



POWERLESS

Southfield residents Sean Williams and his wife, Deveatia, refuel their Buick outside the Novi Denny's after he ran out of gas on I-96 enroute to Brighton. The Williams were among millions left the dark following a massive blackout stretching from New England to the Great Lakes. Local officials were amazed how calm things were during the blackout, reporting no major incidents related to the power outage. Novi's emergency response team shipped hundreds of cases of bottled water to area senior centers and shelters. The city also took steps to put emergency generators in all its buildings.



BATTLING FOR BECK

The aging Beck Road Bridge over I-96 became one of the skirmish points in the battle over what some call urban sprawl. After 12 years of planning, the project was one of 34 axed by the Governor as part of her "Preserve First" program. House and Senate Republicans shot back with "Priorities First" after Novi and Oakland County officials complained they had committed millions of dollars to the project at state request. The project is now slated for completion in 2005.

CHILD MURDERED

Novi residents were horrified in September upon learning of the beating death of 2-year-old Ann Marie Shawley. The St. Clair County girl and her 4-year-old sister were visiting her father in Novi over the Labor Day weekend. Investigators say it took the toddler two days to die from her injuries after being brought to local hospitals. District Court Judge Brian MacKenzie called the girl's death a torture killing. He denied bail for the girl's stepmother, Nikole Michelle Fredericks, who is now facing first degree murder charges.



INSIDE: YEAR IN REVIEW

2 0 0 3
T O P
T E N
S T O R I E S

Photos by John Heider, MH / Westside Photographic and Cat Stone

BELT-TIGHTENING

Local city and school officials became as nervous as a mouse at a cat convention as the Governor began taking the budget axe to local revenue sharing. Despite having set their budgets earlier in the year, all managed to avoid painful cuts in service, at least for now. However, faced with a substantial loss in high-paying manufacturing jobs since 1999, few are betting there won't be more state cuts in the coming year.



CATHOLIC CENTRAL CONVERTS

One of the state's most respected private schools may have to change its name to Catholic On The Edge as it moves to Novi, which is almost as far west as you can go and still be in the Detroit Archdiocese. Ground clearing is underway on Wixom Road and the school's 1,100 all-boy student body is expected to arrive in 2005. Catholic Central's plans for a new home in Novi had environmentalists on edge when the school sought relief from the city's tree replacement ordinance which required the school, like all developers, to replant the trees it cut down. In the end the city gave the school a decade to replace the trees.



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CLAWIN' 'CATS

Six inches from the Silverdome. That's how the season ended for the Novi High School football squad - with a 31-28 overtime loss to Brother Rice in the state semi-final game - but that's not how the 'Cats' 2003 season will be remembered. Coach Tab Kellepoury's squad compiled a 12-1 mark, including the Kensington Valley Conference crown and perhaps the most remarkable season in the school's gridiron history. "It's not about seniors, juniors or anyone else," Kellepoury said. "It's about Wildcat football." Amen, coach.

A NEW LOOK AT CITY HALL

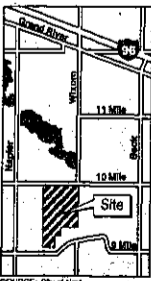
There are new faces at City Hall and old faces in new locations in the wake of November's general election. Lou Csordas took over as mayor, while Lynne Paul, Toni Nagy and Bob Gatt won seats on city council in an election whose hottest button was when and where campaign signs could be placed. Nearly every candidate who lost lined up after the election making a bid to fill an empty seat on one of the city's numerous boards and commissions. The common reason? Winning isn't everything - community service is.



GOLF OUT, HOUSING IN

Duffers on the city's west side will be looking for a new place to call home as the Links of Novi makes way for homes in Singh Development's Quail Hollow project. The Novi City Commission agreed Dec. 13 to let the West Bloomfield company build 349 homes on the 324.95 acre site after the company agreed to donate 75 acres to the city and help build trails in what looks to be the city's second largest park.

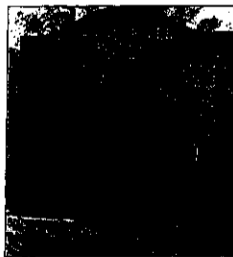
Links of Novi



Officials in Lyon Township are concerned about what the project will do to traffic on 10 Mile Road. The two have agreed to meet.

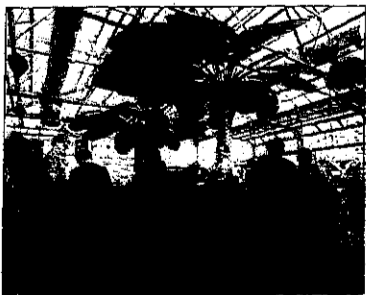
GRAND REOPENING

After a winter, spring and summer of discontent, Novi business people along Grand River Avenue between Novi and Beck roads celebrated Nov. 14 as city and Road Commission for Oakland County Officials opened the new bridge over the CSX Railroad tracks. The new \$7.6 million replaces one built in 1925. The five-lane span features a de-icing system and paves the way for commercial development, including the new Novi Expo Center on the city's west end. The project was plagued by traffic and utility disruptions, which had local business people screaming by mid summer and wondering who would be finished first - them or the bridge. Work still remains to be completed at the Grand River and Novi Road intersection next summer.



MAIN STREET MAKEOVER

The Post Bar breathed new life into the moribund Main Street development, opening its doors in July. However, within weeks it began attracting attention it didn't want, becoming the city's number one nightspot for lawmen as well as revelers. Bar managers are working with Novi police to smooth things out and the entire district seems on the rebound with the opening of Gus O'Connors.



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2003: YEAR IN REVIEW

continued from page 5

Extended planning: Novi's city council... extended planning... Novi's city council...

May

Golden guys: Novi's Larry Gambotto was honored by the United Way...

Benefit: Employees, management and vendors at Ford...

Teacher expands: Bob Shank announced in mid-April that his family...

Building the gap: After announcing that funding for the...

Party on Novi: Novi's newest restaurant...

First lady: Novi's first lady...

Banking on Novi: April 16 saw the launch...

Chronic wins: The Novi Chamber of Commerce...

New Sheriff in town: Lansing-based...

Road work worries: Road Commission...



Wynton Marsalis plays trumpet along with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra on June 18 at Novi High School. This number was called "Back to Basics".

resisting: Pontiac... hospital... hospital... hospital...

Chiao-ching: Novi... Chiao-ching... Novi...

And then there were three: Retired Ford executive...

And then there were three: Retired Ford executive...

Hot time in Wisconsin: The fight...

Novi police officers... Novi police officers...

Novi Library leaders... Novi Library leaders...

Arab women's delegation... Arab women's delegation...

Bambi stops by: Employees at Providence Hospital...

Neighbors' books canceled: After voters in Commerce Township...

Doesn't bother us: Librarians in Novi, Wyom and Walled Lake...

2003: YEAR IN REVIEW

continued from page 6

Members of the Novi Planning Commission... Members of the Novi Planning Commission...

Decision delayed on Beck North Corporate Park... Decision delayed on Beck North Corporate Park...

Gateway ordinance moves forward... Gateway ordinance moves forward...

Rotary raises more than \$25,000 for polo... Rotary raises more than \$25,000 for polo...

Novi Library leaders invite public to create vision... Novi Library leaders invite public to create vision...

Arab women's delegation comes to Wyom... Arab women's delegation comes to Wyom...

Bambi stops by: Employees at Providence Hospital... Bambi stops by: Employees at Providence Hospital...

Neighbors' books canceled: After voters in Commerce Township... Neighbors' books canceled: After voters in Commerce Township...

Doesn't bother us: Librarians in Novi, Wyom and Walled Lake... Doesn't bother us: Librarians in Novi, Wyom and Walled Lake...

from the National American Miss Contest... from the National American Miss Contest...

Computer security lauded: Walsh College's Keith Prety... Computer security lauded: Walsh College's Keith Prety...

Decision delayed on Beck North Corporate Park... Decision delayed on Beck North Corporate Park...

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Doesn't bother us: Librarians in Novi, Wyom and Walled Lake... Doesn't bother us: Librarians in Novi, Wyom and Walled Lake...

Merito in July... Merito in July...

Planning Commission protests removal of historic barn... Planning Commission protests removal of historic barn...

Lincoln LS Owners defend Novi... Lincoln LS Owners defend Novi...

Novi Road zoning changes approved... Novi Road zoning changes approved...

Founders of Wyom firm Acromag dies... Founders of Wyom firm Acromag dies...

Post Bar becomes city's latest hot spot... Post Bar becomes city's latest hot spot...

Walled Lake welcomes unique gift, antiques shop... Walled Lake welcomes unique gift, antiques shop...

MSU design students set sights on Walled Lake... MSU design students set sights on Walled Lake...

Crime fighter mayor: Novi's Richard Clark... Crime fighter mayor: Novi's Richard Clark...

Novi firm sends employee on trade mission... Novi firm sends employee on trade mission...

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GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINEE BEST ACTRESS Helen Mirren

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CALENDAR GIRLS HELEN MIRREN JULIE WALTERS

4 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS BEST DIRECTOR PETER JACKSON

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juha roberts mona lisa smile

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John Heider - Staff Photographer
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Phil Foley - Staff Writer
Ramez Khuri - Staff Writer

OPINION

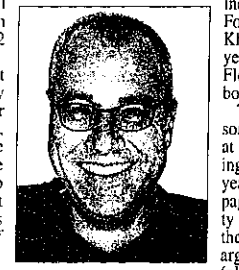
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Stars and Stripes forever
Emon Wlinshp, left, and Eric Pasturale, Cub Scouts of Novi's Pack 375, carry the American flag during this year's Memorial Day parade through Novi.

It all depends how you look at things

Time flies. Period. It doesn't matter if you're having fun or not. It's always an interesting experience at a newspaper to go through the Year in Review files and recall all the events that have taken place over the last 12 months.



Cal Stone is the editor of the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 111, or at cstone@ht.homecomm.net.

LETTER

They made it safe
I wanted to thank the Novi DPW for the excellent work that they did clearing the roads for us on Christmas morning.

GOVERNMENT

Per reader request, we have compiled a list so you can get in touch with your local and regional senators and representatives.

United States Senate

Carl Levin (D-Detroit)
269 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
(202) 224-6221

Oakland County

Executive L. Brooks Patterson
County Service Center
Building #34 East
1200 N. Telegraph Road
Pontiac, MI 48341

7th Commission

Chris Long
1342 E. Commerce Road
Commerce Twp., MI 48382
(248) 366-2666

8th Commission

Jeff Potter
1099 Stabler Lane
South Lyon, MI 48178
(248) 437-7597

9th Commission

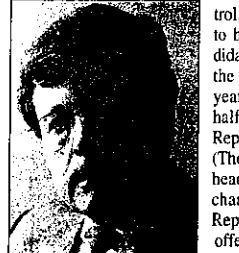
Guth D. Crawford
4627 S. 11 Mile Road
Novi, MI 48374
(248) 349-5079

Townships

Novi Raymond Schovers, supervisor
PO Box 924
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 348-0365

Experience qualifies Republican Schwarz for turn in Congress

If new Congressmen were selected based on their resumes, Michigan would, without any doubt, send maverick Republican John Joseph Schwarz to the House of Representatives next year.



Jack Lessenberry

Though a Roman Catholic, he believes "abortion should be safe, legal and rare." He is one of only a handful of lawmakers in either party who opposed legislation that allowed virtually anyone to carry a concealed weapon.

Share your opinions: We welcome your letters to the editor.

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less.

2003: YEAR IN REVIEW - NOVI SCHOOLS



Brittany Hamilton, bottom, dances to surfer music at last Friday's Hawaiian spirit day at Novi Woods Elementary. Joining her are Kaley Bowles, top, and Nicole Kozinsky.

January
Frog Force 503 in FIRST: The Novi High School Robotics Club team, which is called Frog Force 503, gathered at the Novi Expo Center on Jan. 4 for the official kick-off of the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics 2003 National Competition.

January
Emergent readers: Village Oaks Elementary School, with the help of Reading Specialist Jane Funfgeld, developed the Reading Buddy Program. The program is a nationally renowned, one-on-one tutorial that originated at the McGuffey Reading Center at the University of Virginia.

January
NHS' Andrew Krupnyski named HomeTown Hero: Andrew Krupnyski, a junior at Novi High School, was one of six volunteers and a business honored for giving countless hours of volunteer time to Oakland County non-profits.

February
Kratz passes away: Dr. Jerry Kratz, who was the Novi Community School District's superintendent from July 1972 through June 1990, passed away on Jan. 28 this year.

February
Full-day preschool: The Novi Community School Board of Education approved an optional, fee-based, full-day preschool program for the 2003-04 school year.

February
Fading budget cuts: Valentine's Day wasn't such a joyous occasion for the Novi Community School District this year because that was the day that Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Jim Kruster anticipated hearing from the State Department of Budget indicating that there will be an executive order dictating that all the school districts in Michigan, including Novi, will receive less aid.

Advertisement for Town Commons, a living residence, with contact information for Jeff Duneske.

Advertisement for Jeff Duneske, a realtor, offering a critical guide to home loans.

Advertisement for Jim Seghri Renovations, specializing in kitchen, master suites, and tile.

Advertisement for Ashady's business, featuring a New Year clearance sale.

Advertisement for Garry S. Weinstein, a gemologist, offering jewelry and gemstone services.

Advertisement for Muscular Dystrophy Association, featuring Jerry Lewis as National Chairman.

February
ELL program support: A grant in the amount of \$5,750 was awarded to the Novi Community School District to add to the resources now used for all English Limited Learners (ELL).

February
Orchard Hills cuts ribbon: Orchard Hills Elementary officially opened up its completed school to the public as it held a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house to welcome two major new building additions.

February
MLK parade: A group of Novi High students signed up to take a field trip to West Bloomfield High School on Jan. 20 to participate in the annual walk honoring the late civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King.

February
Bridge construction no big deal for bus routes: Construction of the Grand River Bridge over the CSX Railroad Tracks prompted only minimal changes in the morning and afternoon bus routes.

February
Tari Mohlo tapped for NEA board position: For years, the Novi Community School District has been a model for all other districts in Michigan in terms of being a standard.

February
School board suspends foreign exchange program: Novi High School's sponsorship of the foreign travel program to Germany was suspended by the board of education in June 2003.

February
Nancy Davis takes over for retiring Rita Traynor: The Novi Community School District's Board of Education hired Nancy Davis as Dr. Rita Traynor's successor as assistant superintendent of Academic Services starting July 1.

February
Full-day kindergarten: The Novi School Board of Education announced two new scholarship opportunities for Novi High School graduates: The Marilyn Renee Carnegie Memorial Scholarship and the Providence Hospital Health Career Scholarship.

February
Feature Teacher: Village Oaks Elementary School Teacher Kathy Siano won for April because of her ability to get through to her students and make a positive impact on their lives.

February
Feature Teacher: Lynn Barry won for March because of her ability to get through to her students and make a positive impact on their lives.

February
Deerfield honored by wildlife federation: Deerfield Elementary is now one of only nine schools in Michigan with the distinction of being called a Certified Schoology Habitat.

February
Feature Teacher: Every month, the Novi News honored a local teacher for his or her excellence in the classroom.

February
Tim Kava (Tony) lies in the arms of Bethany Snow (Maria) during a run-through of Novi High's production of West Side Story.

March
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Advertisement for Garry S. Weinstein, a gemologist, offering jewelry and gemstone services.

Advertisement for Muscular Dystrophy Association, featuring Jerry Lewis as National Chairman.

continued from page 13

In first doubles, Colene Brockman and Emily Holt found themselves with a second-seed and a lot of top teams to contend with. After a first-round bye, the girls went to work. Their first victory came in the form of a 6-2, 6-2 drubbing of Romeo's Kerry Sereckv and Sarah Stonehouse before they advanced to top Troy's Sarah Campian and Sara Suckstorf 6-2, 6-3. The following match didn't have such a happy ending though, and the girls fell to the fourth-seeded and eventual state champion Traverse City Central duo of Alex Alward and Christine Milliken, 6-1, 6-2.

Tennis team qualifies for states, wins regional

For the Novi Wildcats girls tennis team, going to the state finals may be a repeat of last year — but they are planning on an even better showing this time around.

The Novi tennis team, coached by Jim Hanson, won their regional with an impressive showing by earning 28 points while Farmington Mercy escaped into the state finals as well with a second-place finish of 24 points.

Last season, the Wildcats took eighth place in the Lower Peninsula finals, and this year they plan on having a similar showing and maybe a better placement.

In the regional meet, the Wildcats didn't seem to have too much trouble as they won five out of the eight flights.

State-ranked soccer falls to Northville in playoffs

Novi soccer coach Brian O'Leary made it very clear that whoever got the break in the game between Northville and Novi would win the contest. Well, it was Northville who got the break.

Sometimes, those breaks are harder to take than others, especially when it leads to an overtime period in which Northville captured a 3-2 victory.

Soccer team has great success

It's been a good year to be a Novi Wildcat soccer player.

The Novi soccer team, coached by Brian O'Leary, finished off their regular season play with a dominating win over Pinckney, 8-0, and a 4-1 win over Millford.

With six players missing thanks to PSAT testing, the Wildcats had the opportunity to find room for all of their players to get plenty of time on the field. Needless to say, it paid off.

Novi wins Baseline Jug — Again

In the end, it was all about the win. Sure, it was great to have the Baseline Jug back in Novi for the year and it was great to top their biggest rivals — but to the Novi Wildcats, the most important thing was the victory.

Novi secured a 9-0 regular season run with an impressive 35-16 win over a very determined Northville Mustangs football team October 24. The win marked Novi's third-straight win over Northville as well as a 17-16 lead in the all-time series.

Wildcats stay undefeated, top South Lyon

The crowd poured from the stands and the teams gathered in the endzones at the Novi High School football stadium, and the rain started to come down about the fans and players as the Wildcats began chanting their fight song.

One could have thought, at that very moment, that the rain was a perfect symbol of the tears of agony for the South Lyon Lions, or tears of joy for the Novi Wildcats.

The Novi football team, under the guidance of Tab Kellepourey, kept their record unblemished and



Novi diver Dan Bassett warms up before a meet at Plymouth Salem in mid-January.

Photo by John Heider

took their destiny in their own hands with a 17-15 victory over the Lions Friday. The loss for South Lyon, however, was their first of the year and knocked them

into second place in the conference standings.

Boys' cross headed to state finals for sixth-straight year

For the sixth straight year, the 'Cats cross country boys are going to make the trip to the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn.

Competing in one of the toughest Regionals in the state is never an easy task, and the Wildcats have managed to do it through the years — though coach Bob Smith

would like to see the talent in the Regional spread out.

"Region 7-1 is a blood bath," Smith said. "Too bad the MHSAA does not care that top schools are left home."

And, much like the Michigan High School Athletic Association was able to change the tennis Regionals, they have the power to rectify the situation.

"Every year they have the opportunity to fix some of the problems that are plaguing our sport," Smith said. "Every year, they choose not to."

Luckily for Novi and two other Kensington Valley Conference schools, they can worry about that next year. Until then, they have a major competition on their hands with the Lower Peninsula cross country finals. The Wildcats took second place behind the Milford Mavericks, who have an unofficial third-place ranking in the nation. Also escaping from the Regional was a very strong Pinckney team in third place. Howell took fourth, but didn't qualify.

Girls' harrier squad has bright conference showing

When it comes to Kensington Valley Conference cross country, no team can be ignored.

The Novi Wildcats girls cross country team is well aware of that, and made a point out of finishing their opponents off with some fleet-footed harriers as they ran to a 21-38 victory over Kensington Valley Conference rival South Lyon September 23.

Seven-hour match stymies Wildcats

It wasn't the showing Brad Huss was hoping to see out of his Wildcats — but what could he expect out of a match that lasts over seven hours?

The Wildcats golf team had to struggle through those conditions as they found themselves shooting a 326 on the first day — a score that failed to move them up into the top 13 schools for the second day of competition.

It ended up being just one stroke that cost the Novi Wildcats a qualifying score, and they finished for a tie in 14th-place in the state with Brighton and Holt.

Golf makes finals once again

It's nothing new for the Novi Wildcats — but it's exciting nonetheless.

The Wildcats boys golf team will once again represent their school and their community as they play against the best of the best in the state finals. That's after a particularly good showing that found them finishing second in the regional tournament behind a very impressive Detroit Catholic Central squad.

The Wildcats were led by Brandon Cigna — or, more precisely, everyone was led by Cigna. The Novi senior shot a two-under 69 to earn the medalist position at the regional tournament.

Tankers prove to be road warriors

It's not easy being road warriors, but that's the only choice the Novi Wildcats girls swimming and diving team has this year.

With no home pool to swim in due to the school construction, the Wildcats have been practicing late nights at Northville's pool and competing only on the road. The closest thing the Novi tankers have had to a home meet was when they took on Northville and fell 182-133 in an eight-lane scoring meet earlier this year.

The Wildcats recently had another close-to-home meet, as they took on and defeated the South Lyon Lions 100-86 in a Kensington Valley Conference match-up.

By Sam Eggleston

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

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Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver.

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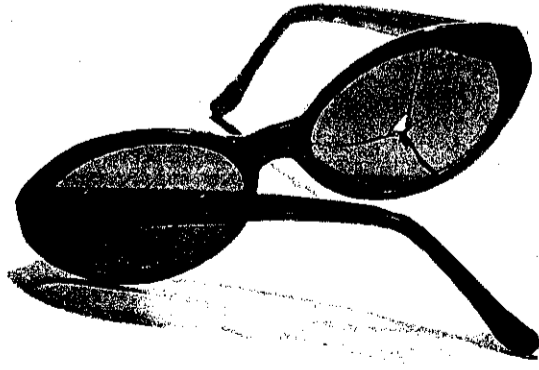


Photo by Michael Mazzone

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