we organized a little fan out and she took control of that."

Kelp said that he expects his captains to be leaders for the team at all times.

"They have to be leaders on and off the court," he said. "They need to be examples of how we conduct ourselves no matter what the situation is or where we are at."

The trio of captains will be leading a young but experienced team onto the hardwood each week.

Jessica Haggerty, Kelly Hebert, Julie Longo, Julia Lyskawa and Becky Keichel are the juniors on the team while Rachel Folino, Jesse Gasiorok, Hope Morris and Nicole Stephen are sophomores who made the varsity squad.

With the experience that some of these girls have, Kelp said that the captains' jobs have become a lot easier.

"A couple of these juniors could easily be captains," he said. "Haggerty is a phenomenal kid that helps put this team together and get everyone to work together. My captains are great and do what they are supposed to do, but it's easier for them because the whole team is doing what it should be doing."

The Wildcats may not have much in the way of height, but they rise to the 5-foot-11 mark on four occasions throughout the team.

"It's not so much the height, but we have some decent body size as well," Kelp noted. "We need to turn that into some toughness."

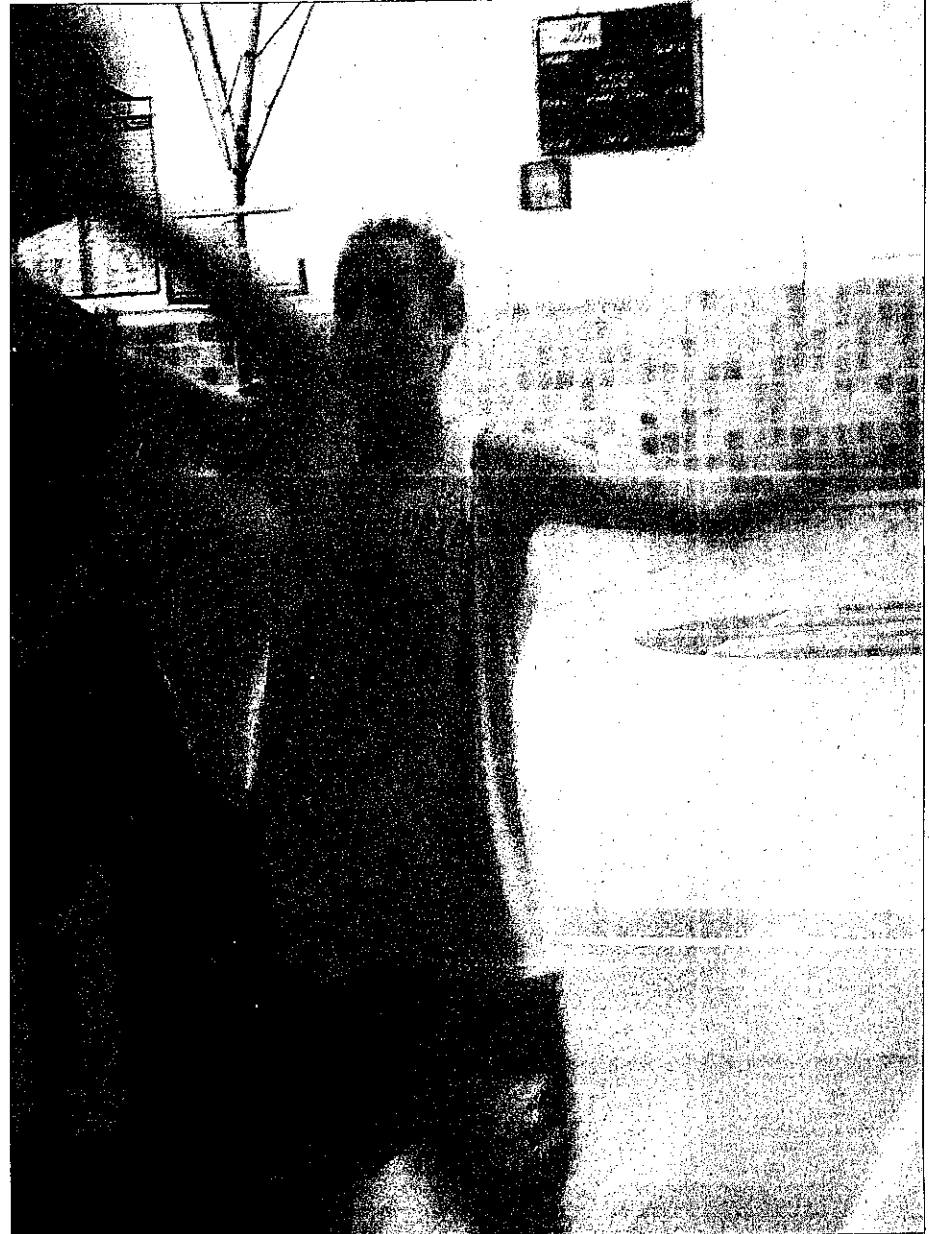
And toughness was something the Wildcats are going to need. In a squad-scrammage, the Novi girls were out-muscled by a very tough Waterford Mont squad.

"They are doing what they want against us because they were so strong," Kelp said. "We definitely didn't look as good as I would have liked, but that's the whole point of practicing. We find the things we need to work on and we improve on them."

And the Wildcats would like to improve all the way into the Districts.

"Anything can happen in the Districts," Kelp said. "We play most of the teams, if not all of them, during the regular season. We'll know what they have and what we need to do to beat them. But, we have a lot of games to play between now and then."

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Novi's Rachel Folino is a blur as she comes up to guard against an inbound pass Monday at practice. Folino and the rest of the Novi Wildcats girls' basketball team are busy learning Bill Kelp's new program as they gear up for the 2003 season under their first-year head coach.

VARSITY BASKETBALL SCHEDULE					
Aug. 28	Canton	7 p.m.	OCT. 14	MILFORD	7 P.M.
SEPT. 4	NOVI INVITE	5:30 P.M.	OCT. 16	Pinckney	7 p.m.
SEPT. 4	NOVI INVITE	7:00 P.M.	OCT. 21	HOWELL	7 P.M.
SEPT. 6	NOVI INVITE	5:30 P.M.	OCT. 23	Lakeland	7 p.m.
SEPT. 6	NOVI INVITE	7:00 P.M.	OCT. 28	BRIGHTON	7 p.m.
SEPT. 9	WALLED LAKE CENTRAL	7 P.M.	Oct. 30	South Lyon	7 p.m.
Sept. 11	Walled Lake Western	TBA	NOV. 4	HARTLAND	7 P.M.
SEPT. 16	NORTHVILLE	7 P.M.	Nov. 5	MILFORD	7 p.m.
SEPT. 25	Howell	7 p.m.	NOV. 11	PINCKNEY	7 P.M.
SEPT. 30	LAKELAND	7 P.M.	Nov. 17	MHSAA Districts	TBA
OCT. 2	Brighton	7 p.m.			
OCT. 7	SOUTH LYON	7 P.M.			
OCT. 9	Hartland	7 p.m.			

Editor's note: Bold games are home contests.

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Wildcats lose two days to blackout

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Let's just start off by saying that last year was last year. It was 2002 and this is 2003 — is that clear?

Good, now we can move on. The Novi Wildcats football team is well aware of how dangerous it is for a program to live in the past. Yeah, they made the playoffs and cut a swath all the way to the eventual state champions and, yeah, they beat the Kensington Valley Conference champs not just once, but twice. But, this year is totally different.

There is one way you can look at last year — it was a great year for some of this year's players to get some invaluable experience. Returning from last season's team are sophomores Ryan Pritchard and Rob Carter as well as twins Josh and Jarrell Woods.

"All of them had starts for us," Novi coach Tab Kellepourey said. Senior linebacker and fullback Josh Beck is back too, while Trenton Sisson returns but finds himself sliding onto the defensive line instead of at linebacker where he excelled last season.

"He's going to help shore up the defensive line because we needed some quality athletes to replace the ones we lost to graduation," Kellepourey said.

Kerry Kreuzberg is back too, this time reprising his role as safety but also sliding out to the wide receiver position to catch some mean throws from starting quarterback Mike Hart, who had plenty of reps last season.

"Mike has an opportunity to take an offense and do some wonderful things with it," Kellepourey noted. "We have kids that can catch and we have kids that can block. We have some phenomenal runningbacks who can handle the ball."

In years past, Kellepourey and the 'Cats have used their head and better offense with the option. This year, even with Hart's impressive passing capability, things may not change too much.

"If we decide to run the option, Mike can run it," Kellepourey said. "He can do it well too, and the other side of the option is throwing the ball. We are still going to run the option at Novi, and we always will. Mike runs that well, so we won't hesitate to use it."

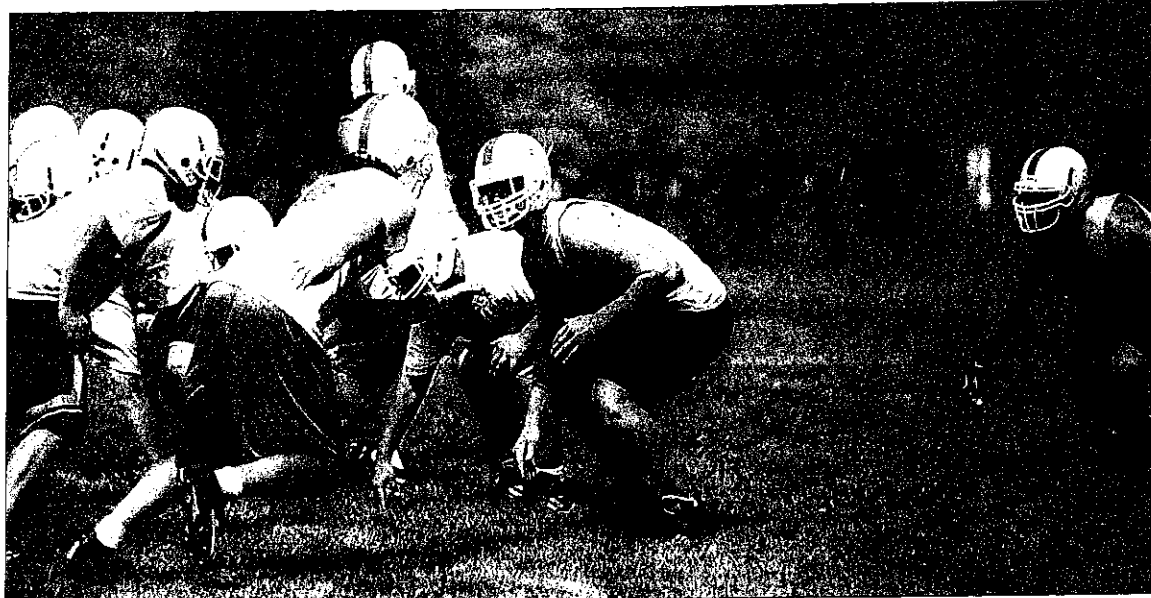


Photo by John Hester

The Novi High School varsity football team practices last Thursday morning.

The Wildcats will have plenty of targets to throw to. Chris Scott is a wide-bodied target that is quite capable of hauling in passes. Joey Fratio will be looking to pull down some balls when he gets that chance too.

"They have been catching real well," Kellepourey said. "Trevor Howser is also looking good at the receiver position, and the Wildcats are looking to utilize a freshman by the name of David Carnage in multiple positions. Everything from runningback to quarterback to wide receiver."

"He's really showing himself well," Kellepourey said. "He has good ability to take the ball and carry it." Other players that have caught Kellepourey's eye this season have been Adam Bradeau, Drew Hoffman and Kevin Cisto, who was rumored to have been challenging Hart for the starting quarterback position. Shaun Costello has been making his mark in camp as well.

The Wildcats are also excited about their kicking game. Senior Mark Angelucci has been working on his kicking all summer and

returns as the team's punter and field-goal kicker. "He's really kicking the heck out of that ball," Kellepourey noted. "He's striking the ball well."

J.W. Woods returns on offense to showcase his running ability as one of the team's top tailbacks.

"He could possibly get some defensive time as well," Kellepourey said. "He's the front-side of our option play. He's a strong kid and a very fine football player as well."

With Pritchard returning at center, the Novi Wildcats are filling in the spaces around him. Chad Thurman is back on the offensive line and he and Pritchard will be getting extra support from Kyle Margrave and mark Kominski, who are some big boys that aren't afraid to push their weight around under the guidance of offensive line coach John Osborne. Steve Jabari also had some good showing in camp and may be finding himself with some playing time on either the defensive or offensive lines.

"We should have a good ability to run the offense and have Mike

throw the ball well at quarterback," Kellepourey said. "We're confident in Mike's ability and he has high expectations for the kids around him."

The Wildcats are still far away from where they would like to be. "We've got a lot of work to do before we take on Chelsea," Kellepourey said. "They are a tough program and aren't going to get pushed around. We have to be at the top of our game when we play them."

And missing two days from power outage doesn't help the situation any. "That made a tremendous difference," Kellepourey said. "We looked like a totally different team on Monday. That three day weekend really exhausted the team, and it showed. We have to get back to where we were before the power went out, and start getting ready to play Chelsea."

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

FOOTBALL FEVER		
Junior Varsity		
Aug. 28	Chelsea	6:30 p.m.
SEPT. 4	HOWELL	6:30 P.M.
Sept. 11	Lakeland	6:30 p.m.
SEPT. 18	BRIGHTON	6:30 P.M.
Sept. 25	South Lyon	6:30 p.m.
OCT. 2	HARTLAND	6:30 P.M.
Oct. 9	Millford	6:30 p.m.
OCT. 16	PINKNEY	6:30 P.M.
Oct. 23	Northville	6:30 p.m.
Varsity		
AUG. 29	CHELSEA	6:55 P.M.
Sept. 5	Howell	6:55 p.m.
SEPT. 12	LAKELAND	6:55 P.M.
Sept. 19	Brighton	6:55 p.m.
SEPT. 26	SOUTH LYON	6:55 P.M.
Oct. 3	Hartland	6:55 p.m.
OCT. 10	MILFORD	6:55 P.M.
OCT. 17	Pinkney	6:55 p.m.
OCT. 24	NORTHVILLE	6:55 P.M.

Bold games are home contests.

There's no place like home

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

They say that home is where you hang your hat — or in the case of the Novi Wildcats girls' swimming and diving team, where they hang their swimsuits. The Wildcats will find themselves without a permanent home for 2003 as they have a complete schedule of road games and each every practices is slated to be held at Northville High School thanks to their pool being redone for the 2004 session.

"It's tough," Larry Tehan said of no home-pool advantage. "It's definitely tough to always be at someone else's school. Even our practices will be pretty late in the evening, but I'm not complaining. Northville has been very accommodating so far, and it's been nice to have their cooperation."

The Wildcats don't seem to mind though. The determined crew returns some top talent to compete in the Kensington Valley Conference this year in the form of swimmers like Christine Eldred, Erica Harland, Brittany Broadfuter, Janine Rannowitz, Christina Thompson, Lauren Willson, Rachel Mobilo, Laurel Lynch and Andrea Morabito.

With 60 girls on the squad this season and only four practice days under their belt, Tehan said it was very early to tell where this team was at and who would rise to prove themselves the top competitors on the team. But, it isn't too early to have some goals.

"Our very first team goal is to make sure we can have a complete practice schedule," Tehan said. "As for long-term goals, without being too specific, we want to get as many people in the state meet as possible and score points in the state meet. We also want to maintain our high level of competition in the KVC."

"The bottom line in swimming and diving is that you have to be prepared to compete against yourself," he said. "You have to compete against other teams and other individuals, but you also have to compete against yourself."

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Worden, a former high school swimmer from Livonia and current art teacher, as well as veteran Ken Stark — who many people may remember as the head coach at Livonia Churchill for the past 14 years.

"His experience is very, very helpful," Tehan said. "It's been a half a dozen years or so since I've done a swimming workout or a season plan. Ken stepped into the role and has a work out plan set for the swimmers and already has their season projections put together."

Tehan noted that no matter the goals that the team has set for itself or the experience they will all come down to how they perform. The Kensington Valley Conference isn't the kind of league where a squad would want to have an off year — not the Novi is going to have one.

"We have no intentions of this being an off year or a down year for us," Tehan said. "We've had a good, solid program for many, many years and we expect our coaches and girls to step to the challenges in front of us."

And there will be plenty of challenges in the KVC. "I think we really started to see it last year," Tehan said. "All of the teams in the conference are getting stronger and the programs have been in place for a couple of years at some of the newer schools. The conference is getting tougher and more competitive, and I think we have to be tougher and more competitive to stay near the top."

In the end though, Tehan said it isn't your opponent in the lane next to you that you are competing against as much as the opponent within. "The bottom line in swimming and diving is that you have to be prepared to compete against yourself," he said. "You have to compete against other teams and other individuals, but you also have to compete against yourself."

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SWIMMING AND DIVING		
Aug. 27	Walled Lake Western	7 p.m.
Sept. 4	Walled Lake Central	7 p.m.
Sept. 6	Griffin Relays	9 a.m.
Sept. 9	Churchill	7 p.m.
Sept. 13	Laker Swim Invite	9 p.m.
Sept. 16	Fenton	6 p.m.
Sept. 18	Howell	6 p.m.
Sept. 30	Northville	7 p.m.
Oct. 2	Brighton	7 p.m.
Oct. 4	Oakland County	1 p.m.
Oct. 9	South Lyon	6 p.m.
Oct. 21	Salem HS	7 p.m.
Oct. 30	Pinkney	6 p.m.
Nov. 7	KVC Championships	4 p.m.
Nov. 8	KVC Championships	1 p.m.
Nov. 14	River Rat Challenge	noon
Nov. 15	River Rat Challenge	noon
Nov. 18	MHSAA Diving Regional	TBA
Nov. 22	MHSAA Finals	TBA

There are no swimming and diving home games for the 2003 schedule due to work being done on the school's pool.

No power, no practice

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

There's not a lot a school can do when the power fails on them — even when the majority of the scheduled activities are outside.

The Novi Wildcats athletics practices were brought to a screeching halt for two days after the blackout that swept across Southeast Michigan as well as multiple other states Thursday.

"Football, in particular, found themselves behind the eight ball," Novi athletics director Curt Ellis said. "Everyone feels that they lost some time, but football is in a pinch with the way their preseason limitations work."

The Wildcats football squad also had a scrimmage scheduled for Saturday, but due to the water hazard issued by the city water suppliers even after the power was returned, it had to be canceled.

And besides the water and power issues that came to be for the Novi School District, there were other concerns as well. "Our ability to respond in case an athlete needed attention was threatened," Ellis noted. "Our phones don't work when the power is out and through most coaches carry cell phones at this time and place, those too were unreliable with the power out."

Come Monday though, the Novi athletes were back in action trying to make up for precious lost time even though the water advisory was still ongoing. "We talked about the options, and then asked the kids to bring their own (water)," Ellis said. "From a practical standpoint, we knew we wouldn't be the only entity looking for water. And, from a comfort standpoint, it was nice for the parents to know that their water source from which their son or daughter was drinking from was safe."

power issues that came to be for the Novi School District, there were other concerns as well. "Our ability to respond in case an athlete needed attention was threatened," Ellis noted. "Our phones don't work when the power is out and through most coaches carry cell phones at this time and place, those too were unreliable with the power out."

Come Monday though, the Novi athletes were back in action trying to make up for precious lost time even though the water advisory was still ongoing. "We talked about the options, and then asked the kids to bring their own (water)," Ellis said. "From a practical standpoint, we knew we wouldn't be the only entity looking for water. And, from a comfort standpoint, it was nice for the parents to know that their water source from which their son or daughter was drinking from was safe."

With those kind of numbers on the squad this year, Norgren is quick to say that he hasn't the slightest idea of who will step up and who won't when it comes to underclassmen. "It's way too early to tell about the freshmen," he said. "But I do expect that the sophomore class will contribute nicely this year."

Norgren noted that coaching these girls is never a problem — in fact, he said something quite different. "I claim that I have the nicest group of kids anywhere, and that holds true as for as I'm concerned," he said. "Each and everyone of these kids are just wonderful!"

More to 'Cats than just wins and losses

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's never easy to compete in the Kensington Valley Conference, but that's an exceptionally true statement when it comes to cross country.

The Novi Wildcats girls' cross country team, coached by Norm Norgren, is well aware of that particular fact, and they plan on making it even tougher with some impressive competition of their own.

"We should be OK," Norgren said. "Brighton and Millard are teams three and four from the state finals from last year and they are returning virtually everyone to their teams."

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

The Wildcats, their coach is well aware of the most important ones. "Hopefully you win everything," he said with a slight laugh. "But, we want to have something we can prove, and that's our ability to continue improving. Are we getting better? It will be documented if we are or not, and we better be. We should be running a lot better at the end of the season than we will be in the beginning."

For Norgren, being a coach is about more than just wins or losses. "I would like to win as much as anybody, as I am an extremely competitive person," he said. "More importantly than any win, we want to improve as individuals and as a team. We want to be good citizens and want to behave like we should."

Norgren has always pushed the idea that sports brings about more than just victories and defeats. They help mold individuals and put

them on a certain path in life. Norgren is the first to admit that he wants to see his athletes be better people thanks to sports. "I drive it and foster it," he said. "It is vitally more important to me than if we ever won anything."

But Norgren isn't saying he doesn't want to win. In fact, it's quite the opposite. After losing a slew of talented runners like Nina Schmitt and Tac Kono, he is looking to lead the squad of his 2003 crew to lead the green and white to victory.

The team currently has four seniors, all of whom Norgren expects to lead as any captain on another squad would. They are Elaine Williams, Samhitha Muralidhar, Alison Gilchrist and Jessica Harbin. They will lead a team of 40 other Wildcats through the trials and tribulations that make an athletic season. The juniors on the team are Katalin Zerio, Alana Sryan, Sarah Schmitt, Pauli Ranson, Carla Marbio, Kathryn Koss, Cynthia Kazanis, Lauren Koss, Julie Johnson, Michelle Buelow, Laura Brunner, Sara Belski and Lauren Barlett.

Sophomores for 2003 are Meghan

Bamatt, Emily Barton, Melodie Burchard, Katie Flaughan, Erin Haynes, Erica Howard, Madelyn Kultz, Allison Lofgren, Elena Lyons, Lauren Perlin, Denise Rowe, Shannon Wagner, Saranatha White and Rose Xie. The freshman class consists of Darya Zorina, Julie Thomson, Danielle Styles, Megan Stec, Alexandra Sisson, Leah Rice, Natalie Morris, Andrea Kramer, Katherine Harris and Amanda Barbosa.

With those kind of numbers on the squad this year, Norgren is quick to say that he hasn't the slightest idea of who will step up and who won't when it comes to underclassmen. "It's way too early to tell about the freshmen," he said. "But I do expect that the sophomore class will contribute nicely this year."

Norgren noted that coaching these girls is never a problem — in fact, he said something quite different. "I claim that I have the nicest group of kids anywhere, and that holds true as for as I'm concerned," he said. "Each and everyone of these kids are just wonderful!"

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Novi Wildcats

Varsity Football

Aug. 29 Chelsea 6:55 p.m.
 Sept. 5 Howell 6:55 p.m.
Sept. 12 Lakeland 6:55 p.m.
 Sept. 19 Brighton 6:55 p.m.
Sept. 26 South Lyon 6:55 p.m.
 Oct. 3 Hartland 6:55 p.m.
Oct. 10 Milford 6:55 p.m.
 Oct. 17 Pinckney 6:55 p.m.
Oct. 24 Northville 6:55 p.m.

JV Football

Aug. 28 Chelsea 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 4 Howell 6:30 p.m.
 Sept. 11 Lakeland 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 18 Brighton 6:30 p.m.
 Sept. 25 South Lyon 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 2 Hartland 6:30 p.m.
 Oct. 9 Milford 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 16 Pinckney 6:30 p.m.
 Oct. 23 Northville 6:30 p.m.

Freshman Football

Aug. 28 Chelsea 4:30 p.m.
Sept. 4 Howell 4:30 p.m.
 Sept. 11 Lakeland 4:30 p.m.
Sept. 18 Brighton 4:30 p.m.
 Sept. 25 South Lyon 4:30 p.m.
Oct. 2 Hartland 4:30 p.m.
 Oct. 9 Milford 4:30 p.m.
Oct. 16 Pinckney 4:30 p.m.
 Oct. 23 TBA 4:30 p.m.

Homes games are listed in Bold



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