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Thursday, February 26, 2004

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Volume 47 Number

Novi, Michigan

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Look inside for your
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INSIDE



Babies Gone Wild!

The Coriveau family in their Northville home: Eve, 2, Wendy, Marc, and Luc, 4. Wendy recently entered a video of her daughter in the *Live with Regis and Kelly* "Babies Gone Wild" contest - and won!
— Page 10A

Cooler than cool

Novi's Fire Station Two firefighters jumped into Walled Lake Sunday for rescue training.
— Page 16A

REGIONAL MARKET

Miller Media

If it has anything to do with video and photography, Richard Miller has probably done it. As owner and founder of Miller Media Vision, LLC, he's captured 20 years worth of memories with a career spanning from CBS News to children's charm.
— Page 6B

OBITUARIES

Marian F. Selinske
Kathleen Karney
Debra A. Phillips

— Page 17A

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Woman attacked in parking lot

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Novi police say a 33-year-old man attacked a 20-year-old Wixom woman in the emergency room parking lot at Providence Hospital and Medical Center's Novi campus early Feb. 19.

Orlando Gonzalez stood mute in Judge Dennis Powers' courtroom Feb. 20 as Novi Police Detective Paul Keisling read out the charges against him, including second degree criminal sexual conduct, assault with a dangerous weapon, operating under the influence of liquor and driving without a license.

Gonzalez is now being held in the Oakland County Jail in lieu of

bonds totaling \$156,000, waiting for a pre-exam conference before Judge Brian MacKenzie at the 52-1 District Court.

At his arraignment, Judge Powers asked Gonzalez if he needed a court-appointed attorney. "I'm not sure, sir," responded Gonzalez. "Someone hired an attorney on Mr. Gonzalez' behalf," said Keisling.

According to Lt. David Molloy, security staff at Providence heard



O. Gonzalez

screams in the parking lot at 12:55 a.m. He said they found the victim and saw a man driving away in a blue Ford minivan.

The woman told investigators that she had brought to the emergency room a friend who had slipped and fallen. According to Molloy, she said she had just parked her compact pickup when a man in olive pants and a tight T-shirt approached her. She said the man told her there was something hanging from her driver's side door.

Moments later the man forced the woman into her truck, saying he had a gun in his pocket, said Molloy. The man began grabbing at the woman, according to Molloy. When she realized he did not have

a gun, she began fighting back.

The woman told investigators her attacker backed away and pulled out a small knife. He began lunging at her, trying to stab her in the stomach and leg. She said the man fled when she was able to set off her truck's panic alarm.

According to Molloy, 40 minutes after Novi Police broadcast a description of the van, Oakland County Sheriff's Deputies Dave Scott and Derrick Triffle spotted a blue Ford van on Grand River Avenue near Milford Road. When the vehicle turned on to a dead end road without signaling, the deputies stopped it and found Gonzalez.

Deputies found no weapons, but Gonzalez reportedly failed field

sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .13. Molloy said Gonzalez registered .11 in two additional tests at police headquarters. Prior to allegedly attacking the woman, Gonzalez had reportedly been drinking at The Post Bar in Ferndale.

According to Molloy, Gonzalez has been living with a Novi family since last year when he was released from prison in New Jersey. Gonzalez has an extensive criminal history in New Jersey and New York, with convictions for burglary, fraud and assault, said Molloy.

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.com.

Somewhere, under the rainbow



Photo by John Heider

Taylor Bullard, 5, races from beneath a colorful parachute during mid-winter break activity camp held at Orchard Hills Elementary School last week. The five-day long camp, sponsored by the Academy of Dance in Brighton, gave youngsters a chance to participate in a wide range of pursuits, including indoor sports, charades, drama and crafts.

Making Main St. viable

Association wants city to be 'a happening place' for all

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

The downtown area is usually the heart of every community. Novi business and community leaders have been striving over the past few years to make Novi's Main Street and surrounding area a focal point of the city.

Tony Musu, a member of the Novi Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors who is active in the community, is spearheading a new group of local business and community leaders to see how the area can be improved.



T. Musu

A special meeting is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Monday at the Gateway Village on Grand River just west of Meadowbrook. All concerned business people are encouraged to attend. Signs will direct participants to the meeting once they arrive at the village.

This is actually the third meeting on the downtown area that Musu has organized with local leaders but the first to which the group is opening to all local business people.

"I've been meeting with several different business owners to try to revitalize the downtown area of Novi on Grand River from Meadowbrook to Novi Road, north to the freeway and south on Novi Road to Red Hot & Blue Restaurant and Fifth Avenue

PASSIONATE CONVERSATIONS

Local coffee house talks will focus on movie

By Paul Green
GUEST WRITER

Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" opened in theatres across the country yesterday. Moviegoers will finally get a chance to see the film that has

caused such a stir in both Hollywood and religious circles. The film itself is a retelling of the last 12 hours of the life of Jesus of Nazareth leading up to his crucifixion. The pending release has generated controversy, drawn criticism and inspired excitement. It all depends on your point of view.

Due to a rich diversity, point of view will be the primary focus of reactions in cities across the Metro-Detroit area. Our commu-

Point of View

nities possess a broad range of religious, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds. Peaceful coexistence depends on open communication. Listening to the different reactions and finding a common ground on which to build friendship and community is something we all strive for.

With that in mind, The Coffee Trader in Novi's Main Street has agreed to host "Passion Conversations" in conjunction

with C3 Ministries. Starting Tuesday, March 2 and running through Thursday, April 8, Passion Conversations will be held every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 7-8 p.m. The purpose of this event is to offer safe and open discussion for those who have seen the film and want to talk about it.

Mel Gibson has promised an accurate presentation of the events leading up to Jesus' cruci-

continued on page 2

continued on page 2

HomeTownLife.com relaunched

Internet site easier than ever to utilize

Readers of the Novi News are invited to access HomeTownLife.com, the most rapidly growing and fastest growing community-based Internet site in Michigan.

Now entirely redesigned for easier use and offering many new features, HomeTownLife.com provides local news, community information and classified ads from the Novi News, as well as business listings from its sister "yellow pages" telephone directories, according to Phil Power, chairman of HomeTown

Communications Network, Inc., the company that owns the Novi News.

"It's been a little more than three years since we launched our Internet portal, HomeTownLife.com," said Power. "During that time, it has grown beyond what any of us dreamed. The site registered 36 million hits and 650,000 visitors viewed 2,341,000 pages during January alone — a 300-percent increase over last January. With our bright new redesign just coming onstream, we expect further rapid growth."

"Our subsidiary company, HomeTown Digital, Inc. manages the HomeTownLife.com site," Power added. "As of this week, we have outsourced the back end operations of the site to On Line

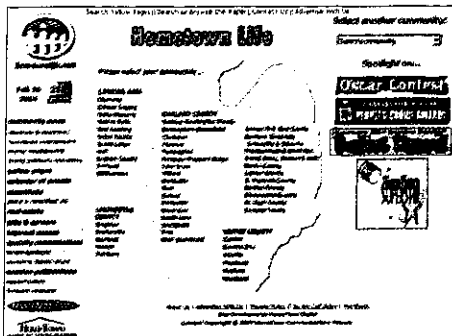
Technologies Corporation, of Ann Arbor. Our relationship with On Line Technologies will bring our users a steady stream of new, user-friendly features for our users. For our advertisers, the relationship will bring access to better technology and new, improved Internet products that will provide increased user traffic and better advertising results and value."

"We're excited about the prospect of adding features to our HomeTownLife.com site," said Power. "We're interested in your reactions to them. Just contact us at feedback@HomeTownLife.com."

Available to Web users in Novi, HomeTownLife.com offers:

- Selected local news stories

continued on page 3



The photo illustrates the newly redesigned home page of our Web portal site, HomeTownLife.com. On the left is a "navigation bar," a convenient way for readers to get to specific places on the site. In the middle is a listing of all the communities served by newspapers belonging to the HomeTownLife.com family. On the right side are ads highlighting special values and consumer opportunities.

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Local coffee house talks will focus on controversial movie

continued from front

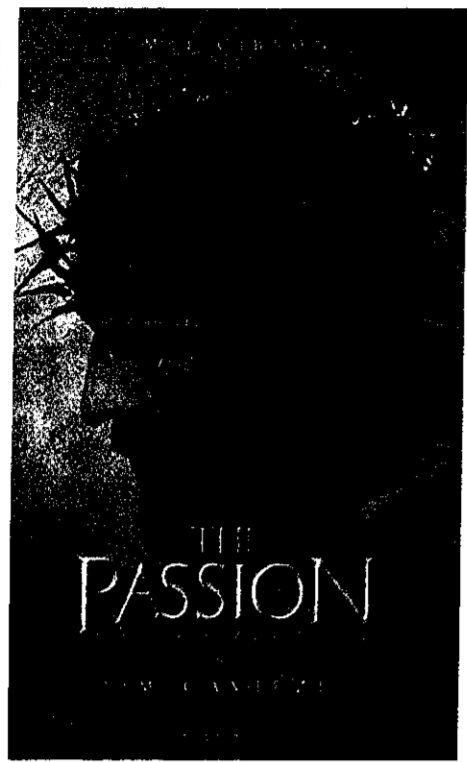
fixion, and as such this Rated film will be visually shocking. The history of these events is recorded in the Gospel details the brutality inflicted on Jesus' body, and indications are that Gibson's film pulls no punches for kicks, or ladies, or spears...

Tattended a lecture several years ago on the medical aspects of death by crucifixion. People in attendance were at a loss for words when considering the physical pain associated with the Romans' slow death torture method of choice. The portrayal of the physical events in a visual media could combine to elicit strong emotional responses from viewers.

Early reports indicate that advanced screenings were followed by prayerful silence and screaming tears. No doubt then, that viewers will be seeking an outlet to the many questions and comments they may have about the visual or historical aspects of the film.

Those familiar with the story of Jesus may simply want to know there is a community of believers in their own neighborhood. Others will have very deep theological questions, logical arguments, or feelings that defy definition.

Passion Conversations is a safe place for people of all backgrounds to express disbelief, question the



historic record, unburden grief, cling to hope, meet new friends, and share reactions to the film. Much of the controversy around the film has been linked to the use of passion plays in the past as a tool for inciting harm against Jewish populations. This is a real fear rooted in real acts of terror and hostility against Jews around the world.

Gibson's film has the opportunity to end the ugly legacy of division that has followed some passion plays, and bring about healing and forgiveness. Passion Conversations will help bring people together in honest discussion, and it is by this response communities will wish to be judged. For those who are unable to attend during the established times, there will be question slips that can be dropped in a box at The Coffee Trader. Also, you may register to post your thoughts on the C3 Passion Blog at www.c3ministry.org.

DETAILS

Passion Conversations
The Coffee Trader
43155 Main Street, Novi
(248) 735-5544
Tuesday March 2 through
Thursday April 8
Every Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday, and Saturday
7-8 p.m.

Making Main St. viable

continued from front

Plans include concerts at the new Gateway Village condominiums at Grand River and Meadowbrook, an art fair, a classic car show, a "taste fest" incorporating local businesses, and possibly some bilingual signs to attract more customers to these locations.

"I think it's a win-win for everybody around," said Musu, who works at Novi Community Credit Union. "I think we can attract a lot more people to this area from not only Novi but the surrounding communities. Novi is a great place to eat, shop, relax and stay."

DETAILS

Business owners who would like more information about joining the new association can contact Tony Musu at (248) 348-8500, ext. 404, or Dean Piekarski of Gateway Village at (248) 374-1366.

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.

"I think we can attract a lot more people to this area from not only Novi but the surrounding communities. Novi is a great place to eat, shop, relax and stay."

Tony Musu
Gateway Village Downtown Novi Association

Got an idea for a news story? Give Cal Stone, editor, a call and let the Novi News help spread the word.
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- Place a classified ad in the Novi News? Just click the "place an ad" button on the HomeTownLife.com home page.
- Subscribe to the paper? Click the "subscribe" button on your community page.
- Browse special good deals for jobs, autos, real estate and classifieds? Click your community's page on the HomeTownLife.com home page and you'll see the special "Hot Ads" display.
- Find communities served by our telephone directories and browse Michigan's largest yellow pages business listings? Click on "Yellow Pages" on the home page.
- Place an item in your hometown community calendar? Click on "calendar of events" on your community page.

HomeTownLife.com Web site relaunched

continued from front page

from the Novi News, as well as your complete hometown community calendar. Archived news stories can be searched online by key word, while the community calendar can be searched by date and by type of event. Also available is a complete listing of local resources, such as government offices, schools, churches and service clubs. Page views of news items on HomeTownLife.com jumped to nearly 900,000 in January, compared with barely 60,000 in January 2003.

Classified ads from the Novi News. These ads may be browsed or searched by key word. This part of the site includes ads from all our sister publications and is Michigan's largest source of local classified advertising. "Hot Listings" for jobs, rentals, autos and real estate — a highlighted area of the HomeTownLife.com site — may be searched by Novi News readers looking for especially good deals. Users looking for jobs registered 346,184 page views this January, making HomeTownLife.com one of the most highly used help wanted sites in Michigan.

Real estate listings in HomeTownLife.com may be searched by local community, by address, by MLS number, by school district, by broker and by agent. In January, HomeTownLife.com users pulled up a total of 3,664,600 MLS listings, up 1.4 million from last year, while users viewed in detail 366,500 MLS listings.

Local yellow page listings and service clubs. Page views of news items on HomeTownLife.com users may search this robust database by name of local community, by county and by type of business — "accountants," for example.

Readers of the Novi News may use the HomeTownLife.com site to place a classified ad, subscribe to paid newspapers and submit items for the community calendar — all online. News content and classified ads on the site are updated at 6 a.m. on the date of publication of the Novi News.

This is the only place I know of where internet users can access local newspaper stories and information, hometown classified advertising and local telephone directories. Power said. "We've worked hard to link them all together through HomeTownLife.com, and we're thrilled at the extraordinary increase in site usage year to year."

Free events focus on barns' role in Michigan

Community invited to attend programs held on Feb. 28, March 4

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Two free upcoming programs are planned in Novi in conjunction with the "Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon" traveling exhibit currently on display at the Novi Civic Center.

The exhibit, from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., will be on display in the Civic Center Atrium through March 7. Novi is the exhibit's first stop in six Michigan cities this year.

"Adaptive Uses of Oakland County Barns" will be presented from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Michigan State University Tollgate Regional Education Center located on the west side of Meadowbrook Road just north of Twelve Mile Road.

The event will feature slides and descriptions of several barn projects.

"The whole purpose of this is to inspire and encourage people who own barns in the community to consider adaptive use when their barns are no longer needed for agricultural purposes," said Kathy Mutch, site coordinator, for the "Barn Again!" exhibit in Novi.

Members of the Oakland County Historical Commission will host the event. This is part of a series of programs that the Oakland County group has

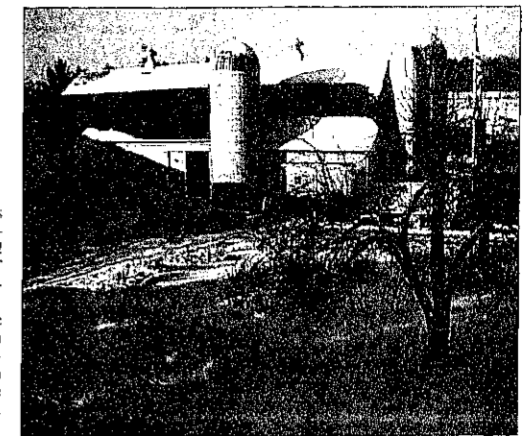


Photo by Kay Pratt

planned for the year highlighting the history of the county. Representatives from the Novi Historical Commission and Preservation Novi will also attend the event. Light refreshments will be served during the presentation, which will highlight two private and two public barn projects.

Members of Preservation Novi and the Novi Historical Commission will host another special program at 7 p.m. March 4. During this event, Terry Shaffer will present "Barley Houses and By-Laws: Changing Uses of Michigan Barns" at the historic Novi Township Hall located just west of the Novi Public Library on Ten Mile Road.

This presentation will offer a glimpse into Michigan's wonderful assortment of barns, farmsteads and rural structures. Their history can be traced by examining changes in farming practices, the technology available at different times and the cultural traditions people brought to Michigan. As a result, each region of the state has a unique agricultural heritage that can be the basis for historic preservation efforts, tourism and economic development.

Shaffer is a research associate with McClurken and Associates, Ethnohistorical Consultants. He served as assistant curator-extension specialist with the Agricultural Heritage Program at Michigan State University for more than 30 years.

He has worked with the MSU Museum and Michigan communities caring for historical collec-

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Shawley homicide trial set for March 1

Police say toddler was beaten, burned and tortured

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Jury selection is expected to begin March 1 in the trial of Nicole Michelle Frederick, accused of the September 2003 homicide of 2-year-old Ann Marie Shawley.

Novi Police say the last hours of the toddler from the town of Livonia were a nightmare of beating and burning at her father's mobile home in Novi. At a press conference following Frederick's arraignment in September, Novi Police Chief Doug Shaeffer called Shawley's death a "horrendous case of abuse" that "transcended abuse to the pure torture of a young child."



N. Frederick

According to Novi Police reports, Frederick and the child's father, John Shawley, brought Ann Marie to the emergency room at Providence Hospital and Medical Centers' Novi Campus Labor Day morning with bruises on her head and left arm and cigarette burns on her chest and right arm.

The toddler was unconscious. Emergency room workers called police. Ann Marie died Sept. 2 at Royal Oak's William Beaumont Hospital without ever waking up. Oakland County Medical Examiner Ljubiša J. Dragovic, M.D., testified at Frederick's arraignment that Ann Marie died from "blunt force trauma." He also testified that the child had been burned with cigarettes, a cigarette lighter and a floor heating grate. Dragovic testified that hair had been ripped from the child's head leaving open wounds, and there was evidence that her mouth had been covered with duct tape.

"I think there was a lot of anger there," said Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Greg Townsend. A 20-year veteran and one of the prosecutor's office with more than 100 homicide trials under his belt, Townsend said, "This is one of the most horrific cases I've ever handled. You've got to go a long way to top this."

"They did not ask for an insanity plea and we're not offering anything on it. This child was tortured. [Frederick] does not deserve anything."

Greg Townsend
Oakland County assistant prosecutor

If convicted, Frederick is facing life without parole.

"They did not ask for an insanity plea and we're not offering anything on it," said Townsend. "This child was tortured. Frederick does not deserve anything."

Townsend said he expects to call 15 to 20 witnesses, including staff from the medical examiners' office, family members, police and medical personnel. He said he believes the trial will be complete by March 8.

Townsend is known as a methodical prosecutor and was once described by Court TV as the "Colombo of the courtroom." He said he expects a fairly

straightforward trial.

"The facts will speak for themselves," Townsend said.

The prosecutor noted that Judge Colleen O'Brien rejected motions from defense attorney Michael McCarthy to suppress photographs and statements made by Frederick. The judge also rejected McCarthy's attempt to downgrade the charges from premeditated murder. Townsend added that O'Brien also refused a request for a gag order in the case.

McCarthy did not return phone calls from the Novi News.

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

Novi Meadows shooter pleads no contest to attempted murder

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

It's likely the Novi man who police say last fall shot up his west-side neighborhood, wounding two people before turning his gun on himself, will die in prison.

Melvin Buckmaster, who will turn 60 this fall, is expected to be sentenced to 15 years in prison when he appears before Circuit Court Judge Deborah T'yer in Pontiac Friday. During the pre-trial conference Feb. 13, Buckmaster pleaded no contest to arson; discharging a firearm into an occupied dwelling;



M. Buckmaster

three counts of assault with intent to commit murder, and possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony.

Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor Paul Walton said the sentencing guidelines for the charges range from 10 to 17 years behind bars and that Judge T'yer has indicated a preference for something in the middle.

Walton noted that last month mental health experts at the State Forensic Center in Ypsilanti found Buckmaster competent for trial. Buckmaster's attorney, Dennis Cleary of Farmington Hills, withdrew a notice to file an insanity defense.

Walton said Buckmaster apparently pleaded no contest because of civil liability issues. Cleary was unavailable at press time.

"There was an issue of severe depression, but it did not rise to the level to mitigate," said Walton.

Novi Police said Buckmaster stepped out of his home on Carolina Avenue in Novi Meadows Mobile Home Park just before 5 p.m. Sept. 14 and shot his rifle at a 12-year-old boy and his brother as they entered their home across the street. Flying debris wounded the boy.

Buckmaster, according to police reports, then turned his gun on himself, wounding him in the lower leg. Buckmaster then set fire to his own home before shooting himself in the chest. Walton said before shooting himself, Buckmaster fired at a third person, but missed.

According to Walton, Buckmaster told police he'd been shot by someone else. Buckmaster was taken to the University of Michigan Medical Center, where initially he was not expected to survive. Suffering from massive wounds and a lung infection, Buckmaster surprised investigators by recovering enough by early October to talk to his doctors and be transferred to Pontiac General Hospital.

Buckmaster had only one criminal conviction on his record, a misdemeanor for malicious destruction stemming from an April incident in which he was charged with slashing a neighbor's tires. However, according to reports, Novi Police had been to his residence 11 times since 1998.

According to reports, Buckmaster was on the verge of being evicted from the mobile home park and had been involved in some sort of dispute with the family across the street.

It now appears he'll spend the next 15 years behind prison bars.

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.

POLICE REPORT

Into the woods

A 52-year-old Novi man told Officer Kevin Rhea that he lost control of his Chevrolet Impala at 8:29 p.m. Feb. 19 after he struck a deer while driving north on Novi Road near Old Novi Road. A witness told Rhea that the man simply missed the curve on southbound Novi Road and burrowed into the woods. The man admitted to having a "shot-and-a-half of Drambuie this morning." Officer Baetens changed the man with operating under the influence of liquor after the man failed field sobriety tests registered a blood alcohol content of .159. Baetens noted he could find no trace of deer hair on the man's car. The man was later released after posting a \$100 bond.

Glad to help

Officer Scott Baetens was called to a rollover accident on the I-96 exit ramp at Novi Road at 4:39 a.m. Feb. 19. He found a Jeep Wrangler sitting upright in the ditch on the north side of the exit ramp. The driver, a 24-year-old Luke Orion man, was conscious and told him, "Arrest me now, I'm drunk." After the man registered a blood alcohol content of .18, Baetens obliged him and changed him with operating under the influence of liquor. At Novi police headquarters the man registered a blood alcohol content of .22 and .23. He was later released after posting a \$100 bond.

Clothing heist

Officer Arsen Edgar charged two teenage Novi women with retail theft at 8:52 p.m. Feb. 18 after loss prevention specialists at Kohl's told him they caught the women trying to take \$48 worth of merchandise from the store.

According to reports, the women caught the eye of store security when they were seen coming out of a changing room with fewer items than they took in. Store security recovered two pairs of shorts from the 17-year-old and a T-shirt and wallet from the 18-year-old. The women were later released after they each posted a \$100 bond.

Compiled by Phil Foley

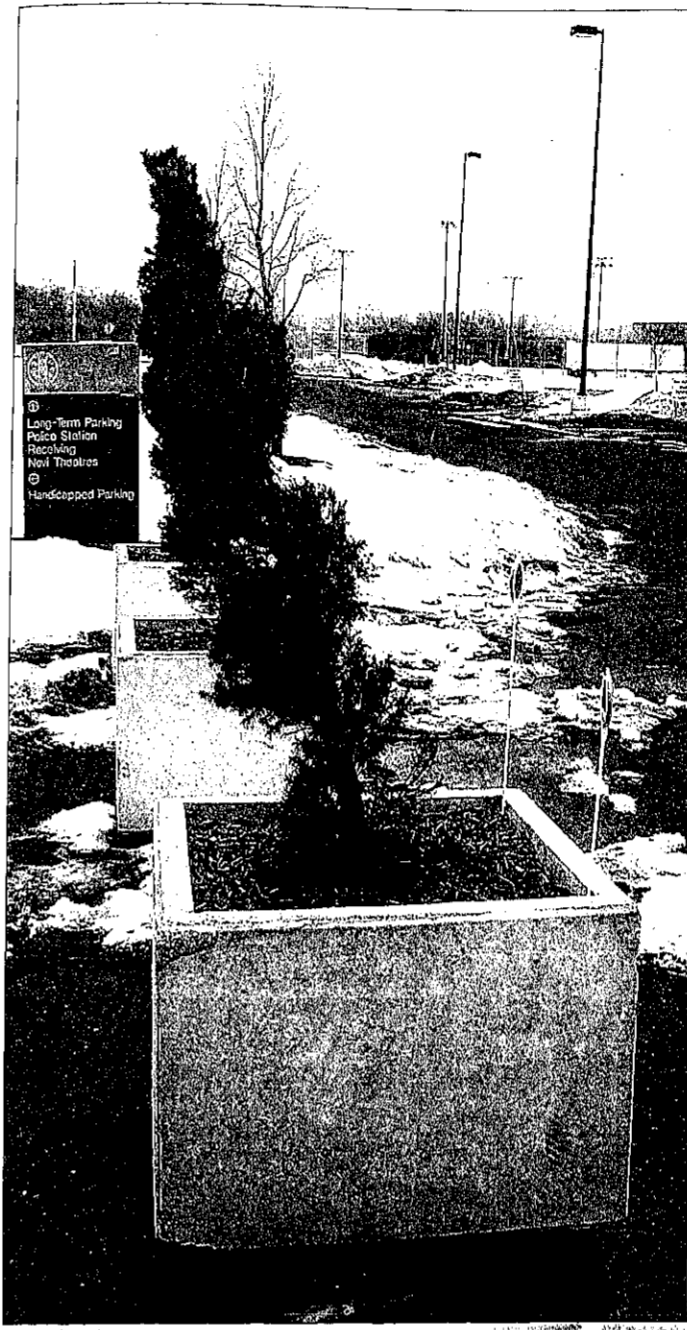
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Three concrete planters guard the west entrance to the north access drive at the Novi Civic Center. The city blocked the drive and the entrance to police headquarters last spring in response to terrorist threats, but public convenience eventually outweighed security concerns.

Security barriers melt away at city complex

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

"After months of absolutely nothing taking place...convenience to the public has come to outweigh security."

Doug Shaeffer
Novi Police Chief

They went up quietly last March, first wooden barriers and then concrete planters, and they disappeared as quietly in December. In between, it appears the city of Novi spent more than \$65,000 trying to balance its desire to improve security at the civic center and police department with its need to provide adequate handicapped access.

Following a Code Orange Alert from the federal office of Homeland Security, Department of Public Works crews put up metal-and-wood barriers held in place with sandbags March 20 at each end of the Civic Center's north access drive and at the entrance to police headquarters. The wooden barricades were soon replaced with massive concrete planters topped with decorative evergreens.

Six of the planters now wait in a DPW yard for their next assignment. Another two guard the west end of the Civic Center's north access drive, waiting for spring and for DPW crews to rip up the pavement and replace it with sod.

No sooner did the barriers go up than handicapped rights advocate Wayne Hogan and members of various senior groups who use the Civic Center began complaining about the loss of eight handicapped parking spaces on the north side of the building.

Through the summer and into the fall, Novi City Manager Rick Helwig consistently maintained that the barricades were necessary to meet Homeland Security guidelines.

The city reconfigured its main parking lot at the Civic Center, increasing the total number of handicapped parking spaces from 12 to 17 while eliminating six

non-handicapped spaces. The project included removing several dozen feet of curb and sidewalk and replacing it with a barrier-free sidewalk.

Although city officials have been unable to provide a cost estimate for the work, engineers contacted by Novi News suggested the work could cost anywhere between \$6,000 and \$8,000.

Greg Klaver, the city's chief operating officer, said the city spent \$2,700 on nine concrete planters. He said the cost of respaving an employee parking lot and installing handicapped signs was "minimal." He added that work to expand the handicapped parking area in the Civic Center's main parking area was unrelated to security concerns.

Now that the barriers have been removed from the east end of the Civic Center's north access drive, there are a total of 25 parking spaces marked for handicapped at the facility.

Helwig said security remains "a big issue" at the Civic Center. He noted "no one is designing buildings with roads right next to them."

Novi Police Chief Doug Shaeffer said that in 1995 a domestic terrorist was able to park an explosives-laden van a mere 12 feet from the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma.

The blast that followed claimed 168 lives.

Critics of the Novi Civic Center, barricades pointed out that all a terrorist would have to do was drive over the six-inch curb and around the planters to drive across the lawn to the building. The Civic Center, noted Shaeffer, was built two decades ago when a different design ethic was in place.

"Our building and city hall were built with a very open concept in mind," Shaeffer said. The chief said that because of the extensive use of glass in the Civic Center, there is likely no part of the complex's parking area far enough away to prevent major damage in the event of a severe blast.

"There's a great deal more work and investigation to be done," said Shaeffer. He said he and other city officials have "talked a whole wide range of things, including permanent staffing [at the Civic Center]. The plan continues to evolve based on possible threats."

Shaeffer said that for the moment, however, "After months of absolutely nothing taking place...convenience to the public has come to outweigh security."

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

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NEW SHOWROOM COMING IN APRIL

Council kills court takeover proposal

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Novi City Council drove a stake through the heart of plans to convert the 52-1 District Court into a third class court Monday night.

Converting the 52-1 from a second class to third class court would have given Novi, and any of the 10 other municipalities that opted to join the city, the lion's share of the court's revenues, but also responsibility for its costs.

After looking at a preliminary report on the court's finances, Mayor Lou Cordinas declared Monday night, "If these numbers are true, I can't support this."

"If these numbers are true, I can't support this."

Lou Cordinas
City of Novi Mayor

Novi City Council members came to no final decision during the session.

The council voted 6-1 Feb. 2, with Council Member Laura Lorenzo dissenting, to authorize City Attorney Gerald Fisher to sue Nanda if he didn't begin steps to turn over the roads in Cheltenham subdivision to the city by Feb. 9.

Nanda and the owners of the adjacent Wilshire Abbey subdivision have been at odds for years over access to Beck Road.

Before the executive session, John Garofoli, a member of the Cheltenham Homeowners Association, said he was "confident the board will resolve this." He and others in the subdivision have been complaining for months that they've been caught in the middle of a dispute between Nanda and the

city. "Our last official act on record was nearly a month ago," said Council Member David Landry, who would only add that council members came to no final decision

before coming back to council with a final ordinance proposal.

It will be another two to three months before developers know if it's safe to build four-car garages in Novi without a top in the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Novi City Council voted unanimously Monday night to have the Novi Planning Commission consider amending city ordinances to increase the maximum size of accessory buildings to 1,200 square feet.

Mayor Lou Cordinas wanted to see the issue back before city council in a month, but City Manager Rick Helwig pointed out there are public notice and public hearing issues.

Council Member Laura Lorenzo said developer Mark Guidobono had shared his concerns over the existing ordinance with her. She suggested that city staff get input from Guidobono and other devel-

opers before coming back to council with a final ordinance proposal.

In other action, city council:

- approved rezoning 6.721 acres on the northeast corner of Grand River Avenue and Meadowbrook Road from General Business to Gateway East. Hamner of Novi plans to open an auto dealership on the property.
- approved changing violations of the city's sign ordinance from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction. The move allows the city to fine violators \$200 for a first offense and \$500 for a second offense, much like a traffic ticket.
- amended its parking requirements for industrially-zoned prop-

erty to prohibited truck loading and unloading on the side of a building facing residential property.

- approved the installation of yield signs on Dartmouth Drive at Barclay Drive; York Mills Circle at Dartmouth Drive; York Mills Circle at Barclay Drive; Barclay Court at Barclay Drive; and Perth Court at Barclay Drive.
- approved renewing a massage business license for The Sports Club of Novi on Arena Drive.
- approved renewing a massage business license for Salons' Nails & Day Spa on 11 Mile Road.
- approved renewing a pawnbroker and precious items dealer license for Wormstein Jewelers on Grand River Avenue.
- awarded a janitorial services contract to Road Run for \$93,660 for the year.

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

Developer, city still at odds over roads

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Novi City Council gave a Northville developer a deadline for turning some roads over to the city, but there still seems to be a little life in the ultimatum.

After spending nearly an hour in executive session Monday night discussing Ken Nanda's Cheltenham subdivision and two other legal issues, Novi City Council members came to no final decision during the session.

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Claudio Rossi's Mirage Development Company.

Last year, Rossi's firm bought Wilshire Abbey, a 29-lot subdivision adjacent to Cheltenham, but has been blocked from building because the property has no direct access to a public street.

Nanda told council members Monday night that he plans to make the roads in Cheltenham public, but he thinks Rossi's company should be required to maintain the construction bond on them. City code requires developers to hold a bond on new roads for two years to cover the cost of repairs in case the roads don't hold up to traffic.

According to Nanda, the city, Rossi and Wilshire Abbey's original owner, William Lofkey, all made mistakes. "Please, sit, be fair," he said to Mayor Lou Cordinas. "The city should leave us alone and let us iron out our issues."

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 city officials illegally approved the final plat for Wilshire Abbey in November, since the property has no access to a public street.

Although Assistant City Manager Clay Pearson would only say "no decision has been made outside executive session," City Council Member Bob Gatt did say the council instructed its attorney to "meet with the parties again to try and resolve this."

While he wouldn't discuss details, Gatt said a deal was suggested.

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(Space No. 152) Dana Lockett
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(Space No. 416) Bob Sprunk
40 misc. boxes/bags, 30 recreation equipment,
10 other misc. items
(Space No. 452) Julie Norton
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(Space No. 62) Nicole Jackson
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FRIDAY 11:15
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CONFESIONS OF A TENAGER DRAMA QUEEN
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:00 11:15
FRIDAY 11:15
FRIDAY 11:15
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:00 11:15 1:30 3:45 5:55 8:10 10:25
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Each week, Ernie will highlight simple steps we can all take to improve our health and our quality of life. You'll find entertaining information on the benefits of walking, the value of using less expensive generic drugs and simple ways to stay healthy and fit. And nobody's a better example than Ernie himself. Blue Cross Blue Shield's Health and Fitness Advocate, who makes healthy choices and exercises every day at 86 years of age.

So read "Take It From Ernie," and as Ernie says, "Take care of your health before it's longgggg gone."

The truth about regular physical activity – at any age.

By Ernie Harwell



While it's not uncommon for some adults to think they're either too old or too frail to exercise, nothing could be further from the truth. Regular physical activity brings health benefits and greater well-being at any age.

Regular physical activity helps improve muscle strength, stamina, balance, joint mobility, flexibility, agility, overall physical coordination, metabolism, blood pressure, weight control, even the treatment and prevention of heart disease. It also helps slow bone loss and lowers the risk of developing adult onset diabetes. It even improves your mood.

Of course, I recommend three simple rules for regular physical activity in life's later innings: Have a physician on your team, take a lot of intentional walks and remember that, as Yogi Berra is fond of saying, "It ain't over 'til it's over."

And please remember to take care of your health before it's longgggg gone!

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 54 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns entitled "Life After Baseball," is available in bookstores beginning April 2004.



Novi Public Library librarians Margie Karp-Opperer, Kelly Kolchuck, Mary Storch, right, and Phyllis Weeks (not pictured) are organizing a "Battle of the Books" for young readers and the big showdown will be on Sat. Mar. 27.

Students prepare for a Battle of the Books

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

A group of Novi fifth and sixth graders are on the home stretch of an adventure that will culminate with a showdown at the end of March at the Novi Civic Center. According to Mary Storch, a youth librarian at the Novi Public Library, the Battle of the Books is a fairly common event in southeast Michigan, but March 27 will mark the first time it's been tried in Novi.

Storch said 11 teams of fifth and sixth graders have been reading and studying five books since December. When they gather at the Civic Center in March, they'll square off to see who has learned the most.

However, said Storch, it's the journey to the competition, rather than the competition itself, that's most important. "We really want to celebrate the sport of reading," she said.

Storch, along with Phyllis Weeks, Kelly Kolchuck and Margie Karp-Opperer, organized the

Battle of the Books in conjunction with The Friends of the Novi Library. She said the mayor, city council members and library board members have been invited and the event, which will air on Novi's Cable Channel 13.

The library recruited 10 teams and adult coaches back in December. Storch said they wanted to start out small and see how the program worked. When an 11th team show up, it was allowed to join the competition. "We didn't want to turn anyone back," said Storch.

She said each team was given a set of five books:

- "A Long Way From Chicago," by Richard Peck
- "Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief," by Wendelin Van Draanen
- "The Power of Un," by Nancy Etchemendy
- "A Single Shard," by Linda Sue Park
- "The School Story," by Andrew Clements.

All of the titles, said Storch, are Newbery Medal winners. She explained each year the American

Library Association awards the Newbery Medal to the best youth fiction book of the year. "We tried to look for a variety of books including mystery, contemporary, fantasy and historical fiction," said Storch. She added the selected books also included two with female leads, two with male leads and one with a brother-and-sister team at the heart of the story.

Storch said every child participating in the contest will receive a recognition certificate and a gift certificate redeemable at the Cold Stone Creamery. The third through first place winners, said Storch, will receive a plaque and a gift certificate redeemable at Borders Books. She added they'll also have their names engraved on a plaque at the library.

The competition will be held at the Novi Civic Center from 1-2 p.m. on Saturday, March 27.

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



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Middle school book discussion

Our book discussion group for teens in grades 7-9 meets for food, fun, and a lively discussion of "Cheating Lessons" by Nan Willard Capro on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 11-11:45 a.m. No registration is necessary.

Story Time notes

Spring Story Times begin March 1. Brochures listing the days and times of each drop-in Story Time session are available in the library.

Tot Time

Children ages 12-24 months are invited to join us for a half hour of stories, songs, and games on Saturday, March 6, at 10:30 a.m. Registration is not required.

Healthy aging

Providence Hospital Community Health Education Services holds a program on strategies for healthy aging on Wednesday, March 10, from 6:30-8 p.m., in the library meeting room. Please call Providence at 1-800-757-5463 to reserve a seat for this free program, which is for adults of all ages.

Mastering the mouse for seniors

A hands-on class designed to introduce seniors to using the computer mouse will be held Thursday, March 4, from 10-11 a.m. We will complete a self-guided online tutorial, learning and practicing all of the basic functions of the mouse. If you've never used a mouse, this class is definitely for you! Please register in advance for all Internet classes in person or by calling the library.

Introduction to the Internet for seniors

Learn the basics of the Internet in a relaxed, supportive environment on Wednesday, March 10, from 1-3 p.m. You will discover how the Internet works, practice using a web browser, and learn about using search engines to find information. The class includes interactive discussion and hands-on practice.

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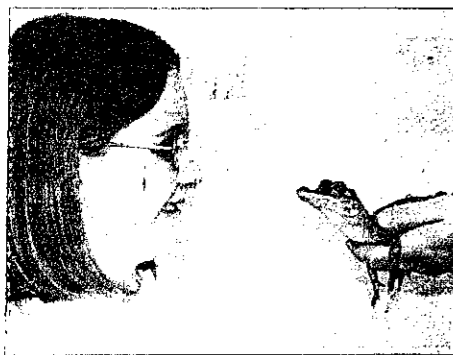
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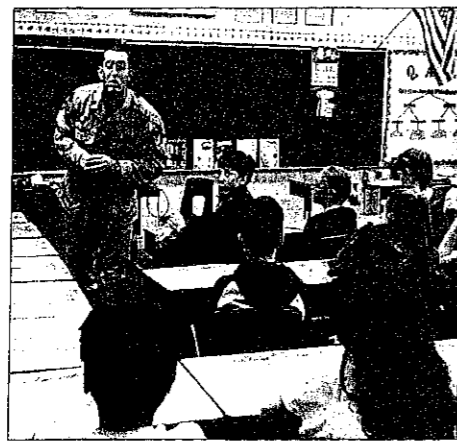
Jerry Lewis,
National Chairman



Photos courtesy of Elaine Maylan

Too close for comfort

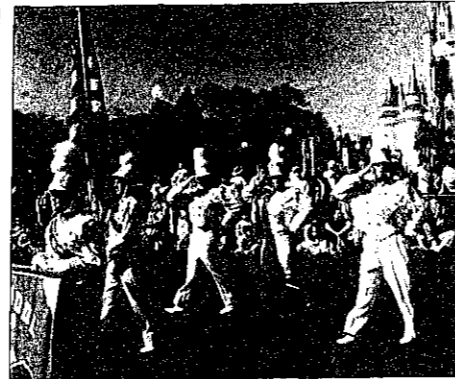
Elise Carrier get a close look at a baby alligator named Ally. Ally is one of several exotic animals that recently visited Deerfield Elementary school. Ally and her handler taught the students the many hazards of trying to keep a baby alligator as a pet. They also discussed the ongoing problems in Florida of humans building homes near alligator swamps. Elise is a fourth grader in Mr. McCurdy's third/fourth grade class.



Courtesy photo

Lieutenant visits Meadows

Students in David Ascher's sixth grade class at Novi Meadows got a special treat when U. S. Lieutenant Andrew Thume came visiting. The kids have been writing to him for over two years.



Courtesy photo

Novi band leads Disney parade

The Novi High School marching band, led by drum major, Jennifer White (left), Lisa O'Connor and Suzanne DeLaRosa, traveled to Orlando, Fla. last week to lead the Mickey Mouse parade down Main Street USA at Disney World. About 120 of the 178-member Novi marching band participated in the festivities, which included many standing ovations from vacationers all over the world.



Courtesy photo

Getting together for hockey

At Orchard Hills first Annual Family Fun Night with the Plymouth Whalers, over 150 were on hand to watch the Whalers pull off a come-from-behind tie with their arch rivals, the Toronto St. Michael's Majors. Pictured are fourth graders Derek Poppenber, Ryan Barrett, Ryan Press, Michael Pascoe and Jeffrey Weber.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

King Tut at Novi Meadows

Mareen Esther Fassalacqua got students at Novi Meadows involved in her King Tut presentation by showing them some of the books she had and encouraged them to find out more at their library. She also had a slide show.

Sen. Cassis honored

The Michigan Parent Teacher Student Association honored state Senator Nancy Cassis, R-Nowi, with their President's Award. Cassis, a former teacher and school psychologist who now serves as vice chair of the Senate Education Committee, was recognized for her efforts and legislation to promote parental involvement in Michigan schools.

"The mission of MPTSA is one I embrace wholeheartedly, and I could not be more honored to receive this award from them," Cassis said. "The critical importance of parents' involvement in their children's education cannot be emphasized enough."

In December, the Senate unanimously passed a Cassis-sponsored bill calling on schools to implement parental involvement programs and the Michigan Department of Education to post successful plans on their Web site. The legislation has earned the support of the Michigan Association of School Psychologists and the Michigan Education Association.

Cassis also sponsored a law that streamlines schools' reporting requirements by requiring all data submissions to go to Center for Educational Performance and Information rather than numerous other state agencies.

Cassis received the award at the Michigan

PTSA's 2004 Advocacy Day, held Feb. 12 in Lansing.

Important Dates coming up for children attending Novi Schools Kindergarten 2004-2005

- Monday, March 8 — Kindergarten Information Night, 7:00 p.m. Meetings held at all five buildings: Novi Woods, Village Oaks, Parkview, Orchard Hills and Deerfield (rescheduled for Feb. 9)
- Friday, March 26 — Random Selection Cards due at neighborhood schools no later than 4 p.m.
- Monday, March 29 — Random Selection Process at Instructional Technology Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday & Wednesday, April 20 & 21 — Village Oaks Elementary Kindergarten Readiness
- Wednesday & Thursday, April 28 & 29 — Orchard Hills Elementary Kindergarten Readiness
- Tuesday & Wednesday, May 4 & 5 — Novi Woods Elementary Kindergarten Readiness
- Thursday & Friday, May 6 & 7 — Deerfield Elementary Kindergarten Readiness
- Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, May 10, 11, & 12 — Parkview Elementary Kindergarten Readiness

Seeing the inside of an eye

**By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER**

As part of a partnership in education between the Novi Community School District and Town & Country EyeCare in Novi, Optometrists Tim Kirk and Amy Cissman visited Orchard Hills Elementary to demonstrate the dissection of sheep eyes to second graders. They also brought along a slide show which demonstrated all the parts of a human eye. Second grade teacher Dawn Capling asked her own flaves to be active by expung the children to Braille writing.

"As second grade teacher Ella MacArthur explained, students are learning about the parts of the eye and about people with vision difficulties, and what they do to cope. Highlights of the anatomy students covered during the dissection were the basic parts of the eye. Students labeled the eye parts on worksheets, learned about the cornea, colored iris, pupil, lens, back of the eye, the retina, and the wall of the eye." "According to Kirk, this program has been going on since 1994. "The second graders traditionally have studied the eye. One of the highlights for them, from what the teachers tell us, is the actual eye dissection," he said. "We hope that

the kids will learn first hand the different parts of the anatomy and science of the eye." Kirk and Cissman also spoke to the students about eye eye safety and routine eye care. "It's important to understand why it's important to take care of your eyes and what a visit to the eye doctor involves," Kirk said. "We hope to remove any fear from the children's first visit to the eye doctor by coming here and demonstrating the different equipment we use and explaining the process of the eye exam. We also hope to have a lot of fun with the kids with different optical illusions and different activities."

Kirk explained that any time kids can touch and feel something, it will definitely stick in their minds a lot more than if they just read about it in a book. "I know that the teachers explained that having guests in the classroom often times reinforces what they're doing and information sticks with the kids on a long-term basis." Cissman said that the slide show presentation is an important part of the activity because it shows students the parts of a human eye before they go into the dissection room, which makes them well prepared.

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

Outstanding Novi teachers sought

The Novi staff will recognize monthly a local teacher for his or her excellence in the classroom. Nominations can come from students, teachers, parents, administrators or community residents who have contact or knowledge of a teacher's classroom activities. Nominations can be mailed to: Novi News, Cal Stone, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167; faxed to (248) 349-9832; or sent by e-mail to csstone@h.homecomm.net

The deadline for nominations is the last day of the month. The Novi staff will select the winner and a feature story and photograph will appear in the Novi News on the second Thursday of the following month. Those not selected as the Outstanding Teacher of the Month will be considered for subsequent months. To nominate a teacher, please send the teacher's name, school address and the school's telephone number along with a statement of no more than 200 words telling us why this teacher deserves to be the Outstanding Teacher of the Month.

**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. on 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. Appearances before the Board of Review are limited to five (5) minutes or less. Petition area available at the Assessing 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 5:00 p.m. EST, Wednesday, March 10, 2004. Petitions will not be considered unless submitting a letter of protest for the Board of 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 signed protesting values on property, other than that owner, 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 - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 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) 347-0465.

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**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 modification of the elevations of the flood having a 1% chance of being equalled 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.

The changes are being made pursuant to Section 205 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 90-448), 42 U.S.C. 4001-4128, 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, dated December 15, 2000. These analyses have resulted in a revised delineation of the floodway, an increase and decrease in the BFEs and SFHA 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 Tait Road	936	935
Approximately 1,750 feet downstream of Tait Road	933	932
Backwater from Shaw Creek Approximately 300 feet downstream of Tait 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 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 the owner 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 expires, the Mitigation Division's determination to modify the BFEs may not be changed.

Any person having knowledge or wishing to comment on these changes should immediately notify:

The Honorable Lou Cordas, Mayor
City of Novi
Civic Center
45175 West Ten Mile Road
Novi, MI 48375

(2-19/25-04 NN 113897)

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There's a thin line between safety and disaster on the ice and its measured in fractions of an inch. Every year Novi's firefighters practice what to do when someone crosses that line.

ICE RESCUE

■ What's cooler than being cool? Training to save lives

Story & photos by Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Two years ago a local teenager's dog went through the ice on a pond off Garfield Road. The teen went after her dog and she ended up going through the ice as well. A pair of Novi police officers borrowed a neighbor's boat to go after the girl, but the drain plug was missing and the boat began sinking.

That, said Lt. Thomas Johnson, the Novi Fire Department's training officer, is why the department trains for ice rescues every winter. Novi, observed Lt. Johnson, has "tons of ponds." About every other year, he said, someone, often as not a child, goes out on the ice a little too early or a little too late and the fire department gets the call.

"They don't need us very often, but when they do, it's good we're here," said Lt. Johnson.

The Oakland County Sheriff's Department's Marine Unit has primary responsibility for water rescues and recoveries. However, if the Novi Department arrives first and the victim is still on the surface, firefighters take charge until deputies arrive.

Novi's Station Two, at 13 Mile Road and Paramount Street, is the fire station closest to Walled Lake and home to the city's water rescue team. Every firefighter at the station has to take ice rescue training. Every other firefighter in the city is encouraged to take the training as well.

This year about half the city's firefighters took the class. A dozen of them gathered Sunday morning at Lakeland Park on the edge of Walled Lake to don the dry suits and jump through a hole in the ice.

"I'm ready for this," said firefighter Dennis Barratt, as he sat on the back step of a rescue vehicle, pulling on the neoprene suit. Without it, he would only last a few minutes as the lake's 38-degree water pulled him into unconsciousness.

Before going out on the lake Lt. Johnson warned the firefighters to watch out for snowmobiles. "If one strays the safety line, you're going flying," he cautioned. "Nobody goes out on the ice without a [life] jacket; department policy."

A good 30 yards out on the lake, Lt. Johnson had cut a triangular hole, six feet on a side, in the foot-and-a-half thick ice.

By twos the firefighters suited up, walked out on the ice and slipped into the frigid water. Lt. Johnson advised against jumping in, since being hit in the face with water that could make a rescuer involuntarily inhale and turn from rescuer to victim in a moment.

"It's cold, very cold," said Lt. Jerry Holtzman as he pulled himself back out of the hole. While the dry suits are supposed to protect rescuers from the cold, the department's suits are eight years old and many of them have started to develop leaks.

"Actually, it's not that bad," said Lt. Carl Korzeniewski. His training partner, firefighter Wally Bishop, offered, "I like it. It's nice knowing we're able to do this."

Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 105 or at foley@nt.hometown.com.



Lt. Carl Korzeniewski gets a hand peeling out of his dry suit. Once in the 38-degree water, Korzeniewski discovered his suit, which is supposed to protect the rescuer from frigid water, had a leak in its left armpit. The Novi Fire Department's dry suits are eight years old and due to be replaced.



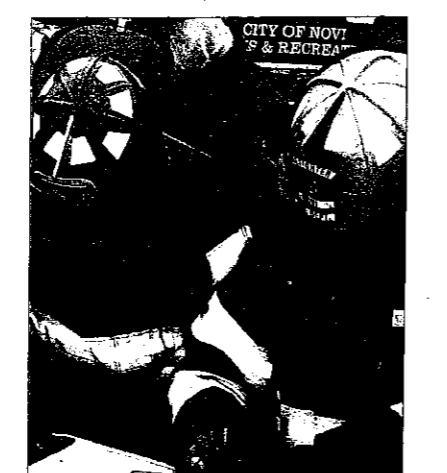
Lt. Thomas Johnson, Novi Fire Department's training officer, demonstrates the proper way to rig up for an ice rescue, while Lt. Jerry Holtzman (left) and firefighter Larry Gambotto watch.



Lt. Carl Korzeniewski (right) pushes firefighter Wally Bishop out of a hole in Walled Lake Sunday during ice rescue training. Climbing out of a hole in the ice without the right tools or help is nearly impossible. Lt. Thomas Johnson, the department's training officer, said most rescue calls come in early winter or late spring when the ice is at its most treacherous.



Lt. Carl Korzeniewski and firefighter Wally Bishop unhook from the safety line after being hauled out from a hole in the ice on Walled Lake. The Novi firefighters were among dozens who practiced ice rescues over a four day period last week.



No job's over 'till the paperwork's done. Novi firefighter Wally Bishop (right) and a colleague fill out the sign-in sheet for completing their ice rescue training.



Lt. Mark Petz and Capt. Dennis Tarrant chat on the shore of Walled Lake while another Novi firefighter trudges across the ice to take his turn in the water. The skills aren't called on often, but when they are, lives are at stake.

OBITUARIES

Marian F. Selinske

Marian Selinske died February 20, 2004 in Woodward Hills Nursing Center, Bloomfield Hills. She was 86. Mrs. Selinske was born in Detroit on February 6, 1918, to the late Julius Childs and Leocadia Malkowski Childs. She was a homemaker and a resident of Northville in Kings Mill for many years. Survivors include four children, Lenore (Robert) Kendall of Bloomfield Hills, Janice (Edward) Moylan of Novi, James (Diane) Selinske of Madison, Wis., and Susan (Daniel) Spurgeon of Mount Clemens; 15 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren. Preceding her in death was her husband, Frank. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, February 28 at St. Kenneth Catholic Church, Plymouth with Father Thomas Belczak officiating. Interment will be at Oakland Hills. Memorials may be made to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in

Debra A. Phillips

Debra Phillips of Novi died February 23, 2004. She was 50. Survivors include her husband, Ted; two children, Lara and Kimberly; her mother, Phyllis Phillips; her step-father, Lewis Phillips; four siblings, Barbara (Mih) Cookey, Richard (Susan) Reed, Jr., Mike Reed and Nancy (Sam) Thomas; and two step-siblings, Tracey (Kenny) Marsh and David (Deborah) Phillips. Visitation will be at O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi on Friday, February 27 from 1-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, February 28 at Novi United Methodist Church, 41671 W. Ten Mile Rd., Novi at 11 a.m. Memorials may be made to Breanna Strang Fund, 41671 Ten Mile Rd., Novi, Mich. 48375.

Kathleen Karney

Kathleen Karney of Novi died February 22, 2004. She was 52. Survivors include her husband, Victor; three children, Christopher, Megan and Lauree; her mother and father, Regina and Alfred Laskowski; three siblings, David (Jane) Laskowski, Diane Laskowski and Brian (Karen) Laskowski; and many nieces and nephews. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, February 28 at O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi. Memorials may be made to American Cancer Society, Memorial Dept., 18505 W. 12 Mile Rd., Southfield, Mich. 48076. Online sympathy messages: www.obrien-sullivanfuneralhome.com.



Photo by John Heider
Hit it while you can
Christy Valerio, 7, flies down the hill at North Novi Park last Thursday afternoon on a pair of skis. Christy and friend Delany Lansky, rear, were skiing at the hill with the help of Christy's dad, Johnny Valerio, while the snow was still around.

SENIOR CALENDAR

Thursday 2/26

9 a.m.-noon Massage Therapy
9:30 a.m. Line Dance*
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open
noon Lunch
12:15 p.m. Bridge*
12:30 p.m. "I Love Lucy" Movies
"Pioneer Woman"/"Los Angeles at Last"
\$1 advanced reservation required
1 p.m. Beginners / 2 p.m. Adv. Line Dance

1 p.m.-3 p.m. Healing Touch
6:30 p.m. Clogging*

Tuesday 3/2

9 a.m.-12 p.m. Massage Therapy
9 a.m. Panera bread
9:30 a.m. Line Dance*
10 a.m. Asian Pacific
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Income Tax by Appt.
noon Lunch
12:30 Bingo

Friday 2/27

9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
10 a.m. Body Recall
10 a.m. Crafts with Loreta
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open
noon Lunch & 12:30 p.m. Bingo
12:15 p.m. Bridge*
12:30 p.m. Dupl. Bridge*

Wednesday 3/3

9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
10 a.m. Body Recall
11 a.m. Blood Pressure
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open
11 a.m. TOPS Class
noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Clogging*
12:30 p.m. Jerry's Movies
Music Video of WWII-free

Monday 3/1

9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
10 a.m. Body Recall
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundry Shop Open
noon Lunch
12:30 Pinochle*
12:30 p.m. Music Rehearsal

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

Do You Want to Honor a HomeTown Hero?

Your Observer & Eccentric, Mirror and HomeTown Newspapers, in conjunction with the United Way Volunteer Center of Oakland, are calling for nominations for the HomeTown Heroes™ Awards, which recognizes, encourages and rewards outstanding volunteers who have given selflessly of themselves to support non-profit organizations in Oakland County. Nominees and awardees will be recognized at the Fifth Annual HomeTown Heroes™ Luncheon that will take place on June 3, 2004 at Marriott at Centerpoint in Pontiac, Michigan.

NOMINATOR: _____ IF GROUP, CONTACT PERSON: _____
 ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP: _____
 DAYTIME PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ E-MAIL: _____
 NOMINATING CATEGORY: _____ DIRECT SERVICE _____ YOUNG ADULT _____ SENIOR
 _____ YOUTH _____ GOVERNANCE _____ FAITH-BASED _____ BUSINESS
 NAME OF NOMINEE: _____ AGE: _____
 (Must volunteer for an Oakland County non-profit organization)
 ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP: _____
 DAYTIME PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ E-MAIL: _____
 SCHOOL ATTENDING (if appropriate): _____
 PLACE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE: _____
 YEARS OF SERVICE: _____ AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS WORKS PER MONTH: _____
 TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED: _____

On a separate sheet, in 300 words or less, tell why you have nominated this individual, group or business. Describe the nominee's major accomplishments, commitment, self-motivation, problem-solving skills, and measurable impact upon the community. Entries must be typewritten. Do not staple pages. Include a photo (no larger than 5" x 7") of the nominated person or group, or for Business nominees, include a photo of persons participating in the volunteer activity.

Entries must be received by Friday, April 16, 2004.
 Mail or fax forms to: HomeTown Heroes™ Awards • c/o United Way Volunteer Center
 50 Wayne Street • Pontiac, MI 48342 • Fax: 248-456-8809
 For questions, further information, or more applications go to
www.unitedwayoakland.org/hero or call 248-874-1601.

HomeTown Heroes Planning Committee:
 Active Faith • Assistance League of Southeastern Michigan • Birmingham Rotary Club •
 Junior League of Birmingham • Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency •
 Oakland University • St. Joseph Mercy Oakland

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

continued from page 12

by Tutor Time centers and \$2.3 million contributed by Franchise Operations, which were acquired at the end of first quarter 2003.

Rockwell Medical wins grant

Rockwell Medical Technologies, Inc., of Wixom, a leading, innovative hemodialysis concentrate manufacturer in the healthcare industry, recently won a grant.

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases of the National Institutes of Health has awarded a grant for studying the prospective advantages of ferric pyrophosphate delivery via dialysate in end stage renal disease patients. FePPi, a water-soluble form of iron, is the cornerstone of Rockwell's proprietary technology for its iron-therapy product line.

Rockwell has been developing an innovative, proprietary concentrate

product containing FePPi to be used as a treatment for iron deficiency in dialysis patients. The company is seeking FDA approval of this product which it intends to market.

Compared to intravenous (IV) iron administration, the firm believes that administering the drug through its dialysate is a safer and more effective method for maintaining iron balance in dialysis patients, while at the same time eliminating the associated nursing and pharmaceutical IV iron administration costs.

Children's authors coming

Local children's authors Charles David and David Anthony will appear at 2 p.m. Saturday at Borders Books & Music in Novi, 43075 Crescent Blvd. in the Novi Town Center at Grand River and Novi Road.

The authors have scheduled a reading and book signing of their

works "Cauldron Cooker's Night," "Skull in the Birdcage," and "Early Winter's Orb" — the first three books in their new series for intermediate readers, Knightscares.

The Knightscares series evolved out of the desire to introduce the epic fantasy genre to children and to establish a new benchmark for quality, creativity, and entertainment in children's literature.

The authors will be dressed in period costume and perform songs that accompany each book.

Call Borders at (248) 347-0780.

Dentist to assist cancer center

A Novi dentist who specializes in aesthetic and implant dentistry will donate funds to the Assarian Cancer Center at Providence Hospital in Novi this spring as part of the Smiles for Life campaign.

Dr. Allen Tuchklaper, a Crown Council dentist, will offer teeth

whitening services at a significantly reduced price from March through June. He will donate 100 percent of the proceeds to help children facing serious health and educational programs in communities throughout North America.

This year, however, for the first time, 50 percent of all Smiles for Life proceeds will be donated to children's charities designated by participating dentists. Dr. Tuchklaper chose the Assarian Cancer Center at Providence Hospital in Novi as his Smiles for Life partner this year. *Discus Dental* will provide all supplies.

Funds raised during the campaign will help make children whose family members are undergoing cancer treatment a little more comfortable. The remaining 50 percent will be donated to country western singer Garth Brooks' "Teammates for Kids" Foundation.

The Crown Council Smiles for Life Foundation has raised more

than \$15 million since 1998, assisting nearly 300 children's charities across North America. Since joining the campaign, Dr. Tuchklaper has raised more than \$40,000.

For more information, visit www.smilesforlife.org or call the Novi Family Dental Center at (248) 348-3100.

Compiled by Pam Fleming

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OPEN SATURDAYS

Quick Hits

Novi basketball pounds rivals in the Lakeland Eagles

It wasn't much of a challenge for the Novi Wildcats boys basketball team — but having an easy game now and then isn't anything to scoff at.

The Wildcats made short work of the Lakeland Eagles as they **NOVI 50** crushed their conference foe, **LAKELAND 38**, February 16 on the road.

Novi took the lead and didn't look back as they pounded out the victory with help from a 17-point night by senior guard Brad Simpson.

Novi is currently sitting atop the KVC, while Lakeland is 6-9 overall and 3-7 in conference play.

Wildcats tie tough Milford

It didn't look like the Novi Wildcats hockey team was going to step up for this one — but a spark from senior captain John Janssens lit the fire the squad needed as they **NOVI 5** tied a very strong Milford Mavericks squad, **MILFORD 5**, 5-5. The Wildcats, who are coached by Dan Phelps, will have their hands full in one of the strongest regional tournaments they have ever played in starting March 1 at the Novi Ice Arena.

— See page B2 for details

Novi bows out as team, but individuals still going strong

The Novi Wildcats wrestling team bowed out in the team districts against the Northville Mustangs February 19, but the squad still has three grapplers that will represent them in the individual regional come Saturday. Eric Hansen, Jason Sierra and A.J. Morris will take on some of the best wrestlers around but they look as though they have a promising chance to move on to the state tournament in two weeks.

— See Page B4 for full story

GAME OF THE WEEK

Novi Wildcats

Hockey Regionals
March 1, 3, 5
Novi Ice Arena

It's regional tourney time!

The Novi Wildcats hockey team isn't going to have an easy time in one of the strongest regionals they've ever played in, but they — along with Northville — should be one of the favorites to make it to the championship game.

Novi News sports writer Sam Eggleston tells of the tournament and the teams that will be playing as the Novi Ice Arena starts hopping with games being played on both rinks at the same time. Should be a great day for hockey fans.

— See Page B5

Ernie Harwell

He won't be calling games, but this Novi resident isn't done with the Detroit Tigers



By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

When it came to being an announcer in baseball, Ernie Harwell is the first to say that it all came about by accident — but what a great accident it was not only for Harwell himself, but for the fans.

The first-ever Hall of Fame announcer, who was inducted August 2, 1981, said that the run was a great one, but he's not complaining about his retirement either.

"I've been able to relax," he said during a phone interview. "I loved being an announcer, but I just knew the time was right to retire."

Harwell's retirement has found a few changes in his life. Though he still spends his winters in Lakeland, Fla., a recent move from Farmington Hills found him becoming a Novi resident.

"Mrs. Harwell and I decided to sell the house in Farmington Hills and move," he said. "We live in a wonderful area. It's sort of a retirement complex that opened up last summer in July or August. We moved in around the middle of October."

He and his wife, Lulu, stay in Michigan until about the first of January before packing their bags up and enjoying a stay in Lakeland — which just happens to be where the Detroit Tigers hold spring training.

"They've trained here since 1934," Harwell said, calling on his vast baseball knowledge. "That's longer than any team has been at a spring training site."

Being in Lakeland does remind Harwell of his announcing days though — which had been one of the reasons he found a residence down there.

"Back in the days when I did the games in the spring, it was just a little easier to be around Lakeland instead of commuting

A legend in his own

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

They say that to have longevity in a single career, you really have to love what you do — and Ernie Harwell makes no qualms about the fact that he loves baseball.

The Hall of Fame announcer, who retired as the announcer for the Detroit Tigers in 2002, said that baseball has always been a part of his life.

"I've been a baseball fan since I was a kid growing up in Atlanta," Harwell said in a phone interview from his winter home in Lakeland, Florida. "My dad was a big baseball fan. That's where I got my love of the game."

Harwell turned his interest into a budding career while in high school after writing a letter to the editor of the *Sporting News*.

"I suggested that I could be his Atlanta correspondent for the minor league baseball team there," Harwell said. "He didn't know I was only 16 and he gave me a job."

Harwell began his career in sports as a writer covering the Atlanta Crackers baseball team. When he wasn't writing for the *Sporting News*, he found other ways to keep busy such as filling in for

Continued on B3

Ernie Harwell is more than a retired baseball announcer — he's a living legend. Though he retired from calling the games, he's keeping busy as a health-column writer. The Novi News will be running Ernie's column beginning next week.

Mid-winter break doesn't slow Wildcats

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

When it comes to mid-winter break at Novi High School, the students love it and the coaches fret about it.

It's never easy to expect your team to perform when they aren't in their regular schedule — especially when the team you're playing doesn't have the same worries you do. That was the case when the Novi Wildcats volleyball team took on Kensington Valley Conference rival South Lyon Lions last week.

"I was a little worried with it being mid-winter break," Novi coach Julie Fisette said. "The girls played well though, and I'm happy with that."

The Wildcats lost the first game, 25-17, before bouncing back nicely in the second and third game, 25-20 and 25-19. The fourth game went to the South Lyon squad, 26-24, and suddenly the contest rested on the fifth game — which was played to 15 points.

"We played well together even when it went all five games," Fisette said. "There aren't just one or two girls who we depend on. The entire team plays as a

unit and the bench is just as strong as the starters."

The Wildcats finished the game strong, taking the fifth round 15-12 to secure the victory.

Senior Kim Zarczynski made the move to outside hitter during the contest and found herself collecting 15 kills. According to Fisette, her serving throughout the contest was consistent as well.

Bella Feldbaum, who is also a senior, collected six blocks and nine kills in the winning effort while junior Nicole Barndt had 14 kills and three aces.

The week before, the Wildcats made short work of the Brighton Bulldogs in just three games, 25-8, 25-6 and 25-21.

"The Brighton game was a total team effort," Fisette said. "Everyone got in to play and everyone contributed."

Leading the way for the Wildcats in that contest was Amanda Toffoli, who is a junior, and Jenna Kuhn, who is a sophomore.

The Wildcats will visit Milford today at 6 p.m. before hosting Pinckney March 1 at 5:30 p.m. in the Novi High School field house.

Districts are scheduled to begin March 6.



Wildcat Amanda Toffoli, right, leaps up to spike the ball during Monday night's home match against the Eagles of Hartland.

Novi whips 'Dogs

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats boys basketball team made it very clear that now that they've regained the top spot in the conference, they don't plan on being usurped as rightful kings.

The 'Cats, who are defending the throne from last year's Kensington Valley **NOVI 50** Conference **BRIGHTON 36** title victory, made the statement as clear as could be as they pounded the Brighton Bulldogs, 50-36.

"We're playing great as a team," Novi coach Pat Schluter said. "This win was a total team effort."

The balanced scoring was an indication of that as well. Junior Anthony Harbin and senior Trevor Hoover each had 10 points in the win, while senior sixth-man Joey Fratto put up eight to help his squad to victory.

"Joey has been playing well," Schluter said. "He's at the point that he could start for us. Right now, he's coming out and doing what he does best. He can shoot

Continued on B3

Amanda Smith
Junior
Cheerleading

Smith's effort has been extremely noticeable in the past few weeks — and the judges have seemed to notice as well. Her tumbling passes have helped the Wildcats in their round three performances and her jumps, motions and floor presence have greatly improved this year. Smith is what every athlete should try to be — hard working and will to give all of her energy and effort to her team.

Congratulations to the Athletes of the Week!

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Kim Zarczynski
Senior
Volleyball

Zarczynski had to take up a slightly different role when she was moved to outside hitter against South Lyon last week — but she didn't mind. Zarczynski collected 15 kills and had an impressive night serving as she and her fellow Wildcats pounded out a conference win over the South Lyon Lions in five games. Zarczynski has been a consistent leader for Novi this year, and one of the reasons they contenders in every game.

Money Matters

Charitable giving can be rewarding

Each year, in efforts to help the less fortunate, millions of Americans contribute to charities. And those who give are rewarded with tax deductions in return for their generosity, reports The Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants. Here is what you need to know to make the most of charitable contributions.

The Basics

Tax law permits taxpayers to deduct charitable contributions as itemized deductions, as long as they are made to a non-profit organization with tax-exempt status. To determine whether your chosen charity qualifies, visit the IRS Web site at www.irs.ustreas.gov/bus_info/efco/search.html, where you can search by charity name or city and state. If you prefer, you may call 1-800-829-3676 to receive a free copy of Publication 78, Charitable Contributions: A Cumulative List of Organizations.

Because gifts to qualified organizations are tax deductible, your actual cost for the donation is reduced by your tax savings. For example, if you are in the 28-percent tax bracket, the actual cost of a \$100 donation is \$72 (\$100 less the \$28 in tax savings).

Timing, contributions are important

A contribution is deductible in the year you make it. As long as you date your check in 2000 and mail your donation by Dec. 31, 2000, you can deduct your contribution on your tax return for 2000, even if the charity does not receive your check until January. Similarly, a contribution made on a credit card before year end is also deductible on your 2000 tax return, even if you don't make payment to the credit card company until the next year.

Tax law allows you to deduct up to 50-percent of your adjusted gross income (AGI) for gifts of cash to most charities. If you give more than 50-percent, the excess may be carried forward into the next tax year. Lower limits may apply to contributions to certain types of organizations or for certain contributions of property.

Donations of property can save more tax dollars

When you donate property that has appreciated in value, you stand to save even more. That's because you get a deduction for the full fair market value of property you have held for longer than one year, and you avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciated value. The deduction is limited to 30-percent of your AGI. Any excess amount may be carried over five years.

For example, suppose stock you bought four years ago for \$5,000 is now worth \$15,000. First, you get a deduction for the full \$15,000 fair market value and, second, you are not taxed on the appreciation. In effect, you receive a deduction for an amount you never reported as income. For traditional non-cash donations (i.e., clothing or furniture) you can deduct the market value of the gifts -- what you might pay for them in a consignment shop.

Paper trails substantiate donations

For contributions of less than \$250, your canceled check is a sufficient record of payment. However, for contributions of \$250 or more, you will need a written acknowledgment from the charity showing the organization's name and address, the date of the contribution, and the amount of your cash contribution or a description of the property you donated. The letter must state whether if you received any goods or services in return for your gift.

It is the responsibility of the organization to inform you of the non-deductible portion of your donation. This will be provided in the written acknowledgment from the charity. For example, when you buy a ticket to a benefit concert or dinner dance, you can deduct only that part of the ticket price that exceeds the cost of the entertainment or dinner.

For property donations that exceed \$500, you must attach Form 8283, Non-cash Charitable Contributions to your return. If the value of the donated property is over \$5,000, you need a written appraisal an appraiser.

Taxpayers who plan to contribute large sums to charitable organizations should consult a CPA to discuss additional tax-savings strategies.

Visit the CPA Referral Service on the MACPA Web site, www.miccpa.org, to search for a CPA in your geographical area or specific area of expertise.

Advertorial

Miller Media captures life

By Annette Jaworski
SPECIAL WRITER

If it has anything to do with video and photography, Richard Miller has probably done it. As owner and founder of Miller Media Vision, LLC, he's captured 20 years worth of memories with a career spanning from CBS News to children's charm. His background covers everything from NFL sports games, news events, right down to family fun.

The New Hudson business offers versatility within a complete range of media services including action and portrait photography.

Miller Media Vision, LLC, covers two separate areas, one dealing with sports action photography and the other offering traditional portraits. The portraits include all those special family events, like weddings, graduations or family portraits. Miller is ready to capture those special moments, giving you memories that will last a lifetime.

"So many people go to a department store or studio and there you have to go by their time and use their studio. Me, I'll go to a park or go to their home. They'll get multiple poses for the same price," he added.

Discounts are available for large packages. Since he works with digital equipment, his customers are able to view proofs immediately. Family portraits will make a great Mother's Day or Father's Day gift as well.

For that special event, the Premium Wedding Package is an incredible option where the client receives an engagement photo session that will be ready the day of the wedding. In addition to a generous package, they also receive a CD slide show of 30 selected photos. Many other combinations are available as well in a variety of price ranges.

Miller Media Vision also specializes in graduation photography for that special senior year. Their flexibility allows them to offer several packages including options for indoor and outdoor combinations. He won't hesitate to be creative. For example, a backyard photo shoot or a favorite hobby can be included in the portrait.

"I can pretty much do whatever they want me to do," he said.

One local client restored a vintage Mustang with her father and wanted that included in a photo as well as her pet rabbit. He was happy to cooperate. He's available to photograph the graduation party as well as portraits.

Miller Media Shoot is also equipped to shoot or edit all your video footage. Do you want a highlight tape of a sports season or an individual athlete, or how about a video portrait for anniversaries or graduations? They can put it all together for you.

"We have state-of-the-art equipment but not the state-of-the-art price," said Miller.

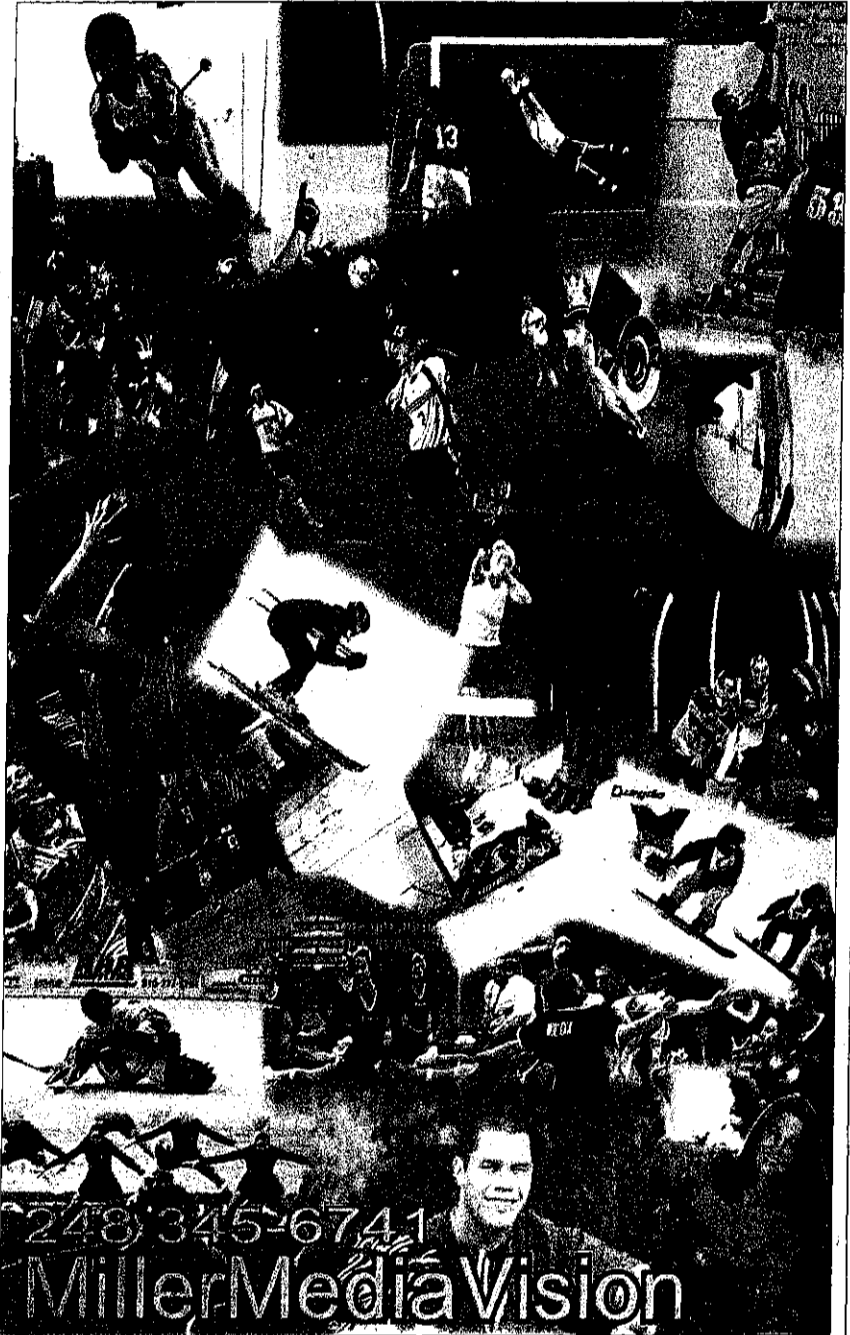
The other portion of his business is called Game Day Action Photos. It's a self-descriptive name of this part of the enterprise that covers sports photography from softball to snowboarding. A self-professed "sports fanatic" Miller's background is a true plus when it comes to capturing sports action photography. He's been around youth and professional sports for 20 years.

"It helps when you know what's going on in the game," he adds.

He realizes that amateurs have a difficult time with action or sports photography. His service can capture those fleeting sport moments with professional results.

TIPS ON SELECTING A PHOTOGRAPHER

- Meet with photographer and discuss your needs beforehand.
- Find out exactly who will be photographing the event.
- Find out exactly what's included in the package so that you won't be surprised by extra charges.
- Get references from previous customers. Ask about their background and experience.
- Find out if they're insured.
- Make a list of photos you want included.



Photos courtesy of Miller Media Vision

This collage from Miller Media Vision shows the expertise the company offers. From portraits, to weddings, to sports photography Miller Media Vision offers state-of-the-art photography, video and more.

He's found most families would rather focus on enjoying the game without distractions.

"A lot of parents really enjoy this because they can actually sit down and watch the game without having to worry about taking photos," said Miller. "I can catch that fleeting moment when they're making the play."

It's been a popular service with the par-

ents of young athletes. He's enthusiastic about working with new clients in the sports area, whether high school or club athletes in the Kensington and Huron Valley area. Just contact him by phone or e-mail to discuss your event. Currently, he is working closely with Hartland and other high schools covering all of their sports. You might also find him or his partner, Edward Wheeler on the sidelines at Hartland Area Youth Athletics Association. Wheeler designs and maintains their website as well.

While they're working an event, there's no cost or no obligation to stop by. Just come by and say hello, tell them if you're interested in photos. They'll have a banner with Miller Media Vision that will identify them.

"Get us your player's number and we'll try our best to get a shot of them in action," said Miller.

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