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Novi News



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INSIDE



Decisions, decisions

Judge Robert Bondy has sat behind the 52-1 District Court bench for one year, and he tells the Novi News what it's been like to preside over 4,200 cases in that time.

— Page 4A

Top volunteer

Novi High School senior Andrew Krupansky was named as one of Michigan's top two youth volunteers for 2004 by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism.

— Page 13A

REGIONAL MARKET

Beautiful smiles

Dr. Thomas Hamway and Dr. Timothy Stroter understand that nothing makes a better first impression or gives a person more self-confidence than a beautiful smile.

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OBITUARY

Adele M. Bosler

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Ready for road work?

More than \$10 million in road repairs planned for city

By Phil Foley
 STAFF WRITER

Though it may not seem like it while you're scraping the frost from your windshield, spring is just around the corner, which means the landscape will soon be blooming with orange barrels and cones.

Between major road projects and neighborhood road rehabilitation, Novi motorists can look forward to more than \$10 million in road repairs this summer. And that doesn't include the state Department of Transportation's \$4.7 million project to replace the

Beek Road Bridge over I-96. While it may not seem that way when construction crews are in one's neighborhood, City Engineer Nancy McClain said local motorists should find travel conditions in the city better this summer than last.

"Last summer we had major projects on Grand River, 12 Mile and South Lake all going at the same time," she said. McClain added that the with Grand River Bridge over the CSX Railroad tracks out, it turned a portion of Grand River into a "mile-long cul-de-sac."

Although this summer's major road projects won't be completely painless, McClain said that this summer's projects should be a lot less disruptive to local business.

The Road Commission for Oakland County will be revamping Novi Road's intersections with Grand River Avenue and 10 Mile Road this summer at a total

cost of \$6.5 million. The project, which will include the addition of a right turn lane on westbound Grand River, signalization improvements, minor widening and radius improvements, will mean no left turns from northbound Novi Road to westbound Grand River for the summer.

"That will throw a monkey wrench into a lot of people's travel plans," suggested McClain. To head west on Grand River, motorists will have to make a series of right-hand turns onto Crescent Boulevard, Town Center Drive and then Grand River.

Motorists might as well get used to a certain level of aggravation on Novi Road, because in 2005 the road commission plans on building a five-lane bridge over the CSX Railroad tracks between 10 Mile Road and Grand River.

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2004 LOCAL ROAD REHABILITATION

Road	Limits	PASER	Length in Feet	Surface Type
Clark	Gr. River to 11 Mile	3	738	Bituminous
Lanny's	All	3	992	Bituminous
Whipple	All	3	402	Bituminous
Cottisford	Novi Rd. to City Limits	4	1,458	Bituminous
Coventry	All	4	2,322	Bituminous
Beacon	All	5	1,024	Bituminous
Ingram	All	4/5	429	Bituminous
Mill Stream	All	4	445	Bituminous
Pebble	All	3	773	Bituminous
Border Hill	All	5	999	Bituminous
Subtotal Bituminous Streets			10,002 Feet	
Arcadia	Cordoba to End	4	1,656	Concrete
Carlise	All	4	435	Concrete
Cider Mill	All	4	3,989	Concrete
Galway West Ridge to Center		4	242	Concrete
Princeton	All	4	282	Concrete
Roma Ridge	All	4	1,289	Concrete
Subtotal Concrete Streets			9,873 Feet	
TOTAL			19,875 Feet	

PASER - Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating - Scores range from 1 to 10, with 10 being the best and 1 being the worst.

Source: City of Novi Engineering Department

Might as well JUMP!



Photo by John Heider

Leaping into action is the Novi High School varsity pom-pom squad during last Sunday's 2004 Statewide Pom-Pon Championships held at Eastern Michigan University's Convocation Center. The Wildcats took fifth place in the state.

Teen may make a little history

Seventh-grader up for position on Historical Commission

By Pam Fleming
 STAFF WRITER

Age is not necessarily a measure of maturity.

And 13-year-old Mark Appel of Novi proved that by recently expressing interest in becoming a member of the Novi Historical Commission.

If things go as planned, he may make history by becoming the youngest ex-officio member of the group.

It all started on Feb. 9 when he and his mother attended a round of interviews by members of the Novi City Council Feb. 9 for various city board and commission openings conducted. She was there to apply for a spot on the Woodlands Review Board, and he tagged along.

"We have an 11-month-old brother, Aric, so I went with her to help take care of him," he explained. "He just took his first step."

Kathy Mutch, chair of the Historical Commission, knew Appel since he has attended some of Historical Commission's functions and had expressed interest in becoming involved with the group.



Photo by Kathy Mutch

Mayor Lou Csordas with Mark Appel, 13, who would like to join the Novi Historical Commission.

"During my interview for my reappointment of the Historical Commission Feb. 9, I made a plea for the city council to make a little bit of an effort to find somebody for the Historical Commission, because we've been down a person for over two years," Mutch said.

During the audience participation portion of Mutch's interview, council members asked if anyone had any interest in becoming a member of the commission.

With Mutch's urging, Appel took the podium and told the council that he wanted to become a member.

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CELEBRATING WINTER

Chilly Willy festival replaced

By Phil Foley
 STAFF WRITER

Things are heating up around the Novi Civic Center. It's out with the cold and in with the new as the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department replaces Chilly Willy with Sand, Sun and Fun.

Tracey Ringle, the department's marketing coordinator, said Chilly Willy, the city's decade-old mid-winter event, got put on the shelf last year after it "turned into something we didn't intend it to be."

Chilly Willy, said Ringle, was originally seen as an outdoor event with skating and ice-carving contests, but with Southeast Michigan's unpredictable weather, the focus

eventually shifted indoors to the event's bridge tournament and chili cook-off.

"We decided to take a year off, step back and look at the demand," said Ringle. What the department found was that more than anything else, people were ready to escape the cold, snow and gloom, so Sand, Sun and Fun was born.

Ringle said Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department will transform the Novi Civic Center into a tropical paradise. The department, said Ringle, is encouraging families to "leave the cold behind" and sample the island life at the Civic Center.

Local kids will be able to try their hand at digging for treasure in the sand at the Children's Cove, hosted by Coach Jo and Coach Dave, or test their balance on a robotic surfing machine. Children's Cove will offer activities for 3- to 5-year-old

- SAND, SUN & FUN**
- Saturday, Feb. 28
 - 1-4 p.m.
 - Novi Civic Center
 - \$5 at the door

and 6- to 10-year-old. Members of the Novi Civic Theater will offer a taste of their upcoming production of "South Pacific" with performances of "Nothing Better Than a Dame" and "Wash That Man Right Out of My Hair."

Families will be offered the chance to make their own music video.

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

Kindergarten programs debated

Board looks at full- and half-day options

By Ramez Khuri
 STAFF WRITER

After deciding just last year to have full-day kindergarten programs in all elementary schools in the Novi Community School District, Novi's board of education is now wondering whether to keep them in place for the 2004-05 school year.

On Feb. 5, Novi Assistant

Superintendent for Academic Services Nancy Davis recommended the board strongly consider approving the continuation of the current way that the early childhood programs are run.

Specifically, Davis supports the continuation of one section of full-day kindergarten at Village Oaks, Novi Woods, Parkview and Orchard Hills and the continuation of all full-day

R. Njus

kindergarten programs at Deerfield for next school year.

The board is expected to make a decision on Thursday, March 4.

If the board passes the recommendation, the random selection process for Deerfield will continue with two modifications: The selection at random for the full-day kindergarten programs will be balanced by gender. Also, a few seats will be held open for children who are deemed to be 'at risk' or would benefit from the full-day kindergarten program due to academic, social, or other circumstances at the discretion of the principal and staff.

continued on page 6

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Couple's fantasy wedding comes true at mall

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

A couple's fantasy finally came true in Novi last Sunday.

Andrew Androff of Royal Oak and Jane James of Plymouth exchanged wedding vows at Center Court at Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall at 7 p.m. the day after Valentine's Day. They were winners of the \$50,000 "Marry Me at Twelve" wedding package contest.

The event included several surprises for the winning couple.

Prior to the traditional ceremony, a bagpiper played for the couple. After the ceremony, he led them out of Center Court.

"We also had a light show that included their names in lights spinning around the ceiling," said Peggy Hayes, marketing director at Twelve Oaks.

Chuck Galicia, of WDIV-Channel 4 and WNIC-103.3 FM announced the couple's first dance as a married couple. Then the local weatherman announced that they were bringing "the outside in" for the special wedding, and fake snow fell on them as they danced.

"They danced under the snow with lights on them. It was so pretty," Hayes said.

The bride tossed her bouquet from the second-floor balcony.

"At that moment, we shot confetti cannons, and glittering confetti fell on the guests below," Hayes said.

All this was accompanied by the music of world-famous tenor Andrea Bocelli.

The bride's dress was a strapless, ivory-sim-

ple gown embellished with a champagne border around the bottom. She also wore open-length gloves with pearls and all pearl jewelry that included a three-tiered choker and bracelet.

She also had a full-length cathedral veil and carried pink calla lilies.

The maid-of-honor wore a simple, strapless ivory dress with a champagne-colored design.

Those who would like to see more pictures of the Androffs' wedding can visit www.shop12oaks.com which also has a link to more wedding photos.

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.hometown.net.



Photos by Paul Kubek

Twelve Oaks Mall was transformed into a wedding chapel for Jane James and Andrew Androff's "Marry Me at Twelve" ceremony Sunday.



LET'S TALK

WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN
GEMOLOGIST

ALL STARRY-EYED

Diamonds were once referred to as "fingertite stars." Now, scientists have uncovered some evidence that slams just how apt that description may be. Recently, astronomers using the Space Telescope Imaging Spectrograph on the Hubble telescope analyzed a mystery substance in dust clouds containing newborn stars. When they compared their ultraviolet signature to that of diamonds found in some meteorites, they found such a tight match that they labeled their discovery "interstellar diamonds." Astronomers believe that the diamond grains (about a billionth of an inch across) were produced in the scorching heat and extreme pressure of ancient supernova explosions. Based on this discovery, it is estimated that the Milky Way may contain trillions of tons of diamonds.

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Fibromyalgia?

A new, free report has been released that reveals the "untold story" behind fibromyalgia pain. Fibromyalgia misdiagnosis and mistreatment is rampant and leads to countless years of unnecessary suffering. This free report reveals a natural procedure that is giving fibromyalgia sufferers their "lives back" - with "miraculous" results for many. No gimmicks. For your free copy, call Toll-Free 1-800-220-8494, 24 hr. recorded message.

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Senate approves highway bill; Wixom Bridge fate still unclear

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

The U.S. Senate voted 76-21 Feb. 12 to approve a highway funding bill that may bring an additional \$2.1 billion in federal highway dollars to Michigan over the next six years.

However, it will likely be months before anyone knows if that will have any effect on the state's decision last month not to include the Wixom Road Bridge over I-96 in its five-year work plan.

Jamie Lofus, spokesman for U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-District 11), said that while the freshman representative is "supportive" of funding for the Wixom project, "the House is still developing its final version of the bill, and it's difficult to predict what it will look like."

The House had been scheduled to vote on its version of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2004 by the end of the month. But according to Lofus, House members voted Feb. 4 to approve another four-month extension to the current highway

funding bill.

Ben Koltman, spokesman for the state Department of Transportation in Lansing, called the Senate's vote a "good first step." But, he added, "We have to wait and see what eventually gets passed into law before we can focus on specific projects."

Earlier this year, the Michigan Municipal League was calling on its members for a "full court press" to get more federal transportation dollars for Michigan.

Senator Carl Levin said Michigan is one of 21 states that sends more federal gas tax dollars to Washington than it receives.

Earlier this month the Oakland County Commission voted unanimously to ask Gov. Jennifer Granholm to put the Wixom Bridge project back on the state's work list. "This isn't a Republican issue or a Democratic issue," said County Commissioner Hugo Crawford (R- Novi). "It's an Oakland County issue."

"This fits well with the governor's pledge to protect economic development," said County Commissioner Jeff Potter (R-Wixom). "I was grateful for the unanimous support of all

Commissioners from both parties to help keep jobs in Michigan. We're just trying to put our thumb on the scale for Michigan jobs."

Potter and others who work at the Wixom Ford Assembly Plant believe that replacing the nearly half-century old Wixom Road interchange with I-96 is a critical element in ensuring the long-term health of their plant.

State Senator Nancy Cassis (R- Novi), who has been a long-time proponent of replacing the Wixom Road Bridge, said she's been assured by both McCotter and U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg (R-District 9) that they will fight to get more transportation dollars for Michigan. Noting that this is an election year, Cassis observed, "Road funding is always seen as a positive thing locally."

Despite the extension vote, Cassis predicted that representatives in Washington will pass a transportation bill by the end of March.

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

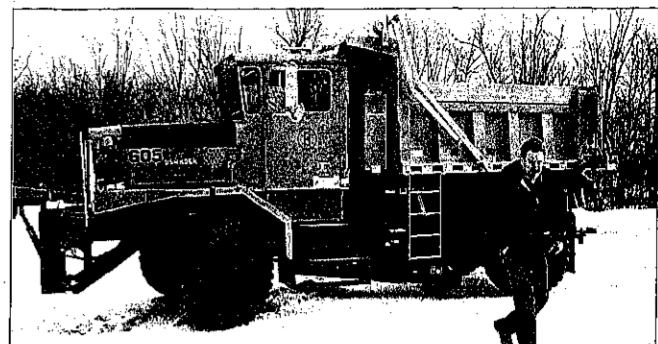


Photo by John Heider

Snow-fighter

Novi Department of Public Work's Chris Quick steps out of the DPW's newest snowplow truck a \$160,000 Oskosh model that should last the department for decades.

Local business leaders fight road congestion with commuting options

If getting qualified employees to your worksite is a concern for your business, learn about transportation options available to you at the Speed Up the Commute meeting, 8 to 9 a.m. Feb. 25 at the Oakland County Information Technology Auditorium in Waterford. The workshop is free of charge.

Learn how commuting options can benefit you, your employees and Oakland County roads. Anita Blasius, Public Outreach Manager for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, will provide an overview of options that include car and vanpool programs, guaranteed rides home, flexible work schedules, telework, and the Commuter Choice program. See how you'll be able to include Commuter Programs in your benefit package at no cost to your company or staff.

The meeting is sponsored by the Oakland County Business Roundtable Transportation Committee. There is no charge for the meeting, but reservations are requested. To RSVP and for directions, contact Charlotte Burckhardt at (248) 858-5443 or burckhardt@co.oakland.mi.us.

\$10M in road repairs planned

continued from front page

McClain said repaving the 1.5 miles of Tuff Road from 10 Mile Road to Grand River should be "pretty straightforward." She said she hopes to have this project done by August so it won't interfere with school buses.

The three projects on Meadowbrook Road, said McClain, will be done in phases rather than repaving the 1.5 miles of road all at once. McClain said I-96 makes a natural break point for the three projects.

"I tell people that I tore up all the east-west roads last summer and I'm going after the north-south

ones this year," said McClain.

She said that while work on the major road projects will probably start sometime in April, depending on how wet the spring is and how soon temperatures climb above the 40-degree mark, neighborhood road rehabilitation isn't slated to begin until June.

However, that's still two months ahead of last year's schedule. This summer Novi plans on resurfacing 18 streets, ranging from Princeton Boulevard at 262 feet to Cidermill Street at 3,989 feet, McClain said the city will repair 1.75 miles of asphalt pavement and two miles of pavement street at a cost of \$1.58 million.

The repairs are part of Novi's 2000 road bond.

While not part of the city's road projects, MDOT's Beck Road Bridge replacement project is expected to begin giving westside motorists fits in June as construction crews begin rerouting 12 Mile Road farther north on Beck. McClain said she expects to see the interchange closed altogether sometime in August as state highway crews begin work on the approaches to the new bridge.

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

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One year later, Bondy settles into bench role

By David Aguilar
STAFF WRITER

It didn't take long for 52-1 Judge Robert Bondy to figure out that most people who enter his Novati courtroom will be to him eventually. Not pervasively, and not always with malicious intent. Rather, as some comfortable guardrail they scrape while trying to keep a runaway life from tumbling over the side as it takes a steep curve.

Bondy's job is to sort fact from fiction, distinguish the truth, and make a decision.

Decisiveness, he said, is the cornerstone of his new job, one that he assumed officially last January after winning election in November 2002. Decisiveness is also the linchpin that keeps the court's unofficial \$1,000 case docket moving, he said, and the gesture which best provides individual relief.

Last year Bondy heard approximately 4,200 actual cases himself, according to court records, an equal third of those divided thinly among three 52-1 judges.

"It's a tougher job than people realize," said Bondy, who this year was selected by his two fellow 52-1 judges, Brian MacKenzie and Dennis Powers, as the court's presiding judge for one year.

Bondy can sum up his new job in two words: Decisions. Decisions.

"You have to make decisions

all day long, and those decisions affect people's lives," Bondy said. "You can't say, 'I don't want to make decisions this afternoon.' You have to make decisions."

Sometimes those decisions result in fines, probation or even jail time, a reality Bondy said he does not relish. But it's a slice of justice he is willing to mete out.

"People will get a decision out of me," he said. "They may not like it, but I think people want a decision. They want closure."

Already some cases have broken his heart, he said. Sending someone to jail for the maximum amount of time is never a picnic, for instance, mostly because of the ripple impact such a sentence imposes on innocent spouses, children and employers.

"You know that's what has to be done... there's just nothing satisfying about it," Bondy said. "You don't get home feeling good that I have put a lot of people in jail today."

He is recalcitrant. "But I asked to do this job. I asked to make decisions."

He said ensuring that defendants and plaintiffs alike receive their deserved day in court is his personal mission. And it's a responsibility he balances carefully with a reality he learned from the campaign trail: "People don't want repeat offenders."

Oakland County Jail is an option. But the bigger prize, and longer-lasting solution, Bondy said, is self-awareness and personal accountability. "If they understand that they are accountable, then we are making progress."

Last year, Bondy's docket included cases, ranging from landlord-tenant disputes to felony arraignments. Two months into his tenure, he presided over an arraignment centered around a high-profile Witson murder case. His ruling bound the case over to the Sixth Circuit Court in Pontiac, where felony cases are heard.

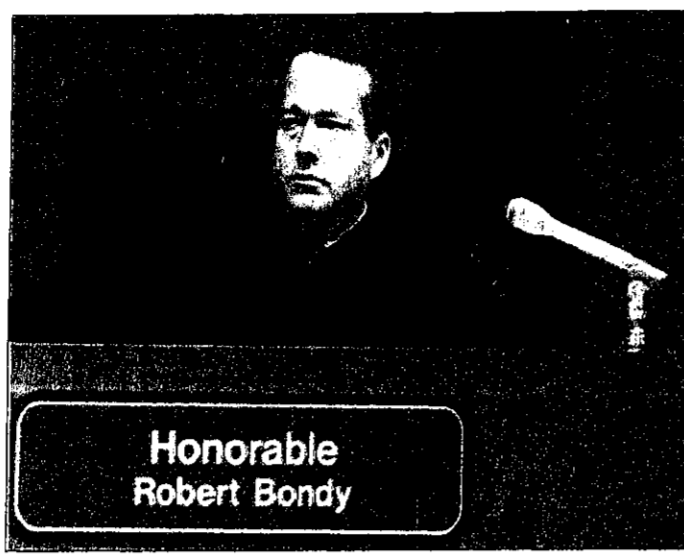
"Don't let the custom-fit robe fool you, though. It still took Bondy a sitting judge whose legal background is well-slept in professional merit, a while to grasp one of the court's more performative tasks: Finding the microphone switch beneath his bench.

He said presiding over cases advocated by some of his former attorney peers has not been difficult. But the public perceptions assigned to his newly-clothed position have required some adjustment.

"I don't think it's a negative," Bondy said. "But you are more conspicuous of how people view you, and how they may perceive your actions. You do lose some of your anonymity."

Still, the annual \$138,272 job affords healthy doses of professional satisfaction, he said. He said his involvement with 52-1's Sobriety Court, complete with "thank you" letters received from people whose lives have been changed by it and by Bondy's own decision to initially enroll them, has been redemptive.

But significant challenges remain, many of them dealing with youth, he said. During his 2002 campaign, Bondy pledged a personal commitment to area



Honorable Robert Bondy

Photo by David Aguilar

Robert Bondy was selected by his fellow 52-1 Judges, Brian MacKenzie and Dennis Powers, as the court's presiding judge for one year.

awaits youths who have crossed the legal threshold: Personal accountability. "You got yourself here," Bondy said. "You have to get yourself out of here."

Bondy said he is encouraged by the possibility of his new job but he is also grounded by its real-world limits. He is a pragmatist. "I'm not stupid," he said. "I know I'm not changing the world. But if I can change it for the better a little bit, one case at a time, then I am doing some good."

David Aguilar is a reporter for the *Novati Times*. He can be reached at (248) 685-1507, ext. 18, or by e-mail at daguilar@ht.homemcom.net.

Novi bank robbery trial postponed until April

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

A Redford man accused of using hookers to rob banks in Novi and several nearby communities 15 months ago will spend a few more months in a federal lockup before learning his fate.

Judge Denise Page Hood adjourned on Feb. 10 Arthur Payton's trial on federal bank robbery charges to give the 39-year-old Redford man more time to prepare his defense.

Payton, who is representing himself, is expected to be back in front of Judge Hood in federal court in Detroit April 10. But until then, according to a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office, he'll remain held without bond at the Milan Detention Center.

At the time of his arrest in 2004, Payton was on probation after being convicted of a similar crime spree in Southern California in the early '90s.

Novi Police Lt. David Malloy said Payton is accused of hiring prostitutes to rob banks in Novi, Livonia and Plymouth Township. Malloy said investigators believe Payton provided them with their disguises and convinced them there was no danger by telling them the teller was in on the robbery.

Seven proved to be Payton's unlucky number when he allegedly recruited Renee Lowery, 36, of Detroit, to rob the Bank One branch in Novi. Investigators say it was the seventh in a string of bank robberies that had begun in July.

Lowery was in custody less than an hour after the robbery, in part because a local restaurant owner happened to be making a bank deposit. Louis Golematis told Novi Police at the time that he was recounting his experience to his employees at the Lazy Lizard Restaurant when Lowery came into the business to call a taxi.

Golematis and one of his waitresses chased Lowery to the nearby Red, Hot and Blue Restaurant, where she was taken into custody by Novi Police. Lowery reportedly gave police information that eventually led members of the Oakland County SONIC unit to a car in Allen Park that had been tied to earlier bank robberies and Payton.

Payton has been in custody since Nov. 12, 2002. If convicted, he could be sent to federal prison for 20 years.

Malloy said Detectives Victor Luria and Todd Anger have already spent two days in Detroit preparing for the trial with federal investigators. He said he expects them to spend at least two more days in Detroit when the case comes to trial.

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

POLICE REPORT

Jewelry heist

Officer David Martino charged a pair of Milliford women, ages 18 and 17, with retail fraud at 1:16 p.m. Feb. 10 after loss prevention specialists at Lord & Taylor told him the pair tried to take \$130 worth of jewelry from the store without paying for it. Martino said the 18-year-old admitted to taking an \$80 ring while the 17-year-old admitted to taking a \$50 ring from the store's jewelry department.

Basketball and beer

Officer Michael Prough stopped a 1999 Hyundai on westbound I-96 near Novi Road at 1:16 p.m. Feb. 10 after he clocked it at 88 mph. He

said the driver, a 43-year-old Brighton man, admitted to drinking three beers while playing basketball earlier. Prough charged the man with operating under the influence of liquor after he failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .127. The man was later released after posting a \$100 bond.

Roll over

A 37-year-old Detroit man and his 53-year-old passenger escaped injury when he rolled his 2004 Chevrolet Astro van on westbound I-96 just east of Beck Road at 12:20 p.m. Jan. 14. According to reports, the van spun out of control on the ice- and snow-covered expressway,

crossing two lanes before tipping onto its side on the expressway.

Plate stolen

A Novi man told Officer Steven Poznak Feb. 6 that someone stole the license plate of a Ford van belonging to Novi Tile Sales.

Coffee trouble

Officer Jeffrey Brown stopped a 2000 Pontiac at 8:30 p.m. Feb. 6 after he clocked it at 49 mph on southbound Novi Road in an area posted for 35 mph. The driver, a 36-year-old Commerce Township man, said he had just left the Starbucks on Novi Road at 14 Mile Road and was looking for a Sprint

with operating under the influence of liquor after he failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .125. He was later released after posting a \$100 bond.

Bad cough

Officer Brian Woloski stopped a 2003 Ford Winstar on Meadowbrook Road near Penitence Street at 7:39 p.m. Feb. 7 after following it from a nearby 7-11 store. The driver, a 43-year-old Northville woman, denied drinking and said she'd been taking cough syrup. However, she failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .173 so Woloski charged her with operating under the influence of liquor.

Curb cut

Officer Eric Lindblade stopped a 1999 Dodge pickup on Novi Road at Crescent Boulevard after the operator drove over the curb while making a turn from West Marit northbound Novi Road. The man admitted to having done or fear beers at The Post and was charged

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Board debates Novi's kindergarten options

continued from front page

Since last October, the Early Childhood Study Group has met to review the state of early childhood education in the Novi Community Schools. The group is comprised of pre-

school staff, full-day kindergarten teachers, first grade teachers, two building principals and one school psychologist. The group then presented information to the board on Feb. 5 to plan for the 2004-05 school year and beyond.

The group believes that it is important to sustain the way that early childhood programs are run over a period of several years to gather data that will allow for better study and also to inform the board on the impact of full-day kindergarten

compared to half-day experiences.

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

Teen may make a little history

continued from front page

"They were thoroughly charmed by him," Match said.

"I know you have to be 18 to be an official member. But, we think it's wonderful that a young person has taken the interest that Mark has in the work of the Historical Commission. We are inviting him to our next meeting on Thursday and will discuss with him how he would like to be involved," Match said.

"We're thinking about creating a youth liaison position for him," she said.

"Every city is unique, and it's interesting to know something about where you live."

Mark Appel
Novi Middle School student

Whether it be a newly-created position or an ex-officio member, "We will find a way not only for Mark but for anyone else who is interested in working with the Historical Commission to be a part of what we do," Match said.

Mark, son of Denis and Anita Appel, is a seventh-grader at Novi Middle School and a member of Boy Scout Troop #407 in Novi. He and his family moved to Novi about a year ago from South Lyon.

"I think it would be interesting to be on the Historical Commission because I live in Novi. It would be a leadership-type person. I think it will help him to get involved in the community," she said.

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.

Deadline for street transfer passes without agreement

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Novi City Council gave Northville developer Ken Nanda until Feb. 9 to make arrangements to turn the streets in Chellenham subdivision over to the city or risk being sued.

Gerald Fisher, the city's attorney, is now asking to meet with city council members in executive session when the council gathers at the Civic Center Feb. 23.

City Manager Rick Helwig said city officials met with Nanda, Claudio Rossi and William Lokey Feb. 9, but would only say, "It continues to be a work in progress."

Lokey, whose family once had a 63-acre farm on Beck Road, sold Wilshire Abbey, a 29-lot subdivision adjacent Chellenham, to Rossi's Mirage Development Company last year. The Novi firm has been blocked from building homes on the property because it has no direct access to Beck Road.

Assistant City Manager Clay Pearson declined to discuss the details of the meeting, saying only that Nanda, Rossi and Lokey were in the Novi Civic Center Feb. 9.

Although Nanda describes Lokey as the man who "did all the mitchief," he also suggested at more than one city council meeting that the city has made several mistakes that have set it up for a mini-Sandstone.

Nanda has been at odds with city council since at least 1998 over access to the Wilshire Abbey property. City ordinances require subdivisions to have at least two access points to major streets.

Nanda maintains that since he built a boulevard that benefits immediate developments, he should be compensated for it.

Nanda added that city officials suggested at the Feb. 9 meeting that he and Mirage Development pay Lokey \$100,000 for an easement through Lokey's Beck Road property.

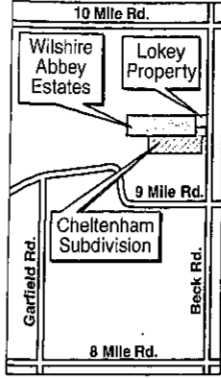
Lokey suggested the city could solve the problem by granting Mirage a variance for secondary access and widening the street bond for Nanda.

Lokey said that while he sympathizes with Rossi, he no longer owns Wilshire Abbey, so he's not really involved.

Lokey said he had originally planned to create an access road to his property from Beck Road, but city officials axed that plan, saying that "it would put the entrance drives to Wilshire Abbey and Chellenham too close together."

Lokey added that after the city denied him direct access to Beck

Developer Deadline +1



SOURCE: City of Novi

Road, he split off an acre-and-a-half from Wilshire Abbey before selling the subdivision to Mirage Development.

Nanda has resisted dedicating the streets of Chellenham to the city because the city requires a two-year bond on new streets. He doesn't believe he should be held responsible for possible damage done by construction vehicles going to Wilshire Abbey.

According to Nanda, the key issue is compensation. He said designing a boulevard entrance to his subdivision to accommodate Wilshire Abbey cost him three lots, he said, are worth about \$600,000 today.

Nanda maintains that since he built a boulevard that benefits immediate developments, he should be compensated for it.

Nanda added that city officials suggested at the Feb. 9 meeting that he and Mirage Development pay Lokey \$100,000 for an easement through Lokey's Beck Road property.

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City eyes bigger garages

Council looks at getting rid of 1,000-square-foot limitation

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

There was a time when property was measured by a chicken in every pot and a car in every garage, but today the chicken has to be free-range and the garage has to have room for at least four cars and some lawn equipment.

Novi's City Council is contemplating eliminating the city's 1,000-square-foot garage cap in favor of something a little more spacious.

Mayor Lou Coords first suggested the city needed to re-examine its prohibition on garages larger than 1,000 square feet during his State Of The City address before the Novi Chamber of Commerce at the Hotel Baromette Jan. 20.

Adamo Piccini, who heads up Novi's Auto Group, called the city's current limits on garage size "over regulation." Piccini said he believes garage size

should be "market driven."

Over at Cambridge Homes, Matt Guidobono, the company's sales and marketing manager, said his firm has had to go before the Zoning Board of Appeals for every home in its Belagio development on Beck Road. "Everybody today wants a four-car garage," he said.

"At city council's Feb. 2 meeting, council members instructed city staff to prepare a report on how nearby communities handle garage size."

Council Member David Landry noted that in Northville, depending on lot size, homeowners are allowed to have up to six-car garages.

"We're looking at too many appeals," said council member Toni Nagy, who was a member of Novi's Planning Commission before winning a seat on city council.

According to Bob Porteous, a construction manager with Cambridge, the typical four-car garage covers roughly 1,250 square feet. He noted that in many larger upscale developments these days, there are restrictions against leaving vehicles outside overnight.

He said not allowing people with sufficient space to build a

Council chambers getting new chairs

Novi's leaders could be sitting in new \$1,525 chairs by the end of March.

Craig Klaver, the city's chief operating officer, told city council members in a memo Feb. 12 that he was set to order 14 black leather Keillauer Danforth chairs Tuesday at a cost of \$21,350. City council members approved the purchase at their Jan. 26 meeting.

In his memo, Klaver told city council members that 14 chairs are needed in council chambers in order to accommodate planning commission members and staff.

He added that the leather chairs the city is ordering are \$250 cheaper and more durable than the \$1,775 fabric-covered sample chair council members examined.

Klaver said that while it normally takes the manufacturer six weeks to deliver the chairs, his office would work to shorten the delivery time.

By Phil Foley

large enough garage will mean they'll "have to pay storage to keep their stuff somewhere else."

Porteous added that getting a zoning variance for a homeowner adds a month and some cost to the home.

He said given the size of homes and lots being built on the city's west side, he feels the current ordinance is "out of date."

According to a report prepared for city council by Novi City Planner Barbara McBeth, the ZBA approved five garage vari-

ances last year. Based on those variances, she suggested the city might want to consider increasing the maximum size for accessory structures to 1,200 square feet.

City Council is expected to discuss the issue at its Feb. 23 meeting.

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.

DeRoche felonious teacher bill approved by House

The House approved a bill by state Rep. Craig DeRoche to require the state superintendent to evaluate every felony convicted by a teacher on a case-by-case basis to determine if the crime warrants immediate removal from the classroom.

House Bill 5476 creates deadlines for the state superintendent and the felonious teacher. Upon conviction an individual has 15 days to request a hearing from the state superintendent. The superintendent then must issue a decision within 20 days.

For heinous felonies or misdemeanors, the state superintendent will then have the option of summarily suspending the teacher and/or scheduling a hearing. For other felonies the state superintendent can order a hearing that can lead to suspension, revocation or continuance of a teaching certificate. Finally the state superintendent can make a determination that the crime does not warrant action by the state. Every felony and serious misdemeanor perpetrated by a teacher will be evaluated by the state superintendent.

"My bill will give the state superintendent authority and accountability," said DeRoche, R-Nowi. "Under current law the state board of education is responsible for suspensions and hearings of felonious teachers. My bill shifts the responsibility to one high profile state leader — the state superintendent." Currently, school districts are forced to appear at a hearing to suspend a teaching license after a teacher has been convicted of a felony. This problem came to light when a South Lyon High School teacher and coach pleaded guilty to his fourth felony charge after being arrested for numerous charges including felony possession of cocaine and drunk driving. After these charges and the subsequent plea, he still has the right to protect his teaching tenure at a state board of education hearing set for March 8. The bill passed 98-6. House Bill 5476 will now go to the Senate for consideration.

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- 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/cones _____
- 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

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- Best bank _____
- Best nail salon _____
- Best tanning salon _____
- Best jewelry store _____
- Best real estate company _____
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- Best auto service _____
- Best oil change shop _____
- Best collision shop _____
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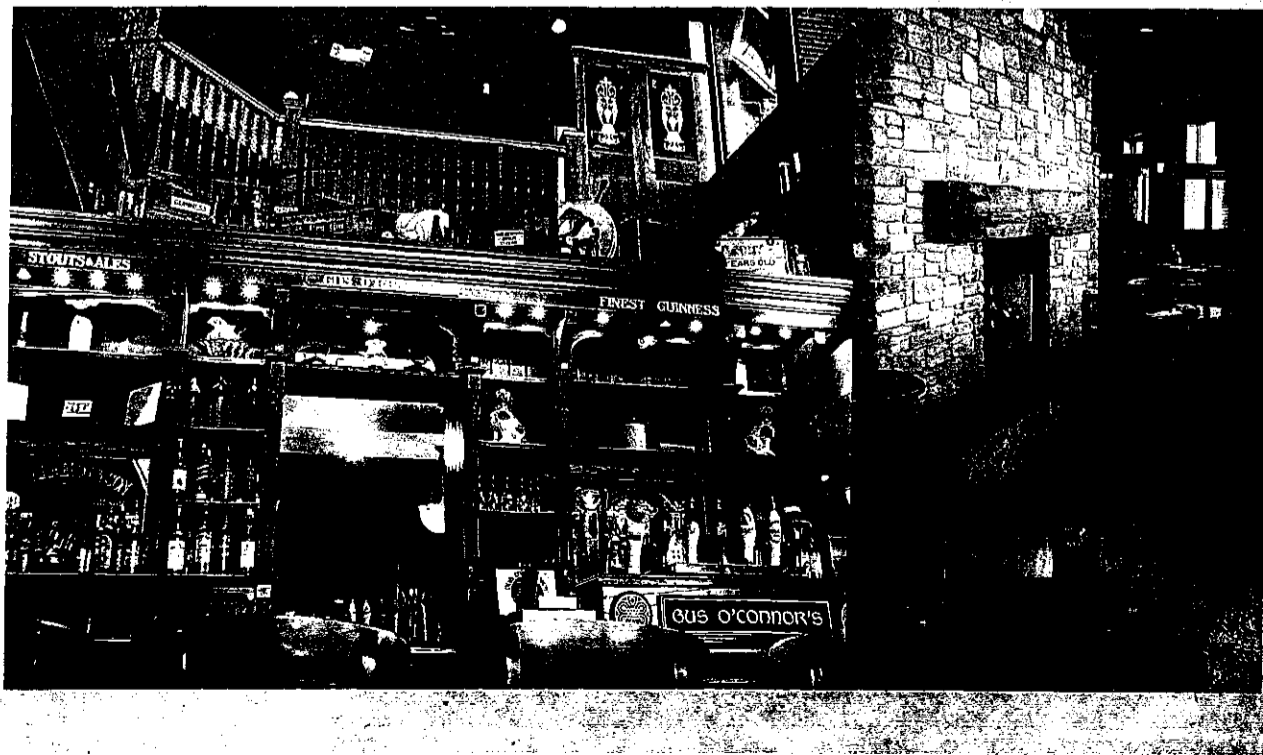
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BUSINESS

Pam Fleming, business reporter (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 pfleming@ht.homecomm.net

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Republic Bank honors Seaberg

Novi Chamber of Commerce Board Member Christy L. Seaberg, branch sales officer for Republic Bank's Northville office at 3901 W. Eight Mile at Huggerty, recently received several honors from the financial institution.

Seaberg won the Branch Manager of the Year Award out of 84 branches, the Outstanding Performance Award for 2003, and the Chairman's Cup Award for Excellence.

Seaberg has been with the bank for five years. The awards were presented at the senior officers awards dinner at the Ritz-Carlton in Dearborn. Republic Bank's Northville branch opened in June 1999. The bank is a wholly owned Michigan corporation traded on NASDAQ.



C. Seaberg

Taco Bell coming to Walled Lake

The grand opening of a new Taco Bell restaurant at 1163 E. West Maple in downtown Walled Lake will take place at 11 a.m. Feb. 21.

The celebration will begin with a ribbon cutting ceremony followed by a Taco Eating Contest and other festivities throughout the day.

Taco Bell has been on Walled Lake residents' wish list for several years in a row, according to the Downtown Development Authority.

Results of surveys taken asking the community which business they would like to see come to their downtown shows, "Taco Bell as the most-requested."

"The community has been extremely generous, and we very much appreciate how welcome they have made us feel," said Bruce Hornby, district manager for Taco Bell. The new Walled Lake hot spot is owned by Sundance, Inc., who also owns Taco Bell restaurants in Lansing, Flint and Toledo.

Taco Bell is open Sunday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. and Friday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 a.m. The phone number for the new Walled Lake location is (248) 669-5370.

ThermoAnalytics opens Novi office

ThermoAnalytics, Inc., of Calumet, Mich., announced the opening of a new office in Novi last week.

The firm is a leading developer of thermal, fluid-flow and infrared modeling software. The company's software products and services help engineers optimize product concepts early in the design process. This allows them to significantly improve product quality while reducing development time and cost.

ThermoAnalytics' software is used in many industries, including automotive, aerospace, electronics, environmental, manufacturing and military applications.

"We are confident that our Novi office will help us provide better support to all of our customers in the Detroit area," said Keith Johnson, president.

"ThermoAnalytics will also provide complete software sales and consulting services from our Novi office."

continued on page 10

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Fifth annual clothing drive helps folks looking for work

By Pam Fleming
 STAFF WRITER



Photo by Cal Stone

Organizers and charity representatives from the Fifth Annual Threads of Power breakfast gather by some of the donated clothing at the Sheraton Detroit Novi Tuesday. From left: Peggy Hayes, marketing director, Twelve Oaks Mall, event chair; Julie LeBlanc, secretary, Board of Trustees, Open Door Outreach Center; RoseAnn Falla, client services director, Open Door Outreach Center; Carol Ann Donnelly, director, Christian Service Social Ministries, Holy Family Catholic Church; and Nora Champion, president, Novi Chamber of Commerce.

British Columbia-based business with local offices in Birmingham. The firm, which is North America's largest junk removal service, is a new member of the

Novi Chamber of Commerce. "This impacts so many people in the business world," said Novi Chamber of Commerce Chairman Keith Wilson at the event.

Peggy Hayes, marketing director of Twelve Oaks Mall and chair of the event, said, "I'm proud to have Twelve Oaks be a sponsor. The clothes will be going to a couple of great causes."

The Clothes Closet at Holy Family Catholic Church in Novi has a long history, according to Carol Ann Donnelly. It started in the Village School in Northville, then moved to the Presbyterian Church in Northville.

"I remember a lady coming up to me saying, 'I can't believe there are needy people in Northville.' I told her, 'I have two words to say to you. Get involved,'" Donnelly recalled.

The charity operated in portable units on school grounds in Novi for 18 years. It's home has been at Holy Family for about seven years. There's no charge for anything at The Clothes Closet.

The service helps low-income people, women and children of domestic violence, refugees, victims of tragedies such as fire and other churches.

"We also receive referrals from public health nurses," Donnelly said.

During Homeless Week, April 17-24, the organization actually houses the homeless for the week. For more information, call (248) 349-8847.

The Open Door Outreach

Center started in Union Lake Village in 1982. Now located at 7170 Conley Lake Road in Waterford, it serves families in Waterford, White Lake, West Bloomfield, Commerce, Milford and parts of Wixom and Walled Lake. Referrals from other agencies are also accepted.

During 2002, the center distributed more than 70,000 pounds of food to 1,933 families, including 1,712 children.

"We help people with food, clothing, and financial assistance when we have the money," said RoseAnn Falla, client services director.

There are many success stories from the center. One single mother with four children and an alcohol problem the center helped went on to earn her doctorate in social work at the University of Michigan and is now helping young people, according to Julie LeBlanc, secretary of the center's Board of Trustees.

The organization will have its 11th annual 5K Jewelry Run June 26 on the Oakland Community College campus. For more information, call (248) 360-2930.

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.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

continued from page 9

The new office is located at the Crystal Glen Office Center, 39555 Orchard Hill Place, Suite 166, at Haggerty and Eight Mile roads. Craig Gless will direct operations at the new Novi office. For more information, call Gless at (248) 772-1063.

Novi to gain spinal cord center

The Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan recently received three gifts totaling \$1 million for the establishment of a Spinal Cord Injury Recovery Center to be housed at the hospital's Novi facility.

The new center will be located at 42065 W. Twelve Mile Road.

The announcement was made Feb. 14 during the institute's St. Valentine Ball at the Ritz-Carlton in Dearborn. The event marked the kick-off of the institute's 2004-2005 Capital Campaign.

Contributors to the SCI Recovery Center include The Paul E. Gan Foundation (\$450,000), the Mike Wallace Research Fund (\$200,000) and the Keith Sherada Foundation (\$350,000). This donation is the hospital's largest gift ever to its spinal cord program.

The Spinal Cord Injury Recovery Center, due to open this summer, will be the first of its kind in the U.S. The center will focus on global spinal cord recovery methods and provide highly specialized and aggressive rehabilitation for spinal cord injury patients.

RIM treats more spinal cord injury patients than any hospital in Michigan and received 10 research grants in this area in 2003.

Friedman leases to software firm

Friedman Real Estate Group, Inc., recently completed the lease of 3,203 square feet to Centor Software Corporation. The space is located in the Crystal Glen Building at 39555 Orchard Hill Place in Novi. Friedman's Roxanne Larson and Dan Venderbar represented both the landlord, Northwestern Mutual and the tenant, Centor Software Corporation in the transaction.

Founded in 1987, Friedman Real Estate Group, Inc. is one of Michigan's largest locally owned and operated commercial real estate organizations.

Salon offers free face mapping

Salome Nadwa and Day Spa, located at 43236 Eleven Mile Road in Novi Town Center, offers a new type of skin analysis for free.

"As the saying goes, 'You are what you eat.' And, the same holds true for your skin. Your skin is what the world sees, and your skin tells all."

Are you drinking too much caffeine, staying in the sun too long or eating rich food too often? To find out these answers and more, a new skin analysis called face mapping is now available at the Novi spa.

An aesthetician will give a visual examination of your skin's 14 zones wearing a head mounted high-powered magnifying mono lens. Your skin will also be examined by touch and a reading will be given relating to organ health. With face mapping you'll learn how to identify and address individual skin concerns.

Salome Nadwa and Day Spa, which has been in Novi for 10

years, is Michigan's longest running combined full-service salon and day spa. For more information, call (248) 348-7316.

Deeridge's goal to collect 10,000 books

Marty Feldman Chevrolet in Novi announced a partnership with the Detroit Pistons to host a month-long Book Drive to support "Read to Achieve," a program aimed at promoting reading and literacy to children and families in Michigan.

Running through February 29, the Detroit Area Chevy Dealers will accept new or gently used books, appropriate for grades K-12, at participating dealership locations. Anyone donating a book at a Detroit Area Chevy Dealer will receive a buy one-get one free Pistons voucher.

With 43 dealership locations in metro Detroit, the Detroit Area Chevy Dealers hope to collect 10,000 books in February. Books collected will be donated to the Detroit Pistons Read to Achieve Reading and Learning Center Renovation project, Detroit.

The Detroit Area Chevy Dealers launched the Book Drive Campaign with a "Reading Time Out" led by former Pistons analyst Rick Mahorn and Detroit Area Chevy Dealers President Bill Wink Mahorn and Wink read to 90 kindergartners and first grade students at Birmingham Farms Elementary School in Birmingham.

A variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals would be needed on this lot, however, if two units

Deeridge condos planned in northeast corner of Novi

Developer wants to build about 200 units

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

Deeridge, a new condominium complex north of Thirteen Mile Road and west of the M-5 connector, recently made it through round one with the city.

Novi Planning Commissioners gave their unanimous approval Feb. 11 to a preliminary site plan at the request by developer PT Commerce, LLC, for 190 residential units in 95 duplex buildings.

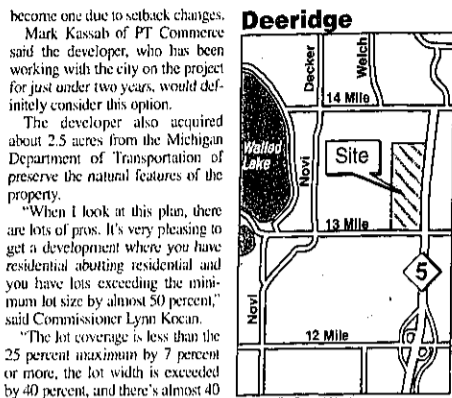
The property covers about 65 acres in the northeast part of the city. Bordering properties include the Brighton Christian Church to the south, Erickson Retirement Communities' Fox Run Village to the west and Haveshill subdivision to the north.

"This offers quality, affordable housing in the city of Novi — something that this city truly lacks," Krasab said.

Krasab said the typical buyer in the new development would be those who want to downsize from a larger house but stay in the community.

Gwen Markham, planning commission chair, expressed concern about adequate water pressure in the new development, which city staff said should not be a problem with a new booster station going up soon off of Twelve Mile Road.

Markham also noted that the roads in the development will be private roads that will not receive city services such as snow removal.



SOURCE: City of Novi

be informed of their responsibilities regarding snow and trash removal.

Commissioner Tim Shroyer asked if there would be sidewalks connecting the development to the nearby Fox Run Retirement Village. Krasab said there were no plans to connect the two sites at this point.

"I'm disappointed to hear that. One of the goals of our group is to make connections between developments," Shroyer said. "But, this is shaping up to be a wonderful development, and I'm really glad to see it coming to Novi. I was hoping it would be a little bit cheaper for when I get a little older. Or, I should say less expensive. That's a better way to phrase it because it's going to be a quality set-up."

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

Parents of infants should watch out for this virus

Novi doctor discusses leading cause of hospitalization

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

Parents are always concerned about their babies getting a cold or virus.

But a particular virus, Respiratory Syncytial Virus — or RSV — is a leading cause of hospitalization for young children. Half of all children acquire the virus during their first two years of life.

In fact, the virus is the most common cause of lower respiratory infection and viral death in children under age 5 and is the most common cause of severe respiratory illness in young children, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Todd Koffler, M.D., of Providence Park Pediatrics at Providence Hospital in Novi, said "RSV is one of a lot of viral infections that kids will get in the winter. The only thing that separates it or makes it unique as a virus is that it is more likely to cause wheezing in young children than other viruses, although any virus can."

Although Dr. Koffler said parents shouldn't become alarmed, but "One in 200 children with this virus in the first two years of life will have to be hospitalized," he said.

RSV SYMPTOMS

Initial symptoms of Respiratory Syncytial Virus or RSV may be like a cold at first and can include:

- Fever
- Runny nose
- Other cold-like symptoms

They may then get worse and can include:

- Coughing
- Difficulty breathing
- Wheezing (a whistling sound)
- Rapid breathing



Photo by John Halder

Dr. Todd Koffler, a pediatrician at Novi's Providence Park Pediatrics, takes a look in the ear of Colin Brewer, 2 months, as his mom Lonna looks on. Koffler sees a lot of cases this time of year of respiratory syncytial virus, a common childhood illness.

The vast majority of children who acquire the virus do fine, according to Dr. Koffler, but some develop breathing problems requiring oxygen and breathing treatments.

"One of the things that needs to be known is that premature babies in their first two years of life or babies

that have other high-risk factors are more at risk for having problems with RSV," he said.

for the prevention of severe RSV. The drug is administered by injection once a month before and during the virus "season" — generally by early November through April.

"It's indicated for children that are in the first two years of life and were more than two months premature," Dr. Koffler said.

During RSV season in the U.S., up to 125,000 children under age 1 are hospitalized annually due to RSV-related illnesses, and some of these children may die.

The symptoms may be like a cold at first and can include fever, runny nose, other cold-like symptoms. The symptoms may then get worse and can include coughing, difficulty breathing, wheezing and rapid breathing.

Doctors can also test for the virus, although there is currently no vaccine available.

Dr. Koffler said steps, such as frequent hand-washing, may help prevent babies from acquiring RSV. "The liquid antibacterial products — those clear hand gels — are more effective for killing viruses than regular soap and water," he noted.

"I would suggest using these when around young babies, especially when in group settings."

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

Mother of triplets recounts her experience with RSV

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

Joe and Stephanie Melnick of Pleasant Ridge became the proud parents of triplets in August 1993.

"We had visitors at Thanksgiving, and Christopher started having cold symptoms that got worse — coughing, sneezing, runny nose, fever. Then the symptoms got worse, and he started

wheezing," she said.

"We took him to the doctor and spent about three days trying to deal with the virus at home. They tried breathing treatments at the office. They finally said, 'You've got to put him in the hospital.' He was only four months old. It was horrible. We had one kid in the hospital and two babies at home. It was just crazy," she said.

A week later, his brother, Kevin, came down with the same symptoms. "This virus is more dangerous with premature babies because they're lungs aren't as developed. They also didn't have the drug Synagis at the time our kids got sick," she said.

"The boys' sister, Natalie, also acquired the virus but was able to be treated at home. 'She basically just had a cold.' Stephanie said.

For the next five or six years,

every time the boys got a cold, the Melnick would have to do breathing treatments on them.

After their experiences with the virus, the couple started the RSV Coalition, a support group for parents whose children acquire the illness.

"I hadn't heard of this virus before. That's why we started the coalition. Hand washing may help prevent it. And if you have an at-risk kid, you need to look at the possibility of them taking the preventative drug," she said.

Today, the Melnick triplets are fifth-graders and are doing well. "They all do the same homework and are all on the same soccer team. It's great — I only have to go to one

game," she said.

For more information about Respiratory Syncytial Virus, visit www.rsvcoalition.org.

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

Got an idea for a business story?

Call Cal Stone, editor, at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 or e-mail him at cstone@hthomecomm.net.

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Sunday, March 7 • 7:00pm Concert
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6:30pm Friday & 8:30am Saturday, March 26-27
Men's Retreat

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9:30 and 11:00 Worship with Communion

Maundy Thursday, April 8
7:30 pm Worship with Communion

Good Friday, April 9
7:30pm Community Worship - First United Methodist Church

Easter, April 11
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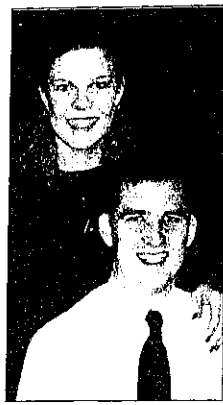
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Ports of Call
With her ship's mate cap and nautical garb, Fox Run's Christina Fratarangeli serves a resident last Wednesday afternoon during the community's Ports of Call food festival. "Stops" included Cancun, Mexico (chicken mole and fish tacos) and Key West, Florida (Key Lime pie and shrimp cocktail). The next night's destination was Cuba and features palomilla.

ENGAGEMENT



Dunwell & Burch

Melissa Dunwell of Howell and John Burch of South Lyon announce their engagement. The bride-elect is the daughter of Richard and Patricia Dunwell, former Novi residents now living in Brighton. The groom elect is the son of John and Jane Burch of Ann Arbor. Melissa is a 1997 graduate of Novi High School and 2001 graduate of Michigan State University. She is employed by the Howell Public Schools as a fifth grade teacher. John is a 1996 graduate of Ann Arbor Pioneer High School and 2000 graduate of Eastern Michigan University. He is employed by the South Lyon Schools as a fifth grade teacher. A June wedding is planned.

SENIOR CALENDAR

Thursday 2/19	9 a.m.-noon Massage Therapy	1 p.m.-2 p.m. Computer-Beginner Class with Linda
	9:30 a.m. Travel Meeting	1 p.m.-3 p.m. Healing Touch
	9:30 a.m. Line Dance*	6:30 p.m. Clogging*
	10 a.m.-2 p.m. Income Taxes by Appt.	
	11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open noon	
	12:15 p.m. Lunch	
	12 p.m. Bridge*	
	1 p.m. Computer beginner class with Linda	
	1 p.m. Beginners / 2 p.m. Adv. Line Dance	
Friday 2/20	9 a.m. Stretch & Strength	9 a.m.-12 p.m. Massage Therapy
	10 a.m. Body Recall	9 a.m.-11 a.m. Panera bread
	10 a.m. Crafts with Loretta	9:30 a.m. Computer Class-Intro
	11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open noon	9:30 a.m. Line Dance*
	11 a.m. Lunch & 12:30 p.m. Bingo noon	10 a.m. Asian Pacific
	12:30 p.m. Clogging*	12:30 p.m. Lunch
	12:30 p.m. Dapt. Bridge*	1-3 p.m. Bingo
	Southern California Trip	Computer Class-Windows
Monday 2/23	9 a.m. Stretch & Strength	Wednesday 2/18
	10 a.m. Body Recall	9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
	11 a.m. Gwodie Lady	10 a.m. Body Recall
	11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundry Shop Open noon	10:30 a.m. Quilting
	Lunch	11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open noon
	12:30 p.m. Pinochle*	11 a.m. TOPS Class
		12:30 p.m. Lunch
		12:30 p.m. Clogging*

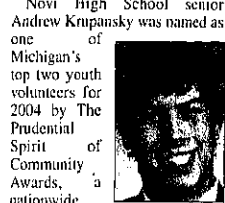
*Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Phone (248) 347-0414.

CLASS NOTES

Senior recognized as one of state's top volunteers

Krupansky is one of only two students in Michigan picked

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER



A. Krupansky

said. "I was very surprised when Mr. Lawrence told me and it was funny because I was coming out of the media center and Mr. Lawrence was there talking on his walkie-talkie to someone and saying 'There is no need; he's right here in the Media Center.'"

Krupansky figured he had done something wrong until the principal said it was good news and to come to his office.

"It all was very surreal," said Krupansky. "He then asked if I was going to make the call, implying I should call my parents. It was ironic that I'm going to Washington and the conversation seemed sort of presidential."

Krupansky leads a teen volunteer effort called Teens Aiding the Cancer Community, which has supplied more than 900 backpacks filled with toys, books, games, art supplies, stuffed animals and other items to bereaved and cancer-stricken children. Krupansky's grandmother and uncle both died of cancer.

The 18-year-old student is planning on taking his grandfather with him on the trip to Washington in May. He already

received an itinerary of the trip that includes a meet-and-greet with members of Congress and an awards dinner.

"It sounds pretty amazing," he said. "It's kind of just setting in now and I'm pretty excited about it."

As president of T.A.C.C., Krupansky solicits funding and support for the backpack program by organizing fund-raisers, speaking to school and community groups and writing grant applications. He also recruits and trains teen volunteers, runs weekly meetings to assemble backpacks, researches new venues for backpack deliveries and coordinates deliveries to hospitals, cancer camps, focus groups and homes throughout the state of Michigan. T.A.C.C. also sponsors a variety of events for young cancer patients, including parties, picnics, egg hunts and hospital visits.

Though Krupansky's plans are still up in the air as to which university to attend after high school, he does know that he wants to study music business.

"I have really enjoyed working on the business end of T.A.C.C. in

addition to all the other stuff, and I also play in a band," he said. "I'd like to combine those two passions to hopefully make some kind of career out of it."

Krupansky has already received a full ride to University of Detroit Mercy, but he also just had an interview with Brown University in Rhode Island and he applied to Cornell University in New York, University of Michigan, New York University and Vanderbilt in Tennessee. He's waiting until April 1 to hear from all of those schools before he makes his final decision.

"This is odd," he said. "I hate to say it, but it kind of makes me feel like high school is culminating. I think about how next year things are going to be different. I might be in Providence, Rhode Island. I may be living somewhere else and being involved in different things, but my involvement in T.A.C.C. and being there for the ground work and all the time that I put into it, that is something that is never going to leave me. Community Service and doing things for people who don't have it as

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards is a nationwide program honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism. The awards program, now in its ninth year, is conducted by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals. More than 20,000 high school and middle level students submitted applications for this year's program.

Andrew Krupansky was nominated by his high school. As a State Honoree, he will receive \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion, and an all-expense-paid trip in May to Washington, D.C., where he will join the top two honorees — one middle level and one high school youth — from each of the other states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico for several days of national recognition events. Ten of them will be named America's top youth volunteers for 2004 at that time.

good as I do is never going to leave me."

That's one of the main reasons he'd like to go to college out of state. T.A.C.C. covers most of the medical centers that treat children with cancer in Michigan.

"I'd really like to extend that reach and start a similar organization somewhere else in the country," Krupansky said. "I think people all over can benefit from it."

Nothing is going to change whether I win an award or not because that's not why I do it. It is humbling and it feels good to be recognized."

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

OBITUARY

Adele M. Bosler

Adele Bosler died Feb. 9, 2004. She was 58. Mrs. Bosler is survived by her husband, George F. Bosler; children Peter A., Katherine M. and Brian E.; mother Caroline "Sally" Howden; and two sisters, Patricia Dunn and Nancy Grech. A funeral was held Feb. 13 at St. James Church in Novi. Memorial contributions may be made to the North Farmington Scholarship Fund, 32909 W. 13 Mile Road, Farmington Hills MI 48336.

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National Merit Awards for Novi High

Novi High School can boast six National Merit Finalists, one National Merit Semifinalist and four Letters of Commendation. All 11 were awarded based on their results of the PSAT test they took last October. The six finalists are Kristen Giacobbe, Megan Hsu, Douglas Lambert, Chao Meng, Alison Sansom and Elizabeth Song. Those who received letters of commendation were Lubna Malik, Shrotriye Mukhopadhyay, Daniel Ping and Neil Rao. The semifinalist, Vishal Rungta, is not pictured.

"Every year we get a book of all of the winners in every state and Novi High School has always done very well," Novi High School Principal John Lawrence said. "This is really a testament to the hard work of everyone in the Novi High School Learning Community from students to teachers and parents. Everyone has worked together to allow these students to achieve at the high level that they have. They're outstanding kids."

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Concert Series

First Concert of Season
Joseph Palazzolo
Sunday, February 29 - 4:00 pm

Joseph Palazzolo, a native of the Detroit area, studied piano from age 7 through college, winning various awards for his performance. He graduated with a BA from Oakland University where he studied piano under Flavio Varani, and minored in organ and French. Palazzolo has appeared as concerto soloist with the St. Clair Shores, Warren, and Pontiac-Oakland Symphony Orchestras and continues to perform frequently in the Detroit area.

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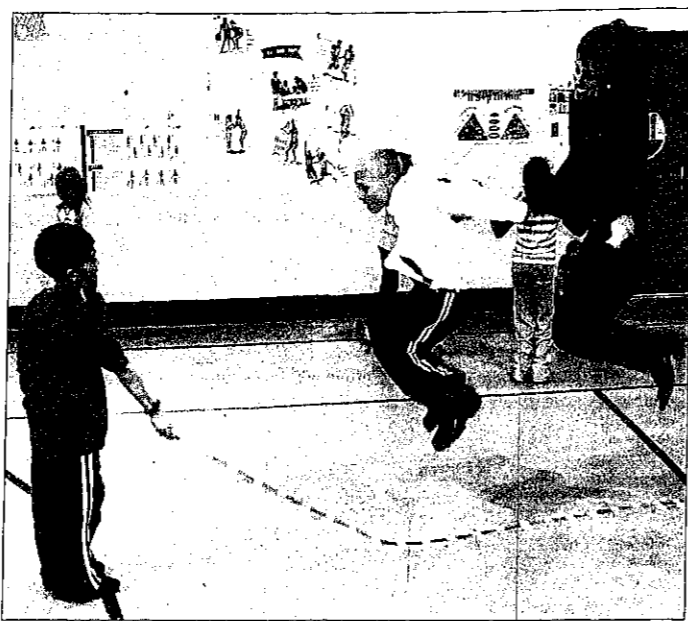
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Parkview students jump up for hearts

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Students at Parkview Elementary School did their part to raise money for the American Heart Association last week and they got in shape by jumping rope at the same time.
During gym class throughout the week, the kids literally jumped from station to station trying out different techniques of jumping rope. The whole thing was part of a program, called Jump Rope for Heart, that the American Heart Association puts on along with the Michigan Association for Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.



Parkview Elementary School Principal Jennifer Michos, right, leaps in the air along with third grader Kyle Lash during last week's physical fitness program "Jump Rope for Heart".

"You don't just get healthy by sitting around," she said. "You need exercise. This is the first year we have done it, but there are other schools in Novi who do it every year. I thought I'd try it this year and see how it goes."
This is just one of many programs that the American Heart Association puts on. For this one the kids are asked to go out and ask for sponsors to give a flat donation to raise money.

The students had eight jump rope stations they had to try. There's a lot of variety to keep them busy, McEvers said. "Each class that came in did it for the day. It ended up being about a half hour of jumping and we usually use jump rope as a warm up a lot, but most of them have never jumped for a half hour at a time and the kids realized that this is a tough thing to do, to keep jump roping for a half hour."
McEvers believes that if the kids are participating, they have

smiles on their faces, they get a good feeling that jump rope is fun and it's good exercise. Also, as a school, Parkview set a goal of trying to raise \$7,500 through sponsorships.
"If we reach that goal I would say it was a successful year," McEvers said. "The kids take an envelope home, they go to people they know—their neighbors, their parents, grandparents—and ask if

they would like to sponsor them for the American Heart Association. They tell them that they're going to be jumping rope at school and people can give 50 cents, \$5, whatever. It's just a flat donation that goes to the American Heart Association to develop their research and pamphlets that go home on heart disease."

McEvers said she will do it again next year if she feels this year's event was successful.
Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net.



Eating bagels with your buddy

Several Orchard Hills students had the chance to invite a "buddy" to breakfast at their school as well as to enjoy a meal with their teachers last week. Pictured (l to r, back) are speech and language teacher Christine Sawicki, kindergarten teacher Beth Shaffner and second grade teacher Susan Anderson; (front) Heather Gregory, Abigail Downs, Colete Boileau, Gabriela DeOliveira and Eduardo DeOliveira.

ON CAMPUS

Several local students were named to the Albion College Dean's List at the completion of the fall 2003 semester. Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or above at the completion of the semester. This GPA must be based on at least three units of graded courses and a minimum of four units completed during the semester.

Angela D. Doolin is a senior majoring in English and psychology. She is the daughter of Len Doolin and Geraldine Sims. Doolin of Novi and a graduate of Novi High School.
Michael J. Garabelli is a junior majoring in economics and management and minoring in mathematics and is a member of the Graduate Liberal Arts Institute in Professional Management. He is the son of John Garabelli and Mary Garabelli of Novi and a graduate of Catholic Central High School.

Scott A. Kurland is a junior majoring in chemistry and mathematics and is completing the secondary education program. He is the son of George Kurland and Patricia Kurland of Novi and a graduate of Novi High School.

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Novi Community School District invites qualified contractors, including MBE/WBE/SBE firms, to submit proposals/bids for the above referenced project for the following Bid Categories:
2A - Bus Washing Equipment 2B - Vehicle Lifts
BIDS ARE DUE at 2:00 PM local time on Thursday, March 4, 2004.

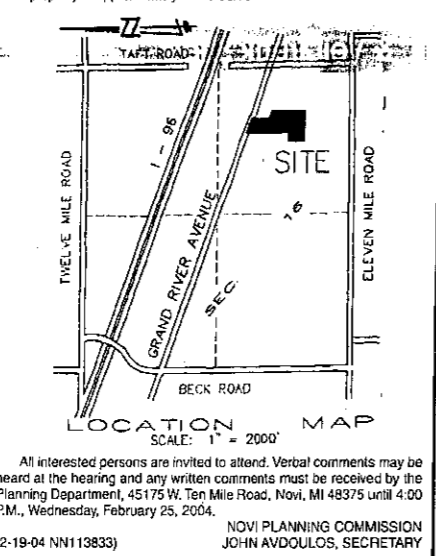
On behalf of Novi Community School District, Skanska USA Building Inc. will receive sealed proposals for the above project at the Skanska USA Building Inc. office, 30445 Northwestern Highway, Suite 250, Farmington Hills, MI 48333, Attention: Chris Becker, until the stipulated bid opening date and time. Bids received after the stipulated date and time will not be considered and will be returned unopened. Bids will be opened at a public meeting to be convened at 3:00 PM on Thursday, March 4, 2004 at Novi Community School District, Education Services Building, 25435 Tall Road, Novi, MI 48374. Bids must be clearly marked with the project name and bid category (ie).
All interested bidders may obtain copies of the drawings and specifications from Westside & Detroit Reprographics, 37660 Hills Tech Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48331.
A minimum of 5% bid security, either in the form of a Bid Bond or Cashiers' Check payable to Novi Community School District, must accompany each bid over \$17,500.00. In accordance with Michigan Compiled Laws Section 120.201, successful contractor(s) must obtain Performance Payment Bonds for any Bid Category exceeding \$50,000. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be in an amount equal to the contract amount. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Michigan and be filed in the Federal Register or have an AM Best Rating of B+ or better.
Novi Community School District and Skanska USA Building Inc. reserve the right to reject any or all bids and to waive irregularities in bids.
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(2-1926-04 NN 113950)

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CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 25, 2004 at 7:30 PM, in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **NOVI FAMILY FUN PARK SITE, PLAN NUMBER 25-3Z** located on the south side of Grand River Avenue west of Infi Road, for approval of a Preliminary Site Plan and Special Land Use Permit. The developer is proposing an indoor/outdoor entertainment complex. The property is approximately 10.65 acres.



All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 PM, Wednesday, February 25, 2004.
NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
JOHN AVDOULOS, SECRETARY
(2-19-04 NN 113833)

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Review shall convene in its first session at 9:00 a.m. EST, Tuesday, March 2nd, 2004 in the Novi Assessing Department at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road for the purpose of reviewing and correcting the assessment roll.

Notice is further given that the second session of the Board of Review will meet for the purpose of hearing and considering assessment protests in the Novi City Council Chambers at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road on March 8, 9, & 10, 2004. All appearances before the Board will be by appointment only. If you or your representative want to appear in person, the appointment must be made on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Friday, March 5, 2004. Appointments before the Board are limited to five (5) minutes or less. Petitions are available at the Assessor's Office or at www.ci.novi.mi.us. **NO APPOINTMENTS WILL BE GIVEN UNTIL A PETITION IS RECEIVED BY THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT.**
Letters of protest will be accepted on or before 8:00 p.m. EST, Wednesday, March 10, 2004. Postmarks will not be considered. When submitting a letter of protest to the Board for review consideration, you must attach a completed petition (available at the Assessing Department or at www.ci.novi.mi.us), along with any supporting information.
All agents protesting values on property other than their own, MUST HAVE written authorization from each property owner they are representing.
Persons on fixed or limited income may be eligible for a reduction in property taxes due to poverty. Applications are available at the Assessing Department.

BOARD OF REVIEW SCHEDULE
Monday, March 8, 2004 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 9, 2004 - 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 10, 2004 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Any questions should be directed to the Assessing Department at (248) 347-0485.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS
CITY CLERK
(2-1926-04 NN 106797)

CHANGES ARE MADE IN DETERMINATIONS OF BASE FLOOD ELEVATIONS FOR THE CITY OF NOVI, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, UNDER THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

On May 3, 1993, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency identified Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) in City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan, through issuance of a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The Mitigation Division has determined that modifications to the elevation of the flood having a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (base or 100-year flood) for certain locations in this community is appropriate. The modified Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) revise the FIRM for the community.

Locations being updated include Section 206 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-234) and are in accordance with the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended (Title XIII of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Public Law 90-449), 42 U.S.C. 4011-4128, and 44 CFR Part 65.
Hydraulic analyses were updated to incorporate the changes in hydrology for Shaw Creek in previously issued Letter of Map Revision Case Number 00-05-259P, December 15, 2000. These analyses have resulted in a revised delineation of the floodway, an increase and decrease in the BFEs and SFHAs for Shaw Creek. The table below indicates existing and modified BFEs for selected locations along the affected lengths of the flooding source cited above.

Location	Existing BFE (feet)*	Modified BFE (feet)†
Shaw Creek		
Approximately 40 feet downstream of Tall Road	936	935
Approximately 1,750 feet downstream of Tall Road	933	932
Basin/sulator from Shaw Creek		
Approximately 300 feet downstream of Tall Road	None	935

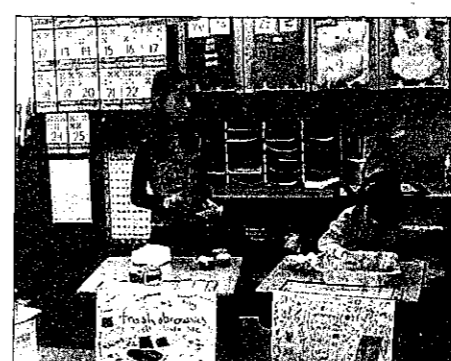
*National Geodetic Vertical Datum, rounded to nearest whole foot
†Under the above-mentioned Acts of 1968 and 1973, the Mitigation Division must develop criteria for floodplain management. For the community to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the community must use the modified BFEs to administer the floodplain management measures of the NFIP. These modified BFEs will also be used to calculate the appropriate flood insurance premium rates for new buildings and their contents and for the second layer of insurance on existing buildings and contents.
Upon the second publication of notice of these changes in this newspaper, any person has 90 days in which he or she can request, through the Chief Executive Officer of the community, that the Mitigation Division reconsider the determination. Any request for reconsideration must be based on knowledge of changed conditions or new scientific or technical data. All interested parties are on notice that until the 90-day period elapses, the Mitigation Division's determination to modify the BFEs may itself be changed.
Any person having knowledge or wishing to comment on these changes should immediately notify:

The Honorable Lou Coardas, Mayor
City of Novi
Civic Center
45175 West Ten Mile Road
Novi, MI 48375
(2-1926-04 NN 113897)

Deerfield raises funds for Kensington Farm

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

As a wrap-up to Deerfield Elementary's mini society where students learned about economics, first and second graders in the Greenhouse part of the school put on a bake sale, with all proceeds going to Kensington Farm Center in Milford Township.
Deerfield First and Second Grade Teachers Beverly Hutcher and Jill Armstrong, along with Michigan State University student interns Kimberly Silka and Michelle Connor, worked hard to teach the students what a producer is, what a consumer is and about goods and advertising.
"The third and fourth graders do mini society and we tie the bake sale in with that," Hutcher said. "The kids all made the baked goods at home. They decided if they wanted to make cupcakes, brownies, chocolate chip cookies or sugar cookies. We have a wide variety of different kinds of cookies and baked goods."
A few parents were at the bake sale helping out, but for the most part students were the ones enjoying all the treats.
"Some parents just came



Natalie Tarrant and Tanaz Naterwala participated in the Deerfield elementary bake sale.

because their children were so excited about it, but we have teachers from the building coming in and buying too," Hutcher said. "All the children from the Greenhouse are buying from one another and the staff. You see a lot of smiles on the faces of the ones that have already sold out, and they're helping to watch one another's stores. They worked on a lot of interesting signs and they came up with slogans and names for stores."
Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net.

another's stores. They worked on a lot of interesting signs and they came up with slogans and names for stores."

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Deerfield transformed into mini-society

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

As part of a unit on economics, students at Deerfield Elementary School created their own mini-society, complete with different shops, fake money and a whole lot of fun.
According to third and fourth grade teacher Ron McCurdy, throughout the month-long process, the kids have created their own mini-society names, designed their own money, and produced goods to sell.
"They're also consumers," McCurdy said. "There is a lot of money that they make during production and also during their two weeks of play in class where they

are paid for pushing in chairs, walking in line and cleaning up their areas. They get paid by the teachers."

Students like Ryan Shinkel learned how an economy works within a society. The kids had to pay fees for lessons and rentals, and they paid taxes.
"Mini Society is when we learn about economics," Shinkel said. "We make our own store, we pay the fees for a license and then open our shops. We buy all the things that we want to sell and at the end of the three days, we have two giant auctions where we spend all the money that we earned that we have left."
According to Ryan's mother, Peggy, who was a parent volunteer

for the activity, the students learned the whole concept of what makes an economy go in a community.

"They have to make hard decisions," she said. "My son paid a higher price to be in a central location because he knew that location means higher sales. He had thought that through last year and said he didn't want to be stuck away in a corner, so he paid the higher fee to have greater visibility. He thought about how much he should charge and not charge, and what the products are worth and what people were willing to pay for them. He has much more insight and understanding into what things cost and what the retailer is having to deal with. It's really exciting."

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

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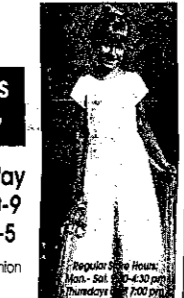
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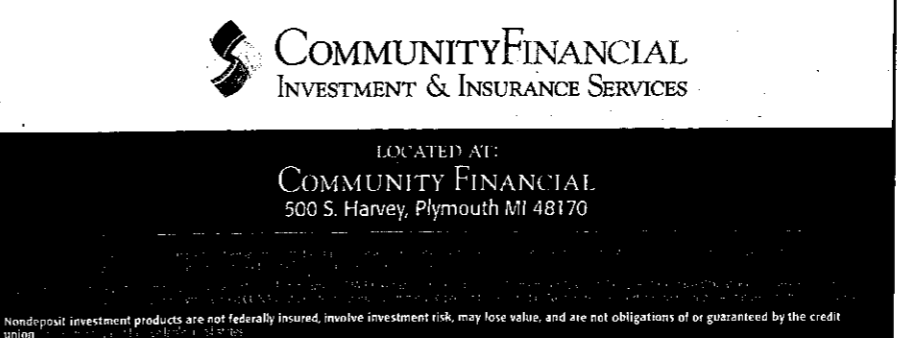
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NOVI COMMUNITY EDUCATION CORNER

Digital Photography & Imaging Workshop
DATE: Monday, March 1 - 15
TIME: 7 - 9 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 102
DETAILS: Basic computer knowledge is useful. This class is intended for all individuals who want to know more about how the computer can enhance photographs. It will cover the basics of image enhancement and increase your knowledge and awareness in basic digital darkroom enhancement techniques. The goal of the workshop is to demonstrate the various computer based techniques and to give students first hand experience in applying these techniques to digital pictures. Each student will have a dedicated PC to work with and will receive personal instruction as time permits.
FEE: \$80
One Night Dance
DATE: Friday, March 5
TIME: 6:30 - 8 p.m. - Latin Dance
8:00 - 9:30 p.m. - Swing

Dance
LOCATION: Novi Meadows 5
Cafeteria
DETAILS: Learn all the latest dance steps and turn combos that can be performed with music from the 20's through the millennium. Couples only please. Its fun, it's exciting and everyone can do it!
FEE: \$38 per couple/per class
Dance Classes
DATE: Tuesday, March 9 - April 6
TIME: 7 - 8 p.m. - Ballroom Dance
8 - 9 p.m. - Belly Dancing
LOCATION: Novi Meadows 5 Cafeteria
DETAILS: In Ballroom you will learn the following dances: Fox Trot, Night Club, and Couples Hustle. In this belly dancing class you will learn posture, hip, chest and arm movement, basic steps and walking, including how to use costumes and scarves.
FEE: \$95 per couple for Ballroom; \$55 per person for Belly Dancing

Re-entering the Workforce
DATE: Monday, March 8
TIME: 7 - 9:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 504
DETAILS: This seminar is designed to help individuals who have stepped out of the workforce and are now ready to return. Learn how you can market the skills you have used at home and in community involvement, then structure your resume to demonstrate your experience.
FEE: \$35 (plus \$15 material fee)
PHONE: (248) 449-1206 for registration.
Learn How to Create Advertising That Gets Results
DATE: Tuesday, March 9
TIME: 7 - 9 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 518
DETAILS: Learn the 9 critical flaws of ineffective advertising and the four essential components of advertising that gets results. Discover a simple grading system and determine how effective your current ads are at making the phone ring. Bring your ads and marketing pieces to class.
FEE: \$35 (plus \$15 material fee)
PHONE: (248) 449-1206 for registration.

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July 11 - 8:00p.m.
Sunday
Advance Reserved & General Admission
Tickets: \$22.00
Day of Show: \$24.00
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JOE NICHOLS

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Monday
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Advance General Admission: \$16.00 till July 11
Day of Show: \$20.00
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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the home towns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Just do it!

When I walked in the door to my house last night, the first thing my wife said to me was, "You're not going to believe this."

Then she told me that the husband of her best friend had passed up did suddenly in his sleep over the weekend. He was a chain smoker, overweight and very sedentary. He basically sat on his couch and read all the time.

At first I was shocked because our ages - mid-40s - are so close. But then I realized how active I am as well as my wife and kids.

I don't classify active as just doing something physical. Active also means getting involved.

Take a look at our cover story this week on Mark Appel, a 13-year-old who is looking to join the Historical Commission. Think he's going to be a couch potato? Hardly.

There's so much going on in a city like Novi that there's really no excuse to not be doing something.

Bring everyone out to the Civic Center next Saturday for the new Sand, Sun and Fun festival.

Take a brisk walk around Twelve Oaks Mall (you might see some-

body getting married!) Sit in on a city council meeting and see what your leaders are planning.

Help out with a cause, like Threads of Power, and feel good about yourself while making a difference.

Step by your child's school and volunteer to help out. Or, if you're a student, like Andrew Krupansky, make volunteering your priority early on.

Step at one of our great senior citizen facilities and learn a thing or two from the folks who have already been there, done that.

Take a community education class and expand your horizons.

Pitch in and help out with an upcoming event like the Michigan '50s Festival or the Chamber of Commerce Benefit Auction.

There's so much to do and so little time to do it. Get up, get out and get going!

Cal Stone is the editor of the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 or by e-mail at cstone@ht.homecomm.net.

GOVERNMENT

Per reader request, we have compiled a list so you can get in touch with your local and regional senators and representatives. Their accessibility allows you as readers to voice your concerns directly and allows them to better represent their districts. If you feel we have missed anyone, contact us at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113.

United States Senate

Carl Levin (D-Detroit)
269 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
(202) 224-6221
senator2@levin.senate.gov
Local office:
124 W. Allegan
Suite 1810
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 377-1508
FAX: (517) 377-1506

(517) 373-1799
FAX: (517) 373-5777
mshulman@house.mi.gov

Oakland County

Executive
L. Brooks Patterson
County Service Center
Building #34 East
1200 N. Telegraph Road
Pontiac, MI 48341
(248) 858-0484

7th Commission
Christine Long
1342 E. Commerce Road
Commerce Twp., MI 48382
(248) 366-2665
longc@co.oakland.mi.us

8th Commission
Jeff Potter
1099 Stable Lane
South Lyon, MI 48178
(248) 437-7597
potterj@co.oakland.mi.us

United States Congress

11th District
Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia)
415 Cannon HOB
Washington D.C. 20515-8171
(202) 225-8171
FAX: (202) 225-2667
Local office:
17197 N. Laurel Park Drive
Suite 161
Livonia, MI 48152

9th Commission
Hugh D. Crawford
46275 11 Mile Road
Novi, MI 48374
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hughcrawford@msn.com

Townships

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

Commerce - Charter
Thomas K. Zoner, supervisor
2840 Fisher Avenue
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State Senate

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OPINION

novinews.com

Governor's budget proposal a disaster for state education

It wouldn't be much of an exaggeration to say that public education is the heart of American democracy -- and that the quality of education is today the biggest single reason why people, especially parents, choose a community in which to live.

With that in mind, Gov. Jennifer Granholm is proposing a budget that would be disastrous for the least school districts in this state. In a compromise effort to keep most educators happy and balance the books, she is proposing to restore a \$74 per pupil cut made late last year to most districts. But those who already spend more than \$9,000 per pupil -- districts like Birmingham, Southfield and Troy wouldn't get that money. Additionally, more money would be transferred from schools with growing enrollments to schools who are losing students, i.e. from booming communities to declining ones. There is nothing wrong with

helping struggling school systems. But there is everything wrong with steps that would damage the best school districts in the state. What's especially bad about this is not that Bloomfield Hills, say, will lose the per pupil money. What's bad is that the best districts' ability to raise more money has been severely limited by Proposal A, the revolutionary school financing system passed exactly 10 years ago. Even if voters in a district like Southfield were enthusiastically willing to vote an extra millage for new programs, that is no longer allowed.

That means the better-off schools are doomed to a decline that now threatens to be drastically accelerated. If schools in better areas don't keep pace, parents, many of whom moved to those communities for their schools -- are apt to yank their kids out of public schools.

Each student leaving a public school for a charter means the district gets less state aid, which in turn leaves the struggling district with even less money. Before long, this will begin to affect the community itself. It is no secret that thousands of educated, affluent African-Americans have fled Detroit for Southfield.

Most of them came to put their family in better schools. We risk that dream at our peril. To give the governor her due, balancing the budget in these times isn't easy, especially when the state turns up a billion short every year, and raising new revenue seems politically impossible. Making painful spending cuts may be inevitable.

But saving money by threatening the quality of public education at any level is what a farmer would have called eating society's seed corn. The governor and the legislature owe it to our state and communities' future to find another way.

OTHER OPINIONS

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

Fiscal crisis won't be solved by little steps

Very large organizations such as General Motors Corp. or Michigan state government find it very difficult to make and carry out far-reaching, fundamental strategic decisions. Instead, they tend to take tiny steps. A fancy term for this is "incrementalism," i.e. making a series of small changes at the margin that they hope will result in profound change over time. "Tinkering around the edges" is a less elegant term for this practice, while the more vivid metaphor, especially apt when it seems nothing is working or a timely basis, is "rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic."

However described, I have a growing sense of alarm that so far our state's response to the economic crisis we face is too incremental and too slow, neither sufficiently focused in strategy nor radical enough in conception. There is a vast gap between what people who work in the manufacturing sector are feeling (alarm verging on terror) and what folks in Lansing are saying (things are bad, but we've got serious budget problems and we can't rock the boat too much without making somebody mad).

It's both unfair and premature to blame Gov. Jennifer Granholm or the state legislature for this. After all, running very large organizations like the government of a major state is tough and there are very few precedents for solving the problems we face. But consider these parts of the puzzle:

State Budget: The budget for fiscal year 2004-2005 is in the red again, this time by \$1.3 billion. Gov. Granholm's budget proposes to hike taxes on booze and (against cigarettes and move some property tax collection dates ahead by six months). The Republican-led legislature by and large prefers to cut spending.

Both sides miss the fundamental point made by experts like those at the Citizens Research Council: The budget of the State of Michigan is now and has been for years structurally imbalanced, i.e. there is a built-in gap between revenue and expense that, even in good times, exceeds \$1 billion. To her credit, the governor has asked State Treasurer Jay Rising to

explore adding services to the state sales tax now levied on goods and to consider replacing the peculiar and perennially unpopular Single Business Tax. But sooner or later, both the governor and the legislature are going to have to squarely face the issue of adjusting revenue to expenditure. The alternative is a state with a tax structure akin to Mississippi's with an equally unappealing quality of life and uncompetitive business climate.

Business Climate, especially in manufacturing: Here's a glimpse of the

future. General Motors is expected to increase by 20 times the auto parts it buys from China. According to the Detroit Free Press, whereas GM bought about \$200 million in Chinese auto parts in 2003, the company plans to buy \$4 billion in 2009.

Smaller manufacturers are "absolutely terrified" by China, according to Frank Vargo of the National Association of Manufacturers. And where manufacturing jobs are migrating to low-wage China, white collar jobs such as software programming and call center staffing, are moving to English-speaking India, where wages are equally low.

When Michigan companies are facing \$10-\$20 an hour wage differentials from foreign competitors, we're not dealing with marginal competitiveness issues to be solved by small adjustments in business taxes. We're facing a full-blown crisis that requires intense strategic focus on gaining comparative competitive advantage and an equally intense effort to help companies adapt to the new realities of global competition.

Human capital: High skills, technical proficiency, imagination, innovation -- all are essential assets in overcoming huge wage disparities. But Michigan schools are hardly outstanding when compared with other states and are at an absolute disadvantage when compared with most other countries. Worse, Gov. Granholm's budget proposals would further disadvantage the few high-achieving Michigan schools.

At the college and university level, it's perfectly clear that to compete internation-

ally we need more highly trained engineers, scientists, software designers, MBAs. And we need the discoveries from the laboratories of our best research universities to fuel high-tech start-ups. Yet over the past two years, state appropriations for higher education have fallen by 15 percent, hurting especially those few excellent research schools such as the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Michigan Tech.

In her State of the State address, Gov. Granholm spoke in general terms about revolutionizing Michigan's workforce development system, and word out of Lansing is that some very serious work in this area is about to be unveiled. A word of warning, though: Incremental, vanilla flavored improvements in job training aren't going to be nearly enough.

Entrepreneurial culture: Anybody who has had anything to do with the entrepreneurial culture in California knows full well the enormous gap between Michigan's business culture and the kind of intense, passionate risk-taking that you see in Silicon Valley. Much of our business culture has been determined over the years by massive, yet cautious manufacturing corporations. Changing that may be the hardest task of all. One symbolic start would be to eliminate any state taxes whatsoever on newly formed companies, on the grounds that new entrepreneurial companies do most of the new hiring and that they don't pay much in taxes for in the first couple years of their existence.

In short, we're facing a crisis that simply is not going to be fixed by business-as-usual incrementalism. Gov. Granholm talked tough about this in her State of the State speech. That was good. And now it is time for her, together with the legislature, policy makers and leaders in labor and the business community to take practical steps to match good intentions. When John Engler took office, the late George Romney offered him just two words of advice: Be bold. That is perhaps even better counsel now.

Phil Foley 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 pfoley@homecomm.net.



Phil Power



Courtesy photo

Celebrating Valentine's Day at Novi Woods

Novi Woods third graders celebrated Valentine's Day with funky heart glasses. Pictured (left to right, top row) are Pavan Rao, Lauren Collins, Blake Reynolds, Josh London; (bottom row) Elizabeth Richmond, Katy Kennedy, Madeline Egner, Delaney Uffe and Kara Berg.

LETTERS

A community that cares

We, the family of La Verne Reinke, would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the many acts of kindness shown La Verne and our family during his illness and since his death. We were particularly touched by the public tributes given by Senator Nancy Cassis, Representative Craig De Roche, Mayor Lou Coardas and the City Council, ZBA Chairwoman Cindy Grotchan and fellow board members, James Harrington III and Don Saven.

Evelyn Reinke & Family
Novi

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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Winners of the NO Cavity Club for January are Sarah Cummings and Cameron Wise

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Pie contest yields two great winners

PATTI RAMOS • Chocolate Chocolate Chip Cookie Pie

BECKY SPINALE • Becky's Best Apple Pie

CHOCOLATE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE PIE

1 unbaked pastry shell (9 inches)
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 6 ounces semi-sweet chocolate chips

CHOCOLATE LAYER
 4 oz. semi-sweet chocolate chips
 1/4 cup butter
 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
 1 cup butter, softened
 2 eggs, beaten
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 1/2 teaspoon salt

COOKIE LAYER
 1/2 cup granulated sugar
 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
 1/2 cup butter, softened
 1/2 cup shortening
 1 egg
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
 1/2 teaspoon baking soda

In a saucepan, melt chocolate chips and butter. Remove from heat; stir in milk and water. Add a few spoonfuls of hot chocolate mixture to eggs; pour eggs in pan and stir. Stir in vanilla and salt. Reserve 1 cup chocolate filling. Pour remaining filling in cooled pie crust. Cover edges with foil. Bake for 35 minutes or until a knife inserted in center comes out clean. Let cool slightly.

In a large mixing bowl, mix sugars, butter, shortening, egg, and vanilla. Stir in flour, baking soda, salt, and chocolate chips. Reserve 1 cup cookie dough. With hands, carefully place rounded clumps of remaining cookie dough onto chocolate layer until covered. Bake for 20 minutes or until brown. Let cool and serve.

YIELD: About 8 servings

SUGGESTION FOR RESERVED FILLINGS
 In two oven safe dessert pans, evenly distribute remaining chocolate filling. Bake along with pie. Let cool slightly. With reserved cookie dough, place in rounded ball of dough onto each chocolate layer. Bake along with pie. Cool and Serve.

BECKY'S BEST APPLE PIE

Preheat oven to 350

8 apples sliced and pared
 1 cup of granulated sugar
 2 teaspoons of cinnamon
 1/2 teaspoon of salt
 2 tablespoons of flour

Place 4 tablespoons of stick butter (sliced) onto the top of the apples.
 Cover the apples and butter with the top portion of the pastry pie crust.
 Brush milk overate top of the pastry pie crust.
 Sprinkle sugar on top of the pie crust that is glazed in milk.
 Bake for 50-60 minutes or until golden brown.
 Let the pie sit for one hour before serving.

Mix all ingredients together.
 Mound prepared apples onto a 9 inch pie pan with the bottom lines with pastry crust.

By Pam Fleming
 STAFF WRITER

Patti Ramos of Novi, winner of the non-fruit division of the recent Novi News/Northville Record Pie Contest with her Chocolate Chocolate Chip Cookie Pie, hopes her baking skills will bring her fame and fortune.

She plans to enter a recipe in the upcoming \$1 million Pillsbury Bake-Off.

A junior at Novi High School who runs cross country and track, she said the chocolate delight is a new addition to her list of favorites. The pie features a chocolate chip cookie filling on a chocolate crust.

"I experiment with recipes. I just recently created it," she said.

She admits she experiments with a few trials and tribulations making the prize-winning pie.

"I took forever to make. I made it once before, and it turned out fine. But this time, I had problems with the crust, so I had to make it twice," she said.

"She was about to give up, and I said, 'No. It looks fine,'" said her mother, Tina. "She's a perfectionist."

The winner has baked since she was little and has even tried some challenging recipes.

"One time I made a 16-layer cake by Martha Stewart, that was the hardest thing I've tried to do," she said.

A member of Students Against Drunk Drivers and the Interact Club, a community volunteer organization, Ramos said her favorite TV channels are the Food Network and the Learning Channel.

Who knows? Her entry in this year's Pillsbury Bake-Off could win her a million dollars. "The deadline's March 1," she said.



P. Ramos

By Pam Fleming
 STAFF WRITER

Becky Spinale of Northville, one of the two winners in the recent Novi News/Northville Record Pie Contest, said her apple pie recipe was a secret.

"It's a recipe that I've made for years," she said.

Her husband, Rick, and daughters, Elizabeth, 17, and Katie, 18, both students at Novi High School, pushed their mom to enter the contest.

"They said, 'Mom, you should make one. Your pies are so good. Yeah, do it,'" Spinale said.

The retired obstetrics nurse, who most recently worked at Garden City Osteopathic Hospital, said baking is her relaxation.

"It's a bit of a tension reliever. My family always knows that there's something on my mind that I'm trying to resolve when I'm baking," Spinale said.

Her other children, daughter, Kim, and son, Justin — love her baking.

"And, she said, her baking skills may be genetic.

"I was brought up in a household where dinner was prepared every day, and dessert was part of the meal," Spinale said. "And, my dad was a good baker."

She's also tweaked the recipe over time.

"I've toyed with the recipe over the years. I learned that I may have to add a little more flour or sugar. I mix apples, too. I'll use two or three different kinds," she said.

Spinale said Northern Spy, McIntosh, Jonathan and Granny Smith apples make the best pie.

"And be sure to brush the top with milk and sprinkle it with granulated sugar," she added.



B. Spinale

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by email at pfleming@h.homes.com.net.

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Working to keep his clients for life

By Candy Parent
 DAILY PRESS & ARGUS

Curt Fournier is more than just a mortgage broker. From the moment a client enters, they will notice the differences. While waiting, customers can enjoy a selection of the snack and beverage menu and relax while watching Nemo and other fish swim in aquariums built into the wall. And, once a client begins working with Curt, they will find the entire office devoted to securing them the best mortgage possible.

When a client visits Curt, he looks at their credit rating, their current financial situation and their short- and long-term goals to find the mortgage that will save them the most money.

"I give people expert advice," he says.

For Curt, meeting a new customer isn't just about getting them a loan. He strives to make them clients for life. Just as a patient develops a long-standing relationship with a doctor or dentist, Curt develops a relationship with each of his clients. He sends out a quarterly newsletter to keep his customers informed of the financial market. And, when a new program comes along that will help his client, he contacts them to see if they wish to refinance. He even keeps information on file so a second loan is quick and easy to approve. His reputation is the most important thing to him and he makes sure he follows through.

"Never have I delivered anything other than what I said I would do," he says.

He never tells a client, "no." Instead, he looks at their credit scores and tells them what they need to do so he can offer them a better rate. He can even help a customer clean up errors on their credit report.

"Every person's situation is different. Everyone's goals are different," Curt says. "Choosing the right program is crucial."

For example, some clients may benefit from an interest-only loan. The interest-only loan allows customers to make low minimum payments, free-



Submitted Photo
 Curt Fournier, far left, has a staff of six dedicated to helping clients. Pictured from left are Fournier, Eric Lewandowski, Tami Rogers, Daniele LaButte, Carla Eagan and Victoria Januscowski (seated). Jason Fournier is not pictured.

CURT FOURNIER
 Premier Mortgage Funding, Inc. is located behind Home Depot in Brighton. Call (810) 844-0411 or (866) 932-0832, toll free, or visit www.PointHome.net

ing up cash to pay off non-tax deductible, high-interest credit cards or to help someone through a temporary financial setback.

For instance, assume someone has \$5,000 in credit card debt and a \$200,000 mortgage at 6 percent interest for 30 years. Their payment would be \$1,199 per month for the home, plus about \$200 to make the minimum payment on the credit card, Curt says. If they paid only the minimum, it would take them about 13 years to pay off the credit card.

However, if they convert their mortgage into an interest-only product, their monthly payment would be only \$666, Curt says. They can then take the \$533 they were paying on their mortgage and combine it with the \$200 minimum payment and pay off the credit card in a year. "Once the credit card debt is paid off, that \$200 will help afford a 15-year or 20-year mortgage that will potentially save the borrower tens of thousands of dollars in interest," Curt says. And, with property

rates appreciating, the client will still build equity in the home while paying interest only.

"Interest-only products usually are a make-sense loan for someone who is really trying to consolidate debt," he says.

Interest-only products are also useful for clients who need cash to invest, want to take a vacation or need debt to get back on their feet.

"Don't let your credit get higher. Pay it down now before you end up paying too much money," Curt says.

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The Novi News and Novi Town Center are once again holding an Oscar Contest. Prizes are: First - 52 pairs of passes; Second - 52 single passes; Third - 26 single passes. Random drawing held for other pairs of passes. One entry per person. Please send to: Novi Town Center 8, 20085 Town Center Dr., Novi, MI 48275; or fax to (248) 389-2670. All entries must be received by 8 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 29, 2004.

- ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE**
- Johnny Depp PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
 - Ben Kingsley HOUSE OF SAND AND FOG
 - Jude Law COLD MOUNTAIN
 - Bill Murray LOST IN TRANSLATION
 - Sean Penn MYSTIC RIVER
- ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE**
- Alec Baldwin THE COOLER
 - Benicio Del Toro 21 GRAMS
 - Djimon Hounsou IN AMERICA
 - Tim Robbins MYSTIC RIVER
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- ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE**
- Kelisha Castle-Hughes WHALE RIDER
 - Diane Keaton SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE
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 - Charize Theron MONSTER
 - Naomi Watts 21 GRAMS
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SCREEN BEAT

By Brian Renner

Opening in theaters this weekend

"Against the Ropes," is the true story of Jackie Kallen, a Jewish woman from Detroit who became a boxing manager, guiding several, hi-profile, professional boxers. The drama focuses on her relationship with one boxer, in particular, Luther Shaw, a light-heavyweight contender from the inner-city, whose life and career Kallen helped to turn around. "Against the Ropes" is a Paramount Pictures release and rated PG-13 by the MPAA for crude language, violence, brief sensuality and

some drug material. "Welcome to Mooseport" stars Gene Hackman as a former president who settles down in a small New England town to write his memoirs and enjoy retirement. He is soon asked to run for mayor against the local hardware store owner (Ray Romano). The competition heats up and Hackman finds himself in the most contentious fight of his career. "Welcome to Mooseport" is a 20th Century Fox and rated PG-13 by the MPAA for some brief sexual comments and nudity. Lindsay Lohan stars in "Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen," as a New York City teen from Greenwich Village who moves to a New Jersey suburb After leaving the "most popular" girl title at her old school, she sets her sights on the same at her new school. However another girl, Carla Santini, currently has the title. The scheming and manipulations begin! "Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen" is a Touchstone Pictures release and rated PG by the MPAA for mild thematic elements and brief language. "Eurotrip" features high school student Scott Thomas (Scott Mechlowicz). When his German pen pal, who has been helping him get an "A" in German for years, suggests that they meet, the boy's reaction is to freak out. When he discovers to his delight that his pen pal is actually a cute fraunchin (Bohs), he and his best friend, Cooper (Jacob Pitts), fly to Europe to meet her, accompanied by twins Jenny (Michelle Trachtenberg) and Jamie (Travis Wester), resulting in an exciting and sometimes wacky trip across Europe. "Eurotrip" is a DreamWorks Pictures release and rated R by the MPAA for sexuality, nudity, language and drug/alcohol content.

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

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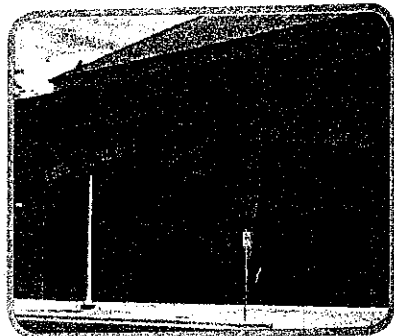
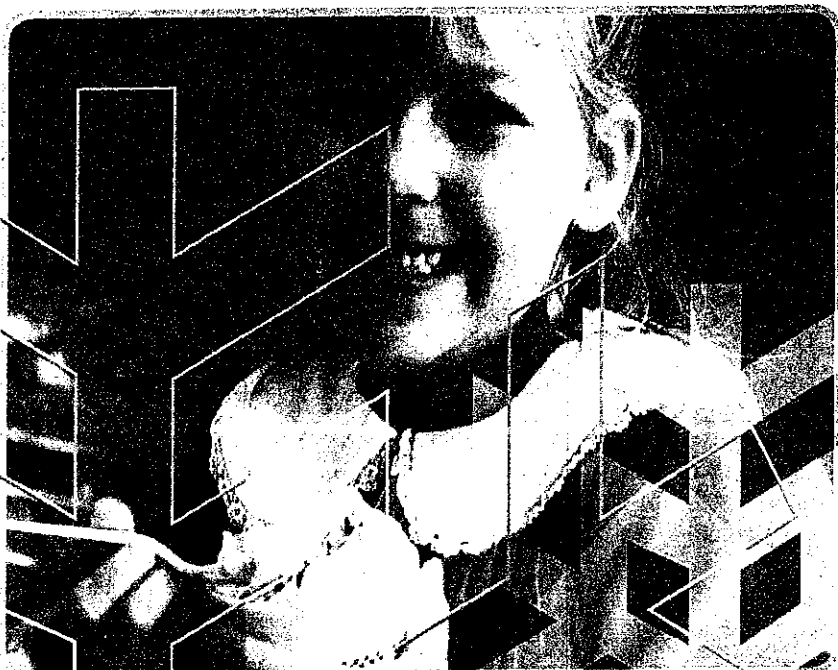
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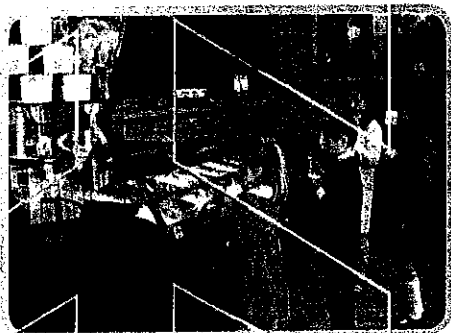
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B-1

Quick Hits



Novi pushes Eagles around once again

The Hartland Eagles thought they could come into Novi Ice Arena and get a win — but the Novi Wildcats had other ideas. They had to stop their losing skid and they had to get things back on track. Without an entire line able to play due to injury, the Wildcats still managed to pound out an extremely impressive victory over their Kensington Valley Conference rivals. John Jenssens scored a hat trick in the contest.

— See Page B3 for details

Now that's impressive

Talk about dedication from the coaches at Novi High School. Novi Wildcats pom pon coach Jeni Hubenschmidt not only was present at the regional competition January 31, but she was also at the state finals just two weeks later.

Big deal, right? Aren't coaches supposed to be at those kind of events?

Yeah, they are. But Hubenschmidt had her 5-pound-14-ounce baby girl February 9 and still managed to be present for her squad's fifth place finish in the state.

Allie Jade Hubenschmidt was born to Jeni and Jesse Hubenschmidt six days prior to the meet but was, like her mother, determined to be present at the state finals.

"I said 'Wow, she'll be a year old at states next year and it will already be her second states competition,'" Hubenschmidt said.

No doubt, little Allie Jade is a future pom in the making — she's already got more experience than girls twice her age!

Novi basketball avenges early season loss to Howell

You might be able to beat them once, but don't expect to top the Novi basketball team twice in one season. Novi avenged the first of their two losses this year as they invited the

WILDCATS 42
HOWELL 39

Howell Highlanders into Novi and then blasted them out of the gym with some impressive play across the board — and especially from senior point guard Brad Chandler, who netted 21.

— Full Story, Page B3

GAME OF THE WEEK



Wild Stangs Gymnastics

Gymnastics team is an impressive squad to cover

They are always competitive and you just never know when they'll bring home a state championship. Talk about impressive.

— See page B3

NOVI NEWS

hometownlife.com

Thursday, February 19, 2004

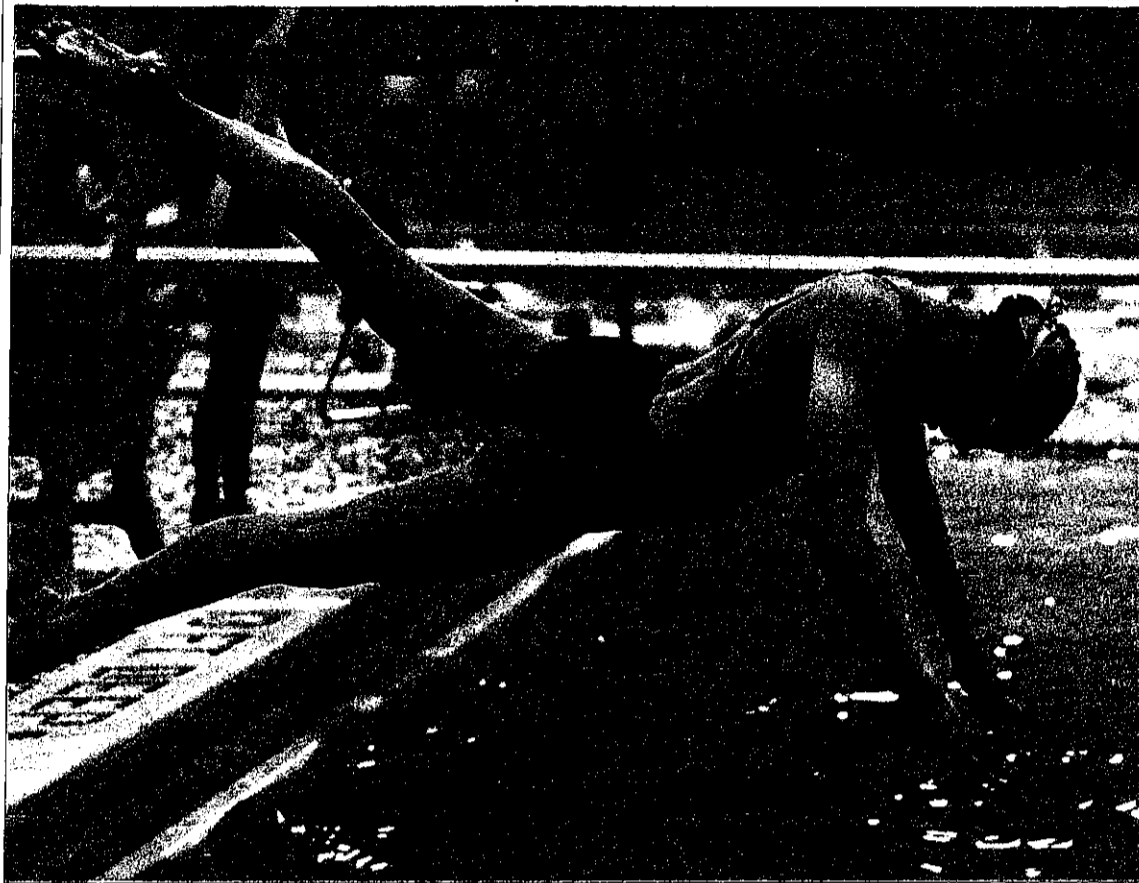


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Ava Ohlgren, 16, dives into the Schoolcraft Community College pool last Thursday afternoon at the start of her two-hour training session with the Bulldog Aquatic Club.

DEEP END OF THE POOL

Ava Ohlgren's always ready to dive right in

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

At the tender age of 15, Northville sophomore Ava Ohlgren found out she was going to try and make the cut for the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece.

Ohlgren, who swims for the Bulldog Aquatic Club, qualified for the 2004 U.S. Olympic Trials in two events before her 16th birthday, which was January 31.

"It's exciting," she said. "I never expected to make the cuts, but I did. I'm really excited to have the chance to swim the Olympic Trials."

Ohlgren qualified for the 400-meter individual medley while swimming the 2004 U.S. Open in Seattle, Washington December 5, 2003. Her time was 4:55.14, which was nearly a second faster than the qualifying cut of 4:55.89. Almost an exact month later, while swimming in the 2004 Queensland Open and Age Championships in Brisbane, Australia, Ohlgren qualified for the 200 individual medley with a 2:20.29 — exactly .20 of a second under the cut.

"Hard work pays off," Ohlgren said after practice with the Bulldogs at Schoolcraft College's pool. "I'm just happy to be able to compete against athletes at that level!"

Ohlgren, who has a modesty many athletes could learn from, isn't concerned if she'll make the 2004 Olympics. "It would be nice," she said with a laugh. "To tell you the truth, my goal at this point is to make the 2008 Olympic team. If I were to make it this year, it would be great. If I don't, I have the experience for the next time I get the chance."

If Ohlgren hopes to make the team either this year in Athens or in 2008, she'll have to find herself finishing in the top two in either of her events. If she doesn't, then she said she plans on applying her experiences to her swimming with the Bulldogs and eventually in college. At the age of 16, Ohlgren doesn't have to worry too much about getting too old, too quick for the Olympics. The next opportunity for this talented swimmer will be when she's a sophomore in college at the age of 20.

But that doesn't mean she's going to squander this opportunity either.

"I'm going to give it my best shot," she said. "I'll go in there with the same attitude I go into every race with. If I make it to the finals, I'll be accomplishing something. If I don't, I know that I tried my best."

For Ohlgren, that mind set has been something that has made her into one of the top swimmers in Michigan, the

Continued on B5

Wildcats move into first in title hunt

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

So here's a question for all you sports fans out there: If a team comes into your house and beats you on your own floor, what's the best way to recover from that?

The answer is simple — hold a grudge and return the favor when you are on their home floor.

The Novi Wildcats boys basketball team did just that as they visited the South Lyon Lions and pounded out a convincing 49-32 victory over their Kensington Valley Conference rivals. The Lions were just one of two teams to beat Novi so far this year.

The game, which was made up following inclement weather

conditions in January, found the Wildcats jumping out to a lead after winning the tip and watching Anthony Harbin race down the court and pour in an easy lay-up for the quick score. The Wildcats took a 14-9 lead over the South Lyon squad at the buzzer of the first quarter as senior Trevor Hoover pulled up and drilled a long shot for three points with no time left in the first stanza.

In the second quarter, the Wildcats and Lions practiced their defenses as neither team was able to put points on the board for almost four minutes. The Wildcats needed a spark to light their fire, and that spark came from the flint that is senior

More basketball, page B3

Joey Fratto. Fratto nailed a three-pointer and blasted his squad onto a quick run of points while the defense held the South Lyon squad to just one point through the quarter. Heading into the locker room, Novi enjoyed a 21-10 lead.

As though they were looking to make up for the lack of scoring in the second quarter, the Wildcats marched onto the court and put up a lightning-quick 15 points in the first four minutes of the third quarter. Brad Simpson and Brad Chandler teamed up on two quick breaks down the court

for coast-to-coast lay-ins, leading to five third quarter points for Chandler, six for Simpson and six for Harbin for an impressive 38-18 lead over the Lions heading into the final period of play.

The Lions, feeling the end was near, put the pressure on in the final quarter. Their drive and determination found them pulling the game within 39-32 on a 14-1 run in the opening minutes of the fourth, but the clock was running and they were forced to foul to attempt to get possession of the ball. Novi, which has been solid from the charity stripe so far this year, sank nine free throws to flush the Lions, 49-32, and to avenge their second early-season loss of the year.

Harbin led with 14 points in the contest, while Chandler added 12 and Simpson notched 11.

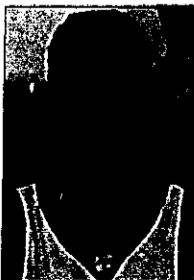
Novi climbed to 13-2 overall and 7-2 in the Kensington Valley Conference and are currently sitting all alone in first place. Pinckney is in second place with a 6-2 record, while South Lyon is third at 6-3.

Novi is scheduled to be back in action when they play host to KVC rival Brighton tomorrow at 7 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.

Joey Fratto Senior Basketball

What can Fratto do for his team? Let's see — he went 8-for-8 from the free-throw line against Pinckney, including six straight in the second overtime. Against Howell, he hit a clutch three pointer to give Novi the lead over the Highlanders. Against South Lyon, he keyed a 15-3 run with a three pointer and two free throws. Through last week, Fratto had 20 points, hit 11 straight free throws and helped lead his squad with great passing, court vision and defense. Sounds to us like Fratto can do quite a bit for his squad if you ask us.



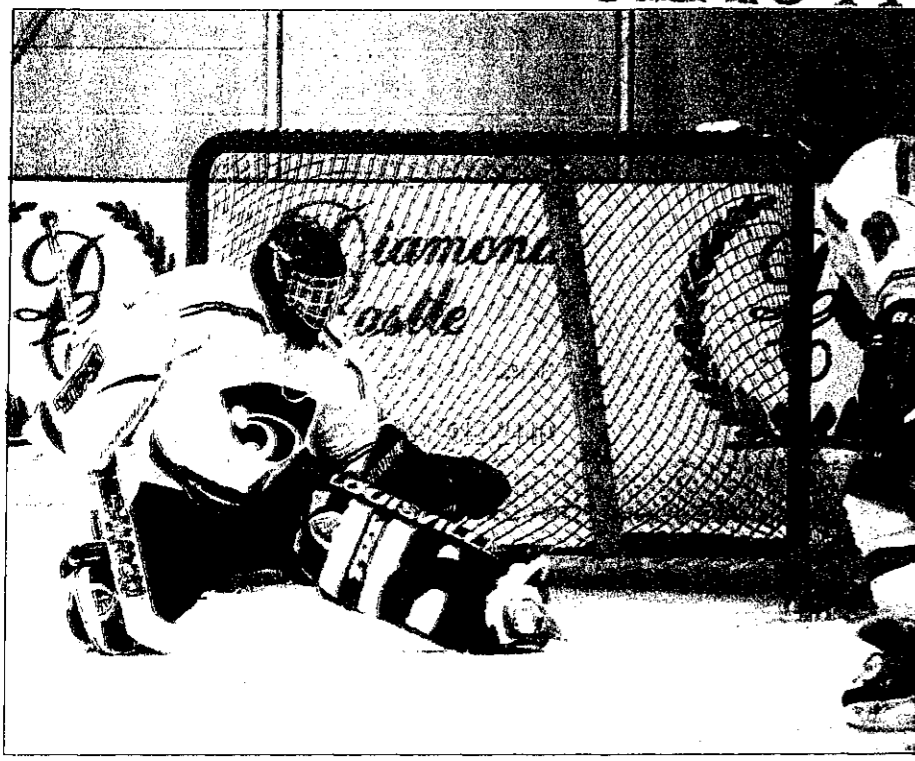
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Brad Chandler Senior Basketball

The Howell basketball team likes to keep scouting reports. On those scouting reports it says Chandler can drive well. What it doesn't say is that Chandler can shoot. After a 21 point performance against the Highlanders, something tells us that scouting report now has Chandler's name underlined in red and the words "shooter" next to it.



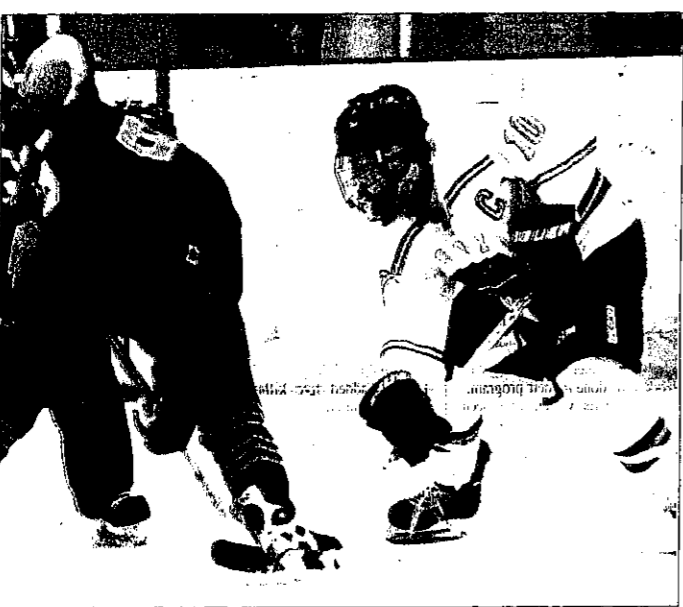


Novi net-minder Dan Morrison makes a glove save against Brighton in a January contest at the Novi Ice Arena.

Wildcats oh-so-close in loss

Novi can't edge foe in close contest

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER



Wildcat captain John Janssens, right, takes a faceoff against a Brighton Bulldog in their Jan. 28 matchup at Novi Ice Arena.

Sometimes, a final score just isn't a very good indicator of how close a game really was.

The Novi Wildcats hockey team fell victim to such an illusion as they fell to East Grand Rapids, 3-1 February 14. Despite the lopsided holiday, no love was lost between these two squads as they fought it out right to the bitter end.

The 'Cats, who were on the road for the contest, fell in one of the closest games they have played this year. The first and second periods of play found neither team able to push the puck past each other's defensive corps or past the determined goalies between the posts.

Novi was the first to get on the board following a penalty called on an East Grand Rapids player. Mark Eberline took the puck in, skated through the defense and notched a power-play goal to give Novi a 1-0 lead over their opponents.

The clock continued to wind down, but a constant offensive pressure by the East Grand Rapids skaters finally paid off as they snuck home a shot past first-year netminder Justin Ruccolo following a scrum in front of the goal.

The score seemed to shake the 'Cats, who allowed a quick strike just a minute later for the 2-1 deficit.

With time running off the clock, Novi coach Dan Phelps pulled Ruccolo to give his squad a man-up advantage in hopes of tying the contest. With just seconds remaining, the East Grand Rapids squad notched their final goal on an empty net for the 3-1 victory.

Ruccolo's performance was noteworthy, stopping 33 of the 35 shots he faced.

The Wildcats are scheduled to be back in action when they visit Lakeland Saturday at 5:20 p.m. before hosting Pinckney February 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Even without some major strengths skating for them, the 'Cats had a scoring threat that was capable of dominating play. John Janssens, a captain

'Cats pound Hartland at home

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It was long time in the making, but the 'Cats will take it. The Novi Wildcats hockey team knew they had to dig their heels in and stop the skid that was beginning to wear them down late in the season — thankfully, that skid slowed and finally stopped as they pounded out a big win over conference rivals Hartland, 7-1.

The Wildcats, who were skating a line short due to injury, crushed the Eagles in conference play as it seemed just about every puck drop and benefit worked to their advantage.

Even without some major strengths skating for them, the 'Cats had a scoring threat that was capable of dominating play. John Janssens, a captain

for Novi, assisted a hat trick and added an assist to lead his squad to victory. Brett Jaussi also had three points, but was taken out of the game in the third period due to an injury that found him on the bench for the remainder of the game.

There was no doubt about it, both teams came to play — and apparently came to play rough. Between the squads, there were 18 total penalties.

The Wildcats started the game off on the right foot as Janssens slammed home a power-play goal just about four minutes into the contest to give the Novi skaters a 1-0 lead and the only goal of the first period. In the second, much of the clock had winded down before Jaussi notched a score of his own for a 2-0 lead. Not to be outdone, Janssens added his second goal of the night just a minute later for the 3-0 Novi advantage.

The Eagles, having been frustrated by a solid Novi defensive front through the first two periods, scored two minutes into the third to cut the lead to 3-1.

The Wildcats were quick to come up with an answer as Ryan Fox slammed home a hard shot, followed up by Janssens and a goal by Mario DeGrazia for a 6-1 lead.

The final score for the Wildcats came off the stick of Zach Flavin to seal the victory.

Steve Rousseau, Chris Zarem and DeGrazia all had two points through the evening to help Novi to victory.

Senior goalie Danny Morrison earned the victory between the posts.

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.homedomain.net.

Wild 'Stangs cruise to win

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It was another impressive showing for the Novi-Northville Wild 'Stangs gymnastics team last week as they took on a conference rival and simply dominated them.

The gymnastics team, which is coached by Lindsay Schultz, cruised past the girls from Walled Lake, 144-123.4.

Though the Walled Lake gymnastics team had the three highest scoring girls overall, it was the depth of the Novi-Northville squad that prevailed in the end.

Leading the way in points on the vault was Emma Platt, who scored a 9.15 to lead all scorers. Jacqueline Gazette's 9.05 points was good enough for second vault while Sara Wilchowski's 8.90 gave her third. Jenn Mehrl collected an 8.60, which was higher than any Walled Lake scorer, while Sara Ilkhani-Pour was fifth with an 8.35 and Rachel Deneau was sixth with a 7.95.

Kim Stevenson had an 8.40 for Walled Lake's highest score in the event.

On the bars, the Wild 'Stangs were extremely dominant. Stefanie Schmalz led Walled Lake with an 8.0, which wasn't even close to the top score of 9.35 recorded by Novi-Northville. Stefanie Platt took third with an 8.7, in fourth was Amanda Parelli's 8.6, Mehrl took fifth with an 8.35, while Maggie Mills finished sixth with an 8.30.

The floor exercise found Yankovich's 8.85 good enough for first, while Crawford took second with an 8.2, while Glancy took fifth with an 8.10 and Cortney Paul was sixth with a 7.95.

On the bars, McQueen was best with an 8.70, while Ramsey took second with her 8.45 and Paul was third with an 8.10. Jessica Glancy took fourth with her 8.0 and Megan Wallen was fifth with a 7.75.

Leading the way on the beam was Fink with a score of 8.9, while Amanda Crawford took second with an 8.65 and Nika Frimenko took third with an 8.40. Taking fourth was Ramsey with an 8.2, while Glancy took fifth with an 8.10 and Cortney Paul was sixth with a 7.4.

The Wild 'Stangs had some good performances on the beam as well. Wilchowski's 9.70 was the top score in the meet, while Tricia Brownfield took second with a 9.20 and Mills was third with an 8.8.

Taking fourth was Platt's 8.75.

In the second, the Wildcats turned on the afterburners and managed to score ahead for a 20-17 lead at the half. Anthony Harbin and Brad Chandler had 12 combined points in the second quarter, including four on coast-to-coast fast breaks. Mark Angoloch, a senior, played one of his best games of the year. In the final regulation quarter of play, the Pirates were back to nail a last-second three to tie the game despite six free throws from Brad Simpson in the waning moments.

In the third, the Wildcats continued to increase their lead despite the absence of Harbin, who was forced out of the game with an injury. Novi used a quick-passing offense to spread the defense and put up nine third quarter points, but rarely stayed ahead of the Pirates as they took a 29-25 lead by the fourth.

In the final regulation quarter of play, the Pirates were back to nail a last-second three to tie the game despite six free throws from Brad Simpson in the waning moments.

Novi pom pon has great state performance

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

If there's one thing about Novi Wildcat pom pon, they find a way to keep things exciting.

The squad, which is coached by Jeni Hubenschmidt, took fifth place at the state finals competition held at Eastern Michigan University February 15. The squad scored 348.5 points out of 380 — just five points off of first place Garden City's 353.5 total points.

"This was a very competitive year," Hubenschmidt said. "Every coach talked to this year and they were preparing their kids and telling them it would be an honor to be in the top six this year. That's how steep the competition was."

Competition so steep that a team with the background and impressive history of the Novi Wildcats finished five places deep — meaning the sport has been growing in leaps and bounds over the past few years. A team like Garden City — which used to be a major powerhouse but slipped off the radar for the past few years — winning the states shows how much of a popularity boost pom pon has received.

"It speaks well for the sport," Hubenschmidt said. "We love the competition though, and it just keeps coming. We don't mind though. Novi keeps standing strong."

The future is bright for the Wildcats as well. Not only did they take fifth in the state with a squad full of their only graduates, their junior varsity counterparts escaped the day with the grandest accomplishment of them all — a state championship.

"They were absolutely fabulous," Hubenschmidt said of the underclassmen squad. "It was just amazing."

Hubenschmidt also said that with the low number of graduates and the impressive talent base that will be returning next year, the future is so bright the squad might have to wear sunglasses at their competitors.

"Just in the girls that are returning there was a whole new level of drive and determination in them," she said. "With such a strong JV team to fill in for our graduating seniors, I'm looking forward to what we can do come next year."

And so is everybody else.

Registration Update

Baseball and Softball registration is now open at the Northville Recreation Center. Players that sign up before March 1 will receive a \$10 discount.

Recreation Center at Hillside Drop-In Activities

Current activities include senior and open volleyball, open gym, open badminton, table tennis and lap and open swim. For more information, visit the Northville Parks and Rec Web site at www.northvilleparksandrec.org or pick up a schedule at the Rec Center.

Wildcat cagers go into double OT for victory

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Sometimes, you just have to beat the top team in the conference to prove you're the best — and the Novi Wildcats boys basketball team did n't mind doing just that, though it took practically six quarters to do it.

Against the Pirates, the Wildcats watched as Pinckney player Joel Santos pulled up and drilled a late shot to force a tie game at 47-47 heading into the final moments of the game. The end result? Novi was forced to endure their second overtime game of the season.

The good news is, the Wildcats are known for winning these games.

This contest was no different, and the Wildcats escaped with a 59-54 victory over their conference foes to pull the Pirates out of first place February 9.

The game started off with three scoreless minutes as both squads struggled to move the ball and make shots in the opening stanza of the game. Finally, as the game began to drag on, the Pirates sank the first shot to signal the beginning of the scoring. Trevor Hoover held the 'Cats up, hitting Hoover's first two shots from the field in the following minutes as the Novi cagers found themselves trailing at the end of the first, 8-6.

In the second, the Wildcats turned on the afterburners and managed to score ahead for a 20-17 lead at the half. Anthony Harbin and Brad Chandler had 12 combined points in the second quarter, including four on coast-to-coast fast breaks. Mark Angoloch, a senior, played one of his best games of the year. In the final regulation quarter of play, the Pirates were back to nail a last-second three to tie the game despite six free throws from Brad Simpson in the waning moments.

Gymnastics team is impressive

The Northville-Novu gymnastics team is starting to get down to crunch time as they are looking square at the end of the regular season and into post season play.

The bad news is it seemed the like regular season just flew by and now they are in the thick of it.

The good news is, the Wild 'Stangs have just continued to improve and develop through the entire year and have qualified plenty of talented individuals for the Regional meet.

The Wild 'Stangs, who are coached by Lindsay Schultz, have shown some remarkable improvement throughout the year and have made some statements of late as they've set their season-high point totals and have been extremely competitive in every tournament and dual meet they've been in.

I have full expectations that the Wild 'Stangs gymnastics team is going to continue with their growth and successes. They are, and always have been, an extremely competitive team at all levels, and will no doubt be so again this year.

For any team, a state to the end-of-all tournament — the state finals — is special. For Schultz and her Wild 'Stangs gymnastics team, it's not only special, but expected by their peers and opponents.

The Northville-Novu team has been a measuring stick for all teams to compare themselves to throughout the years. If they can compete directly with them, it means they are probably one of the better teams in the state. If the Wild 'Stangs simply crush them, it's because there is still a lot of work to be done in their program.

As a sports writer, I've been blessed with the chance to write about such a talented team that honestly gives me the opportunity to possibly have a state champion each and every year. This squad competes at the highest levels no matter how many graduates or who their competition happens to be — and it's a sports writer that's a great set of articles to have each year.

Good luck to the Wild 'Stangs as they prepare for the post season. Hopefully a run at the state title awaits you again this year. Just remember, each and every year the team is the team to beat — and that's nothing to scoff at.

Wacky Wednesday

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Great showing at Northville Tournament
The Novi junior varsity volleyball team won the Northville Tournament on Jan. 10. Pictured are (front row, left to right) Kara Yedach and Kristen Marzone; (second row) Angie Dietz, Courtney Ratkowiak, Jessica Barnot and Kaelyn McAvoy; (third row) Rose Xie, Audrey Smith, Meghan Goldsmith, Brittany Stefanson, Ashley Gazdecki and Katelyn Tuck; and (fourth row) manager Lauren Stinar, Lauren Troher, Amanda Diacano and coach Kathleen Narducci.

UNDERCLASSMAN SCORES

Freshman volleyball
Overall: 22-3; KVC: 9-1

The Novi freshman volleyball team continues to win matches in the Kenton Valley Conference (KVC) action. The Novi ninth graders swept league-foe Brighton in three games, 21-11, 21-12, 21-17 last Wednesday. Rachel Burris registered two aces. Lauron Purdy had two kills and two blocks and Emily Esbrook added four digs. Two days earlier, the young Wildcats beat Lakeland in four games, 21-16, 13-21, 21-18, 21-13. Top performers were Julie Schramm with three kills, Stephanie Janssens with five digs and Emily Esbrook with two aces.

Last week, the volleyball team registered two more KVC victories. The Wildcats defeated Howell in four games, 21-10, 21-12, 21-21 and 21-9. Rachel Kovacinski had three aces; Emily Esbrook added five kills, and Julie Schramm had five digs. The Wildcats swept Pinckney, 21-11, 21-17, 21-5. Whitney Jalbort had five aces; Julie Schramm had four kills; and Rachel Kovacinski had four digs.

Freshman basketball
Overall: 9-4; KVC: 5-2

The Novi freshman basketball team blew a 10-point third-quarter lead, but recovered in time to win a nail-biter, 38-37, against Pinckney last Tuesday in Kenton Valley Conference (KVC) action. Novi's Brandon Carnegie blocked a last-second shot to preserve the victory for the Wildcats. Carnegie also led Novi in scoring with 11 points. Trevor Borsak added seven, while John Brown had a good overall game with four points, seven rebounds and six steals.

Last Friday (Feb. 6), the Wildcats relied on very intense defense to beat Milford by 11 points, 47-36. It was the first time since the start of the year, according to Coach Brian Felcher. Novi had 11 of 14 plays, 21-17, 21-5. Whitney Jalbort sparked by Brett Glover who had six points and four rebounds; John Brown added six points and five rebounds, and Mike Slack had four points and three points.

Junior varsity basketball
Overall: 12-3; KVC: 7-2

Novi dropped only their third game of the season, falling to South Lyon 50-44, February 14. Wiley Moss had 12 points while Bret Cocke had 10. The night before the Wildcats flexed their muscles by whipping Howell 44-28. Again, Moss led the way with 10 points. Steve Hart contributed with 8 points while AW Stanek had 4 points and 6 assists.

The Wildcats took a big win February 10 as Cocke came up with a key steal and basket in the final seconds to seal a tough win over the Pinckney Pirates, 44-40. Sean White lead all scorers with 13 points. Cocke and Todd Jancar also pitched in with 8 points apiece.

SPORTS SHORTS

Mustangs host softball clinic

The Northville 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 Northville High School.

Learn to Skate

The Winter/Spring session of Novi Ice Arena's Learn to Skate Program will run from February 24 through April 8. Skate rental is available. In addition, Learn to Skate students, with their registration receipt, get free admission to open skating at Novi Ice Arena throughout the seven-week session.

344-8420 or through her e-mail account at calabrie@northville.k12.mi.us.

Water Fitness

Register now for this fun, low-impact and energetic class that will get you moving! Session Two begins Feb. 24 and there is a minimum of 18 participants needed to run the class. One and two-day rates are available.

(248) 347-1010 or visit www.novoicearena.com today to inquire about the proper class for your skater.

Recreation Center at Hillside Drop-In Activities

Current activities include senior and open volleyball, open gym, open badminton, table tennis and lap and open swim. For more information, visit the Northville Parks and Rec Web site at www.northvilleparksandrec.org or pick up a schedule at the Rec Center.

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NOVI NEWS

Local skater well on her way

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

For 13-year-old Emily Samuelson, earning a third-place finish at the nationals and a berth into the international scene was a dream come true. She and her partner, Evan Bates, made an impact on the judges in Atlanta, Georgia and earned a third-place finish among some of the best competition the nation had to offer.



Submitted Photo

"We weren't much more nervous than we are before a normal competition," Samuelson said. "There were a lot more people there, but once we went out on the ice we just started skating and didn't notice them any more."

Samuelson, who attends Novi Middle School, found out that the focus of her and her partner was to tackle even the toughest competition in the United States. "The competition was extremely tough," she said. "Everyone there was really good."

Cheer squad makes comeback in KVC

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats cheerleaders found themselves in familiar territory when they took on and toppled their KVC rivals in Milford February 11.

Three days later, they found themselves, unfortunately, in familiar territory once again as they finished third in the conference standings behind Hartland and Brighton following the conference meet.

Against Milford, the Wildcats controlled the entire meet right out of the gates. In round one, they scored a whopping 166.5 points to the Mavericks' 134.75. The second round was a similar display as Novi went on to put up 175.5 points on the board while Milford managed just 124.5.

The final round, which is round three, found Novi trailing the coffin shut on their opponents. Milford gathered just 208.5 points before Novi put up a dominating performance with 279.5.

FINAL STANDINGS

- KVC meet at Hartland
TEAM SCORES — 1. Hartland, 667.5; 2. Novi, 665; 3. Brighton, 662; 4. Howell, 522; 5. Milford, 475; 6. South Lyon, 427; 7. Lakeland, 416.5.

Ohlgren swims with the big fish

Continued from B1

U.S. Junior National team, Ohlgren competed in the Queensland Open and Age championships in five different freestyle events, two individual medley events and even on the 400 freestyle relay team.

Obviously, Ohlgren's top events are the medley races — the reason for which she said has a lot to do with strategy. She starts off hard in the butterfly before pacing herself in the backstroke and freestyle legs of the event.

Ohlgren works at being tough too along with the natural talent that courses through her veins. With the Bulldog Aquatic Club, Ohlgren and her teammates put in about 24 hours of practice a week during the high volume summer schedule. The rest of the year, they put about 12 hours in a week. Two-hour practices consist of swimming approximately 3,000 yards and once a week they lift weights for an hour and a half to keep their muscles toned and conditioned.

Swimming has always been a major part of Ohlgren's life. In fact, she probably doesn't have too many significant memories from years she hasn't swum. Since the age of three, Ohlgren has been in the pool and by the age of four she was swimming competitively. Her older brother, Derek, and her older sister, Kathryn, were both swimmers and her parents, Teri and Kurt, have always been major supporters of all their kids — in and out of the pool.



Photo by John Heider

Northville sophomore Ava Ohlgren stands on the diving board at Schoolcraft College, where she and her Bulldog Aquatic Club practice each day. Ohlgren recently made the cuts to the Olympic Trials this summer.

"I love to swim in college and the Olympics one day," she said. "I just love doing it. I love to swim and I love the challenges. I'll probably be swimming for the rest of my life."



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Northville High School student Ava Ohlgren, 16, swims laps with the Bulldogs Aquatic Club at the Schoolcraft Community College pool last Thursday afternoon. Ohlgren, whose specialties include freestyle and butterfly, hopes to make it to the Olympics.

Wildcats show well against rival Northville

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats swimming and diving team found themselves among some of the best competition in the state recently as they competed in the Oakland County meet.

Against the Mustangs, the Wildcats found themselves being pushed to the edge and feeding off that competition as they had two first-place finishes against the talented Northville squad.

Against the Mustangs, the Wildcats found themselves being pushed to the edge and feeding off that competition as they had two first-place finishes against the talented Northville squad. Novi also set season best times in four events.

Taking first place finishes for the Novi swimming and diving team were two very talented tankers. Alberty, who is just a sophomore, took first in diving with 193.35 total points. Chris Pieprzak, who is a senior this season, took first in the 100 butterfly, 500 free, and 100 butterfly relay.

In the Oakland County meet, the Wildcats had an impressive showing from Chris Alberty as he finished fifth in diving. Against the Mustangs, the Wildcats found themselves being pushed to the edge and feeding off that competition as they had two first-place finishes against the talented Northville squad.

Bantam hockey squad gets noisy at large tournament

The Novi Wildcats Bantam hockey team ran its season record to 17-3-1 while winning the Capital Centre Turkey Roast Tournament in late 2003. In the tournament finals the Wildcats avenged a 6-1 loss from the previous night against the host, Capital Centre Pride.

Mike Lince finished off an outstanding tournament with a goal and an assist, and Larry Marlow buried his second breakthrough to put the game out of reach after ringing his earlier chance off the post. The Wildcats had previously finished with a 3-2 record in the tournament.

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ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE High & Elm Streets, Northville Lutheran Pastor Church 349-3140 School 349-3146 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Contemporary Service of 11:00 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 200 E. Main St. at Union - (248) 349-0111 Worship Services: 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Children Available at All Services Youth: 5:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. Single People Ministry: Thurs. 7:30 p.m. Religious Education: Pastor Rev. James P. Ryan, Associate Pastor	NORTHWEST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH 23925 Northwestern Highway, Southfield The service is one of the most beautiful in the area. Sunday Service 10:00 a.m. All are welcome Lent: 8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary Lent: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the sanctuary 248-554-4888 • www.northwestu.org	OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH 770 Hayes, Northville WEEKEND LITURGIES: Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Church 349-2621, School 349-3610 Religious Education: Pastor Rev. Terrence Walker, Pastor
MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 21552 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi at 172 Mile Morning Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday School & Nursery: 10 a.m. 248-348-7797 Minister: Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt Member of: Michigan Synod	GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod Sunday School and Worship Services: 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. Thursdays: 7:30 p.m. 349-0565	CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL (Anglican) 10 Mile between 7th & Beck, Novi Phone 349-1175 Sun. 7:45 & 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Sunday School & Nursery 10 a.m. Rev. Robert Harris, Rector www.churchoftheholycross.com	FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 349-1144 8 Mile & 7th Roads Worship Services: 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Rev. John Hicks Rev. Jennifer Shady
FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 4442 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-329-2345 1/2 mile west of Novi Rd. Dr. Richard J. Henderson, Pastor Worship & Church School 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Sunday	ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI 48329 10 Mile Rd. Novi, MI 48327 Sunday 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Newborn Baptisms, Confirmation, Marriage, Reconciliation, Communion, and Anointing of the Sick Pastor: Rev. Fr. Joseph G. Bouda, Pastor Religious Education: Pastor	CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY 2455 Woodchuck Rd., Novi, MI 48325 Worship: Sun. 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Religious Education: Pastor Pastor: Rev. Fr. Joseph G. Bouda, Pastor Religious Education: Pastor	WORLDWIDE HARVEST CHURCH "A Place to Grow" Pastor: Keith J. McCar Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 AM The Harvest for World, (6-18) and Harvest for World More info: (248) 919-2829 E-mail: Harvest@worldwidechurch.com Web: www.worldwidechurch.com
WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 4005 W. Main Road - Northville, MI 48161 Worship Services: 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Contemporary Service: 7:00 p.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Pastor: Rev. Fr. Joseph G. Bouda, Pastor	ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 23225 6th Road Cape Charles, VA 23414 Pastor: Rev. Fr. Joseph G. Bouda, Pastor Religious Education: Pastor	BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA 1210 W. Main Road - Northville, MI 48161 Worship Services: 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Contemporary Service: 7:00 p.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Pastor: Rev. Fr. Joseph G. Bouda, Pastor	CROSSPOINT MEADOWS CHURCH Pastor: Danny L. Langston Traditional Service: 9:00 A.M. Contemporary Service: 10:30 A.M. Meeting at New City Center 248-444-7755 www.crosspointmeadows.org

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AD COUNCIL

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Novi News

Thursday, February 19, 2004

Consumers beware: all credit counselors are not equal

A new generation of non-profit credit-counseling agencies is preying on debt-choked Americans. According to "Credit Counseling in Crisis," a joint study by the National Consumer Law Center and the Consumer Federation of America, these offending agencies are offering bad advice and socking consumers with high fees. They're also offering few debt counseling services — bad news for the 9 million Americans who seek assistance each year.

Consumer complaints to the Better Business Bureau (BBB) about credit counseling agencies have increased more than 500 percent since 1998. In 2002 the BBB reported receiving 1,480 complaints compared to just 261 in 1998. Complaints have focused on agencies' failures to make consumers' payments on time, deceptive claims about voluntary fees, and failure by the agencies to disclose the fees associated with setting up and maintaining debt management programs.

The emergence of low-quality, high-cost counseling operations is due in part to the credit card industry's reduction in funding to credit counseling agencies. As funding has decreased, agencies have cut their range of services and increased their fees. Creditors are also less willing to reduce interest rates for consumers in debt consolidation programs.

What can consumers do to protect themselves? The NCLC and CFA offer these suggestions:

- Say "no" to high fees. If it costs more than \$50 to set up a debt consolidation program, and more than \$25 a month to maintain, look for another agency. If the agency is vague about fees, look elsewhere.

- Ask the agency whether its fees are voluntary. Some agencies publicly claim their fees are voluntary but won't tell consumers they're voluntary. Or, they'll pressure consumers to pay the full fees even if they can't afford it. If the fee is too much, don't pay the agency more than you can afford.

- If you feel pressured into entering a debt consolidation program, walk out. Legitimate agencies will discuss a variety of options with you, including budget and financial management counseling and credit education.

- Inquire whether counselors are paid on commission. If they are, they may not be acting in your best interest.

- Administer the "20 Minute" test. If an agency offers you a debt management plan in less than 20 minutes, they haven't spent enough time reviewing your financial situation. A comprehensive counseling session will take anywhere from 30 to 90 minutes. Also, if the agency doesn't offer you educational options, such as budget counseling, consider one that does.

- Be wary of agencies that engage in aggressive advertising. It's likely these agencies will offer few options except a debt management plan. Without financial education and budget counseling, you might find yourself once again loaded down with unmanageable debt.

Look for an agency that meets your needs and makes you feel comfortable.

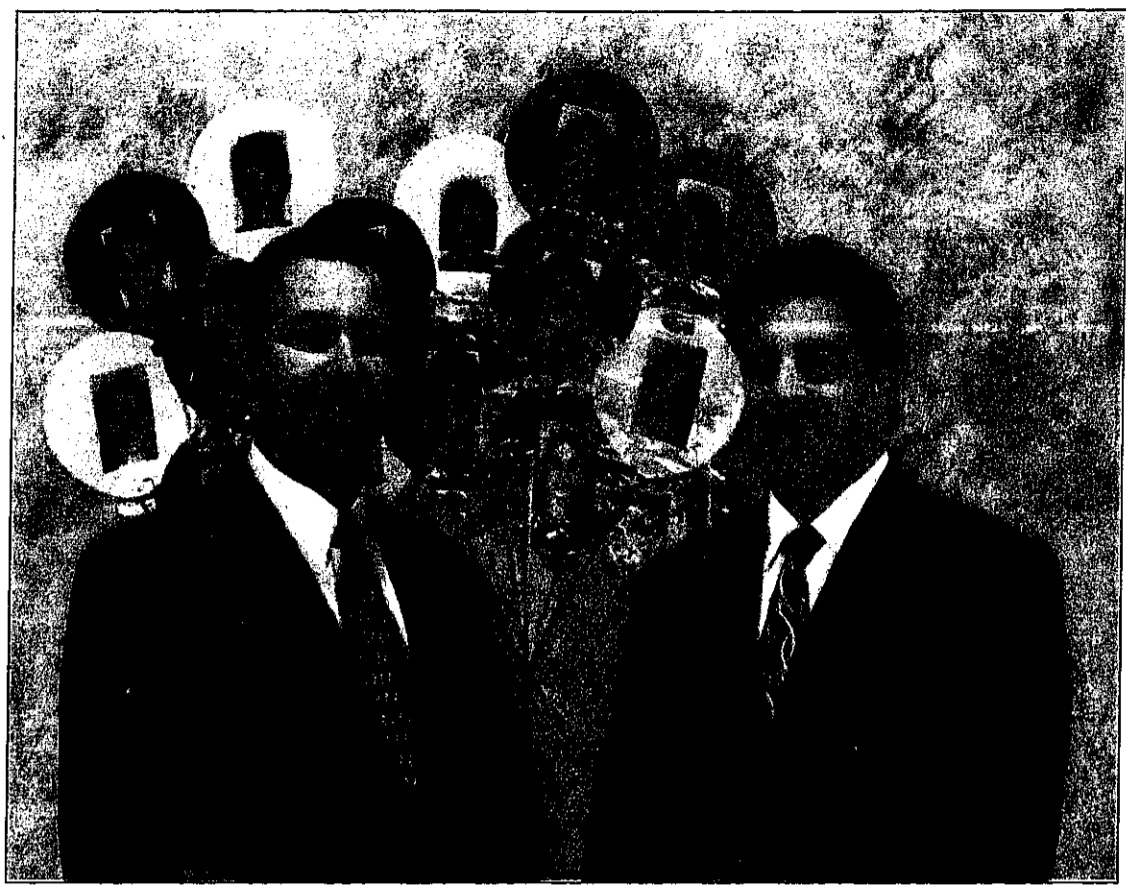
Now that you know the right questions to ask and the red flags to watch out for, ask your friends, family and credit union for referrals to a reputable agency. Consider contacting GreenPath Debt Solutions; it's a member agency of the National Foundation for Consumer Counseling (NFCC) also known as Consumer Credit Counseling Services (CCCS), the nation's largest and longest-serving credit counseling agency. GreenPath's counseling services are offered in person, over the phone and via the Internet.

According to the NFCC, about one-third of all customers of its member agencies are recommended for debt management plans. The other two-thirds typically receive a budget review, financial education and possibly a referral to other social service organizations to address the underlying problems that affect their financial well-being.

GreenPath has 28 locations across Michigan. Phone them toll-free at (800) 550-1961, or contact them via their Web site at www.greenpath.com. To learn more about the NFCC visit their Web site at www.nfcc.org.

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League, representing Michigan credit unions. Comments about this column may be e-mailed to mcd@mcu.org.

Advertorial



Photos by Annette Jaworski

Dr. Timothy Stroster and Dr. Tom Hamway and their staffs work to make their patients feel like family. "Our excellent personal service definitely sets us apart from many other offices," Dr. Hamway said.

Creating beautiful smiles

Orthodontists help patients' self-esteem, appearance

Dr. Thomas Hamway and Dr. Timothy Stroster understand that nothing makes a better first impression or gives a person more self-confidence than a beautiful smile.

That is why their work as orthodontists in the Brighton and South Lyon communities is so gratifying. The impact of their work is easily seen in patients of all age groups. People who were once self-conscious and uncomfortable with their appearance, become outgoing and self-assured when they see their gorgeous new smile. The end results of orthodontic treatment can be life-altering and truly amazing.

"It's very gratifying to get to the end of an orthodontic case and to see the impact that is has on our patients," said Dr. Hamway.

Dr. Stroster agreed, adding that "There's a definite improvement in self-image and self-confidence."

Dr. Hamway, Dr. Stroster and their staff do their best to educate patients as they go through the process of orthodontic treatment. They feel that informed patients are less apprehensive and feel much more at ease while going through treatment. Dr. Hamway and Dr. Stroster want their patients to understand that although a beautiful smile is a pleasure to own and a pleasure to see, it is not the only reason to pursue orthodontic treatment.

Some other benefits of orthodontic treatment are improved overall oral health, easier brush-

ing and flossing, and improved function. It's no wonder that orthodontic treatment is no longer reserved for children and adolescents. Every year Dr. Hamway and Dr. Stroster see more and more adults who want to improve not only the appearance of their teeth, but more importantly they want to correct their malocclusion (bad bite) in an effort to prevent excess tooth wear, relieve strain on their jaw joint, and maintain healthy teeth and gums. All of these wonderful benefits of orthodontic treatment assist people in keeping their teeth for a lifetime.

One question commonly asked by parents is, "When is the appropriate time to have my child examined by an orthodontist?"

The American Association of Orthodontics recommends children have an initial evaluation by the age of seven. This is a good age if there are any problems that may require an early phase of orthodontic treatment, commonly referred to as "Phase I." Years ago orthodontic treatment was put off until all the permanent teeth erupted, at which time many patients had to have teeth extracted to allow alignment of the remaining teeth.

Phase I treatment can correct many jaw problems before they become serious, and it can create more space for the erupting permanent teeth, therefore significantly decreasing the number of cases that require extraction of permanent teeth. Many young children do not require Phase I treatment, in which case they are placed on observation for possible orthodontic treatment in the future.

Patients of Dr. Hamway and Dr. Stroster are seen in their state-of-the-art facilities, in an open and relaxed atmosphere.

ORTHODONTICS DR. HAMWAY AND DR. STROSTER

Two convenient locations.

- Dr. Thomas Hamway and Dr. Timothy Stroster's Brighton office is conveniently located at 10192 East Grand River Avenue, just east of Old U.S. 23, and the phone number is (810) 220-1700.

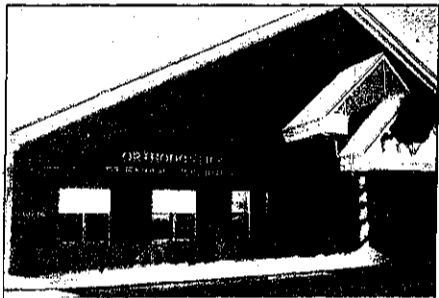
- Their South Lyon office is located just south of Nine Mile Road, at 21800 Pontiac Trail, and the phone number there is (248) 446-6000.

The office is pleasant and comfortable, which makes patients feel very at home. Because patients are seen approximately once a month during their treatment, they quickly become "part of the family."

Dr. Hamway noted "Our excellent personal service definitely sets us apart from many other offices."

"Our goal is to make the whole process as enjoyable as possible," adds Dr. Stroster.

Monthly contests make visits to the office fun and exciting. Patients take part in many activities and have an opportunity to win various prizes. Tickets to the movies, a free night of bowling, and a new sled to take advantage of our wonderful Michigan winters are just a few of the prizes recently won by patients in their office. Patients are also encour-



Dr. Hamway and Dr. Stroster offer modern and comfortable settings for their practices in Brighton and South Lyon.

aged to wear their "Hamway and Stroster" T-shirt when they come in for their appointments. Having it on gives them yet another opportunity to win a prize. Keeping things lively and entertaining makes treatment time fly by.

Patients also enjoy the newest in orthodontic appliances. Braces used to be bulky and somewhat unsightly. Today brackets are much smaller and offered in several varieties. Standard silver braces are still available, but now Dr. Hamway and Dr. Stroster also offer a shiny new soft shade of gold, and for those who want their braces to be as inconspicuous as possible, clear brackets are available. Not only are there choices in brackets, but the office also offers a veritable rainbow of colors that can be added to the braces to individualize "your look." Children and adolescents find wearing colors on their braces to be great fun, as do some of the more adventurous adult patients.

Both Dr. Hamway and Dr. Stroster are graduates of the University of Detroit Mercy. They met while completing their residency and have been partners in their orthodontic practice for

over ten years now. They are active members in several dental and orthodontic associations. These associations keep them in touch with the many family dentists who entrust them with the orthodontic care of their patients.

Dr. Hamway and Dr. Stroster's orthodontic practice offers a complimentary initial evaluation. At that appointment a comprehensive exam is completed and patients are given ample opportunity to ask questions regarding any and all aspects of orthodontic treatment. New patients leave their appointment feeling comfortable and much more educated in the process of orthodontic treatment.

What are you waiting for? Call today for your complimentary exam. Dr. Stroster, Dr. Hamway and their entire staff are anxiously waiting to meet you!

Dr. Hamway and Dr. Stroster's Brighton office is conveniently located at 10192 East Grand River Avenue, just east of Old U.S. 23, and the phone number is (810) 220-1700.

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