

INSIDE



Feature Teacher

Novi Middle School computer teacher Frank Raburn smiles is honored by the Novi News as February's Feature Teacher.

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OBITUARIES

Colleen Bowhall Clary
Andree' F. Serra
Adele M. Bosler

— Page 8A

REGIONAL MARKET

Orin Jewelers

Orin Jewelers celebrated multiple milestones in 2003 including its 70th year in business, 50 years in Garden City and 20 years in Northville, spanning three generations of the Mazzoni family.

— Page 4B

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CORRECTIONS

The date for "A Winter Wonderland Marini Party" benefiting the Muscular Dystrophy Association at the Bamboo Club in Novi is from 7 to 10 p.m. Feb. 18, with a champagne reception at 6:30 p.m. The Bamboo Club manager's name is Karrie Dunn.

In last week's "Still on Hold" article regarding the Wixom Road Bridge project, the amount of funds in the Omnibus Appropriations Bill is \$2.5 million, and there is another \$2.5 million in federal funding available.

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More homes, park land

■ Planning commission sends approval recommendation to council

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

The city of Novi will get 45 new acres for its park system and 70 new homes if city council agrees with the planning commission's unanimous recommendation for a new subdivision, The Preserve.

The commission's Jan. 28 vote followed a public hearing on the request of Robert J. Halso, president of Terra Libra, LLC, of

Grosse Pointe, for a Residential Unit Development Plan to be located on the north side of Nine Mile Road east of Napier Road.

The developer wants to build 70 single family homes. The property consists of just over 111 acres. Forty-five acres of property will be donated to the City of Novi park system as part of the project.

The developer also plans to add 1.7 miles of pathway connecting the Community Park at Eight Mile and Napier to the property.

Quail Hollow, the subdivision to be built on the property presently occupied by the Links of Novi golf course, will also be connected on the north side of The Preserve property.

The developer is proposing to construct the 70 lots on 58 acres at the site.

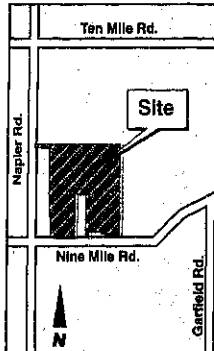
Andrew Mutch of Novi, a former member of the Novi Planning Commission and member of the Friends of Novi Parks, expressed concern at the public hearing on

how the proposed subdivision will affect woodlands on the property. "I feel the plan doesn't preserve the environmental features on the site," Mutch said. "I know the developer can do a better job in preserving more open space."

Mutch did approve of the developer's efforts to expand the city's park system and add the trails.

"But, I still feel there are some significant challenges with this

The Preserve



SOURCE: City of Novi

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Sharing the Dream



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Rosevelt Johnson of Mobile Ed Productions presents an informative assembly on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to students of Orchard Hills Elementary last Friday. Among the many things Dr. King tried to teach everyone, said Johnson, was that "the seed of greatness is in each and everyone of you."

A break on taxes?

■ Winter bills extended three more days

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

A calendar fluke means Novi taxpayers will get an extra three days to pay their winter taxes this year. Because Valentine's Day falls on a Saturday this year and Presidents Day is on the following Monday, Oakland County residents have until midnight Feb. 17 to pay their winter school and county taxes.

Beverly Valente, the city's assistant treasurer, said Novi taxpayers have already paid half the \$34 million in real and personal property taxes due for the winter. She said most of them are homeowners and mortgage companies who paid the Winter 2003 taxes before Dec. 31 for tax reasons.

Valente said taxpayers who haven't paid their winter taxes yet really should bring their payment to the Novi Civic Center. "We don't do postmarks. We go by the day it arrives," she said.

That means if you mail your tax check today and it arrives at the city Treasurer's Office on Feb. 18, you owe Oakland County and the Novi Community School District 4 percent more.

Valente said she expects to see all but 3 percent of the winter tax bill paid by the end of the day Feb. 17. Those who don't pay by the 17th will have until March 1 to bring a check, plus penalty, to the Civic Center — or deal with the county.

Although the staff of the city Treasurer's Office expects to see more people than usual at the counter over the next few days, Valente said the lines shouldn't be too bad. She added, residents can get through the process a little quicker, if they bring their entire tax bill with them.

Taxpayers should enjoy the three-day grace period created by this year's calendar. It won't happen again until 2032.

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

DRESSING FOR SUCCESSING

■ Clothing needed for unemployed

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Take heed, all you clothes-mongers out there.

It's time to clean out your closet before spring. And what better way to make some room than by donating business clothing to those less fortunate?

Area business men and women are encouraged to bring their used clothing to the Novi Chamber of Commerce's Fifth Annual Threads of Power Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Feb.

17 at the Sheraton Detroit Novi. A group of business men and business women affiliated with the chamber have teamed up to support and assist men and women in the area striving to enter or re-enter the workforce.

Donations of "gently-used" business or business-casual attire will go to The Clothes Closet at Holy Family Catholic Church in Novi and the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford.

Cost to attend the event is \$15 per person, and reservations must be made by Friday by calling the Chamber office at (248) 349-3743. St. John Health System's Providence Hospital & Medical Centers in Novi serves as the main sponsor of this year's event.

Other sponsors include Bob Sellers Pontiac-GMC and Executive Printing Systems in Farmington Hills; Republic Bank in Northville; and Twelve Oaks Mall, Dinsor's Greenhouse and Sheraton Detroit Novi in Novi.

Both men's and women's business attire will be accepted at the event.

Peggy Hayes, marketing director at Twelve Oaks Mall, and a member of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, is the chair of this year's event.

"I know that we're helping hundreds of men and women enter or re-enter the work force and become independent, self-confident employees," said Nora Champion, Chamber president.

"The support we receive from our business and residential communi-

ties is tremendous," she said. "In years past we have literally filled trucks with loads of beautiful clothing," Champion said.

Attendees will enjoy a buffet breakfast, a brief presentation by a representative from The Clothes Closet and a "goodie" bag.

The clothing is designed to provide suitable clothing for job applicants to wear during interviews or their first few months on the job until they can budget for business clothing.

The Sheraton Detroit Novi is located on the west side of Haggerty Road just north of Eight Mile Road.

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

'Marry Me at Twelve' winners count down the days

■ Pair lands marvelous matrimony contest package

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

What a difference a day makes. Andrew Androff and Jane James, winners of the "Marry Me at Twelve" contest at Twelve Oaks Mall, were planning a low-key ceremony at her grandparents' farm in Fowlerville next year.

Now, they're tying the knot at 7 p.m. Sunday in front of 98 guests at the Novi mall's Center Court after capturing the \$60,000 wedding package.

The couple, who met at Taco

Bell in Livonia several years ago, were late entries in the contest that ended Feb. 1. The two had to submit a photo and 100-word-or-less essay on why they thought they should be selected.

"We were at the mall about a week before the deadline and decided to enter," Androff said.

"We just made the deadline. It was very quick," James said.

They learned they were the winners the morning of Feb. 6 while being interviewed on WNIC-100.3 FM radio. Next thing they knew, they were being whisked off to the mall in a lim-

ousine to start selecting their wedding ensemble. They had no idea until they heard the news on the air that they had won.

"It added to the drama so much more because we didn't know," Androff said. "It was that much more exciting."

The groom said they still can't believe they won.

"We keep pinching ourselves, staying up until 1 a.m. talking about it," he said.

Androff, 25, a customer development executive for the consulting



Photo by PAUL KUBEK
Jane James of Plymouth and Andrew Androff of Royal Oak are the lucky winners of the "Marry Me at Twelve" contest. The couple will wed at 7 p.m. Sunday at Twelve Oaks Mall's Center Court.

continued on page 5

Blitzards of Bargains Green Sheet Classifieds



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Hotels feature Valentine's Weekend specials

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Looking for a romantic getaway with your sweetheart this Valentine's Day weekend?

Look no further. Several of Novi's hotels are offering special promotions for this special weekend for couples.

Hotel Baronette, 27790 Novi Road, has a "Romance Package" every weekend. The package includes overnight accommodations; a manager's reception, which is a cocktail reception from 5 to 7 p.m., each evening; dinner for two at the No. VI Chop House & Lobster Bar; and a bottle of champagne.

The Valentine's Day package includes overnight accommodations and a dozen roses placed in your room prior to arrival.

Dinner reservations are full at the hotel restaurant for Valentine's night, but couples can still order dinner through room service.

The DoubleTree Hotel, 2700 Sherman Drive, has a "Sweet Romance Getaway." The package includes a deluxe room with a king-sized bed; a bottle of wine or sparkling cider, a red rose; dinner and breakfast for two and a in-room movie. Rooms are still available.

Sheraton Detroit Novi, 21111 Haggerty Road, has a "Romance Package" that includes overnight accommodations, a bottle of wine, a cheese tray, full breakfast for two, a 4 p.m. checkout and an upgrade to the hotel's private Club Floor. As of Tuesday, 40 rooms were still available.

Courtyard by Marriott, 42700 Eleven Mile Road, has two weekend packages available for couples. One provides overnight accommodations and breakfast for two. Another offers overnight accommodations, breakfast for two and two movie passes for the nearby Novi Town Center Theater.

Residence Inn by Marriott, 27477 Cabaret Drive, is offering a one-bedroom or studio suite at a discounted rate. The normal weekend rate applies for the two-bedroom suite.

Country Inn & Suites, 21625 Haggerty Road, has a "Romance Package" that provides overnight accommodations and breakfast for two. The hotel, which features a pool and hot tub, will also provide a box of chocolates if couples mention the "Romance Package" when making reservations.

Wyndham Garden Hotel at Novi, 42100 Crescent Blvd., offers overnight accommodations that include breakfast for two.

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.homecomm.net.

They're still in love after 50 years

By Maureen Johnston
STAFF WRITER

It was companionship, commitment and camaraderie — rather than chocolates, lingerie or flowers — that lifelong lovers described as part of their Valentine's Day plans.

Three local couples who recently celebrated more than 50 years of marriage shared their plans for Saturday's sentimental holiday. The husbands and wives will be by their spouse's side at a restaurant, under a doctor's care, and with the rest of the family.

of South Lyon, who celebrated their 50th anniversary Jan. 30, are planning to share a candlelit dinner. "We like to go out to a nice little restaurant and have an intimate dinner," Elaine said. "It's just kind of simple people."

The couple regularly dines by candlelight, often to romantic crooners such as Nat King Cole. Elaine said, "Their cozy Valentine dinner continues a long-established tradition."

"We've loved one another for 50 years, one week and one day," Douglas said. "Our romance is still together after 50 years."

One year they substituted for their intimate dinner attending the Valentine's Day wedding of one of their grandchildren. "That was very special," Elaine said.

Joe and Pat Sedgewick of Northville this Saturday will be spending their own once-in-a-lifetime holiday together. Husband will be at his wife Pat's side as she recuperates after heart surgery at Providence Hospital this week.

"I might still be there on Valentine's Day," Pat said. The couple, who celebrated their 50th anniversary Dec. 5, was upbeat about the 98 percent suc-

cess-rate procedure.

In fact, five family members preparing for Sedgewick's surgery dined Sunday at the New Peking Restaurant in Novi. They laughed together, Pat said, when she opened her fortune cookie, which read, "You will have a change of heart."

Marjorie and Julius Sauer of Northville, who celebrated their anniversary Nov. 27, this Saturday will count their 52nd official Valentine's Day together. Last weekend, the couple's children and grandchildren combined a celebration of the holiday and Marjorie's Feb. 7 birthday.

"We just had a real nice dinner," Julius said. "We made Valentine's Day and this day all in one."

Bat Feb. 14 will not go unnoticed, he said. "We won't forget Marj on Valentine's Day — no way."

"The children probably will have some surprise," Sauer said. "I'm sure they're going to do something with us."

Maureen Johnston is a staff writer for the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 or by e-mail at mjohnston@ht.homecomm.net.

Valentine's Day concert for lovers of great music

Still looking for something to do on Valentine's Day?

How about a jazz concert? No, not in a small, high-priced club or loud, crowded arena that live music is usually heard. This one is in the comfortable, intimate setting of Franklin Road Christian School's auditorium.

This isn't a typical jazz show, either. This is Cyrus Chestnut, one of the genre's leading pianists, backed by bassist Rodney Whitaker and drummer Randy Gillespie, members of the Professors of Jazz at Michigan State University.

"Tired of being stung by overpriced promoters and the extra gouging of the major ticket services? At just \$20 apiece (\$10 for students), this show is priced just right for the couple looking for a unique Valentine's Day outing."

There's plenty of free parking on the school's campus, located on 13 Mile Road, just west of M-5 in Novi.

"This is an exceptional value for everyone looking for something special to do on Saturday," said event organizer Tony Musa, of Concerts for a Cause. "Where are you going to find an artist of Cyrus Chestnut's stature playing in a setting like this — at these prices? New York? Chicago? L.A.? You'd be lucky to pay twice the price."

Add to the fact that a portion of the proceeds from this concert go

right back to Franklin Road Christian School, and it's a winner for more than just jazz enthusiasts and Novi.

About the artist

Chestnut began his performing career at the tender age of six at Calvary Baptist Church in his native Baltimore. He began studying at the Peabody Institute at the age of nine and after high school when went to Boston's Berklee College of Music, where he was awarded the Eubie Blake Fellowship, the Oscar Peterson Scholarship and the Quincy Jones Scholarship.

After graduating with a degree in jazz composition and arranging, Chestnut went on to work as a sideman for the A-list of jazz greats for the second half of the century before taking wing with his own career in 1991.

Chestnut has released 10 albums since he debuted with his self-released "There's a Brighter Day Coming" in 1991. His latest effort, "You Are My Sunshine," hit the jazz list top 10 last summer, as did his 2001 release, "Soul Food," which *Down Beat* magazine included in its year's best list.

With cuts like "God Has Smiles On Me," "You Are My Sunshine" and "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" on his latest album, it's easy

DISCOGRAPHY

The following are Cyrus Chestnut's solo albums. He also appears as a guest on numerous other recordings.

- Another Direction
- Dark Before the Dawn
- Earth Stories
- Revelation
- Cyrus Chestnut
- Soul Food
- Blessed Quietness
- Charlie Brown Christmas
- You Are My Sunshine



Jazz pianist Cyrus Chestnut will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday at Franklin Road Christian School.

to see Chestnut's early influences. "I go back to growing up in Mount Calvary in Baltimore, Md., where there was a lot of foot stomping, hand clapping, tambourine playing and joy, joy, joy all over the place," he said.

In addition to playing with some of the jazz giants of his age, Chestnut also appeared in Robert Altman's film "Kansas City," playing a pianist modeled after Count Basie.



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• Everything in the Sweetheart Package

• Everything in the Lovers Package

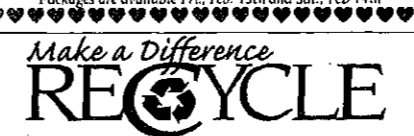
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POLICE REPORT

Just a few
 Officer Scott Baetens stopped a 2004 Dodge Stratus on northbound Novi Road near I-96 at 1:18 a.m. Feb. 5 after he noticed it weaving at 30 mph in a 40 mph zone. The driver, a 37-year-old male from Indiana, said he'd had a "few glasses of beer" at the 5th Avenue Bar. Officer charged the man with operating under the influence of liquor after he failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .06.

Too fast
 Officer Andrew Hudcbeck stopped a dark Ford on Novi Road near Crescent Drive at 2:35 a.m. Feb. 5 after he reported clocking it at 56 mph in a 40 mph zone. The driver, a 28-year-old Detroit man, said he'd consumed one beer in the past two hours, but he failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .01. Officer Hudcbeck charged the driver with operating under the influence of liquor.

Left turn wreck
 A 37-year-old Belleville woman was taken to Providence Park Hospital with non-incapacitating injuries at 4:21 p.m. Feb. 5 after her 1996 Toyota was struck by a 2002 Mazda driven by a 42-year-old Novi man. According to a report filed by Officer Brian Tillman, the Mazda was headed south on Novi Road in the left-hand turn lane for Arena Drive when the Toyota tried to turn north onto Novi Road from a business on the west side of the road. Officer Tillman said the driver of the Mazda was examined for possible injuries following the mishap.

Car cut off
 A 40-year-old Oak Park woman escaped injury at 12:15 p.m. Feb. 6 after her 2000 Ford was cut off by an unknown vehicle on I-96 near Novi Road. However, according to a report filed by Officer Andrew Hudcbeck, the woman's car suffered major damage as it slammed into a guardrail along the expressway.

Roll over
 A 20-year-old Northville man was taken to Farmington Hill's Bowdoin Hospital at 10:10 Feb. 3 to be examined for possible injuries after he apparently lost control of his 2003 Mazda and rolled it. According to reports, the man was driving north on Haggerty Road near Nine Mile Road when his car crossed the road, struck a large rock in the 20000 block, careened back across the road and then flipped over, landing on its roof.

Purse snatched
 A 41-year-old Walled Lake woman told Officer Louis Bigradi that her purse was snatched from her shopping cart while she was in the groceries department at Marshall's in the West Oaks shopping center at 1:12 p.m. Jan. 30.

Revolver stolen
 A 69-year-old Novi woman told Officer Brian Tillman that her Harrington-Richardson revolver was stolen off her bedroom nightstand at her Fireside Street home sometime before 4:23 p.m. Jan. 30. The woman told Officer Tillman that she does not have a concealed weapon permit, but carries the gun in her bag everywhere. There is a suspect.

Identity theft
 A 37-year-old male from Ohio man called Officer Kevin Rhea at 10:44 a.m. Jan. 30 to report that a collection company had tried to collect on a bounced check,

drawn on the Teachers Association of Akron Credit Union, that had been used at Kwik's in Novi. The man said he didn't have an account with the credit union and had never been to Novi.
Texas fugitive
 Employees at Dunkin' Donuts on 10 Mile Road complained at 8:44 p.m. Jan. 30 that a man had taken merchandise from the store without paying for it. After Officer Brian Tillman recovered four coffee cups and four small bags of coffee from a 24-year-old male from Texas, the employees declined to press charges. However, Officer Tillman discovered the man was being sought by authorities in Texas. The man was a 26-year-old Pontiac man, told Officer Prough that he was driving on a restricted license. When Officer Prough asked him if he was in violation of the restrictions, the man replied, "Probably." The man then refused to take a breathalyzer test without first speaking to his lawyer. After speaking to his lawyer over a phone at the Oakland County Jail in Pontiac pending extradition back to Texas.

Tires slashed
 A 17-year-old West Bloomfield woman told Officer Kevin Rhea that someone slashed the tires on her 1997 Chevrolet Cavalier in the Main Street Plaza parking lot sometime before 10:14 p.m. while she was in the Bora Bora restaurant.

Too fast II
 Officer Erik Zinser stopped a Chevrolet Impala at 1:43 a.m. Jan. 31 on Crescent Drive near Novi Road after he reported clocking it at 48 mph in a 25 mph zone. The driver, a 26-year-old Walled Lake man, admitted to having consumed three or four beers. Officer Zinser charged the man with operating under the influence of liquor after he failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .13.

One-eyed Jack
 Officer Scott Baetens stopped a 1995 Dodge Ram truck on Ingersoll Street near Crescent Drive after he spotted it driving with one headlight out at 2:06 a.m. Jan. 31. The driver, a 24-year-old Holly man, said he had an appointment to have the headlight fixed the next day. However, the man failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .135, so he was charged with operating under the influence of liquor. The man was later released after posting a \$100 bond.

Poor choice
 Officer Keith Wautinen stopped a 2000 Jaguar on 12 Mile Road near McQuaybrook Road at 1:31 a.m. Feb. 1 after he watched it make an improper right turn on a red light. The driver, a 25-year-old White Lake man, said he'd seen the no-turn sign, but was in a hurry. The man also said that he was the designated driver, but had had a couple of drinks at the 5th Avenue Bar. Eventually the man told Officer Wautinen that he'd had three or four drinks at Mesquite Cabin in addition to the two or three drinks he'd had at 5th Avenue. The man was charged with operating under the influence of liquor after he failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .086.

Fence vandals
 A Novi woman told Officer Diane MacGregor that vandals tore down a snow fence and no trespassing signs at her Bristol Court home sometime before 9:54 a.m. Feb. 1. The woman said she's been having trouble with kids cutting through her yard.

Burglars fail
 A Novi man told Officer Erick Tapia that his Princeton Street home suffered minor damage some time before 12:58 p.m. Feb. 1 when burglars failed to gain entry.

Two for one
 Officer Erick Zinser stopped a 1993 Dodge on 14 Mile Road near M-5 at 12:58 p.m. Feb. 1 after the license plate came back to a 30-year-old White Lake man sought on an Oakland County Sheriff's Office warrant charging him with driving while license suspended. The White Lake man, who was reportedly being held

when the vehicle was stopped, was released after posting a \$100 bond and a \$10 processing fee. The man's companion, a 19-year-old Redford Township woman, was charged with possession of marijuana after officers found a small amount of the substance in her purse. She was released after posting a \$100 bond.

Noisy tires
 Officer Brian Tillman stopped a GMC Emvay at 1:05 a.m. Feb. 2 on eastbound Grand River Avenue after watching a spin its tires while making a right turn from Market Street. The driver, a 24-year-old Woodhaven man, was charged with operating under the influence of liquor and driving while license suspended, after he failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .09. He was later released after posting a \$500 bond.

Car stolen
 A 42-year-old Novi man told Officer Larry Lemerand that his father's 1989 Chevrolet Caprice was stolen from his Chipmunk Trail apartment at Novi Ridge sometime before 1:43 p.m. Feb. 2.

Car stolen
 A Farmington woman told Officer Paul Stulgrois that Novi's Loyalty Building Company got a call from Bank One investigators Feb. 2 that a Roseville woman had tried to cash one of the company's checks for \$874.34 at the bank's Westland Branch. The Farmington woman said that while the check number and account were correct, the check number the Roseville woman tried unsuccessfully to cash was still in the company's book. The case was turned over to the Westland Police Department for further investigation.

'Marry Me at Twelve' winners count down the days to big event

continued from front page

A honeymoon and more. "It's so much better than we expected when we signed up," Androff said. "We're just so grateful. We feel like we're the luckiest people ever."
 James, who said Feb. 6 she was considering pink and brown as her wedding colors, said she was with two of her sisters and friends when she met her mate.
 "Our eyes met, and I asked him if he knew my brother, Mark, which he did," she recalled.
 The next thing she knew, he tossed her a softball with his phone number written on it with a white-out pen. She called him, and as the saying goes, the rest is history.
 The two both grew up in



12 Oaks Mall Center Court is a splendid setting for Sunday's wedding ceremony.

THE PACKAGE

Vendors in the \$60,000 wedding package in the "Marry Me at Twelve" contest at Twelve Oaks Mall include:
After Hours Formalwear — tuxedo for groom and best man.
Cassens-Murphy Band — live entertainment.
Emerald City Designs — full wedding coordination for the bride and groom, personalized invitations, floral designs, linens and china, ceremony arrangements and more.
Epoch Events Catering of Novi — will provide butter-passed hors d'oeuvres, champagne toast, butter-passed wine and mineral water, plated dinner including salad, choice of beef tenderloin or stuffed breast of chicken entree completed with chocolate truffles.
Godiva Chocolatier — table favors.
Heidi's Salon — hair and makeup for bride and maid-of-honor.
Genie's Hole-in-the-Wall (in Northville) — couples' shower for 30 on Friday. The shower will include dinner and the theater production "Wedding Bell Blues."
Hotel Baronette — will provide the Presidential Suite for the couple on their wedding night and a London taxi limo ride.
JB Robinson — wedding bands.
Janice McClintock — wedding dress, veil and maid-of-honor dress.
Max & Erma's — rehearsal dinner on Saturday.
Papyrus — personalized thank-you notes.
Peppy Kubek Photography with Picstage.com — wedding photography, including a bound photo album of 180-200 photos.
Pottery Barn — bridal registry and special gift.
Sweet Dreams Pastry — custom wedding cake for 100.
Things Remembered — bridal party gifts, toasting glasses and cake serving set.
Travel 2000 Luggage and Gifts — luggage for the honeymoon.
Twelve Oaks Mall — will provide a Bahamas Cruise honeymoon, air fare included.
Video Magic Productions — videographer for wedding

Livonia and will be moving to Royal Oak after the wedding. "Her brother and I used to be altar boys together. But I didn't know he had such a pretty sister. I knew that she was a real special girl as soon as I met her," Androff said.
 James said winning the wedding package is more than a dream come true.
 "It's been super exciting. It's nothing I've ever imagined. We're so lucky," she said.
 The groom's parents, Chris and Hannah Androff of Walled Lake, were in California when the couple learned they were the winners, so they heard about it via phone.
 With five daughters, the bride's parents, Mark Sr. and Elizabeth James of Plymouth, are probably glad this wedding's in just a few basic things that day," he recalled.
 "I'm the oldest of five girls, and we have one brother. My dad's already told my sisters not to expect what Andrew and I are getting," James said with a laugh.
How he proposed
 Inquiring minds always want to know how the groom proposed. Here's the "Marry Me at Twelve" wedding package winner Andrew Androff's account of how he popped the question to his bride-to-be, Jane James.
 "We wanted to find the perfect house before we got married, which took us about six months.

More park land, homes

continued from front page

proposal," Mutch said. "When I first looked at this plan, it's so far superior to Quail Hollow that I can't say enough in favor of the developer. I like what you've done here," said Commissioner Lynn Kocan. "I see a win-win situation here," said Commissioner Victor Cassis. "If we can address some of the concerns of the residents, it will be great. Nine Mile is a beautiful road."
 Commissioner David Ruyie said he would like for the developer to pave Nine Mile Road from the entrance to the proposed subdivision to Napier Road, which Halso agreed to consider.

"We can't force you to do it, but we're asking you to," Ruyie said. "I think it's going to be an outstanding development, and I appreciate what the developer has done," Commissioner Tim Shroyer said.
 Gwen Markham, commission chair, commended the developer for not proposing the highest number of homes available that was within zoning regulations. "You're the first developer lately who's done this," Markham said. "And the preservation [of park land] is going to benefit the entire city. It's our core [park] reserve."
 "We're well under what we could have built under the zoning, but our interests are the same as yours," Halso said. "This is going to benefit the community for decades to come."

Got an idea for a story?
 Call Cal Stone, editor, at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 or e-mail him at cstone@hl.homecomm.net.

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UNOFFICIAL MICHIGAN DEMOCRATIC 2004 PRESIDENTIAL CAUCUS RESULTS

Delegates	Braun	Clark	Dean	Edwards	Gephardt	Kerry	Kucinich	Lieberman	Sharpton	Uncommitted	Write-in	Total Vote
45	163	10,986	26,994	21,919	944	84,214	5,183	682	1,1270	476	98	162,929
	0.10%	6.74%	16.57%	13.45%	0.58%	51.69%	3.18%	0.42%	6.92%	0.29%	0.06%	100%

Local Dems pleased with caucus turnout

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

With a Republican State Representative and a Republican State Senator Novu may not be exactly a Democratic stronghold, but voter turnout for the party caucus Saturday left party officials smiling.

Jack Schneider, chairman of the West Oakland County Democratic Club, said more than 300 Democrats had cast their ballots by noon at the Novi Public Library.

"Among them was Allison Barsamian, a Novi High School senior who won't be 18 until September. 'I really want to be able to make a difference,' she said smiling as she participated in her first election.

Minutes after casting her ballot, Barsamian was volunteering to check in other voters.

Nadia Peltak, a Walled Lake Western High Schooler who just turned 18, said she decided she wanted to participate after reading a newspaper article. "I thought this was important, so I just showed up," she said.

Jim Gialadoni, a village council member from Wolfcreek

Lake, was glad she did. A political activist for 15 years, Gialadoni said voter turnout for the caucus was "far beyond what I expected."

Schneider called the turnout "unbelievable." He said Novi and Commerce Township had the best turnout of West Oakland County's caucus sites. He said so many people showed up to cast their ballots that party workers had to print more.

"I'm really happy people are involved," she said.

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



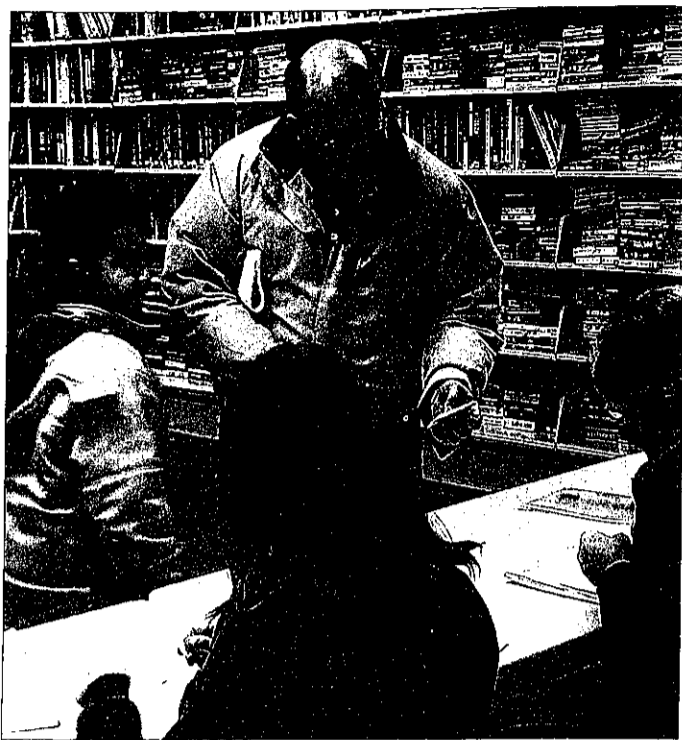
Rob Coyer

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Jim Gialadoni, a village council member from Wolfcreek



Novi resident Ak Kosrov prepares to cast his ballot in the Michigan Democratic caucus Saturday as his son, Kevin, watches. Although a controversy is brewing over closed polling locations in Detroit, party officials in West Oakland County said ballotting went smoothly here.

Back to the '50s; music festival kicks off with sock hop

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Novi's Music & Motor Fest heads back to its original roots

It's time to dust off your leather jacket and put pleats back in your poodle skirt because the organizers of the Michigan 50's Festival are getting ready to turn the clock back to when everyone liked Ike.

The "Rock 'n' Roll" Inc. will be spinning platters from the '50s, and some from the '60s, as the Michigan 50's Festival holds its

first Kick Off Sock Hop in the event's 17-year history March 13 in the MacKenzie Room of the Novi Expo Center.

Tickets for the event are \$10 a person and will include pizza, soda and dancing from 7 to 11 p.m.

Laurie Kapelczak, one of the festival's organizers, said her

group is holding the Kick Off Sock Hop to let people know that what had come to be known as the Novi Expo Center.

Kapelczak said the Kick Off Sock Hop is being sponsored by The Novi Expo Center. Varsity Lincoln Mercury at the corner of Grand River Avenue and Wixom Road. Tickets can also be obtained by calling festival headquarters at (248) 349-1950.

Kapelczak said only 250 tickets will be available for the sock hop.

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

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Detroit water chief Mercado defends city utility's position

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

For more than a decade, Detroit and the 125 communities it serves in southeast Michigan have been at odds over the wholesale rate Detroit charges for water.

The head of Detroit Water and Sewer Department met exclusively with HomeTown Communications Network editors and reporters Friday in Livonia to discuss the giant utility's relationship with its suburban customers.

Last year the state House formed a committee to consider expediting Detroit Water and Sewer Department have its rate increases approved by the state Public Service Commission, just as investor-owned utilities like Detroit Edison and Consumers Power.



Photo by Phil Foley

Still others have called for a regional takeover of the 130-year-old city-owned utility.

Victor Mercado, who took over as Detroit Water and Sewer Department's utilities operations chief nearly two years ago, said the utility has been taking steps to improve efficiency and cut costs.

He said that in the past year he has consolidated the utility's equipment yards from five to four and trimmed its fleet of vehicles by 200, cutting operational costs by \$1 million and saving another \$500,000 through the sale of excess equipment.

While many suburban critics claim that Detroit Water and Sewer Department overcharges for water, Mercado said the utility is prohibited by state law from turning a profit.

For the third year in a row, said Mercado, Detroit Water and Sewer Department has managed not to increase its operational or maintenance budget. However, he added, "I'm not sure how long we can keep doing that."

Mercado noted that like many older urban water systems, Detroit is faced with making substantial investments in order to meet ever-increasing EPA environmental standards and growing customer

Area water rates rise, but still below regional average

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Given an average water rate increase of 7.5 percent for the more than 4 million people served by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, Wixom residents did fine and Novi residents did great.

Novi saw its wholesale water rate from Detroit slide up a mere 2 percent to \$16.97 per 7,500 gallons from last year's rate.

Although Detroit's water department set its wholesale rates Jan. 28, Kathy Smith-Roy, Novi's finance director, said her office hasn't received its official notice from the utility. She said Novi residents won't know what their new water rate will be until March.

According to the Detroit utility's latest rate comparison study, Novi added a \$3.85 charge to the \$16.66 Detroit charged it for

7,500 gallons of water during 2003-04. That's a markup of 35.11 percent. While that is on the low end of municipal markups, Smith-Roy said the city's markup is actually 14.15 percent.

She explained the difference by saying that while Detroit charges the suburbs in thousands of cubic feet, Novi charges its residents by the thousands of gallons used.

According to City Engineer Nancy McClain, Novi currently has no water storage capacity of its own. She said that while contractors are finishing up a 14 million storage tank at 14 Mile and Haggerty roads to serve Novi, Wixom, Walled Lake and Commerce Township, once it's online it will only hold enough water to meet the city's needs for one day.

She said the city's number one water priority has been getting a second water main across I-96 to improve reliability and adding a booster station to improve water pressure along Novi's western edge.

McClain said there are two 1.5 million storage tanks in Novi's capital improvement plan, but the first of the \$2.3 million structures isn't scheduled until sometime between 2006-08.

While Wixom saw its wholesale water rate from Detroit jump 7 percent to \$13.55 for 7,500 gallons, City Manager Michael Dorman said "I'm very pleased with the rates."

Until October of 2001, Wixom was served by a network of 18 wells in the city. While the city had plenty of water, residents found the iron content unacceptable. "We had holes poked in us like Swiss cheese," said Dorman.

The city still does and it has the ability to close the valves to Detroit and turn the pumps back on, like it did last summer during the blackout.

While acknowledging that Wixom's 68.75 percent markup on water was a little on the high side, Dorman explained, "we're paying back for a brand new water system." He said higher water rates now means the city will able to pay off its 2.25 percent loan from the state in 15 years, saving residents in the long run.

City	Water	Sewer
Detroit	9.25	10.27
Wyoming, MI	6.90	12.80
Saginaw, MI	10.80	N/A
Bay City, MI	15.90	N/A
Grand Rapids, MI	18.25	16.78
Kalamazoo, MI	N/A	8.83
Columbus, OH	12.52	23.99
Cincinnati, OH	19.80	N/A
Cleveland, OH	24.98	29.40
Dayton, OH	N/A	13.20
Average of Others	15.59	17.50
Difference from Detroit	65%	70%

Average charge - dollar amount per 1,000 cubic feet

"I'm not sure how long we can keep doing that."

Victor Mercado, Detroit Water and Sewer Dept. on increasing its operational or maintenance budget

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SENIOR CALENDAR

Table with 2 columns: Day (Thursday 2/12, Friday 2/13, Monday 2/16, Tuesday 2/17, Wednesday 2/18) and Time/Event details.

Senior Center Lunch Service Transportation Closed for President's Day... Management Office open

BIRTH ENGAGEMENT IN THE SERVICE

Birth announcements for Sannette and Martina, and Saari-Garcia. Includes photos of the individuals.

OBITUARIES

Colleen Bowhall Clary: Colleen Clary of Canton, formerly of Port Huron and Novi, died February 6, 2004. She was 58. Mrs. Clary graduated from Norwood-Norfolk Central School in 1963. She earned her master's degree from Potsdam State University and taught in Hawaii and Brasher Falls, N.Y. before moving to Michigan. For the past 10 years she was payroll manager of SarnaMotive-Blue Water in Marysville, Mich. She was a member of the Port Huron Power Squadron and Holy Family Church in Novi. Survivors include her husband of 36 years, Douglas; two children, Laura (Randy) Clary Parker of Los Gatos, Calif. and Mark (Nancy) Clary of Ann Arbor; her parents, Rose and Elizabeth Bowhall of Norwood, N.Y.; one sister, Ann Murphy of Troy, N.Y.; her mother-in-law, Laura Clary of Norfolk, N.Y.; one granddaughter, Casey Marie Parker; several nieces and nephews; and many cherished friends and loved ones. A mass of celebration was held Feb. 9 at Holy Family Church, Novi. Services will also be held Feb. 14 at 11 a.m. at Saint Andrew's Church in Norwood. Memorials may be made to The Robert Packard Center for ALS Research at Johns Hopkins, One Charles Center, 100 North Charles Street/Suite 400, Baltimore, Md., 21201 or mailed to Robert Aklund for the Norwood-Norfolk High School Class of 1963 Scholarship Fund, 327 McDougall Lake Road, Sossayama, N.Y. 12823. Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi. Online sympathy message: www.obrien-sullivanfuneralhome.com.

Novi resident Marine Corps Pvt. Peter E. Kuanosky recently graduated from the Marine Corps Basic Combat Engineer Course at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C. He is the son of Lana G. Kuanosky of Novi and is a 2003 graduate of Walled Lake Western High School.

Novi Public Library Lines: Hours, Story Time notes, Tot Time, Board meeting, Hot Topics in Women's Health.

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Fill Out This Award Ballot And You'll Be Registering To Win A GIFT CERTIFICATE To One Of The Award-Winning Restaurants. Includes fields for Name, Day Time Phone, E-mail Address, Date Sent, and a drop-off location.

Hey...Novi It's Time to Pick Your PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS. We Need Your Input On The Best Places To Shop... Best Places To Eat...Best Place For Great Service. This is NOT scientific! It's a fun, readers poll. Join in on the Balloting!

- BEST FOOD OUTLETS: Best place for coffee/donuts/bagels, Best specialty coffee house, Best place for breakfast, Best Sunday brunch, Best deli, Best fast food restaurant, Best family restaurant, Best place for soup, Best salad bar, Best place for burgers, Best place for hot dogs/coney, Best place for subs, Best place for ice cream, Best place for desserts, Best Italian restaurant, Best Oriental restaurant, Best Mexican restaurant, Best place for pizza, Best wine selection (store), Best wine selection (restaurant), Best beer selection (store), Best beer selection (restaurant), Best place for romantic dinner, Best after work meeting place, Best sports bar, Best place for dancing.

- BEST SERVICE PROVIDERS & RETAIL STORES: Best beauty salon, Best bank, Best nail salon, Best tanning salon, Best jewelry store, Best real estate company, Best real estate agent, Best mortgage company, Best accountant, Best auto dealer, Best auto service, Best oil change shop, Best collision shop, Best tire store, Best veterinary service, Best travel agency, Best video store, Best rental business, Best landscaping business, Best health/fitness business, Best car wash.

All Entries Must Be Received By March 9th For A Chance To Win A GIFT CERTIFICATE To Award-Winning Restaurant

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Novi resident joins MGM Grand

MGM Detroit Grand Detroit Casino has appointed Richard S. Duane, Jr., of Novi as director, Human Resources, Workers' Compensation and Safety Programs. In this role, Duane oversees MGM Grand Detroit's Self Insured Workers' Compensation Program, as well as safety initiatives that affect employees and guests. A native of Northern California, Duane has lived in Michigan for 10 years. He has an extensive and broad-based background in human resources, operations and management. Duane most recently worked as a consultant at MGM Grand Detroit, Casino in both the benefits and workers' compensation areas. Prior to his consulting role, Duane held various human resource management and leadership roles at ADVO, Inc., Mervyns Department Stores and The Emporium-Capwell Company. Duane has a bachelor's degree from California State University-Hayward and has earned several professional certifications in human resources, workers' compensation and safety.

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

Gus O'Connor's kicks up its heels for grand opening

Waterford businessman Ed Smith, who owns the new restaurant along with his younger brother, Mark, said business has been "beyond expectations." The Smiths, along with their general manager, Paul Kastran, hosted a packed house Monday night for the pub's grand opening celebration. Ed Smith said he thought he'd found a solid concept when he saw it in operation in upscale neighborhoods in Chicago, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. but he said the response in Novi has been "incredible." Smith called Gus O'Connor's "a little piece of Ireland, right here in Novi." The pub's interior was designed and fabricated in Ireland and Irish craftsmen then installed it. The facility, Tom Cahill's Luma Building, once was home to



Gus O'Connor's General Manager Paul Kastran (left) and owners Mark and Ed Smith have been encouraged by Novi's response to their authentic Irish pub in the city's Main Street district.

NOTICE

PUBLIC SALE. Pursuant to state law, a public sale will be held on February 14, 2004 at 11:00 a.m. at COLONIAL MINI STORAGE, 48200 West Road, Wilkom, Michigan 48393. Contents will be sold by competitive bidding for cash only to the highest bidder and include miscellaneous household, furniture, tools and personal items including clothing. Units are as follows: 137 John Wallace, 164 Janie Quinn, 208 James Hay, 229 Herbie King, 408 Glenn Grainger, 455 Linda Vasquez, 809 Glenn Caskie, 810 Cynthia Craig, 814 Harold Ledger, 1014 Troy Farnwalt.

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Hawaiian Day at Nov Woods
Novi Woods fourth graders Madelyn Haustein and Theresa Drafta celebrated Hawaiian Day with their fellow classmates on Feb. 6.



Courtesy photos

Meadows Family Volleyball Night

Novi Wildcats Varsity Volleyball players Bella Feldbaum, Anna Rickard, Jenna Kuhn and Megan Miller pose with their team before taking the court against other Nov Meadows families mixed with other Wildcat players. Also pictured are fifth graders Jordan Shawver, Scott Stanford, Hannah Schnaidt, Stanford's mother, and Meadows assistant principals Kathy Boyd and Lisa Fenchel. After the family games were finished, the Wildcats were introduced and then put on an exhibition game. Everyone enjoyed ice cream sundaes on the end evening with the Wildcats signing autographs for all their admirers at Meadows.



Scillian visits middle school

Left, Channel 4 News Anchor Devin Scillian recently visited several seventh grade students at Novi Middle School. Here he shows a book he wrote titled "Cosmo's Moon."

Japanese Setsubun at Orchard Hills

Students at Orchard Hills learned about the Japanese holiday called Setsubun, which is a way of celebrating spring in Japan. In modern days, the most commonly performed Setsubun ritual is the throwing of roasted beans around one's house and at temples and shrines across the country. When throwing the beans, one is supposed to shout "Oni wa soto! Fuku wa uchi!" ("Devils out, happiness in"). Afterwards one should pick up and eat the number of beans which corresponds to one's age (although the kids didn't eat the beans).

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Guest teachers earn mini-grant

Kathy Ilacqua and Amy Lane, two Mary Helen Guest Elementary teachers, were recently awarded a \$2,294 mini-grant from the MHEMIC Foundation to support a Read Around the Clock program for kindergarten through fifth grade students.

Learning about China

Village Oaks Principal Mary Goedert spoke with the second graders about her trip to China with her mother recently. The children were held spellbound when she told about her favorite part of the trip, seeing the Terra Cotta Soldiers. Goedert held up miniature replicas of the soldiers for all to see. The students are beginning to learn about China as part of their lessons. Many of the items from Goedert's trip are in the school showcase.

Criminal justice scholarships available

The Michigan Sheriff's Association is calling for nominations for the 2004 Bernard Gryson Memorial Criminal Justice Scholarship. The scholarships are sponsored by the Michigan Sheriff's Association Educational Services, Inc. Ten \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to Michigan high school seniors pursuing a career in criminal justice. Two scholarships will be awarded in each of the MSA's five state districts. To request a nomination form, please contact the Sheriff's Community Liaison, Mandy Ford, at (248) 858-1947.

ON CAMPUS

Novi resident Erin Gibbons has been selected to participate in the Laws, Hall & Associates program for the spring semester at Miami University. As a member of the student-run campaign, Gibbons is working on a promotion campaign for Follett Higher Education Group. She is a 2000 graduate of Novi High School.

Adam Picher, Benjamin J. Hadden and Bianca Mithel, all of Novi, and Logan Balestrino, Sarah Hicks and Sarah Otto, all of Walled Lake, were named to the Dean's List for fall 2003 semester at Adrian College.

Novi residents Jennifer Chisoy, Phillip Hornshaw, Lindsey Kelang, Samantha Kelley, Michael Kowalski, Mark Levin, Monica Mull, Amy

Waller and Steven Weiting were named to the Honors List at Central Michigan University for fall 2003 semester.

Novi resident Adrienne



In this year's Women in the Know coming in May!

Reserve your space by March 30th contact your sales representative for more information

- South Lyon 248-437-2011
- Northville Record 248-349-1700
- Novi News 248-349-1700
- Milford Times 248-685-1507
- Livingston County Daily Press & Argus 517-548-7060

COMMUNITY EDUCATION CORNER

B.E.A.C.O.N. - A Homework Guide for Parents

Balance - Empower - Assist - Communicate - Organize - Nix Uncontrollable Behavior
DATE: Monday, Feb. 23
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 524
DETAILS: Parents play a key role in their children's homework and academic success. B.E.A.C.O.N. offers guidelines to help parents effectively assist their children with homework, while avoiding unpleasant power struggles. B.E.A.C.O.N. will provide a forum for questions and will offer suggestions for easing the stressful effects of homework on the whole family.
FEE: \$20 (plus \$10 material fee)

Internet Fundamentals

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 26 - April 1
TIME: 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 524
DETAILS: Learn how the Internet works and how to use it effectively to meet your needs. Find out which search engine is best for a specific search. Get an understanding of URLs, Web Browsers, domain names, addressing, routers, connectivity, news-groups, auction sites, push technologies, HTML, MP3 files, etc. Discover which is best for your situation DSL, cable modems, dial-in modems or satellite access. Internet safety and security issues are covered.
FEE: \$135 (plus \$31 book fee)

How to Create a Powerful Introductory Speech in Four Easy Steps

DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 24
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 518
DETAILS: Learn a simple, proven strategy for creating a concise and compelling response to the question, "So what do you do?"
FEE: \$17 (plus \$18 material fee)

Beginning GPS (Global Positioning Systems)

DATE: Monday, March 1-15
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 518

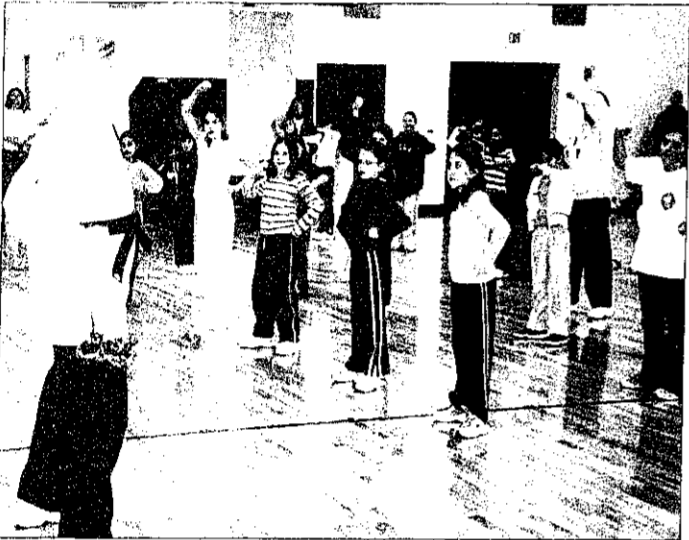
and begin turning prospects into clients.
FEE: \$35

DETAILS: Participants will learn the Global Positioning Satellite Systems (GPS) navigation tools which allow users to determine their location anywhere in the world at any time of day. GPS offers access to the shortest and fastest routes, directions, and estimated arrival time at your intended destination. At the touch of a button, you view all the nearest highway exits, gas stations, restaurants, ATMs, hospitals, and rest areas.
FEE: \$49

One-Stroke Painting

DATE: Monday, Feb. 23
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Meadows 5 Art Room
DETAILS: No painting experience is necessary. Learn beginner friendly one-stroke painting techniques with a multi-loaded brush. After practicing on an easy to follow laminated worksheet, you will be ready to paint designs on any surface.
FEE: \$17 (plus \$18 material fee)

PHONE (248) 449-1206 for registration.



Courtesy photo

Teaching self defense

The Novi Girl Scouts were fortunate to have the Okinawan Karate Club come in and give them a free lesson in self defense. Co-owner Chris Heffernan, a second degree black belt, led the session with several of her karate club members assisting with the lesson. The Okinawan Karate Club provides the teachers for the classes offered through Novi Community Education.

TOO CUTE!



only \$20.00

See your cute, or even not-too-cute pet in our SPECIAL PET SECTION coming in March in all our Oakland weekly papers.

That's right... see your little, or not-so-little darling in the South Lyon Herald, Northville Record, Novi News and Milford Times.

Send your non-returnable photo with the pet's name, your name, address and phone number, a description of the pet and any general information you would like printed about your special pet for just \$20.



Call Laurie today for more info
Deadline is February 23rd 248-437-2011

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-Charlotte A., West Bloomfield

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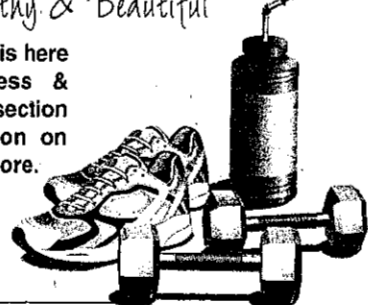
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Health, Fitness & Beauty

It's time to get Healthy & Beautiful

HomeTown Newspapers is here to help. Health, Fitness & Beauty is our special section for the latest information on exercise, vitamins and more.



Space Reservation Deadline: Friday, March 5, 2004
Copy Deadline: Monday, March 8, 2004
Publication Date: Thursday, March 25, 2004

EAST
Milford Times
South Lyon Herald
Northville Record
Novi News
WEST
Livingston County Daily Press & Argus



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- Northville Record 248-349-1700
- Novi News 248-349-1700
- Milford Times 248-685-1507
- Livingston County Daily Press & Argus 517-548-7060

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All Engagement Rings 25% OFF
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Cal Stone, Editor; Grace Perry, Publisher; Richard Brady, VP/COO; Jack Lessenberry, VP/EDITORIAL; Dick Aguilan, President; Phil Power, Chairman of the Board.

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Is The Post bar being pilloried?

Last spring the Metro Detroit entertainment company The Post was hailed for helping to breathe new life into Novi's troubled Main Street district.

While the Novi News in no way condones public drunkenness or its byproducts, we would caution against making too much of the police department's report for two primary reasons.

First, The Post is bigger than its neighbors simply because more incidents occur there than in any other neighborhood.

Twelve Oaks Mall generates more shopping traffic per month than any neighborhood shopping center along 10 Mile Road, but one is calling for sanctions against the mall.

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

United States Congress

11th District Theodore McCotter (R-Livonia) 415 Cannon HOB Washington D.C. 20515-8171 (202) 225-8171

Governor

Jennifer Granholm (D-Northville Twp.) PO Box 30013 Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 335-7858

State Senate

15th District Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) PO Box 30036 Lansing, MI 48909-7536 (517) 373-1758

State House of Reps

38th District Craig DeRoche (R-Novi) S0887 House Office Building PO Box 30014 Lansing, MI 48909-7514 (517) 373-0827

The managers at The Post claimed they served a quarter-million customers during their first four months of operation.

That hardly seems like a crime plague of biblical proportions. Secondly, we would question the soundness of the raw data in the report.

Not every drunk driver volunteers where he or she got drunk and at some refuse to answer when asked. Even when they do say where they were last, they rarely tell the arresting officer how many places they stopped at.

One City Council member has criticized The Post for being described as a "party place." Has anyone ever willingly gone to an entertainment venue that billed itself, or was described by others, as seamy, dull and boring?

While public intoxication in all its forms is a serious problem, solving it by banning the most successful business in town seems a little like solving traffic congestion by closing all the stores.

OPINION

novinews.com



Lights out Novi Woods' second grade student Emily Dobras finds her sight temporarily obscured by her scarf as she zooms down a small hill at the school last week during recess.

The clothes can make the person

Growing up, I polished my dad's shoes every Sunday night. He was a beer truck driver, and they were work shoes, but he always wanted them to look good.



Cal Stone

I got a two pairs — one black, one brown. Those lasted me for years and years, and they no doubt helped me secure more than one position in my career.

After I earned my bachelor's degree, my graduation gift from my parents was to go shopping for clothes to wear on job interviews.

I got a two pairs — one black, one brown. Those lasted me for years and years, and they no doubt helped me secure more than one position in my career.

As a person who interviews candidates for writing positions at this newspaper, I can tell you the importance of how a person dresses.

It's a win-win deal, and hats off to Peggy Hayes for championing the event again. She's the marketing director at Twelve Oaks Mall.

This year's breakfast will be held at the Sheraton Detroit Novi hotel at 8:30 a.m. next Tuesday.

The items go to The Clothes Closet at Holy Family Catholic Church in Novi and to the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford.

Doreen Lawton

Fulfilling election promises

It's been just over three months since the election where I was chosen to represent you on City Council.

I am proud of the council's accomplishments in such a short time period. I am elated to be able to work with Mayor Cordas and

Share your opinions: 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.

Mall: Letters to the Editor, Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167

E-mail: cstoney@ht.homecomm.net Fax to: (248) 349-9832

The results of this event are nothing short of spectacular year after year. Trucks are filled with clothes that will eventually help people become independent, self-confident employees.

Once employed, those individuals will then have income to budget for clothing. It's a win-win deal, and hats off to Peggy Hayes for championing the event again.

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Not lost in translation

An interpreting firm in your town provided us with such excellent service that I feel compelled to tell someone.

Nearby four years ago, he was named Emergency Financial Manager of perennially financially troubled Hamtramck.

The EFM was then ever since, in complete control of the city finances. Men in union jackets seek his name in city bars.

Exasperated, the state, after repeated warnings, took over the city. Now 66, Schimmel, who had absolutely no ties to Hamtramck, was starting to ease out of the public bond business when he got a call.

Nothing doing, says their emergency financial manager. Not yet. "The fact is that I would be happy to finish this task. I am planning on being out of here by the end of the year.

That has been the problem for a long time. Time was when you could spend a lifetime in Hamtramck and never meet a word of English. John Paul II came here, as have acres of presidential hopefuls courting the national Polish vote.

They kept the streets tidy and paid their bills. But the city often didn't get along on balance a budget have been as much a part of Hamtramck's history as the enor-

mous jelly doughnuts called pączki. Scandals were common in the old days, and at least one mayor was trundled off to jail.

On the streets and in the tough union bars, he became the most hated man on the planet. Noticing he had a German-sounding name, there were the inevitable Nazi jokes.

Yet the garbage was getting picked up again. Gary Zyck, then the mayor, was a particular foe. He was essentially disenfranchised, as were the five city councilmen. For some months

OTHER OPINIONS

Gov. Granholm puts emphasis on jobs

Although it's still cold outside, things are getting hotter by the day in Lansing.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm submitted her proposed budget for the State of Michigan this week.

The administration hasn't had the forethought to provide me with an early copy ... but it's clear enough from leaks that

The opening sentence in the State of the State speech on Jan. 27 was forthright: "The state of the state tonight is one of total deterioration."

Michigan will attract and keep good jobs." With Michigan's unemployment rate at 7.2 percent, manufacturing jobs still evaporating (they're

But the governor has produced some interesting ideas already. Calling for interest-free loans for college students who study technical fields and engineering

She proposes to "forcefully re-engineer" workforce training in Michigan" to make sure that everybody looking for a job, young or old, will be trained in the skills employers need now.

She also proposes to create 12 such "skills alliances" across the state.

As state readers will be quick to see, the contrast between Granholm's job growth proposals — necessarily inexpensive, but at least strategic — and the tactical maneuvers being made by President Bush in his State of the world choose to locate and stay in a state that guts its education

2 million manufacturing jobs over the past two years and an economic recovery that is so far largely jobless, the President proposed a \$250 million job-training program for community colleges to train laid-off workers.

In a previous life, I served for nearly a decade as chair of the Michigan Job Training Coordinating Council, so I've been over this ground a fair amount. There is no doubt that

community colleges are great places to provide up-to-date training for workers; they're flexible, demand-driven, often entrepreneurial.

But \$250 million for the 1,200 community colleges around the country comes to around \$208,000 for each college, which would be just a drop in the bucket for community colleges in Michigan whose state funding has been slashed by 15 percent —

millions — over the past two years. "I add two other points, both related to the old saw about the

proof of the pudding being in the eating: (1) President Bush announced — with great fanfare — 18 months ago the creation of a

commerce department, an idea pushed by freshman U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia. That idea is unimplemented.

(2) The Bush Administration early on tried to eliminate something called Manufacturing Extension Partnerships, which are based on the successful model of

the agricultural extension service. The Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center in Plymouth, whose mission is to help small manufacturers develop more efficient systems and train high-tech workers, was one of the targets.

Thank its senators from both parties, the MEPS still survive ... but only barely. "If this state is going to truly

complete in the coming century, we are going to have to do a lot better than this."

Phil Power is the Chairman of the Board of the company that owns this newspaper. He would be pleased to get your reactions to his columns either at (734) 933-2947 or by e-mail at ppower@homecomm.net.

Financial tyrant gets some support

Last week, as politicians seeking the presidency crisscrossed Michigan, Lou Schimmel, who has more power in a smaller space than

any of them ever will, paused to look forward to the day he could give up his.

Nearly four years ago, he was named Emergency Financial Manager of perennially financially troubled Hamtramck, a tiny city long famous as a Polish cultural enclave, a place with more color, history and irreplaceable politicians than most.

The EFM was then ever since, in complete control of the city finances. Men in union jackets seek his name in city bars.

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NOVI NEWS STAFF



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Cal Stone - Editor



Jennifer Dinning - Acct. Exec.



Pam Fleming - Staff Writer



Phil Foley - Staff Writer



Ramez Khuri - Staff Writer



Sam Eggleston - Sports Writer



John Heiter - Staff Photographer



Karen Whitehart - Receptionist



Marcia Comas - Receptionist

Advertisement for Citizens Insurance with the headline 'Hello, Citizens?' and contact information for Maynes Insurance Services, LTD.

Advertisement for O'Brien Sullivan Funeral Home, located at 41555 Grand River Avenue, Novi, Michigan.

Advertisement for Single? Need Friends? Discover a life changing experience with people who are Personally Caring and Christ Honoring.

Advertisement for Let's Talk Jewelry with GARY S. WEINSTEIN GEMOLOGIST, featuring a variety of jewelry services.

Advertisement for Jim Seghi Renovations, specializing in kitchen and bathroom renovations.

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Richard Brady
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CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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Last spring the Metro Detroit entertainment company The Post was hailed for helping to breathe new life into Novi's troubled Main Street district. Apparently the company breathed too much life into the area because within months City Council members began complaining about the amount of police activity in and around the establishment.

The Novi Police Department is due to release a report today examining the number of alcohol-related arrests attributable to the city's top five bars. As it did in a similar report in October, The Post is expected to top the list.

While the Novi News in its way condenses public drunkenness or its byproducts, we would caution against making too much of the police department's report for two primary reasons.

First, The Post is bigger than its next three competitors combined. Saying the nightclub is worse than its neighbors simply because more incidents occur there is like saying that Novi is a more dangerous place to live than Wixom simply because the total number of police reports generated in Novi is greater.

Second, Oaks Mall generates more shoplifting arrests per month than any neighborhood shopping center along 10 Mile Road, but no one is calling for sanctions against the mall. It's part of the cost of doing business — the more people you attract with the greater the chance of deal-

ing with some who behave badly. The managers at The Post claimed they served a quarter-million customers during their first four months of operation. If that's accurate, one in every 4,000 customers had a run-in of some sort with local police.

That hardly seems like a crime plague of biblical proportions. Secondly, we would question the soundness of the raw data in the report. This, however, in no way calls into question the integrity of the Novi Police Department. We simply question the soundness of the information they had to work with.

Not every drunk driver volunteers where he or she got drunk and if some refuse to answer when asked. Even when they do say where they were last, they rarely tell the arresting officer how many places they stopped at first. In fact, a great many drunk drivers insist they only had one drink hours ago.

One City Council member has criticized The Post for being described as a "party place." Has anyone ever willingly gone to an entertainment venue that billed itself, or was described by others, as seamy, dull and boring?

While public intoxication in all its forms is a serious problem, solving it by hammering the most successful business in town seems a little like a gratuitous vendetta that killed itself, or was described by others, as seamy, dull and boring?

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OPINION

novi/news.com



Lights out
Novi Woods' second grade student Emily Woods zooms down a small hill at the school last week.

The clothes c

Growing up, I polished my dad's shoes every Sunday night. He was a beer truck driver and they were work shoes, but he always wanted them to look good. Once in a while I would get to polish his wingtips.

I say "get to" because it was a privilege to do it, and I realized that more and more as I got older. After I earned my bachelor's degree, my graduation gift from my parents was to go shopping for clothes to wear on job interviews. A couple of sport coats, some nice slacks, dress shirts and, of course, wingtips.

I got a two pair — one black, one brown. Those lasted me for years and years, and they no doubt helped me secure more than one position in my career.

As a person who interviews candidates for writing positions at this newspaper, I can tell

you the same. It shows. I recall looking at a man in a pair of blue slacks and a white shirt. He looked like a professional.

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OTHER OPINIONS

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113; cstone@ht.homecomm.net

Gov. Granholm puts emphasis on jobs

Although it's still cold outside, things are getting hotter by the day in Lansing.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm submits her proposed budget for the State of Michigan this week. The administration hasn't had the forethought to provide me with an early copy — but it's clear enough from leaks this week and from her State of the State speech what the main emphasis will be: jobs.

The opening

funding and tolerates rising health care costs, streets with potholes, contaminated lakes and rivers and dangerous criminals released early from prison? Does anybody really believe that a marginal cut in taxes for Michigan businesses is really going to overcome a \$10.5 billion per hour wage differential with Chinese or Indian competitors?

Perhaps the most interesting initiative was headlined: op a 21st

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(2) The Bush Administration office on climate change something called Manufacturing Extension Partnerships, which are based on the successful model of the agricultural extension service. The Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center in Plymouth, whose mission is to help small businesses develop more efficient systems and train high-tech workers, was one of the targets.

Thanks to senators from both parties, the MEPS still survive... but only barely. If this state is going to truly compete in the coming century, we are going to have to do a lot better than this.

Phil Power is the Chairman of the Board of the company that owns this newspaper. He would be pleased to get your reactions to this column either at (734) 953-2047 or by e-mail at ppower@homecomm.net.

some support

paczi, the old or was the old of tax in and auto at the id the s have fitting, one to mine words, says the new mayor is a vast improvement over the old one. But the problem, as he sees it, is not personality, but form of government. The city has long had a weak mayor and no city manager, and consequently, nobody has overall responsibility.

What Hantramack needs is either a strong mayor or a city manager. Last fall, a new city charter that would have provided for a city manager form of government was offered to the voters. It was denounced by most of the usual politicians, and lost 55-45.

The city can't try to pass the charter again. If voters do, Lou Schimmel would likely gratefully turn over the keys and go home. Last year, a new governor took office in Lansing, and some discreet inquiries were made as to whether he was about ready to declare his task done. "I can quit tomorrow," he offered.

"And they said, well, uh, no, that's not what we had in mind..." he laughed. The state backed down. His department heads quickly got wind of that, however.

They promptly presented him with a certificate, which now proudly hangs in his conference room. "We, the loyal few, do hereby attest that tyranny, wickedness and insubordination still reign upon the land. Let all men know, by affixing our signatures, how we, freely and knowingly, resolve to support our EFM in his quest to vanquish evil!" He may have hired them, but at least a few Hantramacks don't hate the boss.

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Jack Lassenberry is editorial vice president of HomeTown Communications. He can be reached by phone at (248) 349-1700, 2561 or by e-mail at jllassenberry@homecomm.net.



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Sam Eggleston - Sports Writer
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(248) 349-1700, ext. 104



John Heider - Staff Photographer
jheider@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 106



Karen Whitehart - Receptionist



Marcia Crotts - Receptionist
mcrotts@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700

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Washington D.C. 20510
(202) 224-6221
senator2@levin.senate.gov
Local office:
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Suite 1810
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 371-1508
FAX: (517) 377-1506

FAX: (517) 373-5873
craigderoche@house.mi.gov

Marc Shulman (R-West Bloomfield)
351 Capitol Building
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mshulman@house.mi.gov

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L. Brooks Patterson
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Pontiac, MI 48341
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Christine Long
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Commerce Twp., MI 48382
(426) 366-2666
long@co.oakland.mi.us

Jeff Potter
1039 State Lane
South Lyon, MI 48178
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potter@co.oakland.mi.us

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LET

What happened in Iraq?

Our country invaded Iraq on the basis of claims of weapons of mass destruction and imminent danger to our security. We know that Saddam Hussein was a terrible dictator. He did not possess weapons of mass destruction and therefore was not a threat to the United States.

President Bush, Donald Rumsfeld, Dick Cheney, Colin Powell, Condoleezza Rice, all claimed that there was no doubt that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction. They claimed to know where they were. Now that David Kay, Mr. Bush's own weapons researcher, has resigned after concluding that our intelligence was false, it is time for Mr. Bush to not only create a commission to find out what went wrong, but to do it now, not after the election. Those that testify need to do so under oath.

I feel that this president owes the American people an apology and a clarification of the errors that led us into this quagmire in Iraq.

Doreen Lawton
Novi

Fulfilling election promises

It's been just over three months since the election where I was chosen to represent you on City Council. I hope that I have not disappointed you. I have kept my campaign promises: I have always been prepared, I have always been honest, and I have always been fair. And, I will continue to be so.

I am proud of the council's accomplishments in such a short time period. I am elated to be able to work with Mayor Cordas and

Share your opinions:

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. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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E-mail: cstone@ht.homecomm.net Fax to: (248) 349-9832

GRAPHIC SCIENCES

RETAKE OF PROCEEDING DOCUMENT

We canceled our order, Friday night after 10:30 p.m. The client finally called, confirming the need for an interpreter the following morning. That's right, for Saturday.

I called and left them a message at just after 11 p.m. Honestly, I didn't expect them to call me back, but I was hopeful that they would. I was thrilled at 11:15 p.m. when the interpreter cheerfully returned my call. The next morning she was right on time and I was amazed when I found out that she had gone to the office early to research the nature of our business and products so that she could be more prepared for the upcoming meeting.

To our delight, she performed wonderfully and our meeting was very successful. We will definitely call again if we require the services of an interpreter.

It is nice to see some good old-fashioned work ethic alive and well in the workplace. This firm not only claims 24/7 service, they deliver it. The firm? It is [suzuki.com](http://www.suzuki.com).

Tracy McWhirter
Coordinator, Business Development
DynaLog, Inc.

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control of the city finances. Men in union jackets curse his name in city bars. So do the politicians — though most will admit that the place was a fiscal mess, and bringing an economic doctor then was, damn it, probably necessary. But that was the fault of all those other guys, they add, and it is high time the man they call "Oscar Schimmel" was sent packing.

Nothing doing, says their emergency financial manager. Not yet. "The fact is that I would be happy to finish this task. I am planning on being out of here by the end of the year. But my first condition is that the mayor and the council and the unions independently adopt a balanced budget — and show good faith that they'll live up to it."

That has been the problem for a long time.

Time was when you could spend a lifetime in Hamtramck and never need a word of English. John Paul II came here, as have acres of presidential hopefuls courting the national Polish vote. Hamtramckans were solid people who crowded into tiny frame houses and mostly worked at the huge Dodge Main auto factory.

They kept the streets tidy and said their bills. But the city often didn't. Squabbling politicians who couldn't get along or balance a budget have been as much a part of Hamtramck's history as the enor-

the EFM stopped paying their salaries. They batted him tooth and nail, but he had the power and the purse. Campaigning largely against Schimmel, Zych was reelected — by five votes — in 2002. But last November, he lost to a tavern owner, Tom Jackowski, who pledged to try for better relations with Schimmel "since he is going to be leaving."

Or maybe not. The EFM, never one to mince words, says the new mayor is a vast improvement over the old one. But the problem, as he sees it, is not personality, but form of government. The city has long had a weak mayor and no city manager, and consequently, nobody has overall responsibility.

What Hamtramck needs is either a strong mayor or a city manager. Last fall, a new city charter that would have provided for a city manager form of government was offered to the voters. It was denounced by most of the usual politicians, and lost 55-45.

The city can't try to pass the charter again. If voters do, Lou Schimmel would likely gratefully turn over the keys and go home. Last year, a new governor took office in Lansing, and some discreet inquiries were made as to whether he was about ready to declare his task done. "I can quit tomorrow," he offered.

"And they said, well, uh, no, that's not what we had in mind..." he laughed. The state backed down. His department heads quickly got wind of that, however.

They promptly presented him with a certificate, which now proudly hangs in his conference room. "We, the loyal few, do hereby attest that tyranny, wickedness and insubordination still reign upon the land. Let all men know, by affixing our signatures, how we, freely and knowingly, resolve to support our EFM in his quest to vanquish evil!" He may have hired them, but at least a few Hamtramckans don't hate the boss.

Cal Stone, Editor; Grace Perry, Publisher; Richard Brady, VP/COO; Jack Lessenberry, VP Editorial; Dick Aginlan, President; Phillip Power, Chairman of the Board

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the home towns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Is The Post bar being pilloried?

Last spring the Metro Detroit entertainment company The Post was lauded for helping to breath new life into Novi's troubled Main Street district.

While the Novi News in its way condones public drunkenness or its byproducts, we would caution against making too much of the police department's report for two primary reasons.

GOVERNMENT

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

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

FAX: (517) 373-5873 craigderoche@house.mi.gov

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9th Commission Hugh D. Crawford 46275 11 Mile Road Novi, MI 48374

United States Congress

11th District Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia) 415 Cannon HOB Washington D.C. 20515-6171

15th District Nancy Cassis (R-Nowi) PO Box 30035 Lansing, MI 48909-7536

State Senate

Novi 45175 West Ten Mile Road Novi, MI 48375-3024

Walled Lake 1499 E. West Maple Road PO Box 99 Walled Lake, MI 48390-0099

State House of Reps

38th District Craig DeRoche (R-Nowi) 50887 House Office Building PO Box 30014 Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Governor

Jennifer Granholm (D-Northville Twp.) PO Box 30013 Lansing, MI 48909

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OPINION

novinews.com



Lights out Novi Woods' second grade student Emily Dobras finds her sight temporarily obscured by her scarf as she zooms down a small hill at the school last week during recess.

The clothes can make the person

Growing up, I polished my dad's shoes every Sunday night. He was a beer truck driver, and they were work shoes, but he always wanted them to look good.



Cal Stone

LETTERS

What happened in Iraq? Our country invaded Iraq on the basis of claims of weapons of mass destruction and imminent danger to our security.

President Bush, Donald Rumsfeld, Dick Cheney, Colin Powell, Condoleezza Rice, all claimed that there was no doubt that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction.

Fulfilling election promises It's been just over three months since the election where I was chosen to represent you on City Council.

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OTHER OPINIONS

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@ht.homecomm.net

Gov. Granholm puts emphasis on jobs

Although it's still cold outside, things are getting hotter by the day in Lansing.



Phil Power

Gov. Jennifer Granholm submits her proposed budget for the State of Michigan this week.

David Hollister, director of the Department of Labor and Economic Growth, is supposed to create 12 such "skills alliances" across the state.

Financial tyrant gets some support

Last week, as politicians seeking the presidency crisscrossed Michigan, Lou Schimmel, who has more power in a smaller space than any of them ever will, paused to look forward to the day he could give up his.



Jack Lessenberry

Nearly four years ago, he was named Emergency Financial Manager of perennially troubled Hamtramck, a tiny city long famous as "Oscar Schimmel's wasteland parking lot."

Time was when you could spend a lifetime in Hamtramck and never need a word of English. Lou Paul II came here, as have acres of presidential hopefuls courting the national Polish vote.



Grace Perry - Publisher



Cal Stone - Editor



Jennifer Drining - Act. Exec.



Pam Fleming - Staff Writer



Phil Foley - Staff Writer



Ramez Khuri - Staff Writer



Sam Eggleston - Sports Writer



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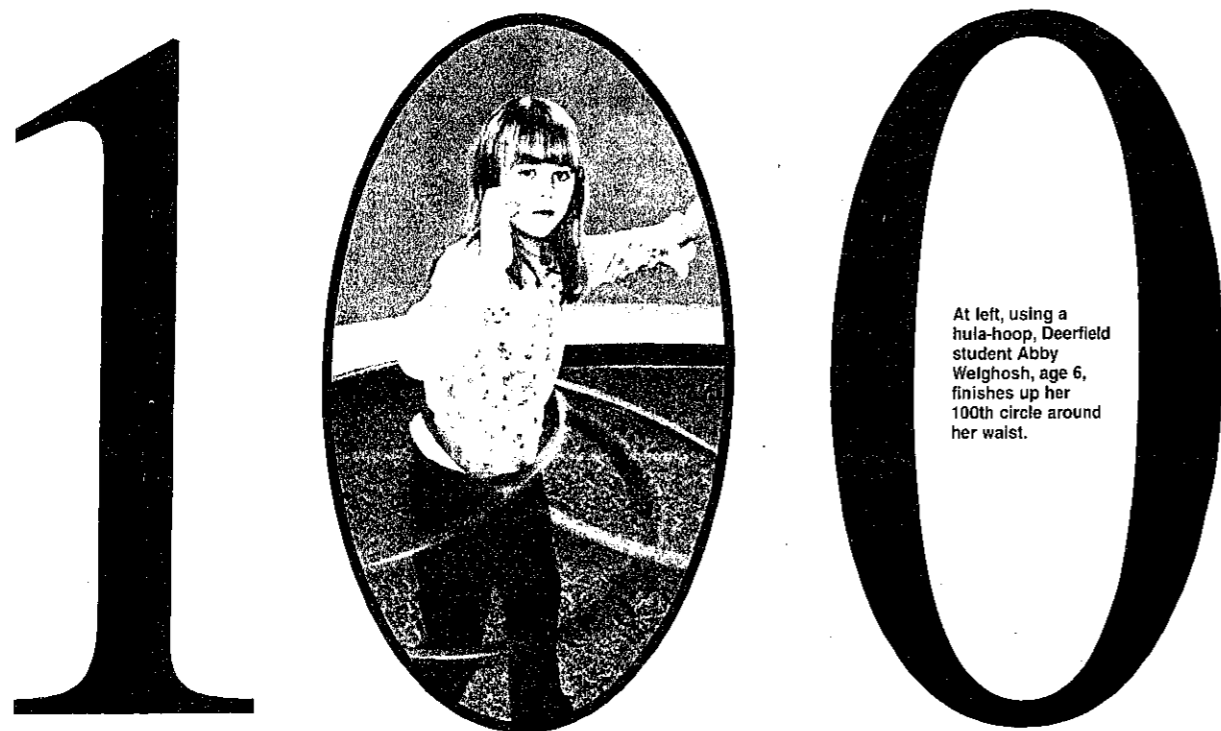
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Advertisement for Jim Seghi Renovations, offering kitchen, bath, and room renovations.



At left, using a hula-hoop, Deerfield student Abby Welghosh, age 6, finishes up her 100th circle around her waist.

A Celebration of the Marquis Number

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

It's amazing how time flies. The Novi Community School District celebrated its 100th school day of the 2003-04 year on Feb. 2, and with it came many events, fun activities and much learning at the elementary level.

All across the district, children at Novi Woods, Deerfield, Parkview, Orchard Hills and Village Oaks did activities with the number 100. At Orchard Hills they did a lot of counting by ones, twos, fives and 10s. They counted forward to 100, backward from 100, looked at all the odd and even numbers up to 100 and sang a song about the 100th day of school which went to the tune of "We've been working on the railroad," called "We've been working in our classroom."

The kids also talked about what they would do if they had \$100 and wrote a book about that as well. Each student was asked to bring in 100 items, and certificates were passed out for students who had perfect attendance for all 100 days. They made 100 day badges and some also made hats. They also read lots of books about how children celebrate the event all over the country.

"It all deals with the number 100," Orchard Hills First Grade Teacher Becky Hurst said. "We took the 100 items we brought in and arranged them in groups of 10s and counted them in a variety of ways. We



Novi Woods kindergartners celebrated their 100th day of school with fun activities that helped them practice their counting skills. Here, Rachel Esifan and Brian D'Ascenzo display their work on strings of 100 beads.



Darlene Grabowski's Orchard Hills class decked out for 100's Day.

toured the different classrooms to look at all the items from all the classrooms." Primarily the students learn math from 100s day, but teachers also try to involve all activities across the curriculum, including singing, writing, reading and even physical activity. "It's a fun day, it's

really exciting and it's just like another holiday," Hurst said. "The children were really involved in enjoying all the different activities. It just gives us a way of doing what we would normally do that day, but adding a little excitement into it by adding a theme of 100."



Zero the Hero, played by former principal Dave Brown, came visiting Village Oaks as part of the 100's Day festivities.



The first graders at Parkview Elementary School celebrated 100's day. The children in the pictures are from Lyn Fischer's first grade class. They brought necklaces made of 100 items to line up on the floor and they wrote what they would like when they reach 100 years old.

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@hi.homecomm.net.

Vote could come this week on same-sex marriage issue

Two-thirds majority needed in Senate, House
By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Massachusetts made history last week when the state's Supreme Court said only full marriage rights for same-sex couples, not civil unions, would conform to the state's constitution. Now, a vote could come this week on the issue in the Michigan legislature.

The Feb. 4 ruling in Massachusetts reiterated its original ruling on same-sex marriage issued Nov. 18, 2003. It came before the constitutional convention this week by Massachusetts lawmakers to consider an amendment that legally would define marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) co-sponsored, along with half of the Michigan Senate, a Senate Joint Resolution B on Oct. 7, 2003, stating that Michigan's constitution would define marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman.

The issue is supposed to be voted on in the Michigan Legislature within the next two weeks, according to Sean Kosofsky, director of policy for the Triangle Foundation, a Detroit-based gay rights organization.

"It's more likely to happen on a Thursday because the Senate and the House both meet at 10 a.m. that day," Kosofsky said.

"We have three branches of government — executive, legislative and judicial. I believe the role of the judicial branch is to interpret the laws as written and intended and not to create new law," Cassis said.

"We really want to make sure that our definition here in Michigan in our constitution confirms and marriage is between one man and one woman. This is in accordance with Judeo-Christian tradition and history," she added.

Cassis explained that the Defense of Marriage Act, a federal law enacted under during the Clinton administration, allows states to decide about the same-sex marriage issue in their own constitution or by statute.

"We're letting the people of Michigan decide if they want as part of the state constitution that only marriage between one man and one woman shall be recognized as valid in this state," Cassis said.

If approved by a two-thirds vote in both houses of the Legislature, an amendment could appear on the next general election ballot.

Cassis said currently, the resolution has been referred to the Senate's Judiciary Committee, chaired by Senator Alan Crospey. "The Republican agenda continues to focus on stimulating

economic growth and job creation in Michigan. This resolution was offered in the spirit of defining marriage as a unique relationship between a man and a woman. We feel this has enormous ramifications socially and legally," Cassis said.

"It's going to be close, but proponents of the ban on same sex marriages in the Michigan consti-

tuition don't have two-thirds support in the House or Senate. It's radical and rare to amend the constitution," Kosofsky said.

"The resolutions haven't been scheduled for a hearing in the Senate yet as far as I know," Cassis said Feb. 6.

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@hi.homecomm.net.

"This resolution was offered in the spirit of defining marriage as a unique relationship between a man and a woman. We feel this has enormous ramifications socially and legally."

Sen. Nancy Cassis
State Senator, 15th District

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NOVI NEWS

hometownlife.com

Thursday, February 12, 2004

Wildcat cheer wins Invitational

The Novi cheer-leading squad made a lot of noise with a big win at the Ladywood Invitational last week. The girls outlasted the competition despite a penalty in the final round.

— See Page B2 for details

Novi swimming and diving tops Pinckney Pirates

The Novi Wildcats swimming and diving team earned a big win when they topped the

Pinckney Pirates 98-75 in Kensington Valley Conference action. The squad, which has just 17 members, is coached by Larry Tehan.

— See Page B3 for story

Thinking about bringing out the golf clubs? Think again!

Maybe you'll think twice if you ever get a hole-in-one on the local golf course now.

In Japan, the hole-in-one, which is traditionally called an ace in the United States, is called an "arubatorosu," or albatross.

The lucky shot may not be so lucky in the Land of the Rising Sun. There, when fortune smiles upon you, it is traditional to share the good luck by sending gifts to all of your friends and the other members of your golf club. The price? The final sum often reaches 1,053,600 Japanese Yen, or \$10,000.

So how do the Japanese try to avoid the costly stroke of good luck? By carrying "hole-in-one" insurance. Almost four million Japanese golfers annually spend more than 22 billion yen (\$210 million) on policies to guard against the perfect tee shot, as well as damage or injuries caused by errant strokes.

If you're ever golfing in Japan and you see a golfer wrap his club around a tree in anger, don't assume it was because of a bad shot. It could have been thanks to a very, very good shot.



Photo by John Heider
Novi's Zach Flavin looks to dish the puck in a recent game.

TRYING TO HALT THE SKID

Wildcats lose fifth in a row, falling to U of D, South Lyon

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

When a team goes into a skid, it's only a matter of time before they are able to pull out of it. Unfortunately for the Novi Wildcats hockey team, that time hasn't come yet.

After dropping three straight games in the past two weeks, the Novi Wildcats found themselves on the wrong end of two more losses — including one to Kensington Valley Conference rival South Lyon, 4-3.

Two days later, the Wildcats took another lump, this one in the form of a 5-0 drubbing against University of Detroit Jesuit.

Against U of D, the Wildcats found themselves plagued by seemingly unending penalties. The squad suffered through nine penalties and one 10-minute misconduct. U of D, on the other hand, had just seven penalties, including a five-minute major.

Novi's Justin Ruccolo took the loss between the posts as the Wildcats fell to 7-11 overall in

the year. Though the Novi hockey team has been in a small slide these last five games, this game marks just the first time the squad was shut out this year.

Novi faced two different goalies in the game, but it mattered not as they managed to scrape together just 12 shots on goal against a stifling defense. Ruccolo, on the other hand, took on 28 shots, deflecting 23 of them in an impressive effort.

The Wildcats are becoming a group of road warriors, with their loss to U of D coming on their third road game in a row.

Against the Lions, the Wildcats found themselves in familiar territory as they took on and fell to South Lyon at the Kensington Valley Ice House. Both squads scrapped it out right to the end of the contest, but South Lyon escaped with the victory to lead the 'Cats yet another loss this season.

Earning goals for the Wildcats were Brett Jaussi, Mark Eberline and John Janssens. Eric Kupiz had two assists on the night, and Jaussi and Eberline each collected one for two-point games.

Senior goalie Danny Morrison played between the posts for the Wildcats. He took

on 23 shots on goal and stopped 19 of them.

The Wildcats have been plagued with injuries as well as losing players. Besides the fact that former Wildcats Jordan Collins left town to play junior hockey in Iowa late last year, the Novi hockey squad was without five major players thanks to injury. Chaz Bulbuk, R.J. Makoski, Pat Meyer, Bryan Ellis and Ryan Dixon were sitting the bench nursing pains during the loss to the Lions.

To help make up for the losses, Novi was forced to move players around. Most notably was the play of Mario DeGrazia, who is one of the more prolific scorers on the Novi squad. DeGrazia was moved from forward to defense to help keep the Wildcats in competitive form until injuries heal.

Novi is slated to be back in action when they visit East Grand Rapids Saturday at 7 p.m. before taking a road trip all the way out to the Hartland Sports Complex to play Millford February 18 at 6 p.m.

Novi's next home game is February 25 when they finally play host again, this time to Kensington Valley Conference foe Pinckney. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

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

KVC HOCKEY STANDINGS

	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	Wins	Losses	Ties	Wins	Losses	Ties
1. Brighton	9	0	0	16	2	0
2. Millford	7	2	0	13	2	1
3. South Lyon	5	4	0	5	7	0
4. Howell	4	4	2	11	4	2
5. Novi	4	5	0	7	10	0
6. Hartland	4	6	1	8	9	1
7. Lakeland	1	6	1	1	9	1
8. Pinckney	1	9	0	3	16	1

Slow-paced Mavericks fall to Novi

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It wasn't the highest scoring game of the year — but, then again, whenever a team takes on the Milford Mavericks it's not going to be.

Novi did manage to outlast their slow-paced opponents, winning 38-31 in the Kensington Valley Conference showdown.

Though the Mavericks came into the contest with just an 0-5 conference record and still looking to get their first KVC win, Novi was well aware of just how dangerous their opponents could be.

The first quarter set the tempo for the contest, which was extremely slower than Novi was accustomed to. By the end of the period, Novi held a 9-7 lead before jumping out to a 13-7 lead in the early minutes of the second quarter of play.

The Wildcats benefited from some impressive team play, including a fast break that found Anthony Harbin snatching up a loose ball and pounding it up the court on a hard pass to Trevor Hoover. Hoover entered the lane and found a wide-open Joey Fratto coming in to the hoop, who finished the play for the score. The bucket marked two of Fratto's seven points on the night.

Millford wasn't terribly impressed though, and went on an 8-2 run to tie the game by the half, 15-15.

In the third quarter, the

Wildcats found themselves being led by none other than Harbin. The speedy junior recorded the first seven points for the Wildcats during the second half.

Coach Pat Schluter's tenacious defense buckled down to hold the Mavs to just five points throughout the full quarter. The defensive presence and Harbin's quick scoring ability made all the difference by the end of the game. Even a late-quarter run in the fourth by Millford couldn't catch Novi as they slid away with the victory, 38-31.

The late surge by the Millford squad did cut the lead to 31-27 with just about three minutes remaining, but several clutch free throws sealed the victory for the Wildcats.

Harbin led all scorers with 15 points in the winning effort.

Novi climbed to 10-2 overall with the victory while earning a 4-2 mark in the Kensington Valley Conference. Novi is currently tied for third place with Howell in the KVC, while Pinckney and South Lyon are tied for first.

The 'Cats are in control of their own destiny at this point though. They squad hosted Pinckney Tuesday (after the Novi News went to print) before hosting the Howell Highlanders tomorrow at 7 p.m. Novi will then visit South Lyon in a make-up contest Saturday.

The Wildcats previous two conference losses came against the Howell Highlanders and the South Lyon Lions.



Photo by Michael Schuster

Novi's Mark Moore (left) strips the ball from a Lakeland defender in late January.

'Cats get past Kensington Valley rival Hartland

After losing just their second Kensington Valley Conference game the week prior, the Novi Wildcats knew they had to do something to rebound back to their winning ways — and beating Hartland on the road was a good way to do it.

The boys basketball team took it to the Eagles, 57-42, as they pounded out their ninth overall victory of the season.

Novi's defense was the name of the game in the first quarter as they

stymied the Eagles, 13-2. Hartland, which is a strong team this year and even more so on their home court, found the key to Novi's pressure and came back to cut the lead to 29-14 by the half as the 'Cats outscored them 16-12.

The second half was a completely even game as both squads scored 13 in the third quarter and each scored 15 in the final stanza. Fortunately for Novi, their performance in the first and second quarters was enough to prove victorious in

the contest. Leading the way for the Wildcats was Brad Simpson, who poured in 17 points in the winning effort. Anthony Harbin, who has been coming around nicely for the cagers, chipped in 12 points and hauled down 10 rebounds for his first double-double of the year. Brad Chandler added eight points in the victory, while Joey Fratto pitched in 6 and Trevor Hoover and Mark Moore had five.

— By Sam Eggleston

GAME OF THE WEEK

Novi Wildcats Basketball VS Howell

Friday, February 13
7:00 pm at Novi

Bring on the Highlanders

The Novi Wildcats boys basketball team will play host to the Howell Highlanders tomorrow at Novi Middle School. The Highlanders are just one of two teams to beat Novi thus far this year, and the 'Cats will no doubt be looking to get it back in front of their home crowd. What's the ticket to winning this game? Hard work, emotion and plenty of defense — all of which the Wildcats are capable of having while they are out on the court. Expect this game to be a good one.

— See Page B2

Anthony Harbin Junior Basketball

Harbin is the kind of player that an entire program can be built around — and he's showing that he's making strides to become that kind of athlete for Novi as well. In the last two games, both Novi wins, Harbin scored a combined 25 points. Against Hartland, he had a double-double, yanking down 10 boards and putting in 12 points in the winning effort.



Athletes OF THE Week

If your business would like to sponsor our Athletes of the Week, please contact Jennifer Dinning, advertising executive, at (248) 349-1700 or by e-mail at jdinning@ht.homecomm.net.

Mark Eberline Junior Hockey

When a team is in a skid, it takes special players to step up and still perform to the best of their abilities — and Eberline is one of those players. He has an impressive shot, a knack for passing and the ability to play his game no matter what the score on the board is or who his team is playing.



Submitted Photo

The Novi varsity cheerleading squad gathered around the most recent addition to their trophy case after winning the LadyWood Invitational.

Wildcats win tourney

By Sam Eggleston

The Novi Wildcats competitive cheer team made some noise as they took home a major victory from the LadyWood Invitational... The squad, which is coached by Amy Denny and Family Parker, collected a total of 639 points...

CLUB HOCKEY RESULTS

Wednesday night's 6-0 win over Davison has clinched the Junior Varsity Division 2 Championship for the Novi Wild Hockey Team... As they have done all season, total team effort and hard-nosed fast-paced play in both ends of the ice, led to the victory.

UNDERCLASSMAN SCORES

Freshman basketball Overall 8-4; 4-2 in KVC... The Novi freshman basketball team split two KVC games last week. The Wildcat ninth graders defeated Milford, 47-36, at home last Friday night.

JUNIOR VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

Overall 12-7; 5-4 in KVC... The Novi Junior Varsity volleyball team evened its Kevinsburg Valley Conference (KVC) record to 4-4 last week when it defeated Howell.

Junior varsity basketball

Overall 10-2; 5-1 in KVC... Novi trailed most of the second half versus the Milford Mavericks until Bret Cooke hit a three-point shot to break a 50-50 tie and Todd Janer sealed the game with two late free throws as the Wildcats captured a hard fought contest 55-52.

SPORTS SHORTS

Baseball/softball meeting... The Kevinsburg Valley Baseball Softball Association will hold a travel baseball meeting February 17 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Brighton High School. Mustangs softball clinic... The Noviville High School softball program will be sponsoring a softball clinic for all girls in grades 9 through 12 on Feb. 22, Feb. 28, and Feb. 29 from 9-11 a.m. at Noviville High School.

Wild 'Stangs fare well in talented field

By Sam Eggleston

The Northville- Novi Wild 'Stangs' gymnastics team is looking good as the regular season is starting to come to a close... Against Plymouth, the Wild 'Stangs' pummed out a 142.65-125.8 victory before competing in the extremely competitive Canton Invitational and taking third with a season-high 144.7 points.

Against Plymouth, the girls found themselves earning some impressive marks, including a first-place all-around score of 9.55. Other notable performances in the Plymouth dual met included a 9.4 from both Rachel Deneau and Sara Wilchowski on the beam.

Freshman volleyball

The Novi freshman volleyball team won the Mt. Morris Invitational last weekend. The Wildcats beat Port Huron Northern in the championship round, 15-6, 10-15, 15-8. Top performers for the day were Rachel Kovacsinski with 10 aces, Lauren Purdy with 18 kills, Julie Schramm with 15 kills and Beauna Omling with 18 digs.

The squad is slated to be back in action today at 7 p.m. The meet, which is against Hartland, is the final home meet of the year and marks both senior and parents night.

The team continues to improve with each meet and we hope this continues through regionals and states," Schultz said. The highest scoring Wildcat



Submitted Photo

The Novi Wildcats pom-pom squad competed at the regional tournament at Saginaw Heritage High School January 31 and came away as one of the top teams thanks to their performance. The squad will now compete in the state finals, which are to be held Saturday at 3:15 p.m. at Eastern Michigan University.

Wildcats headed to state finals

The Novi Wildcats varsity pom-pom squad knew the long hours of preparation and dedication they have put into their routines since the fall would pay off — and it definitely has. The Wildcats, who are coached by Jeni Hubbschmidt, ranked them among the best of the 11 other class A schools which performed against them

SHIVER ME TIMBERS! Novi tops Pinckney Pirates in swimming

By Sam Eggleston... It's always nice when you can beat a team in their own elements. The Novi Wildcats swimming and diving team, coached by Larry Tarnen, earned a win over the Pinckney Pirates, 398-75, in Kensington Valley Conference action. The Wildcats, who have just a 17-person roster this winter, found themselves taking on a Pirates squad that graduated just one swimmer last year. The end results were exactly what Novi was looking for.

Wildcat grapplers fall in close meets

By Sam Eggleston

It's cliché, but it's true. The Novi Wildcats wrestling team has been coming close to victory, yet they are so far away. The most recent examples of this came in the last two meets the grapplers participated in. Novi fell to a tough Howell team 35-27 before being pummed by Pinckney, 39-35. "We lost two close matches against two good teams," Novi coach Brad Huss said. "I thought we matched up well against both, but we didn't win the close matches that we needed to win."

Table listing church directories including St. Paul's Lutheran, First Presbyterian, Northwest Lutheran, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Church of the Holy Cross, Faith Community, St. James Roman Catholic, Church of the Holy Family, Worldview Harvest, Ward Evangelical, Bethlehem Evangelical, and Crosspointes Ministry.

Novi looking to get back to KVC wins



Sam Eggleston's

The Novi boys basketball team has suffered through this season, and the squad is no doubt looking to make sure that they don't feel that pain again. After starting the year out on a great run, the Wildcats spluttered against the unexpectedly solid Howell Highlanders in their first loss of the year before doing the same thing against a very prepared and very determined South Lyon squad just a few weeks later.

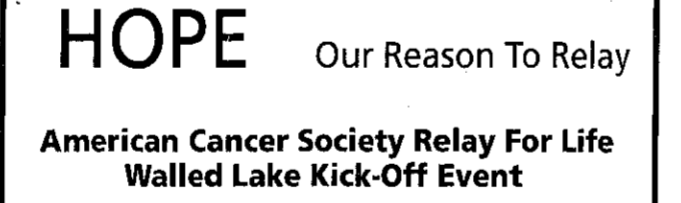


Game of the Week

Advertisement for NARCOSON, featuring a large Rx symbol and text: "NARCOSON STONE HAWK 800-420-3147"

Advertisement for Michigan Press Association, featuring text: "Cost-Effective Statewide Coverage Place your 2x2 display ad and reach over 3.5 million readers for just \$949!"

Advertisement for WELDING RODS, featuring text: "URGENT NEWS FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE USED WELDING RODS... Scientists report that elevated manganese exposure from welding rod fumes has been associated with Parkinson's disease."



HOPE Our Reason To Relay American Cancer Society Relay For Life Walled Lake Kick-Off Event

Wednesday, February 25, 2004 Walled Lake Community Education Center. 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. "Relay For Life represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who are battling cancer will be supported, and that one day cancer will be eliminated."

Advertisement for Relay For Life, featuring the American Cancer Society logo and text: "To learn more visit www.cancer.org or call 248.557.5353. Proudly supported by NOVI NEWS"

Large advertisement for Walsh Gala, featuring text: "Walsh Gala A Unique Evening for the Arts Saturday, March 6, 2004 Novi Campus Feast your senses on the finest in arts, wines, and cuisine..."

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

4B

Novi News

Thursday, February 12, 2004

Be dogged for fair vet costs

Recently my 11-year-old Australian cattle dog, Mingus, ate several sheets of 280-grit sand paper. Why she went for the sandpaper, when there was pepperoni pizza in the garbage can, I'll never know. I was just glad she hadn't re-acquired her taste for shoes and vacuum cleaner power cords.

Last one of our friends paid the vet \$1,700 to extract Berber carpeting from their golden retriever's belly.

According to Consumer Reports magazine, annual spending on veterinary services has jumped to more than \$18 billion dollars — triple the level in 1991. Vets routinely implant pacemakers, transplant kidneys, rebuild patellas and level tibias. But the significant advances in veterinary medicine come at a steep price. How can you protect yourself from paying too much?

Consumer Reports offers these suggestions for cutting veterinary costs without sacrificing quality of care.

Learn the going rates. Before deciding on one vet, call the vets in your area and ask for prices of annual exams, anesthesia, shots, x-rays, as well as limb repair and gastrointestinal surgeries. If you know your breed of dog or cat might be susceptible to a certain health disorder like diabetes, request a quote for treatment.

Get a second opinion on pricey services. Always get an estimate on an expensive treatment from two or three vets. An established vet in a small office may charge significantly less than a young vet, newly graduated and burdened with student loan debt. The same could be true for a vet who practices in a high-rent part of town.

Take your animal in for regular checkups. Annual exams give your vet the opportunity to identify a potential health problem before it turns into a chronic condition.

Buy your pet's prescriptions online. If you purchase your pet's medication from the vet, you could be paying as much as 250 percent more than you would had you used an online pet pharmacy like petrx.com or petmeds.com. You can also find bargains on pet drugs by shopping at your local pharmacy. Request a written prescription at the time of treatment, but don't be surprised if the vet charges you a nominal fee of \$5 to \$10 for the script.

Before purchasing a purebred animal, research the breed for abnormalities and susceptibility to certain health disorders. Consult a good pet healthcare reference like the free online Merck Veterinary Manual at <http://www.merckvetmanual.com/mvman/index.jsp>. The site allows you to search by topic, species, specialty, disease, and keyword. If you're planning to purchase a large dog like a Labrador or golden retriever, or a German shepherd — breeds that suffer from a hereditary condition called hip dysplasia — you might be able to request the breeder provide you certification from University of Pennsylvania Hip Improvement Program and/or the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals. Cocker spaniels who suffer from cataracts, glaucoma and dry eye can be certified through the Canine Eye Registration Foundation. DNA tests that identify a variety of genetic disorders are available from commercial labs.

Spay and neuter your pets. You'll not only be doing your part to control the stray animal population, you could prevent your pet from developing uterine infections and mammary tumors.

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL), a statewide trade association representing Michigan credit unions. Send your financial questions to "Your Money Matters" c/o the Michigan Credit Union League, P.O. Box 8054, Plymouth, MI 48170-8054, or stop by our Web site (www.mcul.org) to learn more about smart money management. Comments about this column may be e-mailed to mcd@mcul.org.

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Do you have a news brief or story idea about your company?

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Advertorial



At the Orin Jewelers' store in Northville, more than 70 years of family history and reputation back the jewellers services and exquisite selection. Standing behind the counter are Orin Mazzoni Jr., his daughter, Gina Mazzoni, Carole Urban, Susan Taylor and Manager David Beyer.

Orin Jewelers continues family tradition

By Duane Ramsey
SPECIAL WRITER

Orin Jewelers celebrated multiple milestones in 2003 including its 70th year in business, 50 years in Garden City and 20 years in Northville, spanning three generations of the Mazzoni family.

The jewelry business has been a tradition in the family since Orin Mazzoni Sr. opened the first store in West Virginia in 1933. Orin and his wife Mary moved their family to Garden City and set up business under the name Orin Jewelers in 1953.

The original business was located on Ford Road near Middlebelt where the family lived above the store during the early years. That's where their children Carol, Joyce, Orin Jr. and Michael learned the jewelry business.

Orin and Mary built a reputation for honesty and integrity as fine jewelers with a devotion to quality and service. In 1965, they moved the business across the street to its present location in the Folker Building, which formerly housed a National Bank of Detroit branch and Garden City Hall.

"Part of it comes naturally growing up in the business as children," said Orin Jr., now president of the company. "It was important to my siblings and I to be involved in the family business."

Orin Jr. and his brother Michael joined the family business after serving in the Army during the Vietnam War. When their father retired in 1969, Orin Jr. took over as president and CEO. With their sister Joyce Pappas, the Orin children have built on the foundation established by their parents.

When the family decided to



Photos by Duane Ramsey

Standing in the Garden City showroom of Orin Jewelers are (from left) Gina Mazzoni, Orin Mazzoni III, Joyce Pappas, Michael Mazzoni and Orin Mazzoni Jr.

expand, they opened their second showroom in downtown Northville in 1983. They completely renovated the building at Main and Center streets, restoring its original Victorian design.

Orin Sr. and Mary continued to work in the business during their retirement years. Although he passed away in 2001 and she in 2003, both lived to enjoy seeing their grandchildren join the family business.

Orin Jr.'s children recently became the third generation of Mazzonis involved in the jewelry business. Orin III joined the business in 1998 and is a graduate gemologist of the Gemological Institute of America. Gina came aboard in 2000 and earned her graduate gemologist degree from the GIA in 2003.

"Today, it's important to have a jeweler you can trust. Our constant goal is to provide customers with the best quality and service by exceeding their

mond-buying group in the world.

The firm provides all major purchases with a jewelry insurance appraisal. They also appraise antique jewelry and watches as well as provide verifications of diamonds and colored gemstone identifications.

Orin Jewelers is an accredited gem laboratory by the American Gem Society, a prestigious organization that sets the highest standards for jewelers and protects the interests of consumers. Orin Jr. and Orin III are among approximately 400 people in the world who hold the title of Certified Gemologist Appraiser from the AGS.

The firm's appraisers are skilled in gemstone identification, laboratory report analysis, and appraisal evaluation. It has the proper gemological equipment and training to provide customers with a professional jewelry appraisal document.

The business has a full service design center in Garden City where jewelers can create custom pieces of fashionable jewelry of all types with the highest craftsmanship.

It also has a jewelry repair department where they rebuild settings, repair worn or damaged items, and refurbish antique jewelry.

"We're very fortunate to have great people who have worked here for many years. We depend on those people to provide that quality service," said Orin Jr.

He is also proud to have more graduate gemologists, registered jewelers and certified sales associates than any other jeweler in the state of Michigan. Their jewelers have undergone intensive training and have the professional credentials to provide customers with the best workmanship and service.

The firm's head jeweler, Jack

Snow, is a Certified Master Bench Jeweler through Jewelers of America. Maria Buffone, customer service manager, is a Graduate Jeweler Gemologist, the highest degree given by the GIA.


Two other longtime employees, Matt Tatro and David Beyer, began working in the business at age 16 and are considered part of the Mazzoni family. Tatro is merchandising manager in Garden City and Beyer manages the Northville location.


Orin Jewelers also provides all types of jewelry for awards and corporate gifts for companies and organizations. It also offers a selection of class rings, watches and other pride jewelry for many area high schools.

"Remember that Saturday, Feb. 14, is Valentine's Day and we have a variety of gift ideas for everyone's sweetheart," said Orin Jr.



Orin Mazzoni Jr. watches Jack Snow, a certified master bench jeweler, set a "Hearts on Fire" diamond.





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